This issue focuses on the role of technology in historical research. Professors Greene, Pastore, and Pavilack explain how technological advances have changed the way they do research. We also bid good-bye to two of our faculty and celebrate the achievements of our students. We are pleased to include alumni updates and an update from our chair. We hope to hear from you in the near future. Finally, we offer congratulations to Professor Anya Jabour and PhD candidate Randall Williams for prestigious university-wide awards.
Feature Interview:  
The Effects of Technology on Historical Research

Technology has changed the way historians do research. Not only are ever more holdings available on-line, but archival trips have been made more productive through the advent of digital photography. In this interview with editor Tobin Miller Shearer, Professors Robert Greene, Chris Pastore, and Jody Pavilack reflect on how technology has changed the craft of research.

What techniques do you use?

Greene: I write original Russian in longhand (or occasionally type in transliteration), translate my notes into English (retaining thereby a copy of the source in the original language for later reference and checking-up), and arrange my notes by subject and sub-subject in hanging file folders – with an elaborate and somewhat indecipherable system for cross-referencing notes between multiple folders. When I write a particular section of an article, for example, I can pull the relevant file folders and work from those. It’s archaic but it works.

Pavilack: Throughout a research project, especially toward the beginning, I extensively use the internet and online library databases to identify and locate secondary sources and primary source archives. I then use online archive descriptions and finding aids to get as clear an idea of the contents of the collection(s) before planning and executing a research trip. I also make great use of online databases, especially WorldCat, to find sources, including loads of primary sources, that I am often able to obtain through interlibrary loan. Once in an archive, I use a digital camera to photograph as many relevant documents as possible. I then convert the jpegs into pdfs and create an Endnote entry for each document, including a link to the pdf.

Pastore: To this point, my research methods have been fairly low-tech. I’ve taken notes using Microsoft Word and organized images in Adobe PDF files. As a result, I have largely relied on my memory to recall those materials as I’m writing. And sometimes my memory is not as sharp as I would hope. That said, I take the time to carefully construct my files so that I can search by keywords. I’m very careful to include complete citations on every document so that I can cite those sources quickly while I’m writing. I’m now exploring new ways to organize my materials, using software like Endnote and Filemaker Pro, so that I can recall them more easily.

How has technology changed the way you do research?

Greene: As I mentioned earlier, Russian libraries and archives have started putting more material online; much more remains to be done - whether it will or not, I don’t know. Small regional libraries and private enthusiasts have also begun to scan and upload rare 19th century periodicals and newspapers that are extremely difficult to obtain in the U.S.

Pavilack: Most of the research for my first book was done in the late 1990s and early 2000s in Santiago and the coal mining communities of Chile. I did have a laptop but very minimal access to high speed internet and no digital camera. Thus I found myself taking lengthy notes while in the archives and xeroxing a page here and there. This research was slow, spanning roughly a decade, but it allowed me to think and write broadly and deeply about my subject and to gain the kind of insights that emerge only after intense, prolonged engagement. Now I enter an archive with my camera battery charged. I peruse the documents as quickly as I can, making snap decisions about which ones may be of interest. I can thus obtain hundreds of potentially relevant documents in just a few days at the archive.

Pastore: Technology has placed a lot more at my fingertips. And in many cases this technology is very simple. Using Google books, for instance, I’ve found that I can read secondary sources more strategically. I’ll often keyword search the digitized book while I’m holding the real deal in my hands. I have found, too, that as I am reading archival documents, I often imagine the various ways that information could be presented in a digital format. In some cases, I might have found information that could be presented in GIS or some other mapping or graphing software. In short, as I read my sources technological possibilities are making new things stand out.
What challenges have you faced?

Greene: The greatest challenge, I think, is that digitalization of Russian historical records and archival documents is only just getting under way and lags well behind that of sources in American history. Getting to the sources themselves remains a challenge; however, Russian libraries and archives have begun to put their catalogs and finding guides online, which means that researchers can do at least some of the preliminary work well before getting on a plane.

Pavilack: The challenges for me have mostly begun back at home when I need to make sense of all the documents I photographed. The first step for me is to make sure I have the source location for the document clearly recorded. The most reliable technique for this, I have found, is to write the source location on a small piece of paper placed in the photograph. The next big challenge for me has been to figure out a system for organizing information about my documents. After trying a few things, I am now working with Endnote, creating an entry with source information, keywords, and notes about each document, and a link to the document itself (converted from JPEG to PDF). Sometimes I feel overwhelmed with the quantity of sources I now expect myself to evaluate. For my first book, I was only able to access a small portion of the universe of relevant information out there. It was incomplete but I think I was able to analyze it in deep and meaningful ways. Now that I have a much broader array of sources immediately at my disposal, my new challenge is to allow myself to let many of them fall to the wayside in the course of my analysis and writing.

Pastore: In the archives that allow photography, I sometimes take on a “Cookie Monster” approach to materials, using my camera to devour everything and anything that remotely connects to my topic. I have to check that tendency and photograph only those materials that I think will be fruitful. The challenge comes when the project is in its infancy and it’s hard to tell which materials will be useful and which will just take up space on my hard drive.

Has technology changed the final product of your research?

Greene: With access to international journals and databases, it’s now much easier than ever before to have a sense of the secondary literature on any particular topic – not just limited to physical holdings in U.S. libraries. For my work, this has helped me to keep abreast of new scholarship in my field that has helped to inform and contextualize my own research.

Pavilack: I don’t know yet.
Chair’s Update

At this writing, we are buried in unseasonal snow and beset by perennial budgetary woes, and yet, as my colleague and past predecessor in the chair’s office, Richard Drake, would say, “Always forward.” This has been a very busy academic year for the History Department, but one that has garnered us some singular accolades. We are proud to announce that Anya Jabour, professor of U.S. Women’s History and co-director of Women’s and Gender Studies, was named this year’s recipient of the George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment. This is a highly competitive award that recognizes faculty whose scholarship and accomplishments have brought regional and national distinction to the University of Montana. I hope you’ll join us in congratulating Anya on this singular honor.

This April, the History Department is co-sponsoring (with Carroll College in Helena) the 2014 annual meeting of the Northwest Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference at the Coeur d’Alene Resort in Coeur d’Alene, Idaho. The nation’s oldest and most prestigious honors society for undergraduate and graduate students of history, Phi Alpha Theta boasts more than 350,000 members across the country. The Beta Psi chapter has enjoyed a vibrant presence at UM since its founding by Professor Emeritus Harry Fritz more than forty years ago. Each year, upwards of one dozen UM History students travel to the regional conference, where they have the opportunity to present academic papers based on original research, receive constructive, critical feedback on their work, and make important connections with scholars in their fields of interest. This year, Harry Fritz, Kyle G. Volk, Jeff Wiltse, and I will accompany UM undergraduate and graduate students to the Northwest conference, the largest regional Phi Alpha Theta conference in the nation.

We’re grateful for the financial support of the African-American Studies Program, the Davidson Honors College, the History Department, the Russian Studies Program, and the Women and Gender’s Studies Program. If you are interested in helping support the UM chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, please contact Prof. Kyle G. Volk.

As always, we appreciate your interest in the History Department and are grateful for your continued support. We’re eager, as ever, to hear from our alumni, so do pass along any updates or events for inclusion in the newsletter. Best wishes for the months ahead.

- Robert Greene

Award-winning Civil War historian James Oakes spoke at UM’s Presidential Lecture Series, December 5, 2013, on “The Emancipation Proclamation: Myths and Realities,” in a lecture sponsored by the African-American Studies Program, The Project on American Democracy and Citizenship, the College of Humanities and Sciences, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Pictured (l to r): Richard Drake, James Oakes, President Royce Engstrom, Tobin Miller Shearer.
Dan Flores

Where will you be going?
I’ll be moving to the house I built a dozen years ago seventeen miles outside Santa Fe, New Mexico. Like the place I built in the Bitterroot Valley here, it’s on rural, scenic property that allows me to have pretty dramatic nature out the door but is still close to an interesting city with great restaurants, beautiful architecture, and history. Santa Fe is the oldest American city in the West and has been a magnet for writers and artists and a second home/retirement destination for academics from around the country for a long time. All that, plus the High Desert/Rocky Mountain setting, makes Santa Fe very appealing to me.

What will you be doing?
Well, the primary motive is to enjoy life to the fullest. My girlfriend, Sara, and I are getting married in June, then heading off to France and Spain, and I’ll do an eighteen-day float down the Grand Canyon with friends from Santa Fe next September. There are also a couple of great sports cars in my garage down there! But in terms of work, I’m planning to continue my career as a writer, which dates to before I was even a professor. Coyote America, a current book project, sold to a New York publisher and should be out in 2016, and I have a book with a university press (Kansas), called Charismatic Megafauna, that should also be out in 2016. Finishing these, my ninth and tenth books, is a first order of business, but I’ll be writing for magazines as well.

What words do you have for the department as you leave?
When I accepted the Hammond chair at UM in 1992, I was betting on the future of Missoula and of UM. After 22 years here I still feel the same about the city, the region, and this university. There will be setbacks, but overall the future here still looks to me to be bright and exciting. This History Department has always been a strong one, with fine scholar/teacher/mentors and excellent students, and with our new and active Ph.D. program it has an enviable forward momentum. With it we’re in a position to make a major cultural contribution to this part of the world, so of course I want to see that momentum continue. It’s what I’d encourage, what I’m hoping for, what I’m anticipating.

Chris Pastore

Where will you be going?
I am going to the University at Albany, State University of New York. Located in the capital of New York, SUNY Albany is one of four “research centers” (alongside the University of Buffalo, SUNY Binghamton, and SUNY Stony Brook) within the 64-campus SUNY system, the largest state university system in the United States.

What will you be doing?
I have accepted a position focused specifically on early American environmental history. I’ll be teaching and advising graduate and undergraduate students in environmental history, early America, and the Atlantic world. I will also be working to expand SUNY Albany’s offerings in digital history.

What words do you have for the department as you leave?
To everyone in the History Department, I can only say thank you. My time at UM has been wonderful. The faculty are some of the most talented and hard-working people I know, and the students are top-notch. I also love Missoula. I leave with a heavy heart but also with the knowledge that I have forged some wonderful friendships.
Alumni Updates

Former Outstanding Senior Sapphire Diamant-Rink reports: I am originally from East Glacier Park on the Blackfeet Reservation. I graduated from the History Department at UM in the fall of 2007 with high honors. After working for the public defender's office in Missoula for a few months, I spent the summer of 2008 in Glacier National Park working for the National Park Service. I then moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, to start law school at the University of Cincinnati College of Law, where I was a Fellow with the Urban Morgan Institute for Human Rights. I spent my first summer in law school clerking for a judge at the High Court of Botswana, focusing on the dual legal system of Roman-Dutch and tribal law. My second summer I returned to Helena as a Fellow for the Indian Law Resource Center, seeking justice for indigenous peoples. That summer I also married Andrew Miller, a fellow UM alumni, who graduated in 2008.

Diamant-Rink continues: In May of 2011 I graduated from UC Law with high honors and took a position with the United States Department of the Interior as an Honors Attorney in the Office of the Solicitor in Washington, D.C. After working in parks and wildlife, mineral resources, general law, and land and water, I ultimately was placed in the Division of Indian Affairs. I was offered the opportunity to practice federal Indian law at the Department’s field office in Sacramento, CA. My husband and I moved out to Sacramento last April, 2013. We absolutely love it here, and we’ve managed to meet up with Griz fans for the Cat-Griz game, and watch UM play UC Davis and Sacramento State. I enjoy reading the UM History Department newsletter, and will always remember my time at UM as an enriching and exciting experience. Most of our family is in Montana and we visit as often as we can.

Departmental graduate Melissa Bruninga Matteau offered this update: I know it’s been forever, and I don’t know who’s still around or not, but re alumni news...after my graduation from UM in 2002, I went and got my PhD from the University of California, Irvine. In August, I started my new job, as an assistant professor of history at Martin Methodist College in Pulaski, Tennessee. If it hadn’t been for the history department at UM, I would have never gotten this far, and I’m incredibly proud to be a graduate of the department!

Former department work-study student Mandy Townsley writes: I cannot tell you how happy I was to receive your email with the department newsletter. I often wonder how you’re doing. I can hardly believe it was ten years ago that I started my work study with you and the history department! I’m currently in my fourth year of the doctoral program at Washington State in Pullman.

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Women’s History Matters

By Anya Jabour

2014 is the 100th anniversary of woman suffrage in Montana, and groups in both Helena and Missoula want to make sure everyone knows it.

The Montana Historical Society in Helena is hosting a website, “Women’s History Matters,” dedicated to the centennial at montanawomenshistory.org. The site features a blog with twice-weekly posts on Montana women’s history, highlighting both famous and unknown women and offering a representative cross-section of the population. The site also provides research resources, including links to every article published in Montana: The Magazine of Western History, on women’s history. In addition, the site has resources for teachers; a state-wide calendar of events; links to on-line exhibits; and suggestions for community celebrations of the centennial, including a list of public speakers.

In Missoula, a group of UM university faculty, staff, and students and Missoula community members comprising the ad hoc Centennial Committee is coordinating an array of events and exhibits, including an exhibit on “Women and Politics in Montana” on the 4th floor of Mansfield Library, a statewide essay contest, and lectures and concerts.

The Centennial Committee also has a subcommittee dedicated to developing a traveling exhibit on the history of woman suffrage in Montana that will be unveiled in mid-March in the lobby of Mansfield Library and will then tour the entire state. Subcommittee member Julie Biando Edwards, Ethnic Studies Librarian and Diversity Coordinator at the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Library, comments: “I am especially excited because this exhibit will be donated to the Montana State Library. The State Library will be able to make it available to libraries around the state so that patrons in communities large and small can take part in the suffrage celebrations.”

The traveling exhibit is funded by a grant from Humanities Montana, with matching funds from the African-American Studies Program, the History Department, Mansfield Library, the Office of the President, the Women’s and Gender Studies Program, and the Missoula chapter of the American Association of University Women.

Kayla Blackman, an M.A. candidate in History and Women’s and Gender Studies, the lead researcher and content developer for the traveling exhibit, and the intern for the “Women’s History Matters” project, reflects: “Celebrating the centennial of woman suffrage in Montana is important. Today we consider voting a fundamental right of living in a democracy. One hundred years ago, women fought for that right. They organized, protested, and ultimately succeeded in securing their own suffrage. This exhibit will hopefully remind Montanans what a great privilege it is to live in a democracy and encourage the political participation which women fought so hard to attain.”

Masters student Chelsea Chamberlain keeps her students focused during a class discussion.
"Historians once thought of the Compromise of 1850 as one of the U.S. Congress’s all-time greatest achievements!" That’s how Professor Harry Fritz opened his discussion of the road to the American Civil War in early February. While eavesdropping on Harry’s class, I saw a masterful lecturer at the top of his game. Harry juxtaposed the insider congressional politics of Henry Clay and Daniel Webster with a nation increasingly fractured by their policies on fugitive slaves and slavery’s expansion into the American West. Historians, he argued, very much changed their mind on the Compromise of 1850. Where earlier scholars celebrated the work of the so-called great compromisers, subsequent scholars came to see that their “compromise” measures actually exacerbated the hostility between the North and South, and with violent consequences.

After more than 40 years at UM, Harry retired in 2007 to open up time for travel and to make way for the next generation of UM faculty. He made sure, however, to work out a post-retirement contract that kept him in the classroom. We are thankful. Since 2007 he’s been alternating his courses on the American Civil War and American Military History in spring semesters. He’s also been teaching wildly popular courses in UM’s MOLLI program. It just so happened that the day I stopped by Harry’s class, alum Mike Allen, now a history professor at the University of Washington—Tacoma, was sitting in. He was on campus visiting his daughter Caroline, who is a UM undergraduate and is—perhaps not surprisingly—enrolled in the American Civil War. The generations of minds touched by Harry’s spirit and knowledge continue to expand.

In the past year, the History Department has celebrated Harry’s career with the creation of the Harry Fritz Fund for Student Achievement. The outpouring of support has been gratifying to the department and to Harry. We are getting close to our initial fundraising goal ($25,000) and eager to begin using this fund to benefit UM students. If you’d like to contribute, please contact me (kyle.volk@umontana.edu). I look forward to hearing from you!
Faculty News

On October 24, 2013, Richard Drake delivered a paper, “Charles Beard and the English Historians,” before a conference devoted to the work of Charles Beard on the centenary of the publication of *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*, the University of Virginia Law School.

Emeritus Professor Dave Emmons will give an invited talk, “‘A Tower of Strength to the Movement’: Father Michael Hannan and an Irish Workers Republic, 1911-1925,” at the Ernie O’Malley Symposium hosted by Glucksman Ireland House at New York University, April 25 and 26, 2014. His co-panelists include Kerby Miller for session entitled, “‘Throwing the Reins to the Irish Bourgeoisie’: Migration and the Memory of Failed Revolution.”

For the third time in his career, Dan Flores has garnered a prestigious Wrangler Award for his magazine article, “Coyote: An American Original.” He will receive the award from the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum during their awards banquet on April 12, 2014.

Robert H. Greene’s recent article on parish pilgrimage in late imperial Russia received Honorable Mention for the 2012 Distinguished Scholar Award from the Association for the Study of Eastern Christianity. This award is presented annually to the most outstanding English-language article on Eastern Christian society and culture.

This fall Anya Jabour gave a guest lecture for the Global Leadership Initiative Program, “‘The Work of the World’: Sophonisba Breckinridge and Women’s Activism in the U.S. and Abroad, 1900-1950.” She also gave a guest presentation for the YWCA Brown Bag Lunch Series, “‘Mutually Reinforcing or Mutually Exclusive? Women’s Rights and Racial Justice in Historical Perspective,’” on January 17. She gave another guest presentation on “Empowerment, Feminism, Advocacy” as part of the advocate training for Student Advocacy Resource Center on February 1. Professor Jabour is also a member of the advisory committee for the “Women’s History Matters” project and a contributor to the blog at http://montanawomenshistory.org. She is also serving as a historical consultant for a PBS mini-series set in the Civil War era, “Mansion House,” currently in development, as well as for a documentary on the controversial early twentieth-century feminist author Mary MacLane. As noted in the chair’s update, Professor Jabor is also the 2014 George M. Dennison Presidential Faculty Award for Distinguished Accomplishment.


Doctoral candidate Tim Ballard leads a group discussion.
What do you hope readers will gain from reading your book?

Mostly, I hope that readers will gain an appreciation for the prophetic character of Robert La Follette’s early twentieth-century criticisms of American militarism and imperialism. A progressive Republican senator from the state of Wisconsin, he feared that the country would overextend itself through ruinously expensive and morally destructive military involvements. As the surreal bills for America’s wars now begin to fall due, La Follette stands out in American annals as one of the country’s most perceptive statesmen.

What was the biggest challenge in writing this book compared to previous books that you have written?

The biggest challenge by far lay in mastering a new field of scholarly literature at a relatively advanced stage in my career. My previous four books all dealt with modern Italian history. There were advantages, I think, in coming to the study of American history with a Europeanist’s background, with some disadvantages as well. I had done a considerable amount of graduate work in American history, but catching up on the recent literature in the field required a strenuous effort.

You entered a new field of history to write this book. That’s a bold and demanding move. What prompted you to do so?

The book arose from a course that I teach at UM, “Terrorism in the Modern World.” One of the books that I ask the students to read is Osama bin Laden’s Messages to the World, in which he stresses the crucial importance of the Treaty of Sèvres (1920), the part of the post-World War I peace settlement concerned with the distribution of territories in the Middle East. To teach that part of the course effectively, I felt the need to inform myself thoroughly about Sèvres. In studying this treaty and the post-war settlement generally, the name of Robert La Follette cropped up repeatedly. He had opposed America’s entry into the war and then had condemned the peace settlement as a travesty certain to lead to another conflict. I began reading about him and discovered that no study ever had been undertaken about this extraordinary man’s intellectual biography. Nothing had been published about the process through which he had acquired his anti-imperialist and anti-militarist views. I decided to write such a book myself.

How did you prepare yourself to enter this new field?

Another course that I teach at UM is called “The Great Historians” in which I guide the students on a course of study focusing on the great masters of our discipline, from Herodotus and Thucydides down to contemporary times. American historians, particularly Henry Adams, Charles Beard, and William Appleman Williams, play a very important role in this course. Though I have devoted most of my career to the study of European history, I always have maintained a keen interest in the history of the United States. Given my prior graduate work in American history and the teaching I have done for many years in the Great Historians course, I did not exactly feel unarmed as I took up the challenge of writing my book on La Follette. I had one other advantage as I began to write this book: Walter LaFeber of Cornell University, whom I met through the work I do at UM as the coordinator of the President’s Lecture Series. This most distinguished of American historians interested himself deeply in my work and became the best of counselors through the entire project.

What surprised you the most as you wrote this book?

The biggest surprise of all was my discovery of La Follette’s openness to conservative ideas in his search for understanding about American politics and foreign policy. A
man of the progressive left himself, he read libertarian conservatives in particular with deep appreciation, developing a special fondness for Albert Jay Nock. From a conservative viewpoint, Nock, a fierce anti-progressive in his politics, wrote brilliantly about the likely disasters to befall the United States, if the policies begun with the Spanish-American War, the Filipino-American War, and World War I continued to link the country’s destiny with militarism and imperialism. La Follette edited a magazine and published writers representing the entire political and ideological spectrum, from the left and the right. The high degree of his open-mindedness about politics, as a way of gaining understanding not possible for a narrowly parochial person, surprised and inspired me.

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**Graduate Student News**

PhD candidate Randall Williams (pictured below) has garnered UM’s 2014 Graduate Teaching Award in honor of outstanding teaching by a graduate teaching assistant. Congratulations to Randall for this significant and prestigious achievement.

Masters student Kayla Blackman received the Graduate Student Scholarship from the Women’s & Gender Studies Program in Fall 2013.

Doctoral student Pat O’Connor won the History Department’s Hampton Research Grant in fall 2013. He used it to visit the Connecticut Historical Society, where he read through the records of the Hartford Civic Club for his project about Progressive Era anti-spitting ordinances.

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What’s next?

The study of Italian history still has large claims on my time, and I continue to do much reviewing work in that field. Nevertheless, the La Follette book has led me to two other projects in American history. One of them concerns the historian Charles Beard, with whom La Follette had a strong friendship. Beard is a historian I always have admired immensely, though for many years now he has been in bad odor in the best circles over positions that he took criticizing American foreign policy leading up to World War II and during the early years of the Cold War. I aspire to write a work of rehabilitation with the tentative title of “The Return of Charles Beard.” I presented a paper and delivered a lecture about him at Oxford University last spring. While there, I visited the archives of Ruskin College, a workingman’s institution of higher learning founded by Beard while he was a graduate student at Oxford. Many of the important papers from that early part of his life are housed at Ruskin College. The other book is about Mark Twain, called the national funnyman during his lifetime. I’ve done some archival research on him already at the Bancroft Library in Berkeley, California, where all of his papers are kept. In studying his letters and notebooks, I learned that he instantly lost his sense of humor when the subjects of American politics and foreign policy were raised. This second book will be about the very unfunny Mark Twain.
Alumni News - continued from page 6

Former Masters student (’91), Dr. John McNay, has been awarded the Outstanding Faculty Service Award from the University of Cincinnati Blue Ash College. Dr. McNay also founded the John T. McNay Award for History Department graduate students.

PhD Graduate of UM, Greg Gordon’s, book was recently published. He is the Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, and is also the author of Landscape of Desire: Identity and Nature in Utah’s Canyon Country.