Curriculum Vitae

KEVIN SCOTT FONTENOT

Contact Information

Home: 916 S Brazos St, Lockhart TX 78644

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Academic Training

Louisiana College, BA 1989 History, magna cum laude

University of London, 1989, LC-MC Study Abroad Program

Tulane University, MA 2008, History

Thesis title: Somebody Friendly for Governor: The Early Life of Jimmie Davis

Tulane University, PhD, ABD, fall 2012, History

Dissertation title: The Singing Governor: An Interpretive Life of Jimmie Davis

Teaching Experience

Texas State University, Department of History, Instructor 2026-present

Tulane University, Department of History, Instructor & Visiting Professor

Tulane University, School of Continuing Studies, Instructor

John Dyer Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2007

Distinguished Faculty Award for Teaching , 2003

Austin Independent School District

Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders, base substitute teacher

Honors

Fellow of the East Texas Historical Association, 2025

Ann Richards Legacy Award, Ann Richards Foundation, 2021

Publications (selected)

Books:

Accordions, Fiddles, Two-Step and Swing: A Cajun Music Reader edited with Ryan A. Brasseaux, Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, 2006.

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Articles & Book Chapters:

"You Can't Go Wrong if You Play It Right: Cajun Music and Zydeco," in *Ethnic and Border Music*, edited Norm Cohen. Westport: Greenwood Press, 2007.

"Leo Soileau: Cajun Fusionist" in *Louisiana Fiddlers*, edited by Ron Yule. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2009.

"Cleoma Breaux Falcon and the Commercialization of Cajun Music," with Ryan A. Brasseaux, in *Louisiana Women* edited by Janet Allured and Judith Gentry. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2009.

"Sing It Good, Sing It Strong, Sing It Loud: The Music of Governor Jimmie Davis," in *Shreveport Sounds in Black and White*, edited by Kip Lornell & Tracey Laird. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2008.

"You Can't Fight a Song: Country Music in the Campaigns of Jimmie Davis," *Journal of Country Music* XXV:2 (2007) p, 50-59.

"Dear Ivan: Country Music Perspectives on the Soviet Union and the Cold War," *Country Music Goes to War*, edited by Charles K. Wolfe and James E. Akenson. Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2005, pp. 143-151.

"Country Music's Confederate Grandfather: Henry C. Gilliland," *Country Music Annual 2001*, edited by Charles K. Wolfe and James E. Akenson. Lexington: University Press, 2001, pp. 189-208.

CD liner notes:

Various, *Music of Morocco: Recorded by Paul Bowles, 1959*, Dust to Digital, 2016. (Photographic research).

Various, *The Year of Jubilo*, Dust to Digital, 2015.

Lost Bayou Ramblers, *Vermillionaire*, 2008.

Governor Jimmie Davis, *Louisiana*, Bloodshot Records, 2000.

Documentary Film commentary:

Been Down that Muddy Road: The Legend of Joe Barry

A Century of Sunshine: The Jimmie Davis Story

Making Waves: Louisiana Radio Story

Encyclopedia contributions (list of entries available upon request):

Encyclopedia of American Gospel Music

Encyclopedia of the Blues

Encyclopedia of the Confederacy

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Handbook of Texas

Handbook of Texas Music

Dictionary of Louisiana Biography

Encyclopedia of Oklahoma History and Culture

Conference Presentations (Recent)

"Midnight Cowboy: Bill Mack and the Transformation of Country Radio," East Texas Historical Association, Nagodoches, Texas, 2025.

"God's Fiddler: J. B. Cranfill and the Sacralization of Texas Fiddling," East Texas Historical Association, Nagodoches, Texas, 2024.

"Let's Go Zydeco: The Lost Years of an American Music 1938-1954," East Texas Historical Association, Nagodoches, Texas, October, 2018.

"Uncle Henry and Captain Mose: New Insight on Two Country Music Pioneers," International Country Music Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, June, 2017.

"The Original and Famous Texas Cowboy Pianist: A. O. Babel and the Origins of the Cowboy Musician," Central Texas Historical Association, April 2017.

"A Babel of Confused Noises: The Career of Colonel Amandus Oscar Babel, the Original and Famous Texas Cowboy Pianist," International Country Music Conference, May 2016.

"Stout and High: Country Music Remembers the Alamo," Texas Identity: The Search for an Elusive Spirit, Central Texas Historical Association 2016 Spring Symposium, Blinn College, Bryan, Texas.

"Our Senator Huey P. Long: Country Music and Louisiana's Kingfish," New Deal Symposium, Fort Worth, Texas, June 2015.

"Gator Man: Jimmy C Newman and Cajun Music on the National Scene," International Country Music Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, May 2015.

"Mill Town Music," West Georgia Textile Heritage Trail Conference, Dalton, Georgia, March, 2015.

"Still in Saigon: Country Music and the Vietnam War," Gulf South History and Humanities Conference, Galveston, Texas, October, 2014.

"Voices Unheard: William Owens' Cajun Field Recordings and their Forgotten Legacy," East Texas Historical Association, October, 2014.

"The Small Man: Marty Robbins' Western Novel," International Country Music Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, May 2014.

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"You Have to Have an Accordion in the Band," Louisiana Historical Association, Hammond, Louisiana, March 2013.

"If Mommy Didn't Sing: The Songs of Betty Amos," International Country Music Conference, Nashville, Tennessee, May 2013.

"A Conversation with Betty Amos, Judy Lee, and Jean Amos," Moderator, Country Music Hall of Fame, Nashville, Tennessee, October 13, 2012.

"You Must Destroy this Record: William Owens' 1937 and 1938 Cajun Field Recording Sessions," Louisiana Studies Conference, September 2012.

"Hey Buddy, All I Can Hear Is Your Lips Flappin': The Country and Gospel Music Career of Terry Bradshaw," International Country Music Conference, May 2012.

"Pickled to Death or How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Fell In Love with Kellie Pickler," International Country Music Conference, May 2011.

"Fiddling the Union Back Together: Colonel John Pattee and the Old Soldier Fiddlers," International Country Music Conference, May 2010.

"Saturday Night on Bayou Pom Pom: Hank Williams and Louisiana," Louisiana Historical Association, March 2010.

"Joseph Roach and His 'Cajan' Record" (with Patrick Huber) International Country Music Conference, May 2009.

"La Valse de Platin: Crowley as a Cajun Music Center, 1920-1950," at "The Train Just Don't Stop Here Anymore: An Interdisciplinary Colloquium on the Soundscapes of Rural and Small Town America" Millikin University, April 2009.

Complete list of presentations and multimedia projects available upon request.

Memberships

Louisiana Historical Association (life member)

Positions held: Board of Directors, Program Chairman, Publications Committee

East Texas Historical Association

Positions held: Membership Committee

Central Texas Historical Association

Positions held: Membership Committee, Symposium Program chairman

Southern Historical Association

Positions held: Local Arrangements Committee

Association of Recorded Sound Collections

ODK, Sigma Tau Delta

University Courses Taught

Louisiana History

Cajun History

History of Country Music

Cajun and Creole Music

Grand Canyon Colloquium

War and National Policy to 1898

War and National Policy 1900 to 1990

War and National Policy Since 1945

United States History to 1865

United States History Since 1865