As Washburn has spent this past year celebrating its own history, by commemorating the 150th anniversary of its founding, it set me to wondering what place the study of history had in the curriculum in the early history of the college. The interesting and rather anomalous answer is clear in Russell Hickman’s thorough survey of the early years of Lincoln College (as it was first known), published in Kansas History (in two parts, February and May 1950).

The high aspirations of the college are clear in its founding document, the Articles of Association in the Incorporation of Lincoln College, issued in January 1865. There, the college was presented as a source for “the diffusion of knowledge and the advancement of virtue and religion” (a reflection of the Congregational roots of its founders), its (then) name chosen to “commemorate the triumph of Liberty over Slavery in our nation,” its broad aim “to afford to all classes, without distinction of color, the advantages of liberal education” (and indeed its first students included both women and at least one freedman, and it provided free tuition to Civil War veterans), its founders seeing the college as “an engine for the furtherance of the ideas of civil and religious liberty which actuated our Fathers in the Revolutionary struggle, and which are now achieving a signal victory in the triumph of free principles.” Grand ambitions indeed, and aims which would seem highly suited to a curricular emphasis in history.

But when the college actually opened its doors in January 1866, history was represented by one professor: Samuel D. Bowker, a minister by training. He was professor as well of English literature, and Principal of the Preparatory Department (put in place because the college founders recognized that the potential student body was not quite ready for college coursework—the earliest version of “conditional admits”—and indeed all the students that first semester were in the Preparatory Division. The first actual college class was formed that fall, with two students. Bowker was, in addition, one of the most significant fundraisers in the early years of the college, making repeated trips east
to find funds to support the enterprise. How much time all that other work left him for the study of history is an open question. To be fair, however, with only three professors that opening year (aside from Bowker, one in Greek and Latin, another in mathematics), plus three “teachers” in the preparatory courses (one for penmanship, another for vocal music, and wide-ranging Miss Minnie Otis covering French, instrumental music, and drawing and painting), history was not the only discipline thinly represented in that opening year.

But the Kansas air did Bowker only limited good; he died of tuberculosis in June 1868. No professor of history, even in attenuated form, appears in the listings for the 1868-69 school year. Still, history did have a place, albeit a limited one, in the early set curriculum of the college. The Washburn Reader, 1865-1914 (Woodley Press, 1984) reprints the 1867-68 catalogue, which notes that applicants for admission to both the Collegiate Classical and Scientific courses of studies (but not, interestingly, the Ladies’ Course) would be examined in history. The classical course of study ignored history entirely (except for what they got in Latin and Greek: Livy and Herodotus as freshmen, Tacitus and Thucydides as juniors), but the Scientific Collegiate Course included three semesters of history for its freshmen (Modern, Ancient, and the History of Civilization, although how that is neither modern nor ancient is not quite clear), and the ladies got “Wilson’s Outlines of Ancient History” their junior year.

Who taught those courses after Bowker’s death is less than clear; how long the history position was left unfilled would take more research to know. At least, in the earliest Washburn catalogs that got digitized by Google Books, history is back: in 1895, Bertha Lovewell is listed as instructor in history (and English Literature, and Principal of the Ladies’ Department); in 1899, Arthur May Hyde is listed as “acting instructor” in History and Political Economy. We can hope they filled that position more permanently for the new century.

They may no longer require history courses at Washburn, but still, we feel we have moved forward since those days. The place of Washburn’s Department of History seems, at the very least, rather more secure. And as much as historians are inclined to pay attention to the past, we look to the future as well. The history faculty offer a significantly wider range of courses than our disciplinary ancestors, and we continue to innovate in developing new offerings in history (like Tony Silvestri’s Pirates course or the interdisciplinary exploration of water issues I taught this past semester, or like Kerry Wynn’s seminar turning students loose in the library of Wichita founder James Mead or Alan Bearman’s exploration of civic religion and American presidents this coming semester). We continue our own active research agendas, with all of the department’s tenured faculty actively presenting work at conferences and in publication. Rachel Goossen, for example, received this year’s DeBendetti Prize for her scholarly work on war toys (see article below). And we continue to launch our graduates off into the world, watching as they take their places in classrooms and boardrooms, museums and churches, libraries and national parks.

This past year, when the celebrations of Washburn’s 150th anniversary provided the occasion, the Department of History welcomed a number of those alumni back to town for our Homecoming Open House (see article below). We hope to continue keeping connected with you after you’ve walked in Washburn’s halls. But we need your help to do that. Stay connected; keep us informed. Let us know what’s up in your life, and come back when you can to see what we’re up to as well.

**Erratum:**

A formatting mistake in our last issue caused some confusion as to what alumni Chelsey Chaney and Jeremy Delong have been up to. Chelsea Chaney, after her work as Campaign Manager in Senator Roberts’s re-election campaign, has now signed on to the new Washburn Alumni Board. And Jeremy DeLong, a double major in Philosophy and History, has kept an element of historical research even while pursuing advanced studies in his other field: he is completing a dissertation at the University of Kansas on the presocratic Greek philosopher Parmenides (with a defense anticipated soon). You can get a taste of his argument in his recently published article “Rearranging Parmenides: B1: 31-32 and a Case For an Entirely Negative Doxa (Opinion)” in Southwest Philosophy Review 31.1 (2015), and a sense of his range of interests in another recent publication, “Star Trek: Into Darkness—Ethical Impartiality, Partiality, and the Need for a Male/Female Synthesis,” in Film & Philosophy 19 (2015).
As part of Washburn’s 150th Homecoming celebration October 23-24, the WU Department of History invited alumni to return to campus and talk with current history majors about the exciting careers they have pursued since graduation. Graduates of our department have gone on to have careers in a wide variety of fields, including politics, education, public history, non-profit work, legal studies, geriatric care, and business. The following pages highlight some of the many illustrious alumni who attended the homecoming event. This page features some pictures from the event itself. If you are interested in being involved in a future Career “Show and Tell,” please let us know.
Emily Bradbury (B.A. ’00)

Bradbury is the Kansas Press Association’s member services director. After graduation from Washburn, Emily spent two years as the executive assistant to former Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh. It was there that Emily became involved with the Kids Voting Kansas program.

Emily became executive director of Kids Voting Kansas on June 22, 2002 before moving to her current position of member services director in July 2007. She reassumed the Kids Voting Kansas directorship in 2011. Emily is responsible for all aspects of the Kids Voting Kansas program as well as all services that serve Kansas newspapers. Emily is responsible for all meeting and convention planning, project development and other services that allow Kansas newspapers to serve the state and their communities.

Emily was named one of Topeka’s 30 under 30 in 2005. She currently serves on the Madison Library Board. She also is involved in PEO and the Madison Elementary School Site Council. She is honored to serve the members of the KPA as she believes that a newspaper is truly a cornerstone of its community.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? ALUMNI UPDATES

WHITNEY CASEMENT (B.A. ’09 J.D.’ 12)

Casement has been employed as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Litigation Division of the Office of the Kansas Attorney General since August 2012. As an Assistant Attorney General, Whitney defends state agencies in civil rights and employment law actions and conducts disciplinary licensure proceedings on behalf of Kansas agencies, among other duties.

Whitney is currently the Membership Chair of the Kansas Women Attorneys Association and the Young Lawyers Chair of the Women Attorneys Association of Topeka. She also stays involved in her community by co-directing an Upward Basketball program that serves approximately 150 children in the Topeka community. She has also coached Upward Basketball teams for six years.
DAN HOLT (B.A. ‘63) WINS CLIO PRIZE

The Clio Circle, the Department’s alumni group, awarded its first “Clio Award” honoring a distinguished alumnus to Dan Holt. Holt graduated from Washburn in 1963. He served as director of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library and Museum, Abilene, KS, from 1990 until his retirement in 2008. Holt has lectured widely on military and western history, Dwight Eisenhower and George C. Marshall, authored many articles and two books, and edited Eisenhower: The Prewar Diaries and Selected Papers, 1905-1941 (Johns Hopkins U. Press), as well as directed the publication of D-Day, June 6, 1944 (U. Press of Kansas). He held previous positions with the Kansas State Historical Society and served as the Director of The Citadel, Charleston, SC, Museum and Archives where he worked closely with Gen. Mark Clark to organize his papers. Holt has also worked at the Illinois Historical Society, Springfield, IL and directed the Liberty Memorial, now the National WWI museum, in Kansas City, MO. He was the first director of the National Frontier Trails Center, Independence, Mo. Holt received a presidential appointment to the Brown v. Board 50th Anniversary Commission. In 2008 he was appointed managing editor/project director to edit volumes 6 and 7 of The Papers of George C. Marshall, published under the auspices of the Marshall Foundation. Volume 6, that received two prestigious awards, was published in January 2013 and volume 7, the final volume in the series, will be published in 2016. He received a master’s degree from Emporia State University with an emphasis on US military history and policy.

Above: Professor Kelly Erby presenting the Clio Award to Holt at a ceremony in October

SAVE THE DATE:

Join us for the annual Lincoln Harmon Lecture, honoring Washburn’s legacy as Lincoln College. This year Dr. Caroline Janney of Purdue University will speak on the subject of “What They Thought it All Meant: The Civil War Generation Remembers.” Professor Janney completed her PhD at the University of Virginia. A specialist in the Civil War era, she is the author of Burying the Dead but Not the Past: Ladies’ Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2008) and Remembering the Civil War: Reunion and the Limits of Reconciliation, a volume in the Littlefield History of the Civil War Era Series (Littlefield Fund for Southern History and University of North Carolina Press, 2013), which has been selected for the History Book Club and Military Book Club and won the Charles S. Sydnor Award by the Southern Historical Association and the Jefferson Davis Award by the American Civil War Museum.

February 3, 2016 7 PM Memorial Union Washburn Room
Congratulations to Professor Rachel Goossen, who was awarded the Charles DeBenedetti Prize from the Peace History Society for her article "Disarming the Toy Store and Reloading the Shopping Cart: Resistance to Violent Consumer Culture," Peace & Change 38, 3 (July 2013): 330-354. Goossen’s scholarship, which examines how North American antiwar organizations resisted war through the disarming of toys and toy stores, bridges many important historiographical fields including peace history, women’s history, the history of consumption, the history of childhood, and cultural studies.

Nick Murray (B.A. ’07)

Murray began his career at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site in Topeka following an internship he held at the site in 2006. In 2008, Nick accepted a position as a Park Ranger at Rock Creek Park in Washington, D.C. and later worked at the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center. After a short break in government service, Nick started graduate school in 2012 and begin working for the National Park Service again at Brown v. Board of Education NHS. He finished his M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction from Emporia State University last fall and is now an Education Specialist where he works with high school and college students and teachers who visit Brown v. Board of Education NHS. Additionally, Nick develops lesson plans and curricula for all levels of education on Civil Rights, develop and research for museum exhibits and text, and serve as council on the Kansas Council for Social Studies.

HELP US ENSURE THE SUCCESS OF OUR GRADUATES!

We are always pleased to hear about the accomplishments of our alumni. Now, we are enlisting your assistance to benefit our current students. Please take the time to fill out our survey of graduates, available online, to advise us regarding the skills, courses, and extra-curricular opportunities that will help students gain a foothold in your field. Thank you! Just click this link to be taken to the survey:

COURSE SPOTLIGHT: JOHN BROWN, TAUGHT BY PROFESSOR KELLY ERBY

Students in this special topics course investigated the abolitionist John Brown who came to Kansas Territory in 1855 to fight slavery and led a raid on a federal arsenal at Harper’s Ferry, Virginia in 1859. Students used the methods of cultural biography to understand Brown as a man of his time, delving into political, literary, economic, and religious movements of the nineteenth century. The final portion of the course considered Brown’s place in America’s historical memory and the ways in which his story has been appropriated in the 150 years since his execution.

Thanks to support from the Center for Kansas Studies Students and the Grace James Memorial Fund, which makes money available to study Kansas history, students enjoyed numerous opportunities to take their learning out of the traditional classroom with fieldtrips to such historic sites as the John and Mary Jane Ritchie House in Topeka and the John Brown Museum in Osawatomie. While in Osawatomie, the class took a brief detour to the Pottawatomie Creek area where Brown and a posse of men executed five proslavery settlers. During another class period, students engaged in archival research using the impressive digitized collected related to Brown through the Kansas Territorial website. The class received a surprise visit from Brown himself (Topeka re-enactor Steve Germes, accompanied by his wife Suzanne as Mary Brown), and later in the semester, the Lecompton Players joined the class to reenact a constitutional debate in territorial Kansas. The spirit of historical reenactments proved popular among these students, many of whom wore period dress during an in-class debate of Brown’s raid at Harper’s Ferry, Virginia.
HI 300A: Civil Religion & the American Presidency—A research seminar in which the instructor will spend two weeks introducing students to the history of civil religion and the American presidency. After which, students will spend the semester studying and preparing an essay, minimum of 20 pages, upon the impact of the civil religion of a U.S. president of their choosing (subject to instructor approval). Enrollment permitted only for degree-seeking students. Taught by Alan Bearman. MWF 9-9:50 AM

HI 300B: History of the American South—This course covers the history of the American South from the colonial period to more recent times. The course will emphasize such topics as slavery and the emergency of a segregated, biracial society, Southern class and gender relations, the rise of the secessionist movement and Confederate failure, Reconstruction, sharecropping and the post-Reconstruction economy, Southern literature, the Civil Rights Revolution, the rise of the “Sunbelt,” and the role of memory in preserving Southern distinctiveness. Taught by Ginette Aley. MW 1-2:15 PM

HI 300C: History of American Childhood—This course will survey the wide range of historical literature on children and youth in American culture, and will consider evolving notions of childhood from America’s colonial period to the present. This is a seminar-style, discussion-oriented course, complemented with lectures, films, and students’ research presentations. Taught by Rachel Goossen. TR 9:30-10:45 AM

HI 300D: The Adventurers’ Library—This course immerses students in the ideas and culture of the 19th century as they complete original research projects using historical sources. Students will explore the Mead Collection, Mabee Library’s newly acquired collection of books from the library of James R. Mead, a founder of Wichita. Mead, a trader, legislator, and keen observer of life around him, built a library that demonstrates the breadth of the intellectual interests in early Kansas. Students will use the collection and additional archival resources to examine the relationship between ideas and actions, the historical trajectory of life on the plains, the insights that books can provide for understanding a time and place, and much more. Taught by Kerry Wynn. TR 2:30-3:45.

HI 300F: Exploring Civil Rights—This is a team-taught travel course designed to provide students with the opportunity to learn more about the American Civil Rights Movement and to consider racial progress and transformation over the last half century. Over Spring Break, we will travel by motor coach, visiting Tennessee, Mississippi, and Alabama. Team-taught by Bruce MacTavish and Connie Gibbons.

HI 315A: Women in U.S. History—This course will examine the birth and development of the women’s rights movement in America, focusing on its roots in abolitionism in the nineteenth century. Our examination will put women of color, too often overlooked in women’s history, front and center. Taught by Kelly Erby. MWF 11-11:50 AM

HI 322A: Kansas History—A comprehensive survey beginning with the land itself and its earliest inhabitants and ending with an overview of the state today. Political and economic aspects of the state’s development are covered, but there is also an emphasis on social and cultural history. Taught by Bruce Mactavish. TR 11 AM-12:15PM

HI 334A: Civilization of Ancient Rome—This course covers the history of Roman civilization from the founding of the city in 753 BC to the collapse of the Empire in 476 AD. We will focus on themes such as the creation and erosion of the Republic, the stable administration of imperial territory, the development of Roman religions (including Christianity), and lessons from Rome valuable to the United States. Also included in the course is an extended historical simulation of the Roman Senate based on primary readings. Taught by Tony Silvestri. MW 2:30-3:45 PM

HI 354A: History of the Middle East—Survey of the Middle East from the 7th century to 1914. We will pay particular attention to the context in which Islam was born and the life of its founder Muhammed; the “golden age” of the life of the Prophet and his immediate successors, which continue to inform current debates such as the Shi’i/Sunni divide; the rapid establishment of a united Muslim empire ranging from Spain to India and its ultimate disintegration; and the interaction between Islam and the Christian world with rise and fall of various empires throughout the medieval, early modern, and modern eras. Taught by Joel Gillaspie, TR 9:30-10:45 AM
HI 358 VA: History of Modern China—Origins, historical development, and interplay of major forces, events, and characteristics of Chinese Civilization. Covers c. 1800 to the present. Taught by Sara Tucker. ONLINE FORMAT

HI 363A: Borderlands and Beyond—What is a border? Where are borders? This course explores the concept of borders and borderlands from a variety of perspectives. Using the history of the space that joins the United States and Mexico as a starting point, the course assesses the developments in U.S./Latin American relations, the significance of the Spanish-American-Cuban War, as well as factors that shape immigration from Latin America and the Caribbean. Throughout the course we will use the primary sources, literature, music, film, and perhaps even food to enhance our understanding of the diversity and complexity of the Latino experience in the U.S., borderlands, and beyond. Taught by Kim Morse. TR 11 AM-12:15 PM

Cynthia Heath (B.A. ’68)

Heath is the Vice President of Executive Compensation and serves as Secretary of the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors.

Her responsibilities include administration of Emerson’s compensation program for its top executives worldwide, including base salary and bonus plans, long-term compensation, expatriate compensation, executive benefits, SEC/proxy compliance and other executive compensation issues. Prior to leading the Executive Compensation Department, Cynthia was the Employee Benefits Attorney for Emerson, and previously practiced law for six years at a private law firm in St. Louis. She has earned a Juris Doctorate from Washington University of St. Louis School of Law, a Master of Science Degree from Kansas State University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Washburn University.

At Washburn, she majored in history and earned departmental honors. She participated in many activities including NONOSO (Honorary Senior Women), Tau Delta Pi (Scholastic Honorary), Student Council, Cheerleader, and Delta Gamma Sorority. She was awarded a National Angel Flight Scholarship and Vaulting Champion Small Colleges (1968).

Washburn has honored her with the alumni Monroe Award (2013) and as a member of the Washburn University Athletic Hall of Fame (2013). Heath received the Law Department Distinguished Alumni Award from Washington University School of Law in May 2015. In October 2015, she was inducted into the Topeka West High School Graduate Hall of Fame. She serves as Chair Elect of the Washburn University Foundation, Vice Chair of the Girls Scouts of Eastern Missouri and on the board of Action for Autism.
Jess Rezac (B.A. ’08)

Rezac, Development Manager at the American Jazz Museum, leads the successful sustainable funding initiative, PEER Into the Future, and identifies, writes, and administers grants and corporate sponsorships, raising funds to support the four pillars of the Museum’s mission: performance, exhibition, education, and research. Rezac coordinates donor relations through PEER Into the Future and the American Jazz Museum Society membership group. During her tenure, the Museum has successfully generated nearly $1M in contributed revenue. She is an active participant in arts administration communities in Kansas City and Missouri. Jess currently serves as Board Member At-Large for the Missouri Association of Museums and Archives, Co-Chair of KC Live Arts performing arts marketing group, and member of the Arts KC Fund Advisory Council and the Kansas City Arts & Culture Development Roundtable. Prior to her tenure at the Museum, Ms. Rezac led the collections, education, and exhibition programs at Andrew County Museum where she worked as Curator until 2012.

Texas Tech University awarded Jess a Master of Arts degree in Museum Science in 2010.

**Congratulations to Jess and her husband Kyle, who welcomed baby girl Louise Helen in December!**

Jason Drinkard (’11)

Drinkard is currently in his fourth year of teaching at Topeka High School. Prior to teaching, he attended Kansas State University and earned his B.S. in Sociology with an emphasis on Criminology and a minor in History. In 2009, Jason began attending Washburn University and earned his teaching certification in December 2011.

Drinkard teaches World and U.S. History at Topeka High School. He is currently the co-department chair of the Social Studies department as well as a member of the district’s Curriculum and Assessment Team.

Christian Gilbert (B.A. ’14)

Gilbert is the Executive Director of Wheatridge Park Care Center in Liberal, KS. The Executive Director oversees the day-to-day operations of the facility, including census development, ensuring profitability, optimizing resident care, state and federal survey compliance, and managing positive employee relations. Everyday, Gilbert uses the critical thinking skills he honed as a history major.

Michael Spangler (B.A. ’12)

Spangler is a Loan Servicing Representative at Capitol Federal Savings in Topeka. He started working at Capitol Federal Savings in 2012 part-time teller. With his work experience and education he was able to move his way up to Loan Servicing Representative within 9 months. During his time at Capitol Federal he has become involved in volunteering for the United Way. In 2014 Spangler became an Ambassador for the United Way and in 2015 he was on the United Way Committee at Capitol Federal. Outside of work, Spangler love spending time with his wife Evelyn and son Charles. In 2009 he ran the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon, and in 2015 he hiked to the summit of Mt. Elbert (the tallest mountain in the Rocky Mountains of North America).
THE PHIL MORSE SCHOLARSHIP

The Phil Morse Scholarship is awarded to the first-place winner of the senior paper category at the District Three History Day Competition. Phil Morse graduated from Washburn in 1963 with a bachelors degree in History. After graduate school at Denver University and service in the Peace Corps, Phil and Lona Morse settled in Topeka. Phil built a career in business and community service. He believed that the skills learned through a liberal arts education, history in particular, were crucial to success in any profession. For a number of years Phil was a dedicated History Day judge for the paper category. He believed the research, analytical, organization, and writing skills at the core of history education and History Day were tools essential for professional excellence, as well as citizenship. Phil and Lona endowed the Phil Morse Scholarship to honor the values integral to History Day, and to celebrate history and a liberal arts education.

Heather (Stone) Potter ('08)

Upon graduating from WU, Potter went on to earn her Master of Library Science (MLS) with an emphasis in Archival Studies from Indiana University, Bloomington in 2011. While a graduate student, Potter worked at the Indiana University Photographic Archive and assisted in cataloging Liberian President William V. S. Tubman’s Photograph Collection via the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology. After graduation Potter became the Project Archivist for the Kentucky Folklife Program Archive at the Kentucky Historical Society under a 1-year NHPRC grant. When the grant ended she temporarily worked as a Scanning Technician for the Kentucky Department of Library and Archives where she scanned death certificates and Kentucky State University newspapers. Currently, Potter is the Associate Curator of Photographic and Print materials at The Filson Historical Society located in Louisville, Kentucky. Potter is responsible for the management and care of visual materials including: cataloging, reference services, photograph orders, and maintaining the content management system used for accessing visual materials. Concurrently, she supervises a volunteer, participates in The Filson’s publications, programming, and blog. Her most recent accomplishment was the implementation of PastPerfect Online which made a portion of The Filson’s visual materials accessible online for the first time. Potter is actively involved within the archival community including the Society of American Archivists, Midwest Archives Conference (MAC) where she served on the 2015 Programming Committee, and is currently the Treasurer for the Kentucky Council on Archives (KCA).
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR FALL 2015 GRADUATES:

MARISSA COX, JONATHAN DENNIS, COREY DIPMAN, AG GONZALEZ (WITH HONORS), MIKAYLA HARVEY (WITH HONORS), MATTHEW HOLLOMAN, CORINNE HOFFHINES (WITH HONORS), JACOB HOLLY (WITH HONORS), TORI HUBER, MYKEL PATRICK, HEATHER RAMSDELL (WITH HONORS), MADISON POWERS, & MALLORY SCHMIDT

GOOD LUCK IN YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS! STAY IN TOUCH!

*****

Attention Alumni & Friends!

Keep us current on your activities and contact information! Complete this form and send it to Dr. Kelly Erby, Department of History, Washburn University, 1700 SW College Ave, Topeka, KS 66621

Name:_____________________________________________________________
Address:___________________________________________________________
Email:_____________________________________________________________
News: ____________
_________________________________________________________________

General donations to the Department of History are always welcome to further the activities of students, faculty, and general program needs. Checks can be made payable to “Washburn University Foundation—History Department” and mailed to 1729 SW MacVicar Ave Topeka, KS, 66604. We appreciate your support!

Did you know the Washburn Department of History has a page on Facebook?

Like us!