

Department of History

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

Letter from the Chair

Elizabeth V. Faue

Returning to “Not Quite Normal”: History, Hope, and Uncertainty

In the Spring of 2021, most of us—historians as well as those less mindful of the past—looked forward to a return to normalcy. Vaccinations were soaring; we started to meet together in public, sometimes without masks. We started to do what we normally do. Many of us—faculty and students—imagined a summer and a fall in which archives and conferences also were back. We would engage in one of the most public of private activities—studying history in gatherings of friends, students, colleagues, and the public.

History, as a profession, is more a verb than a noun. Making history isn't just about milestones; it's about gathering up shards of information—pottery fragments and worn satchels, census documents and personal letters—and turning them into a story—an historical account. It's hard, even when it's you and a set of documents, to do it alone. You read those documents, created by historical actors and processed by archivists, in community. You read and write history with those who have written before and with those who will read what you write and whom you teach. History is shared understandings, even if we don't always agree.

The pandemic did some damage to that way of learning and knowing. Most of us are eager for it to be over so we can be part of communities again. I want to be back in that normal historian's life. But it's August of 2021, and **history teaches us that nothing quite goes off as planned.** We are facing, with hope of a better future, a fall of uncertainty. We may not be back to “normal” just yet or as fully as we wish. **As we tread carefully into the future, we can appreciate that we share this experience in communities—both with our colleagues and families and also with the past—with those men and women who have lived through challenging times and challenging returns.**

Welcome back.



WAYNE STATE
College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences

In Memory: Alan Raucher

Former Department Chair and Emeritus Professor

Alan Raucher, 81, succumbed to cancer on April 24, 2020, shy of his and his wife Margaret's fiftieth wedding anniversary. He leaves a son, Adam, daughter-in-law, Lauren, and two young grandchildren, Aiden and Grace.

Alan was born in New York City on January 29, 1939, grew up in Los Angeles, California, was graduated **Phi Beta Kappa** from U.C.L.A. in 1960, followed by a **Woodrow Wilson Fellowship** at the **University of Pennsylvania** to study with the distinguished American business historian, Thomas Cochran. His doctoral dissertation on the development of public relations in American business, 1900-1929, which became his first book, published by the Johns Hopkins Press in 1968.

What followed was a **scholarly and academic career that never lost momentum or variety**. Before publication of Alan's second book, *Paul G. Hoffman: Architect of Foreign Aid* (University Press of Kentucky, 1985) he authored six major articles; after the Hoffman book, another seven articles, all of which appeared in the most prominent journals in his field. They covered a wide range of interests: "The First Foreign Affairs Think Tanks"; "Dime Store Chains: The Making of Organization Men, 1880-1940"; and "Beyond the God that Failed: Louis Fischer, Liberal Internationalist" are just a sampling of Alan's range. Likewise, his academic appointments included a diversity of institutions: the **University of Pittsburgh, Rice University, the University of Arizona, and the American Studies Research Centre in Hyderabad, India.**



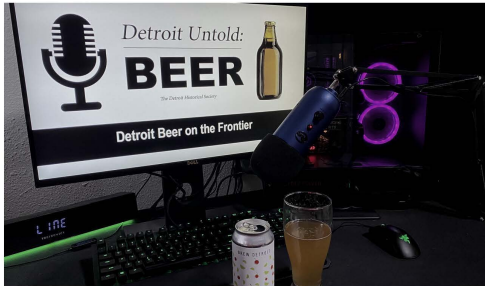
Dr. Alan Raucher, 1939-2020

He was appointed Assistant Professor of History at Wayne State in 1968, rising to Professor in 1986, and Chair of the History Department, 1982-1983, and 1986-1995, topped off by a year as Interim Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts in 1996. Alan retired as Professor Emeritus in 2005.

One never came away from a conversation with Alan without having learned something or other. His curiosity, buttressed by a remarkable memory, was boundless, everything came into his purview: from the vicissitudes of foreign travel to his appreciation of exotic cuisines to a seemingly bottomless store of personal and professional anecdotes. His door was always open and his wise counsel made available equally to all colleagues. But Alan's character was his preeminent virtue. In a period of job scarcity and financial austerity, running the daily affairs of a major department such as History required more than just managerial ability, at which he excelled; it also required negotiating skills, patient mentoring and a keen sense of practical opportunities. And that was not possible in a department of over twenty tenured members, each with his or her own demands and sensitivities--and talents--unless the Chair himself was a paragon of integrity, honesty and reliability. Unless the Chair was good to his word and evenhanded in his dealings. Alan was.

Grad Life during the Pandemic

Allie Penn was invited to share stories of graduate students during the pandemic. Here are stories on Billy Winkel, Branden McEuen, and Christine Cook



Billy Winkel is Hosting Detroit Untold

The Detroit Historical Society's first podcast, **Untold Detroit: Beer**, shares the story of brewing in Detroit. Hosted by MA Public History student **Billy Wall-Winkel**, 'Untold Detroit' weaves together brewing history with interviews from the people who made brewing in Detroit possible. Find it wherever you get your podcasts!



Branden McEuen, and his son Logan

Branden McEuen's family got bigger. He writes: "Just as shutdowns began due to the pandemic, my wife gave birth to our son, Logan. It was a **strange time to bring a child into the world**, including forcing my parents to see their grandchild through a glass door. While he can be a handful, especially alongside teaching and trying to finish a dissertation, **he has been an absolute joy to have around**. If nothing else, hopefully I can teach him the importance of history."

For **Christine Cook**, the sudden shift online was not difficult because she had already had some experience with it, which she used to guide the decisions she made about teaching during the shutdown and switch to remote teaching, including using the best tools available for synchronous teaching, like providing an optional class period on Big Blue Button.

One thing she cautions against in the move to online teaching is "relying too much on discussion posts, reflections, and other writing assignments. The students will feel like all they do is write, and I think it sets up a block to learning. My most successful assignments in lieu of writing have been oral presentations. I have gotten great results from assigning oral presentations for primary readings each week. Another surprise success was creating a group oral presentation for the final of another class."

What was more challenging for her and her peers was **the loss of part-time faculty positions**. As of this semester, **Christine no longer teaches for Wayne State**. She writes, "I am still teaching at **Washtenaw Community College** and **Lawrence Technological University**, but in classes I have never taught before. That means **I am constantly only days ahead of the students with the learning material**."

Cook advises flexibility. "We're all doing the best we can--students, faculty, and staff included--and being flexible will both help ourselves, and also will let the students know we have their best interests at heart."

Veterans' Stories at the American Legion

Tori Dark, History Minor



Tori Dark at the American Legion post in Nashville

The best job and the most complex class came together in HIS 3000 in the winter of 2021. The course explored the history of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the first assignment the class had was to watch an ABC News Nightline special "The Fight Over the Enola Gay," that explored the 1995 controversy over the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum's Enola Gay exhibit. This documentary noted the role of the American Legion in the controversy.

At the time I was employed as a bartender at the American Legion post in my hometown of Nashville. The show made me think about my veterans at work and their thoughts about the bombings, and I decided to explore those in the final research paper for the class. For over a month I conducted surveys of veteran members of the Legion.



Tori and one of her interview subjects

There were some bumps in the road as I gathered this primary source material, with one of the biggest being the number of distributed surveys that were never returned. In the end, though, I was able to analyze over two dozen surveys, situate their content within secondary source material on the controversy, and argue that, even with generational divides in thinking about patriotism, most veterans surveyed see the use of atomic bombs against Japan as a military necessity and atomic weapons as a necessary evil.

This project helped me grow exponentially as a writer, a researcher, and an aspiring historian. My writing has become more concise and my commentary more neutral, and I experienced how fun it is to work with real people on projects like this. Most of all, this topic opened my eyes to many complex views. I learned firsthand that there can be a variety of lenses through which to view one event, that the line between right and wrong can be blurry, and that social history is subjective. I am thankful for all the help that I received along the way, from my classmates who vetted my survey to those who took the time to share their opinions.

News & Notes

Faculty & Staff Recognition & News
The Department Congratulates our Faculty's Achievements

Jorge Chinaea published "A Journey through the History of Toa Alta: The Chinaea Family and its First Links with the Cintrón and Chéveres Families," in Gloria Tapia Rios, ed., *Thoa Arriba, Toa Alta: Una Historia. Ensayos Históricos y Culturales, Toa Alta, PR*: Ediciones Magna Cultura, 2021.

Jose Cuello has been granted status as Associate Professor Emeritus, to commence upon his retirement in August.

Jennifer Hart has been invited (by President M. Roy Wilson) to be the speaker at the New Student Convocation, August 31st, at 10:30 am.

Liette Gidlow was promoted to Professor.

Bill Lynch was promoted to Professor. He also had "Zombie Epistemology: Or, I Ain't Gonna Work on Zoltan's Farm, Either," published in *Social Epistemology Review and Reply Collective* 10 (6) (2021): 1-19.

Karen Marrero was just elected to the **American Historical Association's Council** as a Councilor of the Teaching Division.

Andrew Port had "The Wrath of Moses, or The Shadow Side of German Memory Culture," published on the New Fascism Syllabus website.

Marsha Richmond has been awarded a grant by the **Science and Technology Studies (STS)** program of the **National Science Foundation** to support her project, "Theo Colborn and Environmental Endocrine Disruption." The amount awarded was \$100,000 over a two-year period, August 2021 to July 2023.

Kidada Williams had "Legacies of Violence" published in Kinshasha Holman Conwill and Paul Gardullo, eds., *Make Good the Promises: Reclaiming Reconstruction and Its Legacies*, 2021. This book is the companion to a new exhibit with the same name at the **National Museum of African American History & Culture (aka The Blacksonian)**. Her podcast **Seizing Freedom** was renewed and will explore African Americans' fight for freedom during the early Jim Crow era in its second season.

New Director of Undergraduate Studies



Dr. Janine Lanza

I'm taking over as DUS from **William Lynch** who ably navigated us through the rocky shoals of the global pandemic. **My goal this year is to grow the history major by showing students what a versatile degree a BA in history can be.**

While students often think of history as a major for teachers, **the career paths of our recent graduates demonstrate the wealth of options open to history majors, from nonprofit organizations, to civil service, to businesses large and small.** I look forward to talking to students about the many advantages, and joys, of studying the past.

My research focuses on France before and during the French Revolution. My current book project is a **cultural history of the guillotine**, an object whose meaning and resonance has shifted over the past few centuries. When this pandemic finally breaks, **you will find me at a café in Paris pondering the wonders, and missteps, of the folks who have come before us.**

José Cuello Retires

Dr. Jorge Chinea

Dr. José Cuello Villanueva is a scholar of **colonial Latin America**, a field in which he has excelled as an educator, author and **advocate of the University's urban mission** by seeking to **build and strengthen ties with external community partners.**



Born in **Mexico** and raised in Chicago from a very early age, Dr. Cuello earned his B.A. at the **University of Illinois** before moving on to the **University of California at Berkeley** for his graduate degrees. He began honing his pedagogical skills at **Marquette University** and came to **Wayne**

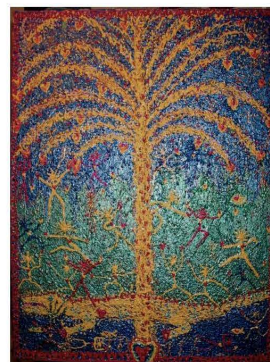
State in 1989, joining the **Center for Latino/a and Latin American Studies** and the **Department of History.**

He has presented numerous papers **about Spanish America** in national and international forums, published two books, as well as refereed articles and book reviews on several subjects.

He has been an active contributor to the **Humanities Center** brownbag lectures series, **La Academia del Pueblo**, and other campus and off-campus organizations, including the **Midwest Consortium of Latino Studies**, the **Community of Latino Artists, Visionaries and Educators**, the **Inter-University Program for Latino Research**, **El Garage Cultural**, and **El Central Hispanic News**, among others.

Kidada Williams

In addition to being a historian, **Dr. Cuello is a talented artist.** Here is his visual interpretation of the **Maya Tree of Life** that is the center of the Maya Myth of Creation and that is the symbol of divine power and transcendence in Maya belief and culture. He dedicated it to his late nephew, **Omar Torres**, when he shared it with the department in 2008.



The History Department appreciates José's years of service, and **wishes him the very best of health, happiness, and success on his new journey in life.**

News & Notes

The Department Proudly Recognizes our Students' Many Achievements

Undergraduate Students

Alexandra Batton has been awarded a **Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program** award for her project, "Born Soviet: The Unique Experience of Soviet Childhood."

Rebecca Phoenix has published an essay, "The Unusual Six: A Case Study of the Horner Sisters in Victorian Women's Networking" in *History Matters: An Undergraduate Journal of Historical Research*, vol. 18 (May 2021), pp. 68-89. The issue included just five articles, and Rebecca's appeared alongside essays from students at **Ohio State, Brown, Yale, and Appalachian State**. This research stemmed from the **UROP** and **Sterne-Lion** awards that Rebecca received.

Graduate Students

Degree Completions

Aimee Shulman, MA "Your Doctrines I Must Blame, You Shall Hear": Whig-Jacobite Religious Disputes in Popular Song from the Revolution of 1688 to the Jacobite Uprising of 1715."

Lillian Wilson (Szlaga), PhD "'Wonderful and Alarming Women': Establishing the Freer Gallery of Art, Circa 1920."

Alumni News

Leah Buhagiar, (MAPH 2020), was hired to be the **Manager of Educational**

Programming for the **National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum** in Cooperstown, New York. She will travel around the country and teach educators how to facilitate the Hall of Fame's programs.

Beth Fowler (PhD 2014), had "A Teenager in Love": How Black Adolescents Became "Teenagers" in Rock and Roll Music, 1956-1960," published in *Popular Music and Society*, 44:3, 324-339.



Sean McDaniel (MA 2011), has joined the faculty of **Cumberland University** in Tennessee, as an expert on **Russian history** after completing his PhD at **Michigan State** in 2019.



Amber N. Mitchell (BA 2014), has joined the **Whitney Plantation Museum** as their first-ever Director of Education. She previously worked at **The National WWII Museum** and the **American Association for State and Local History**.



Chad Pennington, MA Alumnus in History, is now **Deputy Federal Public Defender** in LA for the **Central District of California**.



From the Editor

Kidada E. Williams, PhD

Are we there yet? This is the question we're asking about whatever we're calling this latest stage of the pandemic. The answer, we know, is nope. Members of the **Southern Historical Association** and the **American Historical Association** were planning to descend on **New Orleans** in November and January and *laissez les bons temps rouler* (let the good times roll), but the Delta variant has thrown everything up in the air, again. Sad Trombones! We're keeping safe and resisting some individuals' and institutions' insistence on returning to "normal" and exposing us to the unnecessary risk of damage, disability, or death. It's important work, but the feeling of living in the film "Groundhog Day" and the uncertainty of when or if this will end is frustrating as we head into our third academic year in the time of COVID.

One silver lining is the return of our wonderful students. **Welcome back, everyone!** Another is the arrival of our incoming ones. **History faculty, staff, and continuing students extend our new students hearty a welcome.** We can't wait to meet and greet you in person.

It's not too late to get in some fall fun, and you don't have to leave the state unless you want to. Michigan has many adventures, especially if you're willing to go north or west. Growing up on playing on the beaches along **Lake Michigan**, taking school trips canoeing on the Muskegon River, and camping at **Hoffmaster Park**, I'm biased about the charms of the other side of the state, which are still enjoyable in the early fall. Drives to **Saugatuck** and **Crystal Mountain** are worth it, and if you plan it right, you can take in the fall colors.

If you're hanging around town, you can always head to **Belle Isle** to hit the trails, check out the reopened aquarium, or just enjoy the relative quiet.



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!**



"The history program at Wayne State gives students individual attention and wonderful opportunities to excel. To have people intellectually and emotionally invested in your education is the dream."

— Katie Parks, graduate student

**Make a gift.
Be a part of History
at Wayne State.**



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