

LINDENWOOD

HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



History Majors Honored

Kimberly Elfrink (center) won the Phi Alpha Theta History Award, which is presented to an outstanding history major for academic excellence as well as contributions to the History and Geography Department and to Lindenwood University. **Tanya Jones** (right) received the Schoenhard American Heritage Award for outstanding achievement in the study of American values.

Kristin Laney was initiated into Linden Scroll, an honor society of students who excel academically and serve Lindenwood University and the larger community. Among other things, she served as a marshal at the undergraduate commencement in May. **Mallory Bruno** was inducted into Kappa Delta Pi, an international society in education that recognizes academic achievement and a commitment to education. **Joshua Johnson**, **Erika Pappa**, and **Savanna Wagaman** were recognized as Lindenwood Scholar Athletes; to earn this recognition, the student must earn a 3.5 or higher GPA and be recommended by his or her coach. **Brayden Parker** received the Presidential Academic Excellence Award, which recognizes students participating in NCAA sports who earn a 4.0 GPA and are recommended by their coaches. Impressive list!

Introducing Learning Communities

"Making Connections is What Education is All About"

The History and Geography Department is at the forefront at Lindenwood of a new program in higher education called learning communities. Dr. Jeffrey Smith proposed the project a year ago and starting this fall incoming freshmen can enroll in three general education courses from different departments that are linked by a common topic. Students will enroll in all three of the courses and they will travel together from one to the other. The idea is that students will get to know each other quickly and become comfortable learning together. Smith comments, "All of us revel when a student relates something in our class and another. After all, making connections is what education is all about. These new Learning Communities seek to help

make those connections happen." For the fall 2017 semester, Dr. Kris Smith will teach an American history survey focusing on gender with English composition and anthropology. There will also be a community focusing on Antiquity. Topics for the following spring are food and political rhetoric including courses offered by Drs. Jeffrey Smith, Ted Cohen, and Meri Marsh. Smith promises, "The new Learning Communities group of classes on food go beyond 'you are what you eat.' By the time students in these classes understand more about the history, environmental science, and geography of the food they eat, they'll never see the supermarket or the dining commons the same way again."



Study Abroad in York, England

Students still have the opportunity to make the city of York their hometown. A spring semester, 2018, course, HIST 28201.SA11 Selected Topics: History and Culture in England—Study Abroad Yorkshire, will spend two weeks in early June in York, where students will experience the York Minster, tour Howard Castle, walk on a Roman mosaic floor, and see a Viking latrine, among other things. For a longer stay in York the semester abroad program is still an option. Contact Dr. Kersiek for more information.

Missouri Conference on History

The Missouri Conference on History has become a regular stop for Lindenwood historians and they seem to mop up each year. This year **Tanya Jones** won the Lynn and Kristen Morrow Missouri History Student Prize, which is awarded to the best student paper on an aspect of Missouri history. Not only is it a great honor to be so recognized, but it comes with a \$150 prize. Her award-winning paper, "The Impact of Jewish American Identity and Assimilation in the Reform Movement," began as her paper for the capstone class. It was based on research Tanya conducted as part of her internship at



the Holocaust Museum and Learning Center. Thank you to Dr. Jeffrey Smith for continuing to mentor Tanya as she revised her paper for the conference.

History and Geography Forum

Dr. Cohen shared his interest in the notion that Africans were in Mexico before the arrival of Columbus at the History and Geography Forum. While earlier scholars had based this idea on the facial features of carved heads left by the Olmecs and the way they referred to those heads, Dr. Cohen stressed that you have to evaluate your sources and be aware of the biases of your sources, which

earlier scholars had failed to do adequately—thus mistakenly giving us Africans in Mexico before Columbus. **Rachel Gann, Morgan Fitzgerald, Lucy Kendall, and Ciara Lawrence** appreciated this introduction to an aspect of Mexican history with which they were unfamiliar, and **Jorge Guerrero** shared that he had Zapotec relatives whose facial features resembled this statue.





First Annual Trivia Contest

Forty students packed the house to compete in a free-wheeling trivia night put on by the History and Geography faculty for Historical Studies majors and their friends. It was a great way to start the year. Student comment: "It was a VERY FUN TIME!! I thought there was a great balance of questions, and I liked that each professor read their own categories." LU football players comprised the winning team headed by history major Brayden Parker.



Field Trip Led by History Majors

This year we had a special treat. Two history majors, **Myra Gee** and **Elisabeth Dummerth**, had interned at the Scott Joplin House and the Campbell House respectively, and they were our tour guides for our field trip. Myra performed a lovely rendition of "Solace" from a piano roll dating to Joplin's time and Elisabeth took great delight in showing off the excesses of the Campbell House that reflected Victorian culture in St. Louis. **Rachel Gann**, **Katie Centini**, and Elisabeth joined the faculty for dinner at The Fountain on Locust.



Communicating in Canvas

Historical Studies majors will have a new source of information starting this fall. A History and Geography shell will be set up in Canvas that will enable the sharing of information about history and geography, current events, lectures, performances, movies off campus, or ice cream socials. Students and faculty alike can also post pictures. (Dr. Gietschier thinks anybody can take better photos than Dr. Kerksiek. Maybe we'll have a photo contest!)





Alex Gass, Mallory Bruno, Tanya Jones, and Kimberly Elfrink celebrated their recent or impending graduation at the Senior Dinner

Best Wishes to Recent Graduates!

Brittney (Snow) Acuña, Elisabeth Dummerth, University Honors, **Kimberly Elfrink**, Summa Cum Laude and University Honors, **Morgan Fitzgerald**, **Myra Gee**, **Alex Gass**, **Todd Harmon**, Magna Cum Laude and Veteran Honors, **Rachel Henry**, Magna Cum Laude and University Honors, **Tanya Jones**, **Greg Kilgariff**, **Ryan Mixson**, Community Service Honors, **Alex Reynolds**, **Jessica Sears**, **Brian Sieve**, Magna Cum Laude

Generous Gift

Carol Hess, 1968 Lindenwood history graduate, donated \$5,000 to Lindenwood University to set up a history and geography scholarship fund. Historical Studies majors can apply for a grant to help pay the expenses of attending a conference or study abroad. We heartily thank Ms. Hess for her contribution to LU and look forward to watching many Historical Studies majors benefit from such a generous and thoughtful act.

New Website

Be sure to check out our new website later this summer. After the university website was redesigned, we decided that we

had more to share with potential students. Voila! Tell us what you think. What did you most value here in the History and Geography Department here at LU? Let Dr. Kerksiek know your thoughts.

Faculty Reads

Dr. Jeffrey Smith and Dr. Cohen participated in the Faculty Reads series, in which faculty share books that influenced their lives or their decisions to study history.

Main Street to Miracle Mile by Chester H. Liebs

The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History by David C. Sloane

My Father Bleeds History by Art Spiegelman

The Cosmic Race by José Vasconcelos, Didier T. Jaén (Translator)

The Negro in Our History by Carter Godwin Woodson

The Confluence

If you haven't received your *Confluence* for this year, don't delay. There were two articles in the Fall/Winter 2016 volume of particular interest to historians. To get your copy of either volume, email confluence@lindenwood.edu.

News about Faculty

Dr. Jeffrey Smith has been energetically pursuing his recent interest in cemeteries, death, and mourning. He presented "Here Lies [Famous Name Here]: Burying the Famous to Market Nineteenth-Century Cemeteries" to the Missouri Conference on History, "Celebrity Corpses and Marketing the Rural Cemetery Movement" to the Association for Gravestone Studies, and "The Living Dead: Rural Cemeteries and Envisioning Cities in Nineteenth-Century America" to the Lindenwood University Faculty Colloquium.

Dr. Kerksiek is still busy with study abroad, though she plans to focus on study abroad for History, Geography, and Humanities in general next year. She is resurrecting the Nazi State course next year.

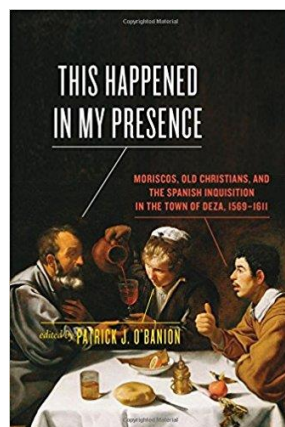
Dr. Don Heidenreich continues splitting his time between history, political science, and international relations.

Dr. Kris Smith's regional history, *Wild Place*, is now in its second printing. She organized the American Culture Speakers' Series this year, which brought some really interesting speakers to campus. She has added a new job to her To Do list; she is the new chair of the History and Geography Department. Congratulations to Dr. Smith!

Dr. Mike Whaley continues as Dean of Humanities. The good news is that he doesn't get bored because his job is always changing.

The bad news is that his job is always changing.

Dr. Patrick O'Banion spent fall 2016 and spring 2017 off campus while he was conducting research and writing. During that time, he was a fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies and a member of the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, NJ. His most recent book, *This Happened in My Presence: Moriscos, Old Christians, and the Spanish Inquisition in the Town of Deza, 1569-1611*, rolled off the presses in February. He published an essay on life in the "secret jails" of the Spanish Inquisition in *Playthings in Early Modernity* and wrote two short articles about the Italian reformer Jerome Zanchi for the journal *Ad Fontes*. His family also welcomed a baby girl in October!

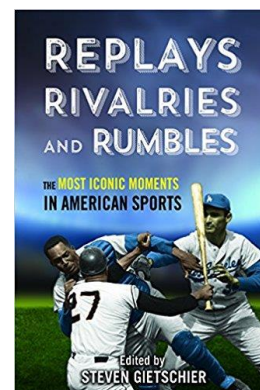


Dr. Meredith Marsh continues to lead the department's assessment efforts while gratefully giving up the chair's responsibilities.

Dr. Ted Cohen spent the 2016-2017 academic year finishing the draft of his book

Black to African: Twentieth-Century Mexico and the African Diaspora. His article on "'La bamba' in the United States and Mexico" will be published this summer by *Studies in Latin American Popular Culture*. In the classroom, he added a seminar on race and ethnicity in the Western Hemisphere to his repertoire. On campus he helped to organized "To Kneel or Not to Kneel? Free Speech and African American Protest: A roundtable Featuring Lindenwood Faculty and Students" and has been very active on the new Diversity, Inclusion & Equity Task Force. This summer he will spend a week grading AP World History exams in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dr. Steve Gietschier published a book review of *The Nats and the Grays: How Baseball in the Nation's Capital Survived WWII and Changed the Game Forever* by David E. Hubler and Joshua H. Drazen in *NINE: A Journal of Baseball History and Culture*. University of Illinois Press recently published his edited *Replays, Rivalries and Rumbles: The Most Iconic Moments in American Sports*.



All About Current Students

Brayden Parker made the MIAA Academic Honor Roll for having a GPA of 3.00 or higher. **Kimberly Elfrink** curated an art show, spring 2017. **Lauren Gygi**, took second place in the School of Education competition with her poster, "An Experiment in Flipped Classrooms," at the Lindenwood University Student Research Conference.

Morgan Courtney and the women's rugby team have had quite a year. Earlier this year the team travelled to Ireland for a rugby and cultural experience. At the end of the season she was chosen to play in the women's USA Rugby Sevens National Championship and the Collegiate Rugby Championships (CRC Sevens). **Drew Strohecker** was part of the Shotgun Sports team that won its 14th national title. **Erika Pappa** was a member of the Lindenwood Lionettes dance team that captured its first national title in program history when it won the Jazz Division II crown at the NCA/NDA Collegiate Dance and Cheer Championships. **Conor Behrens** was part of the baseball team that made it to the national championship for the first time where they lost to the eventual national champions.

All About Alumni

Michelle (Kuykendall) Setzer is completing her MA at UMSL and is working on a translation of *Le Miroir des Evenements actuels, ou la belle au plus offrant* (*The Mirror of Actuality or Beauty to the Highest Bidder*) by Francis Felix Nogaret. **Kami Ahrens**, pursuing an anthropology masters degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, completed a digital project as a graduate fellow with the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities. You can see her work, which will form the backbone of her thesis, at <http://scalar.usc.edu/works/making-the-frontier-home-stories-bertrand/index>. She has already worked on a project with some prehistoric southwestern woven bands made from human hair (about 2000 years old).



Josh Kamper has successfully completed his training at the police academy and is on the St. Louis police force, working in the ever-exciting North St. Louis City. Congratulations to Josh! **Steve Mohan** heads up dog training at Petmart in St. Louis and trains other trainers throughout the metropolitan area.

Sarah Hinds is continuing her interest in religious history as the reference assistant in the Office of Archives and Records at the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

A.J. Medlock is Associate Historian at Missouri History Museum and graduated last month in Special Collections Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Adam Stroud was back on campus for GIS Day, which Lindenwood has been hosting for several years now. It is good to see those GIS skills still in use. Adam recently graduated with a master's degree from St. Louis University and is Project Manager for the St. Louis company PGAAV Planners. **Nick Abbott** graduated from the University of Wisconsin, Madison and begins his new tenure-track position in the history department at Old Dominion in Norfolk, VA this fall. **Julian Barr** is very happily still pursuing his PhD in Geography at the University of Washington. As a staff associate for the Department of Geography he was instrumental in the planning and organization of the Association of Washington Geographers Spring Conference which was held this spring. Currently he is also the academic advisor for over 100 geography majors who want to grow up to be just like him! **Luke Ritter** has had a good year. Currently a lecturer in history at Troy University in Alabama, he was one of three 2016 Center for Missouri Studies Fellows, which granted him a stipend of \$5,000 to support his research on an aspect of Missouri

history. His paper, "St. Louis Women during the Atomic Age and the Baby Tooth Survey," which he delivered at the Missouri Conference on History, is a result of that research.

Bold Sambuu was published in the *Washington Post*. See his comments on the June, 2016 Mongolian election at <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/06/28/four-things-you-should-know-about-wednesdays-election-in-mongolia/>.

Tony Smith has decided to change his career path and is pursuing a masters degree in Human Resources this year.

Laura Reed is exploring the UK in her graduate program in Conflict Archaeology at the University of Glasgow.

Brianna Schootman has been teaching American History to 160 students at Riverview Gardens High School.

Macklin Parks has been teaching social studies in the classroom next to hers, something she has really

valued. Macklin is also coaching basketball.

Ryann Schulte enjoyed an internship with the Army Corps of Engineers who indicated they were very pleased with the history majors from LU who had worked there. Yay!

Sam Plummer is teaching middle school social studies at Sacred Heart School in Troy where he's also the JV boys' soccer coach. **James Allison** is currently the Assistant Principal at Johnson-Wabash Elementary School in the Ferguson Florissant School District and teaches the Secondary Social Studies Methods course at LU. His children are growing up way too quickly; his son is a junior in high school and his daughter is in the 8th grade. It seems like just yesterday they were running around at History Bowl.

Samantha Johnson has started the MA in History with a concentration in Museum Studies program at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. For her assistantship

she is the Exhibit and Collections Assistant at the Mercantile Library, working with African-American artifacts and creating/researching objects for an exhibit. She has already done an internship at the Creative Exchange Lab since leaving LU. She will study abroad in Germany for two weeks this spring.

Richard Rose (basketball) and **Krista Yoder** (volleyball) were inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame as part of the 2016 class. Congratulations to both of them!

Mike Cosby finished his 8th year working for the Wentzville School District teaching at the Pearce Hall Alternative Program. He has a 2-year old daughter, Chloe. He and his wife have taken advantage of their summers off to travel, and last summer visited Arches National Park and the Grand Canyon.

Kristena Michele married at Stevenson Ranch, CA last month.

Lydia (Langley) Hou and her husband Sam enjoyed the celebration. **Tina Smith** married Brandon Cowan last fall in Hampton, VA. **Stephani Durant** at Hazelwood East Middle School is expecting her second kiddo this August.



From the left, Steve Mohan or the Dog Whisper as the Drs. Smith call him after transforming their new dog Mokie; Newlyweds Kristena Wampler and wife Jennifer with Lydia (Langley) Hou; A.J. Medlock graduating from the University of Illinois; Julian Barr in St. Louis to present a paper at Washington University

Keeping in Touch

Be sure to keep in touch. We enjoy hearing what you are doing. If there is anything we can do to help you, please let us know. All of our offices are still located in Butler Hall.

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