Welcome back to Fall Semester

We begin this year with a two-year project on Career Diversity for History PhDs, a program funded by the American Historical Association and the Graduate School. Our Career Diversity Fellow, Lillian Wilson Szlaga, will be organizing events and assisting as we work to improve career outcomes for our graduate students. There will be more on the grant and program in the next newsletter. We also are in full swing in our History Communication initiative, with the new History Communications lab set to open up in fall semester and our new course, HIS 4993-6993 History Communication, taught by Jennifer Hart, scheduled for fall term. We are seeking funding for new internships for graduate students and undergraduate majors in history communication, and we already have an active and engaged faculty, who write and present through online and broadcast media and in journals and books, communicating about the past to broad public audiences and scholarly ones, too. If learning about and researching the past and telling stories about our history engages you, come join us! ~Department Chair-Elizabeth Faue

Save these Dates!

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<td>Edwin Black Lecture</td>
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40th Years of the North American Labor History Conference

The North American Labor History Conference was first held at Wayne State in 1978 under the direction of Stanley Shapiro and History Department committee members Robert Zieger, Christopher H. Johnson, and Philip Mason. In eight sessions over three days, the NALHC hosted leading labor scholars in U.S. and European history, including Alexander Saxton, David Montgomery, Louise Tilly, Leslie Moch, William Sewell, Joan Scott, and John Merriman. A small but growing group of historians participated in wide-ranging discussions of working-class politics, labor organization, and sources for the new labor history. Over the next few years, then-department chair Melvin Small dedicated important resources toward the building the nation's first and only annual labor history conference. Its original committee rotated the conference directorship throughout the 1980s. When Bob Zieger left for a new position at the University of Florida, the History Department was unable at first to replace him. Only in 1990, when Elizabeth Faue arrived at WSU to teach labor and working class history, did the conference again flourish. Since that time, NALHC attendees have seen the best and most innovative scholarship in labor and working class history. The highly successful Men, Women, and Labor meeting in 1991 was followed by conferences on labor, citizenship, and the state; workers and the city; memory and the retelling of working-class lives; labor, migration and the global economy; labor, law, and justice; class, social movements, and the new politics; technology, work and environment; geographies of labor, and the nature of work. After 2003, conference leadership passed to Janine Lanza (2004-11); Fran Shor (2012-14); Tom Klug (2015-16, 2018). In 2017, Tracy Neumann organized a conference on labor and public history.

In 1996-1997, the NALHC helped to organize and host the founding meetings of the Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA), with which it has a strong and continuing working relationship. While LAWCHA now has its own biannual labor history conference and co-sponsors other panels and meetings, it maintains a close connection with NALHC in hosting an annual luncheon and co-sponsoring graduate student travel grants.

Since 1978, the NALHC has maintained its commitment to showcasing the best research in labor and working-class history in the United States and internationally. Over 3,000 scholars have presented their research in panels, plenary sessions, poetry readings, and workshops, with annual attendance averaging between 150 and 200, with a diverse audience that bridges international and disciplinary divides. Participants range from independent scholars and public historians to senior academics, union officers, policy-makers, and community activists, reflecting the current diversity of the field. All in all, the NALHC has much to be proud of in its forty years of promoting and presenting the histories of working people.

This year’s 40th annual North American Labor History Conference, Labor and History in the 21st Century, will be held October 18-20, 2018, in the Wayne State Student Center. More information and the program can be found soon on the website: http://www.clas.wayne.edu/nalhc/.
Kenneth Alyass on his research on Wayne State’s Transformation of Midtown

Although most students use their UROP grant and Stern-Lion scholarship to travel across the nation or overseas, I used my money to land a little closer to home. All my research on how Wayne State’s development shaped the economic, spatial, and racial landscape of Midtown Detroit was based at the Reuther Library.

I studied the period between 1956 and 1975, when the bulk of the expansion and building on campus took place. In 1956, the “State” was put into the university's title, which allowed it to obtain millions of dollars of state funding that enabled it to embark on a prodigious campus building plan. Around this time the highways that sliced up the city were about to be finished, further separating Wayne State and Midtown from the surrounding city. Surrounded by aging apartment buildings, houses, and shops, Wayne State took advantage of powerful and amenable eminent domain practices and began to purchase or condemn hundreds of structures around campus. They built classrooms, halls, dorms, faculty offices, labs, and libraries – practically every building on campus is on land that used to be a small neighborhood.

The new development warped the demographics of the area, evicting poor black residents, and opening up pockets of investment and development. The most interesting thing I discovered was community resistance to WSU’s expansion. One project in particular elicited a huge backlash: University City 1 and 2, where Wayne State attempted to embark on a massive reconfiguration of Midtown. The projects succeeded partially, but not to the degree that it planned for originally. Resistance from community groups, students, and even faculty members, made the administration hesitant to embark on such large projects again. I argue that in the 1960s, Wayne State slowed down expansion, partially due to the drying up of federal and state funds, and the negative reputation the university received in a very racially contentious city.

I learned a lot about our university's history. If there is one thing I took away from my research, it is how social and political history interconnects. What I discovered that an incredible number of community activists that fought against WSU’s urban renewal – and even more interesting, how urban renewal and slum clearance had nuances of race and class. As a historian, you really have to think outside of the box and reach out to different modes of analysis. I consider myself a historian of the built environment, but the archive required me to become a social historian, chronicling protest movements and campaigns for black self-determinism in the face of a powerful and federally backed institution’s mission.

Walking around campus is no longer the same for me. I see it in a very different light, and I now understand the power behind the built environment. Buildings, like the ones we encounter on campus, aren’t just buildings, they define communities, elicit responses, change the community character, function as open social spaces, or as closed boundaries of class and race. How we build our campus and cities affect how people respond and perceive us, and vice versa.
The Historian’s Craft

Intro to Researching the Past

The department decided to enhance undergraduates’ training by formally introducing them to historical methods earlier in their program. We did this by developing The Historian’s Craft, a gateway seminar to research for first and second year students. We designed the course to teach students how to identify research questions, identify and research archival collections for evidence-based answers and then present their findings to diverse audiences.

First Up

Hans Hummer, Elizabeth Lublin, and Kidada Williams were up first. Teaching the course over two years, they worked out the kinks—identifying how much content was appropriate and determining the best strategies for making every assessment and reading assignment a means to an end for helping students to understand historical research and develop their own research projects.

Not Just History Majors

The research topics—the Fall of the Roman Empire, Hiroshima & Nagasaki, Detroit 1967—attracted students from across the university. Researching dimensions of these topics that were of interest to them and bringing their insights as anthropologists, sociologists, and political scientists to bear on researching the past was rewarding for students exploring the past.

New Insights and Skills

Students have said that they learned how to make evidence-based arguments and conquered their fear of visiting archival collections and using microfilm/fiche. Many of them have since extended the life of their projects by presenting their findings to larger audiences and in more formal settings, like the Undergraduate Research Fair and the annual meeting of the American Historical Association.
The Historian’s Craft

Cindy Krolikowski

We couldn’t give our students the strong research foundation they need without the assistance we receive from History Library Liaison, Cindy Krolikowski. She introduces students to the Library System and then helps them identify research collections and even narrow down their topics. Cindy says she loves that The Historian’s Craft gets students from all majors over into the library and helps them to actively participate in fulfilling the university’s research mission. A common refrain from students, “Cindy rocks!” shows that the appreciation is mutual.

Archivists at the Reuther

Kristen Chinery and Meghan Courtney (standing), archivists at the Reuther Library, are invaluable, too. In addition to introducing students to the Reuther’s impressive collections, the archivists teach them about archives and researching them. Their workshop comprehensive exercises show students how to interpret sources and record them. Students say the Reuther team’s friendliness and helpfulness makes their research easier and fun.

The Place Gateway Award

This award recognizes students who have produced research papers in The Historian’s Craft that demonstrate great skill with historical methodology. It is an offshoot of the F. Richard Place Endowed Memorial Award, which is given to students who have produced outstanding research papers in the Junior/Senior Research Seminar in History. Mr. Place’s family generously allowed us to use the fund to reward exceptional research in the gateway course. This year’s recipient of the Place Gateway Award was Michael Polano (left).

What’s Next?

Students who have completed the course often present their research at conferences, further enhancing their skills and training. As we continue developing the course with the hope that it lays the foundation for more excellent student research, Janine Lanza and Marsha Richmond will be joining the roster of faculty teaching the gateway course, covering the French Revolution and Charles Darwin.
William Winkel

William “Billy” Winkel graduated from Wayne State in 2016, majoring in History with an emphasis on Detroit and Civil Rights. Today, he is the manager of oral history projects at the Detroit Historical Society, where he also works to promote the stories of the people of Detroit and seeks out the voices of those who may otherwise be underrepresented. Here, he talks about his experiences working on the Detroit 67: Looking Back to Move Forward community engagement project.

Telling Detroit’s Stories at Detroit Historical Society

The mission of the Detroit Historical Society is, “Telling Detroit’s Stories and Why They Matter.” My job at the Society is finding and recording them. Luckily for me, I usually find help with transcribing. The bulk of the past three years has been devoted to telling the stories of what happened in Detroit 50 years ago during the Uprising of 1967. I was fortunate enough to personally speak with over 150 people about what they experienced during the traumatic episode. I may not get a great interview every time, but you’d be surprised how valuable different perspectives are.

Stories to Share

We collected a treasure trove of perspectives. For a few months, I was an oral history dealer. I worked with journalists, authors, editors, playwrights, our exhibitions team, and others to ensure that Detroiters’ were front and center during the ensuing media blitz for the 50th anniversary. The oral histories were the backbone of our exhibit, Detroit 67: Perspectives (winner of the 2018 Institute of Museum and Library Services National Medal), the Wayne State University Press award-winning book Detroit 1967: Origins, Impacts, Legacies; and the Detroit Free Press film, 12th and Clairmount. These stories were far too good to keep ourselves, so we made the important decision to provide our oral histories available online for free.

How’d I Get Here?

Never say “no” to a new experience. I may not have planned to become an oral historian, but I am so glad I did. For three years, I crisscrossed the city interviewing a beautiful tapestry of folks. I was welcomed into people’s homes with open arms. I went to schools, libraries, churches, and community centers where I met with people who personally experienced Detroit’s triumphs and tribulations. It was exhilarating, eye-opening, myth-destroying, and heart-wrenching. My experiences at Wayne provided a strong foundation for my career in public history. Thanks Wayne State!
Japanese History in the Department

The study of Japanese history at Wayne State dates from the immediate postwar period and the arrival of Thomas Frank Mayer-Oakes as the first Asianist in the Department of History. A graduate of the US Navy Japanese Language School, Professor Mayer-Oakes served as an interpreter for General Douglas MacArthur during the Occupation and later pursued a doctoral degree at the University of Chicago. His dissertation and eventually his most significant publication, *Fragile Victory*, provided a translation of the first volume of a memoir written by the political secretary of Prince Saionji, the most important political player in Japan during the interwar period.

Just as he contributed immensely to scholarship with that work, Prof. Mayer-Oakes mentored a core of future Japanese historians in the classroom. The most noted of that cohort includes: Harry Harootunian, Professor Emeritus at New York University and the University of Chicago, and a prolific writer in the areas of intellectual and cultural history; Marlene Mayo, Associate Professor Emerita at the University of Maryland and the force behind a collection of interviews with Americans who worked in Occupation-era Japan; and, the recently deceased Bernard Silberman, Professor Emeritus of Political Science at the University of Chicago and a renowned scholar of Japanese government.

The legacy of Professor Mayer-Oakes at WSU has continued in part through the generosity of Professors Harootunian and Mayo. Roughly a decade ago, Professor Harootunian donated his extensive collection of books on Japan to the library, while Professor Mayo has provided scholarship money for undergraduate and graduate students pursuing Japanese studies in honor of Professor Mayer-Oakes. Wayne State welcomed both back to campus in April for the Modern Japan in a Global Context Mini-Conference. Organized by Wayne State’s Emeritus Academy, the conference also saw William Marotti, Associate Professor at UCLA, and Wayne State’s Elizabeth Lublin share their research.

That conference was one of two gatherings of Japanese Studies enthusiasts in April. Just a few days before, Elizabeth Lublin hosted the Midwest Japan Seminar. The seminar brings together scholars from across the Midwest and representing a range of academic disciplines for discussion of pre-circulated papers several times a year. Lublin is serving as the seminar’s chair and, with the help of her Executive Committee, has secured funding from the Japan Foundation for four seminars for the 2018-2019 academic year. With this service and a range of classes on Japan, including surveys of premodern and modern Japan, a class on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in history and memory, and a new fall course on the history of Japanese popular culture, Elizabeth Lublin is following in the footsteps of those who came before her.

In Memoriam: Alan Hurvitz & Dr. Thaddeus C. Radzilowski

Alan Hurvitz died in March. Howard Lupovitch, shared these words about him: “Alan Hurvitz returned to school to pursue graduate studies in History after a successful career as an attorney for Honigman/Miller. He completed a master degree, writing his thesis about the ways the Jews of Detroit responded to Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust and was in process of applying into our doctoral program. Alan demonstrated a real talent for archival research and documentary analysis. His writing combined the meticulous legal argumentation of a trained attorney with the literary flair of a humanities scholar. Alan never settled for easy answers, preferring to attack and unravel the complexities and nuances of a historical problem. I learned as much form him as he did from me. He will be missed.”

Dr. Thaddeus C. Radzilowski, a former WSU History major and contributor to the History Department, died in July. Dr. Radzilowski was a highly accomplished historian and academic studying Poland and Central and Eastern Europe, producing countless manuscripts on these important topics. Over the course of his rich academic career, he taught at University of Michigan, Madonna University, Heidelberg College, and Southwest Minnesota State University. He also served as the President of St. Mary College. He was the co-founder and president of the Piast Institute in Hamtramck, Michigan, the largest Polish-American think tank in the United States.
In Memoriam: Hayden White
Historian and Wayne State Alumnus (1928-2018)

In the years after World War II, the Department of History at Wayne State fostered a new generation of historians who made crucial contributions to historical scholarship in fields as diverse as American politics, Japanese history, and medieval studies. Among that talented generation stood Hayden White, an emeritus professor at University of California-Santa Cruz, who died in March of this year. Trained as a medievalist, White became an international scholar in history and theory and authored the landmark *Metahistory: The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth Century Europe*, a book inspired by his reading of Benedetto Croce and Giambattista Vico. White remained a controversial figure throughout his career, as his work signaled the beginning of the linguistic turn and the use of the concepts and techniques of literary criticism in history and historiography.


His creative approach to understanding historical narrative influenced generations of historians. Many of our department faculty were educated long after the publication of White's best-known work; and yet, his name and influence have been and remain part of the History Department’s legacy. The questions that drove his work—exploring how we tell “history” as well as how we understand the past—have been central to cultural and social history since the 1970s. In retrospect, White’s influence was not about the daily practice of history, the use of archives, or even engagement with a broader public. It was, instead, about making ourselves conscious of how we as historians shape the history we write and use the history we teach. To stop looking at History as limiting and determinative, and as “natural” and “authentic,” from White’s perspective, released historians and their readers from the burdens of the past. He substituted instead the idea of history as a resource for the political and social imagination. For his work in historical scholarship, we want to recognize the passing of one of Wayne State’s most distinguished history alumni.
Next Gen Humanities PhD Interns

In summer 2018, a pilot Humanities Clinic, funded by the Graduate School, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, and the NEH Next Gen Humanities Ph.D. internship program returned to Wayne State. Out of 10 interns, 3 were History doctoral students: Rochelle E. Danquah, Samuel Hogsette, and Joshua Morris. Interns had the choice of a site-based internship with one community partner or a project-based internship with multiple community partners through the Wayne State University Humanities Clinic. Rochelle and Samuel chose site-based internships, while Josh chose to work in the Humanities Clinic.

Rochelle interned at WSU Press. Working with Emily Nowak in Marketing and Sales, her duties included writing marketing copy, working on book covers, designing and distributing press packets, graphic design, and organizing book signings and other Press events.

Samuel interned at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. He organized a 50th Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Detroit Black Panther Party, which is scheduled for November 7, 2018. He facilitated steering committee meetings, scheduled panels, and designed posters and audio/visual programming. He also organized fundraising events for the Detroit Black Panther Historical Project.

At the Humanities Clinic, Joshua completed projects for the Reuther Library and the Sugar Law Center. Joshua created K-12 and undergraduate learning modules for the Reuther Library’s new Archival and Primary Resource Education Lab. At Sugar Law, he designed “know your rights” outreach materials for temporary workers in Lansing, Michigan, Toledo, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Thanks to our History interns for their great work this summer and to our community partners for having them!

Milestones

The department has changed since the time that Bill, Andrew, and Aaron joined our faculty. They have been a part of that change, making a shift toward greater public engagement, concern for human rights and democratic governance in global history, and the history of the environment and raise the department’s profile in these areas with their excellent and often award winning scholarship. We look forward to the future with these talented colleagues.
News & Notes

Student News

History major Kenneth Alyass has received an Undergraduate Research Award (UROP) and a Sterne-Lion Award for his project, “Detroit’s Ivory Tower: A Historical Study of Wayne State University’s Development, and the Influence of the Public Research University in Detroit.” Congratulations!

Suzanne Chami and Ben Thomason (left) were invited to join Phi Beta Kappa.

MAPH student Amber Harrison placed third for her poster at the Graduate and Postdoctoral Research Symposium.

PhD candidate Father Michael Varlamos defended “A Quest for Human and Civil Rights: Archbishop Iakovos and the Greek Orthodox Church.” Congratulations.

PhD candidate Andrew Hnatow won a Summer Dissertation Fellowship from the Graduate School to complete “Vestiges of Industry: De-industrialization and Community in Detroit.” Congratulations, Andrew!

PhD candidate Miriam Mora won admission to and support to attend a two-week research seminar Leo Baeck Summer University on “Jewish Studies and Gender Research” in July. Congrats!

Faculty News

Eric Ash participated in a February discussion on WAYN, WSU’s student-run radio station.

Eric Ash, Elizabeth Faue, and Jennifer Hart won 2018 Board of Governor’s Faculty Recognition Awards for their recent book publications.

Elizabeth Faue was awarded a Distinguished Graduate Faculty Award by the Graduate School.


Hans Hummer’s Visions of Kinship in Medieval Europe was published by Oxford University Press. He also received a fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies at Princeton University.

Tracy Neumann won a 2018 Career Development Chair award and a Humanities Center Faculty Fellowship.

Aaron Retish received a fellowship at the Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center of the University of Illinois for the Summer Research Laboratory in June.

Marsha Richmond is the recipient of two awards, the Competitive Graduate Research Assistant Award and Humanities Center's Marilyn Williamson Endowed Distinguished Faculty Fellowship

Andrew Port was named a Wayne State Board of Governors Distinguished Faculty Fellow for 2018-20.

Professor Emeritus Fran Shor had “Memory and Meaning in in Representation of the American War in Vietnam” published in Critical Education.

Syliva Taschka won the CLAS Teaching Award. She also published essays in the Detroit Free Press and ‘The Conversation.”

Kidada E. Williams appeared on NPR’s ‘On Point’ to discuss the opening of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and on BackStory with the American History Guys.

Promotion News

Jorge Chinea and Hans Hummer were promoted to full professor. Congratulations!
## 2018 History Awards

### Undergraduate Awards

**Mark and Linee Diem Endowed Scholarship**  
William Weis

**The Professor Effie K. Ambler Memorial Endowed Scholarship in History**  
Megan Eisenstein  
Adeline Walsh

**Baiardi Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship**  
Aya Beydoun  
Kenneth Alyass

**Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship in History**  
Kenneth Alyass, "Detroit's Ivory Tower: A Historical Study of Development Around Wayne State University and the Influence of the Public Research University in Detroit"

**F. Richard Place Endowed Memorial Award**  
Ryan Stevenson, "Solitudes into Cities: A 19th Century Nationalist's Conception of Nature"  
Benjamin Thomason, "The Funhouse: The Life of The Freezer Theater and the Rise and Fall of Early Hardcore Punk in Detroit"

**Place Gateway Award**  
Dwjuan Frazier, "Gold Coinage and Social Mobility in the late Roman Empire"  
David Webb, "The things you National Guardsmen do now will live in people's memory for ever: Reexamining the Michigan National Guard in the 1967 Detroit Uprising"

**Rolf and Jennie Johannesen Endowed Memorial Award**  
William Weis, "Factional Politics in the Late Roman Empire: A Case Study of Aetius' Court"

**Dr. Gerald R. Dreslinski Award**  
Matthew Ashford, "A Tale of Two Thinkers: A Comparative Analysis of the Evolution of the Political Thought of John Adams and Thomas Jefferson"

**Student Award in Japanese Studies (Undergraduate) in Memory of Thomas Frank Mayer-Oakes:**  
Mary Krusz

### Merit Awards

**Student Award in Japanese Studies (Graduate) in Memory of Thomas Frank Mayer-Oakes:**  
Sean O'Brien, "Comics and Manga: Transforming Gender Identity"

### Research Awards

**Dr. Gerald Dreslinski Research Award**  
Kevin Nichols, for research at Western Michigan University

**Michael D. Patterson Memorial Award**  
Sean O'Brien, for research at Gardner Fox Archives

**Charles F. Otis and Dr. Jeffrey L. Reider Scholarship in the History of Gender and Sexuality**  
Alexandra Penn, for research at university archives in Georgia, North Carolina, and Maryland.

**Kruman-Lion Endowed History Graduate Student Award**  
Miriam Mora, for research at American Jewish Archives

**Alfred H. Kelly Memorial Research Award**  
Christine Cook, for research at Army Heritage Education Center and the Women's Memorial and Museum

**Thomas H. Bonner Graduate Research Grants**  
Rochelle Danquah, Duke University  
Matt Hoerauf, Indiana University at Bloomington  
Katie Parks, in Munich

### Service Awards

**Joseph Gelasas Drouillard and Elizabeth Lesperance History Award**  
Christine Cook

**Louis Jones History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) Award**  
Amanda Walter
From the Editor

With the help of our talented and productive faculty, staff, and students, we’ve managed to produce another fine issue. From our award-winning faculty and students and our well-attended events like the Spring Reception (which included wonderful research presentations by graduate students Christine Cook, James McQuaid, and Sean O’Brien for the Otis-Reider Symposium on the History of Gender, Women, and Sexuality and a fantastic poster exhibition on Woman Suffrage from Liette Gidlow’s class) and the Borderland Conference to faculty talks at venues around the globe, including local ones like the Urban Consulate (where current students and alumni meet up and reconnect) and WDET, we remain a busy department, fulfilling both the department and university’s mission for excellence in research and public engagement.

Please keep sharing your exciting news and photos with us. ~KEW

“\textit{I think it’s important to review history in order to understand how we got where we are. Looking at what’s happened in the past is a way to avoid making the same mistakes when you are trying to make progress now.}”

– Nicholas Garlinghouse –

Doctoral Student, Wayne State Department of History