

Department News for 2015-16

From the Wiregrass Archives:

The Wiregrass Archives at Troy University Dothan Campus recently has acquired a number of collections important to the cultural history of the Wiregrass. One is the personal papers of Barbara Everett, wife of Congressman Terry Everett (R, AL-2) who served 1993-2009. Congressional spouse records are unusual, and Ms. Everett's illuminate her work on medical and civic issues in Coffee County and the state. Another is the minute books of the Board of Trustees and other materials of Mallilieu Seminary, a Methodist academy, in Kinsey, Henry County, Alabama, 1887-1927. Evangelical preacher Bob Jones graduated from Mallilieu in 1900. Jones founded Bob Jones College near Panama City, FL, in 1927, and two decades later moved it to Greenville, SC, where it became Bob Jones University.

Other recently received collections document the history of elite white women in Dothan during the twentieth century. The records of the Dothan Harmony Club, the New Century club, the Eclectas Club, the Sorosis Club, the Cherokee Garden Club, the Fine Arts Club, and the Dothan Study Club all attest to the depth that literary and self-improvement clubs from the Progressive Era permeated the middle class of small towns across the state, region, and nation.

Two other collections of note are the records of the Southeast Alabama Community Theater (SEACT), a gold mine of information on the organization, structure, growth, and production of this powerful and robust community theater, and a rare run of *The Dixie*, the weekly newspaper of the 31st Infantry Division during World War 2, produced while the division was in training camp or stationed in the South.

From July 2014 until July 2015, the Wiregrass Archives hosted public programming and (Mid-May through June 2015) the Smithsonian Institute's Museum on Main Street installation, "The Way We Worked." Public programming included lectures by former Alabama Folklife Association chair Joyce Cauthen and Troy University's Dr. Karen Ross, screening of the film "Brother Joseph and the Grotto," and a workshop on local history by UAH historian Dr. John Kvach. The installation was five kiosks concerning industrialized work in the United States, ca. 1870-2010, hosted by the Troy Dothan Library.

For further information, please contact Dr. Marty Olliff.

Faculty News

This has been an outstanding year for our faculty. First, we welcome two new philosophers to the Troy campus, Drs. **Joungbin Lim** and **Jay Valentine**. Joungbin and Jay are launching the new minor in Philosophy and Religion this year. Welcome to Troy University!

Margaret Gnoinska has been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor on the Troy campus. Congratulations, Margaret!

Adam Hoose's article, "The Sabatati: The Significance of Early Waldensian Shoes, c. 1184-c. 1300," will be published in the April 2016 edition of *Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies*.

Scott Merriman's article "What Should the Scales of Justice Balance?: Historical Aspects of the Religious Liberty Debate" is coming out this year in the *Faulkner University Law Review*.

Marty Olliff and **Robert Saunders** received an NEH Common Heritage grant of \$12,000 for the Wiregrass Common Heritage Project. The project features a workshop on African American genealogical research in Alabama and a second on preserving family archives. The main thrust of the project is to hold two community scanning days in which community members bring documents and photographs to be scanned into the collections of the Wiregrass Archives and posted to Alabama Mosaic (alabamamosaic.com).

Robin O'Sullivan published her first book: *American Organic: A Cultural History of Farming, Gardening, Shopping, and Eating* (University Press of Kansas, 2015). Last November, Dr. O'Sullivan was invited to give a guest lecture on *American Organic* at the 92nd Street Y "In Session" series, New York City.

Congratulations to **Luke Ritter**. He was named the 2016 winner of the Environment in Missouri History Fellowship, State Historical Society of Missouri, Center for Missouri Studies, which carries a stipend of \$5,000 for the completion of a scholarly article to be submitted to the *Missouri Historical Review*.

Robert Saunders, Associate Professor of history and Assistant Dean of Administration on the Dothan campus, has an upcoming article appearing in the March 2016 *Florida Historical Quarterly*. It is entitled "A Flower at Elmira: The Prisoner of War Diary of Wilbur Wightman Gramling."