Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors

*Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* is a creative writing anthology of poetry, fiction, essays, interviews and photography submissions by and about veterans from across the nation and spanning generations — from World War I to Iraq and Afghanistan. It is an annual series first released in November 2012.

The anthology provides an outlet for self-expression as American veterans build and enhance their support systems, reconnect with their families, reintegrate into the workforce, and heal the unseen wounds of war.

*Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors* is published by the Southeast Missouri State University Press in cooperation with the Missouri Humanities Council. Submissions are reviewed by a panel of judges for inclusion in the anthology with a $250 prize in each of the five categories listed above.

To submit your work or to learn more about this program, contact MHC’s Director of Family and Veterans Programs, Lisa Carrico, at lisa@mohumanities.org or 314.781.9660.

Purchase your copy of *Proud to Be* online: www.mohumanities.org/shop
WILD BILL

WESTERN “HERO”
The history of the Ozarks region of Missouri is forever bound to its roads. Long ago, before the railroads penetrated the area, a great Civil War was fought on and over the roads that converged on Springfield, notably the Butterfield Trail from the north and the Springfield Road from the east. The Springfield Road—once the Kickapoo Trail, then afterwards the most beautiful stretch of fabled Route 66—was the highway for federal troops and for the supply wagons that sustained them in southwest Missouri and northwest Arkansas. Enter James Butler “Wild Bill” Hickok, a civilian “wagon master” who was drawn to the area in 1861 and who left his indelible mark on it in 1865.

Hickok was an errant son of an abolitionist family, whose home in Illinois was a station-stop on the Underground Railroad. Early in life he took up the trade of wagon driving and moved out to territorial Kansas in 1856, there plying his trade on the Western trails. He soon joined the pre-war Kansas “Free State Army” of James H. Lane. His first western career came to an abrupt halt on July 12, 1861, while Hickok was working for the Pony Express, when he shot and killed David McCanles in Rock Creek, Nebraska. A court quickly acquitted him. Somehow, within a month Hickok was at the Battle of Wilson’s Creek, most say as an infantry soldier. There are various reports, largely unverified, that Hickok spied for General Curtis during the Pea Ridge campaign in 1862. Notable authors have repeated the claim that Hickok and a small band of scouts discovered Sterling Price’s flanking movement before the Battle of Pea Ridge.

Hickok is reported to have been in Yellville, Arkansas in 1863, at a time Confederates occupied the place. Hickok’s principal biographer, an Englishman by the name of Joseph G. Rosa, tells us that Hickok boarded in the Yellville home of a Mrs. Estes that year. This fuels speculation that he spied behind Confederate lines in 1863. By March 1864, he was on the payroll of the provost department in Springfield. He worked as a spy or scout for the last two years of the war, when there were no longer Confederate lines to infiltrate. His service to the Union army ended in Springfield on June 10, 1865.

In the summer of ’65, Hickok filed for election to the post of city marshal; it seems he intended to make Springfield his permanent home. Hickok lodged at a hotel at 318 South Avenue, where the Systematic Savings & Loan building now stands. In 1865, the place was known as the Lyon House; later, it was the Southern Hotel. Fittingly enough considering Wild Bill’s ultimate demise, the story of the gunfight on the Square revolves around a game of poker, played during the night of July 20. The game was either in the hotel bar or in Hickok’s room. In the course of the game, Wild Bill gave up his fine Waltham pocket watch, either to secure his IOU or because he already owed money to Tutt. Tutt was either in the game or he was financing someone who was, but in any case Tutt left that night with Hickok’s watch. Tutt joked that he would wear the watch in public the next day. Wild Bill warned him he’d better not.

In the afternoon of July 21, 1865, Hickok strode out of the Lyon House in search of Tutt, who was boasting about his possession. Like in the movies, excited townspeople rushed to the scene, because word of the coming confrontation had circulated all morning. Hickok marched north from the hotel a block and a half to the Square, where he found Tutt. As Hickok reached a point near the center of the Square, Tutt was perhaps 90 feet away, near the entrance to the Heer’s building. Tutt out-drew Hickok but missed. Hickok put a ball in Tutt’s heart. Hickok was placed under arrest for the killing of Davis Tutt. In September 1865, he went to trial before a jury and was acquitted on a plea of self defense. Whether his Northern pedigree or his well-connected Northern lawyer helped produce this result, no one can say. Hickok lost the race for town marshal, though, and he left Springfield for Kansas. Eventually he went to South Dakota, to become in myth and memory one of that state’s premier tourist attractions. Davis Tutt, too, has a story. He hailed from Yellville. Ever since 1865, stories have swirled that Hickok had a liaison with Tutt’s sister while Hickok operated in the shadows in Yellville in 1863. Another prevalent story is that a Yellville girl by the name of Susanna Moore came between the two men. It is
perhaps more satisfying to believe it was a woman, not a watch, that produced this homicide, but all that seems certain is that the poker game was not a chance encounter. The men knew each other. If they had not met during the war, as has been rumored, they became friends as they hell-raised in Springfield in the weeks leading up to their showdown in the Square. Tutt was a man just like Hickok, although they fought on different sides in the war. Indeed, by the middle of 1863 Tutt was detailed as a wagon master in the Confederate quartermaster corps.

Tutt’s father, Hansford Tutt, was killed in 1850 during Arkansas’ version of the Hatfield and McCoys, the so-called Tutt–King–Everett war. Hansford Tutt fathered at least one child, named Lewis, by a slave he owned. Near the end of the Civil War, Lewis drove Davis Tutt’s mother to Springfield, and she and Lewis took up residence in this city. Lewis Tutt’s association with Springfield was long and mutually rewarding. Lewis was the first African American to serve as a Springfield police officer. He became a grocer and prospered in that business and in real estate. He and his wife Emma were among the founders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church on North Benton Street. They educated their only son at Oberlin College in Ohio. In 1893 it was reported that the Tutts were one of two African-American families to own plots in Maple Park Cemetery.

In 1883, when the old Springfield city cemetery was closed, Lewis Tutt took his brother’s body to the family plot in Maple Park. The first stone in the plot read “David F. Tutt,” but this marked the grave of Lewis and Emma’s son. David, named in 1866 for the unlucky gunslinger who was his uncle, died young too, but not violently. In recent years, Davis Tutt’s unmarked grave received a modern stone.

In the East, people who study the Civil War, and who travel its battlefields, have a convenient way to demark the end of hostilities and the beginning of a national reconciliation. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia on April 9, 1865. Case closed. In Missouri, it is much more difficult to pinpoint the end of the war. Southern guerrillas, most notably Jesse James, continued the fight for years after the rest of the country was at peace. Since the victors write most of history, as we know, we tend not to focus on the Northern ne’er-do-wells. Union veterans were the ones with sheriff’s stars. Moral virtue and sobriety were not as a rule in their job descriptions. A case can be made that the Civil War rolled on in low gear, on the plains of Kansas and in the deserts of the southwest, as ex-Confederates tangled with the legal order.

Here out West, the Hickok–Tutt fight on the Springfield Public Square on July 21, 1865, marks the precise moment that the Civil War ended, and that an era we know as the “Wild West” was born.

The dusty Western street. Two men, sidearms at the ready, stare at each other. Man to man. The quick draw. One man lies dead. The Pulitzer Prize-winning historian Garry Wills wrote about the archetypical Western gunfight in his study *A Necessary Evil: A History of American Distrust of Government* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 1999). “That never, ever, happened,” says Wills. Well, it happened once. A thousand times in our memories, this exact scene...
has played out in our living rooms and on the big screen. It is as though a hundred future screenwriters were in the crowd in Springfield that day, taking notes. It was Springfield, and no other place, that produced our greatest Western myth. How this happened is a story unto itself, and a lesson in the power of “modern” mass communications.

A Union officer who was a journalist before the war, who was already turning his attention to a writing career, came to Springfield on Army business in the weeks after the Hickok–Tutt fight. Much later, in 1867, his notes turned into a magazine article that more or less manufactured Hickok’s reputation as Civil War spy and unparalleled pistolero. But, more or less, George Ward Nichols’ article in the national Harper’s New Monthly Magazine accurately described the fight in the Square. Wild Bill’s picture was splashed over the front page. His exploits, real and imagined, were national news. Henry Morton Stanley, later of Dr. Livingston fame, rushed to Kansas to interview Hickok for a St. Louis paper. The mythical elements that pervade our views of westward expansion—men of the law standing tall at high noon to battle the forces of evil and chaos—is simply myth. It is laughable that the Hickok–Tutt duel morphed into this cultural phenomenon. This was a petty dispute between two alpha males, neither of them entirely good or entirely evil. Still, it set the stage for generations to believe in a special American destiny. Most of us old enough to have received this indoctrination know now that the conquest of the West was an ignoble affair, in purpose as well as in practice. In retrospect, Bill Hickok—drinker, gambler, murder victim—seems perfectly suited for the role of Western hero.

The Ozarks Studies Committee at Missouri State University–West Plains held its Ninth Annual Ozarks Symposium on September 17–19, 2015. As one of few public forums for the professional study of the Ozarks, this conference brings residents throughout the region together with scholars and other specialists to interpret and disseminate knowledge about the Ozarks. This conference has grown each year, and its continued success is largely due to the financial support provided by the Missouri Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities, which allows the committee to offer the keynote speaker and other presenters a modest honorarium to offset costs of travel and lodging. Some of the presenters were local, but several others traveled from the far sides of the region. Others came from as far as southern Mississippi and even Tokyo, Japan.

An opening reception for the 2015 Ozarks Symposium was hosted by the West Plains Council on the Arts on Thursday evening, September 17, at the West Plains Civic Center. This reception presented the Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates’ (MIRA) photographic exhibition “The Missouri Immigrant Experience,” which explores the lives and history of Missouri’s immigrants and refugees. The first full day of the symposium featured eleven presenters speaking on a diverse array of topics, such as Ozarks literature, anti-Semitic violence, folk music, archeology, and back-to-the-land movements. Dr. Steve Wiegenstein delivered the keynote address, “The Lure of the Ozarks: What’s the Bait and Who’s the Fish?” Dr. Wiegenstein is the Director of Graduate Studies at Columbia College and the author of two critically acclaimed novels, *Slant of Light* and *This Old World*, and in his address he probed and challenged the manner in which the Ozarks region has been presented in the popular media.

On the second and final day of the symposium, ten presenters continued the diverse program of topics by exploring the art and writings of Rose Cecil O’Neill, Ozarks poetry, the art of woodcuts, the history of a commune, the career of Vance Randolph, peach farming, Ozarks fiction, an archeological study of a nineteenth-century African-American community, and regional music. Several of the presenters had authored books about Ozarks history and culture, and the Symposium Committee hosted an authors’ table where they could discuss their books with attendees. Representatives from The University of Missouri Press and Arkansas University Press were also present to display books of regional interest.

The Symposium Committee received much positive feedback from presenters and attendees in response to all aspects of the program. The following survey response serves as a statement of the success and purpose of this conference: “This symposium was fantastic. The topics were informative and interesting—excellent variety. I am an Ozarks native and now I have an even greater pride, appreciation, and interest in the entire geographical and cultural region.”
The primary goal of Trillium Trust’s website www.unlocktheozarks.org is to showcase Ozarks history and culture through a combination of traditional Ozarks storytelling and modern technology. An often repeated metaphor in our evolution of this project is that when a person dies it is equivalent to a library burning to the ground. *Unlock the Ozarks* addresses this loss of personal historical perspective by combining quick response (QR) code technology—what we call key codes—with stories, images, video, and audio to create a unique understanding of important places across our Ozarks region.

The Missouri Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities are helping to bring the Ozarks to life with Trillium Trust and their *Unlock the Ozarks* initiative by helping to fund 50 key sites along the route of Henry Rowe Schoolcraft’s historic journey across the Ozarks in the winter of 1818–1819. Schoolcraft’s descriptions of the Ozarks are the first accounts of these rugged Ozarks Mountains after they were added to the United States in the 1803 Louisiana Purchase. His journal has come to be recognized as the benchmark study of the region.

Today our Ozarks neighbors find themselves caught between a history that discouraged outside interaction and the reality of continued growth and development. Unlock the Ozarks seeks to counteract some characterizations of the Ozarks such as our dialect being best described as right out of *The Beverly Hillbillies*. The truth is generations of Ozarkers have grown up in the region without an understanding of our history or our culture. With a better understanding of who we are and where we come from, we hope to show our young people that they can be proud of our innovative tenacity and propel themselves forward.

Unlock the Ozarks partners Missouri State University–West Plains Honors Program students and Honors Program Director Alex Pinnon, Professor of Philosophy and Humanities, have contributed over 400 hours of volunteer content collection for the Unlock the Ozarks Schoolcraft effort. By creating hands-on experiences for these students and by placing them in direct contact with the nature of our Ozarks Region, Trillium Trust hopes to help bring the relevance of our history and culture to their demographic.

*Trillium Trust is a small Ozarks-based 501(c) (3) non-profit formed in 1996 with the mission to “Support and Sustain the Ozarks Spirit.” Our Board of Directors are from native Ozarks families and all share a passion for the natural beauty of the region and the unique character of our population. We take pride in being a part of the Ozarks Family and hope that you will join us in this journey to better define the people and place that we love. For more information about this and other projects of Trillium Trust and how you can help, please contact Jim McFarland at jmcfarland@trilliumtrust.org.*
SUSAN SCOTT

In America there are very few historic sites that are dedicated to the life and accomplishments of a woman artist. Bonniebrook Homestead, located in Taney County, Missouri, is among those few! The O’Neill family homesteaded this remote wooded site in 1893 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in honor of its world-famous resident artist, writer, poet, sculptor, and philanthropist Rose Cecil O’Neill.

O’Neill exhibited her art in the U.S. and abroad; however, her favorite place on earth was Bonniebrook. The remote “rascally beauty” of the Ozarks provided O’Neill with an inspiring backdrop for her art and writing. Some of her first drawings, published by national magazines, were created in the original Bonniebrook dogtrot cabins by the brook.

Bonniebrook Historical Society (BHS) is dedicated to education of the history and works of Rose O’Neill. On the autumn day of October 24, 2015, BHS sponsored the Bonniebrook Festival of the Painted Leaves, which was only made possible through the MHC partnership of a generous mini-grant along with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Celebrating and sharing O’Neill’s art and writings that document the Ozarks people, poetry, and folklore were among the primary goals of the festival.

The grant included the vital assemblage of an exhibit that reflected O’Neill’s endearment of the Ozarks. Calico dresses, sunbonnets, corn cob pipes, and images of the Bonniebrook landscape and neighbors provide a unique insight into the memorable subjects of O’Neill’s art. The exhibit, “The Ozarks Inspired Art & Writings of Rose O’Neill,” was displayed during the festival and also answered a previous BHS need for materials that could be available to schools, libraries and historical societies.

The event highlight was the Keynote Speaker Leon Combs who grew up in Bradleyville, Missouri. “I had a Tom Sawyer Life and didn’t miss electricity,” Combs revealed to the audience. A review of his second book, Bradleyville, My Hometown, emphasizes why our audience enjoyed his presentation, “Leon James Combs provides heartwarming, true-life stories that take you back to a time of adventure and innocence of a young boy’s life in the Ozarks.”

Kim McCully-Mobley, Adjunct Professor, Drury University, presented “The Saltiest of the Old-Timers,” which included an informative overview of the career of folklorist Vance Randolph. Mobley shared Randolph’s
study of Ozarks hillfolk language, the Ozarks oral tradition, and the importance he placed on preservation of stories. Her PowerPoint presentation referred to Randolph’s friendship with O’Neill. Also mentioned was the inclusion of O’Neill’s short story, “The Hired Man,” in his collection of Ozarks tales, *An Ozark Anthology.*

Partnership with local organizations provided enhancement of the festival scope. The White River Valley Historical Society exhibit “Ozarks Friendships & Kindred Spirits” included a glimpse into the connections of O’Neill to other Ozarks notables, Thomas Hart Benton, Mary Elizabeth Mahnkey, John Neihardt, & Vance Randolph. The Master Gardeners of the Ozarks exhibit “The Gardens at Bonniebrook” contained their research into the landscape existing during the years 1894–1944, when O’Neill called Bonniebrook home. Exhibit photos confirm their coordination of extensive volunteer work and resulting improvements to Bonniebrook gardens.

Angel Wolf, great-great granddaughter of Ozarks poet Mary Elizabeth Mahnkey, shared a PowerPoint presentation about Mahnkey’s Ozarks life.

The festivities included exhibits of handcrafted quilts, demonstrations of hand-working vintage lace, a presentation by third-generation herbalist Lisa Pluth, and Ozarks storytellers Mike & Nancee Micham and Steve Otto.

A tribute honored the Hillcrofters, an Ozarks heritage preservation organization that included Ozarks notables Rose O’Neill, May Kennedy McCord, and Vance Randolph.

Special thanks to the staff of MHC, who patiently provided information and direction during the time of our grant writing, which made all the difference for a successful event.
Ozark Mountain Festival
In the rural Ozarks, as is the case in other areas of the US, communities come together for traditional festivals in spring, summer, fall, and winter. The people at Eminence come together for our spring festival in May, the traditional Fourth of July Picnic time, Halloween or the festival of the harvest, and Christmas. There are many other community gatherings and traditional family get-togethers in this neck of the woods because of the culture of clan and kin, but these are the major ones. Interestingly enough, there hasn’t always been an official festival during the springtime here in Eminence, but people would make plans and go to the Jacks Fork and Current Rivers, maybe an old family homestead, or even one of the creeks just because it’s their favorite spot. They would do this just as soon as the weather became warm enough for outdoor excursions.

In the natural progression of unofficial gatherings, there was a group of business people, teachers, church groups, and community leaders that came together in 1990 to create what would evolve into the Ozark Days festival. This festival operated for 20 years, until this generally fizzled out through a lack of volunteers, interest, sponsors, and funding. Upon becoming involved in the Eminence Area Chamber of Commerce again, and through a join partnership with the Eminence Area Arts Council and other community organizations, Nancy Brewer and her son, John Mark, worked to formulate a new festival through this rebirth to focus more on local arts, crafts, and traditions for the Ozarks in Shannon County.

The first year of the Ozark Mountain Festival saw a renewed interest in the spring festival season with great volunteers, amazing demonstration booths, tasty food at the vendors, interesting speeches and performances, and a great showing of classic cars. It was foreseen funding, and participation needed to be increased for the second year. In discussions with the Missouri Humanities Council, the Eminence Area Chamber of Commerce decided to hone their representation of local crafts and artists as well as their associated discussions on relevant topics of traditional Ozarks practices such as gig making, boat and paddle making, and hornet techniques. The authors of Blue & Grey Cross Current, Dan & Suzanne Chilton, presented a colorful array of talks and presentations throughout the day in conjunction with promoting their new book. Although some might argue that a car show (which was completely funded by the participants and local businesses) does not represent the concept of traditional Ozark crafts, it should be noted that no matter what the hill folk had as a house, the tradition was to have a good vehicle, usually a truck. This vehicle would be kept very nice and in shape, whether to outrun the law or to ensure safe travels.

In this part of the Ozarks, which has long been considered one of the most isolated portions, it was necessary to have good transportation. Oftentimes, if one required any number of basic needs (health care, food, or clothing) travel would be involved, at times a great distance of travel over rough ridge roads and across bedrock rivers and gravel bars to attain necessities. Folks are proud of their cars, and the participants of the car show prove that keeping a nice, fast, safe vehicle is among many other traditions that were represented at the Ozark Mountain Festival.

In keeping with the discussion on travel, to festivals, per se, John Mark’s grandmother (Alpha Brewer, who lived at Brushy Creek on Current River) told her mother she was staying the night with a neighbor girl that lived about four miles down river near the “mouth” of Sutton’s Creek. So she rode the family horse down the paths next to the river, including near extended family’s houses, across the tops of bluffs, next to the river, and finally crossing the river at Sutton’s Creek to arrive at Jewell Powell’s house. When she arrived the two girls were so excited for their subsequent plans—the annual Fourth of July picnic was going on that day—and how they would venture out of the house without getting caught. In return to her friend’s...
favor, Alpha told Jewell’s mother they were both staying at her house on Brushy Creek. Both girls promptly rode the horse to town that evening to venture into the community of Eminence. Once they arrived at the great annual Fourth of July picnic, the girls encountered suitors, other girls their age, and many people from the countryside they each knew and to whom they were related.

They participated in the games, sampled food, listened to the many stump speeches, and gallivanted around the entire city park to find they encountered a couple people too close to home. Immediately the girls knew that despite there being no phones even near either’s home, word would spread quickly based on the two relatives they saw. Quickly, they jumped on the horse, rode to Jewell’s house (which was closest) and made sure her mother acknowledged their presence and explained they decided to stay on Sutton’s Creek rather than Brushy Creek because they decided to go for a swim. This shows you just how much people in this part of the Ozarks value the seasonal festivals, in addition to the vigor and vim of youthful interest. But that’s precisely what the rebirth and rebuilding of the spring festival is about.

Through the funding of the Missouri Humanities Council, the Ozark Mountain Festival expanded to include demonstrations for kitchen utensil making, basket weaving, rope weaving, as well as wildlife demonstrations. The small amount of funding received for this event is frugally spent to make the most out of the dollars. Man-hours spent on the Civil War reenactment alone are innumerable. Most people volunteer their services; however, some hard and soft costs must be met. The Missouri Humanities Council really made the expansion of the Ozark Mountain Festival possible so that we can work to improve both the event and the funding sources.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grant Description</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>County</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016 MCC Storytelling Celebration</td>
<td>Junior College District of Metropolitan Kansas City</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016/17 Intercultural Programming Support at Northwest Missouri State University</td>
<td>Northwest Missouri State University</td>
<td>Nodaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26th Annual Washington University Pow Wow</td>
<td>Kathryn M. Buder Center at Washington University</td>
<td>Saint Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Annual For the People Pow Wow</td>
<td>For the People Pow Wow Committee</td>
<td>Cass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archives Alive!</td>
<td>Friends of the Missouri State Archives</td>
<td>Cole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December presents....Marge Piercy (twice!)</td>
<td>December Publishing</td>
<td>Saint Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Columbia History Exhibit</td>
<td>Boone County Historical Society</td>
<td>Boone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downtown Dutchtown Mosaic</td>
<td>Dutchtown South Community Corporation</td>
<td>Saint Louis City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmhouses Before the Great Flood of 1993 - Life in the Chamois and Morrison Missouri River Bottoms</td>
<td>Chamois Industrial Development Corporation</td>
<td>Boone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing up with the River</td>
<td>Katy Land Trust</td>
<td>Saint Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harry and Walter: Missouri’s Native Sons</td>
<td>Missouri Western State University</td>
<td>Buchanan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Higher Ground</td>
<td>Sheldon Arts Foundation</td>
<td>Saint Louis City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osteopathic Collection Inventory</td>
<td>Museum of Osteopathic Medicine</td>
<td>Adair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ozark Mountain Festival Enhancement</td>
<td>Eminence Area Chamber of Commerce</td>
<td>Shannon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preservation Training</td>
<td>Historic Washington Foundation</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samoan Community Organization 2016 Culture Day</td>
<td>Samoan Community Organization</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Show Me Democracy</td>
<td>The Scholarship Foundation of St. Louis</td>
<td>Saint Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Grand 2016 Calendar of Events</td>
<td>South Grand Community Improvement District</td>
<td>Saint Louis City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SRO Education Outreach Tour 2016 &quot;Alice in Wonderland A Lesson in Honesty&quot;</td>
<td>SRO (Springfield Regional Opera)</td>
<td>Greene</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis Storytelling Festival</td>
<td>Curators of University of Missouri, Columbia</td>
<td>Boone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee Williams Festival 2016</td>
<td>Tennessee Williams Festival</td>
<td>Saint Louis City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mochila Review Presents: In the Shadow of Writer Ellen Hopkins</td>
<td>Missouri Western State University</td>
<td>Buchanan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wide Open Town: Kansas City During the Pendergast Era</td>
<td>Curators of the University of Missouri, Kansas City</td>
<td>Jackson</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support Your Missouri Humanities Council

By making a contribution today using the enclosed business reply envelope inside the back cover of this magazine, or going online at www.mohumanities.org

you will guarantee receiving future MoHumanities publications, frequent e-newsletters, and notifications of future programming.
MIKE ENGLISH

On September 1st, Turn the Page KC and the Kansas City Mayor’s Office, with funding from the Missouri Humanities Council and the America’s Promise Alliance, hosted a summit that focused on the ill effects of student mobility in the Kansas City area. At the summit, many issues related to highly mobile students were discussed. A resounding theme from the summit emerged that students do not always feel welcome when they transfer into a new school, and that when they transfer they miss multiple days of instruction time.

After the summit, Turn the Page KC decided to delve further into the issue of missed instruction time caused by school transfers. What we found was that when students transfer schools, they miss an average of five days while awaiting transfer of student records. Another issue we found is that enrollment delays stem from the difficulty families face when needing to prove residency via utility bills. We worked for the next several months to come up with a solution to these issues, and recently submitted our idea to a national competition sponsored by AT&T that focused on using tangible solutions and data to increase high school graduation rates. The result of the competition was a second-place award for the team with a prize of $10,000.

Our solution involves two parts. The first part is an online student records Dropbox portal that our team developed. In this portal, administrators with proper access privileges can upload and download necessary enrollment documents, including health records, transcripts, individual education plans, releases, etc. For the second part, the team is working with Kansas City Power & Light to allow school administrators to access an online portal to verify family residency.

Moving forward, Turn the Page KC will continue engaging key stakeholders for the development and implementation of this solution. Ultimately, we hope that the solution generated by our Missouri Humanities Council grant will drive down the percentage of students that are chronically absent from school.

photo: Mayor Sylvester “Sly” James Jr. reads to students.
DIANNE MUTTI-BURKE

Conversations about the history of slavery and race relations are particularly difficult for many Americans. This general discomfort is frequently reflected in the way these topics are addressed at historical sites and museums, where they often are discussed in a cursory manner or not at all. Without the resources and understanding of how to incorporate this important American story into the historical narrative, historical sites and museums often provide visitors with inadequate or even misleading information.

With generous support from the Missouri and Kansas Humanities Councils, the University of Missouri–Kansas City Center for Midwestern Studies, Freedom’s Frontier National Heritage Area, and the Wornall Majors House Museums hosted the “Interpreting Slavery Workshop.” The day long workshop, held on May 11, 2015, at the Alexander Majors House Museum event barn in Kansas City, Missouri, provided public history practitioners with accurate historical information and illustrated tools for interpreting slavery. The 49 attendees represented a wide variety of museums and historic sites from throughout the region. Kristen Gallas from The Tracing Center, a Boston-based nonprofit organization dedicated to consulting with historical sites and museum educators on how to responsibly interpret slavery, led the workshop and helped facilitate the conversation about slavery interpretation best practices.

During the workshop, attendees were provided strategies for developing and presenting a comprehensive and conscientious interpretation of slavery at their historic sites and museums. They also learned more about the history of slavery in this particular region through a presentation by historian Diane Mutti Burke, University of Missouri–Kansas City professor and author of *On Slavery’s Border: Missouri’s Small Slaveholding Households, 1815–1865*. In addition to lectures and discussions, participants actively engaged in the interpretation of slavery through an examination of historical documents related to slavery in Missouri and Kansas, as well as practiced interpreting the landscape of slavery during a tour of the Alexander Majors House, where enslaved people lived and worked.

Attendees reflected that they gained important tools and techniques to enhance the interpretative strategies related to presenting the history of slavery at the historical sites and museums where they work. They shared the workshop goal of encouraging the development of plans for competent and compassionate interpretation that would facilitate honest and open conversation with visitors to their sites about the troubling history of slavery and race relations in the region.
Fifteen years ago, Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen bought a copy of Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies—popularly known as the First Folio—for $6.166 million, underscoring its status as one of world’s most valuable books. The 900-page volume was the first compilation of the Bard’s plays. Of some 750 copies originally published in 1623, only 233 are known to remain in existence today.

One of them is headed for Kansas City, the centerpiece of a special exhibition and a months-long celebration—Show Me Shakespeare 2016—at the Kansas City Public Library.

The exhibit, First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare, opens June 6 at the Central Library in downtown Kansas City. It runs through June 28. An array of related programming, featuring presentations by nationally renowned Shakespeare scholars and authors, stage and musical presentations, film screenings and discussions, workshops, and a lineup of children’s and family activities, goes into early fall.

The Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, D.C. is placing 18 copies of the Folio on tour throughout the year, commemorating the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s death in 1616. A single host site was selected in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

The Kansas City Public Library, which has made special events programming a signature, was announced as Missouri’s site last February. “For most people, this will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to come close, very close, to one of the most influential books in history,” Director Crosby Kemper III says.

The Missouri Humanities Council is among a host of institutions and organizations with which the Library has partnered in the initiative.

The Folio was published seven years after Shakespeare’s death. Two of his fellow actors, John Heminge and Henry Condell, compiled 36 of his plays in hopes of preserving them for future generations. Eighteen of the works—including Macbeth, Julius Caesar, Twelfth Night, The Tempest, Antony and Cleopatra, The Comedy of Errors, and As You Like It—had never appeared previously in print and otherwise would have been lost.


Most known copies are held by institutions, with the Folger Shakespeare Library owning by far the largest collection—a total of 82.

When the exhibit opens in Kansas City, the First Folio’s approximately foot-tall pages will be turned to the most quoted line in the world: “to be or not to be” from Hamlet. Alongside the book will be multiple interpretative panels that explore Shakespeare’s historical significance and include digital content and interactive activities.

The traveling exhibit has been made possible in part by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and by the support of Google.org and Vinton and Sigrid Cerf.

Also partnering with the Kansas City Public Library in bringing the exhibit to Missouri are the Heart of America Shakespeare Festival, the University of Missouri–Kansas City’s Department of Theatre and Department of English Language and Literature, the Kansas City branch of the English-Speaking Union, and KCUR-FM.

Related events also are made possible, in part, by a generous contribution from the David W. Newcomer IV and Gene Ann Newcomer Family Foundation Fund in memory of Gene Ann’s brother, Professor John Klier.
The Kathryn M. Buder Center for American Indian Studies (Buder Center) at Washington University in St. Louis is a premier graduate degree scholarship program in social work committed to the education of American Indian/Alaska Native MSW students. The Center recruits qualified American Indian scholars, provides student support in a demanding course of study, develops curriculum, conducts research, and engages in policy development that directly impacts Indian Country. The Buder Center also prepares future American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) leaders to practice in tribal and urban settings, making significant contributions to the health, wellness, and sustained future of Indian Country. The Buder Center has made many contributions over the years and continues to grow in exciting and innovative directions.

The Buder Center in Focus

Since its founding, the Buder Center has remained committed to its central mission: to recruit and train AI/AN students with leadership potential who intend to practice social work in AI/AN communities and to develop curriculum that allows Buder scholars to specialize in social work practice relevant to AI/AN communities. In addition, the Buder Center has expanded its vision over the years to include developing a body of research that relates to social work practice in AI/AN communities; using pertinent research findings to contribute to federal, state, and tribal social welfare policy development; and fostering institutional relationships between various national centers of AI/AN research.

The Buder Center students broaden their skill sets while taking leadership roles at significant events. Students at the Center regularly participate in conferences, interdisciplinary activities, and community
events that enhance knowledge. Buder scholars participate in panel discussions, projects, and presentations offering Native perspectives on a wide range of topics including health and wellness, social justice, art, education, research, child welfare, and human trafficking.

Several on-campus events provided opportunities for the American Indian Student Association to share their knowledge and experience and to broaden the perspectives of non-Natives. One such activity was a candlelight vigil honoring Indigenous Peoples’ Day. In conjunction with WUSTL’s Edison Theater, the Buder Center hosted the Rulan Tangen dance group and AnDa Union, Mongolian performers from China. In addition, Native American chef Nephi Craig showcased traditional Native foods to 150 guests on the WUSTL campus as part of the Hunt. Fish. Gather. project. The Two Spirits interdisciplinary LGBT workshop, designed and implemented by Buder scholars, viewed diversity through a Native American lens. All of these events were open to the public and broader St. Louis community.

**Signature Event: Pow Wow**

The Buder Center will again host the WUSTL Pow Wow this spring, which is oldest of these events and is currently in its 26th year. This is a student-run event that brings together the WUSTL community, the broader St. Louis community, and dancers and guests from across Indian Country. The Buder scholars decide in unity on a theme which will promote, guide, and bring forth a heartfelt issue, celebration, or meaning to gather in honor of American Indians/Alaska Natives. This year the theme is *Many Voices, One Message: Honoring Our Languages to Strengthen Our Future.*

As always, the Pow Wow will be free and open to the public and will include Native American dancing, music, food, and performances. This year’s Pow Wow will be held on Saturday, April 9, 2016, at the Washington University Field House, and over 5,000 guests are expected. The Pow Wow offers AI/AN students a sense of community, extended family, and healthy relationships while away from home. It also addresses the issue of diversity within the WUSTL and St. Louis AI/AN community through an intertribal gathering which allows the larger St. Louis American Indian community to gather, share, and celebrate honored traditions and offer opportunities to enrich the cultural diversity of WUSTL. Beyond that, the Pow Wow provides enhancement of cultural awareness and education for the non-Native university and surrounding communities; and through this year’s theme, the Pow Wow will recognize the significant role of language preservation at the individual and community level.

We are grateful for yet another year of funding support from the Missouri Humanities Council. Without support from such organizations as MHC, the event would not be able to continue. We hope you will attend this year’s Pow Wow event.

For more information, visit buder.wustl.edu
MARK TWAIN
American Humorist
Tracy Wuster
978-0-8262-2056-1 | $60.00

This study tells how between 1865 and 1882, Mark Twain muddled the hierarchical distinctions between class-appropriate leisure and burgeoning forms of mass entertainment, between uplifting humor and debased laughter.

DIRT, SWEAT, AND DIESEL
A Family Farm in the Twenty-first Century
Steven L. Hilty
978-0-8262-2079-0 | $29.95

Trenchant writing on the from a year working alongside a Missouri farm family that reveals the complexity and grit required to raise crops in the 21st century, where the essential skill set ranges from soil conservation to knowledge of financial markets.

WORDS MATTER
Writing to Make a Difference
Edited by Amanda Dahling and Mary Kay Blakely
978-0-8262-2089-9 | $29.95

Thought-provoking essays by professional writers: profiles, first-person journalism, and personal memoirs. Each essay is followed by a postscript exploring what the writer learned about writing, journalism, and the business of getting published.
Eighty years ago and nearly twenty years before Brown v. Board of Education, Lloyd Gaines’s application to the University of Missouri law school was denied based on his race. This is the first book to focus entirely on the resulting Supreme Court case and the vital role played by the NAACP and its lawyers, including Charles Houston.

Ten essays showcase Missouri as both maker and microcosm of American history. Topics include Dred Scott’s slave freedom suit and the Nancy Cruzan “right to die” case. Other cases involve the uneasy incorporation of ethnic populations into the United States and the barring of women to serve on juries.

At the start of the twentieth century, the United States was reeling from the effects of rapid urbanization and industrialization. The legal system began to buckle under the weight of its anachronism. In the midst of this crisis, Wigmore, dean of the Northwestern University School of Law, single-handedly modernized the jury trial with his 1904-5 Treatise on evidence.
CYNTHIA BROWNE

Exploration of Missouri’s German Heritage Corridor could begin at no better place than historic Hermann, home of Deutschheim State Historic Site. Surrounded by the natural beauty of the Missouri River Valley and the authentic charm of its historic homes and businesses, it is easy to see why Hermann is consistently voted “most beautiful small town” in Missouri. Learn about the 19th-century German immigration experience through interpretive exhibits at the Deutschheim State Historic Site Visitor Center and take a guided tour of two historic Hermann homes, circa 1840. Open year-round, a Deutschheim visit provides insights into why Germans left the Old Country and why so many made Missouri their new Homeland.

Deutschheim (German home) was a term used by early German writings to describe 1820-to-1860 Missouri. During the nineteenth century, the eastern end of the Missouri River Valley witnessed an extraordinary migration of German people. Influenced in part by Gottfried Duden in his Report of a Journey to the Western States of North America, thousands of farmers, artisans, craftsmen, brewers, wine makers, intellectuals and political activists migrated to Missouri. Missouri benefited in countless ways from the addition of these industrious and ambitious people. The solid houses, barns, churches, and commercial buildings they built in stone, brick, and timber continue to add charm and quaintness to the rural and urban landscape they settled. Middle-class Germans established schools, libraries, institutions of higher learning, newspapers, a wide array of cultural opportunities, and a variety of successful businesses and industrial enterprises. German farmers opened up the land and created prosperous farms and villages on wilderness land that many other Americans regarded as substandard. The advanced farming techniques of rural Germans proved them wrong.

Many farmers wrote home about their good fortune and were joined in Missouri by friends and relatives. Whenever possible, newcomers settled close together with others from their old country neighborhoods, making enclaves of the Old World in the New World. These new settlements allowed the residents to preserve the German regional customs and variants of language for generations.

In some instances, organized settlement societies were established to facilitate group migration. One such group, the German Settlement Society of Philadelphia, founded the town of Hermann. A board of managers prepared a constitution in 1836 and established membership by selling shares of stock in the enterprise. Eleven thousand acres of Missouri land were purchased, and the town of Hermann was platted. The goal was to create a culturally integrated, self-supporting colony built around farming, commerce and industry. This was to be the “heart of German-America” where the customs, language, and traditions of the fatherland could be translated into a New World setting, unaffected by the restrictions of the German states. Because of this German heritage, the area is often referred to as the Little Rhineland on the Missouri.

By 1850 Hermann had grown to over nine hundred residents, coming to Missouri from Philadelphia, New York, and Cincinnati, or newly arrived in New Orleans from Germany. Census records reveal the community’s diversity, with settlers born in Prussia, Switzerland, Wuerttemberg, Saxony, Hanover, Hesse Cassel, Bavaria, and a dozen more Germanic principalities. Together they created a haven of “German-ness” that remained little changed in language and custom until the World Wars of the twentieth century.

Today, this German heritage is preserved at Deutschheim State Historic Site. The Pommer-Gentner House, built in 1840 for Caroline Pommer of Philadelphia, is one of the oldest surviving buildings in Hermann. The two-story, brick, German, Neoclassic dwelling features Biedermeier furnishings from Germany, reflecting the period of the 1830s and 1840s. The Pommer family was an early supporter of the German Settlement Society and the makers of fine violins and pianos in Philadelphia. The Carl Strehly House, a modest, three-room, timber-frame structure, was built in continued
1842. Until 1854, the dwelling also housed Strehly and Eduard Muehl’s printing business, which in 1843 began publication of the first German-language newspaper west of the Mississippi. About 1857, a two-and-a-half-story brick winery was built next to the house with a vaulted brick cellar, a wine production room, and for a short time, a tavern. Behind the Strehly House, an 1870-style arbor is covered by grapevines more than 100 years old. A rare treasure, the Strehly House was owned and lived in by the same family for more than 100 years and retains its original appearance and function. Today, the Strehly House interprets the daily life of a German-American, middle-class family of moderate means during the era of 1865–1880. Interpretation of both houses includes historic landscapes and period-appropriate gardens. Just as nineteenth century German immigrants would have done, the four-square garden behind the Pommer-Gentner House is planted with heirloom varieties and incorporates flowers among the vegetables for both beauty and practicality.

Changing exhibits and programs provide insight into the German settlements and customs in the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Missouri. These range from information about the area’s history of wine-making to interpretation of the Pommer family’s legacy associated with music.

Deutschheim State Historic Site is a must-see stop during Hermann’s traditional festivals: Wurstfest in March, Maifest in May, Oktoberfest in October, and Kristkindl Markts in December. The site is also a popular part of Hermann’s walking tour through its historic district with hundreds of historic buildings. Also popular are tours of the local wineries where the winemaking traditions of the early founders continue.

Deutschheim State Historic Site is located at 107 W. Second Street in Hermann. Open daily April through October, guided tours begin at 10:00 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 2:30 p.m. From November through March, the site is open Thursday–Sunday. Guided tours are $5.00/adult and $3.00/youth. The Visitor Center, with exhibits and a retail shop featuring many German items, history books, and springerle cookie molds, is open 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. and has no admission fee.

---

Looking for Missouri’s German Heritage

Is there something “German” that you want to make sure we know about? Would you be interested in sharing it with MHC? Please use the questions below to guide your response, or simply include your story.

- Do you have relatives who moved from Germany to Missouri? Could you share their names and a story or two that you recall?
- Do you have personal stories of emigrating from Germany?
- Do you have memories of any German-related festivals or customs celebrated by you, your family, or your town?
- Do you have any German heritage-related images and/or documents to share?

Please email your story to cassie@mohumanities.org.
UPCOMING EVENTS

VETERANS WRITING WORKSHOP - SAINT LOUIS

Saint Louis Public Library, Central Library
Saturdays, April 30–July 23 (except July 2)
10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Veterans (from all services and eras), current active duty personnel, and family members are invited to take part in the Missouri Humanities Council and the Saint Louis Public Library’s Veterans Writing Workshops. The program consists of twelve standalone workshops, from the basics of writing to cleanup and publication options. Participants can participate in one class or the full series.

Taught by professional writers, these workshops provide the same high level of instruction as a college/university writing course. The workshops are FREE and lunch is provided at no cost.

On April 30 and July 23, special workshops will be held by Ron Capps, the founder and director of the Veterans Writing Project based in Washington, DC.

For more details please call 314.781.9660 or email lisa@mohumanities.org.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS: A READING BY VETERANS

Lecture & Book Signing
Missouri History Museum, St. Louis
Lee Auditorium
Sunday, June 12, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.

The Missouri Humanities Council presents a reading by American veterans from their original writing, published in the annual anthology Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors. The anthology and the Missouri Humanities Veterans Writing Project encourage and preserve the voices and military stories of American veterans, military-service personnel, and their families.

Books will be available for purchase in the Missouri History Museum Shop.

RECENT EVENTS

ANNUAL HUMANITIES AWARDS

April 30, 2016

Each year the Missouri Humanities Council recognizes outstanding citizens for their achievements in and dedication to the humanities throughout the State of Missouri. On April 30, 2016 from noon until 3:00 p.m. the annual awards ceremony took place at the Barnett on Washington in St. Louis, MO. The Council is proud to announce the following 2016 award recipients:

Legislator of the Year
Senator Roy Blunt

Partnership in the Humanities
Dan Burkhardt
Magnificent Missouri (St. Louis)

Excellence in Education
Joan Musbach
Missouri Council for History Education (St. Louis)

Exemplary Community Achievement
Gary Fuenfhausen
Missouri’s Little Dixie Heritage Foundation (Arrow Rock)
Amy Hunter
YWCA Metro (St. Louis)
St. Joseph Museums
Sara Wilson, Director (St. Joseph)

Distinguished Literary Achievement
Dr. Daniel Mandell
Professor of History, Truman State University (Kirksville)
Caravans of Culture: Eastbound on the Santa Fe Trail  
Kansas City Public Library  
Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

The Santa Fe Trail, running from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico, is remembered primarily as a commercial corridor that helped open the Southwest to US economic development and settlement. This presentation examined the Santa Fe Trail from the Mexican perspective, how it made early Independence more a Mexican than an American city, and how—from the once-vibrant Missouri mule industry to the country’s enduring passion for Mexican food—the settlers contributed to the American identity. Panelists: David C. Aamodt & Richard Edwards from the National Frontier Trails Museum

Cinco de Mayo Celebration & Discussion  
Saint Louis Public Library, Carpenter Branch  
Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Lecture featuring Distinguished Professor of Medicine Dr. David Hayes-Bautista  
In his book, El Cinco de Mayo: an American Tradition, David Hayes-Bautista examines the reasons why a holiday commemorating a Mexican victory over the French at Puebla in 1862—so widely celebrated in California and across the United States—is scarcely observed in Mexico.

VETERANS PROGRAMS 2016
Veterans Writing Workshops: Springfield  
Drury University, Olin Library, Lib 002  
Saturdays, April 2–May 7, 2016  
10:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m.

Veterans (from all services and eras), current active duty personnel, and family members were invited to take part in the Missouri Humanities Council and Drury University’s Veterans Writing Workshops. The program consisted of six standalone workshops, from the basics of writing to cleanup and publication options. Participants could participate in one class or the full series. Taught by professional writers, these workshops provided the same high level of instruction as a college/university writing course. The workshops were FREE and lunch was provided at no cost.
I am pleased and honored to introduce three new members to my staff!

In November of 2015, Maura Gray came on as my new Director of Public Relations. Her duties include managing communications and marketing, governmental affairs and advocacy, and special events. Maura was born and raised in Southern Illinois, graduated from Chester High School, and received her B.A. at Southeast Missouri State University in 2011, where she majored in political science and participated on SEMO’s collegiate debate team. Upon graduation, she worked as a Legislative Assistant for Rep. Ellen Brandom. Following that first year working in the state capitol, she went on to work as a campaign staffer under a political consulting firm, working on various races. She then returned to the capitol as a Legislative Director for Representative and former Senator Kevin Engler.

Austin Skinner joined the Missouri Humanities Council as my new Director of Development and Community Engagement in December 2015. Replacing Jim Weidman in this position, Austin had previously served as the Development Manager for the MHC from 2012–2015. During this time he also worked as a contract development writer for several area non-profits, including Jazz St. Louis, Arch Grants, St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, The Academy of Science, and the St. Louis Ballet Company. He, too, was born and raised in Southern Illinois, graduated from Litchfield High School, and received his B.A. from Fontbonne University in St. Louis in 2009, with a major in English and a minor in American Culture Studies. He is currently the owner-operator of the Saint Louis Writers’ Room.

Mark Livengood began working as my new Director of Education Programs and Manager of the Kansas City Office in March of this year. His diverse experience with the public humanities includes working with grassroots heritage organizations in Michigan’s Leelanau Peninsula, teaching at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, and most recently, directing the grant program for the Wisconsin Humanities Council, a position that entailed extensive outreach across the state. A folklorist with a Ph.D. from UCLA, he also has a certificate in geographic information systems and cartography from the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He lives in Kansas City with his wife Lisa Jackson, a KC native, and their infant son, Jack.

All three are extremely committed to the Humanities, and they join an already stellar staff (see front inside cover)—this Executive Director could not be more fortunate to have these exceptionally talented, highly experienced, and just outright delightful personalities working for him in the name of advancing the humanities in the state of Missouri.
GROWING READERS

Read from the Start (RFTS), MHC’s family reading initiative, is offered free of charge and encourages parents and caregivers to read to their young children. RFTS participants, with the guidance of a certified Discussion Leader, read and discuss high-quality children’s books. The parents keep the books and leave RFTS programs excited to share the books and stories with their children. The MHC partners with local organizations throughout the state to host the programs. These partners all share a commitment to family reading and literacy. A sample of host sites includes: Head Starts, Parents as Teachers, libraries, community action agencies, schools, and shelters.

To learn how you can host or attend a RFTS program, please visit www.readfromthestart.org
MHC Veterans Programming

LISA CARRICO

The Missouri Humanities Council (MHC), in partnership with Southeast Missouri State University Press (SEMO Press), released Volume 4 of Proud to Be: Writing by American Warriors, a creative writing anthology of essays, fiction, poetry, interviews, and photography by veterans and their families. Since Veterans Day 2012, new volumes of writing have been released annually.

On December 19, 2015, the St. Louis Central Library hosted a reading and reception of the fourth installment of the Proud to Be series. The event featured US veterans, military personnel, and their family members from across the nation, sharing their unique and personal stories from World War II to the present.

The call for submissions for Volume 5 is now open. There is no entry fee and there’s a $250 prize in each of the five categories. All submissions must be postmarked by June 1, 2016. To learn more or to make a submission, please visit: www.mohumanities.org/programs/veterans/

In addition to the Proud to Be series, MHC continues to provide Veteran Writing Workshops in collaboration with the Saint Louis Public Library and Drury University in Springfield. Veterans and their family are invited to attend a series of free workshops that assists participants with the writing process all while offering an outlet for their thoughts.

For more information on our veterans programming and/or to purchase the first four published volumes, please visit our website at www.mohumanities.org or call our Director of Family and Veterans Programs, Lisa Carrico, at 314.781.9660.
Last summer, the Pulitzer Prizes Board and the Federation of State Humanities Councils announced a grant opportunity in preparation for the celebration of the 2016 centennial of the Pulitzer Prizes, called the “Centennial Campfires Initiative.” The request for proposals sought engaging projects to illuminate the impact of journalism and the humanities on American life today—to imagine their future and to inspire new generations to consider the values represented by the body of Pulitzer Prize-winning work.

The Missouri Humanities Council’s (MHC) proposal was approved for funding at the full request amount and includes one of the most ambitious projects submitted by any state council. MHC’s Pulitzer Centennial program includes a multi-part project consisting of lectures, panel discussions, traveling exhibitions, and high school workshops that will be freely accessible and widely advertised in three urban centers around the state: Columbia, Kansas City, and St. Louis.
This project will feature a cross section of Pulitzer Prize-winning subjects from investigative journalism, feature writing, editorial cartooning, and playwriting.

Major subjects to include:

- **Charlie Ross** (1885–1950)

- **Daniel R. Fitzpatrick** (1891–1969)
  Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner as an editorial cartoonist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

- **Bill Mauldin** (1921–2003)
  Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner as an editorial cartoonist for the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

- **Ayad Akhtar** (1970–present)
  Recent winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play, “Disgraced.” The play is centered on sociopolitical themes such as Islamophobia and the self-identity of Muslim-American citizens.

- **The Kansas City Star**
  For its coverage of the 1981 Hyatt Regency Hotel disaster and identification of its causes.

The above-listed subjects will be explored to advance the understanding of and appreciation for Prize-winning work, but will also be used as a primer for contemporaneous discussions of current trends and relevant issues in journalism and the arts. A brief outline of “campfire programming” follows:

- MHC will sponsor public forums and film screenings on the confluence of Charlie Ross’ newspaper work and duties as press secretary for President Truman (1945–1950).

- MHC will create and tour an exhibition of Daniel Fitzpatrick and Bill Mauldin’s editorial cartoons; these works will be displayed in St. Louis and Columbia during 2016. Programming surrounding the exhibitions will feature high school workshops on cartooning (technique/point of view), as well as a historical overview of their work and its relevance to contemporary issues of civil rights, equality, and accountability.

- MHC will host a three-person panel discussion for a live audience at the Repertory Theatre around the themes explored in the Prize-winning production of Ayad Akhtar’s play, “Disgraced.” Panel to include Mr. Akhtar (Prize winner), Faizan Syed (Director of the St. Louis Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations); Dr. Ghazala Hayat (Board Member of the Islamic Foundation of Greater St. Louis). This event will be filmed and recorded for distribution on YouTube and as a podcast.

- MHC will create and tour a traveling exhibition on the journalistic excellence of the Hyatt Regency collapse coverage by the *Kansas City Star* with image and document contributions from the staff of the *Star* as well as people who were at the scene of the collapse in 1981.

In addition to the programs outlined above, MHC will conduct special events and topical programming to advance the “Additional Pulitzer Prize Areas of Interest.” To this end, MHC will host a high school workshop led by Randy Picht, Executive Director of the Reynolds Journalism Institute at the MU School of Journalism on the topic of “News Literacy in the Digital Age.” Community programs for each of the selected topics will explicitly address three of the Pulitzer’s signature topics: 1) Power: Accountability and Abuse, 2) Presidential Power and Secrecy, and 3) Civil Rights and Equality.

For a complete listing of events or to learn more about this project, visit our website at: www.mohumanities.org.

For their generous support for the Campfires Initiative, we thank the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Carnegie Corporation of New York, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Pulitzer Prizes Board, and Columbia University.
In December 2015, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) announced that it had awarded $3.6 million in grants for twenty-one community-based projects throughout the country for a new initiative that puts humanities scholars in direct dialogue with the public on some of the most pressing issues of today.

The Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) was proud to be among the leading recipients of this new grant program, receiving the highest amount awarded to a single project. When this initiative was announced, MHC was contacted by several organizations around the state of Missouri—all of whom were interested in various takes on a proposal that would address a theme very much on the minds of Missourians (and the country at large): polarization in contemporary society. MHC met with each of the interested organizations and narrowed its selection to a core group with a specific focus.

Our statewide project includes seven partner organizations—all working to address the question: How can the humanities illuminate the various forms of social and cultural polarization that have become so prevalent in contemporary society and thereby contribute to the building of new forms of community and understanding?

From its entry into the country in 1820 as part of the Missouri Compromise, Missouri has been a state divided by its Southern tendencies and its Northern sensibilities. Nowhere is this division more visible than in the state’s handling of race relations. Starting
Colin Gordon (author of Mapping Decline: St. Louis and the Fate of the American City) into a traveling exhibition, complete with interactive maps that showcase Dr. Gordon’s groundbreaking work with GIS mapping to trace a number of demographic migrations and municipal zoning from 1916–present. MHC will travel this exhibit throughout Missouri as a catalyst for additional community programming in other urban communities in the state.

Other components to this project include:

- The Nine Network of public media will host community conversations, episodes of their social media-enabled Stay-Tuned series, as well as interstitial videos and a Nine LAB production with students from SLPS—all involving community leaders, local scholars, and citizens engaging with issues related to polarization.

- In Kansas City, MHC has partnered with the KC Public Libraries and a host of cultural organizations to offer public forums and community programming around issues specific to their community, with a special aim to involve their growing Latino community.

- In Columbia, MHC has partnered with the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy—housed at the University of Missouri—to make direct use of their scholarship expertise in our nation’s founding documents and to examine how polarization is unavoidably wed to those policy decisions, both local and national, that have led to the political, economic, and in some cases, physical marginalization of individuals and groups within society. Two semesters of programming—with events open to the public—and a summer film series will engage a range of ideas and perspectives in effort to tell the whole story and encourage meaningful change.

For a complete listing of events or to learn more about this project, visit our website at: www.mohumanities.org.
On November 4, 1940, Missouri’s voters passed a proposition to amend the state’s Constitution to require that certain judges be selected on merit rather than by partisan election. Now known as The Missouri Plan, this model serves as the standard for judicial selection in more than thirty states. To understand completely the context in which the voters of the day opted for such a transformational shift, one must understand the forces at play in the judicial system, and on a larger scale, the political system as a whole.

The American political system has a history that is plagued with corruption. Sadly, Missouri stands out as a case study on the issue. On the heels of his older brother Jim’s successful and lengthy political career in local Kansas City Democratic politics, Tom Pendergast took the reins of what is now widely known as the “Pendergast Machine,” an organization comprised of elected officials in Kansas City’s legislative body, the police department, the City’s bureaucracy at-large, and the local democratic party which bought votes, cut deals, and otherwise corrupted the democratic process – including judicial elections.

Light began to shine on the corruption as journalists and the newspapers they worked for began to cry foul. Ultimately, the Pendergast Machine spectacularly collapsed and Tom found himself behind bars on tax evasion charges in 1939. Rising from the ashes of the collapse, the Missouri Non-Partisan Judicial Selection Plan proposed to subject judicial nominees to merit-based scrutiny. This first-in-the-nation judicial reform package mandates that all Missouri Supreme Court justices, the state’s Appellate Court justices, judges of Jackson County, St. Louis City, and any other court that opts-in must apply for a vacant seat on the bench, be approved by their fellow peers to appear as one of three nominated for selection to that position, and finally receive the approval of the governor before being selected as a judge. Depending on the jurisdiction of the judge, the state or the country’s voters then cast the final say in what is known as a “retention vote,” which has the effect of either approving or casting out each judge in question.

The travelling exhibit is currently on display at the State Supreme Court Building in Jefferson City, 207 West High Street (across the street from the Capitol). For a complete schedule, contact our Executive Director, Steve Belko, at (314) 781-9660. For more details on the Missouri Plan and how it impacts you, please visit www.missouriplan.com.
The inaugural Missouri Summer Teachers Academy will be held June 13-16, 2016, on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia.

The goal of the Academy is to provide high school teachers of American History and Government throughout the state with a chance to develop new insights into their subject fields by offering a three-day series of seminars that focus on key ideas, figures, and events in the history of American democracy. MU faculty will lead all seminars, and their content will be organized each year around a new theme drawn from the state curriculum for secondary social studies education. The theme for the 2016 Summer Teachers Academy will be “Majority Rule and Minority Rights.”

Thanks to a generous start-up grant from the MHC, teachers’ participation in the 2016 Summer Academy will be fully subsidized, with the MHC and the Kinder Institute providing housing, meals, and materials, as well as a $250 stipend to offset other expenses related to attendance. In addition, attendees can receive up to 20 hours of professional development credit for participating in the Academy.

There will be an opening ceremony and keynote address on the evening of Monday, June 13, for anyone able to attend. Each full day of the Academy (June 14-16) will consist of two seminars in the morning and another after lunch. The final seminar will be followed by a pedagogy breakout session, and on June 14 and 15, programming for the day will conclude with a dinner reception and lecture.

How to Attend
Missouri state senators will nominate two teachers from their home districts, one primary candidate and one alternate, to participate in the Academy. District superintendents and social studies coordinators who have a particularly qualified candidate in mind are encouraged to contact their state senator with such information. In addition, we encourage teachers who would like to participate in the Academy to contact their state senators during the nomination period to express their interest.

www.domacracy.missouri.edu
LISA CARRICO

In July 2015, the Missouri Humanities Council (MHC) was awarded a national grant as part of a joint initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA). Rooted in Latino heritage, the grant seeks to showcase the six-part landmark PBS documentary *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* and encourage community engagement and scholarly discussion surrounding issues facing Latinos past and present.

“We were honored to be selected as one of only fifty-five entities nationwide to receive the highest grant amount as part of this NEH and ALA initiative,” said Dr. William Belko, MHC’s Executive Director. “We’re looking forward to listening, learning, and engaging with communities of all threads as we delve into the rich and abiding history that Latinos have woven into the fabric of Missouri’s tapestry.”

The Missouri Humanities Council convened a range of partners that includes: the Kansas City Public Library, Daniel Boone Regional Library, Springfield-Greene County Library District, St. Louis Public Library, and Missouri Immigrant and Refugee Advocates. Additional support comes from the Cambio Center at the University of Missouri and Grupo Latinoamericano in Springfield.

Participating libraries displayed Latino-themed or authored books for people of all ages and hosted community events that showcased Latino culture, to include screenings of various episodes of *Latino Americans*.

The year-long initiative of the Missouri Humanities Council, self-described as the Missouri Latinos Initiative, commenced its first event, *They, Too, Played America’s Game*, in August of 2015 at the Kansas City Plaza Branch with panelists Adrian Burgos, Jr., Professor of US History at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign, and Bob Kendrick, President of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

For more information on the initiative, please visit www.missourilatinos.org.
Where Is the Ozarks?

DR. BROOKS BLEVINS

In my course Introduction to Ozarks Studies, my students and I spend the first week of each semester struggling with a single question—where is the Ozarks? (Or where are the Ozarks, but that’s a whole other class.) Sounds simple enough, right? After all, it takes only a few seconds to pull up a map outlining the region’s borders. Seems like a lot of time to devote to something so elementary.

Certainly, the physical boundaries of the place geographers call the Ozark Uplift are largely undisputed. Things may get a little tricky where the Uplift transitions—imperceptibly to the naked eye—into the prairies in the west, and a few old maps extend the boundaries across the Mississippi River to encompass the hills of Southern Illinois. But for the most part identifying the physiographic Ozarks is pretty cut and dried.

The human Ozarks? Not so much. Identifying the boundaries of a cultural or historical region, a human region, poses a unique challenge. Like the study of the humanities in general, it is a challenge that generates about as many questions as answers, a challenge that offers few clear-cut solutions. Here’s an example.

Several years ago I decided to incorporate a bit of informal research into my travels around the Ozarks. When driving through an area along the fringe of the Ozark Uplift or in a physically Ozarky space whose residents, I suspect, may not fully embrace their cultural Ozarkness, I’ll stop and ask a question to a few people at a convenience store or a library or a café: Am I in the Ozarks? Once, while driving down US 63 from Jefferson City to Rolla, I decided to conduct my “research” in the little town of Vienna, seat of Maries County. Now, according to geographers, all of Maries County is located in the Ozark Uplift, and for the Viennese to exit the physical Ozarks would require a drive of approximately fifty minutes. Yet, when I asked my question to the clerk at the counter of the convenience store, her answer was a quick and unequivocal “no.” When asked where one would go to be in the Ozarks, her answer was equally unequivocal. “Go down to the junction,” she instructed, “take forty-two highway west, and drive to Iberia. Then you’re in the Ozarks.”

She’s right about Iberia, only twenty-three miles away and no farther into the physical Ozark region. I’ve quizzed a few people there, and they seemed quite comfortable with their Ozarkness. And I suppose she’s right about Vienna, with its nineteenth-century German heritage perhaps more in line with the Missouri Valley to the north—but, again, that’s a whole other class. To paraphrase the eminent sociologist John Shelton Reed, who devoted a career to studying and defining the equally amorphous cultural South, the South is where the southerners live. It seems reasonable to define the cultural Ozarks as the place where the Ozarkers live.

Who are the Ozarkers, you ask? Well, that’s where the humanities and regional studies intersect. In many disciplines it would be an odd thing to continuously define and redefine what it is that we are studying, while we are studying it. But the humanities are odd that way, with our multilayered approach to understanding the humans who continuously redefine the world around us as well as the way we interpret that world. It makes the humanities the perfect vehicle for grasping and crafting the story and identity of a region and its people. It makes the humanities ideally qualified to explore this human region we call the Ozarks—and to tell us where it is.

Brooks Blevins is the Noel Boyd Professor of Ozarks Studies at Missouri State University, where he teaches courses on Ozarks history and literature. In 2010, Blevins created the region’s first academic program in the study of the region, including an undergraduate minor in Ozarks Studies. He is the author or editor of five books on the Ozarks, including Hill Folks: A History of Arkansas Ozarkers and Their Image and Ghost of the Ozarks: Murder and Memory in the Upland South. In addition, he serves as editor of two new series at the University of Arkansas Press: Chronicles of the Ozarks and the Ozarks Studies Series.
Growing up in Ohio, I knew only three seasons: baseball, basketball, and football. And like many other teenage boys, I thought—no, I knew—I would play professionally someday. But although I was fortunate enough to play college basketball, my career ended without a professional contract, and instead, I went to graduate school and (seven short years later) earned a Ph.D. in history. My dissertation explored issues of patriotic loyalty through nineteenth-century Fourth of July celebrations and, in 2013, became my first book when *Parading Patriotism* was published by Northern Illinois University Press.

As I worked on my book and helped my wife raise three daughters at home, sports became something I used to escape. Playing, watching, and reading about sports provided a welcome distraction from more “serious” academic pursuits like preparing lesson plans and finding a tenure-track job. After a few years on the job market (and writing more lesson plans than I care to remember), I took a position in the department of history at Southeast Missouri State and began trolling around for a new research topic.

Then I read Dan Epstein’s book *Big Hair and Plastic Grass: A Funky Ride Through Baseball and America in the Swinging ’70s* and my plans immediately changed.

*Big Hair and Plastic Grass* is a narrative history of baseball in the 1970s, weaving America’s pastime into a larger cultural context, connecting sport to society in an engaging and light-hearted manner. Watergate? Ten-Cent Beer Night? I was hooked. Scouring the internet for similar works led me to ’70s-era books covering football, hockey, and soccer. But basketball? Nothing. Since I had just finished *Parading Patriotism*, I began researching for fun (I’m a historian… it is fun for me!) by reading a few biographies and watching old games on YouTube. Unintentionally, I had found a new passion: sport history.

Sports is a lens through which we can view American culture writ large. Through sports, millions of Americans live vicariously through other women and men: cheering every touchdown, goal, home run, or basket. We rearrange our schedules so as not to miss a single snap, pitch, kick, or shot. We stand in line to pay for their autographs and burn their jerseys if they dare leave our team for a rival (I’m looking at you, LeBron James).

For me, sport is no longer a distraction from “serious” academic pursuits: it is the serious academic pursuit. This winter, I finished a draft of my second book (and first on sport) covering, not surprisingly, professional basketball in the 1970s.

It might not be the next *Big Hair and Plastic Grass*, but it does demonstrate an important intersection of humanities and sport.

Dr. Adam Criblez is Assistant Professor, Center for Regional History Director at Southeast Missouri State University.
In December of 2015, the US Congress passed with sweeping margins and the President quickly signed into law the “Every Student Succeeds Act,” replacing the controversial and, I am confident to add, completely repugnant “No Child Left Behind Act.” What I find so refreshing from this new legislation is an apparent commitment to resuscitating the importance of history and civics to K–12 education. Indeed, Congress has authorized the spending of millions of dollars over the next five years to implement the “American History and Civics Education” portion of the overall act. But it is not solely the central government promoting the need to highlight these crucial subjects—the State of Missouri is following suit. In fact, at the time of this writing, four bills are in the general assembly promoting the enhancement of civics education—the “Missouri Civics Education Initiative”—and a number of statewide organizations, from the Missouri Bar to the Chamber of Commerce, are actively supporting programs to enhance history and civics as part of our primary and secondary curriculum. Fortunately—and proudly—Missouri has one of the premier civics education requirements in the entire nation. We can always improve, however, and the MHC is fully committed to this endeavor.

As a well-published scholar of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American political and constitutional history, I can expound endlessly on how the nation’s founders, from Radical Revolutionaries to Jeffersonian Republicans to Jacksonian Democrats, harped incessantly on the need for a well-educated citizenry as the ultimate foundation for a republic. “I know no safe depository of the ultimate powers of the society,” stated Thomas Jefferson in 1820, “but the people themselves: and if we think them not enlightened enough to exercise their control with a wholesome discretion, the remedy is, not to take it from them, but to inform their discretion by education.” In our first informational brochure, I added another quote of Jefferson. Writing in 1786 to his mentor, the noted jurist George Wythe, the founder of the University of Virginia declared that “I think by far the most important bill in our whole code, is that for the diffusion of continued
knowledge among the people. No other sure foundation can be devised, for the preservation of freedom and happiness."

As a testament to these words of wisdom for any free and happy people, the MHC is actively promoting civics and history education in Missouri, and doing so on a number of fronts. This summer we will hold the first of our annual Missouri Summer Teachers Academy, a partnership with the Kinder Institute for Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri. We are also participating in the Missouri Bar’s The James Madison Legacy Project teacher education workshops. These are but only a few examples of our teacher education programs, and more partnerships are developing to expand our civics education to cover Missouri’s pivotal role in the national court system.

Yet while we are sanguine in the hopes of restoring the crucial role of history and civics in our society—as the only sure foundation for preserving our freedom and happiness—there is an unfortunate movement afoot in this nation to undermine civics education and to prevent a more educated citizenry. Much of our history—political, constitutional, social, economic, cultural—is being swept under the carpet, simply because some find it to be offensive. Ironically, when the proponents of this movement express their offense at certain aspects of our heritage, the word “inclusiveness” is frequently employed to justify actions of undermining, and in some cases, destroying our history.

This word has indeed been floated around quite a bit—“inclusiveness.” Yet this word—“inclusiveness”—is being misused, and even abused. Webster’s Dictionary on “inclusive”: “Taking everything into account; including everything; comprehensive” and “including the specified extremes or limits as well as the area between them.” Well, then, the current movement to bury various portions of our heritage seems to conflict with this definition. As such, “inclusiveness” is not the equivalent of abandoning our history, our past, our heritage.

Unfortunately, certain groups, organizations, and institutions throughout this country are employing Orwellian doublespeak—“inclusiveness” now means keeping only those portions that do not offend certain segments of our society. Only one heritage, a politically correct chosen one, shall prevail, shall be the history of our land, while the history of the whole is buried, or so severely altered to make it negative and reprehensible. The end result of this distortion is a narrow perspective. How far will we go, then, to allow our history and heritage to be erased to placate the shortsighted agenda (oftentimes political) of a distinct few? I am reminded of the exchange between the two firemen, the protagonist Montag and the antagonist Beatty, in Ray Bradbury’s classic Fahrenheit 451 (my second favorite novel, by the way), as the latter explains to the former how and why books are burned (and the houses in which they are found). It is a chilling, prescient look at where our society indeed appears to be drifting.

Everyone is offended by something in our history books—real freedom and happiness, however, prevents any one offended group from denying the history of another.

One of the three primary missions of the MHC will always be to implement projects, programs, and partnerships, initiatives and ideas, to tell our story, every story of mankind, to reveal all of our voices and their contributions to our heritage, whether offensive to some or uplifting to all. Through this worthy and noble endeavor, maybe, just maybe, we can indeed achieve an educated citizenry—one that sees through the machinations of the few, one that can indeed ensure, in Jefferson’s words, everyone’s freedom and happiness. Onward with our civics education initiative, then!

Dr. Steve Belko contributes to this article in his personal capacity. The views expressed are his own and do not necessarily represent those of the Missouri Humanities Council. This series of articles—“Letter from the Executive Director”—is meant to be thought-provoking and encourage a dialogue around some of today’s most relevant humanities topics. Have a response? Send it to sbelko@mohumanities.org.
Since the inception of the Missouri Humanities Council in 1971, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the State of Missouri have been the major sources of revenue enabling the Council to present humanities programs throughout our state. In recent years these sources have remained stagnant and there exists a real threat that they could decrease significantly in the future. The Council has been proactive in strengthening its fundraising resources in order to maintain and grow the valuable programs that it provides our citizens throughout our state. It is only through contributions from people like you that the programs presented in this publication will continue to grow.

MHC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and NOT a state agency. Your contributions are therefore tax-deductible to the extent allowable by law. As you read about all the programs in this publication, one of them may stand out to your particular interests. In addition to general operating support, sponsorships are a great way to support specific MHC programming —Read from the Start, Veterans Programs, Heritage Tourism, Speakers Bureau, the Missouri Humanities Awards, Traveling Exhibitions, and the Grants Programs. Your sponsorship can be restricted to a specific location, a region, or the entire state. This is a great opportunity for you, your foundation, or the organization for which you work to gain awareness while supporting the humanities.

ACCREDITATION

Nonprofit Status

The Missouri Humanities Council was created in 1971 under authorizing legislation from the United States Congress. It was awarded 501(c) (3) status in May 1977, a status that still exists, thus making your contribution tax deductible as allowable by law.

Better Business Bureau

For the fourth year in a row, the Council has earned the Better Business Bureau’s (BBB) highest certification for nonprofits – the A+ Charity Certification. This approval follows an intense process of meeting 20 standards for charity accountability, developed to assist donors in making sound giving decisions and to foster public confidence in charitable organizations. The standards seek to encourage fair and honest solicitation practices, promote ethical conduct, and advance support of philanthropy.

Greater Kansas City Community Foundation

For the past three years, the Council has earned similar endorsement from the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation (GKCCF).

Financial Information

MHC’s website—www.mohumanities.org—includes links to our latest Annual Report and 990, providing detailed information on our programming and our finances.
Honoring Missouri’s Native American Heritage