



Department of History

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Footnotes

Vol 14 No. 1 FALL 2019

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

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Newsletter Team

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Mr. Richard Cahow receives Alumni Achievement Award

The department was pleased and honored to recognize Mr. Richard Cahow as the recipient of the 2019 Alumni Achievement Award. The College of Arts and Sciences also awarded Rick with the Learner-Centered Pillar Award.

Richard M. Cahow earned his Bachelor's degree in History in 1970 and his Master's degree in History in 1977. Rick taught for a total of forty years for Kalamazoo Public Schools from 1970 to 2010—seven years at Northeast Junior High School and 33 years at Kalamazoo Central High School. He served as social studies department chairperson at Kalamazoo Central High School from 1999 to 2010. Among his many achievements, Rick was one of the early leaders of the Advanced Placement program in Kalamazoo Public Schools. At Kalamazoo Central, he grew the A.P. U.S. History program from one class of 20 students to a full teaching schedule serving over 80 students each year. As part of the A.P. U.S. History coursework, Rick introduced students to the primary sources available in WMU's archives and regional history collections. Students would often comment that his class "was the first one that made me think."

Rick was a 13-time recipient of the Significant Educator Award from the Kalamazoo County Excellence in Education Program. The Historical Society of Michigan named him an Outstanding Educator in 2011. Rick has been involved in many volunteer experiences related to his historical interests. He has served as a docent for the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum and Air Zoo since 1980, and was named the Air Zoo's Adult Volunteer of the Year in 2012. He also re-established the education department at the Gilmore Car Museum in 2010. Since 2011, Rick has been a member of the volunteer advisory committee at the Gilmore Car Museum. In addition, Rick has served as a board member of the Educational Community Credit Union/Arbor Financial Credit Union since 2001. He was the recipient of the James E. Fetteroff Distinguished Service Award from Arbor Financial Credit Union in 2018.



From left to right, Wilson Warren, Linda Borish, and Mr. & Mrs. Rick Cahow

Letter from Department Chair

Dear Friends,

Season's greetings and welcome to our annual newsletter. Last year, I highlighted our department faculty's involvement in two important undergraduate and graduate program initiatives, Western Essential Studies (WES) and the accelerated graduate degree program (AGDP). I'm happy to say that we've made considerable progress in both areas.

In Fall 2020, Western Essential Studies (WES) will replace the program of general education that has been in place for undergraduates at WMU since the early 1980s. Over the past year, the university approved 24 History Department courses for WES beginning next fall. WES includes 12 areas of study. We will offer courses in eight of the 12 areas. Over the span of each academic year, students will be able to take courses in a variety of historical topics and receive credit for WES requirements in Inquiry and Engagement: Critical Thinking in the Arts and Humanities; Science and Technology; World Language and Culture; Artistic Theory and Practice; Societies and Cultures; Local and National Perspectives; and Global Perspectives. The department will continue to add courses to WES in the coming years.

The AGDP in History and Public History allows qualified undergraduate students who apply for the program and gain admission to take graduate-level courses in their senior year and count them toward both their Bachelor's and Master's degrees. We had our first student enter the History AGDP this fall, and we have had a few more apply or express interest. Our graduate certificate program, approved in 2018, will graduate its first student this fall. The department is also working on a 4 + 1 agreement with Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. The intention of this program is similar to the AGDP. Qualified undergraduates from Aquinas College would receive graduate credit for either 3 or 4 research-intensive undergraduate courses from Aquinas, which they could use to count toward a MA in History at WMU. Please read more about graduate program developments in this newsletter.

I'm very happy to introduce a new member of the department: Dr. Ángela Pérez-Villa. Her appointment is in both Gender and Women Studies and the History Department. Ángela will teach Latin American history for us. Dr. Linda Borish, a longtime member of the department, is serving as associate chair this year. She is working with me on several issues, including this newsletter. Also, Dr. Howard Dooley will retire in 2020. He's written a piece for the newsletter on the History Department's involvement in international studies at WMU. Please see the back cover for early photos, too.

On behalf of the History Department, I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and new year of 2020.

William J. Hanna



Dr. Ángela Pérez-Villa

My name is Ángela Pérez-Villa and I am thrilled to be a new faculty member at WMU in the departments of History and Gender and Women's Studies. I earned a PhD and MA in History from The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and a BA from The City College of New York. After successfully navigating the academic system as a first-generation student, I feel deeply committed to teach and mentor students with similar backgrounds and interests. This is one of the reasons why working at WMU feels like a dream come true.

As for my academic research, I am currently working on a book manuscript that examines the subtle (and not-so-subtle) ways that gender and the law shaped social relations of power in Colombia at a critical historical transition from Spanish colony to independent state in the early 19th century. My interdisciplinary training in History and Women's Studies has provided the tools for me to reconstruct narratives that uncover historical actors absent from official accounts about independence and address the complexity of their actions and relationships with a critical eye. My research has been supported by the Jacob K. Javits National Fellowship, the SSRC-Mellon Mays Graduate Initiatives Program, and the University of Michigan's Fellowship in Race, Law, and History, among others.

Through my research and teaching, I have been able to participate and contribute to scholarly conversations in my field by adding an interdisciplinary perspective. I have also been able to maintain connections with friends and family in Colombia, where I'm originally from. Among the things I enjoy outside my work are poetry, professional cycling, and exploring Kalamazoo's cultural scene.



Dr. Buddy Gray Retires

On April 16, 2019, the department recognized Dr. Marion “Buddy” Gray’s long and successful career. He retired after 18 years in the History Department at the end of Spring semester. For 10 years, Buddy served as department chair. In addition, he taught a total of 31 years at Kansas State University before coming here in 2001. As part of the department’s recognition ceremony, two colleagues, Dr. José Brandão and Dr. Eli Rubin, provided personal reflections on Buddy’s career. Here are excerpts of some of those comments.

From Dr. Brandão:

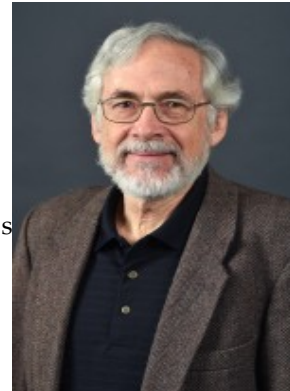
[As department chair, Buddy] focused, above all, in finding things that would unite faculty, students, and staff, and we all turned our energies to curricular reform, while he, in addition to leading that effort, standardized faculty workloads, modeled the role of teacher, scholar, and showed how shared governance should work. It was a wise strategy that has had long-term positive impacts.

Buddy enjoys teaching and his smile was never brighter than when he stepped down as department chair and could offer a fuller range of courses. Testimonials from students affirm how valued he is as a teacher, but one example will have to do to highlight his dedication to students. Last spring semester, and on a day he did not teach or have other campus obligations, Buddy was in his office at 5 pm waiting to give a make-up exam to a student who had been ill during the scheduled exam time. Our department practice is to ask students to come in during business hours for make-up exams and have a Teaching Assistant or office staff proctor the exam, but this student worked when not in class and Buddy accommodated her schedule. This sort of thing is the norm for him, including when he was department chair and worked late into the night to make sure students were not short-changed by his leadership of the department.

From Dr. Rubin:

It wasn’t just as an administrator that Buddy had a positive influence on my career. Buddy’s research was in the same general field—German history—as mine, though he focuses on the 17th-19th centuries, and I focus on the mid-late 20th century. Methodologically and chronologically, I learned a great deal from Buddy. Buddy’s work involves a focus on environmental history, and because of him I learned to pay attention to how humans interact with the natural environment: how they try to shape it, how it shapes them, and how it has a profound influence on political and even ideological discourses. This, along with his work being about an earlier time period, caused me to understand the broader arc of history, beyond just the narrow time frame on which I focus—I began to see history in terms of what the great French historian Fernand Braudel called the *longue durée*. He repeatedly gave me suggestions for important thinkers and historians as I pursued this avenue of research.

I learned so much from Buddy Gray—how to appreciate nature, how to see the depth and sweep of German and European history, how to lead through kindness, wisdom and grace, and in general, how to be a good colleague and a good scholar. His tenure at WMU may be over now, but his presence remains there in the lives of the many people he touched.



Jennifer Lipka sends message about Dr. Ernst Breisach’s book

On occasion the department receives kind messages from people who have read our faculty’s books. Last March, we received one such message from Jennifer Lipka, D.O., from Manchester, New Hampshire.

...At some point I picked up a used copy of Ernst Breisach’s *Introduction to Modern Existentialism*, and while I thought I would just leaf through it and recycle it, I ended up reading it cover to cover and am keeping it.

I just donated to the Ernst Breisach fund at WMU. I realize it is not much, but it is out of appreciation for what an excellent work of scholarship the book was, and so well written. I haven’t seen anything like that book in ages. I didn’t realize it was from 1962 until I read the section on Martin Buber which starts with “born 1878” and concludes with “since retiring, Buber is involved...”, and I realized “oh wow, this book was written when Martin Buber was living.” I find it incredibly relevant to 2019, and not at all dated in terms of readability.

So lucky you folks that he walked among you! I just wanted to share what a delightful experience it was to read that book!



*Dr. Linda Borish teaching and research presentation at
Chengdu Sport University, June 2019*

Dr. Linda J. Borish was invited to teach and give a research presentation at Chengdu Sport University, Chengdu, China in June 2019. The Department of Foreign Languages invited Dr. Borish to teach her course HIST 2125 (Sport in American Culture) to undergraduates and to teach a graduate course. During her time at Chengdu Sport University, Dr. Borish taught four undergraduate courses and the graduate course, working closely with Dr. "Monty" Chuansong Huo, a former Visiting Scholar in the History Department at WMU who Dr. Borish supervised. In addition to teaching, Dr. Borish gave a research presentation to Chengdu Sport University titled, "Americanization and Immigrant Sporting Experiences: Gender, Ethnicity, and American Sport," on June 25, 2019. She assisted colleagues in the Department of Foreign Languages in proofreading for a monograph translated from Chinese to English for a sport history project. She also worked with the Department of Sport History at Chengdu Sport University and participated in a symposium with colleagues and graduate students in that department on "Approaches to Sport History and Culture: American Sport History and Chinese Sport History." She met, too, with the Director of the Chengdu Sport University Museum and saw exhibitions on Chinese Sport History. Dr. Borish enjoyed sightseeing with graduate students and colleagues around Chengdu, including Leshan Park, with giant Buddhas and caves, Mount Emei, and the famous Chengdu Research Panda Base. Dr. Borish gained valuable knowledge about teaching various students and contributed to the global engagement of the History Department.



History Faculty Led the "Internationalization" of WMU



Dr. Paul Maier

Today "Global Engagement" is a strategic goal of Western Michigan University, but the faculty of the Department of History pioneered global education programs decades ago. Hundreds of students, their families, teachers, and alumni participated in History-sponsored study tours, with academic credit included or optional, that were also an important contribution to WMU's public outreach and community service.

1951–1989. WMU's oldest and longest-lived study and travel program (1951–1989) was the Oxford Seminar in the Social Sciences, created in 1951 by Dr. Russell Seibert (History) and Dr. Leonard Kercher (Sociology). The group traveled by ocean liner from New York, spent a week in London, a month in residence in Oriel College of Oxford University, and could stay on for an optional two-week tour of several countries in continental Europe; participants earned up to 6 credits. Offered every third year, it was repeated in 1954, 1957, and 1960, by which point Seibert had risen to Vice-President for Academic Affairs, and Kercher was Chair of Sociology. In 1963, leadership passed to Dr. Howard Mowen (History), and then to Dr. Dale Pattison (History) through 1978. Lady Margaret Hall replaced Oriel College as the residence at Oxford. After a hiatus in the early 1980s, the Oxford Seminar was revived in July–August 1985 by Dr. Howard Dooley (History), and continued in 1987 by Dr. John Cooley (English) and 1989 by Dr. Elise Jorgens (English). The seminar finally ended after 38 years when Oxford University changed its summer school focus from history, politics, and economics to concentrate solely on literature.



Dr. Howard Dooley

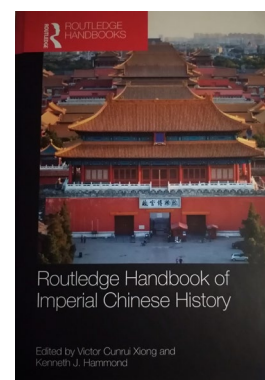
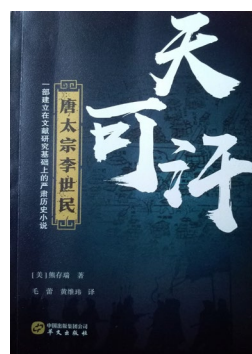
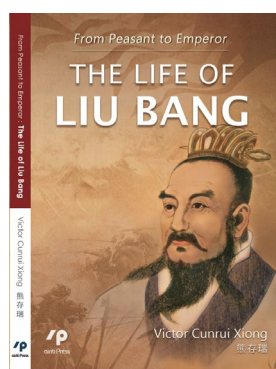
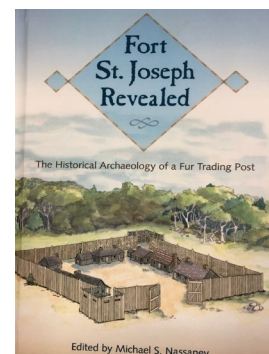
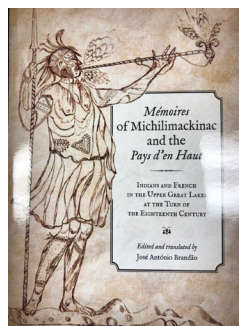
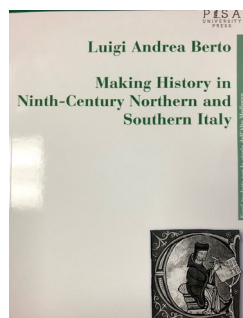
1955–present. International Travel Night was initiated by Dr. Edythe Mange (History) to provide information about foreign study and travel. An annual event for 64 years, International Travel Night continues under the auspices of the Haenicke Institute for Global Education.

1969–1993. Summer Institute on the Mediterranean World. Launched by Dr. Paul Maier (History) and Dr. Sam Clark (Honors College) in 1969, this program was based aboard a cruise ship that sailed the Mediterranean Sea for six weeks, stopping at historic ports from Istanbul, Turkey to Madeira. Paul Maier vividly recalls the first cruise, aboard the Carina, which was offered in cooperation with Indiana University's School of Music and included jazz musician Dave Brubeck as artist-in-residence, all an incredible bargain at just \$998. Thereafter, Maier and H. Nicolas Hamner (History) offered shorter versions of their campus afloat, alternating between the Eastern and Western Mediterranean Seas. Some cruises entered the Black Sea and visited Yalta, Crimea in the Soviet Union, and even offered a quick visit to Moscow. The class had a close call with Middle East tensions when they voyaged aboard the Italian liner Achille Lauro during the summer of 1985; some weeks after the WMU group disembarked, the ship was hijacked October 7–10 by the Palestine Liberation Front who killed an elderly American passenger before escaping. Maier and Hamner's Mediterranean Institute last sailed in 1992, a run of 23 years. Dr. Maier, who retired after 50 years as a faculty member in 2011, is still traveling, and will lead a Bible Lands cruise group in 2020.

1976–1995 Annual London Semester Break Tour. Led by Dr. H. Nicolas Hamner (History) from 1976, this study tour visited London, taking in historical sites and theatre, during the mid-winter break at the end of February and early March.

Howard Dooley revived the Oxford Seminar in July 1985, which repeated in 1987 and 1989 before being discontinued when Oxford University dropped the history, politics, and economics component of its summer school to focus entirely on English literature. Subsequently, Dooley led two WMU study tours to Egypt in March 1990 and January 1992. In January 1992 President Dieter Haenicke appointed him Executive Director of International Affairs, the university's chief international officer, a post he held for 12 years until returning to the History faculty in the fall of 2004.

Department Publications



Dr. Luigi Andrea Bertó



Dr. José Brandão



Dr. Michael Nassaney



Dr. Victor Xiong

Dr. Bertó's *Making History in Ninth-Century Northern and Southern Italy* (Pisa University Press, 2019) presents a detailed introduction to all the historical texts composed in Northern and Southern Italy during the ninth century, thus shedding some light on little-known texts and offering an important contribution for a better understanding of ninth-century Italian history.

Dr. Brandão's *Mémoires of Michilimackinac* (Michigan State University Press, 2019) offers corrected, unabridged, and properly annotated and edited transcriptions and translations of three important documents related to the French presence and French–Native American relations in the Great Lakes region before 1715. *The Relation du sieur De lamotte Cadillac; d'Aigremont's Mémoire* of November 14, 1708; and *Bégon's Mémoire on the Establishment of Michilimackinac* of September 20, 1713, are thoroughly examined, with an introduction that places these documents in context; summarizes major findings about Michilimackinac, Native American cultures, and French imperial ambitions in the Great Lakes region; and includes a critical exploration of the documents' authorship.

Dr. Nassaney's *Fort St. Joseph Revealed: The Historical Archaeology of a Fur Trading Post* (University Press of Florida, 2019) is the first synthesis of archaeological and documentary data on one of the most important French colonial outposts in the western Great Lakes region. Located in what is now Michigan, Fort St. Joseph was home to a flourishing fur trade society from the 1680s to 1781. Material evidence of the site—lost for centuries—was discovered in 1998 by volume editor Michael Nassaney and his colleagues, who summarize their extensive excavations at the fort and surrounding areas in these essays.

Dr. Xiong published four books: *From Peasant to Emperor: The Life of Liu Bang* (Airiti Press, 2018); *Routledge Handbook of Imperial Chinese History*, co-editor (Routledge, 2018); *Tian Kehan: Tang Taizong Li Shimin*, Chinese translation of *Heavenly Khan* (Huawen Press, 2018); and *Sui Yangdi de shenghuo shidai he yichan*, Chinese translation of *Emperor Yang of the Sui Dynasty: His Life, Times, and Legacy* (Xiamen University Press, 2018). As Dr. Xiong explains in his author's note, *From Peasant to Emperor* is a 'faction,' a hybrid of fact and fiction. The book explains the rise of Liu Bang, who rose from the lowly rank of a peasant to defeat rivals in a brutal civil war and establish the Han dynasty.

Michigan History Day District 6 Competition

Western Michigan University's Department of History hosted the southwest Michigan District 6 competition of the National History Day contest on March 9, 2019. This was the fifth year that the department has hosted the district competition. As in previous years, our district competition attracted the largest number of competitors of any district in the state of Michigan. Over 200 students from grades 4-12 competed. About 600 students, family members, and teachers took part in the event, which for the first time was held in Brown Hall and the Dalton Recital Hall. Students enter the contest in either individual categories or in group categories consisting of up to 5 students. They develop projects in one of five contest categories: exhibits (poster displays), websites, dramatic performances, documentaries, or papers. Students' projects also needed to address the annual theme, which in 2019 was "Triumph and Tragedy in History."

One of the District 6 competitors, Georgia Edmonds of Gagie School in Kalamazoo, received the Junior Division Outstanding Affiliate Award at the National History Day contest at the University of Maryland this past summer. This award designated her as best-in-state, for her individual exhibit entry, "The Radium Girls: The Luminous Triumph and the Dark Tragedy of Radium." Edmonds placed fifth in the nation for the Junior Division Individual Exhibit category after qualifying from the state contest.

Also, please see page 12 for an excerpt of McLevy Strong-Morse's History Day paper that was published in the Fall 2019 issue of the Historical Society of Michigan's *Chronicle*.



Kyle Korte (left), winner of the Senior Affiliate category, and Georgia Edmonds (right), winner of the Junior Affiliate category.

History Alumni Advisory Committee Meets

The History Alumni Advisory committee met on October 10, 2019 with Dr. Warren and Dr. Borish as part of the Homecoming Week activities in History and in the afternoon prior to the Hamner lecture.

We had an informative and productive meeting. We had a chance to talk with our new colleague, Dr. Ángela Pérez-Villa. We discussed the internship fund for undergraduates and heard about Jacob Wolf's internship at an art museum in Germany. We also watched a video from Brandon Jackson about his internship in South Africa. Members of the group also learned some information about the new Western Essential Studies program. The Chair and Associate Chair presented material on the design of Western Essential Studies and how several of our history courses fit in the new course offerings.

If you are interested in joining the WMU History Alumni Advisory Committee, please contact Dr. Linda J. Borish, Associate Chair of History, email: linda.borish@wmich.edu. Linda has recruited some new members including some younger women alumni members. Our spring History Alumni Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Friday, April 3, 2020.

2019 M.A. Recipients



Ian Anderson

Area of focus: Medieval Europe

Advisor: Dr. Luigi Berto



Christopher Maiytt

Area of focus: Film History

Advisors: Dr. Anise Strong
Dr. Victor Xiong



Sydne Johnson Dahn

Area of focus: Medieval Europe

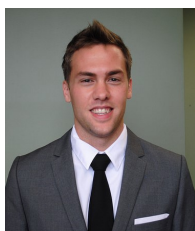
Advisor: Dr. Robert Berkhofer



Heidi Matthews

Area of focus: Public History

Advisor: Dr. Linda Borish



J. Mark Joslin

Area of focus: U.S. History

Advisor: Dr. Sally Hadden



Alicia Risk

Area of focus: Public History

Advisor: Dr. David Benac



Dillon Kneckstedt

Area of focus: Medieval Europe

Advisor: Dr. Robert Berkhofer



Austin Setter

Area of focus: Medieval Europe

Advisor: Dr. Robert Berkhofer

2019 Graduate Awards

The Department's Graduate Students continue to set the bar for excellence in teaching and research at WMU.

Sherwood Cordier PhD Teaching Effectiveness Award

N/A

Sherwood Cordier MA Teaching Effectiveness Award

Alicia Risk

National Society for Colonial Dames of America, American History Graduate Scholarship Award

Stacey Moore

Ernst Breisach Award for European History

Colin Rensch

Nora Faires Travel Award

Claire Herhold & Colin Rensch

Judith F. Stone Award

Claire Herhold

Department Research and Creativity Award

Peter Dobek-PhD Level

Dillon Knackstedt-MA Level

Russel Writing Award

Ruth Aardsma Benton

3MT Competition of WMU

Graduate College

Claire Herhold

Unearthing the Past at Fort St. Joseph

Dr. Michael Nassaney, one of the newest faculty members in the History Department, is already planning for WMU's 45th annual archaeological field school, the longest running program of its kind in the nation. This comes after he directed another successful field season at Fort St. Joseph in Niles, Michigan last summer. Fort St. Joseph was founded by the French as a mission, garrison, and trading post in 1691 near a strategic portage that connected the Great Lakes to the Mississippi River. The fort was occupied for nearly a century by French traders, English soldiers, Native Americans, and even the Spanish (for a day!) before it became part of American territory, earning Niles the nickname "City of Four Flags." After the fort was abandoned in 1781 its location was nearly forgotten until 1998 when WMU archaeologists led by Nassaney found definitive material evidence of the long-lost fort.

Using documents supplied by local historian Dr. Joseph L. Peyser, archaeologists recovered French and English artifacts associated with the fort. Their investigations initiated the Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project, an interdisciplinary, community service-learning partnership between the city of Niles and Western Michigan University. Since 2002 Nassaney has led almost annually teams of field school students, summer campers, and community volunteers in the discovery of the fort. The focus has been on understanding the interactions of the French and their Native allies in the context of the fur trade and colonialism. Evidence suggests that these groups worked together closely, fought against common foes, traded extensively, and intermarried, all the while maintaining their distinctive cultural identities.

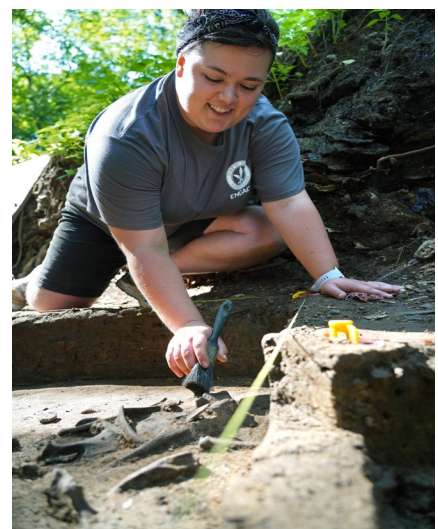
The Project showcases the best practices in public archaeology by demonstrating an active commitment to engage and educate the community about archaeology and the history of Niles since its inception. Every year, the Project holds week-long summer camps in which people of all ages and backgrounds are invited to work alongside WMU archaeologists as we rewrite the history of the fort. Campers are taught archaeological techniques (e.g., excavation skills, proper recording, artifact analysis) and the role of Fort St. Joseph in New France. Over 400 middle school students, high school students, educators, and lifelong learners have participated in the program.

An annual public lecture series was established in 2009 to provide an opportunity for the community to meet and learn from nationally and internationally recognized scholars. These lectures focus on a different theme each year, and have included Jesuit missionaries, the fur trade, women in New France, colonial architecture, community partnerships, and curation, among others. The Project also welcomes visitors to its annual open house in August to experience archaeology in real time by touring the site, viewing artifact exhibits, interacting with period re-enactors, and learning how we reconstruct the past. Visitors of all ages from around the world have witnessed history being uncovered at the tip of a trowel.

All of this work is made possible by support from WMU, the city of Niles, and contributors like you. To learn more about our membership program and how it assists with transporting and housing students, maintaining field equipment, supporting student scholarships, and defraying the cost of excavations, visit us at: <https://wmich.edu/fortstjoseph>. We encourage your participation and hope to see you in the field at our open house on August 1-2, 2020.



Cutting the ribbon to welcome the public to the 2019 Fort St. Joseph Archaeology Open House. From left to right: Alexander Bacik, history student; Nick Shelton, Mayor of Niles; Dr. Jennifer Bott, WMU Provost; Dr. Michael Nassaney, Principal Investigator, Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project; Dr. Carla Koretsky, WMU Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; and Heidi Gartley, anthropology student.



An archaeological field school student carefully exposes a deposit of animal bones that can reveal the dietary practices of some of the Fort St. Joseph occupants.

Graduate Program Developments

Stacey Moore Receives Graduate Award

Stacey Moore, a doctoral student, was selected by the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Michigan to receive one of the NSCDA's scholarships. The \$5000 award is to support a graduate student working in American history; Stacey received one of five awarded nationally. Paula McElroy, Patriotic Service Chair for the Michigan chapter of the NSCDA, traveled to Kalamazoo to present the award to Stacey.



Pictured left to right are Wilson Warren (department chair), José António Brandão (Stacey's advisor), Stacey Moore, Paula McElroy, and Sally Hadden (director of graduate studies).

New Graduate Programs

The WMU Board of Trustees approved two new graduate programs in April 2019: the Accelerated Graduate Degree Program in History or in Public History. These programs make it possible for a senior at WMU to receive double credit, toward the BA and the MA, for taking advanced coursework in the senior year. Up to 12 credits may be earned by high-achieving senior History majors. Our first student in the AGDP is Alex Bicknell, who is perhaps known to some of you as our Presidential Scholar and winner of numerous academic accolades. Entry into the AGDP is restricted to students with at least a 3.0 GPA, and those who enter will be able to take 6000-level courses (normally restricted to graduate students only) in their senior year of college. As a means to complete a BA/MA in roughly 5 years, the AGDP allows strong undergraduates to advance to graduate level work by virtue of their strong performance in earlier history courses. Admission follows the regular procedures established by the WMU Graduate College. The department has also begun to admit students into the relatively new Graduate Certificate programs. The certificates are designed to offer a taste of graduate school to individuals who may be considering returning to complete an MA. The 9-credit general certificate can be fulfilled with any three graduate History courses. Classes completed under the Graduate Certificate can be rolled over to fulfill the MA as well. The 15-credit certificate in Cultural and Environmental Heritage Management is for individuals (particularly those charged with the management of historic sites) who require a grounding in public administration, geography, and sustainability studies, in addition to their history classwork. The first GC student, Julian Faraci, will graduate in December 2019.

Encourage Strong History Students to Apply to WMU

Please encourage people you know who are interested in graduate work to consider the WMU History graduate program. Our department faculty continue to publish with outstanding university presses like Oxford and Cambridge, land prestigious grants (the latest is from the U.S. Department of Education), run an archaeological field school, and present in conferences from China to the Czech Republic. MA students are typically funded for two years and doctoral students are routinely funded for five years. WMU MAs who go on to doctoral work have been placed recently in nationally recognized PhD programs at Columbia University, University of Illinois, University of Tennessee, University of Minnesota, among others. Since 2004, the majority of our doctoral students are employed in higher education, and two-thirds are tenured, tenure-track, or in full-time administrative posts. We offer financial support to conduct research and to present research at conferences. For individuals seeking more information, please visit <https://wmich.edu/history/academics/prospectivegraduatestudents> or contact the Director of Graduate Studies, Dr. Sally Hadden, at hists-grad@wmich.edu.



Dillon Knackstedt, Austin Setter, Heidi Mathews, Sarah Jaran, Sydne Danh receive their M.A. diplomas at the June 29, 2019 ceremony.

2019 Undergraduate Awards

History Renewable Fellowship Award

Alexandra Bicknell 2015-2019
Jacob Wolf 2016-2020
Ryan Hagel 2018-2022
Ian Andrews 2018-2022

Bert Nash Award

Meghan Poolman

Undergraduate Internship Award

Jacob Wolf

Presidential Scholar Award

Alexandra Bicknell

Margaret Macmillan Undergraduate Writing Award

Joanne Jeya

Haynor Scholarship

One Anonymous Recipient

Alumni Travel Award

Jacob Wolf

Dale P. Pattison Award

Julia Herman

Smith Burnham Outstanding Intern Award

Alex Kelley - Spring 2019

Cheryl Lyon-Jenness Advanced Undergraduate Writing Award

Wesley Kling

Phi Beta Kappa, National Honor Society In Arts and Science, 2019 Inductee

Lauren Mathis

Alexandra Bicknell receives Presidential Scholar Award

Alexandra (Alex) Bicknell, currently our first AGDP student in the History Department, received the 2019 Presidential Scholar in History Award. Alex is from Garden City, Michigan, and graduated from Garden City High School. She was a member of WMU's Lee Honors College, majoring in History and Latin, and minoring in Business Analytics. After pursuing her MA degree in History, she plans to work for nonprofit organizations in areas such as human and civil rights, politics, history, journalism, computer systems, education, and marketing. She has previously worked as a political affairs intern, media relations intern, and regional director for The Borgen Project. A nonprofit organization, The Borgen Project seeks to eradicate world poverty through the collaboration of foreign aid and worldly commitment. Alex has gained significant research experience at WMU. Her Lee Honors College thesis, based primarily on policy research with elements of strategic outreach, tests the impact of grassroots political organizations on national politics. As a history student, she wrote papers on "The Political Strategies of the Mesquakie during the Fox Wars" and "The Fleeting Fate of Nazism during Insurgence: Case Studies in France and the German Homeland." In her career at WMU, Alex received the Dean's Scholarship, History Fellowship, and Countant Award for Excellence in Latin. She served on the College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, worked as a student ambassador, and worked as a library assistant for special collections and rare books. Her national honors include membership in the Phi Alpha Theta history honor society, Alpha Lambda Delta national honor society, and the Phi Beta Kappa national honor society.



Tre Goodhue helps design Smithsonian Sleepover Program



Tre Goodhue, a second year MA student, received a prestigious internship with the Smithsonian in summer of 2019.

This past summer I was given the opportunity to intern with the Smithsonian Associates, which is the education programming and outreach unit of the Smithsonian Institution. I specifically was able to work on the Smithsonian Sleepover program, which offers sleepovers at the National Museum of American History, National Museum of Natural History, National Portrait Gallery, and Udvar-Hazy Center of the National Air and Space Museum. I was also able to assist with the day-to-day operations of the Smithsonian Summer Camp program that also runs during the summer. Besides prepping for and facilitating the sleepover programming at the various museums, my major project over the summer was to assist in the complete redesigning of the sleepover at the National Museum of Natural History to accompany the opening of the new fossil exhibit, Deep Time.

This involved working with Smithsonian Associates staff, who had already done significant preplanning, to create, test, and tweak various activities that are now utilized for this sleepover. This experience allowed to me further develop skills in educational programming and volunteer coordination, and also provided me with valuable experience working with a world-class, federally funded museum institution.

Phi Alpha Theta

The WMU chapter of Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society is looking forward to having a productive and fun year. Under the current president Alexander G. Houseman (2021), our history honor society is taking a new direction that focuses on building student engagement through the study of the past. Phi Alpha Theta organizes its meetings around a historical topic chosen through group consensus and led by a different person each week. The leader then chooses engaging readings and directs a wide-ranging discussion. These Friday seminars further members' interest in history and cement bonds between participants for a cohesive organization.

Phi Alpha Theta Also has also invited faculty to participate in these gatherings to discuss their historical interests. For instance, Dr. David Kutzko, Associate Professor of Classics, came and spoke on the importance of knowing languages when it comes to understanding historical texts, specifically citing his own research interests. He also discussed some of what to expect in applying for graduate school and how to choose a research topic. The honor society looks forward to hosting Dr. Nathan Tabor, Assistant Professor of History and advisor to Phi Alpha Theta, to speak on the Kashmir issue in South Asia and its historical context. Later on this year Phi Alpha Theta will be attending national conferences and hosting events such as movie nights, fund-raisers, and trips to historical sites. Stay posted for more news next year!



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Dr. Nathan Tabor and the Southwest Michigan Educational Initiative on the Eastern Indian Ocean

Over the next year, Dr. Nathan L.M. Tabor, Assistant Professor of History, will be wrapping up the Southwest Michigan Educational Initiative on the Eastern Indian Ocean, a university-wide, curriculum development program funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language grant (UISFL). The Haenicke Institute for Global Education partnered with Kalamazoo College to successfully apply for this grant to develop content and language courses about the Indian Ocean region, primarily focusing on South Asia and Southeast Asia.

Dr. Tabor is a specialist in the wider South Asian region, focusing on Muslim cultures and history since the early modern period. He has published most recently articles in *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East* and in the inaugural issue of the *Journal of Urdu Studies* while also finalizing a monograph on public life in eighteenth-century Delhi. In the grant, his role has been to lead faculty development initiatives for WMU and Kalamazoo College faculty toward expanding course offerings that focus on South Asia. To date, under Dr. Tabor's guidance twenty seven classes at WMU and Kalamazoo College have incorporated South Asia-related course content into their curricula, across units such as the Departments of History, English, Sociology, Communication, Psychology, the College of Business, the School of Social Work, and the Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Technology.

In the fall of 2017, Dr. Tabor led a group of five WMU and Kalamazoo College faculty members on a trip to India, visiting the cities of Hyderabad, Benares, Delhi, and Agra. While there, Dr. Tabor lectured on India's histories in the Mughal, British, and nationalist eras at important historical locales maintained by the Archeological Survey of India and other state historical institutions. The trip allowed faculty members to engage the material and architectural nuances of India's changing imperial pasts. Prior to the visit, the faculty members read foundational works on Indian history that prepared them for their on-the-ground experiences. Dr. Tabor's fluency in Hindi/Urdu and background in ethnography and anthropological method helped to further elucidate the importance of studying South Asia by facilitating interactions with academics, shrine leaders, and local guides who acted as gracious hosts and teachers for the group.

Dr. Tabor with Dr. Espelencia Baptiste, Associate Professor of Anthropology at Kalamazoo College, will lead a final faculty development group studying the wider Indian Ocean. Members of this group have chosen a variety of historical, political, and anthropological monographs to examine intricate socio-cultural connections across vast Indian Ocean region shaped by the movement of goods, people, and ideas over time. This final group aims to continue providing a forum for interested and engaged faculty members to develop a background in the Indian Ocean region toward future undergraduate curricular programing. Dr. Tabor's involvement with this program reveal the Department of History's vital contribution to WMU's focus on Global Engagement.



The shrine of the two Josephs in Hyderabad



Dr. Tabor with WMU faculty members and students participating in the WMU India Gateway program at the Taj Mahal, Agra

McLevy Strong-Morse's History Day paper published in Chronicle

McLevy Strong-Morse, the 13-year-old son of History Department faculty member Dr. Anise Strong, won Best Entry in African American history at the state History Day contest last April. Here is an excerpt from his paper on the desegregation of Kalamazoo Public Schools published in the Historical Society of Michigan's Chronicle in Fall 2019.

Before finalizing the monumental choice to desegregate Kalamazoo Public Schools (KPS) in 1971, the Kalamazoo Board of Education listened to more than 100 different voices from the community speak about their experiences with racism at the schools—which demonstrated the racial tensions resulting from Kalamazoo's history of unofficial school segregation. Although briefly delayed by a restraining order, on May 7, the Kalamazoo Board of Education passed a resolution to implement a plan to redraw attendance maps and, hopefully, desegregate the KPS district.

While many students supported the result, the vote did not sit well with everyone in the community—especially parents, many of whom waved signs reading, "Life isn't better in a Vacated Kalamazoo" and "Delay Today." One parent commented that "there must be a better way to integrate than by taking away people's rights," while another declared that, if the plan was approved, she and her friends "would sell their homes and move elsewhere." Two months later, a new board was chosen in a special election. The new board was composed of individuals who had disagreed with the previous board's decision on desegregation.

By July, the vote intended to transform KPS no longer mattered. The district superintendent resigned under pressure, and the proposal approved in May was frozen. That was the start of a decade of unrest and legal turmoil over the board's decision—one that saw many battles, some small and local, others large and federal.

Eventually, the turmoil resulted in the landmark court case of *Oliver v. Kalamazoo Board of Education*, which was appealed up to the U.S. 6th Circuit by December 1980 and rejected on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court. While *Oliver* represented a temporary triumph for people fighting school segregation across the nation, its lasting effects upon the Kalamazoo community were divisive and only partially successful. *Oliver v. Kalamazoo Board of Education* was a microcosm of the civil rights unrest in the United States during the 1970s. A local newspaper noted, "When the U.S. Supreme Court banned segregated schools in 1954, it didn't seem to apply to Kalamazoo, a community that had neither Jim Crow laws nor many [African-American] residents." The 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*—which eliminated legal school segregation—seemed like a victory for its supporters but later turned out to be less effective than originally hoped in preventing unofficial segregation.

2019-20 History Lecture Series

The H. Nicholas Hamner Lecture

Dr. Juan Cole, University of Michigan:
"Saudi Crisis in the Contemporary Mid-East"

October 10, 2019



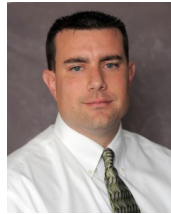
The Department of History at Western Michigan University annually invites an esteemed senior scholar to give a public lecture named for, and generously endowed by, **Professor Emeritus H. Nicholas Hamner**. The event is an opportunity to make visible the discipline of history within the campus and the larger community by having a distinguished scholar address a theme of broad interest.

Burnham-Macmillan Speaker Series

Dr. David Trowbridge, Marshall University:
"Presence of the Past: Using Technology to Connect People to Nearby History"

Thursday November 21, 2019 5:15pm-7:30pm

Fetzer Center, Putney Hall



Dr. Dan-el Padilla Peralta, Princeton University:
"Epistemicide: the Roman case"

Thursday March 12, 2020 5:00pm-7:00pm

Fetzer Center, Putney Hall



Breisach Colloquium Series: Fall 2019

Dr. Sally E. Hadden, Professor of History

Monday, September 30, 2019, at 12:00 PM in the CAS International Conference Room

"Earlier Supremes: The American Colonies and the Concept of a Supreme Court."

Dr. Christopher Kaiser, Professor Emeritus from Western Theological Seminary

Monday, October 28, 2019, at 12:00 PM in the CAS International Conference Room

The "Marks of God's Wisdom" in Comenius's Panorthosia:

A Biblical Commonplace at the Foundations of Modern Science.

Dr. Michael Nassaney, Professor of Anthropology.

Monday, November 18, 2019, at 12:00 PM in the CAS International Conference Room

"Twenty-One Years in the Trenches": Student Discoveries at Fort St. Joseph

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This past year, we put your donations to work. The Department of History assisted graduate and undergraduate students by helping with research travel costs, awards and monetary assistance totaling \$26,606.79.

This assistance helps reduce education costs for our students, many of whom have student loans. Awards from the department make it easier for many to finish their degree. Because of your donations, this vital student support was possible.

There is so much more needed for our students. A contribution at whatever level you feel comfortable, is deeply appreciated. If you have any questions about giving to the department, how your gift will be used, or to discuss giving options, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Warren.

For More Information:

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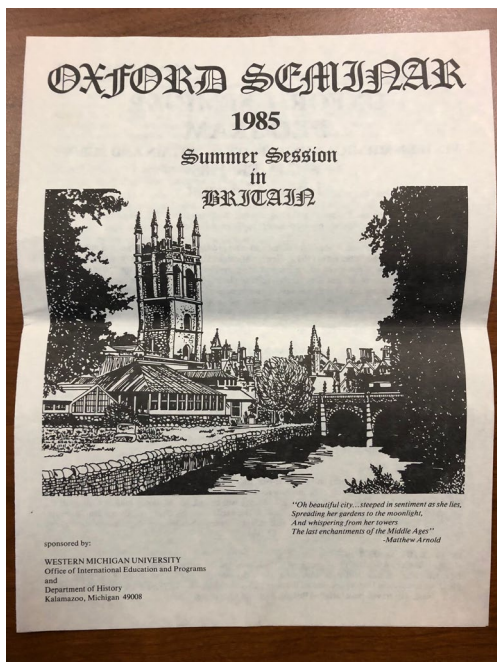
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