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## EDITORS' NOTE

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One of the great things about editing a journal such as *Kansas History* is the opportunity it provides to work with wonderful researchers, and to read and publish their fine scholarship. As rule, a wide range of topics and issues are covered, and last year included articles on subjects ranging from a ghost town on the Oregon-California Trail to the early life and career of Topeka's Mike Torrez and conservative opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment. Out of our typically strong field of article candidates, this year's Edgar Langsdorf Award for Excellence in Writing committee, chaired by Kansas Historical Foundation president Deborah Barker, selected Justine Greve's "Language and Loyalty: The First World War and German Instruction at Two Kansas Schools." Greve, who holds a master's degree in American studies from the University of Kansas, examined the German departments at Baker University, Baldwin City, and Bethel College, North Newton, and found that before the World War they were thriving. Some Baker students enthusiastically learned German as a second language, while

many Bethel students grew up speaking German in their homes. Once the war broke out, German became an easy target for nationalist hostility. Speaking German—even learning it as a second language—could call one's loyalty into question, explains historian Justine Greve in "All Tings Vot Haf der Cherman Label." This anti-German sentiment led both Kansas schools (and many others around the country) to eliminate German language programs. "Patriotism" can superficially explain this change, but the motives and reality varied with each school's circumstances. At Baker pro-war enthusiasm led students to abandon their studies of German; at Bethel the ban on German was driven by fear and the school's perceived need to prove its national loyalty. Baker and Bethel represent two

models of the "patriotic" rejection of German: one apparently lighthearted and the other involuntary. Yet as with most binary categories, the distinction is not actually so clear-cut.

Happily, the winter 2015-2016 issue looks like it will be published on schedule. Beginning with the fall semester of 2015, the Department of History and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences considerably increased support for the journal. Their

contributions, added to that already provided by the provost and the vice-president of research, pay for the work of our consulting editor, two undergraduate editorial assistants, two graduate editorial assistants, and the free-lance work of our designer and copy editor. The History Department at Washburn University supports the work of the book review editor, Professor Kelly Erby. Over the fall the staff has gelled into an efficient work force to ensure the high-quality and timely production of the journal that we all expect.

We also need to acknowledge our ongoing indebtedness to the scholarly community that continues to support and

contribute to *Kansas History*—authors, books reviewers, peer reviewers, editorial board members, and more. Obviously, the publication of this journal is the work of many minds and hands. We will continue our efforts to enhance institutional support, provide publication experience for university students, and cultivate exceptional scholarship in Kansas history.

Jim Sherow  
Professor of History, Kansas State University  
Managing Editor,  
and  
Virgil Dean  
Consulting Editor



*Deborah Barker (left), outgoing president of the Kansas Historical Foundation, presented the Langsdorf award to author Justine Greve at the foundation's annual meeting, November 6, 2015.*