



Footnotes

Fall 2023

An Annual News Update for Friends of the WMU Department of History

Volume 18, Issue 1

Dr. Hanmo Zhang Receives 2023 History Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. Hanmo Zhang traveled back to Kalamazoo from Beijing this past October 13th to receive the 2023 Department of History Alumni Achievement Award. The award is given annually to a distinguished alumnus, nominated by the History faculty, to recognize contributions to both academia and community. The College of Arts and Sciences hosted all departments' honorees at a ceremony and brunch held at Miller Auditorium on campus.



Dr. Hanmo Zhang

Zhang graduated with an M.A. from Western Michigan University in 2005. Zhang received his Ph.D in 2012 from UCLA and went on to teach both there and at the State University of New York at New Paltz. Since 2016, he has been teaching at Renmin University of China, Beijing, one of the top universities for the study of social sciences and humanities.



Drs. Borish and Zhang and Dean Carla Koretsky

Since Zhang joined the WMU academic community to be trained in pre-modern Chinese history, he has published broadly in both English and Chinese on early Chinese history, literature, thinking, textual culture, and art history. Zhang's monograph on the nature of early Chinese texts from the perspectives of authorship and text formation has made major contributions to the field of Chinese philology and inspired many to further explore the issues brought up in his work. His groundbreaking study on the archaeologically recovered early Chinese "maps" on silk from tombs built almost 2,200 years ago opens a totally new way of studying these materials by revealing the art features ignored by scholars ever since the excavation of those tombs half a century ago. Inspired by the theoretical power of the middle-range theories developed both in sociology and in New Archaeology, Zhang has also proposed the necessity of methodological change to do research on history and literature in the same vein of examining primary data to make them supporting evidence for an argument.

Zhang is the author of *Authorship and Text-making in Early China* (Mouton: De Gruyter, 2018) and numerous articles on topics related to early Chinese textual and material cultures.

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Footnotes 2023

Chair's Welcome



Welcome to our friends and supporters of the Department of History for the annual Newsletter!

We are excited to share this annual newsletter with you. We have a new hire in History, Dr. Evan Kutzler, who you can read about, and impressive accomplishments of our faculty to read about, too. Our faculty have been active in teaching, research, and service during this academic year.

We will soon have Dunbar Hall open (January 2024) for classes and student use. We look forward to this new building with its features for active learning class rooms and meeting rooms. It will be very nice not to hear construction outside my window!

Our fall activities kept our faculty busy. We hosted the Dr. H. Nichols Hamner Endowed Lecture in October with a large audience to hear Dr. Benjamin L. Carp, the Daniel M. Lyons Professor of American History at Brooklyn College. He spoke on “American Creation, American Destruction: The 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party and 1776,” on October 12, 2023. We also enjoyed the History Alumni Achievement Award winner, Dr. Hanmo Zhang, coming from China. He joined me at the College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Achievement Awards Ceremony on October 13, 2023.

I want to take this time to introduce you to our Administrative Assistant II for the Department of History. Kevin Bunkley has been a first-rate assistant in this position since joining us this past April! Kevin started his undergraduate career at Western Michigan University and earned a B.A. in History from the University of Michigan. He has strong office skills and communication skills and is an asset to the department. If you come by our office, be sure to say hello to Kevin.

As we look toward the spring we will once again host District 6 for Michigan History Day at Western Michigan University. It is a wonderful time as we host these youngsters in person in History who may be Future Broncos! You can read about last year's Michigan History Day in this newsletter.

On behalf of the Department of History, I wish you and yours a wonderful, healthy and happy holiday season!

Sincerely yours,

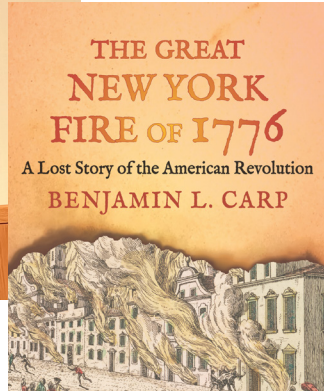
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda J. Borish". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Linda J. Borish

Dr. Benjamin Carp Delivers 2023 Hamner Lecture



Dr. Benjamin Carp



Examines 1776 NYC Fire, Parallels to Recent Uprisings

This year we were honored for the H. Nicholas Hamner Lecturer on October 12, 2023 to have Dr. Benjamin Carp, the Daniel M. Lyons Professor of American History at Brooklyn College be our guest lecturer. Dr. Carp teaches at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

His latest book is *The Great New York Fire of 1776: A Lost Story of the American Revolution*. He also wrote *Defiance of the Patriots: The Boston Tea Party and the Making of America* (Yale, 2010), which won the Cox Book Prize for the Society of the Cincinnati in 2013, and *Rebels Rising: Cities and the American Revolution* (Oxford, 2007). Dr. Carp has written about nationalism, firefighters, wet nurses, Benjamin Franklin, and Quaker merchants in Charleston for scholarly journals like *Early American Studies*, *Civil War History*, the *William and Mary Quarterly* and popular publications such as *BBC History*, *Colonial Williamsburg*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*. He received his B. A. from Yale University and his Ph.D., from The University of Virginia.



Attendees at Dr. Benjamin Carp's Hamner Lecture

Dr. Carp's talk was titled, "American Creation, American Destruction: The 250th Anniversary of the Boston Tea Party and 1776." As the semiquincentennial of America's independence, all of us have a chance to reflect on the creation of the United States. But in 2023, we also observe the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party, a famous evening of property destruction that touched off the events that led to American Independence. And 1776 itself was not just a year of signing documents, but also a year of war, devastation, and unrest. Our nation has had debates in recent years about 1619, 1776, and whose stories we ought to teach. His talk explored the rich possibilities for understanding the history of the American Revolution, the broad possibilities of storytelling and the mixed legacy of the Revolution in our own times.

The H. Nicholas Hamner Lecture is generously funded by the H. Nicholas Hamner Endowed Speakers Fund in the Department of History. Dr. Hamner was a long-time History faculty member in the department. We are grateful for this support.

History faculty news & notes

Michigan History Day 2023 District 6 Competition at WMU



Western Michigan University's Department of History hosted the Michigan District 6 competition of the National History Day contest virtually this past March. Results of the contest were announced on March 11, 2023. District 6's contestants represent schools from the state's southwestern counties. This was the ninth year that the History Department hosted the competition. Because we had to hold the contest virtually again (as we did in 2021) the number of student entries declined to 100 in grades 4-12. In 2022, when we held the contest in person on WMU's campus, we had 150 students.

Students enter the contest as individuals or as part of a group of up to five members. Individuals or groups develop projects in one of five contest categories: exhibits (poster displays), websites, dramatic performances, documentaries, or papers. Students compete in one of three age groups: youth (grades 4-5), junior (grades 6-8), or senior (grades 9-12). Students' projects also need to address the annual theme, which in 2023 was Frontiers in History: People, Places, and Ideas. The top three place winners in each category and age group at the district level then qualify for the state contest, which was held on Saturday, April 20, on the campus of Central Michigan University.

As in previous years, our district qualifiers did very well at the state contest. A total of 22 individuals or groups from District 6 either finished in the top three in the youth category or qualified as national finalists from the junior or senior categories. Students in the youth category do not compete in the national contest. A total of 17 students from District 6 qualified for the national contest, which was held on the campus of the University of Maryland from June 10-15.

At the national contest, Aliah Mohmand of Kalamazoo Central High School, sponsored by Bradley Ihrcke, placed third in the nation for the Senior Division Individual Exhibit category. Her entry was titled "Afghan Mujahideen: Catalyst for Collapse; Changing the Communist Frontier." Aliah's third-place finish was the highest for any Michigan entry in this year's National History Day competition. Amazingly, this was the first time that Aliah had entered the History Day contest.

The Department of History is already busy planning the District 6 contest for 2024. It will be held on WMU's campus on March 9th; the theme for the 2024 contest is Turning Points in History.

-Dr. Wilson Warren

Dr. Evan Kutzler

Meet Our New Professor of History - Dr. Evan Kutzler



Moving across the country to join a new university means crafting multiple biographical introductions. Some are formal research or teaching statements; some are improvisations; and others occupy a middle ground. An alumni newsletter is one of these in-between spaces because we share at least one degree and a belief in the importance of studying history. I hope to introduce myself here as a new associate professor of U.S. and public history in a way that does not read like a repetition of what I've written for our provost, our dean, or our department website. That information lives elsewhere. I also encourage you to reach out to me by email, LinkedIn, or Facebook and introduce yourself. I am easy to find.

One of my favorite metaphors for thinking about place in public history comes from Aldo Leopold's eulogy for a lightning-struck tree. "It shows 80 growth rings," he wrote in *A Sand County Almanac*, "hence the seedling from which it originated must have laid its first ring of wood in 1865." When Leopold sat down to write in the

1940s, he imagined each pull of the saw cutting backwards through droughts, ice storms, and stock market crashes. Eulogizing firewood mattered to Leopold because it helped avoid what he called the "spiritual danger" of assuming "that heat comes from the furnace." Perhaps in the world of search engines (often useful tools) and generative artificial intelligence (more worrisome) there's similar danger in assuming that "knowledge comes from a computer." The metaphor of tree rings—or paint layers or strata—is one way to think about the layers of a building, an artifact, a landscape, or an idea. And while history is more complex than chronology, acknowledging time is a first step toward understanding continuity and change.

My interest in the past predates my formal study of history and for years my public and academic work ran on parallel tracks. My first job in 2002 was as a tour guide at a Civil War battlefield in Franklin, Tennessee. I did not know it was called "public history" then. I would have called it "history" and, perhaps for that reason, it took time to adjust to collegiate coursework in history. In graduate school, I continued to work in public history by writing nominations for the National Register of Historic Places as well as co-creating a website

History faculty news & notes

on the history of slavery at South Carolina College, the antebellum predecessor to the University of South Carolina. On that other parallel track, I sought to apply the methodology of sensory history to the experience of prisoners during the U.S. Civil War. This became my first monograph in 2019. I am currently working on a narrative history of an infamous murder trial in Georgia in the 1940s, its origins, and its legacy.

My family and I arrived in July, and we spent the rest of the summer exploring our new home. At Western Michigan University, I am scheduled to teach courses on nineteenth-century U.S. history, digital humanities, and public history. I have spent considerable time following Lynn Houghton on walking tours, asking Ryan Gage questions in the Kalamazoo Public Library's local history room, and working with an emerging oral history association. There is much more to explore and learn.

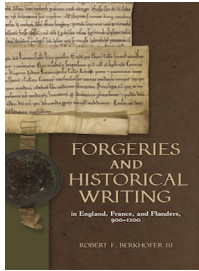
While I am not—and do not expect to become—a Kalamazoo or Michigan history expert, I want to be conversant in this region's history. The reason is simple: public history programs should sustain strong ties to their local and regional communities. I'm excited to join a program with a long history in a region with a strong network of professional public historians.

This collaboration includes alumni inside, outside, and alongside education and public history. One of my early goals is to create an email listserv of public history program alumni (as well as any alumni interested in public history or adjacent professions). I envision the listserv as a place to share internships, jobs, awards, and other career milestones. You can help me populate this list by sending me a quick email to evan.kutzler@wmich.edu and suggesting who else to include.

I'm eager to work with you and learn from you.

- Dr. Evan Kutzler

Dr. Robert Berkhofer completed his book, *Forgeries and Historical Writing in England, France, and Flanders, 900-1200*. The book is an analysis of forged and revised historical accounts from scholars in Ghent, Saint-Denis, and Canterbury.



Dr. Scott Lingenfelter, Part Time Instructor, was awarded a Wilson Center Fellowship to work on a project titled, "Conducting Co-existence: Robert Shaw, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the Dynamics of Cultural Diplomacy"

This work is in support of D.C.-area research on the Robert Shaw Chorale's tour of the Soviet Union in 1962 as a timely window into U.S. cultural diplomacy at the height of international tensions. Now as then, long-standing cultural connections are being eclipsed by war, and losses in Ukraine include irretrievable cultural treasures. And now as then, Russians are caught in the backlash against Kremlin policy.

The Chorale's tour, described at the time as "a musical, diplomatic, and spiritual triumph almost without parallel in our time," indicates the role of cultural initiatives across barriers of conflict. The story also points to deeper issues in American diplomacy, including the design of sponsored culture programs and their potential role in the reconstruction of post-conflict Ukraine.



Dr. Linda Borish gave a guest lecture at The Second International Sports History Development Summit Forum last May, organized by the Sport History Institute of the Chengdu Sports University. In partnership with The National Social Sciences Foundation Major Project of the People's Republic of China, the Sports History Academic Summit heard Dr. Borish's present virtually on "American Women's Sport, Social, Change, and the Advent of Title IX." She was one of four scholars from abroad invited to present at this conference, which marked the 60th Anniversary of the Sport History Institute.

Dr. Anise Strong participated in an NEH Fellowship at Boston College, discussing "Roman Comedy & Performance." She also attended a conference in Madrid, Spain on Pagan Pornotopias: The Reception of Antiquity in Eroticism & Pornography, delivering a keynote called, "Ancient Sexuality and Modern Video Games."

Jason Rose, Ph.D candidate, was awarded a Graduate College Research Grant this Fall term, under Dr. Borish's supervision. Awards are given to WMU graduate students to pursue projects outside thesis or dissertation research. Jason will be using this grant to study anti-Klan activism in the 1920s, when antiracism movements were not yet mainstream or widespread.

Claire Herhold, Part-time Instructor, joined the staff of the Historical Society of Michigan in Lansing in late July as the Michigan History Day Manager. Michigan History Day is a project-based educational competition designed to encourage students to explore historical subjects through hands-on study. Herhold has volunteered with the program since 2013 and worked with Dr. Bill Warren in 2022 as co-coordinator for the District 6 competition. With the Historical Society of Michigan, she will develop outreach to school and provide MHD teachers with training and guidance



History faculty news

Dr. Pérez-Villa Awarded Career Fellowship

Dr. Ángela Pérez-Villa, assistant professor in the department, was one of ten junior professors from across the U.S. to be awarded the 2023 Career Enhancement Fellowship for Junior Faculty by the Institute for Citizens and Scholars, formerly the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. The award consists of a one-year pre-tenure academic leave to pursue the scholarly research and writing essential to tenure acquisition. It also offers fellows professional development and mentorship opportunities throughout the year.

Shortly after winning this prestigious fellowship, Dr. Pérez-Villa was appointed Academic Visitor at the Latin American Centre and an Associate Member of Exeter College at the University of Oxford, where she's currently working on her first book manuscript about the social history of the law in early nineteenth-century Colombia. In late October 2023, she gave a public talk about one of her manuscript chapters on environmental catastrophe, enslaved people, and theft in postwar Colombia at Oxford's Latin American History Seminar.

Her latest academic article entitled "Enslaved Litigants, Emotions, and a Shifting Legal Landscape in Cauca, Colombia (1825-1831)" appeared in the fall 2023 issue of *The Journal of Social History* and it's available in open access thanks to a WMU PPP&E grant and the assistance of Dr. Linda Borish.



Dr. Pérez-Villa at Oxford City Center, UK



Outstanding Student Work in Dr. Pérez-Villa's 2022-23 History Courses

Students enrolled in HIST 3160 - Women in U.S. History created a public humanities project as part of their final assignment for the class. The development of this course assignment, its execution, and creation of the webpage was supported by a Publicly Engaged Humanities Faculty Mini Grant awarded to Dr. Pérez-Villa and her community partner in Kalamazoo by WMU's Center for the Humanities. The "Women's Legacy Project" is available online and can be visited by scanning the below QR code or at the following link:
<https://sites.google.com/wmich.edu/womens-legacy-project>

Three students in HIST 3702 - Colonial Latin America were selected to present original research papers they wrote for the class at the Latin America and Latinx Studies Symposium organized by Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida. Kiersten Lawrence, Ian Russel, and Victor Liell received generous funding from the College of Arts and Sciences and from the Department of History to fund their conference travel. All students presented their research successfully and networked with other undergrad presenters from across the country.

History Ph.D student **Kyle VanderWall** won two college-wide writing awards, The Diversity & Inclusion Writing Prize and the Graduate Humanities Prize. The paper selected was one he wrote in Dr. Pérez-Villa's HIST 5850 (Sex & Power in Latin America) course, titled "In the Beets: Mexican Women and the Sugar Beet Industry in Michigan, 1917-1927."



Dr. Hadden Awarded Humanities Fellowship First WMU Professor to Receive Honor

Dr. Sally Hadden, a professor in the Department of History, earned a prestigious one-year fellowship from the National Humanities Center—the first time a Western faculty member has received the fellowship. This recognition comes in acknowledgment of her collaborative efforts on the book “One Supreme Court,” a scholarly endeavor that delves into the origins and evolution of the early Supreme Court, providing a fresh perspective on the legal history of the 18th century. One of 34 scholars selected from a competitive pool of over 500 applicants, Hadden describes this achievement as akin to being “struck by lightning,” given its rarity. “Most academics I know, including me, could plaster a room with rejection letters. Because that’s part of the job—you apply and apply. So when you get the call saying you’ve been awarded a fellowship, it’s astonishing,” says Hadden.

Even more remarkable is the fact that out of the 11 sabbatical-oriented fellowships Hadden pursued over the past year for this project, she was offered a notable four. In addition to accepting the National Humanities Center fellowship, Hadden also accepted a separate six-month fellowship at the George Washington Presidential Library, which will span summer 2024 and summer 2025.

Hadden’s fellowship achievement is centered on her co-authorship of an 11-chapter book on the early Supreme Court. The last comprehensive book on the subject was published in the early 1970s, and according to Hadden while it “... has a lot right, there are many elements that don’t hold up anymore.” The study aims to redefine our knowledge of the Supreme Court’s formative years by examining previously uncovered elements. Hadden’s deep expertise spans the English, colonial and revolutionary periods, effectively complementing her co-author, Maeva Marcus, who specializes in the 1790s. This collaboration ensures comprehensive coverage of the court’s history, promising to unveil fresh perspectives on this pivotal era of legal development.

Hadden aims to write six chapters for the book during her fellowship tenure. While this aspiration may require flexibility, Hadden is unwavering in her determination to rise to the challenge. “Writing necessitates focused time to engage the mind fully,” she explains. Her daily schedule will revolve around intense writing sessions, punctuated only by required fellowship meals and

rest. Her co-author, Marcus, will contribute the remaining five chapters.

“We’ve collected newly discovered materials from 30 different archives in the US and overseas that the previous book overlooked—the South, England, colonial period—pretty much anything we say will be new information,” says Hadden.



Dr. Sally Hadden

As Hadden embarks on her fellowship journey, she is enthusiastic about the opportunity to interact with esteemed scholars and engage in cross-disciplinary exchanges.

“I’ve been looking at the list of other fellows and the projects look amazing, so the fellow lunches every day are just going to be such a highlight,” says Hadden. “I’m very excited to meet Miriam Posner, a leader in digital humanities. I taught a basic digital humanities class, and can’t wait to speak with her.”

With the fellowship affording an environment conducive to concentrated research and writing, the collaborative effort between Hadden and her co-author is poised to bridge gaps in the narrative of the early Supreme Court, underscoring the significance of the 18th century as a pivotal phase in the evolution of law and the judicial system.

As Hadden concludes, “Don’t assume the 19th and 20th centuries hold all the important history. There’s a vibrant period before that people need to learn about, to avoid those assumptions.” With her dedication, passion and the resources of the fellowship at her disposal, Hadden is leading the charge toward a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the past.

-Meghan Behymer

History faculty news

Dr. Wilson Warren Wins College of Arts & Sciences Faculty Achievement Award in Professional and Community Service

Dr. Wilson Warren, Professor of History, earned the 2023 College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Achievement Award for Professional and Community Service this past April. Since his many years of service, hired in 2002 as an Associate Professor, he has demonstrated excellence in History Education and Assessment. He has enhanced the learning environment for history students at WMU and the larger community of students in the Kalamazoo area. Dr. Warren has demonstrated tremendous leadership in History Education with the History Day contest for District 6 in the Kalamazoo region. As Amy Bradfield, one of the officials of the Historical Society of Michigan has written about Dr. Warren's stellar role in the Michigan History Day contests, "During my time working with Dr. Warren, I've consistently been impressed by his commitment to provide the best opportunity possible for students, judges, teachers, and parents for year to year. She emphasized that, "He strives to create an environment that is fair for all participants and supportive of their efforts to think critically and challenge themselves academically."

In addition to these critical activities spearheaded by Dr. Warren he gives generously of his time to support Michigan History Day contests at the local and state level. He has judged regularly for District 4 contests at Grand Valley State University since 2005. He also in recent years presented materials about WMU's History Department and District 6 in outreach to students.

Dr. Warren is an outstanding leader and mentor to History colleagues. He has served on the Assessment Committee in the Department of History since 2003. In chairing the committee he prepares an assessment report to the History Department and shares the history courses, rubric and other plans of interest. Dr. Warren has been a representative on the College ad hoc assessment committee from 2016-18. Dr. Warren was nominated by the College of Arts and Sciences to serve on the University Assessment Steering Committee and served as a College representative from 2019-2022. Dr. Warren's leadership in Assessments was evident during his time as Chair of the Department of History from 2016-2020. He led the way for us to develop the new Western Essential Studies program, offering his thoughts on assessment plans, working with the Undergraduate Studies Committee and other history faculty for submission of the new WES courses.

Dr. Warren has also provided his specialty in History education as a major contributor to the Michigan Council for History Education. He joined the council when he arrived at WMU, and served on the board of directors since 2002. He served as presi-

dent-elect in 2005-2006, and president in 2006-2007. In addition, his contributions in the field include his academic works such as his co-authored *Collaborations and the Future of Education: Preserving the Right to Think and Teach Historically*. He has also used his history education in the Interdisciplinary Social Studies Major, with History as one of the key departments involved in preparing social studies teachers.

In another area, Dr. Warren has contributed significantly to professional service for shared governance in the History Department and WMU with his major roles in the department and in the WMU chapter of AAUP. Dr. Warren has been involved with the chapter consistently at various levels since 2002. From 2002-2013 he served as departmental representative on the council. He is again serving as the history department representative since 2021. Dr. Warren served on the Executive Board of the WMU-AAUP in both 2005 and 2021 as a substitute member and then in 2012-2014 when he was Chapter Secretary in 2013. During his career in the History Department he has been elected Chair of the Sabbatical, Workload, and Evaluation Committee, the Executive Committee, the Tenure Committee, the Promotion Committee, and several others participating fully in academic service.

Drs. Warren & Borish with Dean Carla Koretsky



In his outstanding record of professional and community service Dr. Warren certainly deserves the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Achievement Award. He has exhibited impressive leadership in various areas of academic life benefitting History, the College of Arts and Sciences, and beyond.

- Dr. Linda Borish

Dr. Alan Meyer Completes Fellowship at The Smithsonian Air & Space Museum

Dr. Alan Meyer is an associate professor at Auburn University. He earned his B.A. in History from WMU after studying Aeronautical Engineering “for more years than I like to admit,” and earned his Ph.D in American History and Technology History from the University of Delaware. Meyer recently completed a 12-month Verville Research Fellowship at The Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. to support work on his forthcoming book titled *Flying While Black: The Slow Pace of Racial Integration in the Airline Cockpit, 1964-2020*.

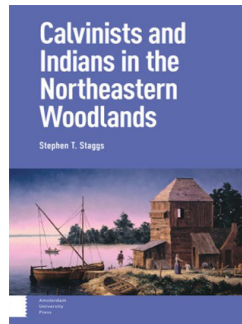


The book will examine racial discrimination in the airline industry, including a 1963 U.S. Supreme Court decision in a racial discrimination case against Continental Airlines that allowed the hiring of African American pilots. But the story of racism in the airline industry—like the rest of the country—hardly ends there.

His book charts the historical role of race and racism in shaping who becomes a pilot. Factors include overt policies and practices in Jim Crow America, as well as the hidden yet powerful implicit or unconscious biases that continue to shape the aviation industry to this day. Meyer also devotes attention to the broader cultural effects of the lack of minorities in this career field, stemming from the Tuskegee Airmen returning home from World War II and being turned away from every opportunity. That reinforced popular perceptions that professional pilots are (or should be) white men.

Flying While Black grew out of Meyer’s first book, *Weekend Pilots: Technology, Masculinity, and Private Aviation in Postwar America* (2015), which explored the enduring low number of women in the pilot’s seat. He recently retired as a colonel, and was a member of the Sky Broncos flight team as a WMU student. He currently lives in Auburn, Alabama with his wife and two children.

Stephen T. Staggs published *Calvinists & Indians in the Northeastern Woodlands* (Amsterdam University Press). The book explores the influence and limits of the Dutch Reformation upon the dynamic, multifaceted relationships that developed between Native Americans and New Netherlanders living in the Northeast Woodlands up to 1750. Steve holds the Ph.D. and graduate certificate in Ethnohistory from WMU (2013) under the supervision of Professors José-Antônio Brandão and James Palmitessa.

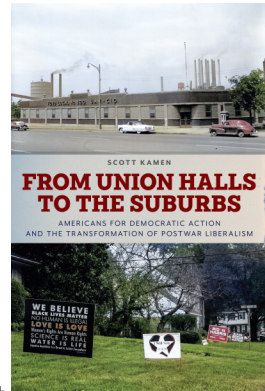


Dr. Scott Kamen Publishes Book on New Politics Movement

Dr. Scott Kamen earned his B.A. in History from WMU in 2008, and went on to complete an M.A. from the University of Maryland and a Ph.D from Trinity College. He has just completed a new book called *From Union Halls to the Suburbs*.

Americans for Democratic Action (ADA), formed in 1947 by anticommunist liberals such as economist John Kenneth Galbraith and historian Arthur Schlesinger Jr., established itself as the most prominent liberal organization in the United States for more than a quarter century. The movement challenged the Vietnam War, demanded redistributive economic policies, and development of a far-reaching politics of race, gender, and sexuality.

The book reveals how American liberalism shifted away from the working-class concerns of the New Deal era and began to cater to the interests of a new, suburban professional class. By the 1980s, many Democratic politicians, activists, and voters had embraced a neoliberal ideology that coupled socially liberal attitudes with market-based solutions, eschewing an older progressive politics steeped in labor issues.



History student news



2023 Student Award Winners Recognized at Spring Ceremony

Alexa Gravitter

E.M. Distinguished Scholarship
Arts & Sciences International Study Abroad Scholarship

Abigail Ward

E. M. Distinguished Scholarship
Dr. Dale P. Pattison Endowment Award
Dr. H. Nicholas Hamner Undergraduate Award History
Alumni Travel Award
History Fellows Emeriti Grant
Margaret Macmillan Undergraduate Award

Nora Hafez

Dr. Sherwood Cordier M.A. Teaching Effectiveness Award
All-University Graduate Teaching Effectiveness Award

Leigh Murphy

Cheryl Lyon-Jenness Undergraduate Writing Award

Alena Buczynski

M.A. Research & Creative Scholar Award
Robert Russel Writing Award

Stephanie Falkowski

Ph.D Research & Creative Scholar Award

Kiersten Lawrence and Ian Russel

Dr. Catherine J. Julien Endowment Award

Kyle VanderWall

Arts & Sciences Graduate Diversity & Inclusion Writing Prize
Graduate College Humanities Prize

Victor Liell

Arts & Sciences Undergraduate Student Travel Grant
Dr. Catherine J. Julien Endowment Award

Nathan Halder

Presidential Scholar Award

Ivy Merrick

Dr. Dale P. Pattison Endowment Award
Dr. H. Nicholas Hamner Undergraduate Award
History Alumni Travel Award
History Fellows Emeriti Grant

Jacob Walsh

Dr. Dale P. Pattison Endowment Award
History Alumni Travel Award

Moira Cooper

Dr. Smith Burnham Prize in History

Reilly Means

Timothy Stoecker History Completion Scholarship

Ruth Aardsma

WMU Graduate College Research Award
Departmental Research Grant
Dr. Nora Faires Research & Travel Award
The Judith F. Stone Award
Dr. Ernst Breisach Award for European History

Junghyun Kim

WMU Graduate College Research Award
Departmental Research Grant
Dr. Ernst Breisach Award for European History

Dean Wetzel

Arts & Sciences International Study Abroad Scholarship

A History Showcase For the New Dunbar Hall



History students **Nathan Halder** (pictured:left) and **Abigail Ward** (pictured:right) received special recognitions this year for their outstanding academic work.

Nathan was selected as the department's Presidential Scholar, the highest academic honor WMU can give to undergraduates.

Winners were honored with a ceremony



put on by the Faculty Senate, and presented with a medallion and certificate by the University President. Nathan's research project that impressed the History faculty, done at Freie Universität in Berlin, was focused on American influence on graffiti art that was painted on the Berlin Wall and the connection to U.S. Military personnel.

Abigail won six department scholarships or awards, participated in Summer Study Abroad in Berlin, serves as president of Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society, and spends time working at WMU's Zhang Legacy Collections Center.

Their academic careers will be part of a College of Arts & Sciences student showcase for the soon-to-be-reopened Dunbar Hall. Nathan will earn a B.A. in History with a minor in Political Science this spring, and Abigail will also graduate next spring with a B.A. in History and a minor in Medieval Studies.

Dunbar will reopen to the WMU campus community in January 2024.



Exterior Rendering: View from West (Fountain Plaza) looking East

Rendering of Dunbar Hall

WMU Phi Alpha Theta News



The Alpha Beta Delta chapter of Phi Alpha Theta has been fortunate to induct many new members into its ranks in recent semesters. While recruitment and retention has been our priority in recent semesters, we now have the membership to begin planning larger projects and events.

The organization has been busy in the fall 2023 semester. In September, five of our members joined the Friends of Kalamazoo Historic Cemeteries to clean headstones at Mountain Home Cemetery. It was an opportunity to learn about proper chemicals and methods for removing dirt and organic growth from granite and marble.

The chapter also visited the Zhang Legacy Collections Center this semester to tour the building and meet the staff. In January 2024, the organization is scheduled to take a weekend trip to Detroit to visit the Detroit Institute of Art, The Charles H. Wright Museum, and Greenfield Village.

The Phi Alpha Theta leadership team is excited for the coming year, and we are determined to build upon the progress of recent years to grow and sustain the chapter.

- Abigail Ward



History graduate news

In July and August, Professor Eli Rubin took 9 WMU students on a study abroad trip to Berlin, Germany, to learn about WWII, the Third Reich, the Holocaust, and the Cold War in person. The group spent two weeks and visited the former Sachsenhausen Concentration camp, explored the inside of a partially destroyed massive anti-aircraft bunker from WWII, the former Gestapo headquarters, known as the “Topography of Terror,” visited a former East German secret police interrogation prison with a former political prisoner, and visited the former secret police headquarters. The group also travelled to the German-Polish border to visit a “socialist city” once called “Stalin City” and crossed over to have a dinner of pierogi and vodka in Poland, explored Turkish culture and food in the immigrant district of Kreuzberg, Berlin, and also visited some of Berlin’s finest art and archeological museums.



*From left to right: Soviet War Memorial;
Beer Garden in Berlin; Dinner in Stubice, Poland;
Old National Art Gallery*

PhD student Ruth Aardsma traveled to Berlin this summer as the recipient of a prestigious Central European History Society grant to complete research on her dissertation, which is on prostitution in East Germany. MA student Junghyun Kim also traveled to Berlin to do research on his MA thesis, supported by funds from the WMU History Department’s Ernst Breisach Award and Department Research Award, as well as The Graduate College Research Grant. Kim’s thesis compares urban housing policy in East Germany and in North and South Korea, and he arrived in Berlin after doing research in Seoul, South Korea.

RECENT GRADUATES

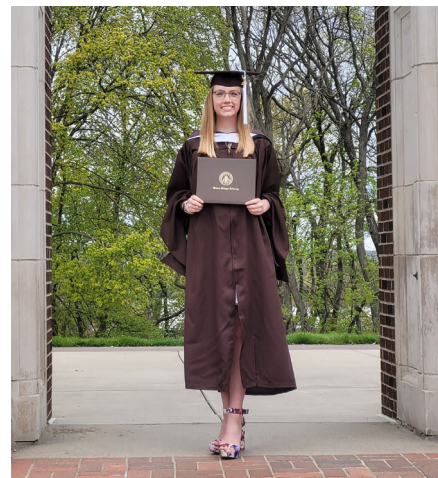
Justin Fragala completed his Master of Arts in History. He is soon starting work as an Import Specialist for the Customs and Border Patrol Agency, but took some time this past summer to visit many of Michigan’s historic places, including the famed ghost town of Fayette.



Justin Fragala

Harrison Compton completed his Master of Arts in History this past summer session. He is currently working as a teacher-in-residence at Vanguard Charter Academy in Wyoming, Michigan.

Melissa Paduk completed her Master of Public History this past Spring. In preparation for pursuing a career in historic preservation, she recently completed a summer internship with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation’s Office of Communication, Education, and Outreach.



Melissa Paduk

History Advisory Council Fall Meeting

The History Alumni Advisory Council met on October 12, 2023. We had the chance to meet our new Administrative Assistant II, Kevin Bunkley. Also joining the meeting was Dr. Hanmo Zhang, this year's 2023 History Alumni Achievement Award Winner, who earned his M.A. from Western Michigan University in 2005. He is a tenured professor at Renmin University of China, Beijing. We also heard from our new tenure-track Associate Professor, Dr. Evan Kutzler, U.S. Public Historian. He shared his projects with us. In addition, we had the pleasure of meeting Elizabeth McCarthy, our Chief Development Officer for the College of Arts and Sciences. She discussed WMU's giving plans that are underway.

WMU HGSO Update

The History Graduate Student Organization (HGSO) is an organization consisting of the Department of History's graduate students and seeks to help its members in their roles as emerging scholars, students, teaching assistants and instructors. For example, two of us led an informal conversation detailing the "things I wished I knew before starting grad school" at graduate student orientation. We also worked with the department to facilitate a graduate student lunch with this year's Hamner Lecturer, Dr. Benjamin L. Carp. Upcoming meetings will discuss strategies for research and writing to help students working on course research papers and their larger research projects. The board for this year consists of: Ruth Aardsma (president), Jack MacDonald (vice president), Emmy Wade (secretary), Jason Rose and Junghyun Kim (co-treasurers).

OBITUARIES



John R. Sommerfeldt

Dr. John R. Sommerfeldt was a professor in the department from 1959 to 1978. He was the founding director of the Medieval Institute and Director of the Center of Contemplative Studies, President of the Institute of Cistercian Studies, and the Chair of the first Medieval Conference in 1962. In 1978 he became the President of the University of Dallas in Irving, Texas and later the Dean of Constantin College of Liberal Arts at the University of Dallas. He passed away on December 4th at the age of 90.

John T. Houdek

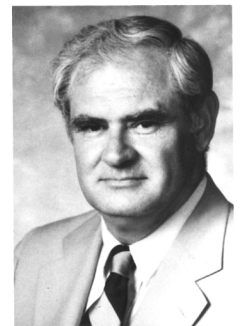
Dr. John T. Houdek grew up in Grand Junction, Michigan, and earned his bachelor's, master's and Ph.D from Michigan State University. After his Ph.D, he joined the Western Michigan University Department of History in 1963, where he served for 35 years. Houdek's service at WMU included on-campus instruction and off-campus extension class locations.

His research often focused on the rural history of Michigan, and collaborated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on research initiatives. Along with his wife Carolyn, they created the Honors College flower garden, and often maintained it themselves. John was also president of the WMU Theatre Guild, and served on and advised the Phi Alpha Theta and Emeritus Councils. Many WMU students also benefited from scholarship support provided by the Houdeks. He passed away on March 1, 2023 at the age of 90.



Richard T. Burke

Dr. Richard T. Burke earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in history at Boston University. He also earned a Ph.D from Northwestern University. In 1964, he was hired as a Professor of History at Western Michigan University. Burke served in multiple roles at WMU, including Assistant Chair (1967), Associate Dean of the Graduate College (1971-1976), Dean of the Division of



Continuing Education (1977), and Student Recruiter (1982-1984). Then, in 1987, President Haenicke appointed him as vice president for regional education and economic development, a first among higher education institutions in the state of Michigan. That focus yielded the relocation of WMU's College of Aviation to the Battle Creek campus, development of the Research and Technology Institute in Grand Rapids, and the initial plan for WMU's Business Technology and Research Park that now sits on the Parkview campus.

In 1995, Burke was bestowed an honorary Doctorate in Public Service from WMU, and retired back to Boston. He was 88 years old.

History giving

Support the Department of History

History continues to offer excellent educational opportunities to graduate and undergraduate students. Thanks to your generosity, faculty and students have financial support for travel to carry out research and present their scholarship at conferences. We also have funds for incoming or current history majors to reward them, via scholarships and grants, for their outstanding achievements while in our programs. Our highest priority needs are (1) undergraduate student scholarships to assist with tuition costs that help us attract more History majors and (2) graduate student research support that provides financial assistance to release from teaching duties to complete theses or dissertations. Your generosity can go directly to the department's general fund or a specific scholarship. Our online department giving page has been updated to reflect these options. Please consider making a gift at <http://wmich.edu/history/giving> or by scanning the QR code.



Your support can go toward these areas:

- The **History Fellowship** supports full-time freshman students in a History major with a qualifying GPA.
- The **Dr. Sherwood Cordier Endowment** for Teaching supports M.A. and Ph.D-level graduate students for innovation in the teaching of History.
- The **Dr. Ernst Breisach Endowment for European History** provides travel & research support for the study and teaching of European history.
- The **Dr. Nora Faires Endowment Fund** supports graduate student travel and research in their program of study.
- The **Dr. Catherine J. Julien Endowment** supports students with a research focus in Latin American history.
- The **Dr. Dale P. Pattison Endowment** supports undergraduate students' activities in the study of history.
- The **Dr. Peter J. Schmitt Endowment** supports learning experiences associated with the study of the arts and the natural world.
- The **D.C. and Zoa D. Shilling Endowment** supports student-oriented programs within the Department of History.



Thank you for considering a gift to the Department of History.

Your gift is an investment in our students today and a brighter, more empowered tomorrow for generations to come. With your support, we can provide our students with scholarships and experience-driven learning opportunities that spark generational change.

There are many ways to have enduring impact. Please contact me to explore ways for you to establish your WMU legacy.

- Elizabeth McCarthy



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