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## EDITORS' NOTE

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As careful readers of *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* already know, 2012 was the inaugural year for a new and we hope enduring publishing partnership between the Kansas Historical Foundation and the Chapman Center for Rural Studies at Kansas State University ([k-state.edu/history/chapman/journal.html](http://k-state.edu/history/chapman/journal.html)). The editorial office moved to Manhattan, where we have lots of support, while copy editing and production remained in Topeka with associate editor Melissa Tubbs Loya. The university staff includes our managing editor, James E. Sherow, professor of history; book review editor, Derek S. Hoff, associate professor of history; and two KSU graduate editorial assistants whose services are proving essential. I now serve as the journal's consulting editor, responsible for working with authors and peer reviewers, who help us determine which manuscripts

are suitable for publication in *Kansas History*. Everyone in the Manhattan office, who quickly learned what I have known for more than five years, agrees that Melissa is the one indispensable part of the new operation. Her expertise, experience, and dedication to sound scholarship, design, and editorial detail make us all look good.

We also remain grateful for the many fine scholars whose commitment to historical research and writing give us a reason for being. Every year, of course, the Kansas Historical Society recognizes one of those contributors with the presentation of the Edgar Langsdorf Award for Excellence in Writing. This year's very deserving winner was Benjamin W. Goossen for his article "'Like a Brilliant Thread': Gender and Vigilante Democracy in the Kansas Coalfield, 1921–1922," published in our autumn 2011 issue ([kshs.org/17303](http://kshs.org/17303)). "Like a Brilliant Thread" was selected from a strong field by the Langsdorf committee, chaired this year by Dan Holt, and the award was presented at the Foundation's annual meeting on November 2, 2012.

The author, a native Kansan and student at Swarthmore College in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, explored the rogue coal strike of 1921 that brought mine production in Kansas—the nation's third largest producer of coal—to an uncertain halt and was undertaken especially by the women of the Kansas coal camps. In southeast Kansas

they stepped in to prevent an escalation of violence in their district but also to keep strikebreakers from reopening closed Kansas mines. In "Like a Brilliant Thread," Ben analyzed the women's ideologically charged rhetoric and the national controversy they generated—from debates about American socialism to increasingly public roles for women. Focusing on the political dimensions of the march, the author convincingly argued that the women's vigilantism constituted a radical and unorthodox form of democratic participation.

In closing, we are pleased to welcome Bonnie Lynn-Sherow, director of the Chapman Center for Rural Studies and associate professor of history at KSU, to the editorial advisory board, and I would like to extend a "thank you" to several dozen anonymous readers who, along with the members of our board, evaluated last year's manuscript submissions. Sadly, we must also mention the passing of another great friend of the editors, *Kansas History*, and the Kansas Historical Society. Dr. James L. Forsythe, who died on December 16, 2011, was for many years a professor of history at Fort Hays State University and a member of our editorial advisory board, as well as a past president (1983) and member of the executive committee of the KSHS. His thoughtful advice and council, always kindly and generously offered, have been and will be missed.

*Virgil W. Dean*  
Consulting Editor



*Ben Goossen (left), the winner of the 2012 Langsdorf Award for Excellence in Writing, with consulting editor Virgil Dean.*