This portrait of a kind-looking Medinan scholar seems rather unexceptional at
first glance. Yet it attests to the remarkable story of how individual ingenuity, the
development of cheaper and faster travel, and the expansion of Oriental studies in
the Western academy came together towards the end of the nineteenth century
to influence the possibilities for Arabic and Islamicate scholarship thereafter.

Al-Madani devoted himself to the pursuit of knowledge. A scholar of the life of the
Prophet Muhammad, the Arabic language, Islamic law, and astronomy, as a young
man he acquired his learning in Egypt, the Malabar Coast, Malaysia, Singapore, and
Java. To fund his studies, he traded in manuscripts, a path that most scholars of the
Islamic world followed for centuries. Yet in 1883, al-Madani made the rather bold
decision to travel to the Universal Exposition in Amsterdam. Perhaps even more
boldly, he decided to take more than 600 manuscripts along with him.

Once al-Madani arrived, his collection received little attention from buyers. That
is, until representatives of the famous Dutch publishing firm, Brill, learned of his
presence and agreed to purchase his books in order to re-sell them to European
and North American collectors. Al-Madani’s manuscripts from this and later sales
have since remained in libraries such as the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin and those
of Princeton and Yale. They have informed, and continue to inform, the basis of
Western scholars’ studies of the East.

Al-Madani’s connection with Brill also enabled him to secure an invitation to the
Sixth Oriental Congress in Leiden, where his picture was taken. This triennial
academic conference helped formalize Orientalism into a concerted scholarly
discipline. It amazed al-Madani to see studies of China, India, and Ancient Egypt
merged together with the Arabic sciences, so much so that he wrote about what
he saw in an account published in an Egyptian periodical. These impressions of
Oriental studies and Orientalists are the subject of my recent book chapter, “An
Eastern Scholar’s Engagement with the European Study of the East.”

— Kathryn Schwartz
Once more, the passage of a year has brought new faces to the history department. This fall we were joined by two new faculty members. 

Asheesh Siddique, a historian of early America and the British empire, came to Amherst from a postdoctoral position at Penn State University. Hadi Jorati, a scholar of the history and culture of the medieval Middle East, came to the departments of history and Judaic and Near Eastern studies from Ohio State University. We are delighted that they chose to join us!

We are also delighted to welcome two new permanent staff members: Undergraduate Program Coordinator Enjoli Pescheta ’17 and Human Resources and Finance Coordinator Stefanie Austin. They are both excellent additions to our community in Herter Hall.

Congratulations are due to Anne Broadbridge, who was promoted to the rank of professor, and to Jennifer Nye, who received a continuing appointment as lecturer.

We bid a fond farewell to Julio Capó Jr., who has joined the faculty of Florida International University in his hometown of Miami. We’ll miss you, Julio—you’re always welcome in Amherst if the Florida winters are too warm!

This has been another intellectually stimulating year. The biennial Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series brought a series of speakers to discuss and debate the visions that revolutionary movements have worked to create. (For more on the Feinberg Series, see page 2.) In conjunction with the series, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II delivered the first James Baldwin lecture at UMass, which was attended by members of James Baldwin’s family. Thanks to alumnus Allen Davis ’88 for making the Baldwin Lecture possible!

We had many other engaging events. Claire Bond Potter, a professor at the New School and a founding editor of Public Seminar, spent a week last spring as our writer-historian in residence, and spoke on clickbait, politics, and social media. Martha Newman, of the University of Texas at Austin, delivered the annual Distinguished Lecture of the UMass-Five College Graduate Program in History on the medieval monk Joseph of Schönau, whom fellow monks treated as male in life but as a woman after death. Rafe Blaufarb, of Florida State University, spoke on the question of whether rulers should enrich themselves, from the standpoint of early modern French law and politics. David Fowler, of the University of Cambridge, addressed the role of American students in political activism in 1960s Britain. Finally, along with PhD student Ross Caputi, anthropologist Kali Rubaii and journalist Feurat Alani spoke on memory, community, and restorative justice in the Iraqi city of Fallujah, and screened Alani’s animated film Le Parfum d’Irak (Scents of Iraq). That’s only a small sample of last year’s activities, all of which underscored the value of history for understanding the world we live in.

I would like to thank Associate Chair Marla Miller, Graduate Program Director Anna Taylor, and Undergraduate Program Director Heidi Scott for serving with me. I would also like to thank our staff: Office Manager Amy Fleig, Undergraduate Program Coordinator Enjoli Pescheta, Graduate Program Coordinator Mary Lashway, Human Resources and Finance Coordinator Stefanie Austin, Outreach Director Jessica Johnson, and temporary finance assistant Maria McKinney for keeping the department running smoothly and cheerily. I also thank our alumni, faculty, and friends for their support, both moral and financial, of the department’s activities.

Finally, I would like to thank Audrey Altstadt for serving as chair during the 2019-20 academic year while I am on sabbatical leave. Altstadt served as chair from 2004 to 2010, and I am grateful to be leaving the department in her capable hands.

—Brian Ogilvie, chair
Another World Is Possible

THOUSANDS ATTEND 2018 FEINBERG FAMILY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES ON REVOLUTIONARY VISIONS, PAST AND PRESENT

Made possible through the generosity of alumnus Kenneth R. Feinberg ’67 and associates, the Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series is one of the History Department’s signature offerings. The series explores contemporary social and policy issues in historical perspective. Each iteration homes in on a topic of pressing interest to faculty, students, and community members, using sustained and critical historical analysis to deepen our collective understanding.

“Since moving to Massachusetts, the Feinberg Series has been one of the most incredible, engaging, and stimulating events in the area — and, frankly — that I have stumbled upon anywhere. Being able to learn from such dynamic thinkers on the most important issues that we face today was an incredible opportunity that has not only deepened my understanding of the world we live in, but also contributed to my work as a coordinator and researcher on a local and international level. The Feinberg Series is truly the nexus for leading intellectual discussions and debate that are crucial for our time. As it came to an end, I was saddened to learn that the theme changes every year, and I hope to be able to attend similar events this coming year and beyond.” — Northampton Resident

Marking the 50th anniversary of the mass movements of 1968, last year’s series explored the theme “Another World Is Possible: Revolutionary Visions, Past and Present.” Sigrid Schmalzer, who co-chaired the series with Kevin Young and Jess Johnson, explained, “From climate change to white supremacy to the threat of nuclear war, the future of our society feels increasingly uncertain. But history is filled with precarious situations and uphil battles, and social movements around the world have faced those challenges and dared to envision new worlds based on equity and justice. We focused on this theme so that we might learn from how such movements imagined the future—and how they have worked to create it.”

In order to foster critical conversation on the history of social movements and their visions for political transformation, many of the events brought together historians and movement leaders or featured presenters whose work straddles both worlds. The series kicked off in September with a conversation on the reemergence of the black radical imagination, putting organizers Mary Hooks (Southerners on New Ground) and Kali Akuno (Cooperation Jackson) in conversation with historians Keeanga-Yamahtta Taylor (Princeton) and Toussaint Losier (UMass Amherst). The following week featured a panel with Carlos Henríquez Consalvi and Rosa Rivera, two participants in the Salvadoran Revolution who now lead community-based public memory projects in El Salvador.

Later that month, Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II delivered the keynote address and inaugural James Baldwin Lecture, established by Allen J. Davis ’68. In an event that drew some 1,300 people to the Fine Arts Center, Barber, who is co-chair of the national Poor People’s Campaign and a MacArthur Genius Award winner, discussed the history of Reconstruction that followed Emancipation and the “second” Reconstruction of the 1960s. He then made the case for a “third” Reconstruction in the twenty-first century, entailing “a profoundly moral awakening of justice-loving people united in a fusion coalition powerful enough to reclaim the possibility of democracy.”

Throughout the fall, events continued to demonstrate the significance of historical inquiry for understanding current political movements. In “Imagining Community, Living in Community,” panelists found connections between the Socialist-Zionist kibbutzim of the early twentieth century and 1970s back-to-the-land communities in Vermont, and between Sojourner Truth’s 1840s abolitionist society in Florence, Mass., and a current anti-racist intentional community in New York state. A panel titled “Dreams and Nightmares” juxtaposed leftist and rightist movements from around the world (including Nazi Germany, Maoist China, the Salvadoran revolution, and Modi-era India) to ask tough questions about why fundamentally oppressive visions have appeared liberatory to some people, and how movements for liberation have often resulted in maintaining or creating new forms of oppression. Other events included a conversation between historians and activists on the significance of historical lessons for domestic worker movements as they envision a just future; a lecture on the history of science fiction and social change; a zine-making workshop for high school students on sparking historical creativity; an event exploring Venezuela’s communes in historical perspective; and a dialogue between two historians on the ways enslaved and formerly enslaved African American women conceived and experienced freedom.

The fall semester events were mostly panels and lectures. In the spring term, the focus shifted to hands-on workshops. For example, participants aged 8 to 80 explored Mesoamerican resist. a narrative poster depicting 500 years of colonialism and resistance, created through a nine-year oral history project. The series capstone in Holyoke turned the tables, featuring community members as workshop facilitators.

Building on the successful 2016 series on mass incarceration and taking up the charge of the UMass Amherst Campus Strategic Plan, the series prioritized community engagement and
outreach, which was facilitated in large part by series co-chair and department outreach director Jess Johnson. We are proud that upwards of 20 community organizations collaborated with the history department as official co-sponsors of the series! We encourage you to turn to the Community Engagement Update for highlights.

To facilitate engagement on our campus, 34 UMass and Five College departments and programs co-sponsored the series. Taught by co-chair Kevin Young, the Department of History’s official Feinberg course, “New Approaches to History: Revolutionary Visions, Past and Present,” provided an opportunity for students to deepen their learning while earning general education credit in history. The course examined when and how revolutionaries have improved society, where they have failed, and why some radical projects have been emancipatory and others oppressive. "I really enjoyed the fact that this course surveyed a lot of different revolutionary movements," noted an undergraduate enrolled in the class. "Most history majors don’t get exposure to revolutionary movements outside their particular region or theme of interest. This unique course was really valuable in that aspect.” Twenty-two additional UMass and Five College courses — including 10 history department classes — were officially affiliated with the series, and numerous others incorporated class field trips to Feinberg Series events into their course syllabi.

We also extended the reach of the series into local K-12 classrooms. Not only did we host several groups of young people at various events, but 45 teachers attended Feinberg events and several additional teacher workshops as part of the 2018-2019 History Institute for K-12 Educators. Participating teachers received professional development points or graduate credit and built lesson plans for students based on the events; all reported that they applied insights from the series in their schools and classrooms. We were grateful to partner with Safire DeJong (the Collaborative for Educational Services) and Ousmane.

Community members Austin Nwokorie, Jesse Lugo, and Abby Graueck explore snippets of Mesoamerica Resiste during a breakout session at the Beehive Collective workshop. Power-Greene (Clark University and David Raggles Center for History & Education) in developing this offering for teachers.

As a testament to the series’ success, each event brought together between 200 and 450 students, faculty, and community members. Astoundingly, more than 1,300 people attended the keynote lecture by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II. In total, an estimated 4,000 people participated in series events. An additional 1,450 people (and counting) listened to the series podcast, and countless more viewed the Facebook livestream, making it one of the most well-attended academic series ever offered by UMass Amherst.

Beyond the numbers, feedback from participants has underscored the impact the series made on their lives and on UMass community relations. Community members who had not often come to campus for events attended this series regularly, and have since begun attending other university events. “This series sparked my interest in history,” remarked a local educator who attended all but two events. Participants made new connections, leading to exciting collaborations and projects, including a local teacher who is proposing a new high school class based on what she learned in the series. Many community members reached out to us to share how the histories presented in the events transformed their understanding of the world. Several went so far to say that the series changed their life! The history department is honored to have offered such a meaningful series of opportunities for people throughout western Massachusetts to gather in critical conversation and community collaboration.

We invite you to tune in. Audio of select Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series events is available at www.soundcloud.com/umass-history.
The academic year was marked by a great variety of stimulating events, activities, and initiatives that relate to the Department of History’s undergraduate program. Before giving an overview of these events I’d like to express my gratitude to the members of the Undergraduate Studies Committee—Sarah Cornell, Jennifer Heuer, Jason Moralee, Enjoli Peschots, Samuel Redman, and Kathryn Schwartz. They provided valuable contributions to carrying forward the work of previous years, in reviewing the undergraduate program and its requirements, and to carrying out the challenging but rewarding task of selecting recipients for the department’s undergraduate awards and prizes.

Thanks are also due to Mark Roblee’19PhD, the department’s internship and career advisor. In addition to successfully defending his PhD dissertation in the spring, he continued his invaluable work providing guidance to students as they consider their future pathways and helping them secure internships for the summer months and the academic year. This year, the Richard W. Bower Scholarship for Summer Internships was awarded to the following six students: Katherine Eaton, Ali Hussein Kafel ’19, Eric Ross, William Sennott ’18, Rebecca Simons, and Andrew Whalen. Richard W. Bower, who established this fund to support internships, also pursued a degree in history.

The department was delighted to welcome back Robert LaRussa ’76—a alumnus and Washington, DC-based international trade and national security council expert with global law firm Boies, Schiller & Flexsen LLP—to work with history undergraduates. This year, LaRussa taught an upper-level independent study entitled Navigating Washington, which examines international trade policy in Washington.

2018–19 saw the biennial Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series, this time on the theme of revolutionary movements. Entitled “Another World Is Possible: Revolutionary Visions, Past and Present,” the series offered a platform of lectures and other public events. Students had opportunities to explore the themes of the series through the official Feinberg Series course taught by Kevin Young, as well as through a selection of independent studies that allowed undergraduates to make critical connections between the series and other courses that were offered at UMass Amherst, Amherst College, and Smith College. The generosity of renowned attorney and alumnus Kenneth R. Feingold ’76 continues to make this series possible and greatly enriches the learning and experiences of our undergraduates.

The final weeks of the spring semester brought numerous celebrations that highlighted undergraduate student achievements. These included the Phi Alpha Theta dinner, organized by Garrett Washington, to celebrate the admission of history majors into the Phi Alpha Theta Honor Society, and a breakfast for graduating seniors and their families, held in the airy and pleasant space of the UMass Amherst Fine Arts Center. In April, we also held our annual Undergraduate Awards ceremony.

Last year, the internship and career development advisor, Mark Roblee’19PhD took four history majors to the Mount Ida campus for a three-day “job shadow” over spring break. Making good use of Mount Ida’s proximity to Boston, students met with history alumni at a variety of work sites, including the Honorable David A. Lowy ’83 at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court and Jennifer Jordan ’81 at the educational nonprofit City Year. With support from the Richard W. Bower Scholarship, summer internships and placements this year included the National Archives (Rebecca Simons), the Gilbert Stuart Birthplace and Museum (Katherine Eaton), the Council of American-Islamic Relations (Ali Hussein Kafel), Martha’s Vineyard Magazine (William Sennott ’18), the Program on Extremism at George Washington University (Eric Ross), and the UMass Museum of Contemporary Art (Andrew Whalen). New career development workshops included Discrimination and Social Justice in the Workplace, the department’s lecturer in law and social justice, Jennifer L. Nye, and the UMass Office of Equity and Inclusion’s director of diversity special projects, Emmanuel Adebo. Once again students had the chance to mingle with history alumni from a variety of fields at our annual Spring History Alumni Networking Dinner. Traveling from Washington, DC, to UMass each week, alumnus Robert L. LaRussa ’76 engaged history majors in a seminar on international trade designed to help students learn what it takes to navigate a career in Washington. In general, our program focuses on basic skills such as strategic résumé writing, networking, and interviewing but also teaches students to articulate the important skills they acquire as history majors that employers value: critical thinking, research, writing, information processing, and empathy. To learn more about how this support impacts students, we encourage you to visit the Internship and Career Development page on the history department website to view video testimony by Emily McGinnis.

This year Heather Brins has taken the helm as Internship Coordinator as Mark steps into his new role as Alumni Relations Coordinator. If you are interested in sharing your career story as a UMass history major out in the world or would like to engage a history student, please write to internships@history.umass.edu.

—Mark Roblee
Ceremony, an event that brings together students and their families, faculty, and donors to mark the end of the semester over food and conversation, and to celebrate the recipients of a range of academic awards.

This year, Emilie Billett ’19, Elijah Goodman ’19, Brook Hansel ’19, and Jeremy Knight ’19 received the Harold W. Cary Prize. Named after a former faculty member in the Department of History, this award is made annually to those students who receive the highest GPA in history courses.

The department also awarded the Robert H. McNeal Scholarship to Brook Hansel. The scholarship, named for the 1970s-era department chair, honors graduating students who have received the highest overall GPA in their UMass courses.

The history department awards the Louis Greenbaum Writing Prize to students who have produced outstanding history papers. Addie Handricken ’19 won in the long-essay category for “Policing Reproduction: Margaret Sanger and the Eugenics Movement,” which she wrote in a course taught by Jennifer Fronc. Conor Morrissey ’19, who wrote a paper entitled “Making Rome Great Again: Populism in the Ancient World” in a course offered by Jason Mazzini, won the short-essay category. Two students received honorable mentions: Caroline Boston ’19, for a long-essay entitled “Trials of Change: How the Civil War shaped Modern Perceptions of Rape” (for Susan Cornell’s course); and Simon Koch-Sultan, for his short-essay “Capitalism and Slavery” (for Lochanda Barnett’s course).

Kendall Brinson, Michael Chrzanowski, and Kyran Doyle Schnur ’19 were honored with the History Opportunity Award for their laudable work as editors of the Undergraduate History Journal. Edited and published by undergraduates, the journal showcases essays written by history majors. Garrett Washington provided the impetus for the establishment of the journal three years ago, and both he and Daniel Gordon have since worked tirelessly as its faculty advisors. The History Opportunity Award was established by Professor Emeritus Ron Story to recognize history majors who have made outstanding contributions to the department’s undergraduate program.

The James and Cynthia Redman Scholarship honors the life of James O. Redman, who, after completing a degree in history at the University of Minnesota, pursued legal study and established a successful career as an attorney in Minnesota. This scholarship supports deserving history majors, particularly first-generation university students, those who wish to pursue a teaching career, and veterans. Three students—Isabelle Eastman, Avia Ferrande ’19, and Joel Flores ’19—were this year’s recipients.

Many of our undergraduates aspire to teaching careers, and the Nicholas Carr Bergstein Scholarship primarily supports history majors who are striving to become teachers, and in particular those who actively demonstrate a commitment to fostering diversity and inclusion in the academic sphere and beyond. This scholarship...

**History majors Kendall Brinson (left) and Tim Belgrad (right) with a friend at the Phi Alpha Theta ceremony.**

**UMass students meet with Honorable David A. Lowy ’83 at the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court in Boston. L-R: Michael Chrzanowski, Andrea Whalen, Samuel Ford ’18, David A. Lowy, Tay Burton, and Annie Fielding.**

**Kathrine Esten leads a site tour during her summer internship at the Gilbert Stuart Birthplace in Rhode Island.**

**UMass-Oxford Summer Seminar participants.**
commemorates Nicholas Carr Bergstein, a UMass history student who worked to become a high school teacher but who, very sadly, passed away in 2015. This year, the award to Brook Hansel ‘19, who, alongside her study of history and Spanish, has worked very hard to gain diverse pedagogical experiences in local schools.

Paul E. Gigone, a military veteran and history teacher, established the Paul E. Gigone Scholarship to honor history undergraduates, especially those who are interested in pursuing a career in teaching or writing, as well as students who have served in the military. This year, the scholarship was awarded to Tay Burton and Mokhli Dickerson-Pallas.

The David H. MacDonnell Scholarship primarily supports students who have interests in Irish or British history. This year, the award went to Katherine Esten, who is studying Irish and wider European history at UMass and who also completed an internship at the Edward M. Kennedy Institute in Boston, where she interpreted exhibits on the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

In addition, Katherine Esten received the Frederick Gilbert Bauer Award along with Mois Fudala, Erin Hunter, Casey Moriaty, Austin Schofield, Michael Turner, and Elizabeth Webb. The award supports students who have been accepted for the Oxford Summer Seminar. Bruce (1881-1964) was a lawyer with a deep appreciation for history who published work on the American Revolution. He was the father of Richard W. Bauer, whose fund supports student internships (see p.3). The Simon and Seteng Ermonian Memorial Scholarship was created by Erika Ermonian ’82 in honor of her parents. A graduate of the UMass Amherst School of Engineering, the late Erika Ermonian was also deeply interested in history. The scholarship recognizes student excellence, particularly in history courses. This year’s Ermonian recipients were Lily Abraham ’19, Emilia Billett ’19, Jack Bloy ’19, Christopher DePalma ’19, Ryan Descrraveras ’19, Shannon Emmett ’19, Nathan Giacalone ’19, Brook Hansel ’19, Daniel Riley ’19, Jacob Shore ’19, Garrett Stevenson ’19, John Tibbetts ’19, and Genevieve Waldner ’18. I would like to conclude by expressing my heartfelt thanks to Eunjoo Pescheta, who was hired in the fall of 2018 as the department’s undergraduate program coordinator, taking over from Shannon Bell, who retired in May of last year. The smooth and successful running of the Undergraduate Awards Ceremony and additional events throughout the year, along with many other vital aspects of the day-to-day functioning of the undergraduate program, simply could not have happened without Eunjoo, and I very much look forward to working with her in the coming year.
2019 UNDERGRADUATE AWARD WINNERS

The Department of History's generous donors make these awards possible. For more on these awards, the student recipients, and the named benefactors, see the undergraduate program update on page 6.

2019 undergraduate award recipients.

James and Cynthia Redman Scholarship
Isabelle Eastman '19
Ava Ferrando '19
Joel Flores '19

Nicholas Carr Bergstein Scholarship
Brook Hansel '19

Paul E. Gigueres Scholarship in History
Tay Burton
Maahal Dickenson-Pals

David H. Mac Donnell Prize
Kathrine Esten

Harold W. Cary Prize
Emilia Billett '19
Elizabeth Webb '18

Robert H. McNeel Scholarship
Brook Hansel '19

Louis S. Greenbaum History Writing Prizes
Addie Handricken '19 (Long Essay)
Conor Morrissey '19 (Short Essay)
Caroline Bottin '19
Long Essay - Honorable Mention
Simon Koch-Sultan
Short Essay - Honorable Mention

History Opportunity Award
Kendall Brinson
Michael Chrzanowski
Kari Boyle (jointly '19)

Richard W. Bauer Scholarships for Summer Internships
Kathrine Esten
Ali Hussein Kafel '19
Eric Ross
William Semott '18
Rebeca Simons
Andrea Whalen

Simon & Satang Ermonian Memorial Scholarships
Lily Abraham '19
Emilia Billett '19
Jack Blay '19
Christopher Ballama '19
Ryan Desrosiers '19
Shannon Emnett '19
Nathan Gisacalone '19
Brook Hansel '19
Daniel Riley '19
Jacob Shire '18
Garrett Stobierski '18
John Tibbetts '19
Genevieve Weidner '18

Louis Greenbaum and his wife, Hilda Greenbaum, at the dedication of the Louis & Hilda Greenbaum Gallery in 2014.

New Award Supports Undergraduate Research

Thanks to a generous gift from Hilda Greenbaum, the history department will offer its inaugural awards from the Louis Greenbaum History Honors Research Fund in spring 2020. Established in memory of Professor Emeritus Louis Greenbaum, a founder of the honors program at UMass Amherst, the History Honors Research Fund provides awards to support the research of history majors who see writing an honors thesis. Each spring, the fund will provide one or more awards to rising seniors who have identified an honors thesis topic that requires travel to a research collection, the acquisition of research material by the UMass Libraries, or other research expenses such as conducting and transcribing oral history interviews.

As practicing historians know, libraries and archives are the historian’s laboratory: they are the places where we gather the data that results in new historical knowledge and interpretation. By establishing this fund, Greenbaum and the history department will give honors thesis writers the opportunity to spend time investigating historical sources in more depth than is often possible during the academic year, when courses and other responsibilities interfere with sustained research. The application process will also encourage students to begin thinking about a thesis topic and finding a faculty advisor in the fall or winter of their junior year. We are grateful to Hilda Greenbaum for making this award possible!

— Brian Ogilvie
2018-19 was another full and eventful year for the UMass Amherst/Five College Graduate Program in History. We kicked off the semester with an orientation and department-wide lunch, welcoming the incoming cohort of 14 graduate students, including ten MA students and four PhD students. Many were recipients of Hyde summer fellowships and/or teaching assistantships, and two were recipients of the university’s Research Enhancement and Leadership (REAL) diversity fellowship, which provides PhD students with stipends and four summers of funding.

This year, we offered a range of graduate-level courses. Fall course subjects included German history, digital history, public history, history and sustainability, the global history of Zionism, Palestine, and Israel; the history of sexuality in the Americas; a professional development practicum; and, of course, the introductory graduate seminar. In the spring, students studied European historiography, nineteenth-century US history; the history of US culture and conflicts in the Asian Pacific; oral history; empire and nation states; museum studio; and more. Throughout the year, students enrolled in numerous independent studies, working directly with faculty in their fields. We are proud to offer such a diverse array of classes, well suited to the diversity of specialties among our students and faculty.

As usual, this academic year was full of events and other offerings, many of which are detailed elsewhere in the pages of this newsletter. In October, the graduate program welcomed Martha G. Newman of the University of Texas Austin, who delivered the 2018 Distinguished Annual Lecture titled “Assigning Female at Death: Joseph of Schonborn’s Disruption of Medieval Gender Binary.” For more, see page 16. This spring, offerings included the Graduate History Association Conference and several additional UMASS-sponsored events (page 20), a lecture and various gatherings with writer in residence Claire Bond Potter (page 17), and an event organized by PhD student Ross Caputi, stemming from his recently published book The Sacking of Fallujah: A People’s History (page 19). There was also a strong showing of history department graduate students in attendance at the numerous Feinberg Series events (pages 2), at other departmental talks (see “Letter From the Chair” on page 1), at the various public history program events (pages 21), and at the numerous cross-campus and Five College events and initiatives that made UMass such a rich place to study history.

Not just students of history, UMass graduate students are also active contributors to the discipline. This year, graduate students presented at conferences throughout the United States and beyond, including the annual conference of the National Council on Public History, the American Association of State and Local History, the Latin American Studies Association, and the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, as well as the International Conference on Peace and Conflict Resolution at Tehran University and an international conference on memory studies at Oxford University. We are grateful to our donors, whose generous contributions support graduate student travel to conferences and to the archives throughout the world that form the basis of their work.

Many history graduate students also made contributions to the local history community. To share just a few examples, Emma Winter Zeig ’19MA and Amelia Zurcher ’19MA worked on Historic Northampton’s exhibition, Chaotic Freedom and the Scars of Slavery: From Baton Rouge to Northampton, which was co-curated by Emeritus Professor Bruce Laurie. The exhibit examined an iconic image of the Civil War and was based on Laurie’s e-book published by the Massachusetts Review. Working with outreach director Jess Johanson, Marwa Amer, Adeline Broussane, and Amelia Zurcher contributed to this year’s High School History Academy, which welcomed dozens of middle and high school students to campus to learn about college life.

—— Jennifer Franc

In 2018-19, the history department’s honors program enjoyed another enriching academic year. Our faculty offered a rich array of courses, including Richard Chua’s “Asian/Pacific American History: 1850s-Present” (see page 11 for more), Julio Cepo’s “U.S. LGBT and Queer History,” and Jennifer Heuer’s “Topics in European History: Sex and Society.” The senior thesis is the capstone experience for students pursing departmental honors in history, and every year, several students take on this challenge, guided by a faculty advisor. This year, Lily Abrahams ’19 wrote a thesis examining gender history in late colonial Tunisia and Algeria. Nathom Giancalone ’19 looked at the US Strategic Defense Initiative in the late Cold War. Kyran Doyle Schurz ’19 undertook a comparative study of urban policing in the early twentieth-century Americas. William Sennott ’19 explored the history of the stone walls on Martha’s Vineyard and presented his research at the statewide Graduate Research Conference, held at UMass on April 26, 2019.

Each year history students have the opportunity to present their research at the history department’s research symposium, which was held in April. In addition to our four thesis writers, Luke Preti ’19 and Connor Morrissey ’19 presented their research on Alexander the Great, and Rebecca Simons presented her research for the Dr. Seuss museum. Enjoli Pechachi organized the research symposium, ensuring that it was a meaningful event for the friends and colleagues who gathered to celebrate our students. As several faculty members noted, this event is always the highlight of our end-of-year activities, and this year’s was no exception.

HONORS PROGRAM NEWS

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

THESES PRESENTED AT THE 2019 UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

and the study of history and to conduct original research in the university archives (page 27).

The year culminated in the annual Graduate Awards Ceremony during which we recognized graduate student excellence in teaching, research, and writing. See page 18 for a full list of award winners. We were delighted to be joined by Joyce Bokman and Charles K. Hyde ’66, who—among other generous donors—make these awards possible.

The awards ceremony is also an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the 2019 degree recipients. PhD recipients graduating this past May include Eric Fagen, Christopher Fobare, Amanda Goodheart, John Higgins, Ann Robinson, and Mark Robbins; Jacob Boucher, Rebecca Lefila, Perri Meldon, and Kendall Taivalkoski; Emmanuel Rowe, Emma Winter Zeig, Lindsey Woolcock, and Amelia Zurcher received MA’s this past September. Boucher, Meldon, Taivalkoski, Winter Zeig, Woolcock, and Zurcher were also recipients of public history certificates along with Sharon Mehrman ’19PhCert.

As always, the program is buoyed by graduate program coordinator Mary Lawsky and by staff and faculty across the history department. We are grateful for all that you do.

We look forward to welcoming our new graduate cohort in the fall.

2018 UMass/Five College Program in History Distinguished Annual Lecture

On October 11, 2018, we were delighted to welcome Martha G. Newman of the University of Texas at Austin for the 2018 UMass/Five College Program in History Distinguished Annual Lecture. Newman presented a lecture titled, "Assigned Female at Death: Joseph of Schönau’s Disruption of Medieval Gender Norms," in which she discussed a late twelfth-century account of a transgender monk. Joseph’s brother monks read him as male during his lifetime, but assigned him female after his death. Discussing her groundbreaking article, published in Speculum in 2003, Newman discussed how the rapidly transforming field of transgender studies has shaped her understanding of Joseph’s narrative since then. The Carthusian monk Engelhard of Langenheim, who included the account of Joseph among the collection of stories he sent to nuns, attempted to control the story’s gender fluidity, but was unable to do so. “Despite the author’s efforts to assert normative categories of gender, his story unsettled conventional binaries,” Newman explains. Newman’s work on Joseph recovers important transgender history and, as she says, “illuminates the possibility of non-binary genders within medieval monastic culture.”

— Anna Taylor

2019 Writer in Residence: Claire Bond Potter

Professor, historian, editor, and blogger Claire Bond Potter visited UMass Amherst March 18-22 as the department’s 16th writer in residence, a program made possible by the generosity of Five Colleges, Inc. Potter, a professor of history at the New School, has a long history of writing for diverse audiences in multiple genres. Her first book, War on Crime: Bandits, G-Men and the Politics of Mass Culture, was published by Rutgers University Press. In 2016 she started her blog, Tenured Radicals, which moved to the Chronicle of Higher Education in 2011. She was one of the founders of Public Seminar, where she is executive editor, and she is the creator of the podcast Erkles on 22nd Street, produced with Public Seminar’s podcast team. She regularly writes for publications such as the New York Times, the Washington Post, the Guardian, Dissent, the Village Voice, Inside Higher Education, and Jacobin. With Beebee Romans, she is the editor of two books, Doing Recent History and Historians on Hamilton.

While in Amherst, Potter visited Sociology, Political Science, and History courses, and met with faculty in history and in women, gender, sexuality studies, and held office hours for graduate students and faculty to talk about writing and publishing for non-academic audiences. In the process she found new contributors for Public Seminar. She also joined department faculty for a discussion of how we can best create assignments for students that achieve our pedagogical goals.

The highlight of Potter’s visit was her public lecture on “Clickbait, Hashtags, and Viral Rages: Writing Politics on Social Media—and How We Can Do Better.” The talk examined how viral clickbait videos, like the one purporting to show a confrontation between a Covington High School student and a Native American activist, are designed to provoke outrage on both sides of controversial issues, further inflaming passions, and how shadowy networks of trolls and bots work to spread both video clips and false narratives surrounding them. She further noted that even after she provided substantial evidence that the Covington narrative was false, many of her friends and colleagues were so attached to their understanding of the event that they ignored the evidence. She urged journalists and historians to apply the same careful, balanced scrutiny to viral videos that we apply to claims from other sources, and to beware of the way that social media, by appealing to emotion, often leads us to bypass our critical and skeptical faculties.


— Brian Ogilvie

2019 Writer in Residence: Claire Bond Potter

Claire Bond Potter
From Marine to Historian: UMass Graduate Student Pens The Sacking of Fallujah: A People’s History

Ross Caputi (C) with anthropologist Kali Rubaii (L) and Feurat Alani (R), director of The Sacking of Fallujah: A People’s History, at a department event on “Remembering Fallujah: Repairing Memory, Rebuilding Communities, and Restoring Justice.”

When I returned from Iraq as a U.S. marine, having recently been an accomplishment to the second siege of Fallujah in 2004, I got a first-hand glimpse of how power impinges on the writing of history. Our public affairs office was connecting journalists, historians, and fanboys of any kind with men from my unit for casual interviews that allowed for enormous exaggerations and omissions. One day while on duty in the barracks, I was asked to take a call from a writer named Gary Livingston, who was working on a book called Fallujah: With Honor.

I was present when my company took its first casualty. Lieutenant Malcom was shot in the back by a sniper as he entered a stairwell leading off the roof of a building where we had set up our radios. He stumbled and bled out within a minute. And having happened so quickly, I struggled to give Livingston the juicy details he seemed to be looking for. But he kept digging, as I offered several more provocative stories. I told him about the time my gunnery sergeant ordered me to run through sniper fire to retrieve a box of food because of a grudge he held against me. I told him how after a few days of combat we dropped any pretension of safeguarding civilian life and began doing “reconnaissance by fire,” meaning that we fired into houses to see if anyone was inside, rather than rushing fireteams through the front door to be met by insurgents waiting behind sandbag bunkers. I told him about the looting, about the bulldozing of entire neighborhoods, and about the casualness of the violence, offering vivid anecdotes.

Livingston responded that none of these stories could be included in the book, since the title was supposed to be Fallujah: With Honor. I had already become quite cynical about the self-censorship that was counting on our self-censorship to help them disseminate a glorified and sanitized version of one of the bloodiest operations of the entire occupation of Iraq. Since that incident I have been working to bring independent accounts of the sieges of Fallujah into the public eye. Most recently Richard Hill, Donna Mulhearn, and I coauthored The Sacking of Fallujah: A People’s History (University of Massachusetts Press), which is the first book of its kind to offer a revisionist account of these operations and place the experiences of Fallujans at its center. We hope that this book will be a humble first step towards a broader historiography of this conflict and justice for the Iraqi people.
It’s always a pleasure to spend some time reflecting on the past year in the life of the Public History Program, and this year, as always, was filled with energy and thoughtful engagement, both in the classroom and beyond. The fall semester got off to its usual rosy start with our annual fall field trip to upstate New York, where we visited Linderwald, the Martin Van Buren home in Kinderhook, and Sleptshot, the Audubon home of the poet Edwin V. Younger Mill. National Park Service curator Patricia West McKay led us on a fascinating tour of Van Buren’s home, illuminating a wide range of managerial and interpretive issues. At Sleptshot, we soaked in Mill’s poetic world while learning about the site’s serious financial challenges and attempts to address them (and indeed, the site announced a year of closure in an effort to rethink and regroup shortly after our visit). On our way back to the Valley, we stopped to visit the W.E.B. Du Bois National Historic Site in Great Barrington, where David Glassberg introduced new students to the important work UMass faculty have accomplished with our community partners.

Not long thereafter, we gathered to hear a lively series of reports from our students’ summer 2019 internships. Emma Winter Telig ’19MA and Iz Woolrock ’19MA led the design exhibits at the National Museum of American History and the Massachusetts Historical Society, respectively. Amelia Zurcher ’19MA led and developed a specialized tour of the attic at Concord’s Old Manse; Kendall Tuvalzikoski ’19MA catalogued collections at the Lake Placid Olympic Museum; Jacob Boucher ’19MA created interpretive YouTube videos for Lowell National Historic Park, Sharon Mehrman ’19PhCert researched—and reproduced!—historic furniture at Historic Filipinotown; and Brittany Frederick, John Higginson, Jesse Johnson, Perri Meldon ’19MA, Traci Parker, and Sigrid Schmalzer presented at the Graduate History Association panel “Our Roles and Responsibilities.”

A successful Graduate History Association conference, “The Routes of History: Knowing Pasts, Envisioning Futures,” welcomed presenters from various disciplines and universities across and outside the United States. Among the 25 presenters at the conference were UMass history graduate students Amy Breimier, James During, Ragini Ito, Shy Olmstead, and Kendall Tuvalzikoski ’19MA. A keynote address by James Young distinguished professor emeritus, about the process of memorial art particularly drew a crowd. Also well-attended, a workshop led by Mara Salgado-Cartagena, people’s historian of the Puertorrican diaspora in Holyoke, provided tools for using community histories to empower youth activists.

— Amelia Zurcher ’19MA

PUBLIC HISTORY PROGRAM NEWS

The Graduate History Association (GHA) has had an exciting and productive year of community building and professional development. GHA members actively participated in regular meetings, frequent off-campus outings, the mentor program, and a TA strategies lunch. Through a series of roundtable discussions initiated by history graduate students and sponsored by the history department, GHA members and department staff and faculty discussed important questions of race, labor, capital, and the role of historians in ongoing struggles around these issues. Speakers included Diana Sierra Becerra, Iyko Day, Brittany Frederick, John Higginson, Jesse Johnson, Perri Meldon ’19MA, Traci Parker, and Sigrid Schmalzer.

A successful Graduate History Association conference, “The Routes of History: Knowing Pasts, Envisioning Futures,” welcomed presenters from various disciplines and universities across and outside the United States. Among the 25 presenters at the conference were UMass history graduate students Amy Breimier, James During, Ragini Ito, Shy Olmstead, and Kendall Tuvalzikoski ’19MA. A keynote address by James Young, distinguished professor emeritus, about the process of memorial art particularly drew a crowd. Also well-attended, a workshop led by Mara Salgado-Cartagena, people’s historian of the Puertorrican diaspora in Holyoke, provided tools for using community histories to empower youth activists.

— Amelia Zurcher ’19MA

A Fruitful Year for the Graduate History Association

The Graduate History Association (GHA) has had an exciting and productive year of community building and professional development. GHA members actively participated in regular meetings, frequent off-campus outings, the mentor program, and a TA strategies lunch. Through a series of roundtable discussions initiated by history graduate students and sponsored by the history department, GHA members and department staff and faculty discussed important questions of race, labor, capital, and the role of historians in ongoing struggles around these issues. Speakers included Diana Sierra Becerra, Iyko Day, Brittany Frederick, John Higginson, Jesse Johnson, Perri Meldon ’19MA, Traci Parker, and Sigrid Schmalzer.

A successful Graduate History Association conference, “The Routes of History: Knowing Pasts, Envisioning Futures,” welcomed presenters from various disciplines and universities across and outside the United States. Among the 25 presenters at the conference were UMass history graduate students Amy Breimier, James During, Ragini Ito, Shy Olmstead, and Kendall Tuvalzikoski ’19MA. A keynote address by James Young, distinguished professor emeritus, about the process of memorial art particularly drew a crowd. Also well-attended, a workshop led by Mara Salgado-Cartagena, people’s historian of the Puertorrican diaspora in Holyoke, provided tools for using community histories to empower youth activists.

— Amelia Zurcher ’19MA

Distinguished University Professor Emeritus James E. Young delivers the keynote address at the Graduate History Association annual conference.

Not long thereafter, we gathered to hear a lively series of reports from our students’ summer 2019 internships. Emma Winter Telig ’19MA and Iz Woolrock ’19MA led the design exhibits at the National Museum of American History and the Massachusetts Historical Society, respectively. Amelia Zurcher ’19MA led and developed a specialized tour of the attic at Concord’s Old Manse; Kendall Tuvalzikoski ’19MA catalogued collections at the Lake Placid Olympic Museum; Jacob Boucher ’19MA created interpretive YouTube videos for Lowell National Historic Park, Sharon Mehrman ’19PhCert researched—and reproduced!—historic furniture at Historic Filipinotown; and Brittany Frederick, John Higginson, Jesse Johnson, Perri Meldon ’19MA, Traci Parker, and Sigrid Schmalzer presented at the Graduate History Association panel “Our Roles and Responsibilities.”

A successful Graduate History Association conference, “The Routes of History: Knowing Pasts, Envisioning Futures,” welcomed presenters from various disciplines and universities across and outside the United States. Among the 25 presenters at the conference were UMass history graduate students Amy Breimier, James During, Ragini Ito, Shy Olmstead, and Kendall Tuvalzikoski ’19MA. A keynote address by James Young, distinguished professor emeritus, about the process of memorial art particularly drew a crowd. Also well-attended, a workshop led by Mara Salgado-Cartagena, people’s historian of the Puertorrican diaspora in Holyoke, provided tools for using community histories to empower youth activists.

— Amelia Zurcher ’19MA

A Fruitful Year for the Graduate History Association

The Graduate History Association (GHA) has had an exciting and productive year of community building and professional development. GHA members actively participated in regular meetings, frequent off-campus outings, the mentor program, and a TA strategies lunch. Through a series of roundtable discussions initiated by history graduate students and sponsored by the history department, GHA members and department staff and faculty discussed important questions of race, labor, capital, and the role of historians in ongoing struggles around these issues. Speakers included Diana Sierra Becerra, Iyko Day, Brittany Frederick, John Higginson, Jesse Johnson, Perri Meldon ’19MA, Traci Parker, and Sigrid Schmalzer.

A successful Graduate History Association conference, “The Routes of History: Knowing Pasts, Envisioning Futures,” welcomed presenters from various disciplines and universities across and outside the United States. Among the 25 presenters at the conference were UMass history graduate students Amy Breimier, James During, Ragini Ito, Shy Olmstead, and Kendall Tuvalzikoski ’19MA. A keynote address by James Young, distinguished professor emeritus, about the process of memorial art particularly drew a crowd. Also well-attended, a workshop led by Mara Salgado-Cartagena, people’s historian of the Puertorrican diaspora in Holyoke, provided tools for using community histories to empower youth activists.

— Amelia Zurcher ’19MA
other social interactions in the context of museums, historic sites, and archives so that public historians can create more inclusive and welcoming spaces.

In the spring semester’s field-based pedagogy program, Samuel Redman’s “Theory and Method of Oral History” class partnered with the Amberst Jones Library and the Emily Dickinson Museum to record more than 20 new oral history interviews for students, scholars, and members of the public. Students enrolled in David Glassberg’s seminar “Museum and Historic Site Interpretation” completed an outdoor exhibit on the history of Clinton AME Zion Site Interpretation” and developed a community need while helping students build professional skills. The inaugural studio partnered with the Hadley Farm Museum to catalog objects in this important local collection. Caitlin Emery Avenia, curator of Old Sturbridge Village, and alumna Katherine Fecteau ’17MA, assistant curator at CIV, led a workshop on cataloging to get us all off on the right foot. By the end of the semester, students had built a database that held more than 300 catalog entries, while a subset of students in the class had developed proposed collections policies for the museum.

The UMass Public History Program enjoyed a big “hometown” (or at least home region) showing at the National Council on Public History (NCPH) meeting in Hartford, the first of two annual meetings led by faculty member Marla Miller as NCPH president. (See you in Atlanta in 2020!) David Glassberg contributed to a session on climate justice, while MA student Perri Maldon ’18MA participated in a working group on the forthcoming Inclusive Historians Handbook, a joint initiative between the NCPH and the American Association of State and Local History. PhD students Rosa Caputi and Jason Higgins both shared their work in the People’s History of Fallujah Digital Archive, and the Incarcerated Veterans Oral History Project, respectively) in an exploration of “Reparative Public History and its Limits.” Alumna Li No ’09 PhCert spoke on “History, Memory, and Politics: Public History in China,” while Chelsea Miller ’18MA led an important bystander intervention training for public historians and museum professionals. Finally, five students presented work in the conference poster session: Brittany Frederick shared her research on “Campus History as Public History: The Mille House and the Birth of Afro-American Studies at UMass Amherst”; Peter Kleeman invited conference-goers to discuss the past, present, and future of his Recent Age Museum; and Amelia Zurcher ’18MA described her work to “center peripheral domestic spaces” by developing attic tours of Concord’s Old Manse. Undergraduates Rebecca Simon and Freya Wall presented their work with the Springfield Museums around the creation of the house museum in the boyhood home of Ted Geisel (aka Dr. Seuss).

In June, we were delighted to sponsor the Mass History Alliance conference, “Empowering Our Communities Through History.” Sam Redman represented the program on the planning committee, and program assistant LJ Woolcock ’19MA represented UMass public history students and alumni in the planning process. The conference’s workshops, breakout sessions, and speed networking event connecting students and public history practitioners from across Massachusetts are all highlights for historians across the commonwealth, and we’re pleased to continue to play a key role in the planning of this important annual event. As the year comes to a close, we congratulated Mark Roblee ’19PhD (who completed work on his public history certificate in 2022) as he defended his doctoral dissertation. His terrific work as internships coordinator and career advising over the past several years will be much missed. We also thanked our ever-capable program assistant LJ Woolcock into the role for the year to come.

As always, to keep up with the program, our students, faculty, and alumni, follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

— Marla Miller
History conference in Hartford.

other visitors from the National Council on Public History, welcomed Marla Miller and dozens of coordinator of onsite services at Connecticut’s Old State House, located at the Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm — brought into the conversation a colleague who had worked on a similar project at Historic New England; we later met for a longer conversation about strategies in LGBTQ interpretation. Another alumna, Devon King ’18 (then an architectural historian at the firm McGinley, Kalsow, and Associates, and now an entering student in the graduate program) agreed to join the advisory committee I was putting together for the project, and it was incredibly helpful to have his counsel as we wrote the new house tour and designed our launch event. Program director Maria Miller was able to attend the launch, and was thrilled to see one of UMass Amherst’s alums realized, and so quickly. “It’s so gratifying,” she later observed, “to see our terrific alumni in the greater Boston area, across several generations of the program, connecting in such creative and productive ways to strengthen everyone’s work!”

— Meghan Gelardi Holmes ’06MA

The UMass Delegation at the 2019 NCPH Conference in Hartford

With the 2019 National Council on Public History Conference located just down the road from Amherst in Hartford, Connecticut, UMass Amherst public historians arrived in impressive numbers. Everywhere I looked at the Connecticut Convention Center, I saw fellow cohort members, faculty, and alumnae milling about, presenting their work, attending workshops, exhibiting posters, and otherwise participating in this keenest gathering of U.S. public historians. I joined a panel of public historians, ranging from professors to archivists to students like myself, in developing The Inclusive Historian’s Handbook: This will be a forthcoming free digital booklet for museum professionals and public historians to encourage accessibility, inclusivity, and equity.

The environment was supportive and inspiring, as I last beside alumna Austin Clark ’18MA and saw Maria Miller and many peers in the audience. Among the dozens of sessions I attended, I found the roundtables “5S: Black Public History from Post-Emancipation to Neo-Emancipation” and “5S1: When All is Gone, Whose Story Remains?” Protecting Coastal Heritage in a Changing Climate: most informative and thought-provoking. In 5S1, Hannah Suggs of Montepelier shared how, as a black woman, working at a former plantation estate-museum feels like an act of spatial reclaimation. In 5S1, Kate Call of the Union of Concerned Scientists described the emotional and physical toll of losing cultural heritage to rising seas.

These two presentations epitomized the reasons I gravitate to public history: how historically marginalized communities claim and make space, and how we can respond to the loss of beloved spaces as climate change continues to threaten their existence. I look forward to exploring these themes deeper in my public history career and as a new member of NCPHa’s New Professional and Graduate Student Committees. Thank you to all UMass folks who organized the event, especially NCPH President Maria Miller and LJ Woolcock ’10MA for their superb organizational skills and curation.

— Perri Melidon ’19MA
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT NEWS

The 2018–2019 academic year was my sixth year as the history department outreach director and the most focused and dynamic to date. This year, much of the focus centered on the Feinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series, "Another World Is Possible: Revolutionary Visions, Past and Present." (For more on the series, see page 2.)

In keeping with the department and university missions, the series prioritized community engagement. Extensive publicity reached communities across Western Massachusetts, and we hosted events not only at UMass but also in community venues. We provided family-friendly accommodations, conducted several events in Spanish, with simultaneous English interpretation, and provided transportation to and from UMass. Audio of the events (soundcloud.com/umass-history) has extended the series into podcat feeds across the United States and world.

Alongside members of the history department, community members were involved at every stage of the process: as part of the team that envisioned the series and them; as tablers at events; as panelists on stage alongside nationally renowned scholars; as the designers and artists who created the series marker and posters; and as active partners in promoting local engagement with the series. Multiple community groups even organized buses of local K-12 students, community members, and retirement community residents to the various events.

There were layers of partnerships and engagement built in to each event. Through a collaboration with the regional library system’s initiative, All Hamptons Read, more than 450 local residents read Never Caught: The Washingtons’ Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, and attended the associated Feinberg Series event that placed the author, historian Erica Armstrong Dunbar, in dialogue with Barbara Krauthamer. It was a powerful experience to be in the presence of hundreds of people listening with rapt attention and reverence to the history of how enslaved and formerly enslaved women envisioned freedom.

Other highlights include a youth-led event facilitated by a student group from Holyoke High School, community-based workshops for K-12 educators on Mesoamerica Resistate, a graphic by the Beehive Design Collective, and our annual History Institute, in which 45 local K-12 educators attended Feinberg events and worked together to incorporate the material into their classrooms. Co-hosted with the UMass Alliance for Community Transformation and held at Holyoke City Hall, the capstone event featured community members as workshop facilitators. As part of planning this final event, we hosted multiple visioning and planning workshops with the local community leaders who later went on to facilitate workshops. After spending the year exploring how movements have built other possible worlds at many points in history and in many places around the globe, this capstone brought the series home.

Many of these initiatives were highly visible and well publicized. But it is worth noting that some of the most meaningful engagement work took place entirely behind the scenes. This included, for example, the extensive signups that the undergraduate student staff placed around campus so that people who are new to UMass could find the lecture halls; multiple visioning and planning workshops with the local community leaders who later went on to facilitate workshops. After spending the year exploring how movements have built other possible worlds at many points in history and in many places around the globe, this capstone brought the series home.

The impact of this engagement was evident at the events. Most university events were predominantly attended by the university community; at the Feinberg events, roughly half of attendees were from the wider community. An estimated 200 and 1,300 people attended each event, making this series the most well-attended history department series to date.

I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to Adelaine Broussan, who was an integral and overwhelmingly committed member of the coordinating team. I also thank the department’s undergraduate staff and the many graduate students, especially Lj Woolsock ’19MA, who provided crucial support at the events. The planning committee consisted of Sigrid Schmalzer, Kevin Young, and myself as co-chairs, joined by Dinaa Sierro Becerra, Brian Bunk, Toussaint Louie, and Priyanka Srivastava. Working with all of you—and with the many academic departments and community groups who supported the series—was a highlight of my year.

In addition to the Feinberg Series, this year was also rich with additional community projects. As usual, a personal favorite was bringing groups of middle and high school students to campus for our High School History Academy, a day-long experience featuring mini-lectures by faculty, hands-on explorations in the archives, a Q&A with current students, a library and campus tour, and more. Other activities included participating in the Five College Partnership Programs’ advisory committee and the advocacy committee of the National Council on Public History, coordinating our online classes; supporting the department’s communications assistant, and offering coordination, planning, and support for the department’s numerous additional engagement activities, ensuring that community-led elements are incorporated into the majority of what we do.

I offer my profound gratitude to the students, faculty members, and organizations—too many to mention—who support and collaborate on the department’s community engagement projects. Finally, a special thanks to the department’s faculty officers and staff: Amy Fleig, Mary Lashway, Maura Miller, Brian Ogilvie, Enjoli Pescheta, Heidi Scott, and Anna Taylor.

— Jews Johnson
Audrey L. Alstadt reports: In spring 2019 I taught a new 200-level course, “Espies and Spying in History.” I started to develop this course (and an upper level writing seminar on espionage) because intelligence gathering and analysis, secrecy, and disinformation have been in the news so much in recent years. Many people in the twenty-first century may think about cyber intrusion. As a historian, I wanted to use the topic to examine the historical context in which specific cases of “spying” took place. The course began with the ancient Chinese work Art of War by Sun Tzu, but most of the class covered the nineteenth century to the present. We talked about human intelligence (“spies”) and who analyzed and applied the information. We looked at the history of codes and ciphers, from a cipher wheel that was commonly used for 500 years until displaced by the famous Enigma machine. For one assignment, I sent the class an enigma message and told them to decipher a specific reply to me and our excellent TA, Jeffrey Davis. We followed the history of major intelligence/countertelligence organizations—MI-5 and MI-6 in Britain and the CIA, FBI, and NSA in the United States. We discussed Russian trolls and Edward Snowden.

Chris Appy reports: I was on leave in the fall working on a history of the nuclear age, but also gave a plenary talk at the Oral History Association meeting in Montreal, participated in an international conference on the significances of 1968 in Havana, and wrote an essay on Amherst College in the 1960s for a book about the college’s history that will be published in time for its 2021 bicentennial. In the spring, I had the great opportunity to teach a nuclear age seminar in the Feinberg Innovation Space, a new opportunity to teach a nuclear age seminar on the significance of 1968 in Havana, and to participate in an international conference on the history of codes and ciphers, from a cipher wheel that was commonly used for 500 years until displaced by the famous Enigma machine. For one assignment, I sent the class an enigma message and told them to decipher a specific reply to me and our excellent TA, Jeffrey Davis. We followed the history of major intelligence/countertelligence organizations—MI-5 and MI-6 in Britain and the CIA, FBI, and NSA in the United States. We discussed Russian trolls and Edward Snowden.

This year Anne Broodhuis became director of the Middle Eastern Studies Program in the Department of Judaic Near Eastern Studies, while also continuing her work in history, where she has been promoted from associate to full professor. Her second book, Women and the Making of the Mongol Empire, came out from Cambridge University Press, which she co-organized with a delightful party at Amherst Books. She noted a new course in an honors seminar format—“Power Couples of the Medieval World”—which examined medieval societies through case studies of couples in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia. This course is fully developed, she hopes to work up a course on the Silk Road. Otherwise she taught several of her usual suspects: “Middle East History I,” “Islamic Movements in History, Age of the Crusades,” and “Mongol and Turkish Empires.” She was nominated for two different teaching awards—the Manning Prize and the Distinguished Teaching Award—and although she didn’t win either, she was very grateful for the nominations, and for the many letters of support that students and colleagues wrote for her. Finally, Broodhuis attended conferences in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; San Antonio, Texas; and Tokyo, Japan.

For fall semester 2018, Richard Chu taught “Asian/Pacific American History” in collaboration with members of the Vietnamese, Cambodian, Filipino, and Bhutanese American community organizations in Western Massachusetts. Chu’s class did an oral history project focusing on one member of each community. (See page 11 for more.) Chu also taught Chinese diaparic history at Hampshire College. On sabbatical leave in spring 2019, he worked on his book project, The Chinaman in the Philippines: A Conundrum in the U.S. Imperial Project, 1898-2005, and co-editing an anthology on LGBTQ studies in the Philippines, More Tomboy/Baka Than We Admit: Insights into Sexual and Gender Diversity in the Philippines. He also traveled to Panama, Cuba, and Thailand and Tokyo on a Whiting Foundation Grant to learn more about the history of the Chinese diaspora in those countries. Finally, he continues to collaborate with Asian American community-based organizations on their community projects.

Hadi Jorati is a historian of pre-modern Islamic societies, with a focus on intellectual history and history of science. His research is broadly concerned with the interaction between scholar and society, education, institutions of learning, scholarly circles, scholarly correspondence, movement of scholars, and court patronage. Jorati’s current book project is a micro study of the social background to the intellectual career of one of the most influential medieval Islamic scholars, the mathematician and philosopher Nasir al-Din Tusi, who also served in the administration of Mongol Iran. Jorati’s other ongoing research projects range from social history of science to administrative practices in the medieval Islamic world.

A former research mathematician who earned a PhD in Near Eastern languages, and civilizations at Yale, Jorati has taught at Columbia, Yale University, and the Ohio State University. At UMass Amherst, he will teach courses on the history and civilizations of the medieval Islamic world, and he will continue his research on the relationship between archival and linguistic knowledge as tools of governance in the British Empire in both the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

Ashish Kapur: Siddique is a historian of early America, early modern Europe, and the British Empire. His research and teaching explores the role of collecting, managing, and using knowledge in the history of state formation and governance, especially as these themes pertain to the emergence of nation-states in the Atlantic world at the end of the eighteenth century. Siddique is currently completing a book tentatively entitled Rule Through Paper: Archive, Archive, and Modernity in the Governance of the British Empire. It explores the relationship between archival and linguistic knowledge as tools of governance in the British Empire in both the Atlantic and Indian Ocean worlds in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Born in Washington, DC, Siddique received his PhD from Columbia University in 2016. He held postdoctoral fellowships at the University of Southern California from 2016 to 2018 and at Penn State from 2018 to 2019. This fall, he is teaching courses on the American Revolution and a course on the history of the “corporation” from medieval Europe to present-day America. Siddique plans to offer future courses on the making of American capitalism from 1492 to the present, the formation and unravelling of early modern Atlantic world empires, and on ideas of “utopia” from sociologists to Solley.
David Glaseberg devoted much of his time and energy this year to engaging with graduate students on four public history projects: for UMass Special Collections and University Archives, an oral history of African American students who attended UMass in the 1960s; for Clinton Church Restoration in Great Barrington, an outdoor exhibit on the history of Clinton AME Zion Church; for Historic Deerfield, a formative evaluation to help it develop a new smartphone app interpreting Native American history; and for Neighbor to Neighbor Springfield Climate Justice Coalition, an exhibit panel examining the impact of urban renewal and the building of Interstate 91 on Springfield’s North End. The latter will become part of the new Humanities Action Lab traveling exhibit, Climaxes of Inequality: Stories of Environmental Justice, scheduled to open in Newark, New Jersey, in October 2019. With current graduate student Taneil Ruffin and alumna Laura Miller ’14PhD, Glaseberg began research in Marsh-Billings Rockefeller National Historic Park on the relationship of Laurance S. Rockefeller’s Outdoor Recreation Resources Review Commission and the Civil Rights Movement. He also taught a new combined undergraduate and graduate course, “History of Interstate 91 on Springfield’s North End.”

Daniel Gordon was on sabatical in the fall 2018 semester. He organized a conference in October 2019, “Reading Tocqueville in the 21st Century.” He also edited The Anthem Companion to Alexis Tocqueville (Anthem Press, 2018, for which he wrote an introduction and discussed how Tocqueville was canonized as an alternative to Marx, and the need to re-establish Tocqueville’s voice in an era of “post-Marxian” social theory. Gordon contributed two chapters to the volume: “Tocqueville and Linguistic Theory” and “Tocqueville and the French Revolution” (with Patrice Higonnet from Harvard). Another sabatical project had Gordon marking progress on a book about campaigns to ban the Muslim veil, from the 1920s to the present. In the spring, Gordon taught the “Western Thought to 1600” and “Ideas that Changed History” courses. Finally, he was invited to be a member of the Academic Exchange Network in May of 2019.

Mark Miller reports: “This year seems to have flown by—as they all do these days—but particular highlights were the collaboration with Springfield Museums to help envision their new historic house museum interpreting the life of Theodore Geisel (a.k.a. “Dr. Seuss”), chairing the search for our new colleagues in early American History (welcome aboard, Ashahe Suddique!), and launching our new “Museum Studio” course, which partnered in 2019 with the Hadley Farm Museum. Along the way, I wrapped up work on my forthcoming book Enslaved Labor, Lovebirds, and Landscapes of Change in Rural Massachusetts (John Hopkins University Press, 2019). I finally got to see beautiful Banff, Montana, when I delivered the keynote address at the conference, “Strengthening the Ties That Bind: Public History in Montana.” Finally, I enjoyed my first annual meeting as president of the National Council on Public History, helping to welcome nearly 1,000 public historians to Hartford, in our organization’s largest stand-alone meeting ever. It was a thrill to see so many of our alumni from around the nation come back for the conference, and to see all the great things they are accomplishing out in the world.

Jason Moreau reports: “It was a spring of travel. In March, I delivered two talks at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland, and in May I hosted a seminar on research methods in late antique studies at the Università di Roma “La Sapienza.” Teaching highlights: working with a team of three students as the new director of the Oxford Summer Seminar, teaching a revamped course on Roman history, and conducting an independent study on Alexander the Great with two talented seniors, Conor Morrissey ’19 and Luke Preti ’19. Lowlights: losing again and again in table tennis to a colleague from Hunter College in a Brooklyn pool hall. This summer you would have found me at Trinity College in Oxford together with 45 students from UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, and Smith College. Alice Nash received a fourth grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to lead a Summer Institute for Teachers with Five Colleges, Inc. “Teaching Native American Histories,” co-directed with Linda Cousins (Apsaroke) Wampum崇, brought 25 teachers from across the nation to spend three weeks living and working together in the Wampanoag homeland in southeastern Massachusetts. Learn more at teachnativehistories.umass.edu. Spring 2019 also saw the publication of her multi-year project to co-edit The Routledge Handbook to the History and Society of the Americas (Kaltmeier, Fosh, Foley, Nash, Pinke, and Rilor). In addition to serving as Department Chair, Brian Ogilvie co-chaired the program committee for the American Historical Association’s Annual Meeting in Chicago, January 3-6, 2019. He published a chapter entitled, “Visions of Ancient Natural History” in Worlds of Natural History, an edited volume published by Cambridge University Press, and he gave a lecture last November at Aarhus University, in Denmark, on the economics of insect collecting in the Enlightenment. During the 2019-20 academic year he is on sabatical leave, completing his current book manuscript on insects in European art, science, and religion from the Renaissance to the Enlightenment; he will return for another term as chair in fall 2020.

Stephan Platt reports: “My book Imperial Twilight, on the origins of the Opium War, came out in the summer of 2018, so I spent most of the 2018-19 academic year balancing my teaching with travel to
A Heartfelt Farewell to Julio Capó Jr.

After seven years as faculty in the history department, this past spring Julio Capó Jr. made the difficult decision to accept a position created for him at Florida International University in Miami, a city that is both his home and the subject of his award-winning first book, Welcome to Fairyland: Queer Miami before 1940. At FIU, he is based in the history department and helping to build a new Public Humanities Laboratory, a position that speaks to his passion for bridging academic work with community engagement and service.

A few days after Julio Capó Jr. announced that he had accepted a position at FIU, newsletter editor Adeline Broussan stopped by my office to make the case that we include a tribute to him in our annual newsletter. I knew immediately that she was right. But how could we possibly put to words how much Julio—a person who I admire so deeply—has meant to the department and his many friends, colleagues, and students?

Julio Capó is so many things. He is a brilliant scholar, a dedicated teacher, a prolific public intellectual, a generous colleague, an unflinching advocate for what is right, and a fence and fabulous human. His work is heartfelt and rigorous—not only the prominent projects, like his acclaimed scholarship, his writing in TIME, and the Queer Miami exhibit he curated this spring, but also the hours he pours in to supporting students and showing up for community-based work.

His dissertation advisor, PhD student Shayan Olmstead, shared, “I first met Julio when I took his “US LGBT and Queer History” course in spring 2016, and was immediately struck by his dynamism, organization, and breadth of knowledge. Professor Capó is able to engage his audience and challenge everyone in the room to think more deeply and make strong connections among the course material. He has a talent for recognizing students’ capacity and pushing us to revise our work to its highest caliber.”

At the same time, Olmstead continued, “Professor Capó is attuned to the world outside of UMass Amherst and is considerate of how large events may impact his students’ mental and emotional health. He was the only professor who reached out to me following the shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Professor Capó’s move to Florida International University will be a great loss for this department, but I am sure that his passion for student success and compassionate mentorship will continue undeterred, regardless of his distance from Herter Hall.”

Privanka Srivastava concurred, sharing that, “Julio Capó has been one of my most dependable and trusted friends and colleagues ever since we both joined UMass in the fall of 2012. I am seriously going to miss our impromptu meetings and long conversations. I greatly appreciate Julio’s many accomplishments as a scholar and educator and wish him plenty of success and happiness at his new workplace.”

Joye Bowman, who was department chair when Julio was hired and is now associate dean in the College of Humanities and Fine Arts, echoed our admiration. “There is so much to say about the amazing job that Julio did,” Bowman wrote, noting also that he never said no to any request from any unit or any student, that he was steadfastly committed to LGBTQ issues and diversity more generally, and that he has a rare and unflinching courage and integrity.

It has been an honor to be your colleague, dear friend. You are so deeply missed.

— Jesse Johnson

FACULTY NEWS

give talks and interviews on the book—most memorably at the Hong Kong International Literary Festival in November. The book was shortlisted for Britain’s Baileys Women’s Prize, which entailed a week of readings in England and Scotland, and though I didn’t win the £50,000 prize at the end, it was a wonderful experience to meet the other finalists and have the chance to talk about my book in the UK. Considering that the book is hardly kind to the Victorian British, I was pleasantly surprised at what a positive reception it had there. Along with the prize nomination, it received favorable reviews in the UK, and the Sunday Times and Financial Times both named it one of the best history books of 2018. A translation in Chinese characters was published recently in Taiwan and a simplified Chinese edition is slated for publication in mainland China, hopefully later this summer. In other news, I was fortunate this year to receive a Public Scholar Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, a documentary chronicling the history of collecting human remains for museums and efforts to repatriate them to indigenous communities in Australia.

Sigrid Schmueler reports: My work is continuing to build in exciting new directions. The success of my first children’s picture book (an adaptation of my academic research on the history of agricultural science in China) has encouraged me to pursue a possible second such book, this time in collaboration with members of the terracing community in northern China where I am researching agricultural heritage. Meanwhile,也为Membership for the People the 1970s-80s US organization whose history I began researching several years ago has been revitalized. I served on the editorial collective for the first issue of the new magazine (http://museum. sciencecontent.org/people.org), and helped the local chapter create a workshop on science and social justice for K-8 teachers. I also proud to have served on the Feinberg Committee this past year. On the research front, I presented a paper on science and democracy at a conference in Taiwan marking the centennial of the Chinese MayFourth Movement, where I put some ideas for a brand-new general education course I’m launching, titled “Science and Society in Modern China.” Finally, I have continuing to be active in building the faculty union, inspired by cherished mentor Dan Clouser, who was prematurely taken from us this year.

Kathryn Schwartz reports: I am grateful to the history department community for giving me such a warm welcome to campus this academic year. I taught three new courses, one on the history of the Middle East from 1500 to the present day, and the others on the respective topics of mass migration and the city within the region during the modern period. A chapter I wrote about an itinerant scholar who played an active part in orientalist scholarship and sourcing an itinerant scholar who played an active part in orientalist scholarship and sourcing the respective topics of mass migration and the city within the region during the modern period. A chapter I wrote about an itinerant scholar who played an active part in orientalist scholarship and sourcing the respective topics of mass migration and the city within the region during the modern period. A chapter I wrote about an itinerant scholar who played an active part in orientalist scholarship and sourcing the respective topics of mass migration and the city within the region during the modern period.

Richard Chu at the Panama Canal

Julio Capó Jr.
HOW A UMASS HISTORIAN BECAME AN AWARD-WINNING CHILDREN’S BOOK AUTHOR: An Interview with Sigrid Schmalzer

Sigrid Schmalzer was the recipient of numerous awards (see pg 31) for her book Moth and Wasp: Soil and Ocean. Remembering Chinese Scientist Pu Zhelong’s Work for Sustainable Farming, a children's book based on her scholarly research. This summer, she, her husband, and editor Adeline Broussan sat down with her to discuss the project.

What inspired you to write a children’s book?

I wanted to write for children long before I ever wrote for adults. My big break happened during one of my family’s many visits to the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art in Amherst. I happened to meet an acquiring editor who told me she was always looking for science, nature, and multicultural books, so something on agricultural science and ecology in China would be perfect. I laughed and said, “Maybe in 20 years I’ll get back to you!” But just a few mornings later I woke up inspired to turn chapter two of my newest academic monograph into a picture book.

Tell us about the process of turning your academic work into a children’s book?

The picture book medium is subtle and powerful. You learn a lot about what truly matters when you boil it all down to just a few juicy morsels. It was actually not too difficult to explain big ideas about science in Mao-era China—that was my overarching goal. However, I found that working with an illustrator required far more extra research and rigorous attention to historical detail than I had originally expected. It was astonishing to discover just how little evidence exists as to village architecture and clothing from 1970s China. And in the academic book, I could simply note that “spiders” were valued as natural enemies of insect pests, but for the children’s book I had to know which spiders so the illustrator could render them properly.

How do children react to it?

The insects are a big draw: elementary schools spend lots of time on insect life cycles and ecology, so that connection is very satisfying to them. The book also incorporates Chinese characters, which appeals especially to kids who are learning Chinese. Children also seem to appreciate the exploration of China’s recent past through the personal memories of the book’s narrator. The illustrator found some very evocative ways to convey this, which I think will stick with the young readers.

Do you have any plans to write another children’s book?

Yes! This summer I traveled back to an agricultural terracing community in northern China that I had visited twice before. My plan is to co-author the book with a man from the village who has developed an impressive reputation as a local historian. The goal this time around is to convey what it means for a community to define its own identity. It was astonishing to discover just how little evidence exists as to village architecture and clothing from 1970s China. And in the academic book, I could simply note that “spiders” were valued as natural enemies of insect pests, but for the children’s book I had to know which spiders so the illustrator could render them properly.

Tell us about the process of turning your academic work into a children’s book?

The picture book medium is subtle and powerful. You learn a lot about what truly matters when you boil it all down to just a few juicy morsels. It was actually not too difficult to explain big ideas about science in Mao-era China—that was my overarching goal. However, I found that working with an illustrator required far more extra research and rigorous attention to historical detail than I had originally expected. It was astonishing to discover just how little evidence exists as to village architecture and clothing from 1970s China. And in the academic book, I could simply note that “spiders” were valued as natural enemies of insect pests, but for the children’s book I had to know which spiders so the illustrator could render them properly.

How do children react to it?

The insects are a big draw: elementary schools spend lots of time on insect life cycles and ecology, so that connection is very satisfying to them. The book also incorporates Chinese characters, which appeals especially to kids who are learning Chinese. Children also seem to appreciate the exploration of China’s recent past through the personal memories of the book’s narrator. The illustrator found some very evocative ways to convey this, which I think will stick with the young readers.

Do you have any plans to write another children’s book?

Yes! This summer I traveled back to an agricultural terracing community in northern China that I had visited twice before. My plan is to co-author the book with a man from the village who has developed an impressive reputation as a local historian. The goal this time around is to convey what it means for a community to define its own identity. It was astonishing to discover just how little evidence exists as to village architecture and clothing from 1970s China. And in the academic book, I could simply note that “spiders” were valued as natural enemies of insect pests, but for the children’s book I had to know which spiders so the illustrator could render them properly.
Joyce Berkman reports. The highlight of this past academic year has been the recovery of my husband from lymphoma and the chemo ordeal. As a result, we left on May 24 for Poland where I gave a talk on Edith Stein to faculty and graduate students in theology and philosophy at the University of Wrocław (the city of Stein’s birth, then called Breslau), originally scheduled for last May. This talk will soon appear as an article in the Wrocław Theological Review. I excitedly looked forward to my first trip to Poland. We explored not only Wrocław but Krakow/ Cracow as well. As bookends on Stein’s life we made the tough visit to Auschwitz, where Stein was killed. Along with my current Stein scholarship, I continued to be connected to my past work on Olive Schreiner. An article that I wrote on possessing women (women as possessors and being possessed) in Schreiner’s last novel will appear in the Journal of Commonwealth Literature this coming year. My work as treasurer and oral historian with the Valley Women’s History Collaborative continues, and as of June 1, I am president of the university’s Retired Faculty Association, a vigorous scholarly, intellectual, and social organization open to retired faculty and professional staff. Throughout the past year I served as secretary and newsletter editor of the International Association for the Study of the Philosophy of Edith Stein. We held our biennial conference—this year in Cologne, Germany in August—where I presented another paper on Stein’s life and work. This talk will soon appear as an article in the Revista de Estudios Colombianos. These other manuscripts submitted to journals are currently under review, and the Colombian Banco de la República, in association with the Universidad de Antioquia, is sponsoring a Spanish translation of her book Santiago Nueva Triana (1958-1961). Colombian Mass and Letters and Crusaders for Hemispheric Unions for publication in Colombia. Her current research concerns German contributions to Colombian history. Jane continues to play her flute with the Holyoke Civic Symphony, shelf books at the Ives Library, and serves as a “friendly visitor” at the Amherst Senior Center.

Gerry McFarland reports that 2019 was a quiet year in both his usual categories of activity: professional history matters and writing fiction. On the professional front he reviewed a book on Greenwich Village’s Washington Square, was a consultant for a Boston Globe article on late nineteenth-century socialism in Massachusetts, and gave a lecture on “The Legacy of the 1960s” to a group of visiting Argentine graduate students. Although he didn’t work on any new pieces of fiction, he actively promoted his 2018 novel “T.T. Mann, Ace Detective and the Human Heart,” in observance of the 50th anniversary of the film. A new book on The World War—why it appealed to soldiers and civilians and why it has been the most remembered song of the war years ever since. He presented his talk (with images and music) to classes at Loyola University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, Valparaiso University, and to a general-public audience at St. James Cathedral in Chicago. The latter, on Saturday, November 10, was a pre-concert supplement to the multimedia program, “War and the Human Heart,” in observance of the centenary of the armistices ending the Great War. He also reports that he continues his twice-a-year stays in Europe (his last visit was in September). Some things are better over there—that’s a subject for a good long conversation sometime.

My three days in Sarajevo, in the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in October 2018, were fascinating, shocking, and even heartbreaking. Sarajevo is like many old European cities with narrow winding streets up and down its surrounding hills, layer upon layer of stone walls, remnants of medieval fortifications, churches, mosques and synagogues, and graveyards both old and all too new. Its natural beauty is defined by the hilly terrain and the river that gushes noisily through the city center. I was participating in a conference sponsored by the George F. Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies on the topic of nationalism, ethnic conflict, memory, and the construction of history. The conference title was “Conflicting Memories, Unreconciled Narratives,” and all participants were one-time recipients of Kennan Institute research grants. Sarajevo is synonymous with the start of World War I in the summer of 1914, with the assassination there of the heir to the Austrian throne. The spot is marked, of course, and a museum sits on the street corner. Sarajevo was chosen as the location for this conference because of more recent bloodshed, the so-called Bosnian War (1992-95), one part of the war that accompanied the break-up of Yugoslavia. Here, after a vicious propaganda campaign reminiscent of Nazi Germany, Serbian forces carried out ethnic cleansing and mass murder against Bosniaks, or Bosnian Muslims. Distinctive white column gravestones today line the hills of Sarajevo. The height of the slaughter was the genocide of July 1995, when Serbian forces systematically slaughtered over 8,500 Bosniak men and boys in the town of Srebrenica. The thousands of graves in a vast memorial park were an awful reminder of the hatred that extreme nationalism can unleash in Europe and elsewhere in our world.

— Audrey L. Altstadt
In March and April 2019, Mohammad Ataie attended and presented at two conferences in the United States and Iran. His first presentation in March was at the international conference Transcending Boundaries, at Central Michigan University. Ataie’s presentation was on the export of the 1979 Iranian revolution to Lebanon, and the expansion of Iran’s influence from 1979 until the consolidation of the Lebanese Hizbullah in the late 1980s. In April, Ataie went to his alma mater, the University of Tehran, to give a paper titled “The Role of Ecumenicalism in Conflict Resolution: The Example of Trans-sectarian Cooperation During the War of the Camps in Lebanon,” at the International Conference on Peace and Conflict Resolution. His presentation explained how ecumenical ideas of the 1979 revolution influenced Lebanese and Palestinian Islamists, who played an important role in mediating between warring groups during the War of the Camps in Lebanon. In the fall of 2019, Ataie will go to Europe on a Bauer-Gordon Grant in May 2019, Gama’s plans for 2019-2020 involve presenting his research at “The History of Accessibility and Disability: Representations in the National Park Service,” in April 2019, with the support of her advisor, Joel Wolfe, she directed by UMass faculty member Alice Nash and Aqinnah Wampanoag museum professional and historical consultant Linda Coombs. In April 2019, Jason Higgins moved to Brazil to conduct research for his dissertation. His research focuses on the export of the 1979 Iranian revolution to Lebanon, and the expansion of Iran’s influence from 1979 until the consolidation of the Lebanese Hizbullah in the late 1980s. In April, Ataie will go to Europe on a Bauer-Gordon Grant in May 2019, Gama’s plans for 2019-2020 involve presenting his research at “The History of Accessibility and Disability: Representations in the National Park Service,” in April 2019, with the support of her advisor, Joel Wolfe, she directed by UMass faculty member Alice Nash and Aqinnah Wampanoag museum professional and historical consultant Linda Coombs. Higgins received a Bauer-Gordon Fellowship to record more oral history interviews this summer for the Incarcerated Veterans Project. Public history master’s student Peter Kleeman had a busy first year, which included an internship in the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Connecticut and work on the UMass Black Pioneers Oral History Project. At the National Council on Public History, he participated in a poster session on the Space Age Museum he is developing. He also traveled to Chicago this spring to present a paper on Space Age popular culture at the History of the Future conference at Northwestern University. A Hyde Fellowship recipient this summer Kleeman interned at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C., where he shadowed curator Margaret Weitekamp, who oversees the Social and Cultural Dimensions of Spaceflight collection. The internship also included involvement in the museum’s redesign process and programming for the forthcoming “Revisiting the Moon Landing” exhibition. In addition, in May, Kleeman traveled to the Netherlands to present at the History of Science Society Conference with colleagues from the Latin American Studies in London, and the National Air and Space Museum, and led a roundtable discussion in August at the American Association for State and Local History conference in Philadelphia on why Space Age cultural artifacts should be preserved.
Fellowship, Late Antiquity, produce the Five College chair the Five College Faculty Seminar in New York University. Roblee continued to summer in ISAW Papers, published by the Roman Egypt, "was slated to appear over the ‘Mithras Liturgy’ in Late Antique Graeco-Ancient Egyptian ph-n tr Oracle and the His article, “Divination is Divinization: The Political, Religious” at Claremont-McKenna XIII conference, “Communal Responses to and

Mark Roblee ‘18PhD presented his paper, “There will come a time... A Catastrophe and Epistrophe in the Latin Aegeus,” at the Shifting Frontiers in Late Antiquity XIII conference, “Communal Responses to Local Disaster: Economic, Environmental, Political, Religious” at Claremont-McKenna College in Claremont, California, in March. His article, “Divination in Divinization: The Ancient Egyptian ph-n gr Oracle and the ‘Mithras Liturgy’ in Late Antique Graeco-Ancient Egyptian ph-n tr Oracle and the His article, “Divination is Divinization: The Political, Religious” at Claremont-McKenna XIII conference, “Communal Responses to and

On a visit to Iran, Mohammad Ataei was invited to a meeting with the editors and managers of Iran’s official news agency, IRNA, to discuss Trump’s policy in the Middle East and the rising tensions between Washington and Tehran.

Brian Whetstone finished the first year of his combined MA-PhD program, having collaborated with fellow graduate students in the creation of UMass Amherst’s panel in the 2019 Humanities Action Lab’s traveling exhibit, Climate of Inequality: Stories of Environmental Justice. The UMass panel, titled “Seeking Environmental Justice in the North End,” focuses on environmental injustices and community activism in the North End of Springfield, Massachusetts. Through an introductory Geographic Information Systems course, Whetstone also completed a research project charting and mapping displaced heads of household in Springfield during and after the construction of Interstate 91 and other urban renewal projects. During the summer, Whetstone interned at the National Park Service’s Northeast Regional Office in Philadelphia, where he helped coordinate efforts between park sites in that region to commemorate the centennial of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment. This summer school, Whetstone looks forward to studying for his comprehensive exams and pursuing research into 1970s community revitalization efforts and its intersection with public history.

Brian Whetstone ‘19PhD

On a visit to Iran, Mohammad Ataei was invited to a meeting with the editors and managers of Iran’s official news agency, IRNA, to discuss Trump’s policy in the Middle East and the rising tensions between Washington and Tehran.

Camesha Scruggs and Heather Brinn with Barbara Krauthamer at the Graduates Award ceremony. Scruggs and Brinn were recipients of Jumpstart Grants for Dissertation Research.

Camesha Scruggs and Heather Brinn with Barbara Krauthamer at the Graduates Award ceremony. Scruggs and Brinn were recipients of Jumpstart Grants for Dissertation Research.

On a visit to Iran, Mohammad Ataei was invited to a meeting with the editors and managers of Iran’s official news agency, IRNA, to discuss Trump’s policy in the Middle East and the rising tensions between Washington and Tehran.

Beth Behn ‘14MA, ‘12PhD was promoted to Colonel in the United States Army in May 2016. She served as a military advisor to the Afghan National Security Forces from 2016-2017. Upon her return from Afghanistan, Beth traveled with the 7th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary) to Fort Eustis, Virginia. She relinquished command and currently serves as the Chief of Staff for Army Support Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois.

Andrew Carroll ‘04 reports: I have started a new position as a middle school social studies teacher at St. Columba School in Durango, Colorado. I am teaching fifth, sixth, and seventh grade social studies along with starting a new Latin program—my major was classics. I’m excited to get to use my history minor finally!

Robert Carney ‘13, librarian and history, recently started his MBA at the John D. Evans Graduate School of Management at Cornell University. To celebrate this new chapter of his life, he spent much of the summer biking the 4,500 miles in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. After completing his MBA, he intends to work in the private wealth management field.

Robert Carney ‘13

Johann Castilla ’15 completed his third year in the history PhD program at Boston University in the spring of 2019. His dissertation focuses on the politics of language under the Molotov regime in Congo/Zaire between 1965 and 1997. He is currently conducting summer research in the Democratic Republic of the Congo on a Summer FLAS Fellowship and expects to become ABD this fall. Living in the Pioneer Valley, Castilla has been active over the past two years translating Shwili and Lingala for Congolese refugees who have come to the area. He recently received an award as the Most Dedicated and Gifted Student in the Study of African Languages from the BU African Studies Center.

In December 2018, Shakti Castro ‘17MA and her partner, Julian, welcomed their beautiful baby girl Ava into the world. Castro has been enjoying new motherhood and all the rewards and challenges of raising a teeny tiny wise Latina. With the help and support of Maria Miller and Sam Redman, Castro applied to PhD programs. She began her doctoral studies in history at Columbia in September 2019. She remains an active public historian and harm reduction advocate, at work on the programs committee for NCPRN 2020 and more.

Steve de Bethune ‘91MA reports: Shortly after graduating, I went to Russia for the first time, arriving back to Moscow just when the USSR was about to fall. I’ve now spent 23 years here, with a six-year detour to New Jersey. I first came to work for Barnes & Noble, at St. Petersburg startup founded by some UMass exchange students. I’ve been a financial editor and translator since 2000, currently working as editor/ senior manager of global audit firm Deloitte’s Moscow office. Meanwhile, I’ve seen history unfold from inside Churchill’s “thickle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma.” Russia has never been more integrated with the world, but still remains a land apart in many ways. As my wife, on NY-Living Moscow, remarked on a recent visit stateside, “Russia and America are like two different planets.” Indeed. But, even as we’ve gone full circle on optimistic cooperative in the 1990s back to mutual recrimination, hope yet lives for a rapprochement. Back in 1991, I remember telling Professor Bob Jones that I’d be making 30% rubles a month. “You’ll starve,” he said with concern. So, I’m pleased to report that I’m doing well and I urge UMass students to study and visit this unique country.

Steve de Bethune ‘91MA

Beth Behn ‘14MA, ‘12PhD

Beth Behn ‘14MA, ‘12PhD was promoted to Colonel in the United States Army in May 2016. She served as a military advisor to the Afghan National Security Forces from 2016-2017. Upon her return from Afghanistan, Beth traveled with the 7th Transportation Brigade (Expeditionary) to Fort Eustis, Virginia. She relinquished command and currently serves as the Chief of Staff for Army Support Command at Rock Island Arsenal, Illinois.

Laurie Cox ‘10 reports: After my BA in history from UMass Amherst in 2003, I graduated with an MA in history from Boston University in 2011, and with my doctorate in educational leadership from the University of Southern California in 2016. I am appointed interim executive director of global affairs at Ball State University in Murdie, Indiana, in July.

Laurie Cox ‘10

Judith Butler ‘19PhD is Field-McCormick Chair in Curator emerita of the Art Institute of Chicago. She is the author of numerous books and articles including, Mary Cassatt Modern Women, Apologies of Beauty: Arts and Crafts from England to Chicago, Edward Hopper, Art and Appetite: American Painting, Culture, and Cuisine; and America After the Fall: Painting in the 1930s. In 2007, she received the Legion of Honor, the highest governmental prize for her contributions to French culture and in 1999 she received the Chancellor’s Medal from UMass Amherst for her outstanding contributions to scholarship. In 2005 she was awarded “Choomag of the Year” by the Chicago Tribune for her revitalization of the Art Institute’s galleries. Under her direction, the Department of American Art at the Art Institute added over 400 acquisitions to the permanent collection. She recently published “Eine Neue Welt der Kurz,” in Er War Einmal in Amneseis 300 Jahre US-Amerikanske Kunst (Wallstein Gk Museum, 2018, “Mary Cassatt: Modernity and Modernity” in Cassatt and Children (Rocks, 2018), and Master works of new Art Works on Paper (Mensing and Scholten, 2018).

Judith Butler ‘19PhD

Johann Castilla ‘15

Laurie Cox ‘10

Steve de Bethune ‘91MA serves on a jury member for the 1st Annual CINESIS-RI International Contest of Conference Interpreters of Massachusetts State University.

Steve de Bethune ‘91MA

Beth Behn ‘14MA, ‘12PhD

Laurie Cox ‘10

Shakti Castro ‘17MA

Johann Castilla ‘15

Shakti Castro ‘17MA

Laurie Cox ‘10

Shakti Castro ‘17MA
Enjoli Pescheta

In the fall 2018 semester, I began working as the undergraduate program coordinator of the UMass Amherst history department. As an alumna of the department and a recent graduate of the class of 2017, I am thrilled to step into this role, knowing what it is like to be a history major as well as a part of the UMass community. Being able to meet and speak with current and prospective majors about a program that I have been through and I am passionate about allows me to get excited about the history major and the different career paths that majors can follow. I am delighted to continue to provide and improve upon the many positive experiences our majors have during their time at UMass, so that they can go out into the world with confidence in their abilities to make a difference in their communities and beyond.

— Enjoli Pescheta '17
Reflections on the 2019 Alumni Dinner

Ian Sandeles ‘03 is a trial lawyer who provides personal injury and criminal defense representation throughout Wyoming. Here he reflects on the spring 2019 History Alumni Dinner:

In May of 2003, I graduated from UMass Amherst with a degree in history. Since that time, I have often thought of Amherst and longed to return for this reason. For this reason, I jumped at the chance when asked to attend a history department student-alumni dinner. This April I returned to UMass after nearly my 15-year absence.

To provide a little background, I was born and raised in Central Wyoming and, at the age of 16, I made the trip up to the W.E.B. Du Bois library stacks where I'd spent countless hours studying. It looked unchanged. Other parts of the campus were the same as they had been when I was a student. I made the trip up to the W.E.B. Du Bois library stacks where I'd spent countless hours studying and made my way to the campus where I'd spent most my time while living in Amherst. Parts of the campus were the same as they had been when I was a student. I was privileged to meet current history students and discuss with them their plans, goals, and dreams. What an impressive group of young people! I was struck by their personal stories. Many had overcome substantial obstacles to get to, and excel at, UMass. I was impressed with their character and drive.

In addition to the students, I was privileged enough to get to visit with some of my favorite professors when returning. It was heartening to see that the thoughtful, dedicated, and engaged professors are still shaping the way the young UMass graduates will think about and approach the problems we face in today's world and political climate. All of this reinforced for me the vital importance of keeping quality public education accessible in our country. It also reminded me of how fortunate I was to have had UMass shape me as a young adult.

To all those who have the opportunity to go back and visit our alma mater, I would strongly encourage them to do so. It was a remarkably rewarding experience. I will not let another 16 years pass before returning.

— Ian Sandeles ‘03
NEW BOOKS

BY STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

Christopher P. Lehman ‘97MA
Slavery’s Reach: Southern Slaveholders in the North Star State
(University of Minnesota Press, 2019)

From the 1840s through the end of the Civil War, southern residents rejected southern slaveholders and their wealth in the Free territory and free state of Minnesota, endorsing the area’s traditional community values. Despite this trend, southern slaveholders and people raised in slaveholding families purchased land and backed Minnesota businesses. Slaveholders’ wealth was invested in some of the state’s most significant institutions and provided a financial foundation for several towns and counties. Further, the money generated by Minnesota investments flowed both ways, supporting some of the South’s largest plantations.

Sean Moore ‘91
Slavery and the Making of Early American Libraries: British Literature, Political Thought, and the Transatlantic Book Trade, 1731-1814 (Oxford University Press, 2019)
The volume is the first in early American and eighteenth-century British studies to fuse our growing understanding of the material culture of the transatlantic text with our awareness of slavery as an economic and philanthropic basis for the production and consumption of knowledge. In studying the American dissemination of works of British literature and political thought, it claims that Americans were seeking out the forms of citizenship, constitutional traditions, and rights that were the signature of that British identity. Even though they were purchasing the sovereignty of Anglo-Americans at the expense of African-Americans through these books, however, these colonials were also making the case for the abolition of slavery.

Seanneg Scully ‘15PHD
In the summer of 1775, a Virginia gentleman-planter was given command of a New England army lying siege to British-occupied Boston. With his appointment to the Continental Army was born. Yet the cultural differences between those serving in the army and their new commander-in-chief led to conflicts from the very beginning that threatened to end the Revolution before it could start. The key challenges for George Washington was establishing the standards by which the soldiers would be led by their officers.

JOHN MASON ’66
Riding the Rails in Vietnam – 1965 (George Mason University Publishing, 2019)
Riding the Rails in Vietnam – 1965 documents then Captain John Mason’s year in Vietnam as an advisor to a Vietnamese civil security battalion.

The book depicts the realities of an advisory assignment in an environment generally alien to American military and cultural experience. It details a year filled with the frustration of advisory work and the occasional moments of excitement. It was motivated to the continuing challenge for Americans in cross-cultural environments today.
UMass-Oxford Summer Seminar participants with program director Jason Moralee and assistant director Ragini Jha at Oxford University.