Petróleo en Bolivia, 1957
Yacimientos Petrolíferos Fiscales Bolivianos (YPFB)
La Paz, Bolivia

This 1957 mural by Bolivian painter Miguel Alandia Pantoja captures the hopes that many Bolivians invested in the country’s oil and natural gas resources following the 1952 revolution. The expansion and industrialization of the hydrocarbons sector, they believed, would allow Bolivia to break the historic cycle of dependence on mineral exports and the poverty that accompanied it.

The life of Alandia Pantoja (1914–1975) reflected many of the traumas and struggles at the heart of modern Bolivian history. He was born in the department of Potosí, at the heart of modern Bolivian history. He was born in the department of Potosí, the site of what in the sixteenth century was the world’s most famous silver mine. The life of Alandia Pantoja (1914–1975) reflected many of the traumas and struggles at the heart of modern Bolivian history. He was born in the department of Potosí, the site of what in the sixteenth century was the world’s most famous silver mine.

Like many of the Mexican muralists, Alandia Pantoja’s politics put him well to the left of a “revolutionary” regime that nonetheless sought to use murals as a way of boosting its legitimacy; Bolivian visions of natural resource development are the topic of Kevin Young’s recent book, Blood of the Earth: Resource Nationalism, Revolution, and Empire in Bolivia. UMass Amherst’s Department of History continues to thrive amid challenges to higher education and the humanities. We are delighted to welcome two new faculty members: Kathryn Schwartz, a specialist in modern Latin American history who will join us in the fall of 2020 after a two-year postdoctoral fellowship across the river at Smith College. Kathryn’s research examines the history of printing in nineteenth-century Cairo, while Diana focuses on the role of women in revolutionary movements. We are delighted to welcome them. We were also joined last year by Alon Confino, a distinguished scholar of the Holocaust, as the inaugural Pan Telshak Chair of Holocaust Studies, director of the Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, and professor of history.

Five of our faculty members were awarded tenures last year: Julio Capó Jr., Alon Confino, Jason Molee, Samuel Redman, and Priyanka Srivastava. These awards were out of a total of 35 proposals for associate professor, 21 for full professor, as was Jennifer Fronc. Congratulations to them all!

Our transitions this year included two retirements. Professor Barry Levy stepped down after 30 years in the department and Undergraduate Program Assistant Suzanne Bell left after 52 years on campus, including a decade in the history department. They will both be missed and we encourage them to come back and let us know what they’ve been up to.

A final transition is that of Joye Bowman, who—after six years as chair and then two reappointing the role of undergraduate program director—has moved to Smith College as associate dean for research while continuing her office at Herter Hall. Congratulations, Joye!

During 2017–18 the history department kept up its usual flurry of activities. We were delighted to host Cristina Wolff (“Tell- ing Bodies in the Memories of Dictatorship: South America, 1970s”), Haidi Victoria Scott (“The Mapping of Potosí’s Cerro Rico in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries”), and Nathan Kapoor, a PhD student at the University of Oklahoma (““Grounding Empire: The Electrification of Mining in Late-Nineteenth Century New Zealand”).

These are only some highlights from the past year. The rest—from new book publications to the many awards our undergraduate and graduate students received—fill most of this newsletter.

Finally, I would like to thank our alumni, faculty, and friends for their support, both moral and financial, of the department’s activities. —Brian Ogilvie, chair
Students, faculty, and staff had a busy year on the sixth floor of Herter Hall, as you’ll read here. We continue to be grateful for alumni support that allows us to support these activities. My heartfelt thanks to this year’s Undergraduate Studies Committee: Brian Bunk, Sarah Cornell, Jennifer Heuer, Alice Nash, Jon Olsen, and Joel Wolfe. They served tirelessly as we updated our advising system, our requirements, and our program of study.

In the spring term, the Office of Institutional Research, several students and faculty served as the respondents as we try to serve our students better in the future.

The Undergraduate Studies Committee will analyze the responses and the future experiences in our classes. This year’s Undergraduate Studies Committee: Jon Olsen, and Sarah Cornell, Jennifer Heuer, Alice Nash, Brian Bunk. Many other students had internships as well. The department hopes to see all students have multiple internship opportunities before they graduate. Alumni support can help make that possible.

Thanks to Robert LaRussa ’76, who continues to work with students through a unique program, the Robert I. LaRussa International Relations and Public Policy History Internship. It allows students to work with Shearman & Sterling LLP, a global law firm with 20 offices on five continents. LaRussa served as commerce undersecretary for international trade and as a former trade counsel for the U.S. Congress. This past year, six students—Mahrouka Boukraa, Leah Calabro ’18, Nathan Giacalone, Noah Graves, Benjamin Lever ’18, and Dylan Mulvey ’18—worked closely with him on trade issues between the U.S. and Mexico. They all enjoyed a unique opportunity to hone their research and writing skills.

Our annual year-end celebration allows us to celebrate our students and their accomplishments. The Harold W. Cary Prize goes to the graduating senior history majors with the highest GPAs in their history classes. Professor Cary joined the faculty in 1933 and wrote The University of Massachusetts: A History of One Hundred Years (1962). This year four students, all graduating seniors, shared the prize: Frances Fleming, Jacob Kosakowski, Dhimiter Qirjazi, and Tristian Tenerowicz. Jacob Kosakowski also received the Robert H. McNeal Scholarship for having the highest overall GPA. Professor McNeal, an ’18, William Sennott, Genevieve Esten, Frances Fleming ’18, Eathan Friend, Lily Abrahams, Emilia Billett, Kathrine Bauer, and Fine Arts, but this year’s edition was also the first to be compiled into a complete issue and printed for circulation. The 2017–18 editorial board, which included seniors Devon King ’18, Benjamin Lever ’18, Justin Murphy ’18, and junior Kyrann Schur, all took an outsized role in achieving these goals for the journal.

In the fall semester, Publicity Editor Justin Murphy and Acquisitions Editor Kyrann Schur organized a campus-wide poster and email campaign to send out the call to students. After receiving submissions, the editors, with some help from their peers, reviewed and returned essays for editing. By early April, production of the journal began, with Copy Editor Ben Lerer ensuring final quality control and Production Editor Devon King creating the online and print editions. The three out of four editorial board members who graduated this year found the experience to be both gratifying and bittersweet. The entire board is proud to have taken part in a journal allowing UMass students to present their best historical research, and they are excited to see what the future holds for this growing publication.

Two years ago, Assistant Professor Garrett Washington conceived the idea of starting an undergraduate history journal through the history honors society, Phi Alpha Theta. Professor Daniel Gordon came on board to collaborate on the project. This year’s volume of the Undergraduate History Journal brought several exciting developments to a growing student-run publication. Not only was the opportunity to submit to the journal opened to the entire College of Humanities and Fine Arts, but this year’s edition was also the first to be compiled into a complete issue and printed for circulation. The 2017–18 editorial board, which included seniors Devon King ’18, Benjamin Lever ’18, Justin Murphy ’18, and junior Kyrann Schur, all took an outsized role in achieving these goals for the journal.

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The student leaders did all the work,” Professor Gordon states. “They functioned with remarkable initiative and independence.” The three out of four editorial board members who graduated this year found the experience to be both gratifying and bittersweet. The entire board is proud to have taken part in a journal allowing UMass students to present their best historical research, and they are excited to see what the future holds for this growing publication.

—Devon King ’18

Richard Chu with students from his class “Asian/Pacific/American History” at the Vietnamese New Year’s celebration in Springfield.

History department peer mentors Tess Manderville and Leah Calabro at an orientation and resource fair for new history majors.

The Undergraduate History Journal team: (from left) Justin Murphy ’18, Kyrann Schur, Benjamin Lever ’18, Devon King ’18.
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE

As many of you know from last year’s newsletter, Professor Emeritus Louis Greenbaum paused shortly before the 2017–18 school year began. We missed his presence at this year’s award ceremony but felt privileged to have his wife, Dr. Hilda Greenbaum, with us to congratulate the four Louis S. Greenbaum History Writing Prize winners. There were three winners in the long-essay division: Kara Westhoven ’18, for “Getting on the Map: American Women’s History during the Cultural Revolution” (Professor Sharrow); Justin Murphy ’18, for “The Creation of a People” (Professor Sharrow); and Emma Morrison, for “The Genuineness of Experience: Women’s History” class from their senior year (Professor Sharrow). Nicholas Carr Bergstein ’18, for “The Chinese Exclusion Act Era.”

The History Opportunity Award, for history majors who have made outstanding contributions to the undergraduate program, was established to honor Professor Emerita Ron Story, whose own contributions went beyond teaching and scholarship to include service as secretary of the faculty senate, work as a legislative aide and her research on Montreal. She hopes to share her love of history in the classroom.

The Nicholas Carr Bergstein Scholarship Fund remembers an undergraduate who, just before his second year at UMass Amherst, passed as a result of a rare condition. He had hoped to become a history teacher. Nicholas’s family started this fund for students who are interested in teaching history and are committed to inclusion regardless of race, sexual orientation, or other defining characteristics. This year’s recipients were Arvia Ferranda and Joel Flores—Arvia for her work in adult education at the Justiça Collaborative in Holyoke and her summer work at Snow Farm with students with behavioral issues; and Joel for his work with students at Crocker Farm with students with behavioral issues.

This year the history department’s Internship and Career Development Program won the attention of the College of Humanities and Fine Arts (HFA) as a model for alumni engagement and internship success. Career advisor/instructor Mark Roblee and history alumnus Robert S. LaRussa ’76 were invited to participate in HFA Dean Julie Hayes’s roundtable discussion on Volunteer Day 2018 to share their experience with alumni-driven internship programming for history majors. Roblee also helped produce “PHaB” (Public Historians around Boston), a networking event with UMass Amherst Public History alumni who, among other things, expressed interest in taking on history undergraduate interns at their sites.

Mark represents the department on HFA’s Career Advisory Board and the Arts Extension Service Curriculum Advisory Committee in order to learn of, share, and increase opportunities for UMass history majors. As both historian and adviser, Mark supports our majors by helping them connect their study of history to meaningful work and lifelong learning in the world. He continues to advise students, produce workshops, and teach a career-development practicum. The practicum focuses on basic skills such as strategic résumé writing, networking, and interviewing. It also teaches students to articulate the important skills they’ve acquired as history majors that are valued by employers: critical thinking, research, writing, information processing, presentation, and empathy.

This year the department provided internships and career development opportunities for students as follows:

- Student Internship Program: Mark Roblee
- Alumni-Driven Internships: Mark Roblee
- Community Service: Mark Roblee
- Job Shadowing: Mark Roblee
- Career Readiness Workshops: Mark Roblee
- Networking Events: Mark Roblee
- Volunteer Opportunities: Mark Roblee

Mark Roblee

Undergraduate Internship and Career Office

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 intern, please contact me at internships@history.umass.edu. —Mark Roblee
This spring, Jorge Luis Martinez ’18 was nominated for a 21st Century Leader Award in recognition of his strong academic record and his contributions to the campus community. We’re delighted to share highlights from the remarks he delivered at an HFA reception in honor of his nomination.

I am a graduating senior getting a BA in history with a minor in Chinese language and literature. I am honored to have been nominated for such an amazing award.

Throughout my career as a student, I have had many chances to excel and give back at the same time. Some of the outlets that allowed me to give back to my community are the History Honors Society, Phi Alpha Theta, and my years as a new-students orientation leader and residential assistant. Through Phi Alpha Theta, I was able to work alongside my fellow members at the Amherst Historical Society to assist in archiving items they had stored away. One of the many things we encountered during our time there was a stump from the original tree cut down years ago to keep the house from coming down. The curator was beyond excited for this find and was very grateful.

Another way I was able to give back, and something that touched home for me, was through organizing the Puerto Rico Hurricane Relief Donation. It raised over three boxes of materials sent to Puerto Rico to help with the relief efforts. If it were not for Phi Alpha Theta, I do not believe that I would have had these opportunities to give back to my community. As a new-students orientation leader and residential assistant, I had the opportunity to work with incoming UMass students and those living in our residence halls. Both opportunities showed me the needs of the students and residents while making sure that they are prepared for their college experience. I was able to give back to the university through these positions and made sure that the students always knew that they had someone on their side no matter the situation.

I plan to continue to provide a service for people in need. I have decided to work toward educational reform and equality within the education system for everyone. I aspire for college-level education to be affordable to the point where a summer job will be able to pay for the whole year. I also hope to work with the state to fund more into higher education to make it more affordable. I plan to also help reform the education system so that there are no schools with outdated textbooks and every school has the funding needed to keep its students in the education system. I plan on doing all of this through the help of City Year—Boston and future connections. I plan to make with the Massachusetts Board of Education, the Washington State Board of Education, and other possible sources of assistance.

—Jorge Martinez ’18

**GIVING BACK AND LOOKING FORWARD**

Thomas De Souza cooking “already suspicious of his banana meatloaf recipe.”

Farm Elementary School and Jones Library. The David H. MacDonald Scholarship honors MacDonald’s second cousin once removed, Patrick MacDonald, an offline in the Irish Republican Army “shot and killed by the British and the Black and Tan in 23 March 1921.” Katherine McGunn received the award this year for her work on women in British history.

Paul E. Giguere served in the U.S. military from 1943 to 1961 before becoming a history teacher. He endowed the Paul E. Giguere Scholarship in History to honor students, including veterans, planning to teach or write. This year, Nathan Giacalone received the award. He hopes to use his training in history to help him to make a living writing for a public audience.

Ryan DeMuro, Elijah Goodson, Addie Hendrickson, Amanda Lorenzo, and Molly McCruiser received support from the Frederick Gilbert Bauer fund and the history department to study in England at the Oxford Summer Seminar. Bauer (1881–1964) was a lawyer who loved history and published on the Massachusetts militia in the American Revolution. His son, Richard W. Bauer, was a history major; his fund helps to sponsor internships each summer.

This year two students, James Kostick and Kyren Schul, won the Robert & Joanne Potoski Latin American Travel Grant. James will study at the Universidad del Paí Vasco in Irun, Spain’s Basque region, while Kyren Schur will conduct research in Bogotá, Colombia, on organized labor in the Americas from 1910 to 1935.

The late Kriger Ermionick established the Simon and Betty Ermionick Scholarship in honor of his parents, who arrived in Massachusetts from Armenia before World War I. Though Mr. Ermionick received his engineering degrees from UMass in 1952, he gave his love of history continued throughout his life. This year the scholarship, which awards students in the department for their outstanding work, was presented to 17 students: Nicholas Barnett, Leah Calabro, Lauren Coombes, Frances Fleming, Bohum Gocesk, Anna Hurtzmann, Emily Keane, Sean Klimmek, Jacob Kosowski, Joseph Liparace, Alicia Mertens, Justin Murphy, Dhimitr Qirjazi, Indira Rao, Tristan Tawesoricina, Karra Weatherby, and Brianna Zimmermann. All but Barrett and Klimmek were graduating seniors.

My heartfelt thanks to Suzanne Bell, who retired in May (see page 37) from her position as undergraduate program assistant. As others in my position have said in years past, Suzanne deserves all praise and credit for making the program function. Her role as an adviser for our students was a job in and of itself. But she went beyond that: her attention to detail and desire to keep track of students served the department superbly over the years. She organized our records in such a way that her successor, onetime history major Enjoli Peachet ’17, will have an easier job. I welcome Enjoli and look forward to working with her, but I miss Suzanne already and wish her all the best as she begins this next phase of her life. Infinite thanks, Suzanne, for your hard work and dedication over the years. —Joye Bowman

**UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM UPDATE**

**COURSE HIGHLIGHT:**

‘What’s on Your Plate? A Transnational History of Food’

Taught to 11 UMass students and three Fulbright students from Argentina, “What’s on Your Plate?” focused on how our food systems developed and how national and international migrations have transformed food throughout history. Among other challenges, students attempted to cook recipes from historical cookbooks in the Special Collections and University Archives at the W.E.B. DuBois Library.

These being first attempts at cooking for many of the students, they documented their experiences at blogs. umass.edu/history397tf-julied/. The results ranged from delicious to disastrous. Thomas De Souza cooked a banana meatloaf recipe in a 1941 cookbook, *Banananas: How to Serve Them*, produced at a time when the Meloripe Fruit Company attempted to convince Americans that bananas were a versatile fruit, suitable for all types of uses.

—Julie de Chantal ’16PhD
The Department of History's generous donors make these awards possible. For more on these awards, their recipients, and the named benefactors, see the articles in this section.

**Harold W. Cary Prize**
- Frances Fleming '18
- Jacob Kosakowski '18
- Dhimiter Qirjazi '18
- Tristan Tenerowicz '18

**Robert H. McNeal Scholarship**
- Jacob Kosakowski '18

**Louis S. Greenbaum History Writing Prizes**
- Kerry Brock (Long Essay)
- Justin Murphy '18 (Long Essay)
- Kara Westhoven '18 (Long Essay)
- Wenny Niu (Short Essay)

**Robert & Jeanne Potash Latin American Travel Grants**
- James Kostick
- Karian Schnur

**History Opportunity Award**
- Jorge Martinez '18

**James and Cynthia Redman Scholarship**
- Emma Morrison

**Nicholas Carr Bergstein Scholarships**
- Alex Ferrando
- Joel Flores

**Paul E. Gigliotti Scholarship in History**
- Nathan Gacoline

**David H. MacDonnell Prize**
- Katherine McGann

**Howard M. Quint Prize**
- Justin Murphy '18

**Frederic Gilbert Bauer Awards/Oxford Summer Scholarships**
- Ryan O'Connell
- Elijah Goodman
- Addie Hendrickson
- Amanda Lorenzo
- Molly McCusker

**Richard W. Bauer Scholarships for Summer Internships**
- Alyssa Aloise
- Lily Abraham
- Emilia Billett
- Katherine Eisten
- Frances Fleming '18
- Ethan Friend
- Nathan Gacoline
- Brook Hansel
- Devon King '18

**Simon & Sateng Ermonian Memorial Scholarships**
- Nicholas Barrett '18
- Leah Calabro '18
- Lauren Coombes '18
- Frances Fleming '18
- Bahar Gokcek '18
- Anna Hartmann '18
- Emily Klaas '18
- Sean Klimmek
- Jacob Kosakowski '18
- Joseph Liporace '18
- Alida Mortenson '18
- Judith Murphy '18
- Dhimiter Qirjazi '18
- Indira Rao '18
- Tristan Tenerowicz '18
- Kara Westhoven '18
- Brianna Zimmerman '18

In January 2018, Genevieve Weidner attended and presented at the Phi Alpha Theta Biannual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana. On January 3-6, Genevieve joined hundreds of Phi Alpha Theta members from across the country to showcase their work. The conference included many panel sessions, where undergraduate students presented their research. There were also sessions on applying to graduate school, publishing books, and careers in history after graduating college. There were several keynote speakers as well.

Genevieve presented her paper “The Two Sides of ‘No Taxation without Representation.’” It compared the American and British perspectives on that celebrated American Revolution slogan. She was on a panel with two other undergraduate students who had written papers on similar topics. Afterwards, audience members had a chance to ask the panelists questions. Overall, it was an incredibly valuable and educational experience.

—Genevieve Weidner
The history department’s Honors Program engages students from across campus through diverse course offerings. This year, Jennifer Nye taught “Women and the Law,” Sigrid Schmalzer “The Chinese Cultural Revolution,” Julio Capó Jr. “The Caribbean,” and Laura Lovett “Sex in History.” In these courses and others, history majors joined students from nursing, biology, computer science, English, engineering, psychology, music, accounting, linguistics, sociology, education, political science, and other majors.

The Honors Program also engages history majors in the hands-on work of writing history. Every year several students, overseen by faculty mentors, produce a work of original scholarship culminating in an honors thesis. This year saw incredible interest among students. Fifteen thesis writers visited archives in New York City, Washington, D.C., and Boston. They pored over documents, analyzed images, read memoirs and private letters, and conducted interviews—in one case, with former Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis. Their topics spanned the globe, from early modern Britain and France to nineteenth-century China and the United States, reproductive-rights law, migration, and economic reforms in the twentieth- and twenty-first centuries. Faculty mentors included not only members of the history department but also faculty from journalism, classics, art history, political science, and comparative literature.

Each year thesis writers have the opportunity to present their findings and address questions at the history department’s Honors Thesis Symposium. Held this year on April 26, it included presentations by 11 students and its venue, Herter 601, was packed with friends, faculty mentors, and family. This was an especially important event in that it marked the retirement of Suzanne Bell, our undergraduate program coordinator. For the last decade, Suzanne’s meticulous planning has made the symposium successful and memorable for the students and their families. As the students talked among themselves and with guests following their presentations, Suzanne reflected that organizing this event and watching it unfold so smoothly were sources of personal and professional pride. Indeed, for students, faculty, and staff this is a particularly important event in that it marked the retirement of Suzanne Bell, our undergraduate program coordinator. For the last decade, Suzanne’s meticulous planning has made the symposium successful and memorable for the students and their families. As the students talked among themselves and with guests following their presentations, Suzanne reflected that organizing this event and watching it unfold so smoothly were sources of personal and professional pride.

HONORS PROGRAM UPDATE

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT:
Devon King ’18

History major Devon King ’18 successfully presented his honors thesis, “Preserving History, Reviving Cities: The Heritage State Parks of Massachusetts,” at both the history department’s Honors Thesis Presentations and the UMass systemwide Honors Student Research Conference. Among those King interviewed for this research project was former Massachusetts governor and U.S. presidential candidate Michael Dukakis. Devon’s thesis committee was chaired by public history Professor David Glassberg and included Sam Redman and John Mullin, professor emeritus landscape architecture and regional planning. Devon spent the past summer in Newport as a Buchanan Burnham Summer Scholar in Public History at the Newport Historical Society and is now employed by McGinley, Kalsow, and Associates, a Somerville architecture firm specializing in historic preservation.

———David Glassberg

The 2018 HONORS Theses include:

- Luke Bergquist ’18, “Making the New Deal: FDR Idealist or Pragmatist?”
- Lauren Coombes ’18, “Women of Fashion: Marketing Fashion and Gender in Eighteenth-Century France”
- Frances Fleming ’18, “Women’s Education in British and French Schools in the Nineteenth Century”
- Benjamin Lerner ’18, “Tudor Treason or Stuart Stupidity: The Law and Politics of Treason and Sovereignty from Henry VIII to Charles II”
- Jordan Liporace ’18, “Migrant Farm Labor and the News: A Study of Media Coverage of Guest Worker Programs in the United States”
- Cassidy McDonald ’18, “Corruption and Brutality within the Magdalen Asylums: An Historical Analysis of the Catholic Church’s Influence on Irish National Politics and Identity”
- Justin Murphy ’18, “A Question of Nationalism: Perspectives on China during the Hundred Days” Reform”
- Indira Rao ’18, “An Examination of Impact Litigation for Reproductive Rights in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries and Its Implications for Social Change”
- Kara Westhoven ’18, “Wielding Artistry for the Vote: Three Women and the American Suffrage Movement”

2018 HONORS THESIS PRESENTATIONS

- Devon King ’18: “Preserving History, Reviving Cities: The Heritage State Parks of Massachusetts,” at both the history department’s Honors Thesis Presentations and the UMass systemwide Honors Student Research Conference.
- Lauren Coombes ’18: “Women of Fashion: Marketing Fashion and Gender in Eighteenth-Century France”
- Frances Fleming ’18: “Women’s Education in British and French Schools in the Nineteenth Century”
- Benjamin Lerner ’18: “Tudor Treason or Stuart Stupidity: The Law and Politics of Treason and Sovereignty from Henry VIII to Charles II”
- Jordan Liporace ’18: “Migrant Farm Labor and the News: A Study of Media Coverage of Guest Worker Programs in the United States”
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- Kara Westhoven ’18: “Wielding Artistry for the Vote: Three Women and the American Suffrage Movement”
2018 MA THESIS


2018 PhD THESSES

Daniel Allosso, “Pepperment Kings: A Rural American History”

Katherine Freedman, “A Sangared Web: Quakers and the Atlantic Slave System, 1635–1770”

Kathryn Julian, “The Socialist Devil: Religious Orders and the Making of an East German Catholic Community”

Amanda Tews, “Fantasy Frontier: Old West Theme Parks and Memory in California

GRADUATE STUDENT DEPARTMENTAL AWARDS

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

Dr. Charles K. Hyde Intern Fellowship
Sasha Hazen

Richard Naiman

Kendall Talavoski

Lucy Wilkström

Emma Winter Zeig

Amelia Zurcher

Frederic Gilbert Bauer Research Fellowships
Jason Higgins

Michael Jirk

Hands-On Grant
Brittany Frederick

History Department Travel Grants
Yuri Kieling Gama

Shay Olmstead

Camelia Strugg

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

Jumpstart Grants for Dissertation Research
Adeline Broussawn

Andrew Grim

Marvin Olgivie Memorial Award for Foreign Language Study
Adeline Broussawn

Richard Cassann Memorial Scholarships
Heather Brinn

Kuang-Ju

Robert & Jeanne Potoash Latin American Travel Grant
Jorge Simoes Minella

Simont and Satenig Arminian Graduate Awards for Excellence in Graduate Teaching Study
Jason Higgins

Jorge Simoes Minella

GRADUATE EXTERNAL AWARDS

University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
Adeline Broussawn

University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
Joy Lynn Campbell

Scholar-in-Residence at the Robert Core Rihkind Center for German Expressionist Studies
Jenna Febrizio

University of Massachusetts Graduate School Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
Andrew Grim

University of Massachusetts Graduate School Dissertation Fieldwork Grant
Shay Olmstead

University of Massachusetts Graduate School Dissertation Research Grant
Michael Jirk

University of Massachusetts Amherst Graduate School Predissertation Grant
Shay Olmstead
AN ALUM’S PERSPECTIVE:

Critical Conversations at the GHA Conference

This year, I had the incredible honor of having been invited to participate in a keynote panel at “Critical Conversations: Breaking Barriers through Discourse and Dialogue,” the Graduate History Association’s annual conference, held March 23–24, 2018. It invited presenters from across disciplines to engage with various audiences and encourage critical commentary on the present.

On Friday night, I joined fellow keynote panelists Audrey Altstadt, David Tebaldi (Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities), and Franklin Odo (Amherst College) to discuss how we have used our humanities training to critically engage with contemporary issues, interact with communities outside of academia, and foster dialogue with the public.

Professor Altstadt discussed how historians can shape foreign policy by working as consultants and how we can influence public discourse by writing op-eds that provide historical context to contemporary issues such as U.S./Russia politics. I talked about participating in public memory projects, getting involved in local LGBTQIA politics and activism, and the role of publishing in shaping conversations about critical topics. Professor Tebaldi discussed his transition from a philosophy professor to working for state humanities councils, and the significance of developing public programs that invite people of many perspectives and backgrounds to discuss contemporary issues together. Professor Odo recounted how Asian-American studies came to be and how, in his role as director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian Institution, he brought numerous exhibits to the Smithsonian highlighting the wide-ranging experiences of Asian and Pacific Americans.

From a discussion of teaching about immigration through historical artwork by Emily Esten ’16 to Ragini Jha’s analysis of memory and identity in the (un)making of Hauz Khas Village, the presentations at this year’s conference highlighted the myriad ways in which the past informs the present and how agents in the present reconstruct and reimagine the past. Presenters from UMass Amherst were Alex Asal ’18MA, Austin Clark ’18MA, Nolan Cool ’18MA, Emily Esten ’16, Ragini Jha, Micah Klayman, John Roberts, Jack Werner ’18MA, Bing Xia, and Emma Winter Zeig.

The conference included presentations from graduate students studying history, labor studies, philosophy, religion, sociology, and literature. In some ways, it served as an example of how to break down disciplinary boundaries within the humanities and social sciences and collaboratively develop critical commentaries on the present.

On Saturday, we enjoyed “Publish and Prosper: Careers and Advice for Graduate Students,” a lunch presentation by Matt Becker of the University of Massachusetts Press. It offered an opportunity to learn about scholarly publishing and what authors can expect when they seek to publish an article or book. As an aspiring university-press editor, I appreciated the chance to hear an established editor share his perspectives on scholarly communication and the publishing industry.

Thank you to the Graduate History Association for organizing another successful conference. In particular, I would like to thank GHA officers Heather Brian, Austin Clark ’18MA, Brittany Frederick, and Jason Higgins for their exceptional work and for inviting me to return to UMass.

—Chelsea Miller ’16MA

“... we have used our humanities training to critically engage with contemporary issues, interact with communities outside of academia, and foster dialogue with the public.”
The 2017 UMass/Five Colleges Graduate Program in History Annual Distinguished Lecture was given by Scott Bruce, professor of medieval history and director of the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Professor Bruce’s publications reveal a wide range of interests in religious and cultural history, especially monasticism. In addition to having written the monographs *Silence and Sign Language in Medieval Monasticism: The Clunian Tradition, Circa 960–1200* (2007) and *Cluny and the Muslims of La Garde-Freinet: Hagiology and the Problem of Islam in Medieval Europe* (2015), he coauthored *The Relatio metrica de duobus ducibus: A Twelfth-Century Cluniac Poem on Prayer for the Dead*. Bruce is the editor of *The Penguin Book of the Undead: Fifteen Hundred Years of Supernatural Encounters from the Romans to the Renaissance*, in which he collected and translated sources on necromancers, hauntings, ghouls, and zombies. Reviewers have described the book as “wonderfully fun,” “creepy,” “scholarly,” and “unpleasant.”

In his fascinating talk, “The Dark Age of Herodotus: Shards of a Fugitive History,” Professor Bruce told of having reconstructed knowledge of a Classical Greek author, lost to western Europe in the Middle Ages, from fragmentary references in Latin writers. Despite the absence of a Latin translation of the *Historiae* of Herodotus, from Halicarnassus (d. c. 425 BC), western medieval authors were familiar with many of his stories. Professor Bruce asked how this can be explained. Taking as a case study the tale of King Cyrus’s vengeance against the Ganges River for drowning his favorite horse, his talk investigated the modes of transmission that carried the tales of Herodotus from Greek into Latin, from the eastern Mediterranean to Rome, and from there across the Alps into northern Europe and into the cultural repertoire of Christian thinkers like Paul Orosius and Peter the Venerable of Cluny. —Anna Taylor

The Public History Program has invited a number of guest speakers. In the fall, Seth Denbo, director of scholarly communication and digital initiatives at the AHA, spoke about the role of professional organizations in shaping the field of the digital humanities. Sam Redman’s “Introduction to Public History” class featured a number of speakers. Judith Borier of NHPL, curator emeritus from the Art Institute of Chicago, described careers and challenges in museum curation. Matt Ottinger of the Bostonian Society shared his insights into historic preservation based on his experiences managing care for the Old State House in Boston. Mark B. Schlemmer, founder of the Pacific (New York) Olympic Museum, Lindsey Woolcock at the Massachusetts Historical Society; Amelia Zurcher at the Old Manse in Concord, Massachusetts, and Emily Winter Zweig at the National Museum of American History. In addition, Ross Caputi interned at the Fitchburg (Massachusetts) Historical Society and Brittany Frederick at the Archives of American Art in Washington, D.C. Check the history department Pan19Present Blog or the Public History Program Facebook Page for accounts of their exploits.

Hyde Funds also enabled the Public History Program to invite a wide variety of guest speakers. In the fall, Seth Denbo, director of scholarly communication and digital initiatives at the AHA, spoke about the role of professional organizations in shaping the field of the digital humanities. Sam Redman’s “Introduction to Public History” class featured a number of speakers. Judith Borier of NHPL, curator emeritus from the Art Institute of Chicago, described careers and challenges in museum curation. Matt Ottinger of the Bostonian Society shared his insights into historic preservation based on his experiences managing care for the Old State House in Boston. Mark B. Schlemmer, founder of the Pacific (New York) Olympic Museum, Lindsey Woolcock at the Massachusetts Historical Society; Amelia Zurcher at the Old Manse in Concord, Massachusetts, and Emily Winter Zweig at the National Museum of American History. In addition, Ross Caputi interned at the Fitchburg (Massachusetts) Historical Society and Brittany Frederick at the Archives of American Art in Washington, D.C. Check the history department Pan19Present Blog or the Public History Program Facebook Page for accounts of their exploits.
In the aftermath of the events at Charlottesville, Virginia, last year, the history department hosted a public forum, “Monuments, Memory, and White Supremacy: Historians Respond to Your Questions.” Before a packed audience in UMass Amherst’s Old Chapel, panelists Alex Confino, David Glassberg, John Higginson, Jon Olsen, and Alice Nash discussed the complex history of monuments, memory, and commemoration and the enduring legacy of white supremacy. The event was moderated by Brian Ogilvie, who also delivered introductory remarks.

Organized around questions from students and community members, the event included discussion of case studies from Germany and South Africa as well as such local examples as the confederate monument on Georges Island in Boston Harbor and the depiction of an indigenous man on the commonwealth and UMass seals. “The discussion allowed us to open up the conversation and contextualize the events in Charlottesville with other memorial debates around the world,” explained Jon Olsen. “Many cultures have struggled with difficult pasts and there is much we can learn from each other.”

David Glassberg added, “The symposium raised timely questions in the wake of the incident in Charlottesville several months earlier. While a historical perspective does not make contemporary events less disturbing for students, it does offer a context to understand them.”

Lindsey Woolcock, an MA student who attended the event, noted, “Though seemingly frozen in time, monuments continue to shape and influence our world. As historians, it is our duty to find new ways to think, write, and teach that address the legacies of racism and violence embedded in monuments.”

Students and faculty also made their mark at regional and national conferences. Special attention goes to Cheryl Harmed, who led a panel on “‘Applied Humanities Learning Lab Pop-Up’ at the National Humanities Alliance Conference in Boston in November, and to Lindsey Woolcock, who was part of the ‘Interpreting Slavery and Freedom in New England’ workshop in Providence in March and gave a fascinating brown-bag presentation to the department about it in April. That same month, at the National Council on Public History Annual Meeting in Las Vegas, public history students and alumni appeared in sessions such as ‘Preparing Our Students for ‘Other Duties as Assigned,’” with Jill Mudgett ‘08PhD (Morristown Historical Society/Neyasa House Museum), ‘Insider Outsider: Racial Bias and Positionality in Interpretation,’” with Shukrit Castro ’17MA (BCOM Health, New York City); ‘Negotiating Power Lines: Economic Justice and the Ethics of Public History,’” with No Li ’09PhD (Centre for Public History, Zhejiang University); ‘Disability in Public: Creating Accessible, Community-Engaged, and Pedagogically-Informed Exhibits on the History of Disability,’” with Perri Meldon, ‘Cultural Resources, Community Engagement, and Climate Change,’” with David Glassberg.

The heart of the Public History Program remains our graduate courses, which combine classroom instruction with field experience through service projects. In fall 2017, Sam Redman’s “Introduction to Public History” class completed an oral history project in collaboration with the Emily Dickinson Museum in Amherst and a community conversation and a music concert to raise awareness and debate access, sexism, and other issues related to historical entries on the popular online encyclopedia Wikipedia. At the undergraduate level, David Glassberg’s “Museums and Public History” course developed a living history tour of the Old Chapel and a poster for a kiosk at the intersection of Church and Main streets in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, directing visitors to the birth site of W.E.B. Du Bois and the river-side park named in his honor.

The program was also enriched by the array of public programming at UMass Amherst during 2017–18. During a fall event sponsored by the Institute for Social Science Research and the Public Engagement Project and cosponsored by the history department, we were honored to connect with Rickie Solinger and Loretta Ross, two well-known activist intellectuals who incorporate public history methods into their groundbreaking work on reproductive justice. Also in the fall, the history department and Public History Program teamed up to host a forum on monuments, memorials, and white supremacy (see facing page). During the spring, we were delighted to host Kendra Field’s talk “The Art of Family History” and various public and private events with this year’s Writer in Residence, Aurora Levine Morales (see page 25).

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Filling the Gaps: Issues and Opportunities in Capturing Underrepresented Voices,” with Brisen Whetstone; “Pop-Up: Theatrical Press Agents and the Art of Promotion,” with Emma Winter Zweig; “The Public History of Labor,” with Richard Anderson ’11MA (Princeton University); and “Extending the Power of Public History through Open-Access Digital Publishing,” with UMass Press editor Matt Becker. Volunteering behind the scenes to keep the NCPH conference running smoothly were Lindsey Woolcock and Amelia Zurcher as well as Austin Clark ’18MA at the UMass Press table. Last, but certainly not least, at the awards breakfast Marla Miller assumed her duties as NCPH president, which post she will hold through April 2020.

Looking toward the future, in October 2017 David Glassberg attended a convening of the public history programs that will collaborate on the next HAL project, an international traveling exhibition on climate change and environmental justice. Plans are well underway, and UMass public history students will be participating throughout 2018–19.

Congratulations to current and former students for their career advancements in 2018, including Carrie Burarske ’11PhD, director of the Muscle Shoals (Alabama) National Heritage Area; Kell Morgan ’18PhD, Weener-berghe Curatorial Fellow of American Art at the Indianapolis Museum of Art at Newfields; Elizabeth Bradley ’12MA, program coordinator at the Emily Dickinson Museum; Amanda Tewes ’18PhD, historian/interviewer at the Bancroft Library at UC Berkeley; Nicole Lelabrere ’09MA, director of the Mattick (Massachusetts) Historical Society; and Richard Anderson ’11MA, a postdoctoral scholar at Penn State University’s Humanities Institute working on public humanities programming.

Finally, congratulations to the talented public history master’s degree students who graduated in May: Alex Asal, Austin Clark, and Nolan Cool. We especially wish to thank Austin for the many tasks he performed over 2017–18 as public history program graduate assistant. We have been extremely fortunate in having had extraordinary students in this position, including our current hire, Lindsey Woolcock. —David Glassberg

“Dr. Charles K. Hyde Public History Fellows and Visiting Practitioners, 2017–18

Kendall Taivalkoski, The Lake Placid Olympic Museum, Lake Placid, New York
Lindsey Woolcock, Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston, Massachusetts
Amelia Zurcher, The Old Manse, the Trustees, Concord, Massachusetts

Visiting Practitioners, Fall 2017
Judith Barter ’11PhD, Curator Emeritus, Art Institute of Chicago
Matt Oettinger, Bostonian Society
Mark B. Schlemmer, #ITweetMuseums

Visiting Practitioners, Spring 2018
Tom Scheinfeldt, Greenhouse Studios
Aaron Miller, Skinner Museum
Ellen Alvord, Mount Holyoke College Art Museum
Mike Kelly, Archives and Special Collections, Amherst College
Check out the Public History Program’s Facebook page and the history department blog, PastPresent, for accounts of the Hyde fellows’ adventures:
So ‘PHaB’!

In April 2018, the Public History Program gathered alumni in and around Boston to launch a gathering happily being called “UMass PHaB” (Public Historians around Boston). Organized by internship coordinator and public history alumna Marla Miller and hosted by Lauren Aubut Prescott ’13, now executive director of the South End Historical Society, the event drew together a dozen or so graduates of our BA and MA programs—professionals now, at Historic New England, Harvard University, Northeastern University, the New England Historical and Genealogical Society, the University of Connecticut, the Trustees of Reservations, the Natick Historical Society, and elsewhere—as well as some current students. They thickened ties and helped alumni make new connections, renew old ones, and just generally tap their fellow UMass grads as sources of collegiality and professional support. A second gathering, this one in September, was hosted by Meghan Gelardi Holmes ’06MA, the curator at the Gibson House Museum. It gave Gibson House staff a chance to preview new programming in development and gave the visitors a chance to peek behind the curtains there. If you are a graduate of UMass Amherst working in any way as a public historian, get in touch and we’ll put you on the list! —Marla Miller

In 2018, one phase of the project “Using 3-D Modeling to Preserve the Architectural Heritage of Massachusetts: Digital Preservation and Educational Outreach” was completed and a new one began. The project, funded by a 2016 Creative Economy grant from the University of Massachusetts Office of the President, was led by UMass biologist Duncan Irschick, with public historians Marla Miller and Gregg Mitchell ‘17MA collaborating in this effort to pioneer new tools to document, preserve, and interpret historic buildings across Massachusetts.

Irschick developed the technology in order to create accurate models of a wide range of living organisms in high-resolution 3-D color. Wanting to explore whether his tools and approach could capture something as large as a building, he reached out to the Public History Program to see if it could help contemplate the implications of high-resolution 3-D photogrammetry for the historic-preservation community.

We contacted Preservation Massachusetts, Historic New England, and other stewards of significant buildings around the commonwealth. We ultimately selected a handful of structures—including the Hockanum Schoolhouse in nearby Hadley and the Cisco Homestead, a site important to the history of the Nipmuc nation—to help us test this new apparatus. While Irschick and his team captured thousands of images to be stitched together to create high-resolution 3-D models, Miller and Mitchell drafted educational and interpretive texts to use in classrooms and online.

The initial phase of the project drew to a close in April, when Irschick’s team unveiled not only the first completed digital model but also a small version produced on a 3-D printer—something anyone with access to a printer could download and produce (an innovation with implications not only for K–12 classrooms but also, for example, to teaching architectural history to vision-impaired students). As we explore “next steps” for the larger project, digital historian Jon Olsen hopes to pick up the baton, working with the Emily Dickinson Homestead to test the technology on an interior space: Dickinson’s bedroom. Stay tuned! —Marla Miller

FROM AMHERST TO VEGAS: UMass Historians Present at NCPH Annual Meeting

The Public History Program was well represented at last spring’s National Council on Public History’s annual meeting in Las Vegas. After two semesters of studying and working in the Pioneer Valley region, the program turned its attention toward other public history work around the country. UMass Amherst students’ work was present throughout the meeting, from Emma Winter Zweig’s pop-up exhibition “Theatrical Press Agents and the Art of Promotion” to Perri Meldon’s facilitation of the panel “Disability in Public: Creating Accessible, Community-Engaged, and Pedagogically Informed Exhibits on the History of Disability.” Alex Asal ’18MA and Austin Clark ’18MA participated in a day of exciting workshops. Lindsey Woolcock and Amelia Zurcher volunteered throughout the event.

Nor were department faculty difficult to find. David Glassberg facilitated the discussion “Cultural Resources, Community Engagement, and Climate Change” and Marla Miller began her term as council president. Taking advantage of the opportunities presented by both the conference and city, Public History Program members spent several full days of exploring NCPH, sharing ideas about the field, and connecting with other public historians. —Amelia Zurcher

The Digital Life
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

As is apparent throughout this newsletter, the academic year 2017-18 was rich in community-engaged history. The evidence ranges from articles penned by faculty in nationally-circulating newspapers and other publications to such student/faculty collaborations as internships, joint projects, grant-funded collaborations and more, with local, national, and international historical organizations.

My work in the department's Community Engagement and Outreach Office focused on transforming student- and faculty-focused events into programs reaching and serving university and community audiences alike. They included those featuring this year's Writer in Residence, the poet, historian, writer, activist, and public intellectual Aurora Levins Morales, who was nominated by a community partner. In addition to her public lecture on campus, which was attended by a mix of community members, students, staff, and faculty, Levins Morales hosted a public event in Holyoke organized by my office in collaboration with Maria Salgado-Cartagena, the people’s historian of Holyoke; a “homework circle” workshop with women community organizers; a storytelling workshop bringing together scholars, artists, and community organizers; small-group meetings with various university and community groups; a people’s history walking tour of Puerto Rican Holyoke; and open office hours for students and faculty from the history department and other co-sponsoring entities.

This residency was offered in collaboration with the UMass Five College graduate program, with major support from Five Colleges, Graduate Programs Director Anna Taylor, and Graduate Programs Coordinator Mary Lukowy.

Earlier in the semester, we experimented with new event formats in collaboration with Historians for Peace and Democracy, a national organization with which UMass Amherst faculty work closely. Kevin Young sits on their steering committee and Christian Appy is a member of their speedpress bureau. We hosted an evening event with interactive conversation with Code Pink co-founder Medea Benjamin, Iranian-American activist Mojgan Haji, facilitator and anti-Islamophobia activist Aamer F. Ahmed, and Christian Appy. More than a dozen community groups talked about participating in the event, which tabled at and participated in the event, which

Nancy McLean presents on her book Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right’s Stealth Plan for America to a packed house of more than 200 people.

2018 WRITER IN RESIDENCE
AURORA LEVINS MORALES:
Awakening New Ways of Being

The following remarks introduced Aurora Levins Morales before her public lecture in the UMass Student Union Ballroom on Tuesday, April 17.

I have read many books by the history department’s Writers in Residence over the past decade, but this is the first time one of them has ever made me cry. It was “First Snow,” in Aurora Levins Morales’s collection Cosecha.

This, of course, is not a proper response for an academic historian, not what I’m supposed to say when introducing a speaker. We are taught to be distant and objective, and to write and to speak as though we were not personally affected or personally involved in the matter of history.

Levins Morales, however, is not that kind of historian. Despite having a doctorate in women’s studies and history from the Union Institute, she doesn’t write like a traditional academic. Rather, she writes history the way she writes memoir and fiction: with language immediate, alive, and emotionally powerful.

Levins Morales sees her role as being like that of an herbalist “wildcrafting”—that is, gathering wild plants from abandoned gardens and creating medicine from them. The “medicinal powers of history” is a theme of her writing. She explains, in her history of Puerto Rican women published in 1998, how the lives of women from the past gave her insight and strength to face her own experiences.

But the telling of these stories at the intersection of literature and history is a medicine not just for the writer but also for readers, awakening them to the possibilities of different ways of being. Her broader aim, as she puts it, is “to reshape our societies into sustainable, humane communities.” She writes “the stories we tell about our lives shape what we’re able to imagine, and what we can imagine determines what we can do. My job is to change the stories we tell and help us imagine a world where greed has no power, the earth is cherished, and all people get to live safe and satisfying lives.”

Levins Morales thus occupies an intersection of activism, art, and scholarship. Through her writing and a vast range of activities across her career—including museum work, oral history, documentaries, podcasts, and performance and multimedia art—she centers stories that have been overlooked, including those of Puerto Rican women, immigrants, and the disabled body.

She unearths the narratives of those, as she puts it, “deemed unimportant by the writers of official histories.” Sometimes—as in her evocation of the maternal human ancestor we all share—she uses the tools of storytelling and imagination. At other times she draws on accounts from her own family and medical history. In each case, the reader is allowed no safe distance, but is instead embroiled in the messy, painful, hopeful business of being human.

Aurora Levins Morales is a Puerto-Rican Ashkenazi Jewish feminist writer, poet, activist, environmentalist, and radical. She is the author of six books of poetry, prose, and history. Her writings have appeared in numerous anthologies, have been translated into seven languages; according to her CV, they “have been honored to appear as graffiti on the walls of higher-education institution bathrooms.” So perhaps you’d like to continue that tradition after her talk.

Today she brings to us a talk titled “Memory is Our Soil: Bringing History into the Commons.” Please join me in welcoming our writer in residence, Aurora Levins Morales.

—Anna Taylor

You can read more about Levins Morales’s visit on page 24. Taylor notes also that the department owes a special debt of gratitude to Jessica Johnson, who, with Mary Lukowy, handled the complicated coordination of Aurora’s visit and, along with Maria Salgado-Cartagena, People’s Historian of Holyoke’s Puerto Rican Diaspora, ensured the broad participation of communities in our region.

2018 Writer in residence Aurora Levins Morales delivers the 12th anniversary Writer-in-Residence Public lecture, “Memory Is Our Soil.”

What brings you here tonight? Why are you interested in Baldwin?

Educators’ reflections on James Baldwin at the workshop “James Baldwin on Film, on the Page, and in the Classroom” at the Holyoke Public Library.

2018 Writer in residence Aurora Levins Morales before her public lecture in the UMass Student Union Ballroom on Tuesday, April 17.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

also included small-group breakout sessions with each of the presenters. This event was organized by my office, along with Kevin Young, Sigrid Schmalzer, and Dan Chay.

Also during the fall and building on partnerships forged during the 2016–17 Feinberg Series, my office partnered with Northampton’s Fortun Library to develop a “community-wide seed” of historian Nancy MacLean’s award-winning Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right’s Stealth Plan for America. In November, community members attended public events with MacLean organized by the history department, the Political Economy Research Institute, and the Department of Women, Gender, Sexuality Studies. Several weeks later, in a conversation that ended up lasting long past its official end-time, dozens of local residents packed into the basement of Fortun Library to discuss MacLean’s work.

I also organized several initiatives for and with K–12 educators and students. With the Five College Center for East Asian Studies and the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia, we hosted a virtual book group and webinar on Sigrid Schmalzer’s children’s book Moth and Wasp, Soil and Ocean, adapted from her award-winning academic book Red Revolution, Green Revolution: Scientific Farming in Socialist China. Working with the Western Mass Writing Project and featuring guest appearances by faculty in African American studies and the filmmakers who created the documentary The Price of the Ticket, we hosted a two-part workshop on teaching James Baldwin. Together these sessions comprised our annual History Institute and were organized in collaboration with local educators and with the history department’s communications assistant Adeline Broussan, herself a former K–12 teacher.

For the third year in a row, we hosted the High School History Academy, a day-long history immersion with Easthampton High School students. It included a historical walking tour of campus, hands-on work with primary sources in Special Collections and University Archives planned by archivist Caroline White, a lecture on the history of baseball by Joel Wolfe, a Q&A with history undergrads, and a lot of free candy, stickers, and all-you-can-eat food in the dining halls. PhD students Adeline Broussan and Marwa Amer worked closely on this project. We are interested in expanding this initiative, which is always one of the highlights of my year, to bring students from other schools to campus.

With Sigrid Schmalzer and Kevin Young, I spent much of my year planning the 2019 Feinberg Series, which, like the initiatives outlined above, was developed to be community-based. By the time you receive this newsletter, we will be more than midway through the series, which we hope you attend.

I owe deep gratitude to department staff members Suzanne Bell, Amy Fleig, Adam Howes, Mary Lahush and Enjoli Pachota, graduate student project assistants Adeline Broussan, Austin Clark, and Mark Rohles, department officers Joyce Bowman, Brian Ogilvie, Sigrid Schmalzer, and Anne Taylor; undergraduate workshop students Zahra Alam, Ben Daley, Colleen Rice, and Kiyomi Sully; and all of the faculty, students, and community members with whom we collaborated. I would especially like to thank Brian Ogilvie and Sigrid Schmalzer for their support in overseeing this work, and Adeline Broussan, with whom I worked closely on all of these initiatives and who also edits this newsletter and creates the department’s social media and web communications.

—Jess Johnson

LaShonda Barnett has teaching interests in African American history; women’s, gender, and sexuality history; African diasporic histories, especially Afro-German and Brazil, and the history of Afro-American/Expressive literature and music. She is the author of the award-winning novel Jam on the Vine and a collection of short stories. Her writing has appeared in the Chicago Tribune, Guernica Magazine, New Orleans Review, SN Review, Juked, C4: Chamber Quarterly Literary Review, Gemini Magazine, and elsewhere.

A lover and scholar of the music of the African diaspora and an avid interviewer, Barnett has conducted over one hundred interviews with women musicians and edited the volumes I Got Thunder: Black Women Songwriters on Their Craft (2007) and Off the Record: Conversations with African American and Brazilian Women Musicians (2015). She has hosted her own jazz radio program, taught “Women in Jazz” at New York City’s Jazz at Lincoln Center, and lectured on the music nationally and internationally.

Barnett is a graduate of the University of Missouri, Sarah Lawrence College, and the College of William and Mary, at which institutions she received a BA, an MA in women’s history, and a PhD in American studies, respectively. She has taught history and literature at Columbia University, Sarah Lawrence College, Hunter College, Brown University, and Northwestern.

Barnett has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the New York Money for Women/ Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, and the College Language Association. She has held residencies at the Neepee Center for Literary Arts—Martha’s Vineyard, the Sewanee Writers’ Conference (where she was a Tennessee Williams Fellow), and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

Our Newest Faculty Members

Guillaume Aubert is a historian of the French Atlantic, teaching courses in Early American and Atlantic history, most recently at the College of William and Mary. While his research focuses on issues of race and belonging in early modern French colonies, his teaching interests include the entangled social, political, and cultural histories of North America and the broader Atlantic. He has published essays on notions of “blood purity” in the French Atlantic, the transatlantic theatre of the French slave law, and the politics of race and Frenchness in Guéret and Ndare (Saint-Louis-du-Sénégal). His current research includes a history of the legal tribulations of more than one hundred men and women of African and East Indian ancestry who served in the sole “black” military unit ever stationed in Ancien Régime France, and a study of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century court cases over the inheritance and citizenship claims of children born of mothers of African or American ancestry in France, New France, Louisiane, Guiana, and Senegambia. The latter study is part of an ongoing book project exploring the entangled genealogies and situational reframings of discourses of race and nation over the long durée, from late medieval France to the fluctuating French imperial geographies of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries.

This fall, French concerns are just one part of the story as Guillaume and his students examine the aspirations and experiences of a wide cast of historical actors from colonial North America through the era of the American Revolution.

On the evening before this newsletter was submitted, the history department’s hardworking communications assistant and newsletter editor Adeline Broussan pushed an overflowing cart of materials from the 2010 Feinberg Series opening event—attended by more than 650 people—through Haigis Mall and back to Herrter Hall.


Estepa is a native New Yorker with degrees from Brown, Columbia, and Rutgers universities. Before beginning her doctoral studies, she worked as a reporter and edited a citywide paper written by New York City public high school students.

Joel Wolfe talks with Easthampton High School students during the third annual High School History Academy.

LaShonda Barnett has teaching interests in African American history; women’s, gender, and sexuality history; African diasporic histories, especially Afro-German and Brazil, and the history of Afro-American/Expressive literature and music. She is the author of the award-winning novel Jam on the Vine and a collection of short stories. Her writing has appeared in the Chicago Tribune, Guernica Magazine, New Orleans Review, SN Review, Juked, C4: Chamber Quarterly Literary Review, Gemini Magazine, and elsewhere.

A lover and scholar of the music of the African diaspora and an avid interviewer, Barnett has conducted over one hundred interviews with women musicians and edited the volumes I Got Thunder: Black Women Songwriters on Their Craft (2007) and Off the Record: Conversations with African American and Brazilian Women Musicians (2015). She has hosted her own jazz radio program, taught “Women in Jazz” at New York City’s Jazz at Lincoln Center, and lectured on the music nationally and internationally.

Barnett is a graduate of the University of Missouri, Sarah Lawrence College, and the College of William and Mary, at which institutions she received a BA, an MA in women’s history, and a PhD in American studies, respectively. She has taught history and literature at Columbia University, Sarah Lawrence College, Hunter College, Brown University, and Northwestern.

Barnett has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the New York Money for Women/ Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, and the College Language Association. She has held residencies at the Neepee Center for Literary Arts—Martha’s Vineyard, the Sewanee Writers’ Conference (where she was a Tennessee Williams Fellow), and the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown.

Our Newest Faculty Members

Guillaume Aubert is a historian of the French Atlantic, teaching courses in Early American and Atlantic history, most recently at the College of William and Mary. While his research focuses on issues of race and belonging in early modern French colonies, his teaching interests include the entangled social, political, and cultural histories of North America and the broader Atlantic. He has published essays on notions of “blood purity” in the French Atlantic, the transatlantic theatre of the French slave law, and the politics of race and Frenchness in Guéret and Ndare (Saint-Louis-du-Sénégal). His current research includes a history of the legal tribulations of more than one hundred men and women of African and East Indian ancestry who served in the sole “black” military unit ever stationed in Ancien Régime France, and a study of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century court cases over the inheritance and citizenship claims of children born of mothers of African or American ancestry in France, New France, Louisiane, Guiana, and Senegambia. The latter study is part of an ongoing book project exploring the entangled genealogies and situational reframings of discourses of race and nation over the long durée, from late medieval France to the fluctuating French imperial geographies of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries.

This fall, French concerns are just one part of the story as Guillaume and his students examine the aspirations and experiences of a wide cast of historical actors from colonial North America through the era of the American Revolution.

On the evening before this newsletter was submitted, the history department’s hardworking communications assistant and newsletter editor Adeline Broussan pushed an overflowing cart of materials from the 2010 Feinberg Series opening event—attended by more than 650 people—through Haigis Mall and back to Herrter Hall.


Estepa is a native New Yorker with degrees from Brown, Columbia, and Rutgers universities. Before beginning her doctoral studies, she worked as a reporter and edited a citywide paper written by New York City public high school students.

Joel Wolfe talks with Easthampton High School students during the third annual High School History Academy.
Audrey Altstadt reports: During 2017–18, I continued to focus on human rights and democracy-building in countries of the former USSR, mainly Azerbaijan. I published op-eds (one in The National Interest, in February) and entries for the European website Emerging Europe. In May, I testified before the U.S. Congress’s Helsinki Commission on election manipulation and human rights violations in Azerbaijan. Because such present-day problems attack on rights and the rule of law can best be understood in long-range historical context, I bring these topics into my classes. My Integrative Experience course “Human Rights and Energy Insecurity,” in which I focus on the Caspian region, is especially suited to these themes. Each time I teach it—my fall 2018 presentation is my fifth—I incorporate new literature and analysis on specific cases and historical studies of human rights, rights oversight, corruption, international watchdog groups, and considerations of energy security that can clash with individual rights. For spring 2018, I developed a new writing seminar on Putin, next spring I will offer a new Gen Ed course, “Spies and Spying,” to give historical context to other current topics.

Julie de Chantot reports: I taught the course “History of Modern Boston,” Julie left the history department after teaching her summer course, “History of Modern Boston,” Julie left the history department for her new position as assistant professor of African American history at Georgia Southern University.

Academic year 2017–18 was challenging for Richard T. Chu as he continued to teach at various Five College campuses and write his syllabus to meet each institution’s needs and goals. By request, in fall 2017 he taught Chinese diasporic history at Mount Holyoke College as a writing-intensive first-year seminar; he also taught “Empire, Race, and Jasper Whiting Foundation travel grant Asian American Commission; and a Marion Development; the Community Hero Award for the best book on Southern the same Chinese diasporic history course spring 2018, at Amherst College Chu taught “History of Modern Boston,” Julie left the history department for her new position as assistant professor of African American history at Georgia Southern University.

Julie de Chantot (16PhD) had a great 2017–18. She was a research associate at the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center, where she continued to revise her book manuscript, “Just Ordinary Mothers: Black Women’s Grassroots Organizing in Boston from the Vote to the Busing Crisis and a new article, “Extra! Extra!.” Boston Regulations: Child Labor in the Streets, 1880–1895. “Julie organized a panel and presented a paper on black women’s internationalism at the AHA annual meeting in Washington, D.C. In spring 2018, she developed the course “What’s on Your Plate? A Transnational History of Food.” Finally, after teaching her summer course, “History of Modern Boston,” Julie left the history department for her new position as assistant professor of African American history at Georgia Southern University.

After being on leave during 2016–17, David Glassberg returned to campus in fall 2017 happy to discover that he still had an office in Herter Hall after his former one was converted into a kitchen in his absence. His activities in 2017–18 involved a mix of environmental and public history, including an article, “The Changing Cape: Engaging Coastal Communities in Conversations About Climate Change” (George Wright Forum, December 2017), a panel discussion, “Cultural Resource: Community Engagement, and Climate Change” (National Council on Public History, April 2018), and teaching the courses “Conservation of Nature and Culture” and “Landscape and Memory.” In addition, Glassberg continued his regular trips to Great Barrington, Massachusetts, birthplace of W.E.B. Du Bois, to help local residents and visitors interpret Du Bois’s life and legacy.

Daniel Gordon published two review essays on Albert Memmi, a Tunisian/French/Ambish/Lebanese writer whose novels and sociological treatises comprise a formidable body of work on colonialism, racism, Zionism, and other topics. His article on Hannah Arendt, published two years ago, is being translated into Russian and Chinese. Gordon supervised the students who edited the UMass Undergraduate History Journal and notes that they functioned very independently and collaboratively to produce a fine journal published in April 2018. Gordon is on sabbatical this fall and organized an October conference on Alexis de Tocqueville and editing the Anthem Companion to Tocqueville. He also hopes to complete a book on the looming of the Islamic veil in Europe and Turkey. Finally, Gordon aims to continue his study of Albert Memmi.

John Higginson reports: On 4 December 2017, I delivered the lecture “Why or Why Not Revolution?” for the Resistance Studies Initiative, housed in the Department of

Julie de Chantot on the red carpet at the Lambda Literary Awards.

Sakal Kim (left), a member of the Cambodian American community of Worcester, was their guide.

Richard Chu injured with students at the khmer temple in Leverett during the thimerosol new year in April 2016, Sakal Kim (left), a member of the Cambodian American community of Worcester, was their guide.

David Glassberg introduces keynote speaker Franklin Odo at the Massachusetts History Conference in Worcester in June 2010.

Julie Capo on the red carpet at the Lambda Literary Awards.

John Higginson and Joyce Bowman with students in Cape Town.

FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES
Sociology. It was videotaped and can be seen on YouTube. Joye Bowman and I continue to work on “Engineering Empire: The Odyssey of American Engineers in South America’s Deep-Level Gold Mines, 1893–1972.” She and I also co-collated a course in South African history at the University of Cape Town over summer 2018.

Jason Johnson reports: In addition to the projects detailed beginning on page 24, a highlight of my year was my involvement in a community effort to stop the City of Northampton from installing high-resolution police surveillance cameras throughout its downtown. While outside of my official duties as the history department’s outreach and community engagement director, I mention it here because my personal involvement in organizing against mass incarceration and militarized policing emerged from my work here at UMass. It grew out of my experience coordinating the 2016–17 Feinberg series on mass incarceration, as well as from my participation in the Statis of Incarceration exhibition, organized by the Public History Program and numerous other university partners with the Humanities Action Lab. Several other members of the history department were also involved in this effort; together, we drew on our scholarly expertise to bring a historical perspective to bear on local policy-making. Best of all, we were successful! Northampton’s city council passed an ordinance banning the installation of new cameras. We went on to fight an appropriation of $250,000 toward riot gear for the Northampton Police Department. Despite overwhelming public sentiment against this proposal, the council approved the appropriation by an 8-1 vote. The work continues.

Madie Miller reports: I enjoyed a relaxing but productive sabbatical year; one, largely dedicated to completing my book manuscript on women and work in Federal Era Massachusetts. Along the way, I finished essays on house museums dedicated to the history of the U.S. Flag, on a whole-cloth quilt made by West Springfield’s Hadassah Choypin Elly, and on the interpretation of America’s “founders” for AASLH/NCPH’s forthcoming Inclusive Historian’s Handbook. I gave a talk on the interpretation of women’s artisanal needlework in museums and historic sites at Yale University, spoke on public historians and early American history as a member of the presidential plenary panel of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, and was honored to keynote the keynote address at UMass’s 2018 Phi Beta Kappa induction ceremony. Most exciting, at the April meeting of the National Council on Public History I received the gavel as the organization’s next president.

Jason Morello reports: My year was marked by the January 2018 publication of my second book, Rome’s Holy Mountain: The Capitoline Hill in Late Antiquity (Oxford University Press). While I enjoyed writing and rewriting the book, it was far more enjoyable to see its printed pages. Indeed, its publication landed me invitations to talk in June at the Università di Roma “La Sapienza” and the American Academy in Rome, where I met old friends, connected with colleagues, and ate far too much delicious food. I somehow also managed to publish three articles, serve on my last year as chair of the Western Massachusetts Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, and assume new duties as a book-review editor for the Journal of Roman Studies. In the coming year, I look forward to completing an anthology of primary-source readings for courses in Roman history (forthcoming from Routledge) and reading about holy mountains in the premodern world. (This summer, I had the thrilling opportunity to second my son, Monte Changeno, in southern Italy and southwestern Ireland’s Connemara.)

In addition to serving as department chair, Brian Ogilvie co-chaired the program committee for the American Historical Association’s 2019 annual meeting. He attended fall and spring program-planning meetings in Washington, D.C. and now looks forward to seeing the results of the committee’s labor at the meeting, to be held in Chicago, January 3-6, 2019. Brian would love to hear from alumni and friends who plan to attend.

Sigrid Schmalzer reports: I’ve enjoyed another busy year. My 2016 book on the history of agricultural science in socialist China won the Liuwenzuo Prize for best book on China post-1949, and I published a picture book (Moth and Wasp, Soil and Ocean) based on that same research—the first realization of a lifelong dream to write for children. The book of primary sources on the Science for the People (SfP) movement I coedited with Dan Chard ’18PHD and Alyssa Boltech was also published this year. SfP has been rekindled in western Massachusetts and around the country: we held our first national convention in Ann Arbor this past February and the local chapter is increasingly engaging in genuine solidarity work with Springfield-based organizations. The students in my “History of Science Activists” course and I also took our seminar to Springfield for those meetings to discuss what we can learn from the community clinics organized by the Black Panthers, the coalition building around Flint’s water crisis, and other relevant examples. I’ve also been serving as vice president and Ali in coordinating for our faculty and librarian union. The pieces all seem to be coming together!
Joel Wolfe with faculty and students from the University of San Marcos in Lima, Peru.

A Chorus of Praises for Joye Bowman

At this year’s history graduate award ceremony, the department warmly congratulated Professor Joye Bowman on her appointment as associate dean of research at the College of Humanities and Fine Arts. Several graduate students presented her with flowers and delivered speeches reflecting on the impact she’s had on them.

“Dr. Bowman has been instrumental to my success as a graduate student and as a woman of color in academia,” noted PhD student Brittany Fredericks. “As a mentor, she has been a kind, patient, and calming presence, often providing words of wisdom in her office, with upbeat jazz playing in the background. Dr. Bowman has encouraged me to be my best self by remaining unafraid to seek new opportunities and insisting upon the best education and enrichment possible.”

Camesha Scruggs added, “When I came to visit the campus as a prospective student, Dr. Joye Bowman made me feel welcome. Her advice on how to navigate the academy has been tremendously helpful. Her caring nature and assuring presence have made my journey at UMass a pleasant one. She takes time to inquire and remind me that everything is going to be okay. The formal and informal meetings have always been a pleasure and privilege, despite her busy schedule.”

Joye’s former TA, Jolie Campbell, spoke fondly about “her steadfast dedication to the education and progress of every student she encountered, whether undergraduate or graduate, as well as to the Department of History as a whole while functioning as department chair. I am personally grateful for her mentorship, upon which I have relied countless times.”

The faculty and the staff of the history department joined in the chorus of praises and thanked Joye Bowman for all she has accomplished as a former department chair, outgoing undergraduate program director, and beloved teacher and colleague. She will continue teaching, offering the ever-popular “History of Africa Since 1500.” Congratulations, Professor Joye Bowman, and thank you for all that you’ve done for the department. —Adelina Broussan

FROM FLORIANÓPOLIS TO AMHERST:
A History of Women’s Resistance

Last fall, the Department of History hosted Fulbright Scholar Cristina Scheibe Wolff. She joined us after hosting the 13th Women’s Worlds, the International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women—said to be the world’s largest global feminist event—at the Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina, her home institution in Florianópolis, Brazil. Drawn to the department that hosted the largest U.S. women’s historians’ gathering—the 2011 Berkshire Conference on the History of Women—Professor Wolff taught a graduate class on her current research project, “Women’s Narratives in the Southern Cone.” Marked by the authoritarian regimes that appeared almost simultaneously in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay, her oral interviews with women who challenged such regimes in the 1960s and 1970s helped energize student research and departmental conversations.

In addition to presenting her work in the department, Professor Wolff was cohosted by the Center for Latin and Caribbean Studies, where she opened up a lively discussion of the kind interdisciplinary research that allows us to understand the history of resistance to seemingly coercive dictatorships. Her work in Florianópolis, where she works with a team of multinational researchers, graduate students, and professors conducting almost 200 interviews, serves as a model for the number of students currently engaged in feminist oral history projects. —Laura Lovett

Laura Lovett and Cristina Scheibe Wolff at the 2017 welcome reception for new faculty and graduate students.
pleasures to organize the induction ceremony and dinner in March and see the work of Dan Gordon and the student editors of the UMass Undergraduate History Journal come to fruition in April. In terms of research, I have been hard at work on my monograph on Tokyo’s largest Japanese Protestant church. In addition, I gave an invited lecture at Tokyo Woman’s Christian University in July 2017. This past March, at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C., I organized a panel, “Education and Women’s Empowerment in Modern Japan,” and presented a paper, “Embracing Oppor- tunity and Envisioning ‘True Education’ for Japanese Women: The Case of Yasui Tetsu.” In April, during the Five Colleges History Seminar I collected much constructive feedback from colleagues on my article-in-progress on the Japanese YWCA and Japanese imperialism. I am also happy to have completed work on a forthcoming edited volume, “Japanese Women: The Case of Yasui Tetsu.”

Kevin Young reports: This past year involved many projects and challenges for me. After teaching two new courses in the fall, I spent the spring on leave. I traveled to Bolivia to begin researching a poorly understood co- alition between peasant unions and military regimes in the 1960s and 1970s. I also edited a book, Making the Revolution: Histories of the Latin American Left; it is expected to ap- pear in 2019. In my spare time, I worked with a fabulous crew of colleagues to help plan the department’s 2018–19 Heinberg Family Distinguished Lecture Series, “Another World Is Possible: Revolutionary Voices, Past and Present.” Finally, I adopted JoJo, the best dog in the universe.

Emeriti Updates

Joyce Berkman reports: In early May I was excitedly looking forward to a new historical and scholarly experience: on May 29 I was to give a talk on Edith Stein at the University of Wroclaw, Poland, to philosophy and theology graduate students and faculty. This is the university where Stein earned her BA; Wroclaw (formerly Breslau) is the city where she was born and raised. I have been writing about Stein for almost two decades and have spent time in all of the major German cities of her life, but this would have been my first time in Poland. In May, however, my husband was diagnosed with lymphoma, thankfully a very treatable form; thus, we deferred our trip till next year and my host at the university of Wroclaw has arranged for me to give my talk there.

History faculty at the summer writing retreat in the Old Chapel.
FACULTY AND STAFF UPDATES

Meanwhile, I continue to work on Clive Schoiner. The editors of a special Schwin-ner issue of the Journal of Commonwealth Literature invited me to contribute an essay, which I have done. Another scholarly thread, the history of the concept of empathy, was the topic for my invited presentation at Foulkeways, an unusual senior community in Gwynedd, Pennsylvania.

Jocey-Lynn Campbell.

Jeanne Potash reports: Robert Potash’s 2008 memoir, Looking Back at My First 80 Years—A Mostly Professional Memoir, appeared this year in a condensed form translated into Spanish by Edhasa Press in Buenos Aires under the title Memorias—Un Mirrak Retrospectivo. Bob lived to read the translation of the first chapter before his passing. He approved the translator’s work, as he always insisted on doing with transla-tions of his scholarly works. Although this abbreviated translation omits much of the original—including the sections on Bob’s extensive work in Mexico, some of his army experiences during World War II, and his experiences as a member and sometime chair of the UMass history department—it includes his account of his careful investigative work in Argentina, including his countless inter-views with prominent Argentine actors in the historical periods he covered. Bob’s multivoc-ule Army and Politics in Argentina gave the Argentine public its first comprehensive, unbiased view of the tumultuous interactions of military and civilian politics between 1928 and 1973. Its Spanish translations were best sellers in Argentina.

Bruce Laurie reports: As part of Amherst College’s upcoming bicentennial celebration, some 20 scholars have been invited to pre-pare papers on the college’s impact on world war. My contribution is an essay, “Some of the Sweetest Christians: The Education of the Amherst Boys in Blue.” Also, since 2005 I have served as co-academic director of learning tours for international students and teachers, funded by the Educational and Cultural Affairs Office of the Department of State, and administered in Amherst by an NGO, the Institute for Training and Development. Over the summer I directed such a program for 20 school teachers from as many nations as the topics of their papers warranted. The program is based on the curricula of the UMass program assistant of 10 years, Suzanne Bell, retired after more than 32 years of service to the university. Prior to joining the department in 2008, Suzanne worked in various locations across campus, including the W.E.B. Du Bois Library.

During her tenure in the history department, she helped countless history majors achieve their goals and successfully graduate. Suzanne was admired and respected for the ease with which she related to the students she served as well as for her empathy and professionalism. She was peerless when it came to her attention to detail and her dedication to getting the job done correctly.

We will be hard-pressed to replace someone of Suzanne’s caliber and feel extremely lucky to have counted her as our colleague for so many years. In retirement, Suzanne is enjoying time spent in the great outdoors and mastering photography. Perhaps most importantly, she now has time to be with her family, including two grandchildren she absolutely adores. We are happy for her and wish her the best. —Amy Fleig

Suzanne Bell

A Farewell to Suzanne Bell

In May, the history department’s undergraduate program assistant of 10 years, Suzanne Bell, retired after more than 32 years of service to the university. Prior to joining the department in 2008, Suzanne worked in various locations across campus, including the W.E.B. Du Bois Library. During her tenure in the history department, she helped countless history majors achieve their goals and successfully graduate. Suzanne was admired and respected for the ease with which she related to the students she served as well as for her empathy and professionalism. She was peerless when it came to her attention to detail and her dedication to getting the job done correctly.

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Jack Tager (1936–2017) Only four days before turning 82, Jack Tager, professor emeritus of American history, died at his home on August 25, 2017, in the company of Patricia St. John Tager, his wife of 30 years. Jack was a member of the UMass history department for 37 years, from 1967 to 2004. He was an expert on American urban history and politics, especially those of Boston and Massachusetts. On his own, he wrote three books: The Intellectual as Urban Reformer (1968), Boston Riote: Three Hundred Years of Social Violence (2001), and Massachusetts at a Glance (2004). Jack’s six solo-authored or credited books included Massachusetts in the Gilded Age (1985), Historical Atlas of Massachusetts (1991), Massachusetts Politics: Selected Essays (1998), and Massachusetts: A Concise History (2000); he otherwise wrote articles and chapters and numerous reviews and other publications. In 2005, Jack was awarded the Bay State Legacy Award in recognition of his many distinguished contributions to documenting the history of Massachusetts. Jack was born in Brooklyn, New York, on October 18, 1936, the third son of Alex and Mildred Tager, Jewish immigrants from Poland and Russia. Growing up on the streets of Brooklyn was a broadening experience as he struggled to become “street smart,” as he put it. His father ran a small candy shop and worked around the clock; his mother sewed and embroidered in a clothing factory. Jack had two older brothers: Aron, an actor/artist who lives in Toronto, and Bernan, an accountant/supervisor in California who passed away last year. Jack early realized the importance of education. After graduating from Thomas Jefferson High School (1954), he earned his BA at Brooklyn College (1958) and a master’s degree from the University of California, Berkeley (1959) before spending time in the military (1959, 1961–62). Jack earned a PhD from the University of Rochester (1965), had his first academic position at Ohio State University (1964–67), and came to UMass Amherst in 1967. Jack was an exceptional teacher. He always opened his first lecture by telling the students, “I’m here to help take off your chains and to free your mind and spirit.” Calling himself a time traveler who would take them on a tour of history, Jack went on to tell his students: “Change is constant, and understanding the forces behind change is one of the most important things to learn at college. Studying history puts that understanding into a global context.” Many students who took his “History of Boston” claimed that it was the best course on campus.

So successful was Jack at teaching his survey of American history, the history of Boston, and other urban history topics that he was selected to be director of the UMass Honors Program from 1978 to 1982. Between 1980 and 1993 he was a three-time winner of the Distinguished University Advisor Award; in 1994, he was one of three semifinalists for the University Distinguished Teacher Award. In addition, Jack was noted on campus for his service ranging from the departmental to the college levels and to the university as a whole. Over time he chaired or was a member of 34 university-level committees, including the Faculty Senate, where he chaired the Faculty Senate Committee on Honors for three years and chaired the Program and Budget Committee in 1999–2000. Jack was noted for fighting for the rights of faculty, students, and employees of the university at the Faculty Senate, where it is said that administrators feared to make new proposals since they knew that Jack would be the first to question them; he was affectionately (or not) known as the Terror of the Senate and Black Jack Tager. Faculty members who knew Jack respected his role in fighting to protect their rights and to obtain improved research and teaching conditions. Jack claimed that one of the main lessons he learned in his Army days was that the best defense is a good offense.

Jack remained involved with the department during his 13 years of retirement, in which he had the opportunity to do more writing—including historical detective stories—and to travel and interact with family, friends, and former colleagues. He also had time to become the artist he always wanted to be, mostly of surrealist Jewish historical motifs and scenes from his early family life in Brooklyn. Some of Jack’s canvases were included in Art and Religion, an exhibition at the Michelson Gallery in Northampton.

Although Jack traveled extensively and enjoyed putting places into an experiential/visual perspective, he said he generally preferred reading about places in historical context, where myriad forces came into play. He was an avid reader of both fiction and nonfiction, especially in the latter. He never tired of reading about strategies and personalities of both the American Civil War and World War II against the Nazis who had attempted to destroy Jewish culture and peoples, including many in his parents’ families in Poland and Russia. Along similar lines, after retiring from UMass he loved to attend movies at least twice a week, especially classic films noir from the 1940s and ’50s.

Finally, Jack treasured his wife, Patricia, and was proud of his two children, David and Miriam, the three stepchildren he raised—David, Elisabeth, and Daniel Cantor—and the families of each. He continued to interact with family, friends, and former colleagues. He also continued to attend movies at least twice a week, especially classic films noir from the 1940s and ’50s.

IN MEMORIAM

John van Steenberg (1923–2017) John van Steenberg, professor emeritus of modern European history, died at his home in Leverett on August 25, 2017, after suffering a heart attack following years of declining health. He was 93. During his more than 30 years as a university professor, John was popular among students for his lively lectures, eclectic reading assignments, and interesting classroom props. Outside the university’s halls, he was a warm, funny, cultured man who wore his erudition lightly yet always impressed people with his vast learning and salty sense of humor.

I took his “European History 1914–1945” and remember it as one of the finest courses of my time at UMass. We read great scholarly histories, ones that I keep and consult today—Charles Maier’s Between the Wars, Georg von Buchar’s A History of Soviet Russia, among others—as well as fiction and memoir that broadened and leavened the reading list, including Christopher Isherwood’s Berlin Stories and Robert Graves’s Goodbye to All That. One day he brought to class a large, framed etching of the assassination of Tsar Alexander II, in 1881. It showed an explosion obliterating the tsar’s carriage and blasting nearby soldiers into the air—a fine illustration for a lecture on the lead-up to the Russian Revolution. Other times he showed us vintage maps. He always brought great analytical and informative power to his lectures and was a tough grader. John made students want to strive to do their best work, even if their best work was not always up to his high standards. I finished his class a better writer and better thinker, and I’m sure many others would say the same.

After I graduated in 1984, John and I realized that we had several close friends in common and began to write to each other. We soon became close epistolary friends. We exchanged hundreds of letters. He would tell me about life in the town of Leverett, which he loved dearly, and his many friendships and trips to cultural venues all over New England. Every few years or so at his invitation I would visit him at the rambling colonial house where he had lived since 1962, with its creaking floorboards and chiming clocks, every room filled with paintings, posters, and artifacts gathered over a lifetime of world travel. John was a charming host who loved long walks with his dogs and swimming in local ponds, which, he said, reminded him so much of his beloved Scandinavia. Eventually his eyesight grew too bad to read my letters and we spoke instead on the phone, for the last time a few months before he died.

John took a circuitous route to academia. He was born in Indiana on December 28, 1923, and spent part of his childhood in Panama, where his father was an engineer at the canal. John’s mother died when he was a teenager and he went to live with an aunt in Oneonta, New York, where he went to high school. He was an undergraduate at the University of Michigan when World War II broke out, and, upon joining the Army, he learned that his eyesight was too faulty for him to be sent to fight. He went instead to a government language program at Indiana University, where he learned Finnish. He later became a military policeman guarding German POWs at a camp in Georgia.

After the war, he went to the University of Chicago, earning an MA in international relations in 1947. He began working at the OSS, the predecessor to the CIA, and later served in the CIA itself, which sent him to Sweden, deepening his lifelong interest in Scandinavia. Yet his career as a civil servant did not last long. In 1953, John was one of several thousand federal employees interrogated about their sexuality in the McCarthy era: a purge of homosexuals prompted by the so-called “lavender scare.” Hooked up to a polygraph but determined to keep his job, John denied that he was a homosexual. He flunked the test and was fired.

John spoke often about that experience. Although he referred to it without regret or bitterness, I knew he hurt. I encouraged him to write about it so that gay men today would understand the terror and cruelty his generation faced. He always declined. In any case, his firing led to his academic career and the life he loved in rural New England. He went to Harvard and completed his PhD in history and began teaching at the University of Massachusetts in 1958. He died with no immediate kin, leaving his estate to the town libraries in Leverett, Oneonta, and Amherst, a few other local institutions, and several close friends, including his close companion in his later years, Eric Masters, and a cousin.

John wrote very little for publication during his long career. “Too many books out there already,” he would tell me—and, with his voracious habits, he seemed determined to read them all. He was as his core a teacher and a friend, and an example of strength, decency, and class to everyone who knew him.

— Roger Atwood ’84
**IN MEMORIAM**

David S. Wyman (1929–2018)

David S. Wyman, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, died on March 14, 2018, at the age of 89. He earned a PhD in History from Harvard University and taught in the history department from 1966 until his retirement in 1991. In 1986 he was named the Josiah E. Dubois Jr. Holocaust Remembrance Professor of History. Professor Wyman was the author of Paper Walls: America and the Refugee Crisis, 1938–1941 (University of Massachusetts Press, 1968); The Abandonment of the Jews: America and the Holocaust, 1941–1945 (Pantheon, 1984); and, with Paul Mendelsohn, A Race Against Death. Peter Bergson, America, and the Holocaust (The New Press, 2000). He was the editor of America and the Holocaust—13 volumes of documents used in The Abandonment of the Jews (Garland, 1989)—and The World Reacts to the Holocaust: Lothar Hinckley Press University Press, 1996.

In the following, Aaron Berman, professor of history at Hampshire College, offers his reminiscences about Professor Wyman.

I first met David Wyman in the fall of 1973, when I was a student at Hampshire College and took his course “America Between the Two World Wars.” Besides being my teacher, David went on to become a mentor, colleague, friend, and neighbor. Both as a teacher and a writer, David’s goal was to be accessible but also mutual tragedies. I teach or write about Jews and Palestinians and their particular unfortunates. I think of that encounter every time I first time he had ever been asked that. He seemed taken back a bit, but then answered, “It’s true that the Holocaust was a Jewish tragedy, but it was also a human tragedy.”

David, typically, didn’t think he’d done anything special. For him, the job of the compulsive researcher I have ever met—if a document existed, he would have thought you were crazy. For him, the job of the sit through his presentation feeling comfortable and relaxed, and to the largest possible audience. His books are beautifully written, clear, informative, well-paced. As a student in his class you would sit through his presentation feeling comfortable and relaxed, and somehow you left knowing a whole lot more about the New Deal than you did when you entered.

It would be easy to simply peg David as old-fashioned historian. If you asked him what the theoretical underpinning of his work was, he would have thought you were crazy. For him, the job of the historian was to figure out what happened and then tell the story as clearly as possible. However, while David was certainly the most compulsive researcher I have ever met—if a document existed, he found it and read it—you miss his uniqueness if you simply say he “told it like it was.”

David approached work on the American response to the Holocaust not simply with the mission of determining what happened. He brought a strong sense of morality to his history. Confronted with the failure of the Roosevelt Administration to respond to the extermination of the Jews, David, unlike many other historians, didn’t engage in apologetics or rationalizations about what was politically possible at the time. For him the issue was simple: people were being killed and other people and their governments had a responsibility to come to the rescue. As a mentor, David was beyond generous. My thesis director at Columbia was renowned for being an excellent editor but also for being blunt and a bit harsh. He insisted on having a full first draft of my thesis before he would give me feedback. After several years, I delivered the manuscript to him. When I got it back in the mail, every page was marked up and full of comments. All of that I expected, but in the middle of the thesis I wrote about the sinking of a refugee boat at a loss of 900 lives. My discussion of the event obviously affected my thesis director, because his comments after that point contradicted some he had made on the first half of the thesis.

I was already teaching at Hampshire when this happened. I felt trapped, every time I tried to revise the dissertation, I froze. Feeling that my career was over, I called David. To my surprise, he asked me to send him the marked-up copy, which he soon returned. David had taken the trouble and the time to put a 1, 2, or 3 next to each comment. A “1” meant “Your thesis director is right; change it.” A “2” meant “He’s wrong. Change it for the dissertation defense and then change it back for publication.” A “3” meant “He’s wrong. Don’t change it, and hope to god he didn’t keep a copy.”

David, typically, didn’t think he’d done anything special. For years, he would thank me for taking his trash can from the carport to the street as I kept trying to explain that it was nothing compared to what he had done for me.

To close, one more story—a small incident that I’m sure David forget about just after it happened but which has stayed with me ever since.

I took David’s class in 1973 because I was part of a group of Hampshire students who were starting a course on the Holocaust. For a Jewish teenager, studying the Holocaust usually encourages a certain kind of ethnocentrism, seeing the world as being divided into an “us” and a “them” who want to destroy “us.” One day after class I went up to David and asked him a question I suspect he had heard after the publication of The Abandonment of the Jews: “You’re not Jewish. Why do you study this stuff?” This seemed to be the first time he had ever been asked that. He seemed taken back a bit at first but then answered, “It’s true that the Holocaust was a Jewish tragedy, but it was also a human tragedy.”

I mentioned this once to David many years later and he had no memory of it. For him, it was just a moment of being asked a question and giving an honest response. But for me, without being too dramatic, it was life-changing. His ability to see past divides and find the commonality that binds all of us together is unfortunately in short supply. I think of that encounter every time I teach or write about Jews and Palestinians and their particular but also mutual tragedies. — Aaron Berman

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**STUDENT UPDATES**

David S. Wyman, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History, died on March 14, 2018, at the age of 89. He earned a PhD in History from Johns Hopkins University’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference. In June, I traveled to Alabama to attend or present at a successful conference at UMass Amherst. I presented my research on Stony Brook University’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference.

In addition, I was recently published on my website two oral history reports from Iraqis refugees. The website is in progress, as is another of my projects, a combination of language documentation and cultural history in Greco-Montano, Italy.

In January, Erica Fagen began a job at the Montreal Holocaust Museum working on its “Inter-Action: Beyond the Walls of the Montreal Holocaust Museum” project. The project was part of a grant from Canadian Heritage, a branch of the Canadian federal government. She is working with community partners across Canada on educational tools dealing with the Holocaust, mass violence and genocide, and human rights.

Brittany Frederick reports: During 2017–18, I enjoyed my time as co-chair of the Graduate History Association. Aside from coordinating a successful conference at UMass Amherst, I presented my research at Stony Brook University’s Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference. In June, I traveled to Alabama to present my research to the latest oral history reports from Iraqis refugees. The website is in progress, as is another of my projects, a combination of language documentation and cultural history in Greco-Montano, Italy.
STUDENT UPDATES

Brittany Frederick presents her research at the Stony Brook University Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Conference.


Yuri Gama presents his research at the 2018 Mass History Conference on Planning History in Cleveland, Ohio.

Cheryl Harrod reports: This past year I was offered exciting opportunities to speak more publicly about my work and to share my experiences with first-generation college students. For the latter, I have been involved in the Graduate School’s First-Generation Initiative to support students new to the college experience and participated in a related panel at Graduate Student Orientation. Otherwise, in the fall with Mark Roblee I facilitated an eXperimental “Pop-Up Humanities Lab” workshop at the 2017 National Humanities Conference in Boston, modeled on my work with students in the Mellon/Five College UMass Oral History Lab and the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Jason developed an eight-part online training tool for doing oral history, from project-planning to processing. These open-access resources are available online. Jason presented research on trauma and oral history at the 2017 Oral History Association (OHA) conference in Minneapolis. With colleagues Rose Cappelli and Kimberly Enzler, Jason helped organize a panel for the OHA 2018 conference in Montreal. He also organized a Veterans Studies panel for the 2018 Organization of American Historians Conference in Philadelphia. Jason published his article “Through Star-Spangled Eyes: Fortunate Son and the Problems of Resilience” in the fall 2018 issue of War, Literature, and the Arts.

Cheryl Harrod PhD reports: This past year I was offered exciting opportunities to speak more publicly about my work and to share my experiences with first-generation college students. For the latter, I have been involved in the Graduate School’s First-Generation Initiative to support students new to the college experience and participated in a related panel at Graduate Student Orientation. Otherwise, in the fall with Mark Roblee I facilitated an eXperimental “Pop-Up Humanities Lab” workshop at the 2017 National Humanities Conference in Boston, modeled on my work with students in the Mellon/Five College UMass Oral History Lab and the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, Jason developed an eight-part online training tool for doing oral history, from project-planning to processing. These open-access resources are available online. Jason presented research on trauma and oral history at the 2017 Oral History Association (OHA) conference in Minneapolis. With colleagues Rose Cappelli and Kimberly Enzler, Jason helped organize a panel for the OHA 2018 conference in Montreal. He also organized a Veterans Studies panel for the 2018 Organization of American Historians Conference in Philadelphia. Jason published his article “Through Star-Spangled Eyes: Fortunate Son and the Problems of Resilience” in the fall 2018 issue of War, Literature, and the Arts.

Jason Higgins and Jorge Minella receive the Emerson Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching.

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Kathryn Julian PhD, former associate director of UMass Amherst’s DEFA Film Library, is now a visiting lecturer of history at Maryville College, a liberal arts college in eastern Tennessee.

Benjamin Cater has given readings of his dissertation, “Narrating Disability: American Flag waving in the EARL of the 1950s” directed by John Higgins, at the University of California San Diego, the University of South Carolina, and the University of Virginia. He recently completed his dissertation titled, “Narrating Disability: American Flag waving in the EARL of the 1950s” directed by John Higgins, and will receive his PhD from the University of South Carolina in May. His dissertation is a study of American Flag waving narratives in the 1950s and how they contributed to American national identity. His current research focuses on American Flag waving narratives in the 1950s and how they contributed to American national identity.

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Peri Maldon at the Harpers Ferry Center for Media Services in West Virginia.

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Grant, which they used to spend a week at the ONE Archives in Los Angeles. They also received a History Travel Grant which they used to visit the Kinsey Archives in Bloomington, Indiana. Their research examines transsexual employment discrimination and activist efforts during the 1970s and 80s.

In fall 2017, Mark Roblee taught "World History to 1500" at American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts. His article "Performing Circles in Ancient Egypt from Memnon to Ocrocoris" appears in the fall 2018 issue of Prehistory: Critical and Historical Studies on the Prehistoric. He presented two papers last May, one at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, on the ancient Egyptian temple library remembrance by Greek historian Diodorus Siculus, and another at Rice University in Houston on embodiment and Neoplatonism in Late Antiquity. Roblee continues to chair the Five College Annual Lecture in Late Antiquity. His article "Persecution and Neoplatonism in Late Antiquity" will appear in the forthcoming volume of Historical Animal Studies.

Having successfully completed her third year in the history program, Camessa Scruggs is now approaching candidacy. Her work from previous projects continues to provide opportunities to present to various audiences. In February 2018, Camessa was an invited guest speaker at the Wistariahurst Museum in Springfield, Massachusetts, for the Black History Month Series. Her talk focused on W.E.B. Du Bois’s connections to western Massachusetts. In March 2018, Camessa presented work on race and representation in gendered labor at the annual graduate student conference held at Stone Brook University. In June 2018, she presented research on resistance within genders labor at the triennial Southern Association for Women Historians conference at the University of Alabama. For her third consecutive summer season, Camessa gave guided tours at the Du Bois Boyhood Homestead while educating visitors on that influential native son of Massachusetts.

During 2017–18, over the course of their first year, Lindsey Woolcock focused on developing their skills and making steady progress in what they hope will be a master’s thesis on Hamilton: The Musical and the larger traditions of commemoration surrounding the founding of America. Out of this research and their year of coursework, Lindsey has developed an interest in researching the colonial history of South Carolina and its connections to the wider Atlantic world, native history, and the history of gender and sexuality. Over the summer, they continued research on their thesis, read for their fields, and completed their internship for the public history certificate at the Massachusetts Historical Society (MHS). As an intern for the Adams Family papers, Lindsey worked on a number of projects, transcribing the diaries of John Quincy Adams and contributing to workshops for secondary school teachers; they also conducted research for an MHS exhibition on Hamilton: The Musical on display at the during the play's Boston run this fall.

Abel Alves’44MA, ’09PD reports: In 2016 I began serving as chairperson of Ball State University’s history department. That year I was invited to present on my 2011 Brill book, The Animals of Spain: An Introduction to Imperial Perceptions and Human Interaction with Other Animals, 1492–1826, at University College London’s international symposium “Animals in Vasarian Happenings.” In 2017, I published Petrarch and Domesticated Animals in the Atlantic World (Oxford Bibliography Online). I currently contribute to Seshat: Global History Database and am under contract with Waber de Gruyter to produce an essay, “Domesticity: Co-Evolution,” for Handbook of Historical Animal Studies. I was extremely fortunate to have been a graduate student at the University of Massachusetts in the 1990s, studying with Robert Potechin, Jeffrey Cole, Roland Sarti, and most especially Miriam Usher Chrisman, my mentor during and after my graduate school years. In November, I will give two presentations at the Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference—33 years after Professor Chrisman guided me through my first Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference, in October 1985. I will always remain grateful to her and UMass Amherst.

Abel Alves’44MA, ’09PD

Phil Bergen ’86 recently retired from the Massachusetts Historical Commission, where he worked for the past 20 years as a preservation planner associated with the National Register of Historic Places throughout the commonwealth. One of his last assignments was writing the National Register nomination for UMass Amherst’s Old Chapal.

Daniel Bouchur ’93 reports: I graduated with a double major in History of Gender and Secondary Education, and worked as a newspaper reporter for five years before going back to school to learn accounting at Bentley College. I now work as a local accountant/reviewer for EBY Mallon in Westborough, Massachusetts, but still use my history training on a side project/hobby for a possible live musical stage presentation.

Professor Steven Bowman ’84 retired in 2015 from his position as professor of Judaic Studies at the University of Cincinnati. He will travel to Greece to teach a seminar course at College Year in Athens in June 2018. His annotated translation of Sephor Yeshiyon is currently being vetted by a major press.

Elizabeth Bradley ’12MA reports: I returned to the Pioneer Valley in 2017 to become the program coordinator at the Emily Dickinson Museum. I am thrilled to have found a position in the field that unites my interests in place-based education, landscape, and literature. My work straddles education and public programs: I coordinate group tours and class visits as well as events like the Amherst Poetry Festival, a multi-day celebration of the literary legacy and contemporary creativity of the Pioneer Valley. I also serve on the Museums@Educator’s Committee and the Amherst Arts Night Plus Committee. After four years as an environmental educator at Waves Hill, I am pleased to continue to explore connections between people and nature. Favorite recent projects include sourcing appropriate plants for Dickinson’s poem “Wind” and am under contract with Waber de Gruyter to produce an essay, “Domesticity: Co-Evolution,” for Handbook of Historical Animal Studies.

Nicholas Cogman ’10 reports: In 2007, only four years after graduating with a bachelor’s degree in history, I founded the FDA Group, a consulting firm that helps pharmaceutical, biologic, and medical device companies deal with the FDA. I was inspired to start the company because of a professor I had in the Isenberg School of Management. Fast-forward 11 years: for the third year in a row, INC Magazine ranked FDA Group as one of the fastest-growing companies in America.

Abel Alves’44MA, ’09PD

Jonathan Cassie ’92 published Level Up Your Classroom: The Quest to Gamify Your Lessons and Engage Your Students in 2016. Called Level Up Your Classroom, it was Association Media Publishing’s gold medal as the most beautiful book of 2017. The book is a guide to designing gamified instruction and game-based learning in classrooms from the pre-kindergarten to the university level. I’ve long been interested in the role games play in building engagement and resilience. In the book, I provide a detailed history of what games are, philosophies of...
Lloyd Crossman ’62 reports: On an all-American Class of 1962 history major, just retired after teaching in China for the past 20 years. Started teaching after graduation in 1962 in Van Buren, Maine, population 2,000; concluded my career in Shanghai, China, population 24,000,000. It has been an exciting life experience. I want to mention Dr. Louis Greenblum, my historiography professor, who has had a lifelong impact on me in my search for truth.

James Davenport ’03 reports: Since graduating from UMass in 2003, I have continued my love for history as a history teacher for the City of Springfield. I currently work at the Conservatory if the Arts, Springfield’s first public art school. I am also involved in Veterans in the Classroom, an organization that has veterans come into classrooms to tell their stories.

Allen J. Durvis ’88 reports: Having been a dean and faculty member in higher education and led these nonprofit organizations, I feel, 50 years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., that institutionalized racism and racial resentment remain the principal issues dividing our society. In June I organized, with the support of the assistant director of the Petersburgh (New Hampshire) Library, a community workshop, “Talking About Race: Shaping Curricula, Moving Forward, and Being Part of the Solution.” Two local African Americans talked about first realizing they were “the other,” getting “the talk” from parents, and experiencing racism. One remembered being called the N-word in school. The other recalled that as a kid, due to her different hair, she was nicknamed Medusa, after the monster in Greek mythology with snakes for hair. Eighty people attended (few had hoped for 25) and we learned that many while people want to talk about race and better understand what life is like for people of color. In October, two nearby communities hosted “Talking About Race” workshops. My dream is to get the American Library Association to launch a “National Conversation About Race.” Want to start a conversation about race, where you live? Contact me at drive55tosurvive@gmail.com.

Babetta Faenmil ‘10PhD with members of organizations endorsing her project “Humanistic Approaches to Criminal Justice,” including the local district attorney, police chief, and affirmative action officer, all of whom endorsed the project.

Babetta Faenmil ‘10PhD, associate professor of history at SUNY Schenectady, directs the two-year program “Humanistic Approaches to Criminal Justice.” Funded by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, it is designed to strengthen the teaching of the humanities in community colleges and enrolls recruiting 20 students in the Associate in Criminal Justice Program to take three specialty targeted general education courses as a learning community. Cohort students study college composition, introduction to literature, and U.S. history. The history course focuses on ethical and social issues they are likely to encounter as future law-enforcement, corrections, or probation officers and introduces the students to the historical roots of present-day conflicts. An embedded tutor provides learning support, co-curricular activities, and practical student’s coursework. The program is meant to give students a deeper understanding of the communities they aspire to serve after graduation and to inspire further studies in history and literature.

Joyce Follet ‘RIMA earned a PhD in women’s history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Since then, she has worked as a public historian, developing community education programs, practicing oral history, and producing historical documentary. At Smith College’s Sophia Smith Collection, a national women’s-history archive, she produced Step by Step: Building a Feminist Movement, 1941-1977, coproduced Creating Women’s History: The Sophia Smith Collection, and directed the Voices of Feminist Project to preserve oral histories and organization records of women nationally recognized in dominant national narratives. Follet also codirected the Steinem Initiative, an experiment in activist/academic partnerships to draw on women’s history to inspire contemporary campaigns for change. In 2017 she launched the Reproductive Justice History Project to create an interactive digital toolkit providing movement leaders with little-known stories and archival evidence of women’s organizing for sexual and reproductive health, rights, and justice from colonial times to the present.

Harry Franco-Rivers ’10PhD reports: I started my PhD program in UMass Amherst at 2003 and was a founding member of the Graduate History Association. After earning my PhD, I worked as an adjunct in a few colleges, finally securing a full-time research position at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, CUNY. I am currently an associate professor of history at Bloomfield (New Jersey) College and a public scholar for the New Jersey Council of the Humanities. I’ve been able to publish in academic and nonacademic outlets, including the national press and several academic blogs. My first book, Soldiers of the Nation: Military Service and Modern Puerto Ricans, 1868–1952 (University of Nebraska Press), is now out. (Yes, dissertations do turn into books.) I’m finishing my second book, Fighting on Two Fronts: The Experience of the Puerto Rican Soldiers in the Korean War, to be published by Centro Press.

Matt Grillo ’10 would like to announce the birth of his fourth child and first daughter, Hannah Rose Grillo, on January 21, 2018; she joins brothers Ben (14), Josh (12), and Eli (10). Matt and his wife, the artist Sara Grillo, live in Belchertown, Massachusetts, where for a decade Matt has been a part of the local branch of the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The couple partners with local vendors and artists at the weekly farmer’s market during a town-wide ArtWalk and with a popular series of Food Truck Friday on the town common. Matt works at Collective Copies in Amherst, a worker-owned cooperative that supports progressive and local causes by each year donating 10 percent of its annual profits. Collective Copies also publishes a publishing branch, Lewsiss Press, which issues small-print-run niche titles, many by local authors. Matt is glad that attending UMass introduced him to the area where he now has built his businesses and family.

Betsy Halpern Amaru ’69PhD. Matt is glad that attending UMass introduced him to the area where he now has built his businesses and family.
time MD with four kids! When the youngest of my own four was in middle school, I used an NEH grant to retreat, moving from Reform
history to the study of ancient Judaism (Second Temple period studies). In 1989, I be-
gan teaching in the Department of Religion at Vassar College and continued there until
2001, when I retired. I currently live in Jeru-
salem, where I frequently sit in one of the
reading rooms at the National Library and
continue with research and writing. Other
than that, I keep track of and enjoy the doings
of 13 amazing grandchildren, some of whom
live here and some in the States.

Susan K. Hamilton ’90 is working in em-
ployee/operations communications at Verus Phar-
ma. Her novel Shadow King was a Top 10 finalist in the 2016 Launchpad Manuscript Competition and was released by Inkshares on October 3, 2018; a dark urban fantasy, it is available for order at amazon.com and inkshares.com. Laura’s
next novel, The Devil Inside, was a Top 25
Amazon.com and Inkshares.com. Laura’s
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live here and some in the States.

Richard Kenney ’90 was recently named one of the Connect Association’s 2018 “40 Under
40” for the events industry. He works as
editor of University of Miami as director of conferences services.

Lori Ann Kran ’93PHD has been a grade school teacher at the Cincinnati Waldorf
School since 2000. She begins with her class of students in first grade and stays with them,
teaching all academic subjects, through the
eighth grade. She also teaches an online
women and gender studies class at North-
ern Kentucky University. In 2012, Lori gave a TEDx Cincinnati talk, “The Heart of Edu-
cation.” She also enjoys playing the laten, yoga, and spending time outdoors.

Kristina Lenti ’80, ’02MA reports: I am now Kristina Lenti Caprono, having in 2015
married a wonderful man, Mark Caprono. I remain in major-gift fundraising and cur-
cently work for Sargent College, Boston Uni-
versity’s College of Health and Rehabilitation
Sciences. Sargent’s founder, Dudley Allen
Sargent, created the field of physical therapy,
pioneering exercise for all individuals, including women and the disabled. When his
Harvard-based program was merged with BU, it became the women’s physical-education
program. A word to anyone interested in
women’s, history of women and sport, or
women’s education history, not to men-
tion the history of rehabilitation science
as it developed out of the world wars: we’re
a ready-made project just waiting to be
researched and written! I love my job and
always miss UMass.

David Light ’83MA reports: I’ve hit 14 years
as an editor with tech giant Accenture, fol-
lowing nine years with Boston-area lexicon
and management publications. As editorial
director of Accenture Research, the 300 per-
sion global research arm of this behemoth
company, I lead a team of senior editors
who write and publish on what ‘in the kid’
are called “thought leadership.” If your skills
run more toward writing and reasoning
than research, as was manifestly the case with
me, I’d encourage anyone to look in this di-
necation. My colleagues over the years have
been humanities grads from top schools in
the U.S. and U.K. When not working, I contin-
ue to read in areas that interested me while I
was studying at UMass. My latest read: The
Whispers, a long and disquieting look at
“private life in Stalin’s Russia.” I’ve developed
the view that the study of Tsarist history tells
you everything you need to know about hu-
mankind—just on a ‘grandier’ scale than
we’re used to.

Jeff Lord ’82, ’94MA was recently honored
with the HDMA Scholar Lifetime Achieve-
ment Award. Presented by a panel of estab-
lished international scholars, the award
recognizes excellence in significant scholarly
contributions to the expanding field of his-
torical European martial arts. Jeff is an associ-
ate curator at the Massachusetts Center for
Renaissance Studies and currently serves
on the Scientific Committee for the journal
Arte Periodico Daddoerum. His translation of Alexandre Varenne’s sixteenth-century
screwing manual Traité Sur la Centre-Pointe is forthcoming from Fallen Rock Press.

Emory Muddock ‘69 of Hammon, Massachu-
setts, is enjoying life, having recently retired
from a career in graphic arts sales and
marketing. He also retired from a 30-year
active duty service and Massachusetts Army
National Guard career as a federal colonel and
Massachusetts brigadier general. He and his
wife, Joan, are busy with seven grandchil-
dren, lots of travel, and serving the church
with the Order of Malta and many parish activ-
ties. Emory still does freelance writing projects.

John Mason ’56 reports. This is my first “re-
port,” so to sum up the past 21 years in the
Army, retiring as a colonel (with two tours in
Viet Nam), 30 years with Science Applications
International Corp.; and CEO of Workhouse
Arts Center. Lots of civic service, including 12
years as mayor of the City of Fairfax, Virgini-
a. Remain on the board of Mason Housing
Inc., a nonprofit providing faculty housing
at George Mason University. Organized the
Lord Fairfax Charity Ride in September, a
motorcycle rally that circumnavigated the
original Lord Fairfax Land Grant ($5 million
acres) and raised funds for local charities.
Consulting with a firm that will be construct-
ing a $650 million arts conservatory using
twenty-first century technology and innova-
tive teaching methodologies. In November I
will go to India to gather financial supporters
under EB-5 program. Planning a group trip to
India to gather financial supporters
under EB-5 program. Planning a group trip to
assess the ways American artists, art objects, art history,
and art institutions challenge and sometimes reify
various structures of oppression in the United States.
Audiences frequently ask how I came to such an
approach. My response is always the
same: “I’m not a traditional art
historian. I am a critical race
cultural historian trained in
public history.” —Kelli Morgan ’17PhD

Kelli Morgan ’17PhD, associate curator of
American art at the Indianapolis
Museum of Art at Newfields.
“Six Pack.” Adult children and grandchildren in Fairbanks and South Carolina. The nearby boys are 12 and 13, still in the fun stage.

In March 2018, Chelsea Miller ’16MA returned to UMass Amherst as a speaker on the keynote panel at the Graduate History Association’s annual conference to talk about publishing, local LGBTQ+ politics and activism, and working on public history projects as an independent scholar. After two years as an editorial assistant at the State University of New York Press, Chelsea began a new position as communications director at the New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NYSACASA). Follow Chelsea on Twitter @publchummist!

Selena Moon ’17MA reports: I’ve been working as a fact-checker for the Minnesota Women’s Press since October 2017. As of last April, I became a contributing writer with my article about Minnesota’s efforts to increase women- and minority-owned businesses, especially in construction. I have continued my research on multiracial Japanese-American women, especially in construction. I have continued my research on multiracial Japanese-American individuals and families, including attending the Critical Mixed-Race Studies Conference in March, where I made some amazing connections to other scholars in my field. I have also revived my research at the Minnesota Historical Society, found vast archives at the University of Minnesota, and hope soon to publish a short piece about my research for the Minnesota History magazine. My research into Japanese-American disability history has also expanded as I have found a collection of unexpected sources and contacts. Over the past few months, I’ve been looking into PhD programs in California and am considering applying to the Ethnic Studies and Disability Studies Program at UC Berkeley or something similar. My tenth reunion at Smith is next year, so I hope to see my colleagues and professors at UMass when I visit.

David Nellis ’71, ’17MA reports: My original goal, after publishing an article based on my master’s thesis recounting the life and times of Union General Ben Butler (props my master’s thesis recounting the life and times of Union General Ben Butler) was to publish a short piece about my research in the University of Minnesota, and hope soon to publish a short piece about my research for the Minnesota History magazine. My research into Japanese-American disability history has also expanded as I have found a collection of unexpected sources and contacts. Over the past few months, I’ve been looking into PhD programs in California and am considering applying to the Ethnic Studies and Disability Studies Program at UC Berkeley or something similar. My tenth reunion at Smith is next year, so I hope to see my colleagues and professors at UMass when I visit.

Bruce Watson ’89MA reports: After publishing four American history books for general readers, I’ve gone more general with an online magazine, The Art(s): It now includes 50-plus short, readable articles about American history, art, art and men and women—everyone from Lincoln to Langston Hughes, Jeannette Rankin to Judy Chicago.

Mark Wilkinson ’94 reports: My film documentary film American Tap premiered at the Lincoln Center Film Society/Dance on Camera Festival on July 20 in New York City. It traces tap-dancing from its origins through its evolution to the current form—a uniquely American story that illustrates the vibrant, powerful nature of our cultural melting pot. Along the way, it reveals and informs many of the very basic concepts and current themes of the American cultural consciousness. It is a story told through dances, with literally hundreds of historical clips as well as premium footage of some of today’s best tap dancers. The film also features interviews with Debbie Allen, Carmen and David W. Mitchell, and a gallery of leading scholars and dancers.

Frank P. Russell ’89 has recently published a history of his hometown of Malden, Massachusetts. An Early History of Malden was released in June 2018 by History Press. Covering Malden’s fascinating history from 1648 through 1900, it is the result of Russell’s 25-year hobby of studying, researching, and writing about local history. Russell credits Professor Milton Conforti with instilling his lifelong love of history.

Marcia G. Szymczyk ’74PhD reports: This year I chose to donate $10,000 from my IRA as part of my HMD to historical resources in the UMass Amherst’s Special Collections and University Archives. I made this donation in 2018 because 50 years ago, in August 1968, I entered the university as a PhD student in history. I appreciated being awarded a three-year University Fellowship in history, which gave me $2,500 a year for living expenses and free tuition. In 1972, I went on as an instructor to the University of South Carolina in Columbia on the recommendation of my dissertation director, Professor Howard H. Quint, who had taught there before returning to New England in the late 1950s. I defended my dissertation at UMass in April 1974. I then had a successful academic career in the history department at UBC—Columbia, remaining there until I retired in 2005 as a tenured full professor. I am grateful for the excellent graduate history courses I took and for the mentoring I received from the history department at UMass Amherst.

Mark Vezzola ’00 reports: I am slowly but surely working with three co-authors on People and Nations: A Brief History of the Native Peoples of the United States and Canada, a textbook on Native American history for Cognella Inc. Working on an academic text can at times be intimidating and challenging but overall the experience is very rewarding. We hope to have a completed draft by the end of this year. In June I was sworn in as chief judge of the court of the Chemehuevi Indian Tribe. I don’t yet have a robe but look forward to taking the bench. The rest of my summer was filled with short trips and visits from East Coast family.

Colleen Ward Thumm ’67 reports: I am teaching and skiing in Denver and get to New England many times a year. Get in touch, here or cthumm@msn.com.
Reflections on a UMass Evening

Some 36 years ago, an eager but aimless 18-year-old from a small Boston suburb enthusiastically joined the UMass student body with high hopes of embarking on a four-year intellectual adventure while simultaneously engaging in regular doses of fun. The 200-page course catalog teased with an impossibly intriguing range of classes, and I listed all 200. Some 36 years later, I am the director of the Public History Program, and I still enjoy the ’s senior thesis, and so many more. Absent any conscious direction towards a major, by junior year I simply was a history major; I had no other choice. Plainly evident, now that I’m well past the half-century point, those scholars/mentors, as well as a good number of tutoring sessions from Willie downstairs at the Drake, profoundly shaped the history educator that I have become. Indeed, in the same manner that Professor DePillis guided me through the process of constructing an original history on the demise of the Shakers using the Mount Holyoke College archives, I coach my Wayland High School history students to “make an argument about the past by telling a story accountable to evidence.” (Lepore) The joy of inquiry and thrill of discovery instilled back in 1981–86 is at the core of the Wayland High School History Project, a student-built digital archive of original history that traces national trends and developments in the Wayland area. No one will ever turn down an invitation to return to campus, when Mark Roblee asked a handful of history department alumni back to meet with undergrads now pondering their professional futures, I was happy to make the Pioneer Valley trek. That Tuesday evening was my fourth such event at the Campus Center Hotel, where we conversed with a few dozen exceptional millennials/Gen Z while consuming truly delightful fare (definitely no rainbow roast beef from the Franklin DC of old). Following informal hello’s and a buffet dinner, we power-rated of sorts, engaging in a series of quick but often deep conversations with Herter Hall’s current finest.

To say these men and women were impressive is an understatement; they were poised, articulate, thoughtful, and curious, far more advanced in their general ways than I was at that same life juncture. Interestingly, most were not on the teacher track but instead contemplate futures as archivists, librarians, museum curators, and lawyers. And another observation: how would one know after only brief conversations, but I had to wonder if the rat race of our current world, the hyper-competition, will have made them the UMass journeys considerably more stressful— but hopefully no less joyful—than my days in the early ’80s. Thirty-six years from now, how will these alums reminisce with future history majors? On the backside of life, surely they too will consider their current professors, about whom they now most glowingly speak with sincere inspiration, and recount life lessons imparted that only become clear with the passage of time.

—Kevin Delaney ’86

ALUMNI UPDATES

Norman S. Winnerman ’59, ’60MA reports: I arrived on campus in the fall of 1950 at age 17—seriously immature, as it turned out. After a couple of less-than-stellar years, I worked construction for a year, enlisted in the USAF for four years during the Korean War, and in 1957 returned to UMass on the GI Bill, met my wife, and married in 1958. I graduated with a daughter and a BA in history in 1959 and received an MA in history in 1960. I taught two years in Tilton, New Hampshire, and moved to Danbury, Connecticut, in 1962. We had a second daughter in 1963. Taught at Danbury High School until I retired in 1992. During my career, I was appointed department chair and then took over as director of athletics. I have been active in the community, was elected to the city council for four years, and served on numerous boards and commissions. My retirement years have been spent in extensive travel, working for a sports league, and volunteering with a couple of nonprofits. And it all began at UMass!

Joshua Youman ’03 reports: After graduating from UMass, I thought I’d put my education to good use working on documentaries in the greater Boston area. I produced a documentary nominated for a New England Emmy and also had the opportunity to work for some amazing local documentary filmmakers. In 2006 I got an entry-level film job at a location management company, working on documentaries in the greater Boston area. I produced a Netflix TV series filming in Massachusetts this fall.

Keeping in the Loop

Check out the history department’s YouTube channel to see and hear this year’s public talks: youtube.com/UMasshistory.

This marks the fifth year of our department’s blog Parson’s Present, which features posts by faculty, students, alumni, and visitors. Follow us at umasshistory.wordpress.com.

Are you following us on Facebook? “Like” us at facebook.com/umasshistory and facebook.com/umasspublichistory.

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Be sure to note “History Department” on the memo line. We appreciate your support!
How did women contribute to the rise of the Mongol Empire while Mongol men were off conquering Eurasia? This book positions women in their rightful place in the otherwise well-known story of Genghis Khan (also known as Chinggis Khan) and his descendants, and examines the women in his family, such as Börte—as well as others less famous but no less influential, including his daughters and his former wives—who played integral roles in Mongol military and political campaigns.

**Women and the Making of the Mongol Empire**
Anne Broadbridge
(Cambridge University Press, 2018)
The Department of History is grateful for contributions from alumni and friends. We sincerely thank them. Your generous donations support vital scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students, faculty and student travel to research collections, and the various events and initiatives that make studying history at UMass Amherst so robust and meaningful an educational experience. The following list includes those who made donations between July 2017 and June 2018, as well as donors who have established endowed scholarships and lecture funds (which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter). Gifts can be made online at umass.edu/history/giving.
Public history students take a break from the New England Museum Association meeting in Falmouth, Massachusetts, to visit the ocean: (from left) Emma Winter Zeig, Amelia Zurcher, Lindsey Woolcock, Peri Meldon, Nolan Cool ’18MA, Austin Clark ’18MA.

On the cover: Tanya Pearson at the “tweet-up” at Mount Holyoke College’s Skinner Museum. The event was organized by public history graduate students in collaboration with Mark B. Schlemmer, founder of #ITweetMuseums.