

# History Happenings

*A newsletter published by the Department of History*

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Vol. 7, no. 3

April 2011

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# *Excavation and Revolution*

*By Suzanne Onstine*

The University of Memphis mission's 2011 season in the New Kingdom tomb of Panehsy in Luxor, Egypt, was eventful in many unexpected ways. I arrived in Egypt on January 18. The revolution started one week later, on the 25th. While in Cairo finishing government paperwork, I heard that demonstrations were planned for the 25th with the intention of building on the momentum of the Tunisian revolution. Our plan was to be in Luxor, about 700 kilometers south of Cairo, by the 23rd to start work in Theban Tomb 16. We were missing the excitement, but also the violence and uncertainty of the revolution that erupted a few days later. When millions turned out in Tahrir Square on the 25th, it far exceeded the protest organizers' intentions. Many stayed through the night and the movement continued to build until the 28th, a day of violence throughout Egypt.



**Dr. Suzanne Onstine and an Egyptian tank**

On this day, the Memphis team (myself, Ginni Reckard, and Liz Warkentin) was researching in the University of Chicago's Oriental Institute library in Luxor. I got a call from a friend who told me violence was breaking out all over, and that protesters in Luxor were clashing with police at Luxor temple. Since we were not too close to the temple we decided to head to the American Research Center in Egypt offices, where it would be easier to lay low. The ARCE staff was on

the roof watching the situation unfold in the neighborhood behind them. We could see a mob of people engaging the police by throwing stones and Molotov cocktails, and the police returned fire with tear gas. Our vantage point allowed us to watch without being too close to the action. After a few hours both sides lost interest. The village children continued burning everything they could find, while the police sat on the roadside watching.

Then the police disappeared. Everywhere.

The scene in Luxor was nothing like Cairo or Suez, and nobody died that day in Luxor, but it was enough to keep us quarantined for the next two days. The country was basically lawless until the military tanks rolled into town to protect banks, temples, and government offices in the absence of any police force.

The city emptied of tourists and archaeologists. It was clear after two days that Luxor was not going to be a flashpoint of political unrest or chaos, but many left for logistical reasons. Banks were closed, after all, cutting off access to money. We made the decision as a team that we should begin our excavations on February 2, so that we could at least accomplish a minimal season, should we be forced to leave. Fortunately, leaving was not necessary. It became clear that although the police had abandoned their posts, regular citizens, who were always skeptical of police involvement anyway, were capable of policing themselves, organizing neighborhood watches, and mobilizing men to guard antiquities at night when looting was a problem. Decades of police corruption had created a society where most problems are dealt with by the family and village, so the absence of police was only an issue for the most serious of crimes.

Then, on February 11, Hosni Mubarak stepped down. I never thought I would see the day, especially after his defiant speeches on Egyptian television in the days before. I am glad I was there to share in the spirit of optimism that overtook the country. Never before have I seen the Egyptian people so proud. It was as if everybody was suddenly on their best behavior. Protesters cleaned and painted Tahrir Square, while taxi drivers were less surly. Men in the streets still flirted





**The Theban Tomb 16 team: Dr. Suzanne Onstine and Ginni Reckard in the front row, Liz Warkentin in the back row, along with the locals who worked on the project**

with us, but their pick-up lines started with, “Thank you for staying in Egypt. You are most welcome in OUR country!” This sense of national ownership is a powerful new identity for them. The revolution has had its downsides (the loss of lives, the loss of revenue) but if this attitude of pride and engagement continues, the Egyptian people are well poised to make the most of what democracy can offer.

Work in the tomb also proved to be more eventful than expected. A cursory investigation of the tunnel in previous seasons indicated that there would be human remains, but I had no idea that so many bodies would be just centimeters under the dirt. In a 1 x 7-meter area of excavations, we found close to twenty individuals, including two children, parts of a cow, and a cat. New Kingdom tombs in this area were extensively re-used in the Third Intermediate Period and afterwards, and Panehsy’s tomb is no exception. The funerary goods recovered along with the bodies – coffin bits, funerary statuettes, and pottery – can be dated to this later period of use. Some fragments can even be dated to the Ptolemaic period, so the life cycle of the tomb spans more

than a thousand years, from the tomb’s original use in ca. 1250 BCE to the end of the Ptolemaic era in 32 BCE.

Seven weeks of excavation, one revolution, a constitutional referendum – the first real democratic vote the country has had in decades – and I am left with an even greater desire to return to Luxor to continue work in the tomb and to witness the growing pains of this new Egyptian political identity.



**Interior of Theban Tomb 16: Panehsy and his wife Tarenu**



# Remembering the Sit-Ins

*By G. Graham Perry*

As Curator of Social History at the Tennessee State Museum, I recently had the pleasure of serving as curator of the award-winning exhibit, *We Shall Not Be Moved: 50th Anniversary of Tennessee's Civil Rights Sit-Ins*, the traveling component of which is now on display at the National Civil Rights Museum. The exhibit examines the sit-ins of the early 1960s in Tennessee as an extension of an ongoing struggle to secure civil rights by African Americans and their allies.

Although the February 1, 1960, sit-ins by students in Greensboro captured national media attention, many do not understand that preparations to conduct mass demonstrations were already well underway in Nashville. There, the Reverends James Lawson and Kelly Miller Smith



**U.S. Representative John Lewis and Graham Perry**

Lawson, John Lewis, Avon Rollins, and Diane Nash, to have the opportunity to place their faces and personalities within a historical context. As a doctoral candidate in the Department of History at The University of Memphis, I have obtained the skills and background necessary to engage each person knowledgeably.

I sincerely encourage everyone to witness firsthand the results of this overwhelming experience by traveling to see *We Shall Not Be Moved*, on display at the National Civil Rights Museum through June 6.



**Graham Perry with sit-in activists at the Tennessee State Museum**

conducted workshops in the Fall of 1959, training Fisk, American Baptist, Meharry, and Tennessee A & I students in methods of non-violent demonstration techniques. These young people even tested department stores in downtown Nashville just before winter break of 1959, but were caught off guard by the later Greensboro protests. Even so, the Nashville students were very well-organized, and their protest model became the norm throughout the South.

During the process of putting together the exhibit, I had the honor of meeting and gathering the stories of numerous participants from all over the state. It was humbling for me, having read about individuals such as the Reverend James



**The Reverend James Lawson, who trained the Nashville Movement demonstrators, pointing to cut-out of himself as a younger man**

# *Debate, Diplomacy, and Documentaries*

*By Emily Schwimmer*



Emily Schwimmer and Angela Martin at the Welcome Desk on West Tennessee History Day, checking in students

On March 5, 2011, more than 170 middle- and high-school students from nine West Tennessee schools converged upon the University Center at The University of Memphis to compete in the annual West Tennessee district History Day Competition. National History Day, an annual competition, has three levels: regional, state, and national. The University of Memphis Department of History has hosted the regional competition since its inception. Until 2009, the department also hosted the state-level competition. For the last nine years, the West Tennessee district competition was held at AutoZone Park downtown. With the opening of the new University Center, the competition took advantage of the great on-campus venue. Holding the event on campus gave it a greater academic ambience and allowed students the chance to be a part of the university for a day.

The History Day competition is divided into two divisions: a junior division for middle-school students, and a senior division for high-school students. Within each division, students compete as individuals or groups in a number of categories, including exhibits, websites, papers, documentaries, and performances. The projects all reflected this year's theme of "Debate and Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences." The top three winners in each category moved on to the state-level competition, which was hosted by the Tennessee Historical Society in Nashville. At this year's competition, held on April 2, sixty-two students from the West Tennessee district competed; twenty-two placed. These students will have the opportunity to move on to the national-level competition at the University of Maryland this summer.



Two additional awards were given to West Tennesseans during the state competition. The first was the Special Awards for Best Projects in African American History in the Junior Division, sponsored by the Tennessee Historical Society. The award went to Emily Burkhead of Snowden School in Memphis for her documentary, "The Integration of Memphis Churches." The second was the Patricia A. Behring Teacher of the Year award in the Junior Division: Ms. Traci Erlandson of St. George's Independent School in Memphis.

Working under the supervision of faculty advisor Dr. Sherman, Angela Martin and Emily Schwimmer coordinated this year's West Tennessee district competition. Administrative Associate Karen Bradley provided invaluable assistance in preparing for and facilitating the competition. Faculty, over forty graduate students, and area history professionals volunteered their time as judges. This was a great opportunity to use historical knowledge and skills to benefit the larger public. Above all, teachers, students, and judges had fun. Students honed their research and analytical skills while exploring subjects they found personally interesting. Perhaps some of them will become part of the next generation of history students and professionals.

For next year's competition, the theme will be "Revolution, Reaction, Reform in History." It should be another great competition as the program continues to grow.



Left: One of the entries in the exhibits category. Right: Students at the awards ceremony which concluded West Tennessee History Day

# Honoring History

*By Amber Colvin and Sarah Potter*

What is the real purpose of an honor society? This is the question that the department's Epsilon Nu chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta history honor society wrestled with all year. For many students, it's simply a line on their resumé and a nice accomplishment to brag about to Mom and Dad. But our chapter has spent the year developing activities that will hopefully make Phi Alpha Theta more important to its members than just another certificate to hang on the wall. Our hope is to make this a vibrant and active organization that involves all students who are interested in history, not just

Phi Alpha Theta members. We are making a more concerted effort to reach out to undergraduates, and to develop events that will attract a wider variety of students.

As in the past, our lunchtime lecture series anchored our chapter's activities for the year. The winning combination of free pizza and the promise of extra credit has long assured regular undergraduate attendance at these lectures. For graduate students and faculty, the lectures offer a welcome opportunity to learn about colleagues' current research

interests. (Although the pizza has not hurt graduate student and faculty attendance either . . .)

This year we had an exciting array of lectures on our theme “Chaos and Controversy.” Dr. Douglas Cupples kicked off the year by introducing us to the history of the Memphis art scene, which seemed uncontroversial enough until he unveiled its tangled connection to local politics and broader social changes. Dr. Susan O’Donovan showed us how the apparently chaotic and disorganized movement of slaves across the antebellum South had profound social and political consequences for slaves and slave owners. Dr. Jim Blythe finished out the semester with a lecture on Savonarola, an extremely controversial figure who died at the stake for his beliefs and preachings. This spring, the chaos and controversy continued. Dr. Dan Unowsky made sense of the anti-Jewish rioting in late-nineteenth-century Galicia. We learned about the secret history of tango from Dr. Guiomar Dueñas-Vargas, who revealed that it began as a dance of the Argentine lower classes before becoming fashionable elsewhere. Graduate student Michael Lejman finished out the year with his lecture on the life and writings of Albert Memmi, an Algerian Jewish man living in Paris. Memmi’s work deals with controversial issues such as immigration, assimilation, and the search for a homeland.

We also branched out this year to add some new events to the Phi Alpha Theta calendar. With the help of the department, we hosted a “Meet the Faculty” reception for the department’s majors and minors, and those considering a history major or minor. This event was designed to attract more undergraduates to Phi Alpha Theta, and to encourage the majors to feel more connected to the department’s activities. With some afternoon sweets to help make the



**Dr. Steven Patterson delivering the keynote lecture**

rather institutional atmosphere of the Mitchell Hall lobby a little more inviting, students and professors were able to chat about history, their courses, and even their favorite board games.

The year culminated in a formal banquet organized jointly by the Department of History and Phi Alpha Theta to honor those who won departmental awards and to induct Phi Alpha Theta’s new members. The event was very well attended by faculty, students, and their guests. Dr. Steven Patterson, who received his Ph.D. from the department in 2003, gave the keynote lecture about his research on honor and shame in British India. Dr. Patterson’s use of fascinating images—along with his excellent sense of humor—made for a very informative and entertaining lecture.



**Left: Dr. Janann Sherman and Matthew Garth. Middle: Dr Sarah Potter and Kaylin Ewing. Right foreground: Rebecca Propst**





**The Dr. William R. and Helen Lucille Gillaspie Scholarship: Greg Gillaspie, Dr. Janann Sherman, Frances Breland, Hafife Montgomery**

Dr. Janann Sherman, chair of the Department of History, then presided over the presentation of several awards made by the Department of History. Matthew Garth won the undergraduate Major L. Wilson Paper Prize, while Kaylin Ewing won the graduate prize. The Wilson Prizes were created in honor of Dr. Major L. Wilson, a longtime professor in the department who specialized in American social and intellectual history and held students to high standards of writing.

After conferring the Tennessee Historical Commission Prize for the history student with the highest grade-point average to Rebekah Propst, Dr. Sherman awarded the Dr. William R. and Lucille Gillaspie Scholarship. Dr. Gillaspie taught Latin American history for thirty-seven years. His sons established the award with a gift in honor of their parents, and Greg Gillaspie spoke briefly about the prize. Last year's award had gone to Frances Breland. This year's award went to Hafife Montgomery.

The department also recognized some of its excellent teachers. Ken Baroff won the Outstanding Graduate Assistant Teaching Award. Dr. Douglas Cupples, who coordinates adjunct teaching, then conferred two awards – there was a tie! Dr. Louise Cooper and Dr. Jim Johnson both won the award for Outstanding Adjunct Teaching.

The event proved the perfect way to welcome new members to Phi Alpha Theta: it allowed them to celebrate their achievement with their family and friends, to meet other new members, and to spend time with faculty members of the department. We hope that it will encourage our members to become more invested in the organization, and to take advantage of the many opportunities we offer to discuss historical topics in a more casual and social setting than the classroom. For this is what the Epsilon Nu Chapter has decided an honor society should do: promote intellectual rigor in the study of history, while also making it fun.



**Left: Dr. Louise Cooper, Dr. Doug Cupples. Middle: Dr. Janann Sherman, Ken Baroff. Right: Dr. Jim Johnson, Dr. Doug Cupples.**



# Awards and Honors

**Dr. Guiomar Dueñas-Vargas**, associate professor of history at The University of Memphis, has been elected as a member of la Academia Colombiana de Historia. The organization, created in 1902, acts as an advisory body to the Colombian government for the conservation of the cultural heritage of the nation. Its stated objectives include a commitment to



**Dr. Guiomar Dueñas-Vargas**

restore the country's collective memory, to contribute actively in the promotion of a history that allows understanding the past and foreseeing the future, to encourage the careful study and analysis of the history of Colombia from pre-Hispanic times to the present, and to promote such study through periodic private sessions, public sessions and conferences, congresses, and other academic acts. Its chief publication is the journal *Boletín de Historia y Antigüedades*. To be elected to the academy, a scholar must have contributed substantially to the advancement of the discipline of history through research and publications, have a national recognition for his or her work, and be nominated by his or her peers and by members of the academy.

**Chrystal Goudsouzian**, doctoral candidate in History, has received a \$20,000 fellowship from the American Association of University Women to support research for her dissertation on "Becoming Isis:

Myth, Medicine, Magic, and Reproduction in Ancient Egypt." The AAUW, a nationwide network of more than 100,000 members and donors, 1,000 branches, and 500 college/university institution partners, advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. It has a long and distinguished history of furthering educational and professional opportunities for women in the United States and around the globe.



**Chrystal Goudsouzian**



**Rita Hall**

**Rita Hall**, doctoral candidate in History, won the Outstanding Graduate Student Award from the University College, which is made annually "to the student in the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program demonstrating unusual commitment and scholarly endeavor." She was chosen because of her exceptional academic achievement (4.0 GPA), dedication to the University College as a graduate assistant for the past two years, and her contributions to the future of the M.A. in Liberal Studies program by way of a Graduate Certificate program she proposed that is currently under consideration by the College of Arts and Sciences. She developed the proposal as part of an independent study course chaired by Dr. Eda Fain, part-time instructor in the Department of History.

**Mark Janzen**, doctoral candidate in History, won second place in the student paper competition at the 62nd annual meeting of the American Research Center in Egypt, held in Chicago from March 31 to April 3. He presented from his research, "The Iconography of Humiliation: An Introduction to the Depiction and Treatment of Foreign Captives." This is the first time that a student from The University of Memphis has placed in the competition, and he won over students from major Egyptology programs at the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Chicago, Brown, and Emory.



**Mark Janzen**

**Dr. Jonathan Judaken**, professor of history at The University of Memphis, will serve as a Fulbright Senior Specialist. This Fulbright Scholar Program is designed to award grants to qualified U.S. faculty and professionals, in select disciplines, to engage in short-term collaborative two to six week projects at higher education institutions in over 100 countries worldwide. These project grants are not for research, as is more customary for Fulbright scholars. Eligible activities include teacher training, short-term lecturing, conducting seminars, special conferences or workshops, as well as collaborating on curriculum planning, institutional and/or faculty development. Dr. Judaken has likened it to his plans to go to Israel this summer, where he has been invited by both Haifa University and Tel Aviv University to give a series of public lectures, seminars, workshops, and consultations on the basis of his research on anti-Semitism, specifically based upon his new book, *Critical Theories of Anti-Semitism*.



**Dr. Jonathan Judaken**



**Dr. Kent Schull**

**Dr. Kent Schull**, assistant professor of history at The University of Memphis, has been named “Professor of the Year” by the Helen Hardin Honors Program. Students in the Honors Program have a chance to honor “an effective and imaginative professor who has taught an Honors seminar during the course of the academic year.” He was honored as a guest at the Honors Awards Luncheon held on April 15 in the University Center Ballroom. As part of a course that he is teaching for the Honors Program, he led a group on a tour of Turkey during the spring break under the auspices of the Study Abroad Program.

**Dr. Gail Murray**, associate professor of history at Rhodes College and a 1991 Ph.D. in History from The University of Memphis, won the Cynthia Pitcock Women’s History Award from St. Mary’s Episcopal School. Her edited volume, *Throwing Off the Cloak of Privilege: White Southern Women Activists in the Civil Rights Era* (2004), explored how middle- and upper-class white women defied convention and joined the effort to fight segregation and economic injustice. Recently she published a profile of Memphis activist Jocelyn Wurzburg in *Tennessee Women: Challenging Boundaries, Claiming Identities* (2009). She is working on research projects on the history of the Metropolitan Interfaith Association (MIFA), the Young Woman’s Christian Association (YWCA), and Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) workers in Memphis. On the Rhodes campus, Dr. Murray regularly offers a course titled Black and White Women in the South, in which students explore how race and gender pose unique challenges and opportunities for women.

The Department of History has figured prominently in the Pitcock Award. Dr. Pitcock, after whom the award is named and its first recipient, received her Ph.D. in 1985. Both Dr. Selma Lewis, who received the award in 2003, and Dr. John Harkins, last year’s recipient, received the Ph.D. in 1976. Dr. Peggy Jemison Bodine, the recipient in 2006, received her Ph.D. in 1992. Sheila Patrick, who presided over the awards ceremony on March 31, received the M.A. degree in 1974.

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**Recipients of the Cynthia Pitcock Award who were present at the ceremony: Dr. John Harkins, Dr. Peggy Jemison Bodine, Dr. Gail Murray, Dr. Cynthia Pitcock, and Jean Crawford**



# Dissertation Memories

*In the 2010–2011 academic year, the Department of History at The University of Memphis conferred the Ph.D. degree upon nine people: Daryl Carter, Carol Ciscel, Reginald Ellis, Lyndel Fisher, Joe Frazer, Roy Hopper, Chris Ivanec, Shirletta Kinchen, and Jayme Stone. We asked some of them to reflect upon the trials and triumphs of writing (and finishing!) a dissertation.*

## Daryl Carter

I wrote my dissertation on President Bill Clinton, African Americans, and the politics of race and class in the 1990s. Using several major issues – the Democratic Leadership Council, Lani Guinier, crime, affirmative action, welfare reform, and the President’s Initiative on Race – I was able to examine and explain how this controversial and popular president addressed racial matters. I chose this topic because it is timely and fills major gaps in the historiography of late-20th-century political and African American history. However, a topic as recent as this one begets certain difficulties. One of those problems was access to archival records. The Clinton Presidential Library has only partially processed the Clinton materials. Second, the proximity to the 1990s forced me to dispense not only with popular narratives, but also with my tendency to view those years through my own biases, rather than objective analysis and empirical data. Lastly, my distance from Memphis the last two and a half years has been especially challenging.



President Bill Clinton and Dr. John Hope Franklin

After I became “ABD” in August 2008, I moved back home to Johnson City, Tennessee, to take an assistant professorship at my alma mater, East Tennessee State University. The eight

hours and 500 miles between the U of M and ETSU forced me to work in isolation. Without the ability to walk into the office of my adviser, Dr. Goudsouzian, I had to pursue this journey alone. Dr. Goudsouzian and my committee provided wonderful support and guidance throughout the process; however, I was still separated from the support system that I had in Memphis. While it was my choice – one I do not regret, because it was a family decision – I certainly would not recommend leaving Memphis until one is nearly finished with the dissertation. It is simply too hard.

I have treasured my time at The University of Memphis. I have truly been blessed to have the professors who trained me and the fellow students who challenged me and provided encouragement. For those who are or soon will be “ABD,” I warn you that it is vitally important that you choose your committee carefully.

## Reginald Ellis

My study on Dr. James Edward Shepard developed out of my desire to research the leadership styles of black college presidents during the Jim Crow era. As a graduate student at Florida A&M University (FAMU), I researched four college presidents: Thomas De Salle Tucker, Nathan B. Young, William H. A. Howard, and William Gray. All of these men led FAMU during the Jim Crow era. In 2006, as a graduate student at The University of Memphis, I researched Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial College’s first president, William Jasper Hale, and LeMoyne-Owen College’s first black president, Hollis Freeman Price.

As I grew closer to completing my coursework in the Ph.D. program at The University of Memphis, I knew that I needed to narrow the list of black college presidents so that I could focus on all aspects of the life of only one figure during the

Jim Crow era. After reading about the founding president of North Carolina College (NCC) in Glenda Gilmore's book, *Gender and Jim Crow*, I became intrigued about his leadership style in the Tar Heel state. Once I successfully completed my comprehensive examinations, I decided to investigate the life of James E. Shepard.

In the spring of 2007, I began to “stalk” James E. Shepard. I say that I “stalked” him because I have yet to discover the James E. Shepard papers, which made it very difficult to truly write a biography of him. Despite that hardship, I was never deterred. During my first visit to Durham, my mother traveled with me, and in many ways served as my first research assistant and my first financial contributor. After traveling back and forth between Memphis and Durham for much of the summer of 2007, I quickly understood that everything that I previously thought I knew about Dr. Shepard was not a true representation of the life work of the man. Therefore, this dissertation, in my mind, was going to be a very important work.

One highlight of the entire process occurred in December of 2007. I traveled back to Durham, this time to conduct an oral history with Dr. John Hope Franklin. For a young graduate student in African American history, this can only be a momentous moment in one's life. Dr. Franklin not only invited me into his home, but also asked me candid questions pertaining to my research. He also gave me great insight into his relationship with Dr. Shepard. Dr. Shepard had hired Dr. Franklin to serve as a professor of history at NCC. It was at NCC that Dr. Franklin began the research for his most widely circulated book, *From Slavery to Freedom*. After a while, Dr. Franklin asked me if I would like to have lunch with him. He then informed me that he would be driving because he knew the city better than I did. Although he was in his mid-nineties, I knew that I was in no position to debate him about who was going to drive. The information that Dr. Franklin provided me during that visit brought Dr. Shepard to life in a way that documents had not.



Dr. James Edward Shepard

After three years of researching, writing, re-writing, re-writing, and re-writing, my dissertation is now in my rear-view mirror. Throughout that three-year journey, my dissertation committee, led by Dr. Bond, pushed me to become a real historian – and for that I am forever grateful! On May 7, 2011, I will end one chapter of my life and shortly thereafter begin a new one. May 7th not only marks my graduation from the University of Memphis, but also symbolizes the date that my wife, Delexis, will finally gain the full attention of her husband (at least until I begin to work on converting the dissertation into a manuscript). Equipped with the skills that I have received throughout my years in higher education, I am confident that the next chapters of my life will be very fruitful.

## Roy Hopper

While enrolled as a doctoral student in the Department of History at The University of Memphis, I would characterize the process of going from dissertation topic to finished dissertation strenuous in many ways. In my dissertation work in ancient Egyptian history, I dealt with the death of Dr. William Murnane, my original adviser, as well as changing my dissertation topic and research under the direction of Dr. Peter Brand, Dr. Murnane's replacement. My original topic was an analysis of the royal tombs in the Valley of the Kings, but after returning from a trip to Egypt during the ongoing excavation of the tomb of King Amenmesse (KV 10), I was told by Dr. Peter Brand that the topic was not suitable for a history dissertation, as it was too archaeological in scope. Disappointed, I searched for a new topic. I decided to propose a new topic on the reign of King Amenmesse, whose tomb I had worked in during my season in Egypt. Previous dissertation research in Egyptology on the reign of Amenmesse was largely unfinished, and with so little known about Amenmesse himself, I decided to choose Amenmesse's reign based on questions surrounding his reign. Further urging by Dr. Brand led me to expand my research to include the reign of King Seti II, a ruler contemporary with Amenmesse. My new dissertation topic was tentatively “The Reigns of Amenmesse and Seti II,” and I found out that much of the analysis and research involved would lead to a modification of the topic and eventual completed dissertation.



As I began my research, I discovered that much of the monumental evidence pertaining to the reigns of Amenmesse and Seti II was published without in-depth analysis or discussion of what the monuments contained. One of the many historical questions surrounding the reigns of Amenmesse and Seti II is that Amenmesse may have usurped the throne and controlled part of Egypt during Seti II's six-year reign. Many monuments belonging to these two rulers show clear signs of having their inscriptions erased and replaced, and the more I looked at the monuments of Amenmesse and Seti II, the more I grew convinced that the monuments needed expanded analysis to show what historical evidence they contained. My dissertation then became "The Monuments of Amenmesse and Seti II: A Historical Inquiry," and due to the complexity and quantity of the monumental data, I left out material normally included in reign studies such as an analysis of Amenmesse and Seti II's administration and matters of foreign policy. It seemed as if the task of research and writing would never end, but the goal of completion was successfully achieved with the bestowing of the Ph.D. in December 2010.



Amenmesse

## Shirletta Kinchen

"We want what people generally refer to as Black Power" – the phrasing of that statement intrigued me from the beginning of my research process for my project. It eventually became the title of my dissertation. "We want what people generally refer to as Black Power": Youth and Student Activism and the Impact of the Black Power Movement in Memphis, Tennessee, 1965-1975" examines the impact and the influence of the modern Black Power Movement on African American youth and student activism in Memphis. I argue that Memphis's African American youth and students borrowed from, subscribed to, and amended Black Power ideology to suit their local struggles. They protested and organized using both moderate and radical approaches, localizing the Black Power Movement in their efforts to confront and change conditions on the city campuses and in the community.



The Invaders, a Memphis Black Power group

Writing my dissertation has been the most challenging and rewarding experience in my young academic career. When you are writing about a contemporary topic, there are always people looking over your shoulder – figuratively and literally – to make sure that you are staying true to their story. However, history is its own story – as historians we interpret, analyze, and make sense of the sources. At times the writing process was like having someone dump a 500-piece puzzle in front of me with no picture to guide me through. The feeling I had when sections of the puzzle came together, however, was exhilarating.

Memphis can be an insular community, but once Memphians embrace you, you become family. In an effort to obtain interviews I have sat at family dinners and church services, taken people to the grocery store and to pick up their children from school, and (my favorite) had lunch with them at Gus's Famous Fried Chicken! Sometimes I learned more in the unconventional settings than I did in the traditional interviewer/interviewee setup. I have met some of the nicest and most interesting people during this process. I have been able to have an up-close and personal view of history in a way that I never imagined before I began this project.

I thank my committee, Drs. Goudsouzian (Dr. G!), Potter, Sherman and Bond, for all their support and guidance.