

DR. LADALE WINLING RECEIVES 2021 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Dr. LaDale Winling is an associate professor of history at Virginia Tech where he teaches courses in public history, digital history, and urban history to undergraduate and graduate students. Winling is an award-winning urban and digital historian whose work has been supported by grants and fellowships from the NEH, the Newberry Library, the National Building Museum, and others. His first book, *Building the Ivory Tower: Universities and Metropolitan Development in the Twentieth Century*, was published by University of Pennsylvania Press in 2017. He has published in the *Journal of American History*, and the *Journal of Urban History*, among others. He is currently working on a book project on the development of, and challenges against, racial discrimination in real estate

titled *The Road to Redlining*. His digital works include *Electing the House of Representatives, 1840-2016* (2018) and *Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America* (2016). Dr. Winling and a collaborator earned a 2021 ACLS Digital Extension Grant to expand resources and interpretation in *Mapping Inequality*.

His contributions to *American Panorama: An Atlas of United States History* earned him the 2019 American Historical Association Roy Rosenzweig Digital History Prize. Dr. Winling was also the 2019 Urban History Association's Kenneth Jackson Best Book Prize, North America co-winner, as well as co-winner of the Faculty Excellence Award, History Graduate Students Association, Virginia Tech in 2013.

"Please accept my heartfelt thanks for recognizing me with the Alumni Achievement Award. It was gratifying to meet new students in the same position I was nearly 20 years ago at WMU, and to reconnect with faculty I remember so well from those days. In my talk, I pointed out how my time at WMU laid the groundwork for my years since, but no feature was more important than the ambition I felt to do something meaningful with my training. That ambition remains and guides me every day."

Dr. Winling earned his bachelor's in history from Western Michigan University in 2002, and his master's in history, also from WMU, in 2004. He also has a master's in urban planning (2007), as well as a Ph.D. in Architecture (2010) from the University of Michigan. Feel free to view WMU's CAS alumni awards ceremony at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya9VTDHzapU>.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

CHAIR'S WELCOME, PG 1

AWARDS, PG 2

FACULTY PROJECTS, PG 5

RECENT GRADUATES, PG 7

ALUMNI NEWS, PG 8

OBITUARIES, PG 9

STUDENT ORGS, PG 11

HISTORY DAY 2020, PG 12

**UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT
CAMPAIGN, PG 13**

CHAIR'S WELCOME - DR. LINDA J. BORISH

Welcome, friends and supporters of the Department of History, to our annual newsletter! This has been a challenging period at Western Michigan University and in our own communities as we navigate our way through the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. We are pleased, however to be back on campus full-time and offering several in-person undergraduate and graduate courses. We have our history faculty meetings in-person too, so we can better facilitate



our collegial exchanges and departmental work. I appreciate the good wishes many of you have shared with me as I pursue my second year as Chair of the Department of History during these unusual circumstances.

As a department, we continue to aspire to excellence in our teaching, research, and service in the history profession. In this newsletter, you will read about some of our faculty, emeriti, and alumni who have received professional recognition for their scholarly work, as well as the accomplishments of our award-winning undergraduate and graduate students. Our colleagues in the History Department are proud of the success of our students and faculty. Our work continues to bring history to a wide range of undergraduate and graduate students. Our Accelerated Graduate Degree Program enrolls some of the top undergraduate students in history at WMU and our contributions to Western Essential Studies, the university's general education program, remain strong.

As chair, I am participating in some professional development workshops to foster professional growth in the department. One is a series of workshops held virtually with thirteen of the chairs in WMU's College of Arts and Sciences. These workshops are part of the Excellence in Academic Leadership program presented by the National Center for Principled Leadership & Research Ethics. I also participated virtually in the American Historical Association's Chairs Workshop in July 2021. We strive to position the history department in a good place to weather the challenging future ahead.

I invite you to visit our Department of History website <https://wmich.edu/history/> for updates on our history programs and the accomplishments of our faculty and students beyond what is covered in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you on campus as more and more in-person activities take place. If I can be of assistance in regards to the department, please feel free to contact me.

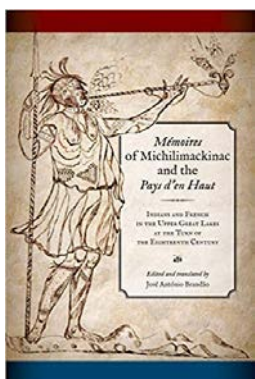
On behalf of the Department of History, I wish you and yours a happy and bright holiday season!

Linda J. Borish

Dr. Linda J. Borish

AWARDS

DR. JOSÉ BRANDÃO



Dr. José Brandão's most recent book, *Mémoires of Michilimackinac and the pays d'en haut: Indians and the French in the Upper Great Lakes at the Turn of the 18th Century*, was recognized by the Historical Society of Michigan. At its fall 2021 annual meeting the book was given a State History Award for Outstanding Michigan History Publication (University and Commercial Press division). The book offers scholarly translations of important documents that provide a window into Michilimackinac's centrality to the French imperial and trade network, and the place of Indians in French policy in this period. One reviewer noted that to "describe this book as anything less than a triumph would be a disservice to its value to scholars...and to the scholarship of the translator/editor."

Brandão is co-director of the French Michilimackinac Research Project. The FMRP, a project of Mackinac State Historic Parks, aims at identifying and translating French language materials related to the early history of Michigan, especially of the Straits of Mackinac. *Mémoires of Michilimackinac and the pays d'en haut* is the fourth volume of translations in the project's series.

DR. SALLY HADDEN

Dr. Sally Hadden, associate professor in the department and Director of Graduate Studies, received a College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Appreciation Award this year for her work with Feed the Fight Kalamazoo. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Hadden started the organization with two friends (Jodi Michaels and Adam Strong-Morse) to provide meals to first responders and healthcare providers, using donations raised from the Kalamazoo community. She came up with the idea for Feed the Fight Kalamazoo when she saw similar groups at work in Washington DC and Durham NC and wondered, "why not here?"



Feed the Fight Kalamazoo trained more than 90 volunteers to work in restaurant recruitment, publicity, meal ordering and delivery, and volunteer engagement. Several local foundations supported the group, including the Irving S. Gilmore Foundation, the Kalamazoo Community Foundation, the Mike and Sharon Seelye Family Foundation, and the Kiwanis Club of Kalamazoo. The funds raised went to purchase meals at locally owned restaurants that were losing 75% or more of their regular revenues when the pandemic hit hardest.

Feed the Fight Kalamazoo raised more than \$100,000 in donations and spent every dime with over 100 locally-owned restaurants to purchase nearly 10,000 morale-boosting meals for Bronson Hospital, the Family Health Center, county vaccination clinics, and other sites where healthcare workers were protecting the community. Hadden's community service with Feed the Fight also received recognition from the Department of Political Science (the Hurttgam Family Memorial Faculty Award) and the Kalamazoo Family Health Center (2020 Healthcare Heroes award).

GRADUATE AWARDS

• **Ruth Aardsma-Benton** – awarded the Z.D. Schilling Award. "This past September, I received a scholarship from the D.C. Shilling and Zoa D. Shilling award to help fund my continued studies in history at Western Michigan University. I am both honored and deeply thankful for this award, which has been immensely helpful

as I prepare to apply for candidacy this spring and plan a research trip to Germany for this next summer. I am so grateful for the ways that the department, its alumni, and others help support and fund students and their work."



• **Kylie Hamm** – awarded the M.A. Level Cordier Teaching Effectiveness Award. "In the years between earning my undergraduate degree in 2009 and returning to school full time in the fall 2019 to earn my master's degree, I taught high school US History. Returning to university as a student after this gap was both

difficult and rewarding. The hardest part was that I missed teaching and having my own students. Being a teaching assistant was a small way I could remain connected to my identity as an educator while in the program. Having the department recognize and affirm my passion for teaching through the Cordier Teaching Effectiveness Award meant so much to me. Now that I am back and teaching ACP US History at a high school again, I can say that earning my degree and working with the professors in the history department at WMU has made me a better teacher than I was before. Thank you for this honor!"



• **Dr. Skylar Bre'z** – awarded the Dissertation Completion Scholarship. "In the blur of finishing my dissertation, receiving the Dissertation Completion Scholarship provided much needed inspiration and financial assistance. Thank you to the History Department, and

especially Dr. Sally Hadden, for this gift. Ph.D. finished is a good feeling."



• **Randall Janes** – awarded the Dissertation Completion Scholarship. “I am grateful to the Graduate College for selecting me for the scholarship and to the college and the Department of History for their continued support.”



• **Hannah Keller** – awarded the Russell Writing Award. “I am honored to have been nominated for and to have received the Russell Writing Award. I am also grateful to professors and peers who read versions of my essay and provided feedback.”

• **Jason Rose** – awarded the Ph.D. Level Cordier Teaching

Effectiveness Award, Russell Writing Award, and winner of the Graduate Humanities Essay contest, held by the



WMU Center for the Humanities. “Opportunities abound at Western Michigan University if one is willing to apply for them or to get their name out there in the larger community. Regarding the work, I strongly feel that most students have already done the necessary work to get any of these awards. If you wrote a strong paper and

follow your professor’s corrections, why not try getting it published or submitting it for a contest? Therefore, I feel it is merely a matter of allowing all of your previous hard work to work for you. I feel both honored and blessed to have received the Cordier Teaching Effectiveness Award and the Russell Writing Award as well as winning the Graduate Humanities Essay contest (which also earned me a publication in the *Hilltop Review*). Great professors and departments do not just happen, so I must thank them as well. They are reflected in these accomplishments as much as my own efforts.”

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

- Hannah Garrod – Dr. Dale P. Pattison Award
- Noah Kitzman – Smith Burnham Prize in History
- Conor Nunan – Dr. Dale P. Pattison Award
- Melissa Paduk – Dr. Dale P. Pattison Award
- Megan Poolman – Bert Nash Scholarship
- James Ross – Margaret MacMillan Undergraduate Writing Award
- Kate Wagner – Cheryl Lyon-Jenness Undergraduate Writing Award
- Daniel Yates – Dr. Dale P. Pattison Award & Presidential Scholar

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

DANIEL YATES



Daniel is from Battle Creek, Michigan and a graduate of St. Phillip Catholic Central High School. He earned an associate’s degree in political science from Kellogg Community College. In April 2021, he graduated from WMU with a major in history and a minor in Chinese. He plans to attend law school and practice in the realm of corporate law with a special focus on Chinese law. Daniel has taken special interest in matters concerning the history of East Asia as well as the evolution of the Chinese American experience, exploring early Japanese Feminism as well as the evolution of Chinese American cuisine. He completed several internships, most notably at the state and local government levels. Daniel was awarded the Social Science Student of the Year Award for 2017 while a student at Kellogg Community College, the 2019 Excellence in Chinese Award, and the 2020 Margaret McMillan Undergraduate Writing Award. In 2019, he

participated in a faculty-led study abroad program in Beijing, China and has held a cumulative 4.0 GPA, in addition to assisting Dr. Xiaojun Wang in editing several of his works. Daniel has been President of the Chinese Language and

Culture Club, a member of the Pre-Law Society, served as Vice-President of the Native American Student Organization, a member of the Chinese Association of Greater Kalamazoo, and a member of the Chinese Association of West Michigan. He enjoys international travel, particularly to Asia and the Middle East.

- WMU Faculty Senate Presidential Scholars slideshow

PROJECTS BY DEPARTMENT FACULTY MEMBERS

DR. ROBERT BERKHOFFER



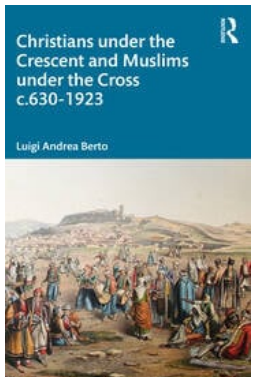
In June and July of 2021, the Department of History and the Medieval Institute hosted a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute for Higher Education Faculty on the topic of “Law and Culture in Medieval England, 600-1300.” Starting from seed money from a College of Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary Research Initiative Award, the Law and Culture institute was funded by an NEH grant of over \$169,000, for which Dr. Robert Berkhofer (History) and Dr. Jana Schulman (English and Director of the Medieval Institute) were the co-principal investigators.

The institute was held virtually and used various teaching techniques and technologies to explore four main thematic areas: “Legal locales and limits;” “Disputation, compensation, and penance;” “Words as weapons;” and “Gender, crime and violence.” Six visiting scholars joined Berkhofer and Schulman in delivering both pre-recorded and live sessions. The synchronous meetings featured discussions and break-out activities, such as staging an “ordeal,” swearing oaths, or developing modules for teaching law and culture in university courses at various levels. Asynchronous and small group activities focused on tasks such as drafting a law code from the perspective of medieval people, responding to hypothetical cases, and even exploring different types of insults, in order to understand how law was part of, not distinct from, medieval culture.

There were 25 participants from 17 different states and diverse backgrounds. They included faculty in many different career stages (from early career scholars to professors and even emeriti) as well as three advanced doctoral students in the humanities, social sciences, and law. Four WMU graduate students also served as research assistants in the preparation and delivery of the institute. In the end, participants explored hundreds of pages of primary sources (in original languages and translation), leading secondary works, and contributed their own specialist knowledge to developing further readings for teaching and research. For further information, please see the project website:

<https://wmich.edu/medieval-law-culture>

DR. LUIGI BERTO



Dr. Luigi Berto has written two new books in the last year, *Christians and Muslims in Early Medieval Italy: Perceptions, Encounters, and Clashes* and *Christians under the Crescent and Muslims under the Cross c.630-1923*. He has also edited two additional books during that time, *Franks and Lombards in Italian Carolingian Texts: Memories of the Vanquished* and *The Little History of the Lombards of Benevento by Erchampert: Critical Edition and Translation of 'Ystoriola Longobardorum Beneventum Degentium.'*

DR. ÁNGELA PÉREZ-VILLA



Dr. Ángela Pérez-Villa was one of twelve early career scholars selected as J. Willard Hurst Fellows by the American Society for Legal History and the University of Wisconsin Law School. As a fellow, she participated in the Summer Institute in Legal History held virtually in June 2021, where she workshopped drafts of her book chapters.

The J. Willard Hurst Summer Institute in Legal History is a biennial event sponsored by American Society for Legal History (ASLH) and traditionally held in June in Madison, Wisconsin, with support from the Institute for Legal Studies of the University of Wisconsin, where the late Professor James Willard Hurst was a founding member of the modern field of legal history.

Each Hurst Institute is organized and chaired by a well-known legal historian and includes visiting senior scholars who lead specialized sessions. An ASLH committee reviews applications and selects 12 early career scholars from around the world as Institute Fellows. The Fellows participate in seminars, meet other legal historians, and present their own work. The program is structured but informal, and features discussions of core readings in legal history and analysis of the work of the participants in the Institute.

-UWL Website

DR. ANISE STRONG



Dr. Anise Strong's recent tweet will be used as a screenshot in an upcoming edition of *Perspectives on History*. This is the newsmagazine of the American Historical Association and is the principal source for news and information about the discipline of history. Since 1962, *Perspectives* has cultivated the community of historians and promoted their work by publishing articles and commentary on all aspects of the historical discipline. The print magazine and its online presence showcase work by historians working in various professional settings.

-American Historical Association website

DR. VICTOR XIONG



Dr. Victor Xiong was selected to serve as a nominator for the Tang Prize in the Sinology category. Inspired by the Nobel Prize, the mission of the Tang Prize is to recognize individuals whose work has been beneficial to the world and humankind in four areas: Sustainable Development, Biopharmaceutical Science, Sinology, and Rule of Law. The prize in the Sinology category itself constitutes one of the most prestigious prizes in the humanities and social sciences in the world. Every two years, one or two world-renowned scholars are selected to receive a cash prize of \$1.63 million and a research grant of \$330,000. Previous winners of the prize are Ying-shih Yu of Princeton, Wm. Theodore de Bary of Columbia, Stephen Owen of Harvard, Yoshinobu Shiba of Osaka, and Gungwu Wang of the National University of Singapore (Victor's dissertation adviser in Australia). He was also appointed as an adjunct professor at the Institute of Tangut Studies, Ningxia University, in May 2019. Ningxia, as the flagship university of Ningxia Hui (Muslim) Autonomous Region, is one of the prestigious 211 Project universities and one of the leading institutions of higher education known as the "Double First Class Discipline" universities as designated by the Chinese Ministry of Education.

RECENT GRADUATES

DR. SKYLAR BRE'Z – Dr. Bre'z is a part time instructor in the Department of History at WMU

Dissertation Title: "The Coalitions of National Women's History Month: Practicalities and Consequences"

Advisor: Ed Martini

KYLIE HAMM – Hamm teaches at Penn High School in Mishawaka, Indiana.

HANNAH KELLER – Keller is in the Ph.D. program in History at Ohio State University.

HISTORY MAJORS PRESENT AT NATIONAL VIRTUAL SYMPOSIUM

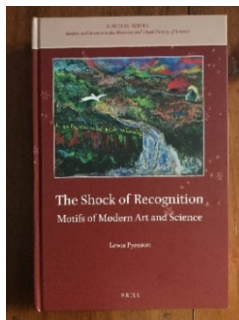


On Friday, April 9, 2021, three WMU history majors — Joanne Jeya, Hannah Garrod, and Ian Daly— successfully presented their research in the Latin American and Latinx Studies Undergraduate Symposium organized by Rollins College (Central Florida) and attended by undergraduate students from institutions such as Tulane University, UCLA, Furman University, Rhodes College, and others. The symposium, which has met in-person for several years, was organized virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Ángela Pérez-Villa encouraged the students to submit research abstracts to participate at this national event after their outstanding performance in her HIST 4845 course on Slavery and Freedom in Latin America in the spring 2021 semester. The students were selected by an interdisciplinary committee and were placed on a panel titled "Conquest and Slavery." After their selection, Dr. Pérez-Villa worked individually with each student, helping them create concise and visually attractive Power Point presentations. They also attended a practice session together a week before the event and learned how to use Gatherly, the highly interactive virtual platform selected by Rollins to hold the symposium.

Ms. Jeya presented on her research about female slaveholders in Brazil, Mexico, and the Caribbean, providing a comparative perspective. Ms. Garrod presented on the visual representations of racial difference in colonial Latin America through a careful visual analysis of primary source material from the Slavery Images online database. Mr. Daly, on his part, connected past and present in his presentation by discussing the memory of slavery in contemporary Brazil through a focus on art museums. The students' papers were well received by the panel's commentator, Dr. Josh Savala from Rollins College, and by the rest of the student panelists and audience members. The students graciously responded to questions about their work after their presentations.

HISTORY EMERITUS PUBLISHES BOOK



In *The Shock of Recognition*, Dr. Lewis Pyenson uses a method called Historical Complementarity to identify the motif of non-figurative abstraction in modern art and science. He identifies the motif in Picasso's and Einstein's educational environments and shows how this motif in domestic furnishing and in urban lighting set the stage for Picasso's and Einstein's professional success before 1914. He applies his method to intellectual life in Argentina, using it to address that nation's focus on an inventory of the natural world until the 1940s, its adoption of non-figurative art and nuclear physics in the middle of the twentieth century, and attention to landscape painting and the wonder of nature at the end of the century.

HISTORY ALUMNI

GOVERNOR WHITMER APPOINTS ALAN M. CURTIS TO ALPENA COUNTY PROBATE COURT



Curtis currently serves as an attorney with White, Wojda and Curtis. In his practice, he specializes in criminal defense and insurance defense matters. Curtis previously worked as the deputy district attorney in Arapahoe County, Colorado and as a private practice attorney with Susan Fuller & Associates specializing in criminal defense and family law. Curtis holds a B.A. in History and Anthropology from Western Michigan University and earned his J.D. from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law. He is the vice president of Thunder Bay River Restoration. Alan lives in Alpena with his wife, Christine, and their son and two dogs.

"I want to thank Governor Whitmer for the honor and opportunity to serve the people of Alpena County as their Probate Judge," said Curtis. "Along with the honor, comes a great responsibility. A judge must be fair to all parties in all situations. In order to do so, you have to always listen and keep an open mind. Serving the people means treating each person with dignity and respect, while still representing and protecting the community at large."

This appointment was made to fill a partial term after Judge Thomas J. LaCross stepped down effective October 31, 2021. If Curtis wishes to serve the remainder of Judge LaCross' term, expiring January 1, 2025, he would be required to run for reelection in November of 2022.

-October 15, 2021 Michigan Executive Office of the Governor press release

DR. TONY FRAZIER SELECTED AS 2021-22 NATIONAL HUMANITIES FELLOW

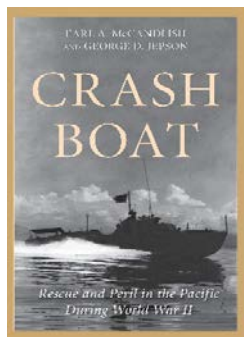


Dr. Tony Frazier was selected as a 2021-22 National Humanities Fellow. His project is titled, *Slaves without Wages: Runaway Black Slaves and Servants in Eighteenth-Century London*. The National Humanities Center is the world's only independent institute dedicated exclusively to advanced study in all areas of the humanities. Through its residential fellowship program, the Center provides scholars with the resources necessary to generate new knowledge and to further understanding of all forms of cultural expression, social interaction, and human thought. Through its education programs, the Center strengthens teaching on the collegiate and pre-collegiate levels. Through public engagement intimately linked to its scholarly and educational programs, the Center promotes understanding of the humanities and advocates

for their foundational role in a democratic society.

-National Humanities Center website

GEORGE D. JEPSON PUBLISHES WORLD WAR II MEMOIR



George D. Jepson, History Department Alumna (B.A. 1966, M.A. 1970), recently co-authored *Crash Boat: Rescue and Peril in the Pacific during World War*, published by Lyons Press on April 15 in the United States and June 15 in the United Kingdom. The captivating narrative recounts an American air-sea rescue boat's dramatic story during World War II in the South Pacific as told to Jepson by the commanding officer, the late Earl A. McCandlish. The P-399's crew – operating from Guadalcanal to the Philippines – plucked over thirty pilots and aircrews from the Pacific. The 63-foot crash boat carried out clandestine missions off Japanese-held islands, fought a fierce gun battle with enemy forces, was ordered on

boondoggle missions, experienced life from another age in isolated native villages, and played a supporting role in

America's return to the Philippines. Reading an early manuscript, English novelist Douglas Reeman said, "This would make a bloody good novel!"

OBITUARIES

WMU HISTORY MAJOR – BAILEY BRODERICK



Bailey Genevieve Broderick was born February 14, 2002 in Commerce Township, Michigan to Craig and Colleen (nee: Boyle) Broderick. She died November 3, 2021 at the age of 19. Bailey is survived by her parents Craig and Colleen. She is the dear granddaughter of Barbara (the late Bernard) Boyle and the late Alice (the late Dale) Shaver. She is survived by her great grandfather George Rotter, Aunt Terry (Kurt) Gottschall, Uncle Michael Boyle and numerous cousins, extended family members and friends. Bailey always had an effortlessly bright personality and could make anyone laugh and smile on their worst day. Her smile would light up a whole room and her laugh was extremely contagious. Bailey cared an incredible amount about the people in her life and had a huge heart to love with. She was sassy, confident, graceful, and absolutely beautiful. She was determined and worked hard for the things she wanted most in life. She radiated any room with her kind-heart and her beaming smile. Bailey would have excelled in anything she chose to do beyond her college career at Western Michigan University. She was a spitfire and the perfect combination of her Mom and Dad.

-Broderick's Lynch & Sons obituary

Remembering Our Student Bailey Broderick, By Dr. Ángela Pérez-Villa

Bailey Broderick's untimely passing on Nov. 3, 2021, has been devastating for our department and the college community at WMU. Bailey was my student in HIST 2030 - World History Since 1500 in Summer I, 2021. Even though I taught this course asynchronously, I got to know Bailey as a student. She introduced herself to her classmates in the virtual discussion forum I set up the first week of classes. She shared that she loved painting and that she had enrolled in my class to learn more about world history. She was a wonderful and receptive student who used my feedback early in the semester to improve her performance in class. Her dedication to do better in every assignment made her stand out among her peers. She was on top of her studies and grades and would occasionally email me with questions about course content. Bailey was among the few students in the class who completed an end-of-semester reflection activity for bonus points. Her reflection described the topics that she enjoyed learning about the most: the global implications of Eastern European migrants' work in Chicago's meat industry, the monopoly of banana plantations in Central and South America, and the revolutionary leaders who became dictators in 20th-century Cuba. In highlighting these areas, Bailey shared that she had gained a new global outlook. Bailey left us way too soon, but her dedication and her words will stay with me and other colleagues who met her as reminders to continue helping our students learn about the past as they explore their interests and believe in their potential.

EMERITUS - GEORGE DEMETRAKOPOULOS



With profound sadness, we announce George H. "Yorgo" Demetrakopoulos, age 79, passed away peacefully Saturday, March 27, 2021. Yorgo is survived by his wife Kelly, children, Harvey (Sharon), Ana, Natasha, Thea, Dimitri (Iris), and Yorgos (Susan) and his grandchildren, Anton and Olivia. He is also survived by sisters, Maria and Ekaterini, brother, Themis and numerous nieces and nephews. Born in Kokkino Phocis (Loutsovo), Greece on January 15, 1942. At age 10, as his father had been killed in a war, he was sent to America to work and support his family. Yorgo earned a bachelor's degree from Michigan State University and a master's degree from the University of Illinois, culminating in a published book. In 1964, Yorgo attained a teaching position in the social science department with Illinois State University. In 1965, he moved to Kalamazoo, Michigan and joined the history department faculty at Western Michigan

University. In 1970, he became Assistant Director of the Medieval Institute. Under the guidance of Yorgo, a small, bi-annual event became the largest annual medieval conference in the world. In 1978, he became Assistant to the Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, overseeing academic advising and developing programs and policies. In addition, Yorgo initiated several programs for minority students and the development of the Kimon Bournazos Award. Yorgo received Western Michigan University's Distinguished Service Award in 1999. A colleague wrote in nominating him, "During his years at the university, he has affected the lives of thousands of students. The students were always given the benefit of the doubt." Yorgo retired from WMU in 2000. Yorgo was an avid traveler and collector of art, books, antiquities, and folklore of cultures from around the world. In 2019, Yorgo curated a collection of Buddhist art "Faces of Buddhism" shown at the Art Center of Battle Creek. Each and every piece was researched and selected with thoughtful intention. Those who visited the exhibit were all surprised and delighted that Yorgo was 100% hands-on throughout the showing. Anyone that visited his home was given a tour and an amazing history lesson on any one of many museum-worthy treasures. He was passionate about the outdoors and enjoyed hiking through his woods, hunting deer and turkey or tending to his herd of goats or European deer. After retiring, he first purchased a home in Tolofoa, Greece. Finding the village too noisy (specifically the roosters and donkeys), he built a mountainside home up from the village. He enjoyed the beautiful vistas in quiet peace. Over his 79 years, Yorgo touched many lives, whether serving as a mentor for students or that familiar face at the South Haven docks, known as the "old man on the boat". His family and friends will miss the scent of pipe smoke that always surrounded him, the click of his amber worry beads in his hand and the stories he loved to share.

-Demetrakopoulos' MLive obituary

EMERITUS - DR. ONAIWU OGBOMO



As family and friends can attest, Professor Onaiwu Wilson Ogbomo was the heartbeat of wherever he went. He treated others as they would want to be treated in all things as his first thoughts were always of others rather than of himself. Onaiwu treasured his family above all else, and even his extended family members were near and dear to his heart. He loved nothing more than to bring joy and happiness to everyone around him, and he was always positive no matter the circumstances. Dearly loved, Onaiwu will be deeply missed by all who were blessed to know and love him.

It was on November 8, 1958, that Onaiwu Wilson Ogbomo was born in Oza-nogogo, Nigeria. He was one of eight, as he was joined in his family by his siblings, Meeton, Florence, Albert, Magnus, Anthonia, Catherine, and Lucky. Onaiwu learned the value of hard work at a young age, as his parents were hardworking farmers. As a student, Onaiwu had an insatiable thirst for learning and knowledge. His education began when he left his village of birth, Oza-nogogo. Onaiwu started elementary school in 1964 at Holy Cross on Mission Road in Benin City, Nigeria. He went on to attend Niblick Grammar School, now known as Oghada Grammar School, where he spent only one year in 1972 before transferring to high school at Gbendoba Grammar, formerly St. Columbus. At the time, this had been a boarding school.

After graduating from high school, Onaiwu briefly attended the Institute of Continued Education. In 1977, he was admitted to the University of Maiduguri to read history, although he hoped to be able to later go into law. Onaiwu graduated in 1981, and following national service in the ministry of health in Lagos, he began his first job as a lecturer in College of Education in Igueben. He later moved to Ekpoma in order to work at Bendel State University, now Edo State University, when it first opened. During this time, Onaiwu completed his master's degree from the University of Ibadan. He then went on to teach history at Edo State University until 1989, when he received a scholarship to a Ph.D. program at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Though it was a long way from home, Onaiwu felt it was too great an opportunity to pass up. Thanks to the guidance and help of Prof. J.B. Webster, he graduated in 1993 with a Ph.D. in history. Later that same year, Onaiwu moved to University of Rochester in New York for postgraduate fellowship under Prof. Enikori. He continued teaching in various universities across the United States including North Carolina Central, Allegheny College, and Eastern Illinois University, where he directed the Africana Studies Program. In 2006, Onaiwu joined Western Michigan University as the Director of Africana Studies. He later stepped down from that position in order to focus on teaching until his retirement in August of 2020.

New and exciting changes were on the horizon for Onaiwu as he tirelessly worked his way through his education. While attending Bendel State University in Ekpoma, Nigeria, he met Queen Onoriobe, who proved to be the love of his life. With a desire to spend the rest of their lives together, Onaiwu and Queen were married in Nigeria in 1989. The two were thrilled as their family grew to include their three beloved children, Efosa, Omoruyi, and Itohan. Throughout their marriage, Onaiwu and Queen continued going on romantic dates, though they often brought the children along, as Onaiwu didn't like to leave them home alone.

All who knew Professor Onaiwu Wilson Ogbomo could agree that he truly understood the secret to a life well lived. He treasured his family and worked hard to provide for his loved ones. Onaiwu was the quiet voice of reason, and his zest for life could easily light up burdened hearts. A stranger to none and a friend to all, he was always willing to serve others before himself. Though he will be forever missed, Onaiwu leaves behind a priceless legacy that his loved ones will proudly carry on in his footsteps.

-Ogbomo's Betzler Life Story obituary

PHI ALPHA THETA – WMU CHAPTER

President – Melissa Paduk, Treasurer – Nick Yelinek, Secretary – Leigh Murphy

2021 Initiates – Kayla Blauet, Derek Block, Hannah Garrod, Brianna Jhamb, Leigh Murphy, Melissa Paduk, Abigail Ward, Dean Wetzel, Nick Yelinek

"Throughout this year, Phi Alpha Theta has been working on restructuring in order to become a better resource to the students in the history department. Our weekly meetings are structured around four themes, Community Engagement, Academics, Resume/Career Building, and Events, to help our members become more well-rounded students and historians. Our goal for this academic year is to continue to help students network within the university, provide more opportunities, and expand our presence here at WMU."



Dr. Ángela Pérez-Villa,
Faculty Advisor

-Melissa Paduk, PAT President

HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ORGANIZATION



"HGSO would like to thank the Department of History for its continued support of our organization, particularly its warm welcome to our committee representatives. This semester, we have been looking to rebuild the social component of the organization after last year's virtual meetings. In October, members visited the VerHage Cider Mill for some warm apple cider and donuts. We are currently making preparations to bring back a Spring Speaker next semester, as well as reviving our fundraising efforts with a trivia night. We are looking forward to a great spring semester!"

-Nora Hafez, HSGO President

PHI BETA KAPPA – WMU CHAPTER



2021 Initiates – Hannah Garrod, Claire Herhold, Joanne Jeya, Conor Nunan, James Ross

Phi Beta Kappa is the nation's most prestigious honor society, known for recognizing academic excellence on 290 select campuses across the nation. More than 500,000 members come from diverse backgrounds and experiences. On campuses and in communities, the work of the Society now attests to the lifelong value of an education that fosters scientific inquiry, liberty of conscience, critical thinking, and creative endeavor for all.

-Phi Beta Kappa website

SOCIAL MEDIA

For more regular updates from the Department of History, we invite you to follow us on social media. On all of these platforms, you can connect with fellow students, faculty, and alumni, hear about the latest events and speakers at the department, and follow a curated collection of major historical news and discoveries!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WMUHistory>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wmuhistory1>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wmuhistory/>



Dr. Eli Rubin,
Social Media Coordinator

MICHIGAN HISTORY DAY 2021, DISTRICT 6 COMPETITION



Dr. Wilson Warren,
Co-Director, District 6

For the seventh year, Western Michigan University's Department of History hosted the southwest Michigan District 6 competition of the National History Day contest on March 6, 2021. Because of the on-going effects from the COVID-19 pandemic, the contest was held virtually. Our district contest had fewer contestants than in previous years, but we remained the largest participating district in the state with 120 students from grades 4-12.

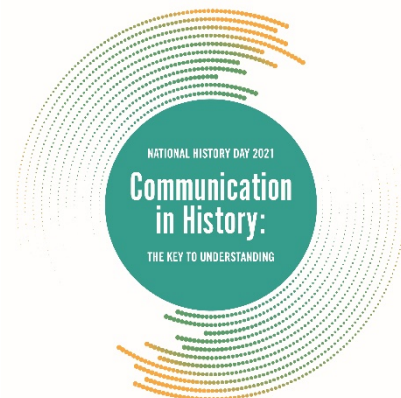
Students enter the contest as individuals or as part of a group of up to five members. Individuals or groups develop projects in one of five contest categories: exhibits (poster displays), websites, dramatic performances, documentaries, or papers. Students' projects also need to address the annual theme, which in 2021 was "Communication in History." The top 3 winners in each category and age group at the district level then qualify for the state contest, which was also held virtually this past April.

As in previous years, our district qualifiers did quite well at the state contest. A total of 25 individuals or groups from District 6 finished in the top three at state. For students in grades 6-8 (junior division) and 9-12 (senior divisions), the top two place-winners in each category from the state contest qualified for the national contest, which was also held virtually in June. 32 students from District 6 competed in the national contest this year.

At nationals, our District 6 qualifiers had their best finish ever. A total of five entries finished in the top 10 at the National History Day contest this summer. They were led by one of the very few first-place winners from Michigan in recent years. Georgia Edmonds, an 8th grade student from the Gagie School in Kalamazoo, took first place in the Junior Individual Exhibit category. Georgia's winning entry title was "The 'Book Women': Communicating Literacy and the Love for Books to Those Isolated by Poverty and the Appalachian Mountains."

Myles Daugherty and Nic Sheppard from South Haven High School finished in 6th place in the Senior Group Exhibit category. Their entry title was "Lincoln on the Front Line." Myles and Nic also finished in the top 10 at the national contest in 2020.

Four students from Lake Michigan Catholic Middle School in St. Joseph—Lila Baliunas, Hannah Hysell, Josephine Marsh, and Mary Riley—took 8th place in the Junior Group Performance category. Their entry was titled "Arts as Propaganda: Communism Meeting Democracy Through the 20th Century." The group also received the Junior Division Outstanding Affiliate Award, designating them as best in state.



Four students from the Gagie School in Kalamazoo—Jordynn Dolbee, Paul Rzepka, Olivia Storteboom, and Reese Storteboom—finished in 8th place in the Junior Group Documentary category. Their entry was titled “Communication and Its Effects on the Cuban Missile Crisis.”

Five students from Providence Christian School in Kalamazoo—Emma Bakker, Connor DeVries, Hailey DeVries, Ethan Schipper, and Cali VanDyke—placed 9th in the Junior Group Website category. Their entry was titled “Jacob Riis: A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words.”

The 2022 District 6 History Day contest will take place at WMU on Saturday, March 12. This year’s theme is “Debate and Diplomacy in History.”

HISTORY ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETS

On October 13, 2021 in the afternoon, the History Alumni Advisory Council met in person for the first time since fall 2019. It was good to welcome history alumni to the department once again! At our meeting, we discussed some updates such as Western Essential Studies courses in history, the transition to a new budget model – Strategic Resource Management – and noted the construction work on Dunbar to be ready for use in fall 2023. Joining our History Alumni Advisory Council meeting was Jessica Hermann-Wilmarth, Chief Development Officer in the College of Arts and Sciences. She shared with our group the plans for a new WMU transformative campaign and how we can contribute and see the benefits of such donations at work in the Department of History. You can see Jessica Hermann-Wilmarth’s article below in the newsletter.

If you have questions about the History Alumni Advisory Council or are interested in possibly joining the council, please email Dr. Linda J. Borish, Chair, Department of History, linda.borish@wmich.edu

A CAMPAIGN TO TRANSFORM WMU

In January 2020, University Advancement began the foundational work for a transformational \$1.25 billion comprehensive campaign that will advance Western Michigan University priorities for decades to come. Since then, our world has changed, but the commitment to excellence remains strong and WMU is taking significant action to ensure our purpose— *So that all may learn*— is realized.

The campaign is organized around three key themes:

- Learning and Fulfillment | So that all may learn to pursue a lifelong thirst for discovery and meaningful careers.
- Health and Wellness | So that all may learn to thrive physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially.
- Place and Belonging | So that all may learn to prosper as they find their place in the world.

A campaign of this size is unprecedented for Western. It is the first fundraising and alumni campaign in more than twenty years. The campaign was energized by a gift of \$550 million from anonymous WMU alumni, and to date nearly \$600 million has been raised. Funds raised by the campaign will transform Western by ensuring that the university provides a vibrant education where students, regardless of their financial need, are empowered to succeed, faculty have the resources to conduct important research, and that the campus environment fosters learning, health, and belonging.

While the transformational campaign will affect the entire university, the history department will also be involved in identifying priorities that will be transformative for the department and will then work with alumni and community supporters to contribute to those efforts. Jessica Hermann-Wilmarth has joined the College of Arts and Sciences as the Chief Development Officer to lead the fundraising efforts for the department and



Jessica Hermann-Wilmarth
Chief Development Officer



Julia Primavera Kuntz
Campaign Manager

the college. Since starting in 2020, Jessica has already learned that history alumni are an engaged and eclectic group. “I look forward to talking about the campaign and working together with alumni to make history’s priorities, and maybe some big dreams, reality for the department.”

History alumni can get involved in the campaign in a variety of ways in addition to their financial support. Campaign Manager, Julia Primavera Kuntz, says that alumni are serving by inspiring others and being involved in the campaign as volunteers. There are opportunities to serve on committees, share campaign and WMU successes with your networks, participate in small events, as well as opening doors for our team. The campaign is an opportunity for WMU alumni and community supporters to participate in increased levels and it is exciting to think about the impact that will have on Western, according to Julia.

Get involved! Reach out to Jessica Hermann-Wilmarth, Chief Development Officer if you would like to get more involved or start a conversation. 269-387-8873 or Jessica.a.hermann-wilmarth@wmich.edu.

IN APPRECIATION: DONORS FROM DEC. 2020 to Oct. 2021 (LIFETIME GIVING AMOUNTS)

Burnham Macmillan Society (\$100,000 or more)

Mr. Terry Sanders

Founder’s Circle (\$50,000-99,999)

No donations in this category.

Friend of Clio (\$25,000-49,999)

Mr. Alan and Mrs. Denise Holck
Mrs. Joann and Dr. Paul Maier

Patron (\$5,000-24,999)

The Honorable Charles and Ms.
Pamella Binder

Dr. Barbara and Mr. Robert Havira
Ms. Michele Rohr

Benefactor (\$1,000-4,999)

Miss Cary Anderson
Dr. Sharon Carlson and Mr. Thomas
Dietz
Mrs. Virginia and Mr. Phillip Caruso
Mr. Eric and Cheri Dobberteen
Mr. Wayne and Mrs. Nancy Geik
Mr. Robert Hageman
Mrs. Ann and Dr. Bruce Haight
Mr. Eric Herendeen and Ms. Damita
Crouse

Mr. James Hewitt
Mr. Richard and Mrs. Michelle
Hruska
Mr. Jose and Mrs. Susan Infante
Mrs. Linda and Mr. Steven Jacobs
Mr. John Jankowski
Mr. Stuart Jones
Mr. James and Mrs. Mary Karagon
Dr. Eric Kirby
Mr. Jack and Dr. Patricia Klarr

Mrs. Dawn and Mr. Jay Mack
Mr. Craig and Mrs. Carol Mallett
Mrs. Gloria and Mr. William
Messner
Mr. Clyde and Ms. Carol Robinson
Mr. Charles Smoot
Mr. Douglas VanderFord
Mr. Gerald and Mrs. Ruth Writer
Mr. William Zimmerman

Contributor (up to \$999)

Mr. Paul and Mrs. Mary Asbury
Mr. Gilbert and Mrs. Janise Barker
Mr. Kevin Barry
Joan Bauer
Ms. Abbey Bierlein
Dr. Jennifer and Mr. Travis Black
Ms. Anne Borish

Dr. Linda Borish
Mr. Philip Brady
Mr. Richard and Ms. Paula Duffey
Miss Madelyn Ellis
Ms. Elaine Fluck
Mr. Raymond Foley
Dr. Robert Galler

Dr. Karen Gernant
Mr. Michael Gilchrist
Mr. Robert Hegedus
Mrs. Nancy Johnson
Mr. Roy and Mrs. Mary Johnson
Dr. Romauld Jones
Dr. Kathryn Karrer

Dr. Darrell Latva	Mr. Robert Morris	Mr. Craig and Mrs. Kathy Sewell
Mrs. Kay and Mr. William Lauritsen	Mrs. Marjorie and Mr. David Powell	Miss Marianne Sfredo
Col. Carl Lord	Mrs. Janet and Mr. Valdis Ragainis	Miss Teresa Sharon
Mrs. Sharon Martini	Mr. James and Mrs. Roseann Ready	Mrs. Mary and Mr. Robert Strong
Mr. Gary Mattison	Mrs. Dumitra Rosu-Dona and Dr.	Mr. Raymond Wheeler
Mrs. JoAnn and Mr. John McIntosh	Lucian Rosu	
Mr. Jack and Ms. Karen Milito	Ms. Mary Schaeffer	

DONATIONS

Your support is vitally important. Donations help us take advantage of ongoing and new opportunities to not only enhance the teaching and research of the department, but to assist students in achieving their educational and professional goals. To learn about funds that benefit the history department and our students, please visit www.wmich.edu/history/giving. Thank you for supporting the Department of History!

Please direct donation questions to Dr. Linda J. Borish, Chair: linda.borish@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4649.



History Department Donation Form

I support the Department of History with the following gift:

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other

☐ I have made a bequest to WMU History and would like to discuss it with the department.

Donations can be made via:

☐ Check (made payable to "The WMU Foundation: History")

☐ Electronic Funds Transfer

☐ Please contact me about my Estate Giving plan

**Credit cards can be processed at <https://secure.wmualumni.org/s/give?funds=D314>

Printed Name: _____ **Phone Number:** _____

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Please mail this completed form (along with a check, if applicable) to:

Western Michigan University
Department of History
1903 W Michigan Ave.
Kalamazoo, MI 49009-5334

Western Michigan University
Department of History
1903 W Michigan Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5334
(269) 387-4650
wmich.edu/history

Nonprofit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Kalamazoo, MI
Permit #478

Newsletter Team

Chief Editor: Amanda Lapekas

Editor: Dr. Linda J. Borish

Contact: amanda.m.lapekas@wmich.edu, linda.borish@wmich.edu

Mailing List: WMU Alumni Relations

Printing and Mailing Preparation: J.B. Printing – 7,700 printed copies

Thank you to all those who submitted entries for this edition of the history department's newsletter.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of History