TIFFANY FINK, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY

My name is Tiffany Fink. I am a native of Fort Worth, Texas, but have lived in Abilene and taught at HSU since 2001. My husband and I have two wonderful children and are active in the community of Abilene as volunteers in a variety of ways including our local church congregation, public school system, youth sports associations, arts programs and the local library consortium.

The historian’s craft is to research, discuss, interpret, and write about the intricacies of the past while simultaneously hoping for the future. I have been teaching American history at the collegiate level since 1996. I hold four college degrees, each with an emphasis in the discipline of History. My areas of expertise include the histories of the American West, Texas, and Latin America (especially Mexico). History is a subject about which I am deeply passionate.

For over a century, West Texas has been a wonderful place for people to dig in their heels and produce wonderful scholarship. For me, West Texas serves as a place which holds great meaning for me on personal and profession levels. In the course of my continuing research and writing about history, my attention remains focused on the meaning of place for different cultural groups.

In 2009, the university awarded me a sabbatical leave of absence during which I explored human attachment to place throughout the seven states of the American Southwest. God’s world is beautiful and the American Southwest has no shortage of His expressions of beauty. In my personal relationship with Jesus Christ, I am encouraged and instructed through prayer, study of God’s Word, interaction with His people and by simply spending time enjoying the world He created.

I take very seriously the call to teach at Hardin-Simmons University, where the faculty, staff and administration seek to offer an education enlightened by faith. I have high expectations for the students and challenge them to think more clearly and critically about the world and develop their own ideas and impressions of that world within a historical framework. Such skills will assist students in every endeavor they undertake in the future. I assure you that history is still a vibrant and applicable field of study. A sound understanding of our past remains essential to success in any field.

Dr. Fink delivers her presidential address, entitled “West Texas Women: Defining Freedom Beyond the Hundredth Meridian,” at the 87th Annual Meeting of the West Texas Historical Association.

Tiffany Fink pictured with her husband and fellow HSU faculty member, Dr. Rob C. Fink, with whom she co-authored Love Unbounded: The Influence of First Baptist Church on Abilene, Texas (State House Press, a partner in the consortium of Texas A & M University Press, 2008).

Dressed in Renaissance-period attire, Tiffany Fink shares cultural history as well as cupcakes with students at a local elementary school.