

W I N T E R 2 0 1 7

The

# History Department

Wayne State University

## NEH Next Generation Humanities PhD Project

Department chair **Elizabeth Faue** is project director for a new initiative at **Wayne State** to enhance doctoral education in the Humanities to meet the challenges of a changing employment landscape both within and outside higher education. Faue heads a project team that includes **Sharon Lean** (PSC), **Lisa Maruca** (ENG), **Elena Past** (CMLLC), and **Krysta Ryzewski** (ANT).

With a **National Endowment for the Humanities** planning grant and support from the **College of Liberal Arts and Sciences** and the **Graduate School**, the project has organized workshops for graduate students and for **Faculty Mentoring Fellows**, who will help reshape graduate education at **Wayne**. The project also is gathering data on the work force opportunities, alumni careers, graduate faculty support, and student demand for enhanced skills in the public humanities. It will begin a pilot program of internships in the spring of 2017. Stay tuned for more information on this new program.



## Welcome to Winter Semester!

One of the benefits of being Chair is getting to know **History Alumni**—of different ages, cohorts, experiences, and interests—students of faculty whose books I may have read but whom I have never met and those who have taken classes from my colleagues. These stories capture wit, intelligence, kindness—traits that compose the character of a department and a university.

With this issue, we thank the many alumni and friends who have given generously to the Department of History in the past year. We use these gifts to support student and faculty research and expand our programming. Scholarship awards subsidize tuition for outstanding undergraduate majors. Please give, as you are able, by contacting **Wayne State's Pivotal Moments** team, by phone at 888-WSU-GIVE or online at [pivotalmoments.wayne.edu](http://pivotalmoments.wayne.edu).

~**Elizabeth Faue, Department Chair**

## Save the Dates!

**COSW  
Women's  
History Month  
Event**

**March 22**

**Otis-Reider  
Symposium &  
Spring  
Reception**

**April 11**

**Citizenship  
Conference**

**March 30 - April 1**

**AP Day**

**April 25**



## Digital Humanities @ Wayne: Technology in Research & Teaching

**DHatWayne** is a new working group, generously funded by the **Humanities Center**, which brings together faculty and graduate students working in the digital humanities across departments. Spear-headed by **Jennifer Hart** and **Andrew Hnatow** from History and **Lisa Maruca** from English, participants gather to discuss incorporating technology into research and teaching.

In April, **DHatWayne** gathered for a digital humanities showcase. Faculty from **Ethnic Layers Detroit** presented their project. Students from the **Fall 2015 African Democracy Project** course joined Jennifer Hart in discussing their research.

In October, **DHatWayne** hosted **Elizabeth Venditto**, who presented a workshop on **Immigrant Stories**, a digital storytelling and archiving project at the **University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center**. Immigrant Stories provides research opportunities for students and faculty who are interested in the histories and cultures of peoples across the U.S. Have an immigration story? Check out their site.

**DHatWayne's** most significant activity of the year involved organizing and hosting the 2016

**Network Detroit Conference**, led by conference organizers **Jennifer Hart**, **Amanda Gantchev**, and **Nathan Kelber**. **Network Detroit** is a regional digital humanities conference that brings together scholars from SE Michigan to discuss tech in humanities research and teaching.

The conference attendees represented the truly interdisciplinary breadth of DH work. **Mark Souther** (below), of **Cleveland State's Center for Public History + Digital Humanities**, delivered a keynote on the challenges of digital storytelling projects. **Jennifer Hart** and **her ADP students**



discussed digital technologies and student research.

Participants explored digital research tools, presenting on the use of digital

technologies in

analyzing Beatles lyrics, artistic works, folkloric archives, and even Detroit property records.

We are delighted to report that the **Humanities Center** renewed our funding.

**Please join us next fall!**

## The Dr. Gerald R. Dreslinski Awards

The department rewards exceptional student research in early American history, thanks to a generous annual donation from **Gerald Dreslinski, M.D.** Dr. Dreslinski received his B.A. in History from **Wayne** and credits his training with providing him with an excellent foundation for his subsequent studies in medical school.

The **Dr. Gerald Dreslinski Award for outstanding undergraduate or graduate paper** and the **Dr. Gerald Dreslinski Research Award to fund research in the archives for graduate students** have recognized innovative student scholarship and funded cutting-edge scholarship. Awardees have gone on to publish their papers and present their research at conferences.

Last year, the research award went to graduate student **Kaitlin Cooper**. Cooper studies colonial interactions between indigenous and European populations in North America, the Caribbean, Australia, India, and East Africa. The Dreslinski funds enabled Kaitlin to travel to **Australia**, where she conducted research in the **New South Wales State Archives** and the **Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies**.



**Kaitlin Cooper in the  
Land Down Under**

## New Field of History Communication

**Jennifer Hart** traveled to D.C., to represent the department in an organizing meeting for the emerging field of **History Communication**. The field is driven by belief that, as organizer **Jason Steinhauer** of the **Library of Congress's John W. Kluge Center** put it when he visited us last year, *"The Future of History will be Public."* In essence, historians will be expected to demonstrate the significance of our work.

**History Communication** seeks to train students to translate historical research and ideas for public audiences. While that work overlaps with public history, this field incorporates a broader set of skills such as documentary filmmaking, popular history writing, and podcast development.

Steinhauer brought faculty together to clarify the definition of the field, design core curriculum, and identify resources. Participants developed a model for department minors/concentrations and an intro to HISCom syllabus. As we develop our **MAPH program** and think about training our students, our department continues to explore these questions.

If you have expertise in this kind of historical work, then the department would love to hear from you!

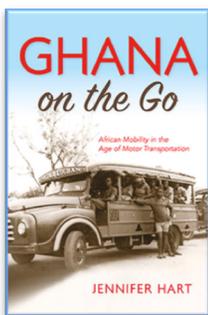


## Faculty News & Notes

**Ron Aronson's** essay, "The New Politics of Hope," was published in the *Boston Review*.

**Jorge China's** article, "Slavery and Child Trafficking in Puerto Rico at the Closing of the African Slave Trade: The Young Captives of the Slaver *Majesty*" was published in *Revista Brasileira do Caribe*.

**Jennifer Hart's** new book, *Ghana on the Go: African Mobility in the Age of Motor*



*Transportation*, was published by the Indiana University Press. Her article, "'Nifa Nifa': Technopolitics, Mobile Workers, and the Ambivalence of Decline in Acheampong's Ghana," was published in *African*

*Economic History*.

**Paul Kershaw** (NYU PhD), a historian of U.S. & World History/Capitalism/Foreign Relations, has joined us as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Welcome, Paul.

**Janine Lanza** won a **Research Enhancement Program grant** for her project "Chopped: A Cultural History of the Guillotine" and to support her research in France. She was also featured in *Wayne State*, the alumni mag, in an essay titled, "Zombies and Monsters and Guillotines, Oh My!"



**Elizabeth Lublin** won an award from the **Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies** for her to conduct research at the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

**William Lynch** published "Social Epistemology Transformed: Steve Fuller's Account of Knowledge as a Divine Spark for Human Domination," in *Social Epistemology* and "Cultural Evolution and Social Epistemology: A Darwinian Alternative to Steve Fuller's Theodicy of Science," in *Symposium*.

**Danielle McGuire** participated in the roundtable, "Writing History for a Popular Audience," in the August issue of *The American Historian*, the magazine of the **Organization of American Historians**.

**Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies' Frias News** featured **Andrew Port** and his new research project.

**Aaron Retish** published "The Taste of Kumyska and the Debate over Udmurt Culture" in *Russian History through the Senses: From 1700 to the Present*.

**Kidada E. Williams** was interviewed by *Process*, the **Organization of American Historians'** blog, and *Radical Teacher* for her work on #CharlestonSyllabus and the resulting book.

**The Humanities Center** generously provided funds for two history related working groups, **Democracy and Difference: An Exploration of Voting Rights, Race, & Gender**, headed by **Janine Lanza**, and **DHatWayne: Digital Humanities Teaching and Research**, headed by **Jennifer Hart** and PhD student **Andrew Hnatow**.

## Margaret Sterne, 1904-1977

This is the first of a series of faculty profiles, written by the historians currently teaching these fields. Here, German historian **Andrew Port** covers the life of **Margaret Sterne**.

In the late 1940s, Margaret Sterne was taking a graduate-level course that met twice a week at the **University of Michigan**, where she was pursuing a PhD in History. Because she was unable to attend one of the weekly sessions, her son Karl, an undergraduate at the time, took notes for her. The first time he showed up, another student whispered to him that he couldn't sit there because a "girl" was "assigned" to that seat. *"That's no girl,"* Karl supposedly whispered back, *"That's my mother!"*

Sterne went on to receive her PhD in 1951. She had already received an MA a decade earlier at **Wayne State**, where she began teaching history in 1942, and where she would remain until her retirement in 1971. According to her colleague **Richard Miles**, *"a few of her senior colleagues, born at the turn of the last century, never could quite accept the idea that a woman could be taken seriously as a scholar,"* but she *"met these difficulties with dignity and valor. Her students told us that her classes in German history were enjoyable and challenging."* Still, Margaret Sterne remained one of a *"relatively small number of women who managed to make important contributions to academe before today's improved attitudes came to prevail."*

Sterne was born in Frankfurt in 1904 and studied at the **University of Berlin** in the early 1920s. She emigrated to the US in 1925, working first as a corresponding editor of the Ullstein Publishing House in New York and Detroit. She later took a position as the rotogravure editor for the *Detroit News* in the mid 1930s, and served during World War II as publicity director for the **US Treasury's Michigan War Finance Committee**.

A year after receiving her PhD, Sterne was awarded a **Fulbright** research scholarship to study in Vienna, which was still occupied at the time by the victors of World War II, including the Soviet Union. During her stay, a member of the **U.S.**

**State Department** told her – after overhearing her mocking *"Red [i.e., communist] lies"* – that she was a *"natural for propaganda"* and asked Sterne to *"sell American democracy for us."* She went on to hold a series of lectures in front of audiences whose *"minds had been won by Red fantasies about America."* The **State Department** invited her back three years later to give another series of fifteen lectures – this time in both Austria and her native Germany. Beating out forty other nominees, Sterne received the **Alumni Association's Wayne Faculty Award** for this lecture series. In 1959, she was the recipient of an even more prestigious honor: the **Federal Republic of Germany's Order of Merit First Class** for "furthering German-American cultural ties."

Sterne was not a prolific historian, by today's standards. She published several articles that drew on local archives. *The Passionate Eye*, her sole academic monograph, published posthumously in 1980, was a study of **William Valentiner**, the director of the **Detroit Institute of Arts** from 1924 to 1945. Sterne's choice of subject was not by chance: following her retirement from the Department of History, she worked throughout the 1970s as a research associate at the DIA.

Margaret Sterne died in 1977 at age seventy-three. In a memorial that appeared in the *American Historical Review* upon her death, her colleague **Goldwin Smith** wrote that she would be *"remembered by her students as a superb teacher, a kindly and compassionate counsellor, and a professor who was sincerely interested in them. Her colleagues know what she did for the department, the university, and the city of Detroit. It was a great deal indeed."*

That appreciation for Margaret's generosity found expression in two memorial funds set up at the time: the **Dr. Margaret Sterne Student Fund** for **Hilberry Theatre** and the Margaret Sterne Memorial Fund. More recently, **G. Michael Loewe**, a 1973 graduate of **Wayne State** who majored in history and economics, established the **Sterne-Lion Undergraduate Research Award** in her honor.

## G. Michael Loewe honors Margaret Sterne

**Mike and Kathy Loewe** created this award in honor of **Margaret Sterne**. A 1973 graduate of **Wayne State** with a double major in history and economics, Mike has had an interest in all things history since a young age, and among the early tomes that he read while in elementary school was a weighty history of England. His book choices since have ranged from general to specific topics, and, as he has built a personal library overwhelmingly of historical works, he has collected a plethora of quotations from famous figures, which pepper his conversation.



One of the earliest history classes that Mike took at Wayne State was a **survey of modern world history** with Margaret. Although he did not again have her as a professor, the two served together as faculty and student representatives to the **Alumni Association Board of Directors** during Mike's senior year.

His engagement with Margaret remains one of Mike's fondest memories of his time at Wayne State and influenced his decision to name the scholarship after her, together with the English translation of his last name, which also happens to be the logo for an eponymous German beer company. **Margaret was**, to quote Mike, *"just a good person,"* someone who was devoted to making sure that students enjoyed their

undergraduate careers and was always available to serve as a friend and mentor.

For Mike, the best university education extends far beyond what any formal class covers and involves teaching students how to think critically, how to ask questions, how to use evidence to prove a conclusion, and how to convey that argument effectively in writing and speech. These skills are invaluable to a host of professions and are the very skills that students hone with the **Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship in History**.

Recipients work with individual history faculty to devise projects, undertake weeks of focused research, and then write and revise a paper before presenting their findings at an undergraduate conference on campus and at a History Department symposium. These projects have taken majors to archives in **England, Nova Scotia, and South Dakota**.

**Chelsea Miller** herself went to the **National Library** in **Beijing** to read through popular women's magazines and the **Communist Party's** daily to see how the media has influenced women's expectations and opportunities for employment since the late 1970s.

*"Besides adding to humanity's collective knowledge, research makes students better communicators, more experienced in the real world, and, through grants like the Sterne-Lion, shapes students into the next generation of lifetime learners."* ~History Major Chelsea Miller

**Margaret would be proud of the legacy that Mike and Kathy are creating.**

## Current Student & Alumni News

**David Bergh** completed his MA degree requirements by completing, “Working the Law: Maurice Sugar, Ernest Goodman, and the Development of Labor Law Practice in Detroit.” David enrolled in the **Wayne State Law School** in the fall.

PhD student and veteran **Christine Cook** was interviewed on Ann Arbor station **WAAM** (AM 1600) for a **Veterans Day** discussion of presidents with military experience titled “**U.S. Presidents: The Good, the Bad, the \_\_?**” The podcast available at [www.veteransradio.net](http://www.veteransradio.net).

**David Dobbins and Meghan McGowan** won **Graduate Masters Completion Fellowships**.

**Adam Geffen** completed his MA degree requirements by completing “‘Never Go Back into Slavery’: The Constitutionalism of Michigan’s African American Community, 1830-1860.”

**Walter Lucken** completed his MA degree requirements by completing “Anders Breivik and Elliot Rodger: Violence, Communication, and the Mediated Sphere.”



**Ann Marie Wambeke** completed her PhD degree requirements by defending

“Republican Feminists and Feminist Republicans: The Search for the Sensible Center in Michigan, 1968-1984.” Congratulations, Dr. Wambeke.

### What Are the Warriors Up to Now?

**Tim Moran** (PhD 2015) accepted a position at the **Honors College**.

**Tiffany Dziurman Stozicki**, Assistant Director of the **Michigan Downtown Association**, served as an historical consultant in the documentary titled, *Pioneer Family on Van Hoosen Farm*, which aired on **Detroit Public TV**.

**Matthew Thick** (MA 2011) had “‘The Exploded Humbug’: Antebellum Michigan, Personal Liberty Laws, and States’ Rights” published by the *Michigan Historical Review*.

**Christopher W. Wilson** (MA 2007), **Director of the African American History Program, and Experience and Program Design**, at the **Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History**, published “History in Twenty-Four Frames per Second,” in *The American Historian*.

**Gregory Wood** (MA) professor at **Frostburg State University** just published his second book, *Clearing the Air: The Rise and Fall of Smoking in the Workplace*.

**Josiah “Joe” Rector** completed his PhD requirements by defending “Accumulating Risk: Environmental Justice and the History of Capitalism in



Detroit, 1880-2015.” Congratulations, Dr. Rector.

“History teaches how people in the past dealt with the same problems we deal with today. So we have an opportunity to change the future by understanding the past.”

– **Jorge Chinae, Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor, Department of History*

Pivotal  
Moments

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR  
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY



## 2016 Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship in History

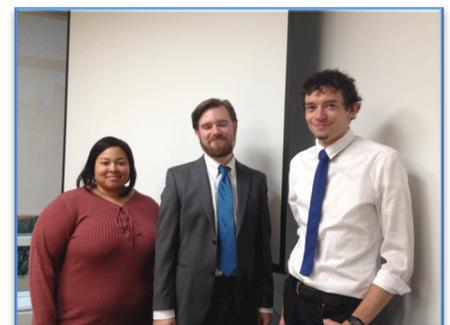


2016 winner **Matthew Reesman** (left w/adviser **Hans Hummer**)

During the summer of 2016, **Matthew Reesman**, traveled to the **Móra Ferenc Museum** in **Hungary** and the **Römisch-Germanisches Zentralmuseum** in **Germany** to examine their collections of Hunnic buckles, broaches, belts, jeweled crowns, and neck rings.

Matt wanted to learn how the Huns used this material culture to create a distinct Hunnic identity among the diverse ethnic peoples whom they incorporated after migrating to Europe from the Eurasian steppes in the 4<sup>th</sup> century.

In delving into this research project, Matt followed in the footsteps of **nearly 25 history majors**, who over the past decade, have had the opportunity to investigate topics of their own interest and of broader historical importance, thanks to the generosity of **Michael and Kathy Loewe**, who created the **Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship in History** in honor of the WSU history professor **Margaret Sterne**.



Reesman with previous recipients **Ny'Ree Williams** & **Rob Pfaff**

# From the Editor

**Congratulations to all of our new graduates! Make us proud.**

**Big thanks to Elizabeth Faue, Jennifer Hart, Elizabeth Lublin, Karen Marrero, Andrew Port, for their generous contributions to this issue, and to Gayle McCreedy, Marilyn Vaughan, and our work-study students for making it available.**

**The department welcomes your news updates. The newsletter team welcomes your ideas for coverage in one of our issues, especially if they enable us to highlight the wonderful work of our students.**

**Cheers until Fall!**



## Department of History

656 W. Kirby, Suite 3094 Fac/Adm Bldg  
Wayne State University  
Detroit, MI 48202