



## 2022 News for Alumni and Friends from the Department of History



And more...

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## Cover Photo:

*Photos courtesy of: Tyler Lehrer, Daniel Williford, Todd Brown/SMPH Media Solutions, Ueda Photography, Ryan Wolfson-Ford, Ayodeji Adegbite, Marcella Hayes, Colton Mansavage, Jim Sweet, Lou Roberts, and Althea Dotzour*

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# Chair's Welcome

By Anne Hansen  
Department Chair; Professor of History



Anne Hansen. Photo submitted.

The annual 2022 issue of the History Department's Newsletter *The Past in the Present* celebrates our return to campus under happier circumstances, in what appears to be a new post-pandemic context. One of the things that feels much more normal about this year is that historians are coming back

to Madison from all over the world. Our "Back to the Archives" feature gives you a sense of the pleasures and perils of historical research in many different types of archives, for junior and senior historians working with sources ranging from photographs of captured prisoners of war to medical records to ornithological poetry written by Wisconsin bird enthusiasts. It's joyful for me to see these photos of historians *in action* (even if the action consists primarily of turning over pages). I hope some of the fascination, surprise, empathy, and frustration with the complexity and sheer messiness of historical interpretation spills out of these pages and into your daily experience.

Following on the Back to the Archives theme, the newsletter also features a visit in August with our Ph.D. alum Ryan Wolfson-Ford (2018), who works as a librarian of the Southeast Asian language collections at the Library of Congress. He reflects on how being utterly passionate about Lao history and language led him to a fascinating career he didn't anticipate.

You'll also have a chance to read Fran Hirsch's timely and inspiring speech from our undergraduate commencement celebration about *why history matters* at this moment, referencing the war in Ukraine and the health of democracies in general. She speaks of the "toolkit" that history majors take with them into the world as something precious and important. Hirsch is a Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of History.

The History Department is celebrating a number of new faces: 3 new faculty who you'll read about in these pages — Khaled Esseissah, Jorell Melendez-Badillo and Michael Martoccio — and 5 new staff members, Brie Oremus (Outreach & Events), Davis Fugate (Human Resources), Lauren Rusch (Finance), Yasi Rezai (Administration) and

Amelia Zurcher (Office Management). Sophie Olson has moved into a new position as Undergraduate Program Coordinator.

We're also celebrating record fall enrollments in History courses. A new chancellor on campus, Jennifer Mnookin, who we are eager to get to know. And of course, the excitement of starting to make plans for our new state-of-the-art Humanities Building, Irving and Dorothy Levy Hall, under the leadership of L&S Dean Eric Wilcots. We are celebrating the wonderful news that our amazing colleague Monica Kim, William Appleman Williams and David G. & Marion S. Meissner Chair in US International and Diplomatic History, received a 2022 MacArthur Prize! You can read more about the achievements of our faculty, students, alums, staff, and donors inside these pages.

And most of all, we have been celebrating a return to the full vital creative research, writing, teaching and programming that we are able to carry out in the Department of History, thanks to the support of our alums and donors, and especially our Annual Fund. Thank you! Without you, we could not deliver the kind of life-changing classes, internships and mentoring that our students value so much. Fellowships like the Davis/Gerstein Undergraduate Research Award, the Julie A. and Peter M. ('70, J.D. '74) Weil Wisconsin Distinguished Graduate Fellowship, and the brand new Richard Singer Fellowship in American Labor and Working Class History enable our students to carry out cutting-edge research at every phase of their scholarly careers.

With your continued support, we can all celebrate the transformative impact that college history classes can have on creating informed and thoughtful citizens. As my colleague Fran Hirsch observed so eloquently in her commencement speech to UW History majors, "remember that you have a toolkit to advocate for the causes you believe in. That you have the tools that you need to fight disinformation and to defend democracy. Facts matter. History matters."

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# History Welcomes New Hires



Khaled Esseissah. Photo submitted.

## Khaled Esseissah Assistant Professor of History

I am a historian of Islam, colonialism, slavery, race, and gender, with a focus on nineteenth- and twentieth-century West Africa. I am currently working on my book manuscript, *Emancipation, Authority, and Global Muslim Citizenship: Harāṭīn Reformist Intermediaries in Colonial Mauritania, 1902–1960*. This

book considers the important religious and civic contributions of Harāṭīn peoples of Mauritania under French colonial rule, a group that has historically been assumed to be oppressed and structurally limited in their abilities to alter their circumstances. It analyzes the Harāṭīn peoples as intentional historical actors who asserted their rights as full Muslim citizens in colonial Mauritania. As a research scholar who is also a member of this community, I reconstruct the biographies of Harāṭīn men and women who went from being oppressed by the local Muslim elites to playing a decisive role in the making of the French colony in Mauritania. In this book, I offer a new concept of “global Muslim citizenship” to discuss how Harāṭīn intermediaries utilized the opportunities created by the colonial state to display Islamic values typically associated with Saharan intellectual elites and Islamic leadership, aiming to establish full Muslim citizenship for themselves and their wider community. Through a careful analysis of Arabic manuscripts, French colonial documents, interviews, and oral traditions, this study will greatly broaden our understanding of Islam, colonialism, citizenship, religious authority, and emancipation in all post-slavery societies.

Upon completion of my current book manuscript, I plan to work on a second book project, tentatively entitled *Mawālī, Craftspeople, and the Making of a Subaltern Muslim Scholarly Community in the Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Sahara*. This book unsettles long-standing narratives about Arabic literacy, manuscript culture, archival power, and Islamic knowledge production and preservation in Islamic Africa in the Sahara region (now Mauritania) by bringing due attention to the little-known phenomenon of scholars and scribes among the mawālī (Harāṭīn) and craftspeople (M ‘alimin) communities. Using a wide range of oral and written accounts, this study explores the significant contributions these groups made to advancing the scholarly traditions of African Muslim societies. This research will de-center Saharan intellectual history by looking beyond zawāyā communities, and thus deepen our understanding of subaltern Muslims’ role in the production and preservation of Islamic manuscript and intellectual heritage.



Michael Martoccio. Photo submitted.

## Michael Martoccio Assistant Professor of History

I am an economic and military historian of the early modern Mediterranean, with an emphasis on Italy. I am especially interested in how early modern economic practices – consumerism, market culture, and the commercialization of war – shaped notions of sovereignty, territoriality, and political geography.

My monograph, *Leviathan for Sale*, which is under contract with Oxford University Press, examines for the first time the market for city-states: the practice of Renaissance Italian cities buying and selling neighboring towns within Italy and across the Mediterranean. Drawing on a wealth of archival sources including promissory notes, diplomatic reports, treaties, public council debates, private letters, chronicles, funeral orations, civic rituals, poetry, prose, and manuscript illuminations from Italy and beyond, this book shows how all levels of Italian society made territorial conquest legible by means of the language, customs, and practices of commerce and the marketplace

In addition, I am currently at the beginning stages of my second book titled *Theater of Mars: Building the Business of War in Genoa, 1684–1797*. Merging urban history with military history, this book shows how the Genoese altered the city’s docks, walls, gates, hospitals, hotels, warehouses, stables, and the Jewish ghetto to better structure, formalize, and routinize the business of war in the city. In this way, *Theater of Mars* offers a new urban military history that reveals the multi-dimensional effects of war on built environments.

My work has been supported by the Renaissance Society of America, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and the Newberry Library, and it has appeared in *Past & Present*, *The English Historical Review*, *War in History*, *Business History*, *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* as well as collections by the University of Toronto Press, Cambridge University Press, Brepols, and Brill.

I teach courses on early modern economic culture, military history, Mediterranean society, and the Renaissance.



Jorell Meléndez-Badillo. Photo submitted.

## Jorell Meléndez-Badillo

Assistant Professor of History

I am a historian of Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and Latin America. My work focuses on the global circulation for radical ideas from the standpoint of working-class intellectual communities.

My most recent book, *The Lettered Barriada: Workers, Archival Power, and the Politics*

*of Knowledge in Puerto Rico* (Duke University Press, Nov. 2021), tells the story of how a cluster of self-educated workingmen were able to go from producing knowledge within their workshops and labor unions in the margins of Puerto Rico's cultural and intellectual elite, to becoming highly respected politicians and statesmen. It is a story of how this group of workers produced, negotiated, and archived powerful discourses that ended up shaping Puerto Rico's national mythology. However, by following a group of ragtag intellectuals, the book demonstrates how techniques of racial and gender silencing, ghosting, and erasure also took place in the margins. Ultimately, it is a book about the intersections of politics, knowledge, and power-relations in Puerto Rican working-class intellectual production at the turn of the twentieth century.

I am currently finishing a book titled *Puerto Rico: A National History* (under contract with Princeton University Press). The book offers a national history of Puerto Rico, a country without a nation state.

It tells the story of how Puerto Rico has been colonized for more than five centuries while also documenting the ways that people have resisted colonial domination. Ultimately, the book will provide unfamiliar readers with an informed argument of how and why Puerto Rico arrived at its current juncture, as well as how Puerto Ricans are imagining possible futures in the face of austerity, failing infrastructures, and the rubble left behind by colonial neglect.

I am currently working in another monograph-length research project, tentatively titled *Following the Revolution: Juan Francisco and Blanca Moncaleano's Transnational Militancy, 1910-1916*. It explores the materiality of working-class intellectual communities in Latin America, the Caribbean, and the U.S. borderlands by rethinking the role of anarchist newspaper production. Beyond their propagandistic ethos, newspapers served as nodes that facilitated the creation of transregional anarchist cartographies.

I am also the author of *Voces libertarias: Los orígenes del anarquismo en Puerto Rico* (Secret Sailor Books, 2013; Fundación Anselmo Lorenzo-CNT, 2014; Editorial Akelarre/CEISO, 2015), co-editor of *Without Borders or Limits: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Anarchist Studies* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2013), and editor of *Páginas libres: Breve antología del pensamiento anarquista en Puerto Rico* (Editora Educación Emergente, 2021). I have published book chapters, as well as journal and newspaper articles, on the histories of anarchism, labor, and radical politics in Puerto Rico, the Caribbean, and Latin America. My work has appeared in *Hispanic American Historical Review*, *Caribbean Studies*, *Latin American Perspectives*, *NACLA*, *International Labor and Working Class History*, *Society and Space*, and *The Abusable Past*, among others. I hold a Ph.D. in Latin American History from the University of Connecticut.

## Join the Madison History Club!

The Madison History Club brings UW-Madison alumni together with people across Madison who are curious about the past and eager to learn and discuss history with others.

To learn more visit: <https://history.wisc.edu/madison-history-club/>



Madison History Club. Photo submitted.



# Back to the Archives

Every historian — and probably every history major — has a few memorable stories from the archives about following the trail of a research question that leads to surprising, unexpected discoveries or that uncovers new insights into deeply human problems or experiences in which a person from the past seems to speak directly to us. In other cases, the kinds of people we are trying to learn about seem to elude us and their lives can only be illuminated by tracking their presence in seemingly mundane records or “reading against the grain.” This summer saw a return to both new and familiar archives for many faculty and students in the History Department. We asked some of them to share what they found and reflect on how it felt to be “Back to the Archives” after the last several pandemic years in which many archival institutions were closed for periods of time and travel was challenging.



Daniel Williford in Centre des Archives diplomatiques de Nantes. Photo submitted.

## Daniel Williford

This summer I had the chance to return to France and Morocco for the first time since joining the department in the fall of 2020. After spending two months travelling between Rabat, Casablanca, and Tétouan, working in small, local archives and ministerial libraries, I arrived in mid-July at the Archives of the French Foreign Ministry in Nantes.

One lasting, practical

consequence of Morocco's former legal status as a protectorate is that most of the country's colonial records are housed here, alongside materials from French embassies and the Mandates in Syria and Lebanon. On this visit, I was planning to look through police reports about an anti-colonial uprising that took place in Casablanca in 1952. After a day with these documents, though, I found myself drawn in a different direction.

Being in a physical archive creates possibilities: proximity to sources that you might not otherwise have thought to consult, down time when you are waiting on boxes, conversations with others who are sharing the space. There is always the potential of being pulled toward something unexpected. Thumbing through a binder that contained inventories of embassy records, I came across a series of boxes from Rabat in the 1970s. These held sources on the activities of French engineers in Morocco after independence, debates about the nationalization of foreign companies, and accounts of labor actions and their suppression. There is an element of chance in a physical archive that is difficult to replicate in an online search. This experience of not knowing what you will find—of being potentially led astray by the mundane act of waiting around—is part of what makes in-person research distinct and valuable.



Lou Roberts standing in front of one of Martin Dammann's paintings. Photo submitted.

## Lou Roberts

Here I am in the Berlin apartment/living archive of Martin Dammann—artist, photographer, collector, fossil hunter and all-around prodigy. Having donned a German World War I helmet, I am giving Dammann my best mean squinty eye! We are participating in an international workshop concerning “trophy photos” taken by soldiers during the Second World War. Dammann has hundreds of albums of such photos, which he has collected over the years at estate sales and

military fairs. Every nationality of soldier—German, French, British, American, Australian, Italian—is here. Pictured on the right is another kind of archive: scores of fossils Dammann has discovered in Wyoming on annual trips to the U.S. They record the ancient shapes of fish, birds and mammals. And at the top on the back wall is an extremely rare photograph from the Second World War. Some very brave American in a B-17 stuck his head out with a camera to capture a German plane just missing its target. The room was filled with historical treasure! I could have spent all day there.

## Senior Guest Auditors

Wisconsin residents over 60 years of age have the opportunity to become a Senior Guest Auditor at UW-Madison. Senior Guest Auditors are admitted as University Special Students and enroll in courses (free of charge) without earning credits.

To learn more, check out <https://history.wisc.edu/courses/senior-guest-auditors/>



Senior auditor Ray McCool has been taking classes in the History Department for over 20 years! Photo courtesy of Parker Schorr.



Ayodeji Adegbite inside the University of Ibadan Records Office. Photo submitted.

## Ayodeji Adegbite

It is simply fascinating to be back at the archives after the pandemic. In addition to the pandemic, industrial strike by the Academic Staff Union of Universities made it challenging to conduct research in Nigeria. In the summer of 2022, I worked in two archives: the Nigerian National Archives Ibadan and the University of Ibadan Record's Office.

The former is part of the tripod of archives that holds the official papers of Federal, Regional and State Governments including papers of institutions and ecclesiastical bodies and missions for the Western Region of Nigeria. I had previously worked at the National Archives during the 2021 summer, but the pandemic and the industrial strike made things difficult. I was therefore pleased to see young and veteran researchers from all over the world connect at the archives during the summer. The local restaurant (Buka), named "Amala archives" for its classic dish of Amala and Ewedu served under a large tree in the compound of the National Archives, is a crucial spot for this conviviality.

However, I worked majorly at the University of Ibadan Records Office during the 2022 summer. The University of Ibadan Record Office, which is some ten-minutes walk from the National Archives Ibadan, holds massive documents on the history of the University College Hospital (UCH). I found a Nigerian medical practitioner who worked at the University of Ibadan and UCH after the Second World War. Through their works, these medical practitioners contributed to and challenged international health organizations. The documents that I found would contribute to the chapter three of my dissertation which examines the roles that African medical practitioner played in the evolution of global health. Access to the documents at the Records Office is serious work. The documents at the Records Office are fragile, uncatalogued, and largely uncharted. The excitement of combing through the dusty documents gives the thrill of archival "discovery." Although, nothing can truly be discovered in the archive, since it has already been found by the archivist who made them available. This point is especially salient in Nigerian archives. To successfully use the archives in the Nigerian setting, one must develop the skills to communicate and build relationships with archivists and other researchers.



Tyler and soon-to-be Buddhist monk in the final moments before he dons the orange robes, Kandy, Sri Lanka, June 2022. Photo submitted.

## Tyler Lehrer

I am a Ph.D. candidate in South and Southeast Asian history. After two years of pandemic-related delays, I was fortunate to spend the first half of 2022 conducting archival and Buddhist temple-based research in Sri Lanka with the support of a Fulbright U.S. Student Program grant. While I was there investigating eighteenth-century interactions between Southern Asian Buddhist kingdoms and the Dutch East India Company for

my dissertation, Sri Lanka experienced a severe and unprecedented economic crisis which sparked mass anti-government protests and later, countrywide lockdowns. As a historian, it was especially poignant, challenging, profound, difficult, and fascinating by turns and in equal measure to be back in Sri Lanka as it endured such debilitating economic challenges and momentous political change. The shortage of energy resources along with mass protests and government lockdowns impacted the daily pace of life for everyone, and at times slowed my mobility and research progress to a near-halt.

Having said that, what I recall being at least as meaningful as any important archival document I encountered were the many, often informal, conversations I had with colleagues, mentors, friends old and new, and scores of everyday people about the island's remarkable and important history as well as its current political reality. I will never forget witnessing firsthand the innumerable moments of solidarity and resilience shown by tens, eventually hundreds of thousands, of Sri Lankan people who came together from across the country's diverse ethnoreligious and socioeconomic groups to mobilize like never before and try and compel the government to better look after their economic and political circumstances. I worked closely with scholars and graduate students in the Department of History and the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kelaniya while transcribing archival materials in the Sri Lanka National Archives and the manuscript collections of key Buddhist monasteries and religious organizations. I also delivered a lecture about the experiences, constraints, funding opportunities, and process of conducting research in international contexts for early-career lecturers and postgraduate students in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Kelaniya, and contributed an invited article for its journal (forthcoming in 2023).





Harbor in Bristol. Photo submitted.

## Jim Sweet

I traveled to Bristol and London in May 2022 to complete research on my book manuscript *Mutiny on the Black Prince: Slavery, Piracy, and the Limits of Liberty in the Revolutionary Atlantic World* (Oxford, 2024). The book traces the dramatic story of mutiny and piracy onboard an English slave ship in 1768 and the merchant owners' relentless

ten-year effort to apprehend the rebels scattered across the Atlantic world—in Brazil, St. Domingue, Suriname, New York, Lisbon, and London.

In Bristol, home port of the Black Prince, I consulted the legal papers of the ship's principal owner, John Fowler, and his family. These records include wills and testaments, financial ledgers, property contracts, and business correspondence that cross three generations. Using these documents, I demonstrate in intimate detail how merchant families capitalized their earnings from the slave trade, investing in early British banks, railroads, insurance companies, and industrial manufacturing. Ultimately, the book expands on recent arguments highlighting the ways slaving built modern Britain and the Atlantic capitalist economy.

On my departure from London, I tested positive for COVID and was stranded in an airport hotel for a week. One silver lining of this extended stay: The cast and crew of the TV show "Ted Lasso" took over the hotel lobby and bar for two days of filming, providing some relief from the tedium of isolation.

## Fill the Hill Results

The Department of History came in **third** in the College of Letters & Science for the University-wide fundraiser!

*Thank you to all who donated to the next generation of Badgers.*



The British Library. Photo submitted.

## Marcella Hayes

This summer I returned to the archive for the first time since the global pandemic began. Because I am a colonial Latin Americanist, many of my archives are in Spain, and at the beginning of my trip I returned to two archives that are very familiar to me: the General Archive of the Indies in Seville, Spain (where

the papers related to the colonial bureaucracy are kept) and to the National Archive in Madrid, Spain (where many Inquisition-related papers are housed). I also visited a place that was totally new to me: the British Library in London.

One might ask what on earth a colonial Latin Americanist would have to do in the British Library, and it turns out the answer is: a lot! The BL has a little bit of everything from all over the world. I was examining Spanish manuscripts from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries that had been collected and bound by British scholars in the early nineteenth century. Unfortunately, many of them are not organized in any chronological or geographical order that makes any sense to me. Fortunately, if you can take the time to leaf through the collections to find the most relevant information, they are very interesting!

My favorite objects were the map and journal made by an Englishman, John Narborough, who in 1669 captained a voyage to Chile. The English said he was surveying territory and exploring; to the Spanish he was a pirate and invader. Some of Narborough's men were captured in Valdivia and transported as prisoners of war in Chile, where they would eventually be executed for piracy. Narborough and his ship made it home; his journal was published and his maps entered into the record of English knowledge about Spanish territory in the Americas. Narborough's drawings of the people and animals he saw in Chile are fascinating. He was particularly focused on available food sources, and indicated where he caught "Smelts of a great length" as well as snared a "Har." These were one of the few items that were not available to photograph, but the British Library has made digital copies of the maps available to everyone.



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# Library of Congress Archivist Ryan Wolfson-Ford Reflects on His Unexpected Career Path

History Chair Anne Hansen interviewed Dr. Ryan Wolfson-Ford (Ph.D., 2018) at the Library of Congress Asian Reading Room in August.



Ryan Wolfson-Ford. Photo submitted.

It will come as no surprise to Newsletter readers that Ryan Wolfson-Ford's future career path — quite unbeknownst to him at the time — was seeded in a college history class.

A class on Vietnamese history at Western Connecticut State got Wolfson-Ford wondering about the broader role of Southeast Asia in twentieth-century world history. Eventually, those questions led him to UW-Madison, where Wolfson-Ford took up the study of Lao history, focusing on questions of decolonization and the Cold War in Southeast Asia, and learning Lao, Thai, French, and Pali along the way. Working with History faculty members Al McCoy and Thongchai Winichakul, Wolfson-Ford wrote and defended a dissertation on decolonization and the political ideologies of the Royal Lao Government-era (1945–1975) as well as the impact of these conceptions of democracy, sovereignty, and freedom on subsequent periods. Wolfson-Ford has since used his dissertation research as the basis for a nearly-completed book manuscript, *Lost Causes: Liberal Democracy and Anti-Communism in Cold War Laos*. After a year of short-term teaching at Arizona State University following the receipt of his Ph.D. in 2018, Wolfson-Ford moved to Washington, DC to take up his current position as Southeast Asia Librarian in the Library of Congress' Asian Division.

Working in the beautiful Asian Reading Room at the Library of Congress is “fantastic,” Wolfson-Ford told me when I visited in August. “What I never understood about the Library of Congress,” he

said, “is that it really is the Library of Congress. The congressional aides come here to read up on issues. Nancy Pelosi held an event here not too long ago. It's incredible being here.”

The most appealing part of the job for Wolfson-Ford, however, is the vast collection of materials he helps make accessible to researchers. The LOC's Asia collection of 4 million items includes more than 370,000 items in over 100 Southeast Asian languages.

“I love bringing stuff out of obscurity for people to find and use. It's very important to acquire and store materials but if nobody is going to use them, what are we acquiring and storing them for?”

Some of these materials are rare sources such as inscribed palm leaf manuscripts in Thai and Lao, languages that Wolfson-Ford has studied for years. While some of the manuscripts remain unstudied and unknown, Wolfson-Ford and his colleagues have been working to gather as much information as they can and make them available to scholars and the public.

“How did you end up in the Library of Congress?” I asked Wolfson-Ford.

“I didn't expect this,” Wolfson-Ford admitted. “I was very narrowly focused on trying to get a faculty tenure-track position in Southeast Asian history. And then I tried to look at a wider range of faculty jobs in world history. But it was all very competitive. So I started to look beyond tenure-track faculty jobs — and that's when this position opened up.

“I first came to the Library of Congress in 2017 to do research for my dissertation. I had written about half of it at that point. I had the Florence Tan Moeson Research Fellowship to do research for a couple of weeks on the diaries of Souvanna Phouma, a former Lao Prime Minister, and use Lao newspapers from the time period I was interested in.”

“So because you were working on something rare and unusual, people here noticed you?” I asked. I remembered how passionate Wolfson-Ford had been about learning “less commonly taught languages” in graduate school. He studied Pali with me in a seminar on reading Buddhist scriptures and commentaries.

“Yes, exactly. And I came back to the Library of Congress later, on an internship to work on Thai and Burmese manuscripts. At a basic level, they just wanted an inventory of what they had.

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“But I was able to provide titles and dates, and filled in enough metadata that they were able to catalogue them — a whole collection of about 100 manuscripts that they didn’t really know much about. I also ended up writing a finding guide on the Thai manuscripts that was later published by the Siam Society. So when the job here opened up, they already knew me.

“To current Ph.D. students, I would say that it’s very important to try to keep an open mind and look beyond the tenure-track. Try to look into as many different places as possible for a job. There are more options than you might think.”

“How does your training as a historian at UW inform your work as an archivist?” I wondered.

“Well, whenever I’m providing reference services, I am drawing on all that experience researching for my dissertation. It would be impossible to do this job without substantial research experience, let alone language study. Most of my colleagues here have similar backgrounds.

“In terms of the field of Southeast Asian history, I feel like what I do here is significant. My finding aid will probably outlive anything I might write for a journal. It’s about building the infrastructure that other people can use. So it’s a way to have an impact.”



Ryan Wolfson-Ford shows the inscribed palm leaves. Photo submitted.

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## In Memoriam: James Goodman

James “Jim” Goodman (UW–Madison, ’71) passed away on Saturday, July 2nd at the age of 73. He was laid to rest shortly thereafter at Mount Hope Cemetery in Rochester, fulfilling his wishes for a green burial and to rest as close as possible to one of his progressive heroes, Frederick Douglass.

A UW–Madison history major, “Goody” was notorious in college for reading until he fell asleep upright in his chair, sometimes waking suddenly when the chair fell crashing backwards, followed by an infectious giggle. When he was available, he drove Professor George Mosse — then in his 60s — from point A to B on campus. Also at UW, “Goody” met Caroline Zane (’72), the love of his life, and later wife.

The relationship with Mosse had a profound impact on Jim, who developed a firm commitment to seeking the truth. After graduation, he wrote about Europe for his hometown paper, the *Milwaukee Journal*, from abroad. He joined the Committee for Public Justice and founded a newsletter, *Justice Watch*, to hold the U.S. Department of Justice to account, criticizing systemic abuse and overreach.

After completing an M.A. in European History at Mosse’s alma mater, Harvard University, Jim and Caroline would relocate to Rochester, NY, where they raised their son, Samuel. Jim became one of Rochester’s fiercest local muckrakers, working as a reporter and editorial writer over the course of a three-decade-plus career with the *Democrat and Chronicle* and now no-longer-circulating *Times–Union*.

Politicians were irritated by Jim for all the right reasons, while mentees benefitted from his unwavering devotion to their growth. As corporate conglomerates increasingly swallowed local outlets, activists for peace and justice nevertheless found their stories uplifted in Jim’s writing.

While Jim was working the Higher–Ed reporting beat for the *Democrat and Chronicle* in 2017, his son, Samuel, joined Costa Rica–based *La Ruta del Clima*, an outlet focusing on shifts in climate change policy across the Latin America region. Jim supported his son’s work tirelessly, editing publications for *La Ruta*.

In 2018, “Digital Jim” (“D.J.”) began writing for *The Progressive*, working at home in Rochester on stories about immigration policy. Although he had long shunned the digital turn, D.J. picked up a Facebook account and a Twitter handle. His writing remained a vessel to uplift the voices of the unheard.

Jim was awarded the David Nyhan Prize for Political Journalism by Harvard Kennedy School’s Shorenstein Center on Media, Politics and Public Policy in 2019 for his work acting as the “conscience of his community.” He continued this work, writing for *The Progressive* until his last days.

Jim is survived by his loving family, friends, and colleagues. His life was a case study in what to do with a history degree, a fulfillment of the progressive vision of the Wisconsin Idea.



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# A Reflection on John Rowe

By Professor Leonora Neville, John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Chair of Byzantine History



John Rowe. Photo courtesy of Paulius Musteikis.

This past fall the History Department lost one of its greatest supporters. John Rowe was a serious intellectual who loved learning about all aspects of the past—and who also understood that history can offer a goldmine of good business advice. Before I met John, I thought that my field of Byzantine History was fascinating and worthwhile, but without John I never would have seen that it can also be remarkably useful for someone learning how to run a public utility company. His ability to see the relevance of the past for the present—while never forgetting to understand it on its own terms—never ceased to amaze me.

John was born in Dodgeville, Wisconsin, in 1945 and attended the University of Wisconsin–Madison in the 1960s, earning an undergraduate degree in history in 1967 and a J.D. in 1970. He never forgot his gratitude for the opportunity as a young person of modest means to attend of world-class university and study with some of the greatest historians of their generation. As his career took him out of Wisconsin to leadership positions in public utilities, and eventually to be the Chair of the Exelon Corporation with the task of powering much of the Midwest and Northeast, he became ever more cognizant of just how good UW–Madison in the 1960s had been and just how precious such transformative educational institutions remain.

John's delight in history became a life-long habit. He spent at least a few minutes of each day reading history and always had more

recommendations of good history books for me than I had for him. He read many written by our own faculty. On one occasion a professor gave John his new book after dinner on Friday and woke up the next morning to find an email from John with thoughtful reflections and suggestions for further research. John was one of many students of his generation who found George Mosse's classes to be transformative. Mosse left him with a permanent aversion to slick sloganeering and sparked John's lifelong interest in

Jewish history, which led him to help found and serve as the first Chair of the Illinois Holocaust Museum and teach a class on the Holocaust at Rowe Clark High School. John was fond of saying that in history, just as today, the world has a handful of heroes and villains, but the vast majority of people are just trying to get through life as best they can. His study of the political and economic history of institutions led him to see these structures as some of the main engines governing how well ordinary people are able to muddle through. You can see these interests reflected in the Exelon Wing of the Chicago History Museum.

John did not see his interest in economic and institutional history as separate from his work in the energy industry. Recognizing that large-scale structures create the freedoms and constraints under which communities live, John strove to improve the lives of his fellow Americans by finding ways to keep the lights on efficiently, reliably, and inexpensively. He described leadership in the public utilities industry as navigating overlapping communities of consumers needing power, governments regulating production and distribution, and the managers, engineers, and workers responsible for keeping the electrons flowing. Thinking through the economic and governmental challenges of past ages gave John powerful perspectives for his work.

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No problem was ever truly new for him. Byzantine history was great for keeping problems in perspective: John said he took comfort in never leaving a meeting with a more daunting task than that of the sixth-century Emperor Justinian as he faced invading Huns, Sassanians, and bubonic plague at the same time.

John and his beloved wife Jeanne became passionate supporters of education, serving not only as patrons but as teachers and counselors. They have supported primary schools, high schools, colleges, technical training programs, and of course our own history department. At every stage and situation John held out a hand to help students learn more and do more.

John and Jeanne's decision to endow positions in Byzantine, Ancient Greek, Roman, and American Economic History at the University of Wisconsin mean that, for generations to come, smart, hardworking kids from small-town Wisconsin and elsewhere can be similarly inspired by the lives and struggles of people who lived in distant times and places, receiving the sort of education that leads to big dreams and transformative thinking like John Rowe's. Thanks to John, I cannot look out at a classroom of young faces without wondering what amazing things those students will be inspired to do with their lives. Our world will be better if they find in their UW-Madison education the same kind of inspiration and wisdom, the same commitment to making a difference and giving back to their communities, that he did.

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## In Memoriam: James Wright

Ph.D. alum James Wright (1969) died in his home of Hanover, New Hampshire, on October 10, 2022. Born in Galena, Illinois, Wright joined the Marine Corps at age 17. He later earned his college degree from UW-Platteville with the intention of becoming a high school history teacher. Instead, his interest in history led him to UW-Madison, where he studied US history under the direction of Professor Allan Bogue, writing a dissertation on the American West. He joined the faculty of the History Department at Dartmouth College in 1969, writing on the American West and American political movements, including books such as *The Politics of Populism: Dissent in Colorado* (1974) and *The Progressive Yankees: Republican Reformers in New Hampshire, 1906-1916* (1987). Later in his career, he turned to research and writing on military history and US veterans, including *Those Who Have Borne the Battle: A History of America's Wars and Those Who Fought Them* (2012) and *Enduring Vietnam: an American Generation and Its War* (2017). During his long scholarly career, he was recognized with a Guggenheim Prize and many other honors. He served as President of Dartmouth College from 1998-2009.



James Wright. Photo courtesy of Dartmouth College.

### Margaret and Allan Bogue Faculty Research Award Recipients

Marc Kleijwegt 2014-2017

Susan Johnson 2017-2019

Florence Hsia 2018-2019

Suzanne Desan 2020-2023

Joseph Dennis 2022-2025

Wright is remembered with gratitude in the Department of History for his establishment of the Margaret and Allan Bogue Faculty Research Award. This generous endowment has supported the research work of five UW History Department faculty members since 2014. Wright established the award to honor Margaret Bogue and Allan Bogue, who were both faculty members in the History Department. Margaret Bogue (1924-2018), who taught at UW-Madison and the Division of Outreach, was a historian of the Upper Midwest and author of such books as the evocatively titled *Patterns from the Sod* (1959). Allan Bogue (1921-2016), an economic historian of the American West, was the Frederick Jackson Turner Professor of History. He authored many books, including *From Prairie to Corn Belt: Farming on the Illinois and Iowa Prairies in the Nineteenth Century* (1963).



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# Professor Emeritus Yu-sheng Lin: A Personal Remembrance

By Michael R. Dreeben, B.A. History, University of Wisconsin–Madison 1976

In November 2022, the University of Wisconsin’s Department of History lost a legend: Professor Yu-sheng Lin, a gifted scholar of Chinese intellectual history. Professor Lin was a beacon of intellectual integrity and personal decency. Throughout his career, he challenged reigning orthodoxies in Chinese political thought. He also grounded his ideas in traditions of scholarship spanning generations, frequently alluding to revered scholars who had mentored him. Most of all, he took great joy in inspiring his students and forming bonds with them that long outlasted the classroom. He prized intellectual honesty and rigor—two of his favorite descriptive nouns—and sought to instill those values in his students. I am one of those fortunate students; I took Professor Lin’s courses in Chinese history in the mid-1970s, and the impressions he left on me endure to this day.

Professor Lin was born in 1934 in China and moved to Taiwan with his family in 1948. He earned his undergraduate degree from the Department of History at National Taiwan University before coming to the United States to study at the University of Chicago’s Committee on Social Thought. The Social Thought program had a lasting impact on his intellectual outlook: the curriculum fostered immersion in the traditions of western liberal thought while encouraging independent pursuit of a student’s personal scholarly aims. Professor Lin thrived there. He formed deep relationships with world-renowned thinkers: Friedrich Hayek, Hannah Arendt, Edward Shils, Michael Polanyi, and many others. From each, he extracted core insights and impressions about modern society that shaped his own thinking. And he used this conceptual grounding in western thought as a springboard for studying the issue close to his heart: modern Chinese intellectual history.

Professor Lin’s classes at Madison were tightly woven intellectual arguments. In his basic Chinese intellectual history course, Professor Lin would explain the ideas of China’s great thinkers such as Confucius and Mencius with painstaking precision. He brought to life their soaring insights and humanistic impulses. But he also exposed their internal contradictions and conceptual limitations. His classes left no room for intellectual shortcuts or superficial understandings. His students gave him their rapt attention in an old wooden classroom, with steam radiators hissing and clanking to keep up with Madison’s frigid winters, while Professor Lin spoke to us wearing his classic wool tweed jacket with leather patches on the elbows. His eyes twinkled behind thick glasses and he used his index finger to emphasize the key ideas that he unearthed from the assigned writings. He constantly urged his students to think for themselves, ending his classes with raised eyebrows and questions to ponder. While his classes unfolded with intensity, Professor Lin habitually wore a smile—showing affection and compassion for the scholars that had come before him—as though he was engaged in deep conversation with friends across the ages. He challenged students to say whether they agreed with his ideas. And he could not conceal his joy when the lightbulb went on in a student’s mind and an idea suddenly came to life.

Professor Lin’s intensive seminar in modern Chinese intellectual history opened even greater vistas into his personal intellectual passions. This class had an overarching theme: Professor Lin’s pain at the failure of Chinese intellectuals to understand their own intellectual legacy. He coined a phrase — “the cultural-intellectualistic approach” — to express what he perceived to be the traditional Chinese mindset: that ideas have the power to change the world. And rued the irony that modern Chinese thinkers who criticized classical Chinese thought could not see how they themselves were captives of the very “cultural-intellectualistic” framework that they purported to condemn.

Professor Lin revered his own teachers. He frequently alluded to those under whom he had studied at Chicago. From Edward Shils, he came to understand the sacred power of the past; from Hannah Arendt, he saw how personal experience could be transformed into broad cultural critiques; from Michael Polanyi, he formed an understanding of how we gain knowledge. He invoked these teachers to show his deep respect for the academic enterprise and to pay homage to what these figures taught him. Most of all, he spoke with love for Benjamin I. Schwartz – his Ph.D. advisor at Harvard, who combined exceptional personal modesty with deep intellectual force. One could not sit in Professor Lin’s classes without absorbing his reverence for learning. He laughed at resistance on college campuses to accepting professors as “authority” figures – for him, authority was a good thing, a source of knowledge and an opportunity to grow. He never forced that model on his students, but he made clear that he would embrace the traditional mode of a teacher-student relationship for those who wished to enter into it.

To encourage his students, Professor Lin would invite us to his home. There, he mixed intellectual conversation with his love for Tsugein, his wife, and his two young children, Albert and Winnie. While the class discussed esoteric scholarly topics over delectable home-cooked meals, his children would hide under his legs and peek out at the students with giggles. Professor Lin would embrace them and laugh at their antics while never missing a beat in our scholarly discussions. The food was delicious too.

When I was about to graduate from the University, having taken every class with Professor Lin that I could, he wrote to me that now I should call him by his first name. He explained that in the Chinese tradition, the teacher-student bond was meant to evolve into lifelong friendship. Blending that tradition with American informality, he would now become “Yu-sheng” to me. For many years, I could not break myself of the habit of calling him “Professor Lin” —my respect for him told me that I should accord him that title.

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But over the years, as he continued to send me personal letters and reports on his scholarly work, I came to see him as a wise, warm, and inspiring friend who sought to fulfill his vision of lifelong friendship and respect with me. I could think of no better way to honor him than to accept that offer of friendship on his terms. By then, I knew how much I owed much to his influence. In his classes, I learned to read texts closely to extract their meaning. His insistence on rigorous logical analysis inspired me to rise to his standards. And with his encouragement, I gained the confidence that I could master complex concepts that at first seemed elusive. That memory stayed long after I

left his classroom. So too did the recollection of his excitement about ideas and his sense of humor.

Yu-sheng Lin became Professor Emeritus at Wisconsin in 2004. When he explained his decision to leave teaching to me, he shook his head in his sadness at the request that he see his students as “clients,” rather than forming a bond of mutual respect that characterized the Confucian tradition. He continued to write and speak, building on the ideas in his classic work *The Crisis of Chinese Consciousness*. His legacy as a scholar belongs to the world; his personal dedication to students remains a Wisconsin treasure. Both deserve to be long remembered.

## American Historical Association

### Jim Sweet’s American Historical Association Presidency

Jim Sweet, the Vilas-Jartz Distinguished Professor of History, concluded his term as president of the American Historical Association by delivering his address at the AHA’s annual conference. Sweet, a historian of the Atlantic world and the African diaspora, gave a talk titled “Slave Trading as a Corporate Criminal Conspiracy, from the Calabar Massacre to BLM, 1767–2022.”



Jim Sweet. Photo submitted.

The speech described how one Liverpool slave trader orchestrated a criminal conspiracy that transformed his family’s wealth and status in the late eighteenth-century, while the heirs to this fortune have largely concealed their founder’s ties to slaving. The occasion of the presidential address is also time to celebrate the many contributions of Professor Sweet to the profession and to UW-Madison. Sweet is an award-winning author, a leader in our department, and a celebrated mentor, colleague, and teacher. One of his former advisees, Philip Janzen, hailed him for the “kindness and generosity he extends to all who cross his path.”

**Sweet delivered his presidential address “Slave Trading as a Corporate Criminal Conspiracy, from the Calabar Massacre to BLM, 1767–2022” on Friday, January 6th, 2023, in Philadelphia.**

### The American Historical Association 2023 Meeting by Rae Kalscheuer

The AHA 2023 Meeting was an amazing opportunity to see talks about fields I’m interested in like transnational and LGBT history. It also allowed me to hear about topics I wouldn’t necessarily take a course on, like the Defund the Police talk chaired by our own Professor Simon Balto, which explored how different groups and people with intersectional identities have been treated by the police. One of my favorite talks was about reparations. In that conversation, the speakers were using historical arguments about the colonial histories of the globe, but especially the Americas, to advocate for tangible change in the present through a system of reparations going from the Global North to the Global South. Additionally, I was able to enjoy frankness from professors about funding and university politics, which have either helped or hurt their ability to do their work. The meeting allowed me to learn more about what options I have professionally as someone who has experience with history, as well as learn about new subjects I may have not ever explored otherwise.



History undergraduates present at the American Historical Association 2023 Meeting. Photo submitted.

Left to right: Danielle Lennon, Rae Kalscheuer, Kylie Hollenstein, Rachel Lynch  
The students’ travel was supported by gifts to our Annual Fund.



# ARCHIVE

ARCHIVE is UW-Madison's undergraduate journal of history. The newest edition of ARCHIVE is now available online at <https://uwarchive.wordpress.com>

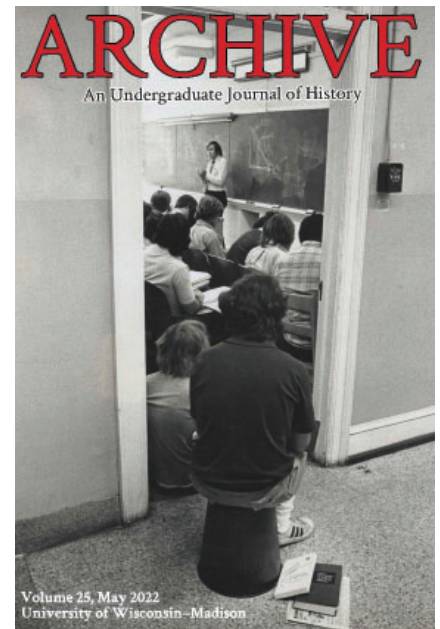
## Included in this volume:

"Schlafly's Girls: Humanizing counter-movement studies in the context of the STOP ERA movement" by Riley Rogers

"To Your Descendants I Give This Land: Covenant and Pragmatism in Moral majority Zionism" by Katherine Booska

"POW Graphic Novels: True Stories from the Stalags of Nazi Germany" by Melina Testin

"Reflections of the Cold War: Understanding the Russo-Ukrainian conflict through ARCHIVE's Twenty-Five Year History" by ARCHIVE Editors Kayla Parker and Samantha Sharpe



Left to Right: Maddy McGlone, Haley Drost, Julia Derzay, Taylor Madl



Top Row, Left to Right: Charles Pei, Jeff Wang, Jack Halverson, Maddy McGlone, Haley Drost

Bottom Row, Left to Right: Taylor Madl, Brieanna Oremus, Samantha Sharpe, Julia Derzay, Kayla Parker

## Undergraduate Student Awards

- **Mason Braasch** – Curti Prize
- **Madeline Brauer** – William F. Allen Prize
- **Noah Brown** – Digital & Public History Prize
- **Axell Boomer** – Goldberg Scholarship in History
- **Anastasia Bruss** – Paul J. Schrag Prize
- **Isabelle Cook** – Andrew Bergman Prize
- **Reilly Coon** – Farha Tahir Award in African History
- **Julia Derzay** – Fred Harvey Harrington Prize
- **Haley Drost** – William F. Allen Prize
- **Chloe Foor** – William F. Allen Prize
- **Muhammed Gueye** – Farha Tahir Award in African History
- **Robert Hall** – William K. Fitch Scholarship
- **Nadya Hayasi** – LGBTQ+ History Prize and Margaret E. Smith-Esther Butt History Scholarship
- **Tyler Hengst** – Paul Glad Prize
- **Frederic Hofmann** – Andrew Bergman Prize
- **Zoë Klett** – American Indian History Prize
- **Danielle Lennon** – Steven A. and Barbara S. Jaffe History Scholarship, Academic Excellence Scholarship, and Philip Levy Research Award in History
- **Rachel Lynch** – William A. Brown Writing Prize for Black History
- **Em Mager** – Paul Glad Prize
- **Sam McQueen** – Willard L. Huson Scholarship
- **Melina Mueller** – John Sharpless Scholarship
- **Jackson Neal** – Civil Resistance Prize
- **Isabella Prenger** – Alfred Erich Senn Prize and Alice D. Mortenson Russian History Award
- **Cole Roecker** – Davis/Gerstein Undergraduate Research Award and Andrew Bergman Prize
- **Kelley Schlise** – Baensch Prize
- **Caeden Smith** – Digital & Public History Prize
- **Emilie Springsteen** – Civil Resistance Prize and Orson S. Morse History Scholarship

# Stay Connected

We'd like to hear from you. Please send your updates and news to:

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Fax: 608-263-5302

historynewsletter@g-groups.wisc.edu



## Get involved!

Want to help shape our majors' professional futures? Consider being a career mentor! Career mentors might provide advice on how to get started in their field, read over résumés or cover letters, or help current students build their networks. Contact Christina Matta at [christina.matta@wisc.edu](mailto:christina.matta@wisc.edu) for more information.

Or join Badger Bridge to connect with other UW-Madison students, past and present. From backpack to briefcase, Badger Bridge is the only social network that brings together UW alumni from all generations to match online mentors and promote professional success. See [badgerbridge.com](http://badgerbridge.com) for more information or to join!

## Supporting Excellence

Gifts of any size make a difference for our faculty, staff, and students. Alumni and friends of the Department of History contribute to our excellence and ensure the value of a History degree for current and future Badgers.

### Giving Options

Online Giving  
Make a gift online through the UW Foundation at:  
<https://supportuw.org/giveto/history>.

By Mail (use attached envelope)  
Send a check made payable to the UW Foundation (indicate "Department of History Annual Fund" or your choice of specific fund) to:

University of Wisconsin Foundation  
U.S. Bank Lockbox 78807  
Milwaukee, WI 53278-0807

## New Study Abroad Scholarships

The Department of History is announcing the new Global Perspectives Study Abroad Scholarship available to History majors and certificates. This scholarship was made possible thanks to our History Board of Visitors members.

Also, Dean (B.A., '91) and Sofi Pagedas have created the Dean and Sofi Pagedas Student Abroad Award for History Majors that will provide awards for undergraduate students seeking a study abroad experience.



Pedestrian overpass bridge that links Bascom Hill and the Mosse Humanities Building. Photo courtesy of Jeff Miller.



# Department of History

## Giving Societies

### **Professor Frederick Jackson Turner Society**

Recognizes donors who make annual contributions to the History Department of \$5,000+

### **Professor George L. Mosse & Professor Harvey Goldberg Society**

Recognizes donors who make annual contributions to the History Department of \$2,500+

### **Professor Gerda Lerner Society**

Recognizes donors who make annual contributions to the History Department of \$1,000+ (\$250+ for alumni who graduated in the past ten years)

Benefits of Society membership may include:

- Invitations to exclusive gatherings with History Department faculty in Madison, online and around the country;
- Invitations to connect with professors and students on campus;
- A copy of ARCHIVE, the History Department's undergraduate research journal;
- Recognition as a member of your chosen Society in the History Department Newsletter.

## **History. We're Making It.**

Since the first History class at UW-Madison more than 100 years ago, alumni and supporters like you have helped us fulfill our educational mission.

UW-Madison's Department of History is in the top tier of history departments globally. We enroll over 6,600 undergraduate and graduate students in our courses and our faculty win teaching and research awards every year.

Please consider making a gift to support the History Department.

For more information, please visit  
<https://supportuw.org/giveto/history>



## **Recent Gifts**

Richard Singer Fellowship in American Labor and Working Class History endowed by **Richard Singer ('61)**

John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Professorship in Roman History endowed by **John W. ('67) and Jeanne M. Rowe**

Professors Iris and Ronald Berger Graduate Support Fund in History endowed by **Iris (M.A. '62, Ph.D. '73) and Ronald (M.A. '67, Ph.D. '74) Berger**

Morledge Family Fund in History endowed by **Dr. John Morledge**

Samuel M. Levy Family Foundation Gift to the History Department Annual Fund, the George Mosse Teaching Fellowship Fund, and the William A. Williams Fund, in honor of Philip Levy ('68)

Sandoway Graduate Writing Prize donated by **Roger (B.A. '65, M.A. '67) and Anne Blattberg**

Farha Tahir Award in African History donated by **Farha Tahir ('09)**

William A. Brown Writing Prize donated by **John Douglas ('19)**

Board of Visitors Gifts to the History Department Annual Fund for Native American History Fund, Graduate Student Research Emergency Fund, Department of History Global Perspective Scholarship

# Professor Monica Kim Named 2022 MacArthur Fellow



Monica Kim. © John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation – used with permission.

The Department of History is thrilled — but not surprised — to learn that our colleague Monica Kim has been named as a 2022 MacArthur Fellow! Monica’s scholarship is distinctive for the depth of its originality and humanity. She asks strikingly new and compelling questions about subjects we thought we knew, enabling us to see and understand international events at different scales and through the lens of new archives, sources and previously unheard voices. Her 2019 book *The Interrogation Rooms of the Korean War* has received scholarly prizes from a wide variety of organizations that demonstrate the breadth of her analytical accomplishments: she is able to speak across the discipline of history to specialists working in US international and diplomatic history, foreign policy, military and Asian-American history as well as to scholars of Asia. Her current research, which examines the transnational history of the face of hunger in the Cold War decolonizing world in both capitalist and socialist countries, is equally breathtaking as her first book for asking revealing and very human questions about the forces that have shaped daily existence for so many people around the globe.

Monica joined the History Department at UW only two years ago, in 2020, but at a recent meeting, a roomful of her colleagues remarked that it feels as if she has been part of our community much longer; her contributions in so many areas have enriched our collective life immeasurably. Monica is deeply engaged in the work of the department. Her classes are challenging, timely and lively, and speak to the kinds of questions and concerns about global

historical processes and social justice that our students most want to study. Monica is one of those rare people who is always fully present and fully engaged in whatever task or conversation or classroom interaction she is part of. Her intellectual curiosity and genuine wonder and delight in comprehending the experiences and ideas of others make her fun to be around. She is thoughtful, inspiring, and empathetic, and a kind and generous colleague.

Monica’s family’s immigration experience is foundational to the kinds of questions and insights that she brings to her work as a historian and public intellectual. Her path to becoming a leading historian of the US and the decolonizing world has been a winding and sometimes personally difficult one, from poet and

elementary school teacher to accomplished scholar and activist, continuously seeking to understand how people have struggled and lived in response to social and political events and international orders from a “bottom-up” perspective.

The History Department extends our congratulations to Monica and her family and our gratitude to the MacArthur Foundation for recognizing and supporting Monica Kim’s transformative historical research and writing.

Professor Monica Kim, who holds the William Appleman Williams and David G. & Marion S. Meissner Chair in US International and Diplomatic History, joined the UW-Madison Department of History in 2020 from NYU. Her Ph.D. is from the University of Michigan in 2011. We thank the Meissners for their generous gift to the department, in honor of Professor William Appleman Williams (1921-1990), which enabled us to hire this immensely talented scholar.



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## Message from Dean Eric Wilcots



Dean Eric Wilcots. Photo submitted.

There is much to celebrate this year! UW-Madison's freshman class is, once again, the largest in history, and it is also the most diverse. Here in L&S, we have a student body full of talent and we are providing a world-class experience for those students. Engagement at SuccessWorks, our innovative career advising center, is at record levels.

One of my top priorities is to make sure we have a welcoming and inclusive environment in which all of our students can thrive and feel at home. I am thrilled with the work happening in our Center for Academic Excellence. CAE continues to provide a strong community of support, guidance, mentoring and connection for students from underrepresented groups, from the time they set foot on campus

until the day they graduate. Our new leader of CAE, Karen Stroud-Felton, is setting ambitious goals including a digital-first strategy to share students' stories in their own words.

Great people and strong teamwork are pushing diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging efforts forward in every department in L&S. As our Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion DeVon Wilson put it, "this is mission work." Visit [ls.wisc.edu/about/diversity-and-inclusion](https://ls.wisc.edu/about/diversity-and-inclusion) to learn more about college-level initiatives and check in with your department about how to get involved.

We welcomed our largest cohort ever of new faculty this past fall, and we celebrated 18 colleagues in an Investiture Ceremony that recognized both our great faculty and the wonderful donors who made those professorships and chairs possible.

We need world-class spaces in which to learn, teach, and carry out research. We look forward to seeing the new building for Computer, Data & Information Sciences begin to rise in 2023 and we are deep in the design phase for Irving & Dorothy Levy Hall.

As I reflect on our progress, I am constantly reminded that together, we can and will make a difference. Thank you for all you do for the College of Letters & Science!

On, Wisconsin!  
Eric Wilcots, Dean  
Mary C. Jacoby Professor of Astronomy  
UW-Madison College of Letters & Science

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## Erin Faigin: Weil Fellow

Erin Faigin just returned to Madison after completing her Weil Fellowship. The Weil Fellowship is the gift of alum Peter ('70, J.D. '74) and Julie Weil. She spent her fellowship year in Los Angeles, researching for her dissertation. Her dissertation, "Valley Jews: Jewish Ethn suburbanization in the Late 20th Century," explores the history of Jews in the San Fernando Valley, the largest suburb in Los Angeles and home to half of its Jews. She is interested in the particularities of Jewish suburbanization in relation to class, race, gender and region. She hopes to present her research this spring at the Western States Jewish History Association Conference in Las Vegas, and will be a research fellow at the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati in March. This past fall, she taught The Historian's Craft: The Suburb in American History, where she learned as much from her students about Milwaukee's suburbs as she hopes they learned about Los Angeles's.



Erin Faigin. Photo submitted.

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# Department of History Undergraduate Graduation Address

Professor Fran Hirsch, Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of History, delivered this address to graduating History majors in May 2022.



Professor Fran Hirsch. Photo submitted.

It's a real honor for me to be with you today and a pleasure to see so many familiar faces. I'm a historian of Russia and the Soviet Union. I've had some of you in my classes over the years, classes on "Russia and America" and on "The Soviet Union and the World." I've heard that good graduation speeches have some humor in them. Those of you who've taken classes with me know that I have a steady supply of Soviet jokes,

especially Brezhnev jokes from the 1970s. But today I'm going to be uncomfortably serious.

Since February 24th my attention has become almost completely focused on the present—on Russia's war in Ukraine. I've been reminded daily since then, sometimes hourly, just how much history matters. And that's what I want to talk about.

History matters to tyrants like Russian President Vladimir Putin who has been rewriting the past in order to justify an illegal war and to pursue an expansionist agenda. Months before the invasion of Ukraine, Putin began playing up the "historical unity" of Ukrainians and Russians and describing Ukraine an "artificial creation" of the Bolsheviks. He did this with a clear goal in mind: to challenge Ukraine's right to exist.

Since the war started, Putin has manipulated history in other ways too. Most importantly when it comes to the memory of World War II. He's told the Russian people that present-day Ukraine is run by Nazis and that Russia's "special military operation" is aimed at Ukraine's "De-Nazification" and liberation.

This seems far-fetched to us—as it should. But in Russia, the effort to connect the Soviet struggle against Nazi Germany in World War II to Russia's current invasion of Ukraine has seen success, in part because the history of World War II matters so much to the Russian people. The day after the invasion, a friend in Moscow told me that I

couldn't possibly understand Russia's actions in Ukraine because my grandfathers had not marched to Berlin and my uncles had not died defending Leningrad.

Dictatorships are built on the manipulation of history. And this manipulation can be more dangerous than outright lies. In Putin's Russia there are "memory laws" which aspire to impose total control over how World War II is talked about and remembered. In Russia's official history of World War II—disseminated widely in patriotic education programs—Russians can be the heroes of the war or the victims of Nazi genocide but never the perpetrators.

Russia is not alone here, of course. All governments know that history matters. Poland and other European states also have "memory laws" around World War II. And history has become a battleground in our country as well. We see how history is used and sometimes distorted to justify questionable arguments, exclusionary policies, and even Supreme Court decisions. We see how the manipulation of the past threatens our democracy.

Disinformation of all kinds is the enemy of democracy. You—as history majors—know this from studying the past. You know this from studying the rise of fascism and totalitarianism, from studying how democracies die.

You as historians know very well that the facts matter. As historians we always try to understand the past from different perspectives. We analyze different interpretations of events in an effort to get the full story. But we also know that there are facts, that there is such a thing as the truth. Maybe not a universal truth with a capital T (although that's something that we could all have fun debating). But the truth of what happened, the truth of what must be recorded and relayed and retold—for ourselves and for future generations. The truth that we must insist on in an age of disinformation, doublespeak, "alternative facts," and lies.

Well that was heavy—I told you not to expect lightheartedness and laughter. But do not despair! The good news is that all of you—as history majors—are well prepared for the world that we are living in. You have a toolkit for studying the past. And this same toolkit will also serve you well throughout your lives for grappling with the present.

As history majors you have the tools to insist on the truth and to fight for democracy. You know how to read different kinds of sources—and how to recognize and analyze propaganda. You know how to do research—how to find reliable sources of information and how to read different kinds of sources against each other. You also know the importance of checking suspicious claims. You know how



to make compelling arguments and how to back them up with good evidence. And you know that while there may be different interpretations of events, there are also facts. You know that facts are different from opinions. You know that facts matter.

You also have the knowledge and the tools you need to act, in ways big and small. This is something that has given me some comfort in these difficult times. I was recently on a panel about Ukraine when a colleague asked if it was really the role of the historian to act as an advocate or activist. I answered yes. I believe that there are times when we must use our knowledge of the past to advocate—and especially to advocate for the truth. For me this has meant writing op-eds about Putin’s genocidal intentions in Ukraine and the rise of totalitarianism in Russia. It has meant using my knowledge of the postwar Nuremberg Trials to argue for an international tribunal today—to hold Russia’s leaders accountable for war crimes. It’s meant using my toolkit in what—for me—have been new ways.

There is still a misconception out there that studying history means escaping into the past. It’s not that—and you all know this. We are reminded again and again why history matters so much to the present. And why history is such an important major. Our democracy depends on it.

As you leave UW-Madison and go out into the world—whatever you choose to do next—I hope that you will always remember that you have a toolkit to advocate for the causes you believe in. That you have the tools that you need to fight disinformation and to defend democracy.

Facts matter. History matters.

I give my heartfelt congratulations to all of you on everything that you have accomplished during your time at UW-Madison. I hope that you will look back fondly on your years here—on your Historians’ Craft courses and History 600 seminars, on the hours spent in Memorial Library and the Wisconsin State Historical Society, and on your conversations with classmates, professors, and TAs. Enjoy this important moment, travel well into the future, and stay in touch.

Thank you.



*History students celebrate their graduation. Photo courtesy of Samantha Sharpe.*



*Seniors present their theses in May 2022. Photo courtesy of Ueda Photography.*

# Faculty, Staff, and Emeritus News

After a five-year leave of absence for active military service, **John Hall** has returned to the History Department. First in the Pentagon (2017–20) and later at the headquarters of U.S. Central Command in Tampa (2020–22), he offered historical counsel to the United States senior military leaders—but is thrilled to be back where he belongs and eager to resume his current book project, *Dishonorable Duty: The U.S. Army and the Removal of the Southeastern Indians*.

**Steve Kantrowitz's** article, "Jurisdiction, Civilization, and the Ends of Native American Citizenship: The View from 1866" won the 2022 Oscar A. Winther Award from the Western History Association for the best article published that year in the *Western Historical Quarterly*.

Oxford University Press published **Ashley Brown's** book, *Serving Herself: The Life and Times of Althea Gibson*, early this year.

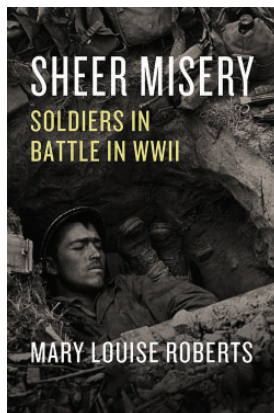


## Patrick

**Iber** was on leave in 2022, supported by a grant from the National Endowment for Humanities. He is writing a book about the social science of poverty and the Ford Foundation during the Cold War. As archives have reopened, he has been traveling to Mexico and Chile to gather material for the project. In the meantime, he continues to write for scholarly and public venues. Chapters in three books appeared in 2022: from Roberto Bolaño in *Context, Inventing the Third World*, and *La historia de los conservadores y las derechas en Uruguay*. An article on teaching contemporary history, co-written with Professor **Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen**, was published in the *Journal of American History*. For public audiences, he continues

to write regularly in *Dissent* and *The New Republic*. A review of Jonathan Katz's book about the maverick Marine Smedley Butler was in the January/February issue of *TNR*.

**Lou Roberts** has been busy doing podcasts and interviews on her new book, *Sheer Misery: Soldiers in World War II*. Three of her books were transformed into audio format this year. She continues work on a study concerning the female body and the Second World War. One essay from this book, "What Women Wore to the Resistance: Fashion, War and Gender Transformation, 1940–1945," will be published this year in the *Journal of Women's History*. She is also working with an international group of scholars on a book concerning "trophy photos" taken by soldiers during the Second World War. In other news, she was recently elected to the Department of the Army Historical Advisory Committee, which advises the U.S. Army concerning how official histories of wars should be written.



Emeritus Professor **Thomas Spear** was awarded the Waldo G. Leland Prize for Historical Reference by the American Historical Association for the best reference in the past five years for the *Oxford Encyclopedia of African Historiography: Methods and Sources* (Oxford University Press), and he continues to serve as Editor in Chief of the larger online *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*.

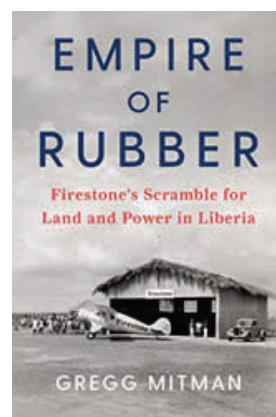
Assistant Professor **Marla Ramírez** recently co-edited a special issue, "Intersectional Methodological Approaches" for the journal of *Latino Studies* and contributed an essay titled "Gendered Banishment: Rewriting Mexican Repatriation through a Transgenerational Oral History."

Emeritus Professor **Robert Eric Frykenberg** published a book in December 2022, *India's History, India's Raj: An Anthology of Essays* (New Delhi: Primus Books, 2022).

**Mou Banerjee** received the IRH Residential Fellowship for 2022–23. In addition, she received the 2021–2022 Dorothy and Hsin Nung Yao Award for excellence in Undergraduate Teaching from the History Department and the Outstanding Faculty Award from the APIDA Center for 2022. Her student-led project, The Nonviolence Project, just completed one year, with a seed grant from the Board of Visitors and support from the History Department.

**Joe Dennis**, working with computer scientists at the Max Planck Institute for History of Science in Berlin, Germany, has published the *Books in China Database*, a database tool for researching and visualizing the chronological and spatial distribution of books in China from the 1300s to the early 1900s. The tool is available online at <https://www.booksinchina.org/bicdb/#/>

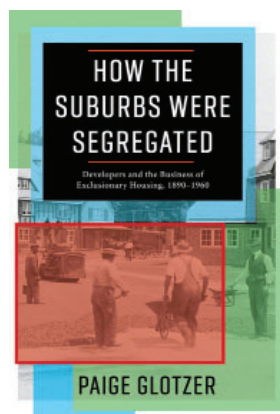
An excerpt of **Gregg Mitman's** new book, *Empire of Rubber: Firestone's Scramble for Land and Power in Liberia* (The New Press, 2021), appeared in the Ideas section of the *Boston Globe* in March. His book was also featured on the February podcast of *Who Makes Cents: A History of Capitalism*. Gregg is the Vilas Research and William Coleman Professor



of History, Medical History, and Environmental Studies, as well as a guest professor at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, where he is leading an interdisciplinary team exploring the history of emerging infectious diseases,



biodiversity conservation, and resource extraction in West Africa.



**Paige Glotzer's** book, *How the Suburbs Were Segregated: Developers and the Business of Exclusionary Housing, 1890-1960* (Columbia University Press, 2020) has won the Lewis Mumford Award for Best Book in American Planning History. It also received honorable mention for Best First Book from the International Planning History Society. Glotzer is Assistant Professor and John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Chair in the History of American Politics, Institutions, and Political Economy.

**Sophie Olson** has transitioned to a role fully incorporated into the Undergraduate Program. She retains the title of Undergraduate Program Coordinator, and her newly restructured role will help sustain the growth of the program by providing enhanced support to the program's students, instructors,

and advisors.

In 2022, **Viren Murthy** published a book, entitled the *The Politics of Time in China and Japan: Back to the Future* (London: Routledge.)

Assistant Professor **Simon Balto** received a Carr Center for Human Rights Policy Fellowship from the Harvard Kennedy School at Harvard University. This one-year fellowship will facilitate Balto's work on his new book project, *White Innocents: Terror, Racism, and Innocence in the Making of Modern America*, which is under contract with Liveright/Norton. As part of the fellowship, he will also be co-organizing a symposium at Harvard in April of 2023 on the history of "public safety" in the United States.

**Louise Young** published an essay on the politics of Japanese history-writing in a special forum on "Presentism" in *Modern Intellectual History*. She gave the keynote address for the conference on Modern Transimperial and Interimperial Histories at the Geneva Graduate Institute. And she was finally able to attend the induction ceremony, twice postponed, for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

## Bill Cronon Retirement Celebration



Giuliana Chamedes, Associate Professor of History, reminisces with Cronon and his wife, Jennifer Dueck. Photo courtesy of Jeff Miller.

On April 30th, 2022, the Department of History celebrated Emeritus Professor Bill Cronon. Professor Cronon held the position of Frederick Jackson Turner and Vilas Research Professor of History, Geography, and Environmental Studies before his retirement in 2020. This conference titled "Common Places: Keywords for a More Than Human World" was inspired by a classic book, *Keywords: A Vocabulary of Culture and Society* by Raymond Williams, that Cronon's advisees encountered in his seminar. This celebration gave Professor Cronon an opportunity to present his final lecture, a keynote address titled "Looking Back on a Long Journey: People, Places, and Stories," where he discussed his journey toward becoming a historian.

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# Public History Project Update

By Kacie Lucchini Butcher, Director of the Public History Project



Kacie Lucchini Butcher, Director of the UW Public History Project, talks with attendees during a private reception for the "Sifting & Reckoning: UW–Madison's History of Exclusion and Resistance" exhibit at the Chazen Museum of Art at the University of Wisconsin–Madison on Sept. 12, 2022. Photo courtesy of Bryce Richter.

The Fall 2022 semester turned out to be the UW–Madison History Project's most exciting semester yet! For the past three years, the Project has been working to uncover and give voice to histories of exclusion and resistance on campus. The project surveys over 175 years of history, featuring original research, extensive use of archival materials and newly collected oral histories to bring to light stories of struggle, perseverance, and resistance on campus.

This herculean task of researching the university's history and displaying it for the campus community finally came to culmination with the opening of the Project's premiere exhibition, *Sifting & Reckoning: UW–Madison's History of Exclusion and Resistance*. The exhibition, which was on display at the Chazen from September 12 – December 23, sought to both confront the university's history of exclusion, while also highlighting the contributions of marginalized people who fought to change the culture of the university. Presenting histories thematically in areas from student organizations and academic life to housing, athletics and student activism, it provided insight into the various experiences of marginalized people as they navigated the whole of campus life.

The physical exhibition was accompanied by a digital exhibition website ([reckoning.wisc.edu](http://reckoning.wisc.edu)) that includes all of the histories featured in the exhibition plus 300 newly digitized archival materials from the UW–Madison Archives, student–researched blog posts, full source citations, and more. While the exhibition closed in late December, the digital exhibition will continue to be available, allowing the campus

community access to this vital history.

During its public display, over 23,000 visitors experienced the exhibition, and 1,900 people contributed to the in-gallery interactive activities. The Project's digital exhibition has had over 10,000 visitors from 47 states and nearly every county in Wisconsin. The Project's suite of curricular materials have been used in dozens of courses across campus, and the Project staff has hosted more than 160 exhibition visits — all of which provided further engagement opportunities for the campus community.

From an idea in a university committee to the founding of the Project to the eventual opening of *Sifting & Reckoning*, the Public

History Project is grateful for its student researchers, collaborators, and campus stakeholders. Hundreds of people across campus and the city of Madison contributed to the Project and helped to make it a success. As a Project, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to every single person who helped to bring this project to life.

It was the immense community support that led to some exciting news to start 2023. The Chancellor announced the creation of the Rebecca M. Blank Center for Campus History which will be housed under the Division of Teaching and Learning and will expand on the work of the Project. Its staff will be devoted to educating the campus community about the university's past in ways that will enrich the curriculum, inform administrative decisions, and bolster efforts to achieve a more equitable university. Many details related to the new Center are still being discussed and will be shared with the campus community as planning continues. The Center is set to open in July of 2023.

We hope that you will continue to support the Project and the forthcoming Center and that you will continue to contribute to it. We believe that this work will be the most successful when it deeply engages all of those in our community. If you have a story to share, an event you think should be researched, or a person you think has been overlooked, please email us at [publichistoryproject@wisc.edu](mailto:publichistoryproject@wisc.edu). To get updates on the project and read newly published research, please visit our website at [publichistoryproject.wisc.edu](http://publichistoryproject.wisc.edu).





Student Night at UW-Madison's Public History Project exhibition *Sifting & Reckoning*. Photo courtesy of Colton Mansavage.



Students in "Fascism Then and Now" explore the *Sifting & Reckoning* exhibit. Photo courtesy of Alicia Shoberg, Flocal Flame.



Student in "Fascism Then and Now" interacts with the *Sifting & Reckoning* exhibit. Photo courtesy of Alicia Shoberg, Flocal Flame.



Outside the *Sifting & Reckoning* exhibit. Photo courtesy of Alicia Shoberg, Flocal Flame.



Student in History 102 engages with the *Sifting & Reckoning* exhibit. Photo courtesy of Todd Brown.



Students in "Fascism Then and Now" talk about the *Sifting & Reckoning* exhibit. Photo courtesy of Alicia Shoberg, Flocal Flame.

# Undergraduate Student Research



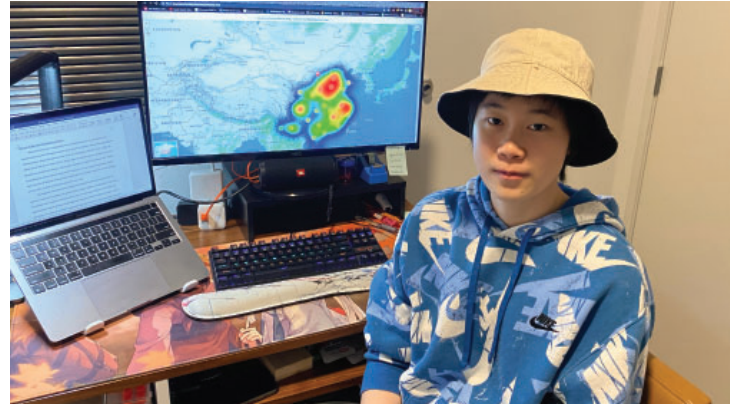
Danielle Lennon. Photo submitted.

## Danielle Lennon

I began doing preliminary research in preparation for my Senior Thesis this summer under the guidance of Professor Cullinane. My chosen topic is on PTSD and its documentation, including a history of the diagnosis and differences in presentation and treatment between Western cultures and Cambodian communities. I began my research on this topic by narrowing down the literature necessary for my project. Additionally, I began reading a few of these different books relevant to my topic, including *Why Did They Kill? Cambodia in the Shadow of Genocide* by Alexander Hinton, *Afterparties* by Anthony Veasna So, and *Crazy Like Us: The Globalization of the American Psyche* by Ethan Watters. Following this preliminary research, I also visited Long Beach, California, as it contains the largest community of Cambodians in the United States.

Prior to traveling to California, I met with Professor Cullinane to discuss how I would utilize my time in California. Once I had arrived in California at the end of August, I spent my time in Cambodia Town in Long Beach. While there, I viewed artwork in the form of murals along the walls of buildings in the city and also visited a Buddhist Wat. In addition to this, I went to an exhibit in Los Angeles at the California Science Center called *Angkor: The Lost Empire of Cambodia*. This exhibit contained over 100 artifacts from the Angkor Empire, nearly all of which were lent by the National Museum of Cambodia and the Cambodian Ministry of Culture and contained information on the religious background of Cambodia and the influence of Hinduism on the practice of Theravada Buddhism.

Danielle Lennon received the Philip Levy Research Award in History, the Academic Excellence Scholarship, and the Steven A. and Barbara S. Jaffe History Scholarship. Danielle's Levy Research Award supported research she conducted under the guidance of Michael Cullinane (Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies) in summer 2022.



Wenxin (Zephyr) Xiao. Photo submitted.

## Wenxin (Zephyr) Xiao

As part of my senior thesis project, this summer, I created an interactive and searchable map of local public Confucian schools that existed in Ming China (B.C.1368 – 1644). In the Ming dynasty, over 1600 prefecture, sub-prefecture, county, and garrison schools were functioning. These schools were run by the government, supporting the Ming's education system and raising numerous literati who actively engaged with local societies, and a minor part of them were promoted to higher rankings that participated in major events of the state. The education system provided a ladder of social mobility for Ming people. The map I created in one aspect displays the thriving of public education in Ming. On the other hand, since schools would be only constructed and maintained in relatively safe and flourishing administrative areas, the map also indirectly suggests the possible boundaries of the region the Ming empire controlled. Due to time limits, I was unable to present the private academics in Ming schools, which was the other pillar of Ming's education system. The future goal of the project is to display the changes of public schools and private academics over time.

## Stay connected with the History Department!

Please follow us on social media and check out our website for updates on department life and upcoming events.



UW-Madison  
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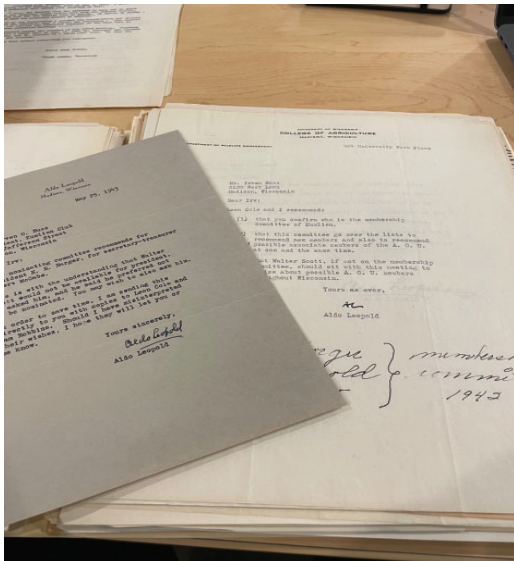


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Documents related to the establishment of UW-Madison's first ornithological society, the Kumlien Club. Many of these documents consist of letters exchanged between notable UW environmental faculty such as Aldo Leopold, Leon Cole, and Robert McCabe. Photo courtesy of the author and University Archives.

## Cole Roecker

My senior thesis focuses on the history of birdwatching and ornithology in Wisconsin from 1880–1940. This period provides a useful case study through which the history of expertise and American conservation politics can be understood. There existed a significant divide between amateur, nonacademic bird enthusiasts and formally trained ornithologists, and the history of their respective influences on policy change and public opinion (as well as their disagreements with one another) are integral to understanding the history of conservation in the United States. Using Wisconsin's ornithological history as an isolated example, I am interrogating the relationship between amateur and professional ornithology, exploring their respective effects on policy change and public

disposition towards the environment. I am further questioning if amateur ornithology—a far less exclusive assembly than the academy—allowed for traditionally underrepresented voices in conservation to be heard and effect change.

My research this summer has centered around professional ornithology and ecology at UW–Madison, exploring the work and influence of notable UW ecologists and scientists such as J.J. Hickey, Aldo Leopold, and Leon J. Cole. Much of my time has been spent in the University Archives looking through many archival boxes, reports, letters, course syllabi, and data logs in search of my desired sources. Some days brought exciting discoveries of “that perfect source,” while other days only revealed where not to look. I have especially appreciated the variety of documents I have encountered in my research, ranging from myriad reports of the American Ornithologists’ Union to heartfelt, personal poetry about birds by late UW faculty. My other work this summer has consisted of reading the many “amateur” publications of my research period—popular books written by Wisconsin authors which spurred the public’s interest in birdwatching. Angela Kumlien Main, author of *Bird Companions* (1925), has been a central focus of my research, as she represents an early female voice in a field otherwise dominated by men. This year, I intend to search further afield for more atypical sources—sources where non-academic and historically underrepresented voices may have appeared in the birdwatching community. Lastly, I would like to express my extreme gratitude to the History Department and the generous donors which funded my research this summer; I have cherished the opportunity to perform daily historical research in support of my project as part of the Davis/Gerstein Undergraduate Research Award. My deepest thanks to all those who made my work this summer possible and especially to my advisor, Dr. Hennessy, for her guidance in this process!

Cole Roecker received the Davis/Gerstein Undergraduate Research Award for his project on the history of ornithology in Wisconsin under the advisement of Elizabeth Hennessy and he also received the Andrew Bergman Prize.



Marc Kleijwegt has been appointed to the John W. and Jeanne M. Rowe Professorship in Roman History.

Marc Kleijwegt. Photo submitted.

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# Summer Research Opportunity Program

By Neil Kodesh, Professor and Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Department of History partnered with the UW–Madison Center for Humanities in summer 2022 on a new initiative: the Arts and Humanities Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP). The program was part of a long-term effort to diversify the discipline by actively recruiting diverse cohorts of graduate students. Designed for academically promising undergraduate students from underrepresented and minority communities seeking to pursue graduate studies, the SROP hosted twelve students from several undergraduate institutions for a two-week summer institute on campus.

Over the course of the program, participants engaged in workshops, writing camps, and panels that sought to prepare them to apply for graduate school. The program began with a well-received presentation from Kacie Lucchini Butcher about public history and her work on the UW–Madison Public History Project, an ongoing effort to highlight UW–Madison’s troubled history of discrimination and to give voice to those who challenged prejudice on campus. Subsequent workshops and panels, all of which included graduate students, staff, and faculty from History, covered a range of topics from admissions, funding, and the job market to the campus climate for minority students, living in Madison, and alternative academic (alt-ac) career paths. Additional presentations introduced students to organizations and programs engaged in work related to the humanities designed to assist underserved populations in the greater Madison area, including

The Odyssey Project, Madison Writing Assistance, and Humanities Exposed.

SROP participants were also matched with faculty mentors in the department. Students met with mentors several times over the course of the program to discuss research interests and strategies for navigating the graduate school application process. SROP participants worked with their faculty mentors to develop a statement of purpose to submit as part of the application to graduate school. To this end, participants took advantage of structured group writing time each day to work on their statements.

The SROP was a success based on feedback from the participants. All the students felt like their confidence and preparation for graduate school grew during their two weeks on campus, and we showcased much of the resources and support that the department and UW–Madison provides to its graduate student community.

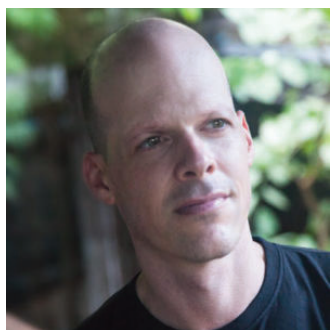


Professor Neil Kodesh. Photo submitted.

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## New Goals for Ph.D. Career Diversity

By Daniel Ussishkin, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies



Professor Daniel Ussishkin. Photo submitted.

What can you do with a History Ph.D.? In the past, the answer appeared to be relatively simple (even if that goal was not easily achievable): the successful outcome of a humanities Ph.D. was an academic teaching position; everything else was discussed as a “Plan B.” In recent years, in part by necessity, attitudes have been rapidly shifting: since most students will not continue to academic careers, shouldn’t we redesign graduate education so that

it trains students for multiple career outcomes down the road?

This past year, the Department of History launched a multi-year project of integrating career diversity as a core mission of graduate training: what skills will our graduate students need ten years from

now? How can we help graduate students translate those skills across industries? How can we help our graduate students imagine multiple careers? Central to these efforts last year was a pilot graduate internship program: a small number of students were placed as interns, gaining experience in non-academic work (such as public humanities, academic administration, or policy research). All interns were fully funded by the Department during their internship. Drawing on this successful pilot, we hope to continuously expand our internship program and create new opportunities for our graduate students outside the classroom.

Career diversity is often understood in terms of career outcomes, but it is already clear that the scope of this initiative is much broader and will have wide ranging implications for our discipline and profession. In its heart, career diversity implies that history, and humanities more broadly, belong to multiple social contexts and endeavors. Focusing on career diversity can therefore profoundly enrich the history we teach and write.



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# Outreach in the Classroom

Giuliana Chamedes has partnered with the Goodman Community Center, McFarland High School, and East High School in three of her undergraduate classes. At the Goodman Community Center, students did group presentations on “fascism then and now” within an ongoing lecture series on humanities in the community. In the partnership with McFarland High School (carried out at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic), Giuliana’s undergrads joined the high school classroom virtually, for a discussion of a recent research project they had completed. Finally, Giuliana’s ethnic studies class on race and empire in the United States and Europe worked with an East High School social studies classroom over the course of a semester. The collaboration culminated in a half-day visit by the East High students to UW-Madison. The first stop was Giuliana’s classroom, where undergrads led discussion in small groups on topics connected to research-based videos they had created as their culminating capstone assignment. Next, undergrads and the high schoolers had breakfast together at the Union. Finally, everyone visited the Special Collections wing of Memorial Library, for a guided tour of the archive’s holdings.



*Photo courtesy of Colton Mansavage.*



*Photo courtesy of Colton Mansavage.*

Giuliana’s first step towards these community collaboration projects was to establish a relationship with an outreach coordinator at a community center or organization, or with a teacher or principal at a school. The guiding question she asked throughout all the early discussions was this: How can we help you advance the goals you’re working on with your community? From there, each collaboration took shape. The work takes time (~12 months of planning at least) but it is incredibly rewarding for all parties involved. And undergrads consistently say this is one of the highlights of their time at UW-Madison and their favorite thing to talk about in internship/job interviews. That’s also because they produce amazing work; public outreach projects seem to drive home the importance of mastering key skills like writing, public speaking, researching—and also, very importantly, how to be an engaged listener and active community member.

## Ph.D.s Awarded, 2021-2022

**Leslie Bellais**, “Traitor State”: A Crisis of Loyalty in World War I Wisconsin (John Hall)

**Robert Christl**, Organizing Anarchy: Anarchist Worker-Intellectuals and the Struggle for Worker-Managed Socialism in Spain, 1917-1938 (Giuliana Chamedes)

**Sheena Finnigan**, Working Women: Motherhood, Occupation, and Status in Roman Italy, 100 BC to 100 AD (Marc Kleijwegt)

**Dana Freiburger**, The Place of Science in Nineteenth-Century American Catholic Higher Education (Susan Lederer)

**Jen Gramer**, “Monuments of German Baseness”: The Legacy of Nazi-Era Art in Germany and the United States from 1945 to the Present (Mary Louise Roberts)

**Jeffrey Guarneri**, A Complicated Cosmopolitanism: Commerce, Crisis, and the Making of Civic Identities in Nagasaki, 1929-1941 (Louise Young)

**Kayci Harris**, Pas de Deux: Cold War Dance Tours and Franco-Soviet Cultural Interaction, 1953-1975 (Laird Boswell and Mary Louise Roberts)

**Michael Hayata**, The Politics of Ainu Production in the Japanese Empire, 1885-1937 (Louise Young)

**Abigail Lewis**, Double Exposure: French Photography and Everyday Choices from Nazi Occupation to Liberation, 1940-1950 (Laird Boswell and Mary Louise Roberts)

**Keith McNamara**, Testing Bias in Psychology, Law, and Public Policy, 1920-1970 (William Reese and Adam Nelson)

**Brian North**, The Army You Have: History of US Military Preparedness for War 1945-1961 (John Hall)

**Royce Novak**, Prison Islands in the Making of Modern Indonesia and Vietnam: 1862-1979 (Alfred McCoy)

**Karma Palzom-Pasha**, Political Transformations in the Tibetan Freedom Movement: Resettlement and Political Activism in India, Nepal, and the United States (Cindy I-Fen Cheng)

## Selected Graduate Student Awards and Fellowships

**Joy Block** - Doris G. Quinn Fellowship

**August Brereton** - Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship

**Patrick Eickman** - Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship

**James Flynn** - Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship

**Ethell Gershengorin** - Cohen-Tucker Fellowship

**Elizabeth Hauck** - National Academy of Education Spencer Dissertation Fellowship

**Chris Hulshof** - Fulbright-Hayes

**Brianna Lafoon** - Doris G. Quinn Fellowship

**Carly Lucas** - Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship

**Tamara Polyakova** - Doris G. Quinn Fellowship

**Alexander Scheepens** - Mosse Exchange Fellowship

**Patrick Walsh** - American Philosophical Society John C. Slater Fellowship

**Charlotte Whatley** - Institute for Research in the Humanities Dana-Allen Fellowship

**Yacov Zohn** - Cohen-Tucker Fellowship



Lake Mendota and the University of Wisconsin-Madison campus, including the Memorial Union Terrace, are pictured in an early morning aerial taken from a helicopter on Oct. 23, 2018. Photo courtesy of Bryce Richter.



# Thank you to the 2021-2022 members of our Giving Societies for their generous support!

We'd like to extend our gratitude to those whose gifts qualified them for Department of History Giving Society membership through August 2022.

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Mr. Dale Smith & Ms. Allison Smith  
Ms. Farha Tahir



First-year students, along with UW mascot Bucky Badger and Chancellor Mnookin, form the shape of an iconic Motion W as part of the W Project on Barry Alvarez Field at Camp Randall Stadium. Photo courtesy of Bryce Richter.



**Department of History**  
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Vintage University of Wisconsin photo albums from the 1870s and 1880s are pictured at University Archives and Records Management Service in Steenbock Library at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on April 21, 2016. Photo courtesy of Jeff Miller, UW-Madison.