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Past, Present & Future

THE 2017 REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
As I enter my second year as department chair, I wish to thank my colleagues for entrusting me to succeed Joye Bowman, off on a well-deserved sabbatical after six years as chair. Despite her leaves, Joye was generous with her advice, for which I’m truly grateful. As has often been the case, the past year offered challenges to higher education, particularly the humanities, but the Department of History continues to grow and develop as it confronts those challenges. We also welcome Alan Confino, the inaugural Pen Tishkach Chair in Holocaust Studies and new director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, who comes to us from the University of Virginia.

Two of our current faculty were promoted this year. Barbara Krauthamer became a full professor, and Brian Bunk was promoted to senior lecturer II. Congratulations to both! Barbara was also tapped to succeed John McCarthy as Graduate School dean. We will miss her in Herter Hall.

Congratulations are also due to Mary Lasbench, the department’s graduate program assistant, who received the university’s 2017 Distinguished Graduate Staff Award. We are delighted that her vital role in the department was recognized by this award.

The department had a busy year with its regular programs and special events. The Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series, on the U.S. in the age of mass incarceration, featured a sterling array of speakers and panelists, including Talitha LeFleur of the University of Virginia, who delivered the annual UMass/Five College Graduate Program in History’s Distinguished Lecture. In the spring, the department hosted Allyson Hobbs (Hammersmith University) as its writer/historian-in-residence. Christian Appy delivered one of the university’s four Distinguished Faculty Lectures and received the Chancellor’s Medal. And in December, in response to student interest, the department hosted a question-and-answer session, “Historical Perspectives on the 2016 Election.”

These are only some highlights from the department’s many activities during this year. The rest fill up most of this newsletter, from new book publications to the many undergraduate and graduate awards we granted.

I would like to thank Associate Chair Marla Miller, Graduate Program Director Anna Taylor, and Undergraduate Program Director Alina Nash for serving with me. I would also like to thank our staff: Office Manager Amy Fleig, Undergraduate Program Assistant Suzanne Ball, Graduate Program Assistant Mary Lasbench, Human Resources and Finance Assistant Adam Howes, and Outreach Director Jessica Johnson for keeping the department running like a well-oiled machine.

Finally, I would like to thank our alumni, faculty, and friends for their support, both moral and financial, of the department’s activities. —Brian Ogilvie, chair
“Confronting the Carceral State,” the 2016–17 Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series, explored how state violence, mass incarceration, and mass criminalization have transformed the U.S. economy, culture, and society. It included more than two dozen events, drew thousands of attendees, and addressed a wide range of topics—everything from police brutality, immigration detention, and carceral feminism to the consequences of incarceration for women, people of color, and LGBTQ individuals.

The official artwork of the series was “Confronting the Carceral State,” the 2016–17 Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series, created in collaboration with several local museums and libraries.

The goal of the series was to consider the carceral state in historical perspective, to support and amplify the ongoing work of local grassroots organizations, and to enrich K–12, undergraduate, and graduate education. The series was directed by faculty cochairs Marla Miller and Jennifer Nye; coordinated by the history department’s outreach and community engagement director, Jessica Johnson; and supported by the department’s undergraduate and graduate student employees. A community and scholarly advisory committee worked with us to select speakers and plan the events. In total, more than two dozen university and community groups partnered with us on series events (see page 27).

The series kicked off in September with a keynote event, “Women, Incarceration, and Carceral Feminism.” Some 300 people packed the ballroom of the UMass Amherst Student Center to hear an impressive roster of leading activists and scholars: Andrea Ritchie, founder of Families for Justice as Healing and the National Council for Incarcerated and Formerly Incarcerated Women and Girls; Mariane Kats of Project NIA and Love & Protect; Victoria Law, journalist and author of Resistance Behind Bars: The Struggles of Incarcerated Women; Herschelle Reaves, poet/activist from Springfield, Massachusetts; and Elias Vitulli, professor of gender studies at Mount Holyoke College.

They reflected on the fact that women constitute the fastest-growing segment of the U.S. prison population, with women of color and trans women being incarcerated at disproportionately high rates.

The following week, the series presented its feature lecture, Reginald Dwayne Betts’s “The Circumference of a Prison: Youth, Race, and the Failures of the American Justice System.” Betts—author of A Question of Freedom, a PEN New England Award winner, a Soros Justice Fellow, the national spokesperson for the Campaigns for Youth Justice, and a recent graduate of Yale Law School—was arrested at 16 and served eight years in an adult prison. In a powerful lecture before an audience of more than 350, including several dozen young people from surrounding communities, he drew on his personal experiences to discuss the current state of the criminal justice system. Hearing Betts’s story inspired history major Jaffar Shiek ’17 to pursue a career in public-interest law, which he began this fall as a first-year student at Suffolk University Law School.

After beginning the series by grounding our understanding in personal narratives and lived experience, we hosted eight lectures by leading historians and legal scholars. Highlights included a lecture by historian Talitha L. LeFlore, author of Chained in Silence: A History of Black Women and Convict Labor, on the plight of post–Civil War black women prisoners and their day-to-day struggles to overcome work-related abuses and violence (see page 7), an event with Rhonda Y. Williams, founder and director of the Social Justice Institute at Case Western Reserve University and author of Concrete Demands: The Search for Black Power in the 20th Century and the award-winning The Politics of Public Housing; a lecture by Amherst College historian Jen Manion, author of Liberty’s Prisoners: Carceral Culture in Early America, on how the penitentiary system in early America exploited racist ideologies, gender norms, sexual desire, and anti-Semites toward the poor to justify its existence and expansion; and a lecture by historian Franklin Odo, founding director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian Institution, who spoke on Executive Order 9066, which authorized the removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans, and the experience and collective memory of internment.

This robust series also included panel discussions and other events that drew leading scholars, lawyers, activists, and artists, including people with direct experience with incarceration. In October, a panel in nearby Springfield, Massachusetts—which has the commonwealth’s highest incarceration rate—considered local and national experiences of police violence. In November, an event on the history of immigrant detention similarly put leading thinkers from various fields into conversation with one another. We ended the fall semester with a powerful event on campus featuring onstage conversations among formerly incarcerated people.

The series also featured a performance in Holyoke, Massachusetts, by the award-winning duo Climbing Concrete Demands: The Search for Black Power in the 20th Century.
Mass incarceration is one of the defining characteristics of the United States in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. This year’s Feinberg Series examined the historical processes that have led to our present state, in the hope that an understanding of the past will serve as prelude to change in the future.”

—Brian Ogilvie, Professor and Chair, Department of History
This year we take a moment to reflect on our history as we chart a course for the future. UMass Amherst began as Massachusetts Agricultural College (MAC) in 1863. Its first yearbook, published in 1869, listed a class historian but no history faculty. Course offerings such as “Agriculture, Pomology and Floriculture” and “Injurious Insects” reflect the interests of the institution and its students at that time.

Mass Aggie’s educational vision expanded through World War I to include the liberal arts and social sciences. MAC became Massachusetts State College in 1931 and the University of Massachusetts in 1947. The fluidity of disciplinary boundaries in these early years is reflected in the career of Professor Alexander A. MacKinnies, hired in 1918 as an instructor in French and Spanish. By 1932, he was teaching history and economics; in 1940, the yearbook lists him as head of the Department of History and Sociology.

The present-day department took shape in the 1960s, with more than 30 new faculty appointed during the years when Howard H. Quint served as chair. The major requirements established in this period have remained largely unchanged, based on the idea that history majors should pursue a program of both depth and breadth, developing skills in research, writing, and critical thinking. However, the range of offerings has expanded from courses organized around geographic regions and chronological periods to include thematic interests such as the history of women, gender, sexuality, and the family; the history of science, technology, and medicine; public history; and histories of empire.

Mark Roblee, our internship coordinator, teaches career development courses and has played a key role in helping students find exciting internships.

Over the past several years, we have had ongoing discussions about whether and how to update major requirements to reflect the current needs and interests of our students. History is debated in the media on a daily basis, and the need for concrete knowledge is more important than ever. At the same time, many students are faced with difficult choices about how to balance academic, work, and family responsibilities. Too many requirements can make it hard for students to graduate on time. We will be conducting focus groups with students in the coming year to help in our planning.

One clear factor is that internships are an important complement to classroom work. This year, 11 history majors were awarded Richard W. Farmer Scholarships for summer internships in museums, archives, law and government offices, and nonprofit organizations. Thomas Corwin, Frances Fleming, Eleanore Hodges ’17, Brandon Hoats, Devon King, Benjamin Lerner, Patrick McAndrews, Dylan Mulvey, Justin Murphy, Alexandra Reardon ’17, Kara Westhoven. Richard Bauer was a World War II-era history major whose interests centered around Russian and military history.

Brooke Parzioli ’17, Grahame Steele-Parkins ’17, and Frances Schulte ’17 were selected for Robert J. LaFrances ’76 International Relations and Public Policy History Program Internships.

UMASS/FIVE COLLEGE DISTINGUISHED ANNUAL LECTURE

The Delicate Thread between Past and Present

LeFlouria signs copies of her book and meets with students and faculty after her lecture.

The cover image for LeFlouria’s lecture, showing women convict laborers in nineteenth-century Georgia.

“With the past as an open wound, which we reopen with every breath,” she concluded. As supported by LeFlouria’s extraordinary archival work and intellectual rigor, this assertion is undeniable. I let her lecture with her words ringing in my head, struck by the sense that her breath—like that of so many scholars and activists who are fighting mass incarceration—is a powerful intellectual rebuke to the carceral state and an undeniable demand for reparative justice. —Jessica Johnson

To view LeFlouria’s lecture, visit the history department’s YouTube page.

UMass Five College Distinctive Annual Lecture

The Delicate Thread between Past and Present

LeFlouria signs copies of her book and meets with students and faculty after her lecture.
Internships in Washington, D.C., with Sworn
man & Shelley LLP, a global law firm with 20
offices on five continents. LaFlusa is a former
commerce undersecretary for international
and a former trade counsel for the U.S. Congress.
It’s exciting to see past and present
history majors connect in this way, and we
are grateful for his support.

As always, the year-end awards cere
mony was an opportunity to share the history
of our department as we celebrate student
achievements. The Harold W. Cary Prize is
awarded annually to the graduating senior
history major with the highest GPA in history
courses. Professor Cary joined the faculty in
1933, among other distinctions, he authored
The University of Massachusetts: A History
of One Hundred Years (1962). This year we had
a five-way tie, with seniors Abigail Norwood,
Aibgali Norwood, Natalie Panasci, Bian-
cus Banzani, and Francis Schulze winning
awards. Abigail Collins also received the
Robert H. McNeal Scholarship for having the
department’s highest overall GPA. Professor
McNeal, a specialist in the history of the
Soviet Union, served as chair of the history
department in the 1970s.

Those of you who have attended awards
ceremonies will remember the special mo-
ment when Professor Emeritus Louis Green-
baum shook hands with recipients of the
Louis S. Greenbaum History Writing Prize and
gave them books that he had personally
selected (see photo below). It was a privilege
and a pleasure to work with him over the
years, and we were deeply saddened by his
recent passing. He and his wife, Hilda
Greenbaum, attended the awards ceremony
to congratulate the 2017 winners. Cassidy
McDonnell, nominated by Jennifer Heuer,
won the long-essay division for “The Violent
Extradition of Boundedlyathing as a Reflection
on Economic Hardships and Social Con-
straints in the Nineteenth Century.” Allison
Rigney ’17, nominated by Elizabeth Sharrow,
won in the short-essay division for “What
about ENDA? The Failure, Flows, and Les-
sions of the Employment Non-Discrimination
Act.” Callum Boyd, nominated by Barry
Levy, received an honorable mention for
“Between 1630 and 1780 Was Massachusetts
a Warriorse Society, and What Made It So?”
The History Opportunity Award, estab-
lished in honor of Professor Emeritus Ron
Story, is awarded to history majors who have
made particularly outstanding contributions
to the department’s undergraduate program.
This is fitting, because Professor Story’s con-
tributions went beyond outstanding teaching
and scholarship to include service in such
positions as secretary of the faculty senate
and president of the faculty union. Enjoli
Pachato ’17, who worked in the main history
office for several years, was recognized for
her warmth, professionalism, reliability, and
willingness to do whatever was needed. She
sent her thanks by video from Walt Disney
World, where she was completing a semes-
ter-long internship.

The James and Cynthia Redman Scholar-
ship, made possible through the contribution
of current faculty, honors the life of James
C. O. Redman, father of Som Redman
and father-in-law of Emily Redman. Jim Red-
man attended the University of Minnesota,
where he graduated with a BA in history, in
particular interests in modern European and
American history. This scholarship was
awarded to history major Jacey Rosales, a
first-generation college student.

The Nicholas Carr Bergstein Scholarship
Fund commemorates the life and interests
of a student who passed away from a rare
medical condition just before his sophomore
year. Nick looked forward to completing his
degree at UMass Amherst and start-
ing a career as a high school history teacher.
This award is for students who share Nick’s
love of history, his interest in teaching, and
his commitment to the inclusion of everyone
regardless of race, sexual orientation, or
other defining factors. This year’s recipient,
Brianna Zimmerman, wrote a compelling
essay about how her experience tutoring
women who had dropped out of high school
shaped her commitment to teaching.

Four awards remind us that people be-
ond our circle of faculty and students value
the study of history. The David H. Mardon-
neil Prize was established by Macdonell
in memory of his second cousin once-re-
moved, Patrick McDonnell, an officer in the
Irish Republican Army “shot and killed by
the British and the Black and Tans on March
23, 1921.” Justin Murphy, the 2016 recipient,
was renewed for a second year based on his
workship in British and Irish history.

We are pleased to honor the veterans among our students. Paul E. Giguere
served in the U.S. military from 1943 to 1963. After retirement, he became a local
history teacher. This year’s winner is Darlyn Diaz Lindsay, a Marine veteran with a
double major in nursing and history. Emily Folan, Stephanie Stabile, and Genevieve Weidner received
scholarships to attend the Oxford Summer

Undergraduate Program Director Alice
Nash at the year-end awards ceremony.

From left: Brian Ogilvie with Darlyn Diaz Lindsay, recipient of the Paul E. Giguere Scholarship in history, and Brian Giguere, who endowed the
award in honor of his uncle, Paul E. Giguere.

2017 undergraduate award recipients.
Seminar in Oxford, England, thanks to the Frederic Gilbert Bauer Endowment and the UMass history department. Bauer (1881–1964), a lawyer by profession and a historian by avocation, published on the Massachusetts Militia in the American Revolution. As noted above, his son Richard W. Bauer was a UMass history major and a good friend of history professor Harold Jackson Gordon.

The Simon and Satenig Ermonian Memorial Scholarship was established in 1952 by Krikor Ermonian, a history lover who graduated from the UMass School of Engineering, in honor of his parents, who came to Massachusetts before World War I from Armenia. A lawyer by profession and a historian by hobby, Ermonian endowed a memorial scholarship in his parents’ names. 

The six selected essays were by Phi Alpha Theta members, solicited undergraduate history essays for the inaugural issue, sent University Archives during the first week of class. They became familiar with the ways historians explore original sources and create historical interpretation. As last year’s course moved from 1890 to the present, continued archival research allowed students to explore through original sources events that the women of 1967 experienced.

In their roles as faculty editors, the interviewees that the class funded students to conduct interviews with the entire class at their reunion. Victoria King, a history major, along with Kamilla Leao and Ilana Morris, attended the class of 1967 reunion, recorded in Special Collections and University Archives. Interviewees are often surprised at how the research of current history students helps them remember much that they had forgotten.

The interviews with the Class of 1967 so impressed both the students and the interviewees that the class funded students to conduct interviews with the entire class at their reunion. Victoria King, a history major, along with Kamilla Leao and Ilana Morris, attended the class of 1967 reunion, recorded in Special Collections and University Archives. Interviewees are often surprised at how the research of current history students helps them remember much that they had forgotten.

For the 10th year in a row, students in “History 389: U.S. Women’s History since 1890” interviewed women returning to UMass Amherst for their class’s 50th reunion. As a chance to explore history, the students visited UMass Amherst Special Collections and University Archives during the first week of class. They became familiar with the ways in which historians explore primary sources and create historical interpretation.

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INTERNSHIP SPOTLIGHT:

At the NAFTA Negotiations with Robert LaRussa

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C., to watch NAFTA negotiations, meet with officials of the departments of Commerce and State, and see a Nationals baseball game. All this was made possible by Robert LaRussa ’76, counsel at Shearman & Sterling LLP. He took three UMass history students under his wing this past spring semester and oversaw our research projects on NAFTA; mine focused on the agreement from the Mexican perspective, filling in gaps in Donald Trump’s and many media outlets’ discussions on the trade deal.

The trip to Washington provided the primary sources that my paper had lacked after months of research using databases, journals, and newspapers. By attending negotiations on “modernizing” NAFTA, I heard the perspectives of lobbyists for the confectionary industry, tomato-farm owners, and a migrant rights’ organization. Each group had its own agenda for maintaining, reforming, or dismantling NAFTA. Being able to see the complex effects NAFTA has on an array of different people transformed and nuanced my previous thoughts on the topic.

As a history major hoping to go into international relations, I found this opportunity to be invaluable. After a day of watching negotiations, I was able to chat with officials from the State Department and Commerce Department about their career paths. I learned a lot about how to network for employment in the federal government and was able to talk to other young professionals about their experiences in the capital. During my final night in D.C., Mr. LaRussa took Graham Steele-Perkins ’17, the other UMass intern, and me to a Nationals baseball game.

I would highly recommend this internship to history students interested in global studies or economics or having a desire to learn about this hot-button issue that will only become increasingly relevant in American politics.

—Brooke Parziale ’17

The Honors Program

The Department of History’s Honors Program continues to flourish. The program continues to offer a wide array of courses, ranging from the “Americans in Historical Perspective” to “U.S. LGBT and Queer History.” Students also pursue independent studies in the history of Latin America and the American war in Vietnam.

The senior thesis is the capstone experience for students pursuing departmental honors. From mass incarceration in the modern United States to the Paris ballet to the Enlightenment revolution, our students researched a wide range of topics and time periods. The Thesis Symposium is always the highlight of the academic year, and this year’s event was no exception. Held April 20, 2017, and attended by students, their families, and history department faculty and staff, it was informative and lively.

Our graduates are pursuing a number of paths, including graduate programs in museum studies and social work, teaching English abroad, and teaching history and social studies closer to home.

—Jennifer Fronc, director

Lashway Wins University-Wide Award

Mary Lashway took the stage during the Graduate School’s 2017 commencement ceremony to present with the Distinguished Graduate Staff Award for her support of graduate studies in history. The recognition was years in the making. When Jason Higgins, Nolan Cool, Jack Werner, Mark Rohler, and Katherine Fecteau ’17MA wrote letters to nominate Lashway this past spring, they were continuing the efforts of graduate students over the past several years who had also enthusiastically recommended her. Jason Higgins, who coordinated this year’s effort, suggests that Lashway’s helpsfulness contributed to his decision to attend UMass Amherst. “With cordiality and professionalism,” Jason says, “Mary helped me throughout the process that led to my pursuit of graduate studies at UMass.”

Nolan Cool speaks to Lashway’s many roles in the department: “Many of us commonly say, ‘Just ask Mary—she has all the answers’—a widespread testament to her devotion and efficiency in all matters involving the history department’s graduate students, faculty, and staff.”

We graduate students owe much of our successes to Ladwsky’s facilitation of our assistantships, conference and research travels, and course schedules. We hope this award reminds Mary that her hard work, patience, and dedication do not go unnoticed or unappreciated. We thank you for all that you do, Mary.

—Jason Higgins

MARY LASHWAY WINS UNIVERSITY-WIDE AWARD

Mary Lashway with Chancellor Kumble R. Subbaswamy.
Shedding Armor, Finding Community

ONE STUDENT’S STORY:

Editor’s note: This address was delivered in March to the 2017 Phi Alpha Theta inductees. We are delighted to share this glimpse into the love and experiences of our undergraduate students. History is a complicated field of study. History majors who dedicate themselves wholeheartedly to understanding the stories of the past and utilizing them to better the future have my admiration. They need support. It can be isolating to sit surrounded by a stack of yellowing paper and books with splitting spines, but it can also be wonderful to lose yourself in the worlds of the past.

At first, I found it difficult to make friends in the history department. We had all built up a certain armor out of our need to prove that studying history was just as valuable as studying science or engineering. Many of us had had skeptics ask, “What kind of job are you going to get with that as a major?” Such people don’t understand that there were wonderful friendships to be had with the history-loving people I saw on a daily basis. As the years went on, the class levels went up, and the percentage of people on hand only to meet the history major fell. I think I made my first breakthrough late my freshman year, sitting with a group of friends in a Van Meter hallway, much to our RA’s chagrin, and chatting into the early hours of the morning. I fell into an impassioned argument over the collapse of the Soviet Union. I became accustomed to the awkward icebreaking it took to break down the guard of fellow history majors. And I came to realize that if I stuck it out through those rough starts, I could forge incredibly important and lasting friendships.

I hope that anyone struggling to find community in the history department can take something from these stories. I hope that for those of you just starting at UMass this will encourage you to tap into the stories of the past and utilizing them to better the world.

—Rebecca Shailor ’17

The Graduate Program

Academic year 2016–17 was an excellent one for the History Graduate Program. Our graduate students continued to impress with their intellect, energy, and social engagement. In the fall, the Five College Distinguished Lecturer, Talitha LeFur from the University of Virginia, gave a fascinating talk, “Chain of Slaves: A History of Black Women and Convict Labor.”

The university recognized Graduate Program Assistant Mary Lashway’s outstanding work with the Distinguished Graduate Student Award, presented at the graduate commencement ceremony. We were delighted to see that the university appreciates Mary’s excellent and tireless service as much as we do.

The GHA Conference, “Mobility and Marginalization: Historical and Contemporary Concepts of Movement,” was a resounding success, with presenters coming from our program and many other universities. Presenters from UMass Amherst were Selena Moon ’17MA, Dan Howard, Ashford, Kevin Greene, Julia Carroll ’17MA, Mike Jirk, Chuck Weisenberger, Jorge Minella, Jorge Vanquez, Shy Olmstead ’17MA, and Brianne Zimmerman. Shy Olmstead was the recipient of the conference’s best-paper award for “Sabrina’s, Surveillance, and Sex: Normative Gender Expectations and Off-Campus Mobility at Same-Sex Massachusetts Colleges, 1916–1922.” This paper also received the Women and Gender Studies Programs award at Central Michigan University’s International Historical Studies Conference, where it was presented. Shy is back in the history PhD program at UMass Amherst this fall.

Meanwhile, our students presented at conferences across the United States and overseas. Many traveled to the National Council on Public History; others attended the International Congress of Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, the German Studies Conference in San Diego, the Conference of the Oral History Association in Long Beach, California, the SHA/AR Annual Meeting in San Antonio, the seventh International Conference of the European Society for the History of Science in Prague, and numerous other local conferences.

Attending and presenting at conferences is key to graduate students’ professional development. The generosity of our donors enables us to fund graduate-student travel to these conferences.

Our students also participated in local historical undertakings. Nolan Cool and Austin Clark worked with the Leverett Historical Society and Leverett Cemetery Association to produce cultural-resources surveys of seven

From left: Selena Moon ’17MA, Danping Wang ’17MA, and Noemi Lasalandra ’17MA discuss their master’s portfolios in spring 2017.

Shailor’s address was delivered to members of Alpha Theta, pictured here after the 2017 induction. Shailor is third from the left in the back row.
GARDUATE STUDENT
DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

The 2017 Graduate Awards Ceremony was held on May 18. Dozens of graduate students, faculty, faculty emeriti, friends, and family gathered to celebrate the end of the 2016–17 academic year with awards and warm salutations to our graduating students.

The Department of History’s generous donors make these awards—and students’ successful graduate careers—possible. We thank you. For more on these awards, visit umass.edu/history/graduate-awards.

Bauer-Gordon Summer Research Fellowship

Michael Jitrik
Sarah Lavallee
Anthony Malpassi

Cardwell Writing Prize

Julie Peterson
Rebekah Rubin

History Department Travel Grant

Justin Burch
Santina Frederick

Hyde Intern Scholarship

Alexandra Asai
Austin Clark
Holton Cool
Jason Higgins

Hands-On Grant

Jason Higgins

Joyce A. Berkman Endowed Fund in Women’s History and Women’s Studies

Adeline Brousseau

Jumpstart Grant for Dissertation Research

Joie-Lynn Campbell

Oglivie Memorial Award

Mohammed Iskak

Richard Gassan Memorial Scholarship

Jenna Faberio
Andrew Grin
Charles Weisenberger

Robert & Jeanne Potash Latin American Travel Grant

Yuri Cama

Simon and Seleng Ermonian Graduate Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching

Joie-Lynn Campbell
Rebekah Rubin

2017 M.A. THeses

Julia Carroll, “The Economy of Evangelism in the Colonial American South”

Sara Patton, “Springing Forth Anew: Progress, Preservation, and Park Building at Roger Williams National Memorial”

Duming Wang, “Conformity and Dissension: Change of Narrative in a Chinese Peasant’s Personal Writing”

2017 Ph.D. THeses

Dan Chard, “Nixon’s War on Terrorism: The FBI, Leftist Guerrillas, and the Origins of Watergate”

Felicia Jamison, “‘Teddy Liberty’ for 40: Georgia Culture and the Black Freedom Struggle in Liberty County, Georgia, 1753–1946”


PHO candidate Joie Campbell defends her dissertation prospectus, “just indignation: African American Clubwomen and the Disruption of Respectability, 1800s–1930s.”

PHO Students Felicia Jamison ’17PHO, Camiessa Scruggs, and Marwa Amer listen raptly to the Feinberg Series keynote speakers.

Christian Appy (left) receives the Chancellor’s Medal from Chancellor Subbaswamy.

Last April, Professor of History Christian Appy was awarded the Chancellor’s Medal, the highest honor bestowed to faculty at UMass Amherst. During the presentation ceremony, Appy delivered a public talk as part of the university’s 2016–17 Distinguished Faculty Lecture Series.

Appy’s riveting presentation, “The Atomic Origins of America’s National Security State: How Nuclear Weapons Produced an Imperial Presidency and Degraded Democracy,” was attended by more than 150 members of the UMass community. Appy argued that from the Manhattan Project to the Global War on Terror, nuclear weapons have had a pernicious impact on American political culture. The secrecy and concentrated power under which the first atomic weapons were created provided a model for the post–World War II permanent national security state, presided over by presidents invested in unprecedented power. Their exclusive authority to produce and use atomic weapons—codified by the Atomic Energy Act of 1946—led to further expansions of presidential powers not conferred by the Constitution. The authority to launch globe-threatening weapons has led to a wide range of additional assertions of power unaccountable to the public or its elected representatives, including covert overthrows of foreign governments, secret bombings of foreign nations, unilateral abdication of treaties, warrantless surveillance of American citizens, and routine circumvention of Congress’s constitutional power to declare war. Appy convincingly argued that nuclear weapons are inherently undemocratic and must be abolished before we can dismantle the national security state and restore genuinely representative government. His talk concluded with a standing ovation.

The lecture and award were only the latest highlights of Appy’s distinguished career. He is the author of three books about the American war in Vietnam: American Reckoning: The Vietnam War and Our National Identity in Vietnam: American Reckoning: The Vietnam War and Our National Identity (Viking, 2015); Patriots: The Vietnam War Remembered from All Sides (Viking, 2003), and Working-Class War: American Combat Soldiers and Vietnam (University of North Carolina Press, 1993). Patriots won the Massachusetts Book Award for Nonfiction in 2004. In 2013, Appy received the University of Massachusetts Distinguished Teaching Award. He is an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer and is working on a book tentatively titled Fallout: The Nuclear Age in American Culture, Politics, and Protest from Hiroshima to the Global War on Terror. —Justin Burch
Our International Community

In recent years, UMass Amherst has worked to “internationalize” its curriculum. As a discipline, history has long been international; our faculty and students study the history of the entire world, as well as transnational, comparative, and global history. The Department of History is particularly proud to be home to many students and faculty members born outside the U.S. who have come here to study and work and whose personal experiences enrich our scholarly engagement with the world.

—Brian Ogilvie

COUNTRIES IDENTIFIED
Australia
Brazil
Canada
China
England
France
India
Iran
Ireland
Israel
New Zealand
Philippines
Scotland
This year in the life of the Public History Program got off to a great start with a field trip on a beautiful September day to the David Ruggles Center for Emily Florence History, where we looked in on the Hyde intern Charles Weisenberger’s exhibit, “Dramatic Darwin Hudson and Radical Reform.” Next, we headed up to the iconic Chummington Creamery for lunch before arriving at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead. After a walk through the site’s old-growth forest in collection of “enormous pines that reach heights of 150 feet—a stand among the tallest in the Northeast,” we settled in to enjoy a Fiese and Still Now—William Cullen Bryant at Home, a performance introducing visitors to Bryant’s life and career. Afterward, we enjoyed a lively tour as staff talked with us about everything from collection care and interpretation to their own career trajectories.

The fall also saw a fruitful exchange between UMass Public History and the American Antiquarian Society facilitated by Kayla Hovdees Hopper ’11MA. In September, Kayla and Nan Wolverton, director of the Center for Historic American Visual Culture, came to Herter Hall to offer our students and our colleagues in the Pioneer Valley History Network a workshop on using print sources and two faculty members from the University of Maine, Kayla Hovdees Hopper ’11MA (director of interpretation, Mystic Seaport), Amanda Goodheart Purks ’10MA (director of education, New England Air Museum), Angelo Grebele Boll ’03MA (curator, Maine State Museum), and Emily Esten ’16 (graduate student, Brown University). As usual, students in our courses undertook field-service projects with and for area institutions. Students in Miller’s introductory seminar produced a local history timeline for Historic Northampton to accompany the national traveling exhibition States of Incarceration, documented cemeteries for the Holyoke Historical Commission, and inventoried objects in the collections of Wistariahurst Museum. Students in Jon Olsen’s digital history course created tools in support of the UMass Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Justice Issues. As always, the conference provided a chance to reconnect with our alumni, including Erik Ingmanson ’12MA (director of interpretation, Mystic Seaport), Amanda Goodheart Purks ‘10MA (director of education, New England Air Museum), Angelo Grebele Boll ’03MA (curator, Maine State Museum), and Emily Esten ’16 (graduate student, Brown University).
In an effort steered by Professor Olsen, Gregg Mitchell ’15, Rhode Island, and Williams National Memorial in Providence, Historic Places documentation for the Roger Patton ’17MA, Sara Patton ’17MA, Rebekkah Rubin ’17MA, and Danping Wang ’17MA, produced digital timelines narrating histories of the movement toward re- productive justice for the Steinem Initiative at Smith College.

The spring also saw our students in action through grant- and contract-funded projects. In projects directed by Professor Miller, Sara Patton ’17MA completed National Register of Historic Places documentation for the Roger Williams National Memorial in Providence, Rhode Island, and Gregg Mitchell ’15 contributed to a creative economy initiative, “Using 3-D Modeling to Preserve the Architectural Heritage of Massachusetts. Digital Preservation and Educational Outreach.” In an effort overseen by Professor Glass, Gregg also worked on a smartphone application with the Springfield Armory. Students in Sam Redman’s course “Museum and Historic Site Interpretation” collaborated with the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of American History to write blog posts connected to a new exhibition, “Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II.” Students also collaborated with the Humanities Action Lab to complete visitor surveys for a traveling exhibition on mass incarceration. Guest speakers in the seminar included Franklin Oke of Ambient College and Trudie Cole of the Peole Museum in Peole, Dorset, U.K.

And finally, regular readers of the newsletter will remember last year’s Summit on Historical Reclamation Project, which struggles to preserve and memorialize historic Shockoe Bottom, the second-largest slave market in the country, and the nearby African Burial Ground in Richmond, Virginia.

In April, the UMass Amherst presence at the annual meeting of the National Council on Public History set all kinds of records for us: no fewer than five current students (Shakti Castro ’17MA, Gregg Mitchell ’15, Cameoah Scruggs, Sara Patton ’17MA, and Danping Wang ’17MA) presented posters showcasing their work at the Indianapolis conference, and Cheryl Horned, Erica Fagen, and Amanda Tewes presented papers. All told, an impressive 30 current students, alumni, faculty, and friends of the program gathered at what has become an annual reunion and networking event. It was exciting to see old and new friends and colleagues in lively conversation.

As always, in May several students headed off to summer internships. In 2017, our students could be found at the nation’s first-ever dedicated seminar on incarceration, the Stone House Museum in Belchertown (Nolan Cool), the Stone Museum of American History (Katherine Fecteau ’17MA), the National Park Service Cultural Resources Program’s Office of Interpretation and Education (Perri Meldon); and Umass Special Collections and Archives (Jason Higgins). It is always bittersweet to any farewell to students leaving us to launch the next phase of their careers, and we will surely miss Shakti Castro ’17MA, Katherine Fecteau ’17MA, Gregg Mitchell ’17MA, Selena Moon ’17MA, Sara Patton ’17MA, Rebekkah Rubin ’17MA, and Danping Wang ’17MA, as well as Kelli Morgan, a public art historian who graduated from the W.E.B. Du Bois Department of Afro-American Studies. We wish them all the best and hope they’ll all stay in close touch in the years to come. We invite everyone to stay in touch through Face- book, Twitter, and, of course, return visits to Amherst.

—Marla Milne, director

Left to right: PhD student Brittany Frederick with Penni Martorell of Wistariahurst and Maria Miller at an American Antiquarian Society workshop on using visual culture in historical research.
‘Public History in Historical Perspective’

In 2009, the University of Massachusetts Press launched a new series, “Public History in Historical Perspective”—the nation’s only scholarly series devoted to the history of public history practice in the U.S. and around the globe. The series is deeply entwined with the history department. Marla Miller is the series editor, while David Glassberg and Max Page, professor of architecture and director of Historic Preservation Initiatives, serve on its advisory board. As members of the University Press Committee, Sam Redman and Joel Wolfe also help the series succeed. In 2017, the UMass stamp on the series deepened and sparkled when the National Council on Public History’s prize for best book of the year was awarded to The Stages of Memory: Reflections on Memorial Art, Loss, and the Spaces Between, by James E. Young, while David Glassberg is the series editor. Other runners-up for this preeminent recognition have included Susan Williams’s Alice Morse Earle and the Domestic History of Early America (2013) and Jessie Swiggen’s History Is a Bunk!: Assembling the Past at Henry Ford’s Greenfield Village (2014). Not bad for a series with only 16 titles in print! To learn more about our books, point your browser to umass.edu/umpress/series/public-history-historical-perspective. —Marla Miller

Krauthamer Appointed Graduate School Dean

On May 12, 2017, Barbara Krauthamer, professor of history, became dean of the University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School. A member of the history department faculty since 2008, Krauthamer was named associate graduate dean for student inclusion and engagement in 2015. In that role, she created multiple fellowship programs designed to support the recruitment and retention of underrepresented graduate students. These programs facilitate multiple mentoring pathways for graduate students to ensure that they have access to both financial resources and mentoring and support networks. She has also worked closely with the Graduate School’s Office of Professional Development to ensure that professional development programs reach broad audiences across campus.

In the history department, Krauthamer worked closely with numerous master’s and doctoral students, served for a number of years on the department’s Graduate Studies Committee, and served as graduate program director for two years. In that role, she worked to promote diversity in the department and implemented changes to the admissions and funding process that expanded resources for doctoral students.

Krauthamer is widely recognized as a leading historian of African American slavery and emancipation in the United States. Her published work includes Black Slaves, Jewish Masters: Slavery, Emancipation, and Citizenship in the Native American South. She is a coauthor of Envisioning Emancipation: Black Americans and the End of Slavery, which received several honors, most notably the 2013 NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work in Nonfiction. Most recently, she coedited Major Problems in African American History, one of the leading textbooks in the field. She has authored numerous articles, curated exhibits, and written pieces for general audiences. Krauthamer appears in the award-winning documentary film Through a Lens Darkly: Black Photographers and the Emergence of a People. Her research and books have been profiled in The New York Times, CBS Evening News, National Public Radio, Pacifica Radio, and CNN, as well as outlets in the United Kingdom, France, and Italy.

Krauthamer has a long record of academic service on and off campus. She is an Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lecturer, serves on the OAH Nominating Committee, and is the rising president of the Southern Association of Women Historians. She has served in leadership positions in a number of other professional organizations, including the Association of Black Women Historians, the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians, and the Southern Historical Association.

Krauthamer has received awards and funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Stanford University’s Research Institute for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity, Yale University’s Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition; the Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas at Austin; and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. She also sits on the boards of the Berkshire Museum and the Samuel Harrison Society, both in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. She received her BA from Dartmouth College, a master’s degree from Washington University in St. Louis, and her PhD from Princeton University.

We in the history department will miss her daily presence in Herter Hall but are excited to continue to work closely with her in this new role. The Graduate School couldn’t be in better hands.

—Adapted from an article by Daniel J. Fitzgibbons
The Places Project emerged and evolved as a variety of variables, including community, age, what they want for the future. Written on the map itself. We updated a Facebook project continues and the data already collected.

The project wanted to avoid simplified, uncritical celebrations of place and its meanings or pathologizing tellers. It did not focus on the university community; nor did it exclude it. By collecting stories at fairs, festivals, and heritage events, it enabled a large cross-section of residents to participate. People gathered around the booth, looked at maps, listened to one another, and shared stories and memories. In many ways, the open-ended, organic participatory engagements the project made possible performed the very functions and forms that cultural memory takes within community life: establishing connections, developing usable pasts, bridging the individual and the group, and producing a coherent, if oblique, narrative of community values, worries, and aspirations.

The Places Project set out to change the story of the Mountain. It invited people to share what mattered to them, in a format that brought experiences and narratives together without collapsing them, privileging some over others, or pathologizing tellers. It did not focus on the university community; nor did it exclude it. By collecting stories at fairs, festivals, and heritage events, it enabled a large cross-section of residents to participate. People gathered around the booth, looked at maps, listened to one another, and shared stories and memories. In many ways, the open-ended, organic participatory engagements the project made possible performed the very functions and forms that cultural memory takes within community life: establishing connections, developing usable pasts, bridging the individual and the group, and producing a coherent, if oblique, narrative of community values, worries, and aspirations.

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partners at Watertown Museum and the UMass Boston Public History Program, I presented at the New England Museum Association’s conference. Also with Maria Miller, I oversaw the creation of a student exhibit, *The Carceral Commonwealth / La mancomunidad carcelaria*, which you can read about below.

Additionally, I coordinated the history department’s online courses. This year, we offered more of them than ever before, extending the department’s reach to learners across the globe. We also offered numerous free events for public audiences. If you’re in the area and want to learn about our events, email communications@history.umass.edu to join the department’s event-announcement listserv.

The High School History Academy was another highlight of my year. Organized in collaboration with Jennifer Franca, Caroline White Special Collections and University Archives, and Kelley Brown (Easthampton High School), this daylong exploration of history with 50 ninth graders from Easthampton High School featured a lecture by Alice Nash, hands-on primary-source activities at the UMass archives, lunch at a dining commons, a campus and library tour, and a lively Q&A with undergraduate and graduate history students. Each and every one of the participating high school students reported now being interested in applying to college, and many expressed interest in studying history at UMass!

The history department’s excellent students and full-time staff members made so much of this possible. Thank you, Suzanne Bell, Adeline Broussan, Justin Burch, Shakti Castro ’17MA, Amy Fleig, Adam Howes, Colleen Kielty, Mary Lashaway, Enjoli Pescheta ’17, Comeaux Suggs, Jaffar Shiek ’17, Eyianna Sully, and Shwimi Verma. I extend my gratitude to the department’s faculty, whose scholarship, commitment, and generosity never cease to floor me. Joyce Bowman, Julie Capo, Jennifer Heuer, Alice Nash, Anna Taylor, and Bigidg Schmeltzer offered particular support, as did the department’s excellent chair, Brian Ogilvie, and Feinberg Series cochairs Jennifer Nye and Maria Miller, who was also a collaborator on several other projects and a mentor extraordinary.

—Jennifer Johnson, director

**BRING UMASS TO YOU**

**The Carceral Commonwealth / La mancomunidad carcelaria**

A Free Traveling Exhibit by the UMass Amherst Public History Program and the Humanities Action Lab

The Carceral Commonwealth / La mancomunidad carcelaria is a bilingual exhibit that explores how incarceration has impacted families and communities in Massachusetts. It considers deep histories of incarceration in our state, including the Commonwealth’s leading role in 19th- and 20th-century reform movements that changed how the nation incarcerated women and young people. It also tackles more recent histories, especially how movements that changed how the nation incarcerated women and young people. It also tackles more recent histories, especially how Massachusetts—like the U.S. as a whole—began incarcerating exponentially large numbers of its residents starting in the 1970s.

**Themes Include:**

- Experiences of incarcerated people’s loved ones
- Pregnancy, birth, and parenthood in prison
- The school-to-prison pipeline
- The disproportionate incarceration of people of color
- How local and statewide community organizations have fought for change

This five-panel exhibit is available for display by any Massachusetts school, college, library, museum, nonprofit organization, state entity, or community group. There is no fee to borrow the exhibit.

Shipping costs will be shared by UMass and the host institution (approx. $40 each). For more information, visit umass.edu/history/carceral-commonwealth.
FACULTY UPDATES

Audrey Altstadt reports: This has been another wonderful year, given the publication of my third book, Frustrated Democracy in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan. This book has been an odyssey for a historian, as it cites to the efforts to democratize the post-Soviet states in the 25 years since the collapse of the USSR. But the book is grounded both in my visits to Azerbaijan since 1980 and my historical study of the country’s politics and culture, which I began as a graduate student in the 1970s. I wrote it during a yearlong fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, whose press copublished the book with Columbia University Press. At the book launch in May, former U.S. Ambassador Richard K cosmalliz commented on the book. The readings on human rights and democratization related to the book research supplied materials for “Human Rights and Energy Security,” an Integrative Experience Gen.Ed course I teach most fall semesters. Also on the teaching front, I just developed a new writing seminar, “Espionage in History,” which I taught in the spring.

Anne Broadbridge had a great year. She presented at the Center for Middle Eastern Studies at Berkeley, the Central Eurasian Studies Series at Princeton, Harvard, and the Medieval Studies seminar at Harvard, all of which well-informed and interested audiences engaged with her in lively discussions on a wide range of stimulating topics. Meanwhile, her second book, Women and the Making of the Mongol Empire, is at Cambridge University press. This past year she taught “Middle Eastern History I,” “Women and the Medieval World: Women, Power and Politics in the Islamic World,” and “Age of the Crusades,” and really enjoyed working with students, exercising my public speaking skills, and disseminating my scholarship to a wider audience. She also delivered a public lecture at the University of Michigan in May on her research into womenTraveling through 2017 to research 

Julie Copeland reports: I was awarded a visiting scholar position at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney, where I residned from February to June 2017. In addition to completing her new book, Welcome to Fairyland: Queer Miami before 1940 (University of North Carolina Press, 2017), she conducted research at archives throughout Australia and delivered talks at the center as well as at La Trobe University in Melbourne. She also published a peer-reviewed chapter for the National Park Service LGBTQ Theme Study and a new book with Columbia University Press. At the book launch in May, former U.S. Ambassador Michael Klare of Hampshire College’s Peace and World Security Studies Program, NYU provided historical context for the tragic Pulse nightclub massacre, in which 49 people were killed in June 2016.

Julie Copeland is visiting the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney.

Jennifer Franc reports: This has been an exciting year, given the publication of my upcoming book, Monitoring the Movies, an upcoming publication coedited by Sigrid Schnaider, Dan Chard, and Alyssa Botelho. This has been an -

Jennifer Franc’s upcoming book Monitoring the Movies.

Anne Broadbridge at the Historical Perspectives on the 2018 Election at UMass Amherst.

Alyssa Botelho.

David Glaserberg reports: Fresh from a Fulbright teaching/research fellowship in 2016, Richard T. Chu went back full swing to teaching at UMass and the Five Colleges. In fall 2016, he taught “Empire, Race, and the Philippines” at UMass and “Chinese Diasporic History” at Hampshire College; in spring 2017, he taught “Asian/Pacific American History” at UMass and Smith College. As a graduate of the Civil Engagement and Service Learning Fellowship, he received in 2016, Chu added a civic engagement component to his UMass course that brought his students to interact with different Asian American communities in the Pioneer Valley. In the spring, Chu organized a panel on Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and Philippines/U.S. relations. It featured Chu, Michael Erazo of Hampshire College’s Peace and World Security Studies Program, NYU Assistant Professor Justin Jackson ’07MA, and Mike Rosset of Mount Holyoke College. Chu also won a Faculty Co-Leads Grant for the Center for Racial Justice and Urban Affairs from the Research and Engagement Office of the vice chancellor’s office. He also will serve as a Teaching for Inclusion, Diversity, and Equity ambassador for 2017–18. He was invited by the University of Chicago’s history department and the Institute for Asian and African Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin to give a lecture in May about his research on the Chinese in the Philippines. In July, he was the plenary speaker at the Southeast Asian American Studies conference at UMass Lowell.

Jennifer Franc presents her scholarship at a public forum at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, where she chairs the advisory council of the George F. Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies.

Alyssa Botelho.

Julio Copado A, visiting scholar at the United States Studies Centre at the University of Sydney.

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Anne Broadbridge at the Historical Perspectives on the 2018 Election at UMass Amherst.

Alyssa Botelho.
planned by the press with funding from a Mass Humanities grant, at the Iowa Library in Amherst. My spring semester, much like last year’s, involved long conversation about the emerging field of history communication as I taught our department’s (and the nation’s) first-ever seminar in history communication, presented on that initiative at the American Historical Association meeting in Denver, and participated in a related working group at the 2017 annual meeting of the National Council on Public History. I also enjoyed a day at the University of Connecticut presenting “Artisans and Entrepreneurs in the Eighteenth Century: A Case Study of the Wampanoag” at the first-ever seminar in history communication at a University of Connecticut publication at a panel at the Jones Library in Amherst.

Kevin Young and David Glassberg share their perspectives during the “Historical Perspectives on the 2016 Election” panel organized by the department in December 2016.

FACULTY UPDATES

FACULTY AWARDS, 2016–17
Audrey Attsatt
Appointed chair of the Advisory Council, George F. Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, October 2016–October 2020
Christian Appy
Distinguished Faculty Lecture and Chancellor’s Medal, April 2017
Julio Capó Jr.
Center for Racial Justice and Urban Affairs Planning grant from the UMass Vice Chancellor’s Office of Research and Engagement, Spring 2017
Visiting Scholar Fellowship, United States Studies Centre, Sydney, Australia, spring 2017
Richard Chu
Center for Racial Justice and Urban Affairs Planning grant from the UMass Vice Chancellor’s Office of Research and Engagement, spring 2017
Julie de Chantal
Research associate for the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center
David Glassberg and Sam Redman
Jennifer Heuer
Honorable Mention from the interdisciplinary Nineteenth-Century Studies essay contest for her “No More Fears, No More Tears? Gender, Emotion, and the Aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars in France,” Gender and History 28, no. 2 (August 2016), 457–489
Laura Lovett
Distinguished Faculty Lecture for the OHIO National Endowment for the Humanities, grant, Gender, the State, and the 1977 international Women’s Year Conference, 2017
Marla Miller
Elected vice president/president-elect of National Council on Public History (NCPC), vice president, 2016–18, president, 2018–20
Alice Nash
Priyanka Srivastava
UMass Amherst, Teaching for Inclusiveness, Diversity, and Equity Fellowship
seeks to do justice to both traditional forms of knowledge and the legacy of revolutionary politics.

Libby Sharro w had a fruitful year of teach ingand research. She published an article, “Female Athlete’s Politics: Title IX and the Natural ization of Sex Difference in Public Policy,” in a special “Body Politics” issue of Politics, Groups, and Identities. She coauthored an article, forthcoming in the Journal of Politics, “'Female Athlete' Politics: Title IX and the Naturalization of Sex Difference in Public Policy,” in a special “Body Politics” issue of Politics, Groups, and Identities. She coauthored an article, forthcoming in the Journal of Politics, “'Female Athlete' Politics: Title IX and the Naturalization of Sex Difference in Public Policy.”

Kathryn A. Schwartz is a historian of the modern Middle East whose work explores practices and ideas that developed alongside technological change in the region. She holds a PhD from Harvard University and a BA from King’s College, University of Cambridge. Kathryn’s current research focuses on the social history of printing in nineteenth-century Cairo, the first city in the Ottoman Empire to develop a mainstream urban print culture. She is now writing Print and the People of Cairo, in which she argues against the notion of printing being an agent of change by demonstrating that Egyptians deployed it in conjunction with long-standing customs and ideas. Her articles have been published in such journals as The International Journal of Middle East Studies and Book History, and her work has been featured on digital platforms such as the Ottoman History Podcast.

Kevin Young published his first book, Blood of the Earth: Rousseau, Nationalism, Revolution, and Empire in Bolivia (University of Texas Press, 2017), which traces conflicts over Bolivia’s subterranean resource wealth over the past century. He also published an article in the Hispanic American Historical Review, “From Open Door to Nationalization: Oil and Development Visions in Bolivia, 1952–1969.” In the spring, Young began a survey of farm-workers in western Massachusetts, working alongside sociology colleagues Millie Thayer and Clare Hammonds and the Northampton-based Pioneer Valley Workers Center.

Our Newest Faculty Members

Cristina Scheibe Wolff of the history department at Federal University of Santa Catarina, Brazil, has assumed the Fulbright Chair of Brazilian Studies at UMass Amherst for the fall 2017 semester. Her current research analyzes gender and emotion as components of discourses in resistance to the Southern Cone dictatorships. Wolff takes a cross, comparative perspective in striving to comprehend how the subjects in the resistance mobilized feelings, family ties, friendships, and especially gender discourses to oppose the dictatorships and construct new political configurations, leading to a politics of emotion still active today in the form of remembrance, trials, and truth commissions. In this research, she employs different types of documentary sources, including oral history, alternative press, documents from the resistance organizations themselves, such as posters, newsletters, leaflets, among others, memoirs and other autobiographical texts; and a bibliography on each of the researched countries. Wolff takes a comparative, cross perspective to work with Brazil, Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay. She is also working in a project about feminism in Brazil as a social conflict that helped configure the current political scenery. She is one of the editors of Revista Estudos Feministas (www.wwfcielo.br/ref).

Alon Confino grew up in Jerusalem and was educated at Tel-Aviv University and UC Berkeley. He is broadly interested in the theory and practice of writing history as displayed in memory, culture, and nationhood. His work often takes modern German history as a point of departure, yet consistently casts a wider net. As a historian, he seeks to reach the edges of the historical discipline; those areas of research and theory where historical method meets ethnography, literature, anthropology, and cultural studies.

Confino’s writing combines storytelling and critical analysis. His most recent book is A World without Jews: The Nazi Imagination from Persecution to Genocide (Yale University Press, 2014), the project for which he received a 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship. Confino is now taking on a new challenge in terms of method, sources, and interpretation, working on a topic squarely within Jewish and Israeli history: his current project, Imagining Palestine and Israel, 1948: Jews and Palestinians between Local Experience and Global History. It crafts two narratives, one based on the experience of Arabs, Jews, and British based on letters, diaries, and oral history, and the other placing 1948 within global perspective of decolonization, the breakup of the British Empire, human rights, and, in particular, modern forced migrations and partitions.

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Confino’s writing combines storytelling and critical analysis. His most recent book is A World without Jews: The Nazi Imagination from Persecution to Genocide (Yale University Press, 2014), the project for which he received a 2011 Guggenheim Fellowship. Confino is now taking on a new challenge in terms of method, sources, and interpretation, working on a topic squarely within Jewish and Israeli history: his current project, Imagining Palestine and Israel, 1948: Jews and Palestinians between Local Experience and Global History. It crafts two narratives, one based on the experience of Arabs, Jews, and British based on letters, diaries, and oral history, and the other placing 1948 within global perspective of decolonization, the breakup of the British Empire, human rights, and, in particular, modern forced migrations and partitions.
Joyce Berkman reports: Since my update for last year’s department newsletter, several upheavals have occurred in my life, including the death of a recently awarded doctoral student and dear friend Gary Garrison (see my tribute to him in the final edition of last year’s newsletter), the election of Donald Trump, and a health crisis from which I am much recovered.

In light of recent political events, I am engaging in an array of resistance movements, with special effort to introduce into local school curricula Cixius, a digital program designed by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor.

My scholarly work branches out in various ways. My oral history work continues. During the past summer, I interviewed two retired members of our university’s music department; during the fall, for the Valley Women’s History Collaborative, I interviewed the owner of Lunaria, a feminist bookstore in Northampton that thrived during the 1980s. I also taught a session of an oral history class at Westminster State University. Another branch is my scholarship on Edith Stein’s family refuge to the United States during the 1930s. As secretary and newsletter editor for the International Association for the Study of the Philosophy of Edith Stein, I will participate in the June in Portland, Oregon, in our fourth international conference. Yet another branch: I serve as a consultant for a number of historic projects, including recent ones on Jane Addams and Olive Schreiner. I maintain strong ties to our department and university. One more of my doctoral students continues work on her dissertation. I was recently elected secretary of the Retired Faculty Association. With the provost’s backing, it is drafting a proposal for a new music major. My other activities include the publication of my Modernization and the Changing Perceptions of Animals in Bogotá, Colombia, 1960 to the Present in the Journal of Global South Studies, and the Latin Americanist.

Charles Bearcik continues to live two seas on each year as a Paris resident and to make forays into the French past. His essay “Chocolat: A Blank Entertainer in the Belle Époque” on France’s first black entertainer published this past summer. I wrote the book to document the history of the orchestra’s 50-year existence as part of a yearlong celebration of this extraordinary achievement. My other activities included the publication of “The Psychology of Animal Experiments,” a paper I presented at the International Conference on Animal Research and Ethics. The paper was published in an international cultural bulletin Fiction and Film for French Historians. It reviews both Chocolat, a recent film about the clown, and a book on the subject by a distinguished historian. The unconventional methodologies used in the book, as well as the story it tells, may be of interest to UMass historians. One of his current projects is a presentation about the most popular French song during the First World War. The song, the subject of an article Bearcik published 25 years ago, will be performed in Paris this November.

The Philippines, historically one of the staunchest U.S. allies in the Asia/Pacific region, has under its current president, Rodrigo Duterte, been making headlines for his approach to solving the country’s drug problem and his threat to sever U.S./Philippine ties in favor of closer ties with China and Russia. Since taking power in July 2016, Duterte has made good his threat to go after suspected drug pushers and users, killing them by the thousands without benefit of due process. He has also become notorious for his profanity-laden speeches: during the pre-ASEAN summit in September 2016, he used cusswords while railing against then-president Barack Obama.

As a response to these developments, I organized an online panel, “Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte and U.S./Philippines Relations: Quo Vadis?” Co-sponsored by the Five College Program in Peace and World Security Studies (PAMWS), the history department, and the International Programs Office, the panel featured, in addition to myself, three scholars who shared their expertise: Five College professor and PAWS director Michael Klare; Justin Jackson ’97, assistant professor and faculty fellow in global histories at the John W. Dapper Interdisciplinary Master’s Program in Humanities and Social Thought at New York University; and Riko Rosete, visiting lecturer in economics, Mount Holyoke College.

Klare focused on the U.S. position on the dispute over a group of islands in the South China Sea. These islands are being claimed by five countries: China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Brunei. Under Duterte’s predecessor, Benigno Aquino Jr., the Philippine government, with the backing of the U.S. government, filed a case against China with the international tribune at The Hague and won. However, ever since Duterte took power, the Philippine government has quietly dropped the issue with China, a development that has alarmed the U.S. government. With neither the U.S. nor China willing to back down from their positions, Klare voiced his concern over what might develop into a zero-sum game between the two superpowers.

On Duterte and U.S./Philippine Relations

From left: Michael Klare, Riko Rosete, Justin Jackson ’97, and Richard Chu.
In the spring, Alex Auld completed an internship with the Weder Oral History Project at the National Yiddish Book Center, assisting in processing 31 English-language oral histories and selected excerpts for digital publication. She also prepared a digital exhibit on Yiddish theater and performance for the project’s website.

This past year, Adeline Broussan truly enjoyed setting up the States of Incarceration exhibit in Holyoke and in Northampton. She later participated in Ellis Island: An Immigration Experience at Watervliet Museum, where she introduced third-graders to material history. She also supervised the moving of the ceramic collection at Historic Northampton so that the museum could install a new shelving system. During the summer, she coordinated the NES summer institute, “Teaching Native American History,” under the direction of Alice Nash and Linda Coombs. Set in Mashpee and Arapi­naah Wampanoag territory, the institute welcomed 24 K–12 teachers from across the country who learned about language reviv­ilism in the Colonial American South, and was awarded departmental honors by her committee Bob Cox, Jennifer Heuser, and John Higginson. An abbreviated version of the thesis has been accepted for presentation at the Oxford Symposium on Religious History, scheduled for December 2017. In September, she entered the American and New England Studies doctoral program at Boston University.

In April, Julia Carroll ’17MA defended her master’s thesis, “The Economy of Evangelism in the Colonial American South,” and was awarded departmental honors by her committee Rob Cox, Jennifer Heuser, and John Higginson. An abbreviated version of the thesis has been accepted for presentation at the Oxford Symposium on Religious History, scheduled for December 2017. In September, she entered the American and New England Studies doctoral program at Boston University.

Lastly, he presented a talk at a meeting of the Western New England Chapter of the Association of Gravestone Studies at the Stone House Museum (Selbytown, Mass­achusetts) in April 2017. Nolan presented on his consulting work (March–May 2017)乳房 crafting cultural resource surveys and the Leverett Cemetery Association and on his use of social media in cemeteries.

In April 2017, Erica Fagen traveled to Indiana­polis to present at the National Council

In ongoing Evolution at the W.E.B. Du Bois Library

As with so many other institutions these days, the University Libraries are continuously evolving in response to technological developments and trends in higher education. Chief among the changes affecting our libraries over the past year or two have been redesigns of existing spaces. Following are some of the libraries’ major projects made in response to the changing needs of the university community.

In recognition of the long-felt mandate to provide study and social space for graduate students, roughly half of the fifth floor is being remodeled to accommodate that constituency by providing space for reading, individual work, group work, and socializing across departments and disciplines.

The Special Collections and University Archives reading room on the 25th floor has become a beehive of activity, with ever more researchers using its resources and more classes vying for space there. To address this issue, a seminar room is being built to allow for class meetings in a dedicated, technologically furnished space, thus leaving the reading room unharmed for conducting its primary purpose.

For those of you who recall the era of Kodak Carousel projectors, the art history department’s former slide library in Bartlett Hall, renamed and renovated several years ago as the Image Collection Library, has been moved to the sixth floor of the Du Bois Library. The result is a more logical location of this important function with the rest of the library’s resources.

Looking further down the road, the Learning Commons on the library’s main level is being reviewed with an eye to its renovation. To address this issue, a seminar room is being built to allow for class meetings in a dedicated, technologically furnished space, thus leaving the reading room unharmed for conducting its primary purpose.

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for Public History’s annual meeting. She as-
sembled a panel, “Touring Sites of Massacre and Mass Violence: Historical Tourism and Memory in Germany, Poland, Turkey, and the United States,” which featured local UMAl
history PhD candidate Amanda Tewes and Yagmur Karakaya, a PhD candidate in sociology from the University of Minne-
sota. Ericc discussed her research on the use of Instagram at Auschwitz-Birkenau and 
and at Central Michigan University’s Inter-
section in Philadelphia. In my other life, as a 
dserves 1916–1927,” at the UMass 
cted.His paper responded to Barton’s new book (coauthored with Daniel Boyarin), Imagine, the Ordinary: How Modern Abstractions Hide Ancient Realities, by reconsidering the “in-
ward turn” in Late Antiquity. He presented a paper this May at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michi-
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Alison Wels 
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Jen Wernick successfully presented a paper, “The Tropical Trump of U.S. Empire: Panama, Guatem 
June 2017. This was her first graduate history conferen 
the history department hosted its 
first Marxist reading group of the first volume of Capital. Undergraduate and graduate stu 
ents from the history department included 
Solens Moss ’17MA, Julian Shick ’13, and 
"The second-largest domestic slave market and site of the execution of the slave-rebellion leader Gabriel. After taking in the physical and cultural landscape of the city, we set out to develop a community-driven proposal to create a memorial park in the area. The expe-
ience was gratifying as I met and interact-
ated with citizens who were concerned about telling the story to a larger audience while honoring the resiliency and resistance of the enslaved. I also learned how organizations can work together for the greater purpose of preservation, which does not always include old buildings. I am confident and optimistic about the project’s progress and look forward to revisiting Richmond in the future.

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January 2017. This was her first graduate history conference. The history department hosted its 
first Marxist reading group of the first volume of Capital. Undergraduate and graduate students from the history department included Solens Moss ’17MA, Julian Shick ’13, and Jack Wernick. Outside of the department, Ben Nolan from political science and David Pritchard from English joined the group.

Mark Robles presented a paper on a panel organized by Jason Moralee in honor of Carlin Barton’s retirement at the Society for Biblical Literature/Armed Academy of Religion Joint Annual Meeting last November in San Antonio, Texas, in which Carlin also presented. His paper responded to Barton’s new book (coauthored with Daniel Boyarin), Imagine, the Ordinary: How Modern Abstractions Hide Ancient Realities, by reconsidering the “inward turn” in Late Antiquity. He presented a paper this May at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, charting the development of the ancient Egyptian “ouroboros” from pharaonic times into Late Antiquity and its subsequent dissemination in Arabic, Hebrew, and Latin medieval manuscripts. Robles continues to chair the Five College Faculty Seminar in Late Antiquity and serve as the history department’s internship and career advisor/instructor.


Jason Higgins presents at the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans conference in Washington, D.C.

Jason Higgins presents at the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans conference in Washington, D.C.

JESSIE MACLEOD: In 2013, staff voted on what the topic of the next show should be, and slavery was the unanimous choice. Slavery wasn’t a new topic—Mount Vernon staff have been doing research on slavery for decades, and it is part of the interpretation in the historic area—but this was our first large-scale exhibition on the subject.

In 2014, about a year into the planning, we decided to expand the exhibit from one 1,100 square-foot gallery to the entire museum: seven galleries encompassing almost 5,000 square feet. Expanding the footprint was critical because we had so much information and so many powerful stories to tell.

Can you tell us a little bit about the exhibition itself? JM: The exhibition explores how the lives of George Washington and the men, women, and children enslaved at Mount Vernon were deeply interconnected. We examine the labor, living conditions, and personal lives of enslaved people, as well as Washington’s changing views on slavery. Visitors see original furnishings, artwork, archaeological artifacts, documents, and interactive exhibits that help interpret these topics. The show opened October 1, 2016, and will be up through September 2019.

How did your training in our Public History Program prepare you for this work? JM: So many parts of my training were instrumental to this process. The many group projects in public history classes primed me for the collaborative nature of exhibition planning. My knowledge of public history best practices helped me consider the exhibit’s many stakeholders and ensure that we involved them in the process. Inviting a multitude of voices and “sharing authority” helped us recognize problems with our approach that we hadn’t considered. Specifically, meeting individually with many descendants and holding focus groups with varying audiences (descendants, public school educators, supporters of a local history museum) proved invaluable.

I also credit the UMass program with introducing me to the power of oral history. As part of the exhibit’s development, we began conducting oral histories with descendants of those enslaved at Mount Vernon. Excerpts from seven interviews appear in a video in the exhibit, while the full recordings are available to researchers in our archive. We hope the project will continue beyond the show’s two-year run as we forge new relationships.

Thanks, Jessie! Good luck with all the work, and we hope to stay connected, in both Virginia and Massachusetts!

—Marla Miller
flagship Architects in Schools Program pairs teachers with design professionals who integrate architectural and design principles into the classroom. We are expanding the program to adults and looking to help communities use design to solve their shared challenges.

In November 2016, Jill Dwiggins ’13MA accepted an editorial position at Oxford University Press, where she produces a set of journals, including American Literary History and the Review of Environmental Economics and Policy.

As of September 2017, Rev. Thomas Macdonald ’06 is attending the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome as a candidate for the doctoral degree in sacred theology.


Austin Powell ’11 has received a grant from the American Historical Association enabling him to do dissertation research in Italy and England in the fall of 2017 and spring of 2018. He is a doctoral candidate in medieval history at Catholic University of America. His article “Writing Polemic as History: The Apocalyptic Implications of Salimbene’s Cronica” has been accepted by Franciscan Studies.

In summer 2017, Judith Barter ’91PhD traveled to France, was presented with the Chevalier of the Order of Arts and Letters (Ordre des Arts et des Lettres) by the French Minister of Culture. The Order of Arts and Letters was established in 1957 by the French government to honor distinguished artists, writers, and others who have contributed significantly to furthering the arts in France and throughout the world.

While working as associate director of Amherst College’s Mead Art Museum, Judy came to the history department and wrote her dissertation, “The New Medici: The Rise of Corporate Collecting and Uses of Contemporary Art, 1925–1970.” She left Amherst for a position at the Art Institute of Chicago, where for 25 years she was the Field-McCormick Chair and Curator of American Painting, Sculpture, and Decorative Arts.

Judy is the author of numerous books, including Mary Cassatt: Modern Woman (1999); Window on the West: Chicago and the Art of the Frontier (2003); Apostles of Beauty: Arts and Crafts from Britain to Chicago (2009); Edward Hopper (MFA, 2007); Art and Appetite: American Painting, Culture, and Cuisine (2013); and, most recently, America After the Fall: Painting in the 1930s—done for an exhibition at the Musée de l’Orangerie. She has edited four collection catalogs for the Art Institute on eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American art (1999), American impressionism (2008), American modernism (2009), folk art (2012), and American silver (2016). Judy has also contributed chapters to numerous publications, lectured widely, appeared on NPR and the Today Show, and has been selected as Chicagoan of the Year by the Chicago Tribune in 2005 for the reinstallation of the AIC’s permanent collection.

Recently retired after 40 years as a museum curator, Judy has returned to the Amherst area. We look forward to tapping her deep expertise in the curatorial field to train the rising generation of museum professionals. —Marla Miller

Claire Blaylock ’17MA attends the Getty Leadership Institute at Claremont College.

Emily Oswald ’13MA reports: After moving to Norway in 2014 for my husband’s job, I joined the University of Oslo’s Department of Education as a PhD student in winter/spring 2016. The year and a half since have been exciting and challenging. My dissertation research follows the participation of young people—members of a botanical society and Facebook users—as they use digital technology to interact and collaborate with museums and archives. My fieldwork is a great combination of planning programs with participating institutions and studying what the external participants learn in these programs. Facilitating a conversation at NCPH in 2016 to report on volunteer work with elderly Norwegians using historical photographs was a great way to keep up my connection to the public history commu-

Jill Dwiggins ’13MA at Oxford University Press.

Laura Miller ’14PhD and Julie Peterson ’16MA at the National Council for Public History’s 2017 Annual Meeting in Indianapolis, IN.
This spring, as in springs past, history department alumni returned to UMass on an annual mission. We convene briefly, getting to know or catch up with one another. Then the doors open and undergrads flood their way into our crowd and into our lives.

Returning to UMass as alumni is always bittersweet, as it means that we’ll soon be leaving, never sure when we’ll be “home” again. Our spirits are always lifted, though, by these eager young historians with whom we meet each year. Conversing with them over dinner and dessert, our old passions return. We fall in love with the fact that we don’t need to sell them on having a passion for their subject; they’re already there, right where we were at their age. We point out to them the potential they often don’t know they’ve got and the happy news that the skills they are gaining as UMass history majors will carry them to amazing places in life, physically and spiritually. We tell them to never say no to a history adventure when it presents itself.

By design, every alumnus meets every undergraduate taking part in the event. We sit still while they rotate from table to table; envision a show called Speed Dating for Historians, throw in a fabulous dinner, and you’ve got a pretty good sense of what goes on. We, the alumni, briefly tell our stories from the first moment we realized we were bound to lives as lovers of the past right up to what we now do. Then we ask them about their dreams, goals, and passions. By the end of the night, we’ve told our life stories seven or eight times but, more importantly, we’ve heard 30 or 40 more from the students themselves. We bond, despite generational differences, over our common love—sometimes over cheesecake.

In the following weeks, we, the alumni, receive and respond to numerous email messages from the students. And that is the best part of the program, building that network of fellow UMass history majors moving forward. We meet for coffee, just to chat, or to strategize. How can we work together as fellow historians? How can we, the alumni, put our networks to work for the undergrads? The ultimate message is shared: “You can leave UMass, but it never leaves you.” For the alumni, these new friendships help take the sting out of having to drive away from campus yet one more time, without a solid return date in mind.

—John J. Galluzzo ’93

Reflections on the 2017 Alumni Dinner

Students, faculty, and alumni pose for a group photo at the alumni dinner.

Lowy Appointed Supreme Judicial Court Judge

In the summer of 2016, Salem Superior Court Judge David A. Lowy ’83 was confirmed and began serving on the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

“We are proud that Justice Lowy, the first UMass Amherst alumnus to be appointed to the Supreme Judicial Court, was a history major,” said Brian Oglivie, chair of the history department. “It underscores the value of studying history as a preparation for a wide range of careers, including law and public service.”

Lowy earned his bachelor’s degree in history from UMass Amherst in 1983, graduating as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies. He went on to earn his law degree from Boston University in 1987.

Lowy served in the administration of Governor William Weld after clerking for federal Judge Edward F. Harrington and working as an assistant district attorney in Essex County. He joined the Weld administration in 1991 and helped draft the governor’s first anticrime legislative package in 1993. Lowy served as Weld’s deputy chief legal counsel. Weld appointed Lowy to be a district court judge in 1997 and Governor Paul Cellucci appointed him to the Superior Court in 2001. As a district court judge in Lynn in the mid-1990s, Lowy presided over the newly created drug court designed to give drug users a chance to reintegrate into the community.

Lowy has extensive experience in academia. As an adjunct professor of law, he has taught evidence and trial advocacy classes, and an adjunct professor at Suffolk University Law School for 11 years.

Lowy has extensive experience in academia. As an adjunct professor of law, he has taught evidence and trial advocacy classes, and an adjunct professor at Suffolk University Law School for 11 years.
Beloved husband, father, and grandfather, Robert A. Potash, emeritus professor of Latin American history at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, passed away December 30, 2016, at age 95.

Born in Boston, Massachusetts, on January 2, 1921, the son of Philip and Sarah (Simes) Potash, Robert was educated in Boston’s elementary schools and graduated from the Boston Latin School. He graduated first in his class in June 1938 and entered Harvard College, where he majored in history with Latin America as his special area of interest. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa, he graduated magna cum laude in June 1942. A summons from the Cambridge Draft Board led to his withdrawal from Harvard graduate school and to his induction into the Army at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, on October 17, 1942.

After basic training in the medical corps at Camp Pickett, Virginia, Robert was accepted into the Army Specialized Training Program in May 1943. In May 1944, he was assigned to the American Historical Review. He served the needs of researchers.

potash married on June 9, 1946, and that September settled in Cambridge, where he resumed his graduate studies in history at Harvard. He wrote his doctoral dissertation on a nineteenth-century industrial development bank, Banco de Avío de México. His book, published in Mexico in 1959 by the Fondo de Cultura Económica, came to be viewed by later generations of Mexican economic historians as a classic in their field.

Rob spent most of his academic career at UMass Amherst, beginning as an instructor in 1950 and retiring in 1986 as the Haring Professor of Latin American History. Over the years, he served as chair of the history department, chair of the Committee on Latin American Studies, and director of the University Argentine Program.

In his retirement, with the encouragement of his younger daughter, Rob composed a personal memoir for the benefit of his students from the U.S. and other countries on their Argentine-related projects.

In retirement, with the encouragement of his younger daughter, Rob composed a personal memoir for the benefit of his grandchildren. Looking Back at My First Eighty Years: A Mostly Professional Memoir was published in 2008, a Spanish translation is being published in Argentina.

Robert Potash was predeceased by his devoted daughter Ellen Potash Arrick in 2005. He is survived by his loving wife of 70 years and his devoted daughter Janet Potash of Alexandria, Virginia, and Applewood, by his son-in-law Martin Arrick and his wife, Linda Arrick, of Oakland, California, and five grandchildren: Daniel, Graham, and Alexander Arrick and Emma and Remy Bernstein.

Gifts in Rob’s memory may be made to the Department of History at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the Jewish Community of Amherst, the Applewood Retirement Community Reserve Fund, or the Amherst Survival Center.

—Gerry McFarland, Professor Emeritus
Talleyrand (1758–1834). Louie wrote Talleyrand, Statesman-Priest (Catholic University Press, 1970), covering Talleyrand’s career up to 1789. It was favorably reviewed by French and American scholars and was especially important for its detailed coverage of Talleyrand’s role as agent of the General Assembly of the Clergy of France from 1780 to 1785. Talleyrand’s job in those years was to defend the Catholic Church’s economic privileges and manage its massive landholdings. Paradoxically, after the outbreak of the French Revolution, it was Talleyrand who, on October 10, 1789, initiated the motion in the National Assembly to nationalize the Church’s property.

As Louie suggested, it was because Talleyrand was an elite insider who had fully mastered the technicalities of Church property in the Old Regime that he saw how to subordinate the Church to the democratic state. Louie’s point was that effective change is accomplished by experienced, competent people inside a system—the elites who know how institutions work—not by radicals and outsiders who lack experience in the systems they attack.

The second area in which Louie published extensively was health reform in late eighteenth-century France. According to Jacques Tenon, a hospital reformer in the 1780s, the hospital is “the measure of the civilization of a people.” Hospital reform was fashionable in the last decades of the Old Regime. Many leading administrators in the royal bureaucracy were influenced by the Enlightenment and expressed their dream of creating a more rational and happy society by reorganizing the hospital system.

Louie served as the first director of the university’s Honors Program, from 1960 to 1963. In a memo of August 4, 1960, he wrote to the provost, deans, and department chairs: “The purpose of the honors program is...to stretch students to their intellectual capacity by providing fresh programs of increased substance and challenge which will enhance their professional initiative, competence in inquiry, speculative acumen, and ability to synthesize disparate materials. In the purest sense, honors work is the pursuit of excellence. In 2014, Louie was honored for a major financial donation to the Honors College. He stated at that time that his years as director of honors “were the happiest years of my life.” What does this imply about his remaining time, a full 30 years, as a member of the history department? With the rise of radical history, the values Louie stood for were decried as being Eurocentric and elitist. Having been prominent in the atmosphere of the 1950s and very early 1960s, he now had to adjust to being simply one of many faculty members in a large department.

And adjust he did, with a vengeance. The full story of Louie’s emergence as a real-estate magnate, pioneer in historical restoration in Amherst, and philanthropist has yet to be told. It began in the 1970s, as he started buying and restoring houses built in the eighteenth century, his favorite historical period. After renovating a home, he would sometimes rent it out to university students. What began each time as a labor of love repeatedly turned into rentable student housing.

Louie became a master of local architectural history and put his knowledge to charitable use. Seidman’s Jewish Community of Amherst tells how Louie played a key role in finding a splendid building, the former Second Congregational Church of Amherst, for the Jews of Amherst to use as their synagogue. In 1976, when the Jewish community could not afford to purchase the entire property, Louie purchased part of it himself. He also helped restore its organ and other accoutrements. Louie laughed all the way to the Bank, as the saying goes, motivated less by the promise of financial profit than historical nostalgia and the need to be a leader. Louie Greenbaum endures as an original example of achievement and independence for faculty members in a large department. He asked provocative questions and brought an original perspective to each discussion. He had no fear about expressing his opinion, even if that meant challenging me or the professor. I valued his inquisitive spirit and was consistently impressed by his ability to make connections between various eras of history. His knowledge was extensive, and his classmates benefited greatly from his presence. I would often come into class to find Dillinger helping other students who were struggling with the material. His kindness made the class better for everyone. I was fortunate to know Dillinger, and he will be deeply missed.”

The history department sends its sincere condolences to Dillinger Perez’s family. He will not be forgotten. —Adeline Broussan
Tell us a bit about yourself.

TORÖ OLSSON: I’m currently an assistant professor of history at the University of Tennessee, where I teach modern U.S. history. Considering my personal background, that’s a rather unlikely career path: I was born and raised in Sweden and knew essentially nothing about the United States before my family and I emigrated to Brookline, Massachusetts, in 1990, when I was 8 years old. It was really during my years at UMass, 2000 to 2004, that I swallowed whale by history as a discipline and profession, not just a collection of stories. I left UMass with a burning desire to dedicate my life to the study of the past. From there it was on to graduate school at the University of Georgia, where I earned my PhD in the spring of 2013; that fall, I began work at the University of Tennessee, where I’ve taught since. Coming to the United States as an immigrant, it was a career that few would have predicted.

What led you to study history at our department, and what memories do you keep from your time here?

TO: I came to UMass undeclared, rather clueless about my path of study. During my very first semester, I took a Gen Ed history class, Leonard Richards’s early American history survey, and was enthralled by it. I’ll never forget our discussion of Shays’ Rebellion, the violent 1780s uprising against the new U.S. government, right there in my new home of western Massachusetts—an episode that was entirely new to me and really opened my eyes to the messiness and unpredictability of the past.

I decided to take the big leap to history after a life-changing conversation in spring 2001 with an older history major. He gave me the same advice that I now give to all of my students pondering a history major: that it’s a discipline that teaches you to read, write, do intensive research, digest vast amounts of information, make arguments, and communicate them effectively to others—in a nutshell, it prepares you for pretty much every career out there!

How did your UMass training shape you as an educator and scholar?

TO: What I love most about my job as a history professor is the research, the painstaking but so incredibly exciting work of sifting through the past to find untold stories or new perspectives on why our world looks as it does. And without doubt, I got my taste for it at UMass. My most transformative experience came with my senior honors thesis, which I wrote under Gerry McFarland on “Bleeding Kansas,” the political violence that tore Kansas apart in the years before the outbreak of the Civil War. During that year, I learned the fundamentals of research that I’ve relied upon ever since.

But my years as a history major also made me who I am as a teacher. I was particularly inspired by the many lecturers who were able to captivate a large room with their wit, humor, and erudition. It is my lifelong ambition as a teacher to replicate the on-the-edge-of-your-seat lecturing style of Neal Shipley and other inspiring lecturers. I was particularly inspired by the many lecturers who were able to captivate a large room with their wit, humor, and erudition. It is my lifelong ambition as a teacher to replicate the on-the-edge-of-your-seat lecturing style of Neal Shipley and other inspiring lecturers.

Oral History Crash Course

This past year, the UMass Oral History Lab, in coordination with the UMass Public History Program and the UMass Department of History, hosted two crash-course workshops for beginner and intermediate practitioners of oral history. These all-day workshops—held in November at the UMass Center in Springfield and in May at Clark University in Worcester—offered participants a dynamic introduction to using oral history as an approach to documenting the past. Both drew a diverse group of scholars, students, and those working in related fields, from historic preservation to creative writing and the arts.

The UMass Oral History Lab, established and directed by Samuel Redman of the history department, provides oral history training to the university and its surrounding community, offering an experimental space for exploring various methodologies and techniques to improve the practice and theory of oral history. While oral history is most simply a term used to describe interviews recorded by an informed interviewer with firsthand witnesses to past events, it can produce a number of outcomes useful for public history, museums, research, genealogy, and more.

Organized by Sam Redman and Emily Redman, the workshops were also staffed by Shakti Castro ’17MA and Ph.D. student Jason Higgins, both of whom engage in significant oral history work. Over the course of both workshops, these presenters defined oral history, described several approaches to oral history interviewing, and helped participants consider how best to ethically preserve and document their interviews. Participants discussed and practiced interview techniques, recording technologies, and oral history ethics in small- and large-group activities.

The Clark University workshop also featured a keynote address by award-winning UMass Professor of History Christian Appy, who spoke on his use of oral history in examining the Vietnam War. We offer special thanks to him and to Charles Hyde ’66 and Jessica Johnson, whose invaluable financial support and outreach work, respectively, made these workshops possible. —Emily Redman

Editor’s note: This summer, PhD candidate Adeline Broussan exchanged emails with Tore Olsson ’04 to learn about his time at UMass and his path to becoming a history professor. You can find this exchange in its entirety on the Department of History’s blog, Post&Present.
NEW BOOKS

BY FACULTY

Audrey L. Altstadt
Frustrated Democracy in Post-Soviet Azerbaijan
(Wilson Center/Columbia University Press, 2017)
Examines an oil-rich former Soviet republic that first adopted a Western model of democratic government but then turned toward corrupt authoritarianism. Rooted in Altstadt’s decades of research in the country and the research of academic experts, nongovernmental organizations, and interviews with diplomats.

Carlin A. Barton, coauthor with Daniel Boyarin
Imagine No Religion: How Modern Abstractions Hide Ancient Realities (Fordham University Press, 2016)
Maps the myriad meanings of the Latin and Greek words religio and threskeia, frequently and reductively mistranslated as “religion,” in order to explore the manifold nuances of their uses within ancient Roman and Greek societies. Reveals how we can conceptualize these and speak of these cultures without invoking the anachronistic concept of religion. From Plautus to Tertullian, Herodotus to Josephus, illuminates cultural complexities otherwise obscured by our modern-day categories.

Milton Cantor
First Amendment under Fire: America’s Radicals, Congress, and the Courts (Routledge, 2017)
Explores America’s political response to the challenges of social unrest and how it shaped the meaning of the First Amendment throughout the twentieth century. This multilayered study of dissent in the United States from the early 1800s through the 1970s describes how Congress and the law dealt with anarchists, syndicalists, socialists, and militant labor groups, as well as communists and left-of-center liberals.

Barbara Krauthamer, coeditor with Chad Williams
Introduces students to both primary sources and analytical essays and encourages critical thinking about the history and culture of African Americans. Updated to cover a wider geographic scope that includes the western United States and other parts of the Diaspora, the book presents a carefully selected group of readings organized to allow students to evaluate primary sources, test the interpretations of distinguished historians, and draw their own conclusions.

Kevin Young
Blood of the Earth: Resource Nationalism, Revolution, and Empire in Bolivia (University of Texas Press, 2017)
Examines the popular mobilizations around Bolivian natural resources that began in the 1920s, accelerated with the country’s 1952 revolution, and continues today. Drawing on a wide array of Bolivian and U.S. sources, Young reveals that Bolivia became a key site in a global battle among economic models, with grassroots coalitions demanding nationalist and egalitarian alternatives to market capitalism.

BY STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Dinah Mayo-Bobee, ’01MA, ’07PhD
Looks at crucial developments in early national politics, public policy, and foreign relations from the perspective of New England Federalists. Focuses on the partisan climate in Congress that influenced states and foreign policy decisions related to British and French attacks on U.S. trade after 1805 to explain why Federalists, especially those often deemed extreme or radical, responded to Federal laws with a campaign to repeal the Constitution’s three-fifths clause which counted slaves in the calculation for congressional representation and Electoral College votes, encouraged violations of the law, and advocated Northern secession from the union.

Tore Olsson ’94
Explores the hidden entangled pasts of the United States and Mexico. Today, many Americans consider their nation and Mexico as polar opposites—one rich, one poor, one stable, one chaotic—with entirely distinct historic trajectories. Olsson argues that the histories of the United States and Mexico share much. He focuses on the 1950s and 1940s, when, in the name of agrarian justice and agricultural productivity, rural reformers in both countries waged unprecedented campaigns to reclaim their countryside, and U.S. and Mexican history collided with unpredictable and long-lasting results.
The Department of History is grateful for contributions from alumni and friends. We sincerely thank you. Your generous donations support vital scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students; faculty and student travel to research collections; and the various events and initiatives that make studying history at UMass Amherst such a robust, meaningful educational experience. The following list covers donations made between July 2016 and June 2017, as well as donors who have established the endowed scholarships and lecture funds you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter. Gifts can be made online at umass.edu/history/giving.
Front cover:
Danping Wang '17MA at the opening of the States of Incarceration exhibit in Holyoke.
WISTARIHURST / CHRISTINA ROSARIO PHOTOGRAPHY

At right:
Students consider Jesse Krimes's artistic meditation on Michel Foucault's Discipline and Punish at the Hampshire Gallery exhibition Made in America.
ANDREW HART / HAMPshire college