

# Department of History

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

## Letter from the Chair

*Elizabeth V. Faue*

This summer I found a cache of oral history interviews that I conducted for my dissertation. It was a reminder of how people differently interpret what history is and what experiences are historical. I interviewed ten women retirees who had worked in the garment industry in the 1930s. None of the women had been interviewed before. One woman grew up in North Dakota, trained as a teacher, and moved to the city when her school went broke. Another hated her job in the dress factory. She only brightened up when she talked about dancing. Another disliked the garment union but loved her work in a defense factory. She spoke of the feel of her calibrator and the strength of the union. The stories told me little about what it was like for union women in the 1930s, but they reinforced that history is often left unrecognized, even by those who live it.

We currently have a global pandemic, an historic economic downturn, and widespread social protest. We live in history-making times. Our skills as historians are in greater demand, because humans understand changes through the lens of the past. With historic challenges and an unprecedented turn to online learning, we rely on our historian selves to observe, record, and analyze events as they unfold. This year has brought us enough change to fill thousands of books; we will spend the next decade not only responding to change but also analyzing it.

Let's continue our collective discussion over the course of fall semester. Welcome back and welcome forward to the new academic year.



### SAVE THESE DATES

*9/1: Classes Begin*

*11/3: Election Day-University Closed*

*Nov: Sterne-Lion Colloquium Virtual Event*

*Dec: Commencement TBD*



**WAYNE STATE**  
College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences

# Pandemic Perspectives

Allie Penn, PhD student



Masked Californians | c/o Niday Picture Library.

**Pandemic Perspectives** is a project initiated by **Dr. Marsha Richmond** as a response to the current global Covid-19 pandemic. Faculty and students (from History & other departments) were invited to create presentations, videos, or podcasts to **provide historical perspective for various epidemics and pandemics throughout history.**

The case studies examine outbreaks ranging from the ancient world to the present, including: **two plagues in the Greco-Roman world, smallpox and other epidemics among indigenous people in North America, African Americans and the 1793 yellow fever Philadelphia epidemic, the 1893 Russian pandemic, the 1918-1919 Spanish influenza, and the HIV-AIDS epidemic.**

Each presentation evaluates the science behind particular microbes and illnesses and illuminates the historical context, the impact on society, parallels to Covid-19, while providing additional resources for further study.

Several presentations focus on specific topics, such as the role of health care workers during the 1918-1919 pandemic.



Temporary influenza ward | c/o Otis Historical Archives, National Museum of Health and Medicine

One, on which I worked on with MA student Sarah Tropper, showcases nurses who worked to keep patients hydrated and comfortable. In our presentation, we compare the public health actions utilized by nurses and instituted by governments in 1918 and contrast these with present-day actions against the coronavirus.



Motor Corps and Canteen volunteers from the Detroit Red Cross | c/o of National Archives

Thanks to the generosity of the **Cohn-Haddow Center for Judaic Studies**, I have been engaged to serve as Coordinator of the project. I am creating a website that will showcase the individual presentations (organization chronologically) and additional resources. I will also help recruit additional presentations from volunteers.

The final project will provide a timeline of pandemics and illness throughout history.

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## How to Harvard

Liette Gidlow

Thanks to a generous research grant from the **Mellon Foundation**, I spent the 2019-2020 school year in residence at **Harvard University's Radcliffe Institute**, an amazing interdisciplinary hub of scholars and artists from around the world.



Statue of suffragist Lucy Stone at Boston Women's Memorial.

There I wrote chapters for my forthcoming book on *The Nineteenth Amendment and the Politics of Race, 1920-1970* and collaborated with other scholars on the Long Nineteenth Amendment Project, **an effort to think about the history of woman suffrage and women's citizenship in fresh ways** in this, the amendment's centennial year.

In August 2019, my family and I packed up a minivan and moved for the year. Here is some of what we discovered about living and learning in Cambridge.

**Steepest learning curve:** how to get anywhere. Street names change at intersections and there's not a grid to be found. Also, the squares (Harvard Square, Inman Square, Union Square), aren't. They're called "squares" but are actually triangles, traffic circles, or five-point

intersections. Traffic is always heavy, everyone's in a hurry, and only newcomers follow traffic laws.

**Best form of transportation:** anything with one or more wheels. People get around by car, bus, train, bicycle (with or without multiple children in sidecars), unicycle, One-Wheel, skateboard, electric skateboard, roller skates, and assorted other conveyances. Also, they're all in your lane.

**Best bike route:** The trail on Battle Road traces **Paul Revere's 1775 ride from Boston to Lexington and Concord**. He never made it all the way to Concord, but we did!

**Best view of Boston:** from the top of the **Bunker Hill Monument, up all 294 steps**. Or, from any point on the Cambridge side of the Charles.

**Best breakfast:** oatmeal with nut butter, apples, and currants, made fresh at **Clover Food Lab** and consumed there, jazzy riffs floating from the speakers.

**Best emergency room within 2 miles of East Cambridge:** **Mass Eye and Ear**, attached to **Massachusetts General Hospital**. Yes, we had occasion to compare. Thankfully, everybody's fine.

**Best landmark for NPR listeners of a certain age:** stand in Harvard Square and look up. Yes, there is actually a **window with lettering that announces the office of "Dewey, Cheatham, and Howe."**

**Most valuable life lesson:** It's good to shift your perspective once in a while. **It's also good to come home.**

## Student History-Making during the Pandemic

*Amanda Finn, Amy Loji, Joseph Mchahwar*

While the coronavirus was advancing across the U.S., students in HIS 3000: **Detroit under Coleman Young** were learning how to conduct historical research via a deep dive into projects as far and wide as **policing, welfare rights, and desegregating DPS**. Then, the reality of the outbreak had reached our door. Three students, History majors **Amanda Finn** and **Joe Mchahwar**, and English major **Amy Loji**, share their research and mode of delivery, which included a documentary, a zine, and a podcast.



Amanda Finn produced a documentary on Vincent Chin & the fight against racism against Asian Americans

For my research on the 1982 racist murder of **Vincent Chin**, a Chinese American in Detroit, I visited the **Reuther Library** and traveled to the **Bentley Historical Library** to examine records of the **American Citizens for Justice** in February. This early work enabled me to create a commentary-style documentary telling the story of the ACJ's fight for justice and against anti-Asian American bias and violence from the comfort of my home, with much-appreciated assistance from my brother.

My film tells a story of racism that is as familiar

to us today as it was throughout Detroit history. As problematic terms, such as "Chinese virus," circulate, more videos and articles of Asian-Americans experiencing racism and racist violence have been appearing with greater frequency. Preventing another death due to systemic racism, such as the killing of Mr. Chin, is a concern in a world where anti-Asian bias is intensifying and increasingly more public.

Making a documentary was fulfilling. My one regret was forgetting how time-consuming editing can be! I plan to utilize what I learned to improve my future research and filmmaking skills, whether that be a comparison of past and future civil rights groups or the effects of the current racism towards Asians in schools. I have since jumped at the chance to do archival research for other classes. I'll make future films, but I'll remember what I learned about the time it takes.



Amy Loji produced a history zine on Race and Sex in the Detroit Police Department

Early in the semester, Dr. Williams said "historians are not history buffs." As an English major and self-identified history buff, I shifted uncomfortably in my seat. But Dr. Williams shared two embarrassing and very public examples where buffs had made the kind of errors properly trained

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historians avoid. We were all in agreement that none of us wanted to be those public examples of how NOT to do History. We learned that good history is rooted in comprehensive, evidence-based research that is produced with a commitment to professional standards of interpretation and analysis.

My research started with the question of what happened when Coleman Young attempted to **desegregate the Detroit Police Department by race and sex**. I focused on the firing of two Black female police officers for cowardice. In February, I scoured newspaper reports and was glued to my seat analyzing documents from **Coleman Young's Mayoral Records** at the **Burton Historical Collection** for clues about what happened, why, and what that said about how the city was changing or remaining the same under its first African American mayor.

By the time the threat of COVID became fully apparent, interpreting my data and creating a zine to share my findings could take place at home. I was dismayed, though not surprised, to see parallels between the resistance to Coleman Young's desegregation efforts and our current moment of reckoning with persistence of racism and brutality in American policing. My project was focused on sexism, particularly as experienced by Black women within DPD, and my experience researching this project left me questioning if the 1970s had seen women more wholeheartedly accepted as vital to effective community policing, what different possibilities could that have held for our present? I'll consider that and other questions in my future research.



Joe Mchahwar produced a podcast on Arab American labor & civil rights activism

Detroit is an enigmatic city, defined and often haunted by the complex history looming over it. The powers that be in Detroit have been quick to frame contemporary gentrification efforts as a miraculous comeback for the beleaguered city. In doing so they seek to reinforce and contribute to a mainstream historiography of the city which erases the lives of real Detroiters and blames them for the decline of the city.

I learned the nuances of Detroit's history and the professional skills I needed to conduct historical research. I was interested in examining the struggles and contributions of oppressed nationalities in the city and the intersections of their common causes. This led me to research the little known **Arab Workers Caucus of the United Auto Workers**. After pouring through books, documents in archives at the **Bentley**, and conducting an interview with a founding member of the AWC, **I recorded my first podcast**. I wanted to contribute something accessible to the rich anti-racist and progressive histories of Detroit. I hope to use the skills, knowledge, and confidence I gained through this course to participate in and contribute to ongoing campaigns confronting racism and inequality in the United States.

# PhD Students share their observations from attending the Detroit Protests against Racial Injustice

*Jamie McQuaid & Aimee Shulman*



Photo credit: Jamie McQuaid

**Aimee Shulman:** "I went to protests downtown in early June. They assembled at the corner of Michigan and 3rd and had speakers address the crowd for about an hour before the marching began. The fairly diverse crowds listened attentively, generally indicating loud agreement with speakers.

During the marching, organizer and WSU alumna, **Nakia Wallace**, led chants with a microphone. As I was leaving the intrepid march, I encounter two older black women who were standing on the sidewalk watching the marchers, who by then had paused in the street to rev up their spirits with extra loud chants. One of the women said to me, "Isn't that a beautiful sight." The other said, "The marching is all right, but I don't like violence." I told them that the protests in Detroit were carrying on without violence and we talked about it for a few minutes before I headed home."



Photo credit: Jamie McQuaid

**Jamie McQuaid:** "#BlackLivesMatter activists had to contend with police pepper spraying, assaulting, and intimidating peaceful protesters. **Detroit Police Department** helicopters dove at marchers walking down Michigan Avenue, while **Detroiters leaned out of windows to chant with protesters**. Drivers parked their cars on Jefferson Avenue to stand with activists at Hart Plaza, in front of the Monument to Joe Louis.

On July 10th, the Detroit Police shot and killed a twenty-year old man named Hakim Littleton on Six Mile and San Juan; they argued he shot at them first, though numerous eyewitnesses claimed he was not armed."



Photo credit: Jamie McQuaid

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## Tom Anderson Retires

*Elizabeth Faue, Elizabeth Lublin, & Hans Hummer*

After 30 years as a teacher and colleague in the Department of History, Tom Anderson is retiring.

To celebrate that milestone for both Tom, the department will host a gathering in his honor. Due to the pandemic, we cannot meet in person until next summer, when we will have a proper gathering, but in the meantime we will make due with a virtual cocktail hour on Thursday, August 13 at 4 pm.

Tom has been an integral part of the Department since he first came to Wayne State as an undergraduate in the 1970s. He completed his doctorate in medieval history, and wrote his dissertation, *"The Inheritance Rights of Women in the Frankish Kingdom, 481-700: An Inquiry into the Germanic Family, Laetic Tenure, and Lex Salica, 59,"* under our retired colleague, Edwin Hall, in 1991. Out of that dissertation, Tom published what has become a standard and widely cited article, "Roman Military Colonies in Gaul, Salian Ethnogenesis and the Forgotten Meaning of *Pactus Legis Salicae 59.5*," *Early Medieval Europe* 4 (1995): 120-144. The article ingeniously solved a major riddle in early European law: the odd exclusion of women from property inheritance in a law code that otherwise allows women to inherit, tracing the idiosyncratic provision to the settlement of Franks as soldiers in the late Roman Empire.



Having completed both his M.A. and Ph.D. with us, he has taught thousands of students in both survey and advanced courses over the decades in both Ancient and Medieval History.

Tom's enthusiasm for the ancient world has inspired scores of students, and he has played a truly valuable role in helping to hone the skills of the historian in both undergraduates and graduates. Many of his students win our best prizes and go on to have promising careers.

Over the past few years, Tom has had another role, one that has combined his love of teaching with work for the UPTF-AFT Local 477. Joining the union in 2007, he has been executive director of the UPTF since 2015 and also serves as its vice president, grievance officer, and chief negotiator. While this seems far removed from his research interests in history, Tom's knowledge of the workings of institutions and the importance of social solidarity have served him well in both contexts.

Tom Anderson was a wonderful teacher to our students and a most generous colleague. We will miss him but we wish his family and him good health and great times in his retirement.

## Undergraduate Student Award Recipients, 2020

*Because of Covid-19, the department had a virtual awards ceremony in place of our spring reception. For the complete listing, including photos and project titles, find us on the social medias at: HistoryatWayne.*

### **The Abraham Lincoln Brigade Veterans**

#### **Scholarship:**

Fatima Eid  
Devankar Mukhi  
Matthew Jennings

### **The Mark and Linee Diem Endowed Scholarship:**

Terri Walker

### **The Professor Effie K. Ambler Memorial Endowed Scholarship in History:**

Aubrey Carr  
Rebecca Phoenix

### **The Baiardi Family Foundation Endowed Scholarship:**

Carmela Sleva

### **The Sterne-Lion Research Scholarship in History:**

Rebecca Phoenix

### **Antoine Durocher and Elizabeth Chevalier Annual Scholarship:**

Aya Beydoun

### **The F. Richard Place Endowed Memorial Award:**

Lydia Virzi  
David Webb



### **The Place Gateway Award:**

Andre'a Ferrera  
Nicholas Rhein

### **The Rolf and Jennie Johannesen Endowed Memorial Award:**

Aleanna Siacon

### **The Dr. Gerald R. Dreslinski Award:**

Kyra Goeller

### **The Faculty Undergraduate History Award:**

Maureen McCormick  
Gabriela Shipman

### **The Thomas Frank Mayer-Oakes Annual Memorial Scholarship:**

Kaitlyn Burke

### **Phi Alpha Theta Inductees:**





## Graduate Student Award Recipients, 2020

*Because of Covid-19, the department had a virtual awards ceremony in place of our spring reception. For the complete listing, including photos and project titles, find us on the social medias at: HistoryatWayne.*



**The Joe L. Norris Endowed Award:**  
James McQuaid

**The Richard D. Miles Endowed Award:**  
Tom Yaari

**The Dr. Gerald Dreslinski Research Award:**  
Rochelle Danquah

**The Joseph Gelinas Drouillard & Elizabeth Lesperance Annual History Award:**  
James McQuaid

**The Michael D. Patterson Memorial Award:**  
Alexandrea Penn

**The Michael C. Simo Annual Scholarship in History:**  
Branden McEuen

**The Charles F. Otis and Dr. Jeffrey L. Reider Scholarship in the History of Gender and Sexuality:**  
Katie Parks

**The Kruman-Lion Endowed History Graduate Student Award:**  
Michaela Lewalski  
Kaitlin Martinelli

**The Alfred H. Kelly Memorial Research Award:**  
Branden McEuen

**The Joseph Gelinas Drouillard and Elizabeth Lesperance History Award:**  
James McQuaid

**The Dr. Louis Jones HGSA Award:**  
Christine Cook

*The department held its first Twitter Takeover with Otis-Reider Scholarship recipients presenting their research via text and images.*

JOIN US FOR THE FIRST-EVER  
WSU HISTORY TWITTER TAKEOVER!

**OTIS-REIDER SYMPOSIUM  
ON THE HISTORY OF GENDER & SEXUALITY**

APRIL 14, 2020  
10 AM - 12 PM

@HISTORYATWAYNE #OTISREIDER2020

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:00 LEAH BUHAGIAR TWEETS ABOUT WOMEN IN BASEBALL

10:45 JAMES MCQUAID TWEETS ABOUT QUEERING THE UAW

11:30 CHRISTINE COOK TWEETS ABOUT SOLDIERS AND FEMINISM

## News & Notes

*The Department proudly recognizes our Students' Achievements*

### Undergraduate Students

**Aya Beydoun,**

History major  
and one of the

**History**

**Club's** leaders,

defended her

Honors thesis,

"Working

Women in

Antebellum

Michigan: An



Examination of Roles, Class,

Race, and Expectations." Aya was invited to

join **Phi Beta Kappa** and is on her way to the

**NYU School of Law.**

### Graduate Students

Doctoral student and Career Diversity fellow

**Lily Wilson contributed to an informative discussion on community engagement in**

"Creating Connections to Your University and

Community: Lessons Learned from Career

Diversity," for the **American Historical**

**Association's Perspectives (July 17, 2020).**

Reporting on the **Humanities Clinic,**

she explained that "COVID-19 has increased

demand for this expertise, and we are fortunate

to be able to increase the number of

community partners we are working with this

year, many of them working to meet essential

needs like healthcare, food, and clean water in

the midst of the pandemic."

JD/MA in history

joint degree

student **Erin**

**Gianopoulos** was

named a **Michigan**

**Political**

**Leadership**

**Program fellow** at

Michigan State

University. Erin

also won the

**General Motors Scholarship** from the **Women**

**Lawyer's Association of Michigan.**



### Degree Completions

**Leah Buhagiar, MAPH**

### Alumni News

Alumnus **Dr.**

**Samuel**

**Hogsette**

accepted a position

as full-time history

instructor at

Houston

Community

College.

Congratulations, Sam!



**Ann Marie Wambeke** had "Republican

Feminists Fight for Abortion Rights

in Michigan, 1968-1982," published in Jon K.

Lauck and Catherine McNicol Stock, eds., *The*

*Conservative Heartland: A Political History of the*

*Postwar American Midwest* (Lawrence: University

Press of Kansas, 2020), 115-132.

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## News & Notes

### *Faculty Recognition & Staff News*

Emeritus Professor **Ron Aronson** had "All in It Together? From the Pandemic to the Uprising against Racism," published in *Tikkun*.

**Eric Ash** was named **Outstanding Graduate Director**.

**Jose Cuello** will be a **Resident Scholar** at the **Humanities Center** for 2020-2021.

**Liz Faue** won an **Arts and Humanities Research Support Grant** from the **Office of the Vice President for Research** for her project, *Voices for the Commons: Mobilizing Teachers and Nurses for Democracy in Crisis Times*.

**Jennifer Hart** won a **Career Development Chair Award** to work on *Making an African City*. Her **DIY Urbanism research group** received a **Formas Seed Grant** for a project on urban sustainability. She was accepted into the **Higher Education Resource Services Leadership Institute, for Higher Education Leadership Development for Women**.

**Hans Hummer** co-authored "Weird Science: Incest and History" in the May 6 issue of *Perspectives*.

**Paul Kershaw** published, "Hamlet without the Prince of Denmark: Bringing Capitalism Back into the 'New' History of Capitalism," in *Historical Sociology's* Special Issue on Capitalism and American Empire, vol 33:1.

History Librarian Liaison **Cindy Krolkowski** announced her retirement from Wayne State, after 28 years. We wish her well.

History alumna (MA 2016) **Alexandra Sarkosy** will be taking over that position.

**Marc Kruman** has been appointed to the rank of **Distinguished Service Professor**, in recognition of his extensive service to the university and the broader community.

**Janine Lanza** was appointed **Resident Scholar at the Humanities Center** for 2020-2021.

**Karen Marrero** was tenured and promoted to **Associate Professor**. Congratulations, Karen!

**Tracy Neumann** won a **Faculty Teaching Travel Grant** from the Office of Teaching and Learning to attend the **American Historical Association** as part of our Career Diversity initiative.

**Marsha Richmond** had "South American Fieldwork/Cytogenetic Knowledge: The Cytogenetic Research Program of Sally Hughes-Schrader and Franz Schrader," published in *Perspectives on Science*, 28 (2): 127-169

Distinguished Professor Emeritus **Melvin Small** published "On Learning the Scholar's Craft: Reflections of Historians and International Relations Scholars," on *H-Diplo* and "Comparing Richard Nixon and Donald Trump: A Preliminary Report," *H-Diplo* .

**Sylvia Taschka** was promoted to senior lecturer and won the second place prize in an annual German poetry contest sponsored by the Bibliothek deutschsprachiger Gedichte (Library of German-Language Poetry), for her poem entitled, "A Pandemic Poetry."



## From the Editor

*Kidada E. Williams, PhD*

The coronavirus crisis hit Wayne State, Detroit, and its metropolitan area with swift and shocking force. WSU historians switched to emergency remote teaching and learning as we took care of ourselves, and our people, including the living, sick, and dead. It's safe to say that living through a historic pandemic was not how any of us expected to end the semester, school year, or summer. But, here we are.

I'd like to say how much I appreciate (and think my colleagues appreciate) our students and the sacrifices they made, rolling with the many punches the pandemic threw at them. In their time with us, our students gain not only insight into historical events and how history is produced but also historically informed perspective about life.

That knowledge and wisdom was on display during the pandemic, and as protests against police violence and racial injustice rocked the world following George Floyd's killing. History students weathered Covid-19 avoiding cognitive inflexibility and uncritical thinking as they faced challenge after challenge. They served as "essential workers," adjusted to classes and defense meetings on Zoom, completing research under some of the most difficult circumstances, and marking celebrations of their achievements virtually. They saw us at our best and worst. Like good historians, they deconstructed the chains of events leading to these moments and were able to distinguish opinion from evidence-based facts and absorbed new and changing information as they worked to protect themselves, their family, and our larger community. And, they joined protests. Students who could return this fall, did. We hope to see those who could not in the near future.

It's a pleasure to teach, learn from, and stand shoulder to shoulder with all my fellow historians as we approach the year ahead, and hopefully, come out safely the other side of this, stronger for having worked together to get through these trying times.

If you're **Making a Gift to the Department**, we're asking that you take one additional step to ensure your gift reaches us: please visit <https://clas.wayne.edu/history/make-a-difference> and **Choose History!**

*"I was funded to pursue hands-on experience in my chosen field. I think it's priceless. This is a history department that ensures students learn outside the classroom."*

*— Adeline Walsh, undergraduate student*

**Giving?**  
**Choose History.**

