

The History NEWSLETTER

For Alumni and Friends, Department of History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

ISSUE NO. XXXXX, 2021-2022

Elliot West Retires: A Tribute from Jeannie Whayne



Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Elliott West

After more than fifty years of college teaching and forty-two years of service to the University of Arkansas, Elliott West retired at the beginning of 2022 and received the title of Emeritus Distinguished Professor of History. West's long-time colleague, Dr. Jeannie Whayne, offered some reflections to mark the occasion: "Elliott West likes to tell the story of going to the University of Colorado for his doctoral program expecting to major in southern history, only to be told that he could not study southern history there because they did not specialize in that subject. So, he asked, what do you specialize in? They responded, western history.

"Thus, a great western historian was launched. After completing his

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After Sutherland, Stanley Steps In

The University of Arkansas has a storied legacy of scholarship on the era of the American Civil War. Most recently, the Department was fortunate to count among its ranks the eminent scholar Daniel Sutherland, who retired in 2020 after completing thirty-one years of distinguished service and publishing sixteen books. This year, the University gave the go-ahead to search for a new scholar of Civil War history, recognizing the importance of the position and creating a rare opportunity for the Department to hire a scholar of advanced rank. The members of the search committee, led by Professor Patrick Williams, certainly had their



Matthew Stanley

work cut out for them, but they soon received applications from a number of accomplished scholars. When the search concluded, the Department was proud to welcome to its ranks Dr. Matthew Stanley, who took up his duties in the fall semester of 2022. Stanley joins the Department as Associate Professor and holder of the Alumni

Endowed Chair in History after a stint as Associate Professor with tenure at Albany State University in Georgia. He comes with what is already an impressive slate of publications, including his 2017 book, *The Loyal West*:

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West Cont. | dissertation, Elliott taught at the University of Texas at Arlington before joining the history department at the University of Arkansas in 1979 where he rose to the rank of Distinguished Professor. His many award-winning books include *Contested Plains: Indians, Goldseekers, and the Rush to Colorado* (1999) and *Contested Plains and The Way West: Essays on the Central Plains* (1995).

“Although a distinguished scholar of the West, his fascination with the South runs deep and was not to be discouraged by the fact you can’t “do” the South in Colorado. He brilliantly combined his understanding of both the West and the South in a groundbreaking essay in 2003, “Reconstructing Race,” arguing that the country did not simply undergo one Reconstruction, but two. Or rather, one much larger reconstruction

involving both the West and the South, involving both African Americans and Native Americans.

“In addition to being a superb historian, Elliott is also a gifted teacher and graduate instructor, winning virtually every teaching award available at the University of Arkansas. He is a regular contributor to the Gilder-Lehrman summer seminars on the history of the West and was designated the Professor of the Year from the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching (1995). He was one three finalists for the Robert Foster Cherry Award and gave a public address that was later published as “The West Before Lewis and Clark: Three Lives.”

“Elliott West was characterized by historian Richard White as “the best historian of the west writing today,” and while we know and celebrate that, we celebrate him also as teacher and mentor, colleague and friend.” ■

Stanley Cont. | *Civil War and Reunion in Middle America*, published

by the University of Illinois Press and winner of the 2018 Wiley-Silver Prize from the Center for Civil War Research at the University of Mississippi. More recently, Stanley is the author of *Grand Army of Labor: Workers, Veterans, and the Meaning of the Civil War*, also published by Illinois. In both of these books, Stanley looks to the years after the Civil War and considers its impact in the Midwest. He shows, for instance, how the war helped forge an identity among Midwesterners in Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio as the “loyal west,” and how the memory of the war informed the later formation of class consciousness and the struggle over labor rights in the Ohio Valley. In a review of *Grand Labor*, the historian David R. Roediger described Stanley’s work as “a powerful and judicious study that changes how we think about Civil War memories and working-class histories.” Beyond these impressive monographs, Stanley also edited an anthology from LSU Press, *Material Culture, Silver Screen: War Movies and the Construction of American Identity*. He is the author of over two dozen articles, book chapters, and scholarly editorials. He is also the editor of the “American Wars and Popular Culture” Series for LSU Press and the “New Approaches to Midwestern Studies” Series for Ohio University Press. Stanley has also already distinguished himself in the classroom. An incredibly versatile and experienced teacher, Stanley brings to Arkansas expertise not only in advanced courses on

Civil War and Reconstruction, but also on public history, labor history, and historical methodology. And, on top of it all, he has wide experience leading study abroad programs. Currently, he is hard at work designing a study abroad course on “The Global 1860s,” which will take students to Europe and will place the American Civil War into a transnational context of nationalist movements, advancing industrialization, and emerging formal imperialism. The Department is thrilled to welcome Dr. Stanley, and our students in this fall’s course on the Civil War are already discovering why Stanley is an outstanding addition to our outstanding history program. ■

2022 Award Winners

Undergraduate Awards: *George W. Ray Award for the Study of Western Civilization:* **Sabrina Godfroid, Catherine Lander;** *David W. Edwards Scholarship for Outstanding Undergraduate Study of History:* **Robert Berry, Abigail Boring, Reagan Chenevert, Hayden Ferguson, Nathan Hubbard;** *Georgia V. G. Saunders Award for an Outstanding History Major who is also a Veteran or Child of a Veteran:* **Kinberly Jones;** *Gordon H. McNeil Award for the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Paper in European History:* **Michael Fuhrman;** *Fulbright Award for the Senior History Students with the Highest Academic Achievement:* **Evan Isbell;**

History Department Award for African History: **Ashtyn McCain;** *History Department Award for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Spotlight:* **Thomas Medford;** *History Department Award for Latin American and Latino History:* **Lesly Cruz;** *J. Harry and Catherine H. Wood Scholarship Fund:* **Sarah Grider, Anna Raezer;** *J. Margaret Roberts Endowed Award:* **Summer Brown;** *James J. Hudson Award for the Study of Military History:* **Ryan Cruz;** *Jesse Taylor Jr. Endowed Scholarship for an Outstanding History Undergraduate Major:* **John Zane Harrod, Patrick Morrison, Madeline Weigel;** *Mathis Glenn Newkirk Award for an Outstanding Paper on the History of International Relations:* **Anna Rumpz;** *Oscar Fendler Award for best paper on an Arkansas or Southern History Topic:* **Mary Durr;** *Phi Alpha Theta Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Paper:* **John Zane Harrod;** *Robert E. Reeser Award for Significant Contribution to the Study of the Classical World:* **Hannah Cunningham;** *Sidney A. Moncrief Scholarship for the Study of Black History:* **Kelsey Brewer;** *Stokely-McAdoo Family*

International Study Scholarship: **Karlie Barnett, Rylie Ford.**

Graduate Awards: *Diane D. Blair Fellowship:* **Michael Anthony;** *Matthew B. Kirkpatrick Prize for Excellence in History Graduate Teaching:* **Amanda McGee;** *George Billingsley Award for the Best Paper on a Middle Eastern or Asian Topic:* **Fuwei Li;** *Gordon H. McNeil Award for the Outstanding Graduate Research Paper:* **Rebekah Chaney Griggs;** *James J. Hudson Graduate Research Award in Military History:* **Amanda McGee;** *Jesse Taylor Jr. Endowed Scholarship for an Outstanding History Graduate Student:* **Nathan Harkey, Amber Lenser, Katlyn Rozovics, Robyn Spears;** *Mary Hudgins Arkansas History Research Fund:* **Ryan Smith;** *Ralph V. Turner Travel Award:* **James Cooke;** *Willard B. Gatewood History Graduate Fellowship:* **Sulaiman Albinhamad, Sam Scurry;** *Willard Gatewood Graduate Fellowship Fund:* **Travis Perusich.** ■

Adams Brings Home the Gold for the History Staff

It is fairly widely known on our campus, if not already to our loyal newsletter readers, that the Department of History is home to one of the best staff teams at the University of Arkansas. Bringing together nearly twenty-five years of collective experience, the staff trio in the History office in Old Main, Melinda Adams, Stephanie Caley, and Brenda Foster, have been instrumental to the success of our department’s mission, and they have been frequently recognized for their expertise and outstanding service. Such was the case just this year, when Melinda Adams won the coveted Employee of the Year Award from the University of Arkansas Staff Senate. Melinda won the top prize in Category II: Secretarial/Clerical, and her achievements were celebrated at a Staff Senate Banquet in October.

Melinda’s win comes right on the heels of her recent recognition as Employee of the Quarter, in which she was cited for going above and beyond the call of duty to manage the office during the worst month of the COVID pandemic. But her Employee of the Year win celebrated her long-term contributions to the department. Melinda, after all, has been a mainstay of the department since 2010. From the beginning, her software skills and innate creativity were in high demand among faculty eager to promote their research and teaching initiatives with artistic flyers or, say, to produce an eye-catching newsletter. More recently, Melinda has become one of the leading experts in navigating the complexities of domestic and international travel, making her one of the go-to people in the College of Arts and Sciences for faculty and students eager to get back out there and conduct research abroad.

Melinda is the second staff person in our unit to win the coveted Employee of the Year recognition; Brenda Foster also won the prize in 2014. The Department of History is fortunate to have such highly-qualified professionals in our shop, and the faculty, students, and alumni are thrilled to be able to congratulate Melinda Adams on her achievement. ■

Letter from the Chair

As was the case for many of my colleagues in the Department of History, last year was a chance for me to get back into something resembling a more normal routine. After months and months of being cooped up



in the house or trapped within a little Zoom box on the computer screen, I found myself back in the office, back in the library, and, most exciting of all, back on the road. In April, I was able to attend my first out-of-town conference, and then in the summer I finally received permission to fly to Europe to complete a grant project funded by the U.S. Department of State. Specifically, I traveled with a colleague from the Walton College of Business to Barcelona and Rome to create a new multi-disciplinary study abroad program that will allow history majors to join students from across the University of Arkansas in learning about innovative new approaches to global challenges by studying the work of non-profit organizations, social businesses, government agencies, and other community-based partners working to solve the same sort of pressing social and environmental challenges we face right here in Arkansas. This project, which we call Arkansas Global Changemakers (<https://globalchangemakers.uark.edu/>), stresses the importance of dialogue across cultural boundaries as a catalyst to developing new innovative solutions and adapting proven concepts. We are planning to run our course abroad for the first time in the spring semester of 2023, and we already have a full cohort of students and even a local NGO partner traveling with our team. These students will quickly discover how important it is to know the history of the regions they are studying in order to understand the ways in which the local communities conceive and approach global challenges.

As we approach a new year in the Department of History, it is these sorts of experiences that I hope will help our students likewise emerge from the pandemic era and make the most of the educational opportunities that await them at the University of Arkansas. My colleagues in History are certainly ready; the pages of this newsletter are full of exciting new books, of national awards for faculty scholarship, of grants for new initiatives and programs, and of important collaborations with other units on our campus, with public school educators, and with partners in our community and around the world.

In the next year, our faculty and students will be adding to this list of accomplishments. We will be launching a number of new ways for history students to grow through what we call “experiential learning,” which takes them out of the classroom to apply historical lessons and derive new knowledge from internships, field research trips, and, of course, through a growing slate of study abroad destinations. On campus, history faculty will be offering several new courses, with topics that include business history, global history, and—as you will read about in this issue—the history of nuclear energy and nuclear weapons in Asia. Finally, we will be enriching our community by inviting top scholars to campus for our Hartman-Hotz, Donovan, and Kennedy Endowed Lecture Series.

As ever, I want to thank you for being a special part of our community. I hope you enjoy reading about all the fascinating projects underway and the achievements of our outstanding faculty and students. And allow me to say a word of thanks for all who have donated to our program and helped ensure the success of our undergraduate and graduate students and our faculty. As you will see, things are getting back to normal in the Department of History, but for an excellent department like ours, that is anything but routine.

—J. Laurence Hare

Note from the Director of Graduate Studies

Despite the ongoing, albeit reduced, disruptions that Covid continues to generate, the graduate program is excelling. We have an astounding number of new M.A. students on campus this year—ten in total—including two African students and one Canadian student. And a remarkable 70% of our MA students are funded via Graduate Assistantships, surely the highest that figure has ever been, while 100% of our PhD students receive funding via Graduate Assistantships. We also have a total of eight students in our “4+1” program, which enables students to start earning graduate credit while they are seniors, so that they can earn their MA degree in just a single year following their BA, instead of the two years it normally takes. Five of these eight students are seniors, while three of them earned their undergraduate degrees this past May and have transitioned into the graduate portion of this program. We only started this program last year, so we’re very excited how quickly it’s grown and look forward to many more students entering this program.

In other news, the Department of History organized a Digital Humanities workshop, which after twice being delayed by Covid, ran for a week in January 2022. The workshop was open to students across the Humanities who were interested in acquiring the technical skills necessary to develop a digital dimension to their research so that it would ultimately be more accessible and more public-facing to folks beyond the institution. Drs. Andrew Fialka and Molly Taylor-Poleskey, both from Middle Tennessee State University, led the workshop, which included 15 students in total.

—Professor Todd Cleveland

Talk of the Gown

Despite the difficulties of the past few years, the UARK History faculty have remained active as researchers, teachers, and citizens. **Jeannie Wayne** is the 2022 SEC Faculty Achievement Award winner for the University of Arkansas, a tremendous recognition of her dedication as an instructor and researcher. She continues to serve as a distinguished lecturer with the Organization of American Historians and served on the Southern Association’s Bennett Wall Award for



the best book published on southern business or economic history. Wayne is an active presenter and even presented at a keynote session focusing on her upcoming *Oxford Handbook of Agricultural History* at the European Rural History Organization meeting in Uppsala. She continues to work on her book on Memphis as a Cotton Entrepot

and its relationship with environmental change in Arkansas delta cotton-producing counties, and she is preparing a Thirtieth Anniversary edition of *Shadows Over Sunnyside* for publication in the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*. That effort will be followed by the publication of an extended version of the original book by the same title. She is also working on an internet game on the Woman’s Suffrage struggle, highlighting race, class, and ethnicity: *The Awakening*.

Wayne is no stranger to teaching awards and honors. In the past, the pages of this newsletter have been filled with her honors: Fulbright College Master Teacher, Outstanding Undergraduate Mentor, President of the Teaching Academy, Co-Director of the Wally Cordes Teaching and Faculty Support Center, and many more. She is simply one of the best around, and we were reminded of this fact recently when she was celebrated as the winner of the 2020 Charles and Nadine Baum Teaching Award. The Baum is a big deal, since it is

the highest teaching award given by the University. Wayne was cited for her excellence in teaching and mentoring, especially her innovation in the classroom and work with the Tesseract Center on 2D gaming and visualization.

Wayne's Baum Award was announced in the midst of the pandemic and did not receive its due recognition, but fortunately she was honored last October at a special ceremony hosted by the Teaching Academy and featuring congratulatory remarks from Chancellor Charles Robinson. At the same ceremony, Wayne was also named Outstanding Graduate Mentor and Educator by the Teaching Academy for her work with MA and PhD students.

Patrick G. Williams, professor, no longer shares an office with the newsletter editor, but he's acquired a few of the old guy's bad habits, along with the carton of Chesterfields and a pint of Old Remorse he left behind. When colleagues call him on it, Williams is apt to respond, "What are you gonna do? Kill me? Everybody dies." He just hopes that chairing the search committee that brought us Matt Stanley and editing the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* buys him a little mercy come Judgment Day.

Michael Pierce has continued work on the Nelson Hackett Project (<https://nelsonhackettproject.uark.edu>), a public humanities program focused on the enslaved Fayetteville man whose 1841 flight to Canada put in motion the events that ensured that British North America remained a haven for those fleeing bondage in the United States. He and **Caree Banton** taught

an NEH Summer Institute focused on Hackett and fugitivity that attracted k-12 teachers from across the nation. Pierce also delivered talks on Hackett's flight throughout the region, including Northwest Arkansas Community College and the Fayetteville Public Library, and worked with the city of Fayetteville to find ways to commemorate Hackett's flight.

Trish Starks had a busy year as she is more than usually acquainted with our current horsemen guests. War in Ukraine and continuing pandemics (COVID! MONKEYPOX! POLIO!) have kept her teaching in demand and she reached out to new audiences



with appearances at the Rotary Club and in the Honors College forum BIOETHICS. Additionally, she served as co-director for two NEH summer teaching institutes. In June and July, the University of Arkansas Humanities Center along with the African and African American Studies and Medical Humanities Programs hosted K-12

educators from across the nation for professional development workshops funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The institutes brought in \$346,000 in federal grant funds to the university and region. These fabulous experiences with energetic and talented educators joined her other outreach activities as director of the U of A Humanities Center. As part of the Digital Buffalo Project, along with co-PI Joshua Cobbs Youngblood of the U of A Libraries, she brought in speakers to discuss the history, culture, and representation of the river in celebration of the 50-year anniversary of its naming as a National River. Events at locales as different as Gilbert,



Arkansas and the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art brought in hundreds alongside lectures at the Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History and U of A Honors College. In all, she's overseeing nearly \$500,000 in grant monies for the Center.

Joel Gordon has wasted no time getting back on the road to share research. He participated in seminars and institutes in Berlin and Trento and conducted research in Egypt. Joel continues to serve as editor-in-chief of the quarterly *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, the leading journal in his field. His editorial leadership is impressive and valuable. He led online workshops geared toward publishing in academic journals for the Middle East Studies Association (Nov 2021), the Middle East Global Academy (Dec 2021), and Council for British Research on the Levant (April 2022). Joel continues to serve on the governing boards of American Research Center in Egypt, American Institute for Pakistan Studies, The American Research Institute in Iraq and on the editorial boards of *Studies in the History of the Arabian Gulf (Arabic)* out of King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and *The Middle East Review* out of Balochistan University, Quetta Pakistan.

Laurence Hare emerged from pandemic lockdown last year to make progress on three ongoing projects. First among these was the conclusion of a multi-year partnership with the University of Arkansas Libraries to promote research on Fulbright foreign exchange programs. With funding from the Chancellor's Fund for Innovation and Collaboration, this undertaking included the collection of archival materials from foreign Fulbright commissions and the Institute of International Education, the digitization of materials related to the history of the Fulbright program, and an international conference with the German-American Fulbright Commission in 2019. In August 2021, Hare moderated a Forum with the U.S. Fulbright Association, "Celebrating 75 Years: The History and Impact of the



Fulbright Program," which featured presentations from Arkansas and international scholars whose scholarship has been supported by the project. At the same time, Hare continued his own scholarship on the history of German Nordic thought. Last year, he was able to share his latest findings, beginning with the Southern Historical Association Conference, where he delivered a virtual talk on "Germans, Danes, and the Invention of Nordicism in the Nineteenth Century." Hare then hit the road for a second presentation, "German Nordicism and the Imperialist Imagination, 1750-1850," at the annual conference of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Hare was also invited to present at the Southeast German Studies Workshop at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. His presentation, "On the Novelty of Transnational History," was subsequently published in the spring of 2022 in the fifth volume of the *Yearbook for Transnational History*. The other ongoing project was the Arkansas Global Changemakers initiative, a collaboration with colleagues across the university to bring together communities in Arkansas and around the world to address global challenges at the local level. With support from a Study Abroad Capacity Building Grant from the U.S. State Department, Hare and his colleagues traveled to Barcelona and Rome in June 2022 to develop networks of local organizations to support two Changemakers Study Abroad programs. They also launched a new podcast series with KUAF radio, *Points of Departure*, which features interviews with students, faculty, and community partners participating in the Changemakers initiative. Hare and his colleague, Rogelio Garcia Contreras, were also invited by the UN University of Peace to publish a report on the progress of the Changemakers project. The essay, "Arkansas Global Changemakers and the Effects of Collaborative and Disruptive Strategies," appeared as a chapter in *Multilateralism, Human Rights, and Diplomacy: A Global Perspective*, edited by David Fernandez Puyana in 2022. In recognition of his work on the Changemakers initiative and on the development of peace studies curricula, Hare was awarded the Omni Center for World Peace and Justice Award by the Fulbright College for Arts & Sciences.

Doctoral alumnus, **Airic Hughes** received the prestigious Artists 360 Award. Artists 360, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance, made possible through the support of the Walton Family Foundation, is a three-year



pilot program that provides grant funding and professional development opportunities to individual artists of all disciplines in the greater Northwest Arkansas area. Dr. Hughes received a \$15,000 Community

Activator Grant to support the Micheaux Award and Film Labs, which he said was “started to build a supportive community for filmmakers and creators of color in Arkansas.” “The Artists 360 Community Activator Grant will help scale our education initiatives to better serve creatives of color throughout the state,” he added. In addition to this project, Hughes’ research examines modern environmental segregation in Little Rock, Arkansas. He also founded Visionairi Enterprises in 2016, which produces media and events with a mission to promote and preserve Black culture.

Kelly Hammond received a nationally competitive course-development grant from the Stanton Foundation to design a new course on the history of modern Asia through the lens of nuclear security. The grant is part of the Foundation’s Course Development Program, which seeks, according to their website, “to create a more broadly informed public” by promoting courses on nuclear security issues. It provides approximately



\$50,000 to support development work for new, sustainable courses designed for undergraduates and first-year graduate students. Hammond’s proposed course is titled, “From Hiroshima to Fukushima: Nuclear Security in Asia.” It provides a comprehensive overview of Asian history in the late 20th and early 21st centuries with an emphasis on the intersections between the region’s economic, political and social transformation and its experience with the emergence of nuclear technology and nuclear

conflict from the end of the Second World War through the decades after the end of the Cold War.

Justin Gage spent the last year working remotely as a visiting researcher of North American studies at the University of Helsinki and a postdoctoral fellow with the Kone Foundation in Finland, where he used his expertise on network analysis to study the history of Finnish migration to North America. He also served as a lecturer in the Department of History at the U of A, where he introduced new courses on digital history and led an initiative to integrate historical coursework into the university’s interdisciplinary Data Science Program. In 2022, Gage accepted a tenure-track position as Assistant Professor of History at the University of Florida. ■

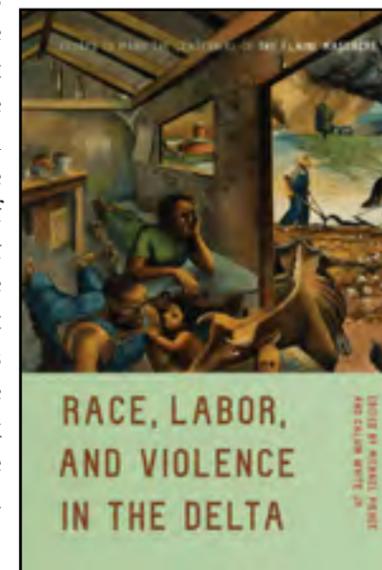


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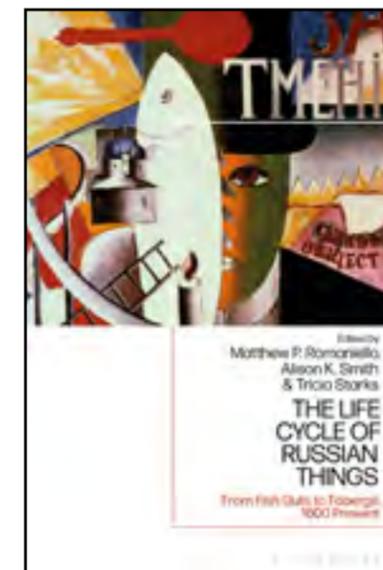
Jeannie Whayne’s *Oxford Handbook of Agricultural History* is now being copy-edited with an anticipated publication date of fall 2023. She published two essays in book collections in 2022, including “Post-Civil War Southern Agriculture,” in *Blackwell’s Companion to American Agriculture*, Douglas Hurt, ed. (Wiley, 2022) and “The Henry Lowery Lynching: A Legacy of the Elaine Massacre?” in *Race, Labor and Violence in the Delta*, Michael Pierce and Calvin White, eds. (University of Arkansas Press, 2022).

The highlight of **Michael Pierce and Calvin White, Jr.’s** year was the publication of *Race, Labor, and Violence in the Delta: Essays to Mark the Centennial of the Elaine Massacre* (University of Arkansas Press), which they scholars co-edited. The volume grew out of a conference the pair organized, with the aid of the Diane Blair Center of Southern Politics & Society, right before the pandemic hit and includes essays focused on the intersection of work and racial violence in the Arkansas and Mississippi Deltas. Pierce’s essay in the volume examines the ways that cotton planters deployed Mexican contract workers in the 1950s as part of an effort to drive African Americans agricultural laborers out of the region. That essay is also part of his larger on-going book project focused on how a coalition of labor and civil rights activists brought New Deal and Great Society liberalism to Arkansas and the reasons why Democrats like Bill Clinton rejected that type of liberalism and cozied up to corporate interests.



Trish Starks. Finally, her final (perhaps?) volume on tobacco in Russia came out this fall with Northern Illinois University Press. Pick up your copy of *Cigarettes and Soviets* and see what all the fuss is about! The press describes the book in this way: “Enriched by color reproductions of tobacco advertisements, packs, and anti-smoking propaganda, *Cigarettes and Soviets* provides a comprehensive study of the Soviet tobacco habit.” Tricia Starks examines how the Soviets maintained the first mass smoking society in the world while simultaneously fighting it. The book is at once a study of Soviet tobacco deeply enmeshed in its social, political, and cultural context and an exploration of the global experience of the tobacco epidemic.” One reviewer, Mary C. Neuburger of the University of Texas at Austin had this praise for the book: “Starks’s beautifully written and densely researched book provides a new way of thinking about the history of the Soviet Union, while also filling a gap in the global history of this powerful plant.”

If you thought a monograph was enough, Trish didn’t. She went on to publish a new edited volume, along with her co-editors, professors Matthew P. Romaniello of Weber State University in Utah and Alison K. Smith of the University of Toronto. The book, titled *The Life Cycle of Russian Things: From Fish Guts to Fabergé, 1600-Present*, uses interdisciplinary and comparative methods to foreground Russian and Soviet materials in historical perspective. The volume includes an international array of scholars with contributors from the United States, Canada, Britain and Germany. Essays address everything from the 17th century intrigues over isinglass made from sturgeon swim bladders to the ties of World War II Soviet soldiers to their tanks through battle and repair. In it, anthropologists, historians, art historians and museum studies experts each attend a different aspect of material culture to show how



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Our alumni and friends have been very generous, but we continue to need your support to maintain our tradition of excellence. Your unrestricted gift (**University of Arkansas Foundation-History Department, account 2780**) will allow the Department the greatest flexibility in allocating money where need is greatest. We would be most grateful, too, for larger gifts to endow scholarships, fellowships, chairs, and lectureships.

There are a number of other funds that may be of particular interest to our alumni:

- The Tom Kennedy Endowed Lecture Fund**
- The David W. Edwards Scholarship Fund**
- The Timothy Donovan Lectureship**
- The James J. Hudson Graduate Fellowship**
- The Robert E. Reeser Award**
- The Willard B. Gatewood Graduate Fellowship**
- The Walter L. Brown Scholarship in Arkansas History**
- The George V. Ray Memorial Award**
- The Gordon McNeil Scholarship Fund**
- The Ralph V. Turner Fund**
- The J. Margaret Roberts Endowed Award Fund**
- The Oscar Fendler Award Fund**
- The George Billingsley Award Fund**
- The Jesse Taylor Jr. Scholarship Fund**
- The Stokely-McAdoo Family International Study Scholarship**
- The Walter L. Brown Endowment in History**
- The Mary Hudgins Award**

Gifts to the
History Department
should be sent to:

Dr. Laurence Hare, Chair
History Department
416 N. Campus Drive, MAIN 416
Fayetteville, AR 72701

with checks made out to:
University of Arkansas Foundation History Department, account 2780

Gifts to the
James J. Hudson Fellowship
should be forwarded to:

Dean of the Graduate School
340 N. Campus Dr., Gearhart Hall 213
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Gifts to the
Tom Kennedy Endowed Lecture Series
should be directed to:

Department of History
416 N. Campus Dr., MAIN 416
Fayetteville, AR 72701

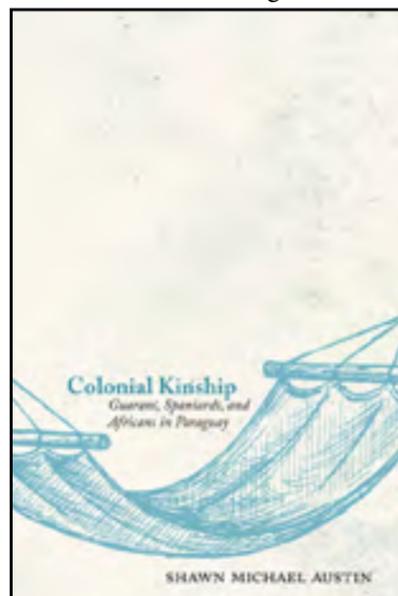
with checks made out to:
University of Arkansas Foundation
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Gatewood Fellowship
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Fayetteville, AR 72701

studying objects can engender visceral understandings of the past. In addition to editing and co-authoring the introduction, Trish also contributed a research piece to the volume. Her essay builds from her work on tobacco use in Russian and Soviet culture to discuss sensory prompts to addictive behavior in Russia in the early 20th century. As an interesting side note, we wish to point out that this volume was nominated for the Diagram Prize, which recognizes the “oddest book title of the year.” While it ultimately lost to a book with a saltier title, *Is Superman Circumcised?*, *Fish Guts* did come in an impressive second.

Shawn Austin was recognized as a finalist for a national book prize by the American Society for Ethnohistory. Austin’s book, *Colonial Kinship: Guarani, Spaniards, and Africans in Paraguay*, published by University of New Mexico Press, received an honorable mention for the Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin Book Award, awarded to the best book-length contribution to ethnohistory.

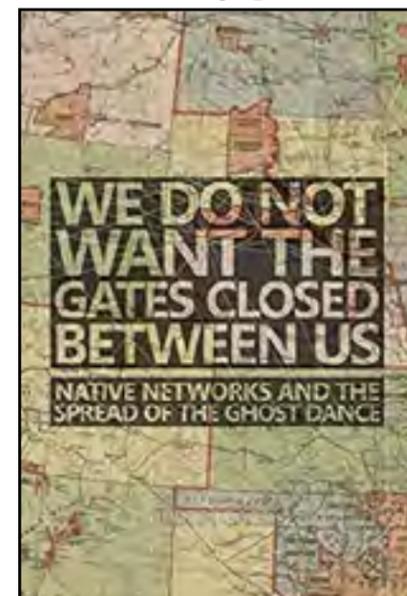


Colonial Kinship was also recognized with the Bandelier/Lavrin Book Prize in Colonial American history from the Rocky Mountain Council of Latin American Studies. *Colonial Kinship* was honored for its unique approach

to the history of contact between Spanish colonizers and indigenous Guarani groups in Paraguay in the 16th and 17th centuries. Austin argues for a more complex understanding of this period that entails moving away from studying Indigenous in isolation or emphasizing sources and perspectives from Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. In a statement, the Erminie Wheeler-Voegelin prize reviewers noted the benefits of this approach. They wrote: “Drawing on Guarani, Spanish, and Portuguese sources and approaching them from a nimble, cross-disciplinary perspective, Austin highlights the voices and priorities of historically marginalized actors, most notably, Indigenous women.

In so doing, he recovers a colonial world of contestation, negotiation, mutual identification, and compromise, not just exploitation.”

Winning a book prize, especially as a young academic, is an amazing achievement. But for U of A doctoral alumnus **Justin Gage**, it’s only half the story. Last year, he was recognized with two prestigious national prizes for his book *We Do Not Want the Gates Closed between Us: Native Networks and the Spread of the Ghost Dance*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. Through a juried review process, Gage’s work was named the Outstanding Western Book of 2021 by the Center for the Study of the American West. As part of the prize ceremony, Gage was invited to deliver a lecture at the center in West Texas A&M University at the end of the Fall 2021 semester. A few weeks later, the book also won the 2021 Beatrice Medicine Award for Best Published Monograph, awarded by the boards of the

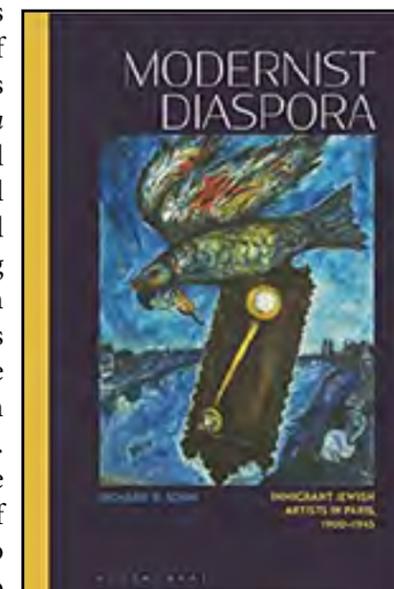


Native American Literature Symposium and the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures. The award is given in memory of the late anthropologist Beatrice Medicine (1923-2005), who made significant contributions to the study of Indigenous languages and cultures. *We Do Not Want the Gates Closed between Us* uncovers the ways in which knowledge of such practices as the Ghost Dance spread through an intertribal network that informed attempts to preserve Indigenous cultures and resist U.S. authorities in the late 19th century. The book draws upon hundreds of previously unexplored letters by and about the members of dozens of Native American tribes across the American West.

Richard Sonn published *Modernist Diaspora: Immigrant Jewish Artists in Paris, 1900-1945* (Bloomsbury Press). In the early 20th century, there was perhaps no greater source of creative vitality than the artistic communities at work in the city of Paris,

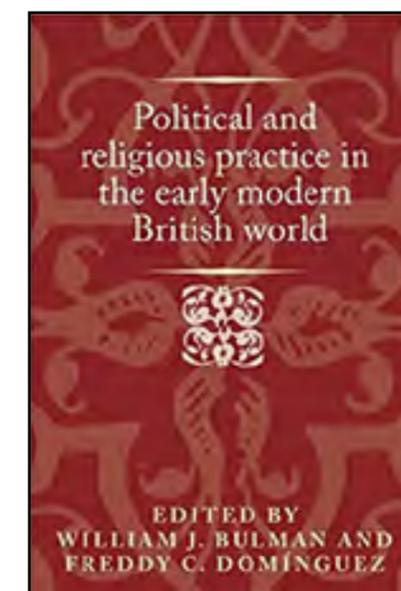
Native American Literature Symposium and the Association for the Study of American Indian Literatures. The award is given in memory of the late anthropologist Beatrice Medicine (1923-2005), who made significant contributions to the study of Indigenous languages and

France. Among the most profound and prolific were a cohort of young Jewish immigrants, who arrived with varying levels of training and contact with their artistic traditions, yet who created among the most innovative and stunning examples of contemporary art. Rich with over 60 illustrations (many in color) of period art, Sonn’s *Modernist Diaspora* reveals the critical role of intellectual and cultural exchange among the city’s Jewish immigrant artists in creating the vibrancy of Parisian modernism.



By tracing the experiences of Jewish artists who made their way to Paris in the years between the beginning of the 20th century and the end of the World War II, the author gives readers a close look at a unique cultural and social environment that was key to the work of a generation of artists who “produced the greatest efflorescence of art in the long history of the Jewish people.” Congratulations Rick!

Freddy Dominguez co-edited with William J. Bulman, Professor of History at Lehigh University, an anthology entitled *Political and Religious Practice in the Early Modern British World*, published by Manchester University Press in the United Kingdom. Historians of Great Britain, like those of many other nations, have increasingly set their accounts within a global



frame, looking more broadly across the horizon for ways to understand developments closer to home. The approach is evident in a new historical anthology. Dominguez brings together experts in the political and religious history of British, European, and Atlantic World history to explore the ways in which the political nation expanded in pre-modern England. Across twelve chapters, Bulman and Dominguez weave together cutting-edge perspectives on what Bulman describes as “the emergence of narratives of practice set in their English, British, European, Atlantic, and global contexts.” Together, the chapters add up to a nuanced portrait of a complex public sphere emerging within Early Modern Britain and of an increasingly far-flung “British world” informed by events and practices on the continent and across the Atlantic. Moreover, the chapters offer interesting takes on the influence of debates about gender roles, early moves toward secularization, and the slow turn towards majority rule. ■

Here are our recent grads and their theses/dissertations, a few summarized by their committee chairs of their dissertations/theses:

MAs

July 2021, **Emilee Dale**, “The Preacher and Missionary War: The Political Role of Race and Christianity in the 1831 Baptist War.” Committee Chair: Caree Banton.

April 2022, **Caleb Herring**, “Counterinsurgency: An American Journey.” Committee Chair: Steven Rosales.

May 2022, **Valerie Salis**, “Wonders in the Deep: Faith and Religious Practice in the Shipboard Writings of American Sailors, 1810-1859.” Committee Chair: Jim Gigantino.

July 2022, **Stephen Franklin**, “The Marianna Boycott: Healthcare, Political Organization, and Federal Intervention in the Arkansas Delta.” Committee Chair: Mike Pierce.

August 2022, **Taylor Cash**, “From Jerome to Dermott: Comparing the Treatment and Experiences of Japanese Americans and German Prisoners of War in Arkansas during World War II.” Committee Chair: Mike Pierce.

August 2022, **Maeghan O’Conner**, “Monstrous Regiment of Women”: Catholic Women’s Reactions to Reform in Sixteenth Century Scotland.” Committee Chair: Freddy Dominguez.

PhDs

June 2022, **Will Teague**, “Hostages of the Crisis: Iranian Students and Jimmy Carter,” Committee Chair: Randall Woods.

July 2022, **Airic Hughes**, “Through the Heart of the City: Interstates, and Black Geographies in Urban America,” Committee Chair: Calvin White.

Some commentary on our grads from their advisors:

My master’s student, **Valerie Sallis**, defended her thesis and graduated in May 2022. Her project, “Wonders in the Deep: Faith and Religious Practice in Shipboard Writings of American Sailors, 1810-1859,” explored the documents left by sailors that explored their own faith and religious practices. Sallis examined the logbooks, journals, and diaries written by American sailors

while at sea, sounding the depth of sailors’ religious beliefs through their own words. While American seamen certainly drank, swore, and caroused, sailors also frequently captured in their writing a much more religious nature than the mainland expected of them. Sailors’ position as highly mobile laborers on the ultimate borderlands—the sea itself—impacted their religious practice and beliefs. The American sailing ship was a site of intersection of—and frequently conflict over—race, class, and gender norms. The religious environment on ships formed in response to these physical and cultural constraints and often functioned as both an extension and exaggeration of American life at large in the early nineteenth century. Sallis is now pursuing a PhD in History at American University.

Caleb M. Herring successfully defended his MA, “Counterinsurgency: An American Journey” in the spring semester of 2022. In it he argues that American counterinsurgency doctrine has undergone periodic transformations, often as a result of U.S. public perception to guerrilla conflicts being fought by the American government. In effect, U.S. public support or lack thereof, played a powerful role in the success or failure of such operations. Multiple case studies (Reconstruction, the Philippines, Vietnam, El Salvador, and the modern-day Iraq War) are utilized to highlight his argument.

A 2020 graduate, **Mansour Alsharidah**, is now assistant professor at King Saud University, Riyadh. Congrats Mansour!

Mehreen Jamal’s “Envisioning a New Pakistani Home: Gender, Class and Identity in Women’s Urdu Journals, 1947-1960” examined the Urdu women’s press, journals published in Lahore, a center of Urdu print and popular culture, and Karachi, then the capital city of the new Pakistani state, from independence through the first decade of statehood. She describes how writers, activists and, especially, readers envisioned and debated the role of women in constructing and serving a new nation. She looked at issues of displacement and resettlement, tradition and modernity, postcolonial aspirations and nostalgia, as well as housekeeping, family/household management and national service. Hers is one of the first views at an emergent new nation and polity utilizing these rich literary as well as oral sources. Dr. Jamal is on the history teaching faculty at Haas Hall Academy in Fayetteville.

Lisa Childs is slated to defend her MA thesis in the fall of 2022. Entitled “Forging Community in the Ouachitas,” the thesis uses census surveys, land deeds, legal documents, and genealogical records to challenge understandings of the settlement and growth of the region. One of the chapters—on women who used the 1861 Homestead Act to acquire their own land—has already won an article prize and is set to appear in a forthcoming issue of the Arkansas Historical Quarterly.

Stephen Franklin’s defended his MA thesis, “The Marianna Boycott: Healthcare, Political Organization, and Federal Intervention in the Delta”, in July 2022. The thesis uses the 1971 Black-led boycott of white owned businesses in Marianna, Arkansas to examine how Great Society programs empowered African Americans in the Delta and threatened the white elite. Franklin argues that Black activists used these anti-poverty programs to improve conditions for the poor people throughout the region, but that federal curtailment of these programs prevented more lasting change.

In “From Jerome to Dermott: Comparing the Treatment and Experiences of Japanese Americans and German Prisoners of War in Arkansas During World War II,” **Taylor Cash** defended his MA thesis in July 2022. Cash examines a prison site in southern Arkansas that was first used to incarcerate Japanese Americans and then house German POWs and compares the treatment of each group. He concludes that both the federal government and the state of Arkansas treated the Nazi prisoners better (in terms of access to education, freedom to worship, disruption of traditional life) than U.S. citizens of Japanese descent. ■

UARK HIST Undergraduate Honors Theses, 2022

Mary Claire Durr, “Womanless Weddings and Beauty-less Pageants: A History of Rural Drag in Arkansas,” under the direction of Dr. Ren Pepitone (summa cum laude).

Alison Fong, “Disruptions and Continuity in the Singaporean Chinese Community: Social Networks, Collaborationist, and the Black Market under the British and Japanese Administrations, 1819-1960” under the direction of Dr. Kelly Hammond (magna cum laude).

Michael Fuhrman, “Building with Stories: Collecting Narratives and Understanding Cultural Realities for Vietnamese Buddhist Populations in Fort Smith, Arkansas,” under the direction of Dean Lynda Coon (summa cum laude)

Avery Hasten, “International Actors: Investigating Celebrities as Human Rights Actors” under the direction of Dr. Jared Phillips (cum laude)

Georgiana Powell, “A Tale of Two Libraries: A History of the Public Library Systems of Atlanta, GA and Baltimore, MD and How Libraries Across America Adapt to Their Communities,” under the direction of Dr. Patrick Williams (magna cum laude)

Emily Snyder, “The Political Power of Museums: A Case Study on the Spanish Colonial Arts Society and Museum,” under the direction of Dr. Shawn Austin (summa cum laude).

Jack West completed an honors thesis, “Plastic Makes Perfect: An Analysis of Plastic Surgery as a Rehabilitation in Early to Late 20th Century Prison Populations,” under the direction of Dr. Trish Starks (magna cum laude). ■

POSTCARDS FROM THE FIELD

It goes without saying that COVID has made the last two and half years extremely difficult for researchers. With the lifting of public health restrictions, some of our faculty rushed off to the archives, making up for lost time. Here are two postcards from the field:

Todd Cleveland:

“I spent a sizable portion of this past summer conducting research in Lausanne, Switzerland at the archive of the International Olympic Committee, which is headquartered there. This research will inform a book that I’m writing entitled *Africa and the Olympic Games: Winning Away from the Podium*, under contract with Ohio University Press and slated for publication in 2024 to coincide with the upcoming Summer Olympic Games in Paris that year. The book examines the ways that African states, athletes, and officials have, over time, used the Olympic Games as a vehicle for social, political, and economic change. Rather than measure Africa’s success at the Games in terms of sporting triumphs, i.e. medals, the book adjusts the focus by examining the ways that African states, athletes, and officials have utilized the Olympics to engage in transformative political activity, realize social mobility, and enhance the quality of life for individuals, communities, and entire nations.”

Shawn Austin:

“After a two-year delay, I was finally able to travel to Argentina and Paraguay to conduct research for my current book project, ‘Guaraní Means War: The Politics of Defense in the Río de la Plata.’ When people think of the Spanish empire, they often forget that much of the empire was defended by Indigenous peoples. In the frontier regions of the Río de la Plata, Indigenous were organized as militias and performed the bulk of frontier defense. I study Guaraní martial cultures in the Guaraní-Jesuit mission towns via traditional Jesuit records, bureaucratic records, and Guaraní-language sources. Defending home and country was an especially politicized activity because it represented one of the most important manifestations of loyal vassalage under the Spanish empire. Moreover, the right to bear arms was a privilege many Spaniards claimed exclusively. But Guaraní in the Río de la Plata secured the rights to bear arms for their King and, with their Jesuit supporters, successfully leveraged their militia service to defend the independent and protected status of their communities. One of the ways to study this topic is through religion and religious art. This photo of an eighteenth-century Guaraní carving of Saint Michael vanquishing a demon was replete throughout the mission world. In some of these images, the demon takes on the appearance of the Guaraní’s most hated frontier enemy, the Portuguese slaver. I snapped this photo in the incredible Santa María pueblo museum in Itapúa, Paraguay.”



Above: A view from the IOC archives onto Lake Geneva, Lausanne, Switzerland. Tough gig, Todd!

Right: Eighteenth-Century Guaraní carving of Saint Michael vanquishing a demon.



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Melinda Adams
Assistant Editor

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and Laurence Hare, and Shawn Austin
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