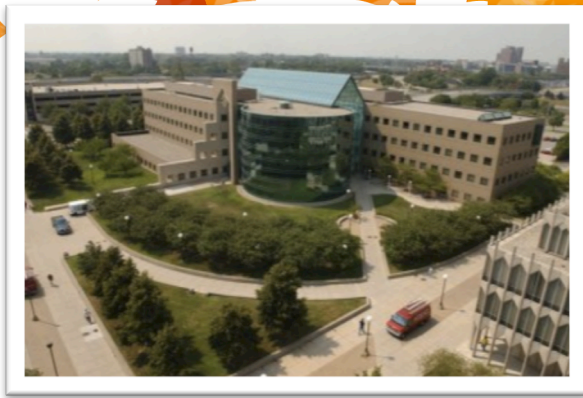


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the

History Department

Wayne State University



Welcome Back

In the midst of this presidential election cycle, nearly every week brings “historic” firsts. Knowing what is new and tracing its roots is the task of History, or at least of historians. Check out our History Communicators page for a sampling of how History faculty are informing debates on issues.

What I have found over the past year is that we are also a department on the move—Our program review has provided us with the opportunity to reimagine our major and to create some exciting new courses. With the growth of public history, gender, sexuality and women’s studies, and global studies, our faculty are engaging new audiences and supporting innovative curriculum across the college and university. We will soon be launching our third Career Diversity Speaker series. It’s a great time to study History!

~Elizabeth Faue, Department Chair

The Year Ahead

We have an exciting year ahead. In Detroit, the American Association for State and Local History will meet in September, as will the Legacy Cities’ historic preservation conference and Network Detroit. The 2016 North American Labor History Conference, on “Workers and Global Cities: Detroit & Beyond,” meets in October. Scholars and activists on urban studies and labor history, public history and the digital humanities, the history of gender and race and of public engagement and policy studies display their intellectual fireworks. Two other important events showcase undergraduate and graduate research—the Sterne-Lion Colloquium in November and the Otis-Reider Graduate Research Symposium in April. Collectively, these forums provide us with opportunities to exhibit the excellent work our students do and to engage intellectually with each other.

Come join us!

Save the Date!

Classes Begin
August 31

Civic Festival
September 15

Fall Reception
September 28

NALHC
October 20-22

Sterne-Lion
November 2

Holiday Party
December 13



College of
Liberal Arts and Sciences



Winter Term Events

From brownbags to speakers, the department maintained a full roster of events.

The **Career Diversity Series** brought 3 speakers to campus: **Jason Steinhauer**, of the Kluge Center and Library of Congress, addressed the importance of “History Communicators”; **Michael McDonnell**, from the University of Sydney, discussed Native Americans in the Great Lakes Region; and **Mary Battle**, from the College of Charleston’s Avery Research Center, discussed the rewards of Oral History. We are deeply appreciative of **Kaitlin Cooper’s** wonderful work handling each visit.

Marsha Richmond organized **History Career Day**, bringing back alum to discuss the values of their history degrees with our majors.

At our **Spring Reception**, we recognized 16 students

for great research over the past year and inducted 8 new members into Phi Alpha Theta.

Elizabeth Ryan (PhD, 2015), **Amanda Walter**, **Maria Wendeln**, and **Lillian Wilson** presented their research at the **Otis-Reider Graduate Research Symposium**.

The **Citizenship Center’s** conference brought scholars from around the globe together to discuss the intersections of gender/sexuality and citizenship. Princeton’s **Margot Canaday** delivered the keynote.

Jennifer Hart and **Aaron Retish** shared new research at the **Humanities Center Faculty Fellows Conference** where attendees were treated to a lecture on vernacular culture by **James C. Scott**.



Our 2016 History Student Award Winners & Phi Alpha Theta Initiates

Undergraduate Awards

Mark and Linee Diem Endowed Scholarship

Delbert Trafny

F. Richard Place Endowed Memorial Award

Derek Robertson for “The Great Society under Siege: The Struggle for Housing in a Polarized Detroit” and **Jay Williams** for “The Harlem Hellfighters: America’s Broken Promise”

Rolf and Jennie Johannesen Endowed Memorial Award

Jonathan Howlett for “Engineering Tactics in the Gallic Wars”

Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship in History

Matthew Reesman for “The Role of Material Culture in Determining Hunnic Identity”

Baiardi Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship

Manuel Cohen

Graduate Merit Awards

Dr. Gerald R. Dreslinski Award

Nicholas Garlinghouse for “Cultural Chameleons: Identity and Adaptability in Colonial America”

Joe L. Norris Endowed Award

Lillian Wilson for “Crafting a Gilded Age Mansion: The Charles Lang Freer House, Detroit”

Richard D. Miles Endowed Award

Mitchell Fleischer for “Origins of the North-South Divide in Italy”

Rolf and Jennie Johannesen Endowed Memorial Award

David Dobbins for “Pride after the Fall: An Examination of Sidonius Apollinaris and Ruricius of Limoges and the

Aristocracy in Post-Rome Gaul

Graduate Research Awards

Dr. Gerald R. Dreslinski Research Award

Kaitlin Cooper will travel to Canberra, Australia, to investigate aboriginal interactions with British settlers at the National Archives of Australia and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies

Michael D. Patterson Memorial Award

Nathan Kuehnl will examine collections including materials on African American medical activism in the postwar era at the Chicago Public Library and University of Illinois-Chicago

Charles F. Otis and Jeffrey L. Reider Scholarship in the History of Gender and Sexuality

Nicholas Garlinghouse will study collections with resources on LGBT rights at the Gerber Hart Library and Archives in Chicago and the LGBT Collection at the New York Public Library

Alfred H. Kelly Memorial Award

Lillian Wilson will visit the Archives of the Freer Art Gallery in Washington D.C. for her work on Charles Lang Freer

Thomas H. Bonner Graduate Research Awards

Miriam Borenstein

Amanda Hoover

Samuel Hogsette

Michael Varlamos

Phi Alpha Theta History Society Initiates

Stacey Campbell

John Forintos

Michael Polano

Deon Clark

Benjamin Arthur Thomason

Danielle Lumetta

Matthew Reesman

Whitney Thurber

History Communicators

Liette Gidlow on Michigan Politics

Liette Gidlow appeared on “Detroit Today with Stephen Henderson” to put the 2016 presidential contest into historical perspective. In another segment she discussed the Kerner Commission Report on Civil Disorders as part of a larger discussion of poverty and jobs.



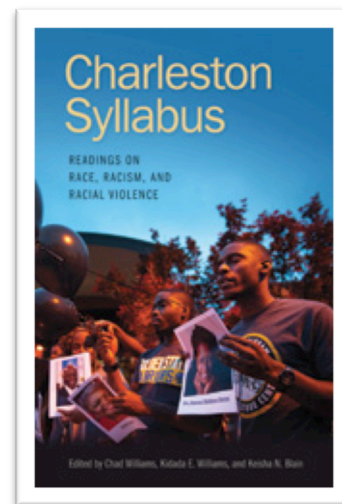
Gender & Citizenship

For Women’s History Month, **Janine Lanza** moderated a discussion on “The Suffrage Gap: Gender and the Obligations of Citizenship.” **Sandra VanBurkleo** spoke on “Political Equality: Rights, Obligations, and Sovereignty” and **Liette Gidlow** discussed “Hillary Clinton & the History of Women in Campaign Commercials.”



#CharlestonSyllabus

After the 2015 massacre of nine African Americans at the Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, **Kidada Williams** joined scholars on social media in crowd-sourcing information to help the public and media understand the long histories of hate feeding into the killings. The result was #CharlestonSyllabus, which went viral, and a new book.



Flint Water Crisis

Marsha Richmond joined several Wayne State faculty in a forum discussing the Flint Water Crisis. The forum addressed topics ranging from the epidemiology of the crisis and Emergency Managers to urban planning and environmental justice. Participants also discussed the implications of these issues here in Detroit.



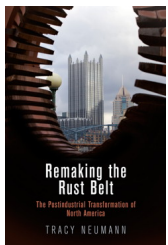
Faculty News

Jennifer Hart, Bill Lynch, and Aaron Retish won online teaching fellowships to develop courses for the online version of the World History Bridge Certificate Program.

The University of Illinois Press just published **John Bukowczyk's** edited book, *Immigrant Identity and the Politics of Citizenship*.

Karen Marrero won a University Research Award for her project, "Founding Families: Power and Authority of French and Native American Lineages in Eighteenth-Century Detroit."

Karen also won an Insight Development Grant from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada for her research on the Migration of French Canadian Families in the Preindustrial Era.



Tracy Neumann's new book *Remaking the Rustbelt: The Postindustrial Transformation of North America* was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

Andrew Port and **Sandra VanBurkleo** were both promoted to the rank of Full Professor.

Aaron Retish was elected to the Faculty Council for a three-year term. *Russia's Revolution in Regional Perspective*, a book he co-edited with Sarah Babcock and Liudmila G. Novikova, was published by Slavica Press.

Sandra VanBurkleo was elected to the Academic Senate for a three-year term.

Kidada E. Williams co-edited, with Chad Williams and Keisha Blain, *Charleston Syllabus: Readings on Race, Racism, and Racial Violence*, a new reader published by the University of

Georgia Press. A portion of the royalties will go to the Lowcountry Ministries Fund to help underserved communities in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

Student News

Miriam Borenstein won a **Marcus Center Fellowship** at the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati.

Nate Kuehnl won a 2016 summer fellowship at the **Black Metropolis Research Consortium** in Chicago.

Incoming PhD students won awards: **Branden Mceuen** won a **Rumble Fellowship**; **Christine Cook** won a four-year **Graduate Teaching Assistantship**; **Leon Bates** won a **Mathur Fellowship**.

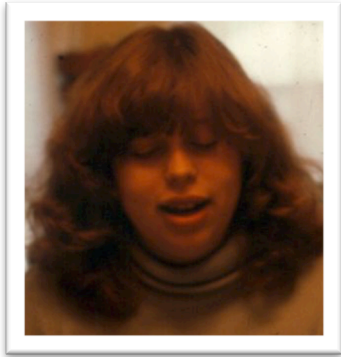
Recent Graduates

Erica Birth (MEd/MA), "Edsel Ford and the Arts."

Kristen Kniffen (MA), "Teaching the Civil War: The Confederate Soldiers' War and the Cultural Curriculum." Kris just accepted a job at Allied Vaughn as a Digital Content Specialist.

Craig Rinkus (BA), "Lutheran Confessions: How Key Figures in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Navigated Doctrinal Discipline, Secular Society, and Ecclesiastical Electioneering during the Seminex Controversy."

Throwbacks to the '80s & '90s



Gayle McCreedy marks 30 Years!

Thirty years! That can't be true! But I know the department is vastly changed from 1986; only three faculty remain from that time and even Ginny retired five years ago. I am grateful for so many things - the opportunity to grow personally and professionally, the ability to take on new challenges - as the department changed, so has my job over time. And I am grateful for the ways the department has intertwined with my personal life. Thank you.



Jorge Chinaea marks 20 Years!

As I reflect on my arrival in 1996, I've seen new buildings rise up (Warriors Towers, UG Library, Fitness Center), programmatic downsizing, more Study Abroad programs, tougher admissions standards, improved classroom and library technology, gentrification of nearby urban spaces, more WSU sport teams, budgetary reductions, challenging times for upward mobility...

Liz Scott's Love of History & Art

History is a rich and beautiful subject for art. I began blending the two when I was a kid. I don't exactly remember where my passion for history came from. It just suddenly happened and became an obsession. Now, I'm studying to be a history teacher and learning the significance of exploring diverse narratives to develop a comprehensive understanding of the past.

I often draw historical figures whose stories aren't always told in their fullest. Frederick Douglass's bold voice was vital to the abolitionist movement. Frida Kahlo's deft use of color and pattern has always been inspirational to me. I use my talent to pull people into history. When you blend the art world and the history world together, it can be beautiful.

These and other pieces are available at my Society6 Store. I also do commission work and can be contacted at lizvscott@yahoo.com. *LIZ SCOTT*



IN MEMORIAM



Effie K. Ambler,
Professor Emerita:
Historian,
Teacher,
Feminist
Scholar, and
Artist

In July 2015, the History Department lost one of our emeritus faculty, **Professor Effie K. Ambler**, who taught Russian history and American women's history at Wayne State from 1966 until her retirement in 2002. She was a loving sister, a devoted aunt, a loyal friend, an engaged scholar, a life-long artist, and—above all—a dedicated classroom teacher.

A graduate of Bryn Mawr (BA, 1958) and with a PhD from Indiana University, Dr. Ambler was fluent in Russian. She wrote the authoritative *Russian Journalism and Politics, 1861-1881* (Wayne State University Press, 1972), which explored late 19th century Russian liberalism drawing on source material from Moscow and Helsinki.

As Faculty Sponsor of the WSU Chapter of the Golden Key International Undergraduate Honor Society, Professor Ambler breathed new life into the chapter. She established a widely read newsletter and webpage and led sizable student delegations to the national meetings. She also served as the History Department's advisor for Phi Alpha Theta.

Ambler grew up in Washington, D.C. Her younger sister Anne, remembers that Effie displayed her artistic, mechanical, and scholastic

talents early. In her teens, she built a Roman house model and the six simple machines for her history class and dabbled in oil painting on canvas. She rounded out her high school scholastic awards by acting in an amateur theatrical company, where she perfected a British accent in such plays as *The Importance of Being Earnest*. She also fostered cross-cultural understanding by co-organizing a meeting of students from her school and an all-Black school before D.C. schools desegregated.

Effie Ambler was intensely interested in advancing education and opportunities for women. She helped to develop the Women's Studies Program at Wayne State and served as its director from 1989 to 1991 and then on its Advisory Board. She served as a member of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Board of Directors (Emerita) and a Trustee for Pewabic Pottery. As an artist, she worked primarily in paint and ceramics.

Colleagues at Wayne State recall Effie Ambler as a forthright colleague with great personal integrity. They remember her generosity, her gifts of pottery and a fine Russian feast she served. She also carried, her peers remarked, the banners of democracy and feminism at the university. Creative, intelligent, "slightly bemused and skeptical," Ambler possessed a droll sense of humor that was used, at times, to great effect in department meetings and ceremonies.

"There was no hypocrisy in her behavior or opinions and certainly no bow to current fashions." ~Stanley Shapiro, Professor Emeritus

"[She was] an uncommonly brave woman, an exemplar of the kind of woman who paved the way for the rest of us." ~Sandra VanBurkleo, Professor of History and a long-time friend

Continued

“Life at the university is full of contradictions, and Effie was always able to find the humorous irony in any situation.” ~Gayle McCreedy, Academic Adviser and WSU alumna

Ambler’s professional career was dedicated to stimulating students to learn about the world and expand their horizons. In endowing an undergraduate scholarship, Ambler hoped to help today’s students finance a liberal arts education, which she believed was critical to citizenship in the world community. With these interests in mind, her sister, Anne Ambler has created the **Effie K. Ambler Memorial Scholarship in History** for undergraduate history majors, with a preference for students who study in the field of gender, women’s and sexuality history.

Students, alumni, WSU faculty and employees, and friends of the department who would like to donate to the newly established **Ambler Memorial Fund** are encouraged to do so:

Please make checks payable to **Wayne State University**, with the Memo line: **IMO Professor Effie Ambler/History**.

Mailing Address: Wayne State University
5475 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

To pay by credit card, please call **888-WSU-GIVE**

What Are the Warriors Up To Now?

Tyler Harangozo (BA, 2015) was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Derek Robertson (BA, 2015) will be enrolling in New York University’s Arthur L. Carter Journalism Institute.



Jana de Moyer (BA, 2015) will be enrolling at the University of Michigan Law School.



Amber N. Mitchell (BA, 2012) completed her MA in Public History at the Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis and accepted a job at the American

Association for State & Local History as a manager of museum and professional history education.



Robert Pfaff (BA, 2014, MA, 2016) will be enrolling in the University of Michigan’s Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Christoph Schiessl (PhD, 2009) has just published *Alleged Nazi Collaborators in the United States after World War II*. He is also in a full-time renewable position at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Gregory Wood (MA, 1999), Frostburg State University, has just published “The Justice of a Rule that Forbids the Men Smoking on Their Jobs’: Workers, Managers and Cigarettes in World War II America.”



“There’s a lot that can be done with a history degree, whether you want to be a historian or not. It’s so versatile in terms of the skills you build, the people you meet and what you can go on to do. There are really no doors that are closed to you.”

– Bill Bryan '08, B.A., History
American Red Cross Disaster Program Specialist

Pivotal Moments

OUR CAMPAIGN FOR WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY | College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

I would like to make a contribution to support the **History Department at Wayne State University**

- History Department Scholarship Fund (222833)
- History Department Annual Fund (220836)
- Other: _____

Enclosed is my gift of: \$1000 \$500 \$250 \$50 Other: _____

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- Please send information on supporting WSU in my estate plans
- I am already supporting WSU in my estate plans

Mail to: **Wayne State University Fund Office, 5700 Cass Ave., Suite 1200, Detroit MI 48202**

From the Editor

Big thanks to everyone who helped make this issue possible, including Jorge China, Gayle McCreedy, Liz Scott, Amber Mitchell, Rob Pfaff, and Jana de Moyer, Marilyn Vaughan, work study students LaCorsha & Mary, The Pivotal Moments & Development Teams, Liz Faue, and Bill Bryan (c/o 2008).

We welcome your contributions to the newsletter, especially pictures from department activities and events. Pics should be in focus and well lit. Pro-tip: Don't be bashful. Get closer to your subject. Closer. Steady the camera, using both hands. Snap!

Have a Great Semester!



Department of History

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