Rediscovering History’s History: Welcome Back

As we approach the Department’s 85th and Wayne State’s 150th anniversaries, we explore our past and traditions in acts of discovery that are almost more archaeological than historical. In this issue, we explore the ways that historians have made an impact on their communities and the larger world. We show how History Communication—interpreting the past to a wider audience—is part of who we were and are as historians. You will find stories that reveal how the past is connected to the present and how historical understanding shapes our future. Come join us!

Department Chair, Elizabeth Faue

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Archives and History: Phil Mason, the Reuther Library, and the Archives

This is the second of a series of faculty profiles, written by the historians currently teaching in related fields. Here, Elizabeth Faue shares the legacy of Philip P. Mason.

In 1961, History Department Chair, Al Kelly, established the first course in archival training at Wayne State University. Philip P. Mason (PhD University of Michigan), who trained at the Bentley Library and worked as a state archivist, was hired as Wayne’s university archivist and historian. Over the next twenty years as a history professor, Mason established an archival administration certificate and expanded course offerings to include oral history, conservation, and administration of historical agencies.

A response to the need for trained archivists and public historians, Mason’s program trained not only an archival brigade (over 250 students became archives professionals) but also created the Walter P. Reuther Library and Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs, which is now 57 years old.

The Reuther Library Archives is one of the crown jewels of our university. It was started, as Phil Mason like to tell, in the basement of Purdy Library in a collection of boxes and has become through the diligent stewardship of Mason, his staff, students, and successors, the premiere labor archive in the United States. The Reuther houses the records of the United Auto Workers, the United Farm Workers, the Service Employee International Union, the American Federation of Teachers, and others, providing labor scholars from around the world access to a wealth of material on workers and their institutions. The Reuther also is the repository for Wayne State's University Archives and has extensive collections on Detroit’s institutions, government, and people.

Working in the Department of History and in the School of Library and Information Science, Mason served as Director of the Reuther for over 30 years. As a historian, he also encouraged the development of local history and trained MA students as well as library students.


The Department of History continues the relationship that Phil Mason created with the renamed School of Information Science. There are joint degrees in MLIS-MA, the archival certificate program, and a joint degree in the MLIS-MA in Public History has been proposed. We celebrate the traditions of training in archival science and public history that Emeritus Professor Phil Mason helped to establish and expand and the many students who have graduated in archives administration and history over the past fifty-six years.
Alfred Kelly and Our Legacy of Constitutional History at Wayne State

This is the second of a series of faculty profiles, written by the historians currently teaching these fields. Here, Constitutional historian Sandra VanBurkleo covers the life and legacy of Alfred Kelly.

More than one recipient of the Kelly Award have wondered who “Kelly” is or was. So here is a thumbnail sketch.

Born in Pekin, Illinois, in 1907, Alfred H. Kelly secured three advanced degrees from the University of Chicago and came to Wayne State as the Department of History’s first full-time American constitutional historian. He had served in the U. S. Navy during World War II. Kelly remained at the university for his entire career, serving for many years as the Department’s chair.

During his long career, Kelly published three books—among them, the widely adopted textbook The American Constitution (originally written with his colleague, Winfred A. Harbison), first published in 1948, which went through many editions and has since been recast by Herman Belz (University of Maryland). At the time, reviewers such as Clinton Rossiter and Lewis Vander Velde applauded the authors for their “progressive” inclusion of colonial-American developments, their expansive reading of the Reconstruction Amendments, and for their post-war attitude of “sober optimism.”

Kelly was perhaps best known for his work with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund as technical assistant to attorney Thurgood Marshall and others in compiling historical portions of the testimony underlying the Supreme Court’s Brown v. Board of Education ruling. But, he also edited the Journal of American History from 1969 to 1973, sat on a number of professional committees within national organizations, and served as president of the Foreign Policy Association’s Detroit branch. His works included a number of articles and chapters—e.g., in John Garraty’s Quarrels That Shaped the Constitution (1962).

Kelly died in Grosse Pointe Park on February 14, 1976. At the time of his death, he had been serving since the previous June in a post-retirement stint as acting dean for graduate studies.

After Kelly’s death, the Department took on Kermit L. Hall – the son of a tire builder and a bookkeeper in Akron, Ohio. Born in 1944, Hall earned his BA at University of Akron, an MA at Syracuse University, and a PhD from the University of Minnesota in 1972. He also earned a Master of Studies in Law (MSL) degree from Yale Law School in 1980 (he called it “law for poets”). Before coming to WSU, Hall taught at Vanderbilt University, where he edited a major presidential paper project; after leaving Wayne State in the early 1980s, he migrated to University of Florida, where he eventually became Dean of Liberal Arts.

Hall then entered academic administration full time, serving as dean, provost, and president at a number of universities, culminating in the presidency of SUNY Albany, where he was serving at the time of his death in 2006. Among other service posts, Hall accepted a presidential appointment to the Assassination Records Review Board to review and release to the public a trove of documents related to the JFK assassination. He received many grants and fellowships (NEH, ACLS, ABF, and so on), including the James Madison Award from the American Library Association for his commitment to openness in government. He wrote or edited many books, a majority of them compilations (e.g., multi-volume bibliographic editions and Bicentennial-related volumes for the OAH). By the 1980s, he had earned a reputation (to quote a colleague) as the “profession’s bibliographer.”

His successor at WSU, Sandra F. VanBurkleo, has forged her own path. But, there was overlap: She worked with Hall, for instance, on a number of Bicentennial-inspired projects, especially but not only for OAH and AHA, aimed primarily at a non-academic readership. Five years before his death, VanBurkleo worked as senior editor with Hall and another colleague to create an anthology, Constitutionalism and American Culture: Writing the New Constitutional History (2001) – in effect a festschrift to commemorate the career of their graduate-school advisor at University of Minnesota, Paul L. Murphy.
In April, students in my Modern American Cities course (pictured below) presented their original research to the public at a PechaKucha.

PechaKucha, developed in Tokyo by design professionals about fifteen years ago, emphasizes “the art of concise presentations.” It is one of range of assignments innovative History faculty have employed to help students learn to present their historical research and knowledge to diverse audiences using a variety of formats. At a PechaKucha, speakers present twenty slides for only twenty seconds each.

Students had to translate research projects originally developed as lengthy term papers with an audience of a single professor into oral presentations that succinctly conveyed their ideas in a way that anyone who happened to show up could understand.

PechaKucha’s fast-paced, visually-driven structure encouraged students to think in new ways about how to interpret archival research on subjects as diverse as public schools, urban uprisings, sports, urban renewal projects, Belle Isle architecture, Prohibition-era gangs, and urban foodways.

The PechaKucha structure helps students hone their communication skills and teaches them to think about how to address different kinds of audiences. The students rose to the occasion and developed slideshows that highlighted the most exciting aspects of their research. They all held their own in a lively Q&A with an enthusiastic audience.
A German Exchange Student’s Perspective on living & learning in Detroit

This past year, Constanze Sabathil joined us from Munich, Germany. Here is what she experienced and learned.

Living in Detroit

“If you can make it in Detroit, you can make it anywhere.” To me, this statement is the spirit of the Motor City. Despite its significant challenges, neither the city nor its people seem to give up. They continuously strive for improvement and perseverance of their wonderful hometown. I could always feel the energetic atmosphere and tenacious vibes of Motown, which is why I love Detroit: it teaches you to aim for the best every day. I would not have wanted to study anywhere else.

Studying U.S. History in the States

Detroit is exceptionally rich in history and vast in opportunities to learn about African American History and Culture. One of my favorite spots is the Wright Museum and its Freedom School. The archives I visited with Prof. Williams provided an entirely new and much deeper insight into African American History than I had. I will always cherish the time I spent at Wayne State and in the D.

The U.S. Election

It is a unique experience to follow a U.S. presidential election in the U.S. This particular election is likely to have been unprecedented on every level possible. As a foreigner visitor to the “Land of the Free,” I do not have the right to vote here. I just had to sit back and watch in astonishment, one of the most incredible events in the more recent history. The election results of the world power have immediate repercussions not only for its citizens, but for the entire world. So for me, this election was a reminder of how much of a privilege it is to have the right to vote, to voice one’s opinion without being persecuted, and to be able to actively partake in the decision where one’s country is headed.

Attending the Women’s March

I started to become interested in grassroots activism and the manner in which the American people made use of their civic rights after the election. I found out about the Women’s and Sister Marches and felt compelled to go to Washington, D.C. and participate in The March. The atmosphere was marvelous! There was so much diversity and friendliness. Everyone was in good spirits. People from all over the country, of all genders, ethnicities and religions, came together in order to peacefully make their voices heard. Observing this essential pillar of democracy, being a part of the unity, was one of the most moving and enthralling moments of my life.
Insights

Tim Moran ~ Post-Professional Journalism

Much has been made of living in a post-factual era. It is probably too early, though, to accept post-factualism as a meaningful label for a set time. Another way to understand this moment is to consider the consequences of living in a world of post-professional journalism. The profession has experienced significant shrinkage in recent years. Ad-revenue has swung from professionally developed news to the Internet, where so-called “clickbait” — salacious or conspiratorial items — now raises more in ad dollars.

This returns journalism to the kind of coverage prevalent at the 1840s origins of the mass Penny Press, when papers made big dollars with stories from correspondent who described his “visit” to the moon. Today, amateurs with no background in professional skepticism, or facticity in reporting, have cheap and quick publishing access to a national audience.

This exciting period of post-factualism may prove to be as fleeting as other ephemeral trends that seemed dominant. For users of journalism as primary source documentation, though, there will be need for great care in the future when visiting whatever record remains of “news” stories from today. Aside from caveat emptor, historians may need to adopt a new attitude: If it seems to support your thesis, check it out!

Aaron Retish ~ 100 Years since the Russian Revolution

2017 marks the centenary of the Russian Revolution, a revolution that overthrew Europe’s longest ruling family in February, established the most democratic regime in the world in March, and witnessed the first socialist state by October of that year. The Revolution led to the transformation, often in brutal fashion, of almost every aspect of society in the former Russian empire and Eastern Europe after the Second World War. After the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union in December 1991, it became easy to minimize the Revolution’s impact on the world.

Historians across the world are using the anniversary to remind the public of the Russian Revolution’s historical significance. We are re-examining basic questions of the its causes and highlighting its global impact—from inspiring Communist revolutions from China to Cuba, to the decolonization movement, and through re-conceptualizing what capitalism means in the United States. Many historians of Russia in the West see the Revolution as the most significant revolution in modern history. However, the centennial of the Revolution has witnessed a more subdued reaction in Russia itself as it still struggles with the legacy of the Soviet Union and how to discuss revolution without questioning the present state.

I offered a special centennial version of my course The Russian Revolution. It was a wonderful pedagogical experience to talk of the February Revolution unfolding in Petrograd (now St. Petersburg) as it unfolded almost to the minute a century before. We also attended a conference on the global legacy of the Revolution and studied social media that commemorated the Revolution and brought to light new primary sources. We will offer more programs on campus this fall reflecting on the anniversary of the Russian Revolution and we hope that students, alumni, and the public join in the conversations.
History Students research Detroit’s 1967 Unrest

Kidada Williams has been leading students researching the causes and consequences of the disorders that rocked Detroit in 1967. Students examined historical records of the unrest and reactions to it at the Reuther Library; Wayne State’s Special Collections; the Burton Historical Collection; & the Detroit Historical Museum and reported their findings on websites and in traditional papers. We are deeply indebted to the amazing teams at these institutions, especially archivists Kristen Chinery, Meghan Courtney, Romie Minor, and Tobi Voight, and librarian Cindy Krolikowski.

Meghan McGowan on Student Activism

I analyzed records from the Detroit School Board and its members, the Detroit Federation of Teachers, student newspapers like the Black Student Voice, and community newspapers like Inner City Voice, Illustrated News, and Michigan Chronicle, to understand student activism. Adult Detroiters were not alone in their participation in civil unrest; students actively fought for self-determination within the schools. They staged protests to topple negligent curriculum, racist teachers, and deteriorating buildings.

Rethinking the National Guard’s Role

David Webb questioned whether the torrent of criticism hurled at the Michigan National Guard was fair. He interviewed a retired member of the Guard who was on duty in ’67 and traveled to the Archives of Michigan to examine the Guard’s internal investigations of their activities. Webb argues we need a more balanced assessment of the Guard’s role in restoring order.

Reassessing Detroit’s S.T.R.E.S.S.

Retired Wayne County Sheriff and MA student, Douglas Merriman, researched the Detroit Police Department’s controversial unit S.T.R.E.S.S. Examining DPD records, media reports, & interviewing two of the unit’s retired members, he discovered a complicated and divided memory of the unit. Some appreciated the unit’s fight against violent crime but others could not forgive the deadly violence and corruption.
Rebellion or Riot?

Aya Beydoun tackled a question still debated today: how should we describe what happened? Researching Mayor Jerome Cavanagh’s records, media accounts then and now, she discovered that at the time, most Detroiters recognized the complexity of the issue and used the terms interchangeably. Detroiters knew that no single term sufficiently explained all the factors leading into and flowing out from the disorders.

Daniel Weed on the Divide over Housing

Daniel Weed researched metro Detroit’s reaction to the Supreme Court’s Shelley v. Kramer decision blocking federal enforcement of restrictive covenants and other efforts to enact Open Housing policies throughout the region. He discovered slick real estate campaigns encouraging whites to leave the city for the promise of new, white suburban neighborhoods & schools.

Bruce Bakken on Detroit Housing

Bruce Bakken investigated housing segregation. Researching city records and newspapers, he learned that segregated housing in Detroit did not just occur organically, as many believe to this day; it was manufactured by elected officials, citizens, real estate agents, banks, and the federal government intent on confining blacks to limited areas of the city. African Americans’ fight to leave crowded, dilapidated housing and access a share of the city’s decent housing was met by white intimidation and physical violence and when that did not work, flight to the suburbs.

The Mayor’s Fight to Reform DPD

Matthew Ashford understood that improper policing (excessive force, neglect, offensive behavior) was at the center of ‘67’s unrest. He wanted to know what, if anything, Mayor Cavanagh could have done to address this problem. Ashford discovered that the mayor was fully aware of policing’s centrality to the disorders but unable to muster the political & social capital needed to reform the DPD, even after the Kerner commission uncovered widespread problems and recommended critical changes.
History Students become Published Authors using the History Engine

Students in Professor Liette Gidlow’s “History of U.S. Presidential Elections” (fall 2016) concluded the course as published authors. In addition to term papers, students researched and wrote historical "episodes" for History Engine, a collaborative, digital platform hosted by the University of Richmond to produce and publish historical knowledge.

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Other students investigated why General Dwight Eisenhower decided to run for president in 1952, how a TV viewer reacted to the first televised presidential debate in 1960, and what an eyewitness thought about attacks by police on protesters at George Wallace's 1968 campaign rally at Detroit's Cobo Hall.

These research experiences help students gain transferable skills, Prof. Gidlow noted. "Our students are writing for a purpose, not just writing for a grade."

Here are the titles of students’ episodes:

"Let us close the springs of racial poison": Lyndon B. Johnson and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, by Leon Bates

Her American Dream: Shirley Chisholm for President, by Ciera Casteel

J. Saunders Redding Publicizes the G. I. Bill of Rights, by Manuel Cohen

Supreme Commander Bids For Commander-in-Chief, by Christine Cook

Morrison Swift Predicts the Rise of Socialism, by Kyra Goeller

George Wallace's Detroit Visit Provokes Police Brutality, by Mike Lake

Feminist Reflects on Sexism in the 2008 Election, by Jennifer McCann

A Voter Reacts to the Kennedy - Nixon Debates, by Ashley Renzi

Wayne State's students' work can be viewed at here on History Engine at http://historyengine.richmond.edu/courses/view/163.
Karen Marrero on the Inaugural Borderland Stories Conference

In March, the department co-sponsored the first annual Borderland Stories Conference, together with Marygrove College and the University of Windsor. Students in History, Anthropology, and Education at Wayne State, and their counterparts from the University of Windsor and Eastern Michigan University presented papers on Detroit/Windsor borderland region.

Our department was represented by Kirkland Ellens who examined how the Detroit River transitioned from being a body of water that united communities on either side to an international border by the mid-19th century. Michael Vollbach argued that indigenous peoples participated in the War of 1812 to maintain their political independence and build alliances. David Webb presented on the American military response in Detroit and the Patriot War of 1837 that threatened the peace between Britain and the U.S. Peter Cherry (c/o 2015), shared research on the fur trade between indigenous peoples and Europeans and presenting this history at local museums. Students commented that the conference gave them the opportunity to meet and network with people who were doing similar research.

I organized the conference along with Drs. Shauna Huffaker and Guillaume Teasdale (University of Windsor) and Dr. Tom Klug (Director, Institute of Detroit Studies at Marygrove; WSU PhD, 1993). Keep your eyes open for upcoming announcements about next year’s conference. We encourage students researching and writing on Detroit, Windsor, or the borderlands in any time period to consider presenting.

Time Flies

This year we have four people marking work anniversaries: Sandra VanBurkleo (35 Years); Eric Ash, Janine Lanza, & Marilyn Vaughan all (15 Years)

In History, the coingage of the realm is time. These four colleagues are rich in years at Wayne State University. Sandra VanBurkleo (left) has spent much of her adult life teaching history here, and her students and colleagues have benefited by her knowledge of history and the law. In 2012, Janine Lanza and Eric Ash were recruited in the same search. While they have changed their focus, they continue to introduce students to the French, English and Scientific Revolutions, the workings of the state and of gender. And Marilyn Vaughan has only been on the staff of the History Department for a little over three years, but she’s become an important part of our welcoming presence on campus. We congratulate them—and ourselves—on their service.
Ali Kahil’s trip to Paris and Bucharest

Thanks to the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Project and Sterne-Lion awards, history major Ali Kahil traveled to France and Romania to research the military assistance France provided to Romania during World War I.

In Paris, Ali went to the Service Historique de la Defense, which houses France's military archives. It is located in a fortress, le Chateaux de Vincennes. In Bucharest, he visited the National Archives, to learn about medical support via the Romanian Red Cross.

What Ali Discovered

The wartime support Romania received from France was greater than I thought. The military did not just provide defense support; their work included giving material assistance and restructuring the Romanian army through trainings and supervision by French officers and specialists. France’s involvement and their massive support led to Romania becoming an extension of French military and political power. Without France’s support, Romania would have been defeated earlier in the war and would have never fulfilled its dream of a Greater Romania.

Ali’s Sightseeing Recommendations

Paris and Bucharest are large sprawling cities that are worth investigating when you are not in the archives. You do not have to travel far to see beautiful things. Public transportation in Europe is great! You can hop on the metro and ride from the suburbs to the cultural centers where you can just walk around and take in all the sights. Because I have spent time in both cities, interest in their tourist spots is lost on me. I prefer to sit in cafes or bistro and to enjoy the wonderful food, the scenic view of historic buildings and gorgeous architecture, and interact with the people.

If He had it to Do Again

I would return to the Service Historique de la Defense. It has a massive amount of documents in my field of study. In Romania, I would go back to the National Archives and the Foreign Ministry Archives but they do not have much left for my research. I will try to get access to the Romanian military archives, which will require special permission and has a lengthy administrative process.

Tips for Future Student Researchers

Learn as much about your topic as possible before you visit the archives. It will help you make sense of the documents and recognize if you have what you need. Research the online catalogs and finding aids. Contact the archivists to let them know that you are coming and what you want to see. Select a place to stay that is close the archives and to public transportation. Make sure you know the language or someone in the country to which you are travelling because it will make your research, travel, and sight seeing much easier. Above all else, have fun!
Faculty News & Notes

Eric Ash’s new book, *The Draining of the Fens: Projects, Popular Politics, and State Building in Early Modern England* was just published by Johns Hopkins University Press. He was also promoted to full professor.


Jorge Chinea published an essay on the Afro-Puerto Rican privateer Miguel Enriquez in the *Dictionary of Caribbean and Afro-Latin Biography*.

Elizabeth Faue won a Faculty Graduate Research Assistantship for her work on “Obstacle Course: School Violence, the Education Workplace, and the State.” *Reviews in American History* also published her essay “Radical Experience and the Surveillance State.” Routledge just published her new book, *Rethinking the American Labor Movement*.

Liette Gidlow had “Resistance after Ratification: The Nineteenth Amendment, African American Women, and the Problem of Female Disfranchisement after 1920,” published by *Women and Social Movements in the U.S., 1600-2000*. She also won an Office of Teaching and Learning Faculty Teaching Travel Grant to attend the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians and share her pedagogical strategies for teaching U.S. history.

Jennifer Hart was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor.

Professor Emeritus Christopher Johnson became a scholar-in-residence at the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies at the University of Bielefeld in March.


Betsy Lublin received a grant from the Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies to fund meetings of the Midwest Japan Seminar in February and April 2018.

Howard Lupovitch contributed to the TLC’s program “Who Do You Think You Are?” helping actress Jessica Biel discover and contextualize her Jewish roots.

Danielle McGuire was a major contributor to the new Detroit 1967 documentary “12th and Clairmount,” which debuted before sold out crowds across the metro area at the Detroit Film Festival.

Tracy Neumann won a 2017 Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award for *Remaking the Rustbelt* and was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor.

Andrew Port wrote the preface for *American Sociology and Holocaust Studies: The Alleged Silence and the Creation of the Sociological Delay*.

Aaron Retish just published “Breaking Free from the Prison Walls: Penal Reforms and Prison Life in Revolutionary Russia,” in *Historical Research* and
Faculty News & Notes


Marsha Richmond published “Women as Public Scientists in the Atomic Age: Rachel Carson, Charlotte Auerbach, and Genetics,” in Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences; took the helm of the Journal of the History of Biology as co-Editor in Chief; and was promoted to full professor.

Sandra VanBurkleo won a 2017 Board of Governors Faculty Recognition Award for her book Gender Remade.


Danielle McGuire Retires

The department regrets to announce that our friend and colleague Danielle L. McGuire has resigned her position as associate professor of African American history, in order to devote more time to her writing and sharing history with the public.

In 2008, McGuire began her work in the Department as an assistant professor. She was tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in 2013.

She published her book, At the Dark End of the Street: Black Women, Rape and Resistance, A New History of the Civil Rights Movement from Rosa Parks to Black Power in 2010. It won major awards, including the Frederick Jackson Turner Book Award from the Organization of American Historians; the Julia Cherry Spruill Book Award from the Southern Association of Women’s Historians in 2011; the Board of Governors’ Faculty Recognition Award in 2012.

While here, Danielle was a generous colleague and wonderful teacher. She won the CLAS Teaching Award. Students adored taking classes with her and applaud her teaching years after the fact.

Danielle has been working a book on the Algiers Motel police killings during the Detroit ‘67 uprising, titled Murder in the Motor City.

Her letter of resignation expressed gratitude to “her colleagues and students in the Department of History, who have supported her scholarship, teaching and research.”

We would like to express our gratitude for her years of teaching and scholarship here and our best wishes for her continuing success.

“Having Danielle as a colleague and partner teaching African American history was an absolute delight. The only thing better was becoming her friend. I can’t wait to see what she does next!” ~Kidada E. Williams
Student News & Notes

Graduation

Joelle Del Rose, earned her PhD by defending successfully defending, “The Luxurious Fancies of Vice”: Sexuality, Luxury, and Space in the Eighteenth-Century British Social Sphere.” Congratulations, Dr. Del Rose!


Meghan McGowan, MA/LIS “Fighting for an Equal Education: Student Protest in Detroit Public Schools.” Congratulations, Meghan.

News

Dr. Josiah Rector (PhD 2016) published “Labor and the Environmental Justice Movement: Why Their Shared History Matters Today,” in the April 19, 2017 issue of Process the OAH’s blog. Joe also started a new job as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Environmental History at Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. Congratulations, Dr. Rector. Please keep in touch.

Incoming MA students Sean O’Brien and Matt Pearson won recruitment scholarships from the Graduate School. Congratulations, Sean and Matt and welcome to the Department.

History major Daniel Weed spent part of this summer working as an intern for the Detroit Historical Museum. He got up close exposure to public reactions to their exhibit “Detroit 1967: Perspectives: Riot? Rebellion?” and was invited to attend the premiere of Kathryn Bigelow’s ‘Detroit,’ a film based on the Detroit Police’s killing of three African Americans and the beatings of several others during the 1967 unrest.

In Memoriam

MA student Timothy Marks passed away June 14, 2017. We offer our deepest sympathy to Tim’s family, instructors, and classmates.

Field Bound

Honors student and history major Ben Thomason won a Undergraduate Research Opportunity Project and the Sterne-Lion Award to visit the National Archives in College Park, Maryland, for his project “American Perceptions and Weimer Relations: Lessons of the Dawes Plan and German Reparations.”

As you can see from the award list below, thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors and our department’s commitment to helping students produce historical knowledge, we had students traveling to archival sites around the globe.

Save these Dates

Classes Begin
August 30

New Graduate Student Orientation
September 13 ~ 5-7 pm in the UGL Community Room

Civic Festival
September 14 ~ 10-3 pm on Gullen Mall

Master of Arts in Public History Reception
September 27 ~ 6-8 pm at Tierney House

Alumni Lecture & Fall Reception
October 10 ~ 1-5 pm in the Undergraduate Library

North American Labor History Conference
October 19-21 ~ at the Student Center

Sterne-Lion Research Symposium
November 8

Holiday Gathering
December 12 ~ 12-3 pm in 3339 FAB
History Student Scholarships & Research Awards

Undergraduate Awards

**Mark and Linee Diem Scholarship** ~ Benjamin Thomason

**Effie K. Ambler Memorial Scholarship** ~ Janis Ferworn

**Baiardi Family Foundation Scholarship** ~ Manuel Cohen

**Joseph Gelinas Drouillard and Elizabeth Lesperance Award** ~ Daniel Weed

**Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship**, Ali Kahil, who also won a 2017 UROP award for his project, “General Henri Mathias Berthelot: The Savior of Romania.”

**F. Richard Place Memorial Award** ~ Lindsay VanNieulande, Michael Polano, Courtney Kotsko

**Place Gateway Award** ~ Alexander Franzen and Dania Khan

**Rolf and Jennie Johannesen Memorial Award** ~ Matthew Ashford

**Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society** Inductees ~ Matthew Ashford, Suzanne Chami, Alexandra Hovey, Kyle Phillips, Justyna Stafford

Graduate Awards

**Meghan McGowan** won the **Joe L. Norris Award** for her research on African American students’ fight against segregation in the **Detroit Public Schools**.

**Nathaniel Arndts** won the **Richard D. Miles Award** for his research on Nazi efforts to control Jewish-German citizens of the Third Reich.

**Douglas Merriman** won the **Rolf and Jennie Johannesen Memorial Award** for his research on the decline of the Roman Imperial Army.

**Nathan Kuehn** won the **History Faculty Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award**

**Gerald R. Dreslinski Research Award** ~ Michael Vollbach to travel to Harvard and the American Philosophical Society to research Native American material culture and oral traditions.

**Samuel Hogsette & Kimberly Steele** both won the **Michael D. Patterson Memorial Award**. Hogsette traveled to the Chicago History Museum & Carter G. Woodson Library to research Black Panther turned Congressman Bobby Rush and Steele to the Illinois Regional Archive Depositories to study unfree laborers in early America.

**Christine Cook** won the **Charles F. Otis and Jeffrey L. Reider Scholarship** to travel to the Army Heritage Education Center, Library of Congress, and Women’s Memorial Library for her research women in the military during the Cold War.

**Amanda Hoover** won the **Alfred H. Kelly Memorial Award** to travel to Kansas City, MO, for her research on compulsory education for Native American children.

**Lily Wilson Szлага** and **Nicholas Garlinghouse** won the **Thomas Bonner Memorial Research Award** to travel to the Smithsonian’s Freer Gallery for her work on Charles Lang Freer and the Mattachine Society of Washington, D.C. and the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance for his research on the fight for LGBTQ people’s civil rights in Michigan.

University Awards

PhD Student **Amanda Walter** won a 2017 Summer Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from the Graduate School.
From the Editor

As we hope this issue illustrates, History is a vibrant department with innovative faculty and ambitious students. Sharing our work with you in this format, we have incurred debts. We could not share as much as we have in this about what we are doing without the generous contributions of faculty Liette Gidlow, Karen Marrero, Tracy Neumann, Aaron Retish, and Sandra VanBurkleo, and students Matthew Ashford, Bruce Bakken, Aya Beydoun, Ali Kahil, Meghan McGowan, Doug Merriman, Tim Moran (PhD 2015), David Webb, and Daniel Weed. Big thanks to Liz Faue, Marilyn Vaughan, and our wonderful work-study students Cheryl Baraza, Noman Haider, and Jendayi Walker for their support and making the newsletter available to everyone.

Current Faculty and Students, would you like to see your class projects and student research featured in the newsletter? Alumni, we welcome your stories, too, and not just those who graduated decades ago. Please get on the email list to stay in touch. Everyone, please be sure to document your work. Take pictures during class trips and presentations as well as trips to the archives. If you have expertise in an area making the news or there are milestone anniversaries to be marked and you want to share in Insights, let us know. Include pictures. The newsletter would not be as interesting as it is without the images everyone shares. Write concise but engaging summaries. Don’t be boring. We’ve got no room for it.

Cheers until the next issue. ~Kidada E. Williams

“History is crucial. How do you understand the world we live in now without understanding where we’ve been? The research that a lot of us are doing applies to the social issues of today.”

–Amanda Hoover –
Doctoral Student, Wayne State Department of History