Swindlers, spies, rebels: American women you should know

Kathleen DeGrave speaks fondly of the real-life characters in her latest book, almost as if many of them were old acquaintances from days long gone. But these women died long ago and DeGrave points out that while she finds them endlessly interesting, some of these women broke the law, some were violent and many came to untimely ends.

DeGrave’s book, “Swindler, Spy, Rebel: The Confidence Woman in Nineteenth-Century America,” is a literary history of some of the most colorful but least well known figures in American history.

DeGrave, an associate professor in the English Department, became interested in a group of women she describes as “confidence women” when she was studying for her PhD.

“I read a really good book about the confidence men in American literature,” DeGrave said. “The thing I noticed was that not one woman was mentioned.”

DeGrave said the omission of women in this area bothered her because, in many ways, confidence men exhibited many of the traits that have become known as part of the “American spirit -- American ingenuity.”

DeGrave believes that confidence women have been overlooked in the pages of American history because they don’t fit the image that America has of the 19th century woman. The woman of that day, DeGrave said, was seen as pious, domestic and pure.

“She was the keeper of the values,” DeGrave said.

In her pursuit of the 19th century confidence woman, DeGrave used a variety of sources, including detective reports, autobiographies, diaries, sociological studies and newspaper accounts. The result is a colorful account of the lives of some very interesting women.

U.S. looks different after a year in Russia

After 10 months teaching and doing research in the former Soviet Union, Dr. Harry L. Humphries, associate professor in the PSU Department of Social Science, returned to Pittsburg last year with a better understanding not only of the Russian people, but of his own culture.

Cultural exchange and breaking down barriers between nations are really what the Fulbright Fellowships are all about, Humphries said. Humphries was one of two Pittsburg State University faculty to win Fulbright Fellowships in 1994-'95. The other was Thimios Zaharopoulos, from the Communication Department.

Humphries’ interest in Russia goes back to 1992 when he received a
DeGrave (from pg. 1)

Among them are people like “Chicago May” Churchill, who lived a very violent life and spent many years in prison, and Sophie Lyons, who lured wealthy men to her hotel room where they lost not only their money, but - sometimes even their clothes. Perhaps more ingenious were characters like Cassie Chadwick, who pretended to be the illegitimate daughter of Andrew Carnegie. Chadwick’s con game was so effective that she lived very well for a decade off money she obtained from banks that expected Carnegie to make good his daughter’s debts.

Not all of the characters DeGrave described were criminals. In fact, some of them operated out of the most altruistic of motives. Loreta Janeta Velazquez, for example, longed to share the glory and excitement of fighting in the Civil War. In order to do so, she dressed like a man, practiced the walk and even got a friend to accompany her to saloons where she studied the habits of men. Velazquez then bought herself a battalion and joined the war on the side of the South. In her autobiography, Velazquez describes fighting along side her fiancé, Harry T. Buford. Emma Edmunds, a spy for the North, dressed like a man to be a soldier, but also served as a female nurse and disguised herself as a black female cook, depending upon the need at the time. Ellen Kraft, a very light skinned black woman, escaped to the North disguised as a white man. She brought her husband along as a black servant.

In the second part of “Swindler, Spy, Rebel,” DeGrave examines the confidence woman in fiction.

“There are just a couple of criminal confidence women in stories written by men,” DeGrave said. “Generally, men in literature are allowed to have a range of personality that women are not allowed to have. Women are not supposed to be adventurers and tricksters.”

DeGrave said she tried to write the book in a style that would appeal to the “lay person.”

“I figure this is something that people ought to know about,” DeGrave said. “I hope people enjoy reading these stories. Some are really funny.”

“Swindler, Spy, Rebel: The Confidence Woman in Nineteenth-Century America,” is available through local bookstores or directly from the University of Missouri Press.

Festival honors new organ

The Department of Music has planned an organ festival March 11-13 to dedicate the new organ in McCray Hall. The celebration of Fisk Opus 106 will focus on performance and teaching. Major events in the celebration will be recitals by Yuko Hayashi, Douglas Reed and Louis Robilliard. Completing the festival will be demonstrations and tours of Fisk Opus 106 and other special events, including an opening choral/organ concert of 20th century repertoire directed by Susan Marchant and accompanied by Marie Rubis Bauer.

A brochure with complete information, ticket and registration prices and other important information about the festival is available from the Department of Music.

Taylor writes piece for Carneige debut

Stephen Taylor, an assistant professor of music theory and composition in the Department of Music, has been selected from more than 400 American composers to write a 10-minute score that will be performed in May by the American Composers Orchestra. The concert featuring his work, entitled “Unapproachable Light,” will be performed in New York’s Carnegie Hall. Taylor will attend the concert and will be available to answer questions from the audience.

Taylor earned a bachelor of music degree with distinction in composition in 1987 from Northwestern University, he earned a master of fine arts degree in composition in 1990 from the California Institute of the Arts and a doctor of musical arts degree in composition in 1994 from Cornell University.

Grant aids Biology

The Biology Department received a matching National Science Foundation grant to purchase and install an Atomic Absorbance Spectrophotometer and dual beam IR-VIS-UV spectrophotometer in the physiology labs. These instruments are used primarily by PSU students. Both are also available to local science teachers and their students to complete research projects for science fairs and other events.

‘Pre-dental students move on

A recent survey of students graduating from Pittsburg State’s Pre-Dental track in 1993-1995 revealed that 80 percent were currently in professional schools. Those students include: Marla Brown, Nancy Khachi, Michael Morgan, Mitchell Gadow, Linda Bettencourt, Robin Wood, Janis Warford and Kyle Vogel.
PSU hosts Kansas' brightest

Don Viney, second row, sixth from left, is surrounded by some of the brightest young people in Kansas. Viney helped teach the Kansas Regents Honors Academy on the PSU campus last summer.

One hundred and forty two honors students from Kansas high schools converged on the PSU campus last summer to participate in the Regent's Honors Academy. This year's academy focused on the theme, "Rights, Resources and Responsibilities in the Twenty-First Century." Each morning, for a month, students met for a core course lecture and discussion. In the afternoon, students convened in smaller groups to attend companion courses specially designed for the academy by PSU faculty.

The academy provided an intellectually stimulating environment as both students and faculty were challenged by diverse philosophical and political perspectives. Required reading for the core course included Francis Fukayama's "The End of History and the Last Man" and Charles Hartshorne's "Wisdom as Moderation: A Philosophy of the Middle Way." In addition, students met Kansas Gov. Bill Graves and they discussed current issues with Sen. Nancy Kassebaum through interactive video.

Paul Smith, Foreign Language, and Peggy Haller, Continuing Studies, coordinated the academy. Most of the faculty who taught for the academy were from the College of Arts and Sciences. Carol MacKay, Foreign Language; Donald Viney, Philosophy; Paul Zagorski, Political Science; and Thimios Zaharopoulos, Communication; had the lion's share of the core course. All companion courses were taught by Arts and Science faculty: Jim Triplett, Biology; Elwyn Davis, Mathematics; Jo McDougall, English; Barry Bengtson, Communication; Stephen Teller, English; and Wayne Busby, Social Work.

Students made their own imaginative contributions to the academy. Two students operated a radio station in their dorm room, Radio 97.3 KRAP, and broadcast a call-in show during their free hours. A dance and a talent show, in which some faculty participated, were also part of the fun. Finally, with the help of David Kynci of Student Publications, the students edited an attractive 24-page memory book complete with photographs of each participant and articles written by the students themselves.

Alumnus helps plug border leaks

A Pittsburg State alumnus, has played an important role in the development of a system that could significantly reduce the amount of illegal cargo that crosses U.S. borders. Andrew Johnson, who received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry from PSU in 1963, is the senior project manager for Analytical Systems Engineering Corp. (ASEC) in Burlington, Mass.

As early as 1985, ASEC began providing engineering services to the U.S. government as it turned to non-invasive technologies to enforce the Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty. An even bigger problem for the government, however, has been finding ways to deter the flow of contraband, including weapons, drugs and other illegitimate material, across U.S. borders. Currently, inspectors open and inspect 1 or 2 percent of the 8,500,000 containers that cross U.S. borders each year. It is a time consuming, labor intensive and inefficient process.

ASEC has tested and demonstrated a high-energy x-ray system that can reliably detect variations between documented and actual cargo, reliably detect contraband hidden within the cargo, allow more thorough and faster cargo inspection, allow the inspection of a significantly greater percentage of cargo and reduce inspection costs. The new cargo inspection system is similar to the x-ray baggage inspection systems used today in airports, but on a much larger scale.

As the amount of world trade continues to rise, this new, non-intrusive inspection system, which can handle containers as big as semi-trailers and buses, has great potential, both in the U.S. and in other countries.

Johnson directed the design, construction and operation of high energy x-ray imaging facilities in (see Johnson, pg. 8)
Humphries (from pg. 1)
letter from Professor Alexander Salagaev, the head of the Sociological Research Laboratory at Kazan State University, who expressed an interest in Western sociology, particularly in the way Western society deals with youth problems. Humphries wrote back to Salagaev and the correspondence led to an invitation from the Russians to Humphries to attend a conference on youth problems in Kazan and Tatarstan and in Russia.

Humphries attended the weeklong conference in February 1993.

“During that time,” Humphries recalled, “there were severe food shortages. It was a low point in Russia. It is only since that time that I have found out just what a sacrifice it was for the Russians to bring me there.”

That conference nurtured the new relationship between Humphries and his colleagues in Russia.

“When it was time to leave, I told Sasha (Salagaev’s nickname) I would do what I could to return,” Humphries said.

At the time, however, it didn’t seem likely that the money would be available for any additional collaboration between the Russians and the Americans. Then Humphries received information on the Fulbright Fellowships, which are designed to allow American scholars an opportunity for an intensive experience teaching and researching in other countries. The grants are very competitive, Humphries said. Nearly 7,000 apply for the 800 fellowships available each year.

Humphries spent about a month working on his application, but the effort paid off. He won one of the coveted fellowships and in August of 1994, Humphries was on his way to Washington, D.C., for an orientation session for new Fulbright Fellows.

Humphries’ first stop in Russia was in Moscow, where he was met by a delegation from Kazan State University, where he would be teaching. After a few days in Moscow, Humphries and his new colleagues boarded an over-night train for the 500-mile journey eastward to Kazan.

Kazan, known as the Pearl of the Islamic faith in Russia, sits on the confluence of the Kama and Volga Rivers. Although it has a population of more than 1 million people, it still seems “like a large village,” according to Humphries.

In Kazan, Humphries first lived with his friend, Sasha, but after a couple of weeks settled into his own small apartment. Humphries’ class schedule was soon arranged and both interpreters and translators were assigned to him.

“I taught Research Methods,” Humphries said. “It was the first time that had ever been taught there...My presence was very important because it was the first time they had ever had a Western sociologist teaching Western sociology.”

In addition to Research Methods, Humphries also taught the Sociology of Work and Introduction to Sociology. His primary duties were at Kazan State University, but he also taught at another (see Humphries, facing page)
Humphries (from previous page)
college in Kazan. Humphries also spent a considerable time collecting data on juvenile delinquency, youth problems and institutional holding centers for youth.

An important part of the experience was outside of his teaching duties and research, Humphries said. He worked hard to become involved in the community, beginning to learn Russian, shopping in the markets and never turning down an invitation to speak.

Although American visitors are more common in cities such as Moscow, in Kazan they are still somewhat rare.

“As an American, I was still quite an anomaly,” Humphries said, so there was a good deal of interest in him. “I never said ‘no’ to any invitation.”

He found the Russian and Tatar people to be very friendly, “not unlike many Americans,” and they shared with Americans a view of the other that was sometimes distorted by politics.

“The Russians,” Humphries said, “are still deeply suspicious of the Americans and their motives.”

The Fulbright program helps break through some of those suspicions, Humphries said.

“That’s what it’s all about – learning about them and them learning about us,” he said.

While Humphries noted the great cultural differences between the U.S. and Russia, he observed that in many ways, students are the same the world over.

“They have the same questions, the same worries, the same concerns,” Humphries said. Any difference, he said, might be that American students, like all Americans, probably take much of what they have for granted.

“Travel, access to resources, opportunities,” Humphries said, “are all expected here. In Russia, that’s just not the case. The U.S. is a modern world. Russia is still stuck in the past.”

For Humphries, the Fulbright Fellowship and his 10 months in Russia were “a life-changing experience.”

“I look at America differently now,” Humphries said. "If you are away from America for any length of time, you can not but look at your culture differently.”

PLANNED GIVING OPTIONS
AT PITTSBURG STATE UNIVERSITY
EVERYONE NEEDS A WILL
More than one-half of the adults in this country do not have wills. That is an astonishing fact. A will is the appropriate means of disposition of property after death. All of us who want to make our own decisions about this matter should have wills. In the absence of a will, the state will make decisions concerning a person’s assets. If you already have a will, you should remember to review it periodically. You should be certain that your will reflects current concerns and desires. It is especially important for you to review your will if you have moved from another state since your will was drawn. You will want to confer with an attorney to make sure that your will conforms to new state laws.

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Gifts that are made through wills--have always been a very important source of income for charitable organizations in this country. Pittsburg State University is no exception. A person’s will usually reflects the interests, affections and convictions of a lifetime. The Pittsburg State University Foundation, Inc., is the appropriate organization to receive bequests to benefit the university. The tax identification number is 48-610-4332.

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For more information on planned giving options, contact the Pittsburg State University Foundation
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phone: 316/235-4768.
Alumni News

Don Miller, BS ’64 and MS ’69, is a teacher and coach for USD #234. He was selected as the Kansas Council for the Social Studies Teacher of the Year in 1994. He was one of 15 selected for Kansas Horizonal Grant study in July 1995. And he was awarded the 1994 Clyde U. Phillips Teacher Award. His wife, Shawnenne, BS ’63, is also a teacher for USD #234. Their daughter, Tanya, graduated with a BA ’87. The couple lives in Fort Scott, Kan.

Danna Coulter Merritt, BS ’67, Troy, Mich., received the Social Worker of the Year Award from the National Hemophilia Foundation in October 1994. She is currently writing a parenting program for parents of children with chronic conditions. She earned her MSW in 1994 from WSU in Detroit.

Brent B. Gooding, BA ’72, is a U.S. Navy Captain in Norfolk, Va. He was selected for major command last fall and will become a Squadron Commodore next summer. He was also awarded the Bronze Star with combat “V” for Desert Storm participation as commanding officer of USS Caron (DD 970). He and his wife, Mary J. Hart Gooding, BS ’70, have been married 23 years and have two children, Heather and Christopher.

Cathy Campbell, BSN ’73, is an Assistant Professor at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga School of Nursing, teaching family nursing. She has since married Steve Fisher and moved to Duluth, Ga.

Sue (Tindle) Unruh, BSN ’73, received her MSN from the University of Texas and is presently an assistant administrator/patient care services at Memorial Hospital in Manhattan, Kan.

Jane Barnard Williamson, BSEd ’73, Rose Hill, Kan., completed in May 1995 a MLS at Emporia State University. She is a High School Media Specialist at Rose Hill High School.

Leona (Lust) Beezley, BSN ’75, directs the Mary Grimes School of Nursing, Bilevel Nursing Program at Neosho County Community College.

Joan (Kipp) Lurue, BSN ’75, married shortly after graduating to Dale and lives in Moran, Kan. They have two children, Jonathan age 12 and Jacqueline age 9. She obtained her MSN from Kansas University in 1984 and is teaching at Neosho County Community College.

Thomas Lofton, BSN ’75, Irvine, California, is in seminary school hoping to be ordained as a Methodist minister.

Bert A. Lucas, MS ’76, is the exam chairperson, Counseling Psychology, American Board of Professional Psychology. He completed his PhD at Kansas State University in 1979. He is a Chief Psychologist. His wife, Elizabeth Hendrickson Lucas, BS ’77, completed her MS degree at South Illinois University in 1981. She is a teacher. They reside in Sanford, N.C.

Rod Percy, BS ’76, works as a social worker for the State of Missouri, in Butler, Mo. His wife Loretta is also a social worker in Nevada, Mo. They live in Nevada.

Joan (Dyrdek) Reed, BSN ’76, has finished her Masters of Science Administration (Health Adm). She is the owner and operator of her own home health service called Caring Hearts, Inc.

Jean M.S. Burnette, BSN ’77, retired from the U.S. Air Force on January 1, 1995. She broke her right wrist on January 8, 1995 falling from a motorcycle. Her recovery process is ongoing. Retirement is a new adventure.

Rita (Byler) May, BSN ’77, has announced the birth of a son, Anthony Michael May, on January 12, 1995. He has a sister Katy, who is three.

Joann Thomas, BSN ’79, is employed by Health Midwest in Kansas City, Mo. She is the Chief Operating Officer at Allen County Hospital. She is also
involved in a private consulting business, Executive Rural Nurses, Inc.

Rhonda (Worchester) Atkinson, BSN ’80, received her MSN from the University of Texas at Arlington. She spends her time with two sons and one daughter and substituting for the school nurses in the Burleson ISD.

Tami (Albertini) Brumbaugh, BSN ’81, is working 3-11 in ED at Mt. Carmel Hospital in Pittsburg and enjoying it.

Vesta (Hoseney) Danielson, BSN ’81, began teaching at Neosho County Community College in 1989. She received her MSN in 1989 from Kansas University.


Beverly (Laver) Roush, BSN ’82, obtained MSN from Kansas University in 1992. She continues to teach at Mary Grimes School of Nursing at Neosho County Community College.

Kimberly Morgan Easter, BSE ’83, is a Home Economics teacher at North Middle School in Joplin, Mo. She also gives workshops for new home economics teachers. She and her husband, Douglas, have one daughter, Chelsey, who is 3 years old.

Steven C. Ortiz, BFA ’84 and MA ’91, recently completed a master of fine arts degree at Kansas University in metalsmithing. He will be teaching at the Wichita Center for the Arts in Wichita, Kan. He and his wife relocated in June from Lawrence to Wichita.

Monta Coffman Bode, BA ’86, is a stay-at-home mom with two daughters, Bailey (23 mo.) and Sabrina (4 mo.). Her husband, Steve, is a KU graduate and is an electrical engineer with Ericsson/GE. They live in Overland Park, Kan.

Sheryl Phipps, BSN ’86, is presently a certified oncology nurse in charge of running the outpatient oncology clinic for the Veteran’s Administration Medical Center in Houston, Texas.

Renee (Willingham) Hamilton, BSN ’87, finished her masters and works in recovery. She has a daughter and is expecting another.

Colletta L. (Myers) Nelson, BSN ’87, is still teaching at Mary Grimes School of Nursing at Neosho County Community College. She is planning to semi-retire on Sept. 30, 1995.

Polly Rice, BSN ’87, is in Wichita, ARNP, in cooperative practice with a psychiatrist doing some case management.

Liz Follis, BSN ’88, is in the OR at St. John’s, Joplin, Mo., PRN only. She teaches psychology for NEO and attends graduate school at Oklahoma University.

E. Christopher Lewis, BS ’89, completed his first year of residency in June 1995 at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss. He is now a second year Internal Medicine Resident. He and his wife, Lisa Armer Lewis, BBA ’90, live in Rochester, Mich.

Deb Murphy, BSN ’89, Colorado Springs, High Risk Neonatal/OB.

Jody Wood, BSN ’89, works in Coffeyville, has a 5-year-old daughter and an 18 month old son.

Rita Byfield, BSN ’90, as of September ‘94 became a professor of nursing in a new AND-RN program at Bartlesville Wesleyan College, and a second year coordinator of AND program.

Gretchen Murray Caudell, BA ’90, St. Charles, Mo., is a social work coordinator for Psychiatric Services (Public Relations). She is completing an MBA degree at Lindenwood College. She is on the State Advisory Board for Community Prevention of AIDS/HIV, Family Stress Council. Her goals are to establish a Foundation for Children and Families.

Patrick O’Meara, BA ’90, is employed in sales and marketing in Oxford, Mich. He and his wife, Rose, have a 3-year-old daughter, Annalise. After five years, O’Meara reports, “School was well worth it!”

Kim Williamson, BSN ’90, was married last April, works at St. Francis CCU, Tulsa and plans to attend veterinarian school in Stillwater, Okla.

Lisa Combs, BSN ’91 is an assistant nurse manager unit 41 at KUMC from 1991 to present. She works in the BI, pulmonary, infectious disease, and adult medicine unit.

Lt. Angela Highberger, BSN ’91, has worked as a staff nurse at Naval Medical Center in San Diego, Ca. She has recently accepted orders to serve in Japan.

Ted Walker, BSN ’91, LTJS in USPHS, Assistant Manager of OR/CSR, RNC in Med-surg. He has a 15-month-old girl, Victoria Ashley. He has been accepted for publication and is awaiting printing.

Norman Conard, MA ‘92, is a social studies teacher at Uniontown High School in Uniontown, Kan. He was chosen as the Outstanding Teacher in Kansas for 1995 by Kansas History Day. He had also been appointed to the National History Day Board of Directors in College Park, Md. He is the first teacher to receive an appointment to the national board. He was also named the National Social Studies Teacher of the Year for secondary schools by the National Council for the Social Studies. The award was presented at the 74th national conference in Phoenix. He currently lives in Fort Scott, Kan.

continued
No news isn’t always good news!
Please drop us a line and let us know about your latest endeavors.

Mail to:
Newsletter Editor,
Universitas
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Pittsburg, Kansas 66762-7531

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Occupation(s): your’s __________________
spouse’s ________________________________
Children ______________________________

News _____________________________________________

*The PSU Alumni Association is compiling a list of veterans. Your help is appreciated.

Johnson (from pg. 3)
Houston and Tacoma, Wash. He is also directing the design and integration of a mobile medium-energy x-ray system to be deployed and tested on the southwestern border of the U.S. Johnson has 20 years of experience as a logistics expert with the Army, which includes testing, transportation, maintenance and security of nuclear weapons.

He and his wife, Annette, have three children. Tracey (Johnson) Stanlewicz is married and living in Ludlow, Mass. Wendy was married to Tim Dogherty last May and a son, Philip, who is currently a student at Pittsburg State.

Alumni News continued

Marcelle (Heflin) Slobaszewski, BSN ‘92, was married in May 1993 to John. They live in Laramie, Wy, where she practices on the orthopedic/surgical floor of Ivinson Memorial Hospital.

Connie L. Green, BSN ‘93, is a clinical nurse at St. John’s Medical Center in Joplin, Mo. She is also a case manager for the SEK area Agency on Aging for C.A.R.E. Assessments program in Crawford and Cherokee counties.

Machelle Hartley, BSN ‘93, is currently employed at St. John’s Medical Center in Joplin, Mo. She had a baby on May 27, 1994, Jessica Ruth Hartley.

Tricia Herold, BSN ‘93, invites us to Branson, Mo. where she is managing Appletree Mall. Loves it!

Greg Powers, BSN ‘93, is working in an emergency/trauma unit. He received his CEN in February 1995.

Rebecca Swaney, MS ‘93, Fenton, Mo., is a National Park ranger at the Arch in St. Louis, Mo. She attended a program at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Georgia and returned to St. Louis in June.

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