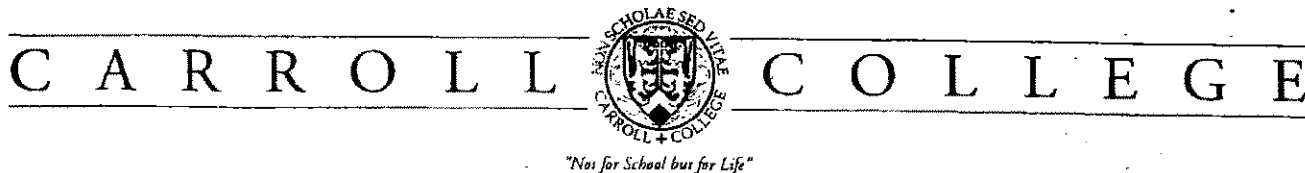


119-2010-R0503 attachment

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February 28, 2003

Dr. Bob Rydell, Chair  
Department of History & Philosophy  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Dr. Rydell:

I have had the opportunity to examine your proposal to establish a Doctor of Philosophy program in History at Montana State University. I strongly support the proposal for three fundamental reasons.

First, the proposal builds on specific and longstanding strengths within the Department of History and Philosophy. Frankly, if you were proposing to offer a Ph.D. in European, East Asian, or Latin American history, I would not support it. Your strengths as a department and as an institution are in precisely the three areas that you have indicated: the history of science, technology, and society; environmental history; and the history of Montana and the West. Indeed, graduate students from across the country often travel to Montana to do research in the facilities we have available in Western and environmental history. You also have sufficient faculty numbers within your department to sustain teaching and research in the three areas noted above.

Second, there is an absence of any quality doctoral programs in History within the northern Rockies and northern Great Plains. In fact, if one were to travel from Pullman, Washington (home of Washington State University), to Minneapolis, Minnesota (home of the University of Minnesota), there would not be a single quality doctoral program available. The University of North Dakota has a small Doctor of Arts program, and the University of Idaho has a very small and under funded Doctor of Philosophy program, but neither of these programs would be equivalent to what you envision. In addition, the doctoral program at the University of Wyoming has fallen on hard times.


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These conditions lead me to my third point. I believe that the type of program you hope to establish would appeal to many Montana historians who wish to pursue a doctoral degree in history—often in the history of Montana and the West—and are now forced to go out of state. I know this for a fact because over the past 25 years I have sent dozens of Carroll graduates to graduate programs all across the country. Many of them would have preferred to stay in Montana for their graduate studies if only a program had been available. Finally, given the fields within which you area focusing, I believe that a significant numbers of out-of-state students—especially from states such as Idaho, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota—would find Montana State University's History program most attractive.

If I can be of any additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Robert R. Swartout, Jr.  
Professor and Chair  
Department of History  
Carroll College

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# MONTANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

225 North Roberts ♦ P.O. Box 201201 ♦ Helena, MT 59620-1201  
♦ (406) 444-2694 ♦ FAX (406) 444-2696 ♦ [www.montanahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org) ♦

February 14, 2003

Dr. Bob Rydell, Chair  
Dept. of History & Philosophy  
Montana State University  
Bozeman MT 59717

Dear Dr. Rydell:

We at the Montana Historical Society were excited to learn of the proposal to establish a Doctor of Philosophy degree program in history in the Department of History & Philosophy at Montana State University, Bozeman.

We are always happy when young Montanans can pursue any degree in history. However, we were extremely delighted to learn that one of the goals is to serve the "history of the American West and Montana." That, of course, is our goal, and any partners we can find to help us achieve that goal are greatly appreciated. I am sure that you are aware that former MSU President Michael Malone was a trustee and great friend of the Montana Historical Society and a leading Montana historian in his own right. This would be a great tribute to his love of Montana and its history.

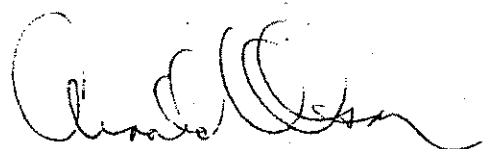
There are many ways that we could and would support this program and help ensure that it truly does become a "world-class" opportunity for your students. We have one of the best research centers on Montana history and the history of the entire American West anywhere in the nation. Our library, archives and photograph archives contain extensive original materials related to western politics, mining, transportation, home steads, and ranching. Our museum also provides a great resource for studying the material cultures of Native Americans and those who came later to their land. Our press, Montana's only academic publisher, also is a nationally recognized publisher of western history books, and would be a natural choice for books resulting from advanced and innovative research at MSU. Our award-winning Montana The Magazine of Western History is considered by the Western History Association and many others to be the best publication on Montana and Western History in the nation. Top historians from across the nation serve on our magazine review board, which would provide outstanding contacts for your advanced students and a showcase for their research.

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Dr. Bob Rydell  
February 14, 2003  
Page 2

In summary, the Montana Historical Society strongly supports and would work with a new doctorate program at MSU. We feel it would be good for Montana history and heritage. Please feel free contact me with any further questions.

Sincerely,



Dr. Arnold Olsen, Director  
Montana Historical Society

TC:rha

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## Montana Committee for the Humanities

*An Affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities*

March 3, 2003

Dr. Bob Rydell, Chair  
Dept. of History & Philosophy  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717

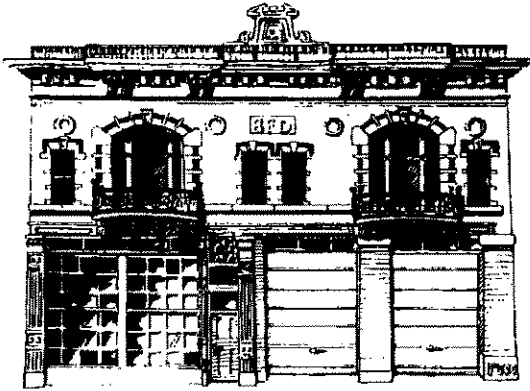
Dear Bob:

Mary Murphy has informed me that the History and Philosophy Department is exploring the possibility of a doctoral program. While my perspective is relatively limited—largely to outreach activities—I wanted to offer my support and encouragement. Historians at Montana State University, as well as other humanities faculty members, are highly regarded and have always been involved significantly in bringing the humanities to the Montana public. A graduate program is a natural step in further recognizing and developing the quality of the department and would bring needed attention to historical studies in Montana and the region. I hope that your proposal will find favor as it is considered within the University and beyond.

Best regards,

Mark A. Sherouse  
Executive Director

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## BUTTE - SILVER BOW PUBLIC ARCHIVES

P.O. Box 81  
17 W. Quartz St.  
Butte, Montana 59703  
Phone: (406) 497-6226

February 28 2003

Dr. Bob Rydell, Chair  
Department of History & Philosophy  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, MT 59717

Dear Dr. Rydell:

I am writing this letter of support for the full implementation of the proposed Philosophy Degree Program in History at Montana State University Bozeman. As the Director of the Butte-Silver Bow Public Archives, we have seen the number of historians hired to research the environmental and social history of our area rise every year. These Historians hail from, all over this country and nary a one from Montana. The number of impressive Masters Level students who have had to leave Montana and the Northwest to complete their PhD Program is astounding.

With the extensive archival holdings in Montana that could provide impressive research opportunities to students at this level would be well worth our time and resources. I would strongly encourage the implementation of a Ph.D. in history at Montana State University.

Sincerely,

Ellen Crain, Director

# FIELD RESEARCH SERVICES

229 ALDERSON AVENUE • BILLINGS, MONTANA 59101 • 406-248-7783 • [sundaypat@juno.com](mailto:sundaypat@juno.com)

February 26, 2003

Dr. Robert Rydell, Chair  
Department of History & Philosophy  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, Montana 59717

Dear Dr. Rydell,

It has come to my attention that the Department of History at MSU is proposing to offer a Ph.D. program. As a partner in a cultural resource firm based in Montana, I can attest to the need for more in-depth scholarly historic research and instruction in our state. I would like to submit this letter of support to your effort in initiating such a program.

In our field, historical research and interpretation is a critical part of the work we do. As awareness and interest in the history of Montana and the American West increases, we find that agencies that contract our services as cultural resource consultants are placing an increased emphasis on historical resources. Consequently, there is also an increased emphasis on the credentials of qualified historians who undertake this work. A doctoral history program such as the one your department is proposing would serve to provide professionals in our field with necessary training and background.

Good luck with your endeavor. If you need to contact me, my number is (406) 248-7783; e-mail is [sundaypat@juno.com](mailto:sundaypat@juno.com).

Sincerely,



Patrick Walker-Kuntz  
Archaeologist, Principal Investigator



## United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PO Box 168  
Yellowstone National Park  
Wyoming 82190

IN REPLY REFER TO:

N2217(YELL)

MAR 24 2003

Dr. Robert Rydell  
Chairman, Department of History & Philosophy  
Montana State University  
Bozeman, Montana 59717

Dear Dr. Rydell:

A member of my staff has brought to my attention your proposal to establish a doctor of philosophy degree program in history. I want to let you know that this initiative could not come at a better time for Yellowstone National Park.

As you know, over the past decade we have greatly expanded our involvement with the university community in many disciplines. But our humanities-based programs have received special attention, as is evidenced by the growing number of Montana State University students who have made the Yellowstone region the focus of their research. Just ten years ago, a major administrative restructuring enabled us to launch a Cultural Resources Branch within the Yellowstone Center for Resources. That branch has flourished, and we are currently building a large new facility, our Heritage and Research Center, at Gardiner, Montana, to house the park's world-class museum, library, and archives collections. We plan several new staff positions so that the Heritage Center can best serve the public; no doubt those staff will be interested in your program as well.

The resources being managed and developed under these programs are ripe for scholarly attention. The Heritage Center will greatly enhance our capacity for internships and other special programs. Just the archives alone, consisting of hundreds of shelf-feet of administrative records, contain the raw material for uncounted doctoral dissertations. Your areas of special interest, in the history of science and technology, environmental history, and the history of the American West, are a perfect fit for the areas of knowledge represented by the Yellowstone collections.

We congratulate you on this proposal, and look forward to playing a role in satisfying the research and advisory needs of the students you are sure to attract.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Lewis  
Superintendent