

MAKING HISTORY



David Bailey
1951 - 2015

In Memoriam:

Professor David T. Bailey

Michigan State University has lost one of the finest intellectuals in its history. On November 7, 2015, David Bailey—beloved husband, father, friend, teacher and colleague—died from cancer. He came to MSU in 1979 after a distinguished career as a student at the State University of New York, Buffalo, and the University of California, Berkeley. David Bailey was no ordinary professor of history. Our memories of him will be deeply cherished and his influence long felt because he lived his academic career as a vocation borne out of a true love for learning, for students, and for his colleagues and out of a deep regard for the department and university to which he was so devoted.

As a lecturer, David had no rival, captivating his audiences with an easy brilliance, eschewing jargon and fashionable theory in the interests of inspiring his students to ask deep and honest questions. True to his dissertation research on the Civil Rights movement, David always strove to impart the principles of social justice. His classes were never stale or ossified: he could teach the cultural and historical significance of hip hop as comfortably as he could classical music and jazz. Every bit as important as his subtle skills in the classroom was the time David gave to the students who sat in the leather armchair in his office to talk. In this chair

hundreds gained a love of learning and confidence in their own ability to think independently and critically. There they also had the thrill of conversing with an extraordinarily intelligent man who never begrudged them the time to gain from his vast store of knowledge.

David Bailey believed strongly in the university's duty to help young men and women from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit from a first-class education. It is therefore fitting that his family and friends are seeking donations to the David T. Bailey Undergraduate Scholarship Fund to help with university expenses for students from the state of Michigan who are History majors at MSU

and who have faced great economic challenges. We are halfway to reaching our goal of \$50,000. Please help by giving online at **history.msu.edu/bailey** or by sending a donation to:

The David T. Bailey Fund, AN2034

Department of History
509 East Circle Drive
Rm. 306, Berkey Hall
East Lansing, MI 48824

The memory of David will live on in the History Department and in the lives of many he touched. And this new fund will insure that one of his personal passions is continued.

MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Department of History



Walter Hawthorne
Chairperson & Professor
African, African Diaspora
& Digital History

A Message from the Chair

Over the past year, the department has been engaged in an Academic Program Review. The purpose was to assess strengths and weaknesses and to chart a strategic plan for the coming decade. A highlight of the process was the three days we spent with a team of distinguished scholars from other universities who were brought in to meet with faculty, administrators and students and to give feedback. Here is some of what the team wrote:

- “The department ... takes undergraduate teaching seriously and offers high-quality training in a variety of fields both to majors and non-majors.”
- “The department’s graduate program is robust, producing well-trained PhD students in a variety of areas.”
- “It has wisely capitalized on long-standing strengths in African history and African-American history. For more than fifty years, MSU has claimed a preeminent place in the interdisciplinary field of African Studies.”
- “The morale of the department is remarkably high in an age in which higher education faces multiple challenges.”
- “The department stands out for its impressive diversity.”
- “By just about any measure MSU History department faculty have been remarkably productive in recent years.”

Clearly our department has much to be proud of. But we also face challenges. The committee pointed out that the most serious has been slow and steady decline in the number of majors over the past five years, which is something that plagues history departments around the country. Why? Most important has been increasing interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) disciplines and business school. Also important

is a fall-off in interest in careers in law and K-12 education, which have been popular tracks for history majors.

So what have we done to meet this challenge? First, we advertise more than ever—both on and off campus—what can be gained by majoring in history. Data about what MSU History alumni have done makes clear that our majors learn to think broadly and develop skills in critical analysis, research, and oral, written and digital communication. Knowledge and experience gained in history coursework enables majors to excel in a wide variety of fields, such as government, business, journalism, medicine, education, law and much more. Second, we have added to our major an option for internship credits and are seeking to link majors with museums, historical sites, and businesses so that students can gain experiences to help launch them into exciting careers. Third, we are creating a new major called Global Historical Studies. Through it students will be able to focus course work on one region of the globe so as to prepare themselves for work in government and non-government agencies and international businesses. Finally, to impart new, twenty-first-century skills, we opened a lab called LEADR, which is the subject of a story in this newsletter. Each of these initiatives is energizing our major and making it more appealing to undergraduates. As our external reviewers stated, “The MSU History department has responded strategically and vigorously to declines in majors and has realized success.”

I would appreciate information about what you have done with knowledge gained in the history major. Please be in touch by emailing walterh@msu.edu. I would be happy to hear from you!



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@MSU_HistoryDept & @WalterHawthorne



OUR LAB: leadr.msu.edu

Michigan State University's History Department has long been at the cutting edge of digital historical research.

We helped launch H-Net, an online humanities network, which has its home in our building. We created Matrix, MSU's Center for Digital Humanities and Social Science. And we have scholars involved in a range of digital historical initiatives. Many are National Endowment for the Humanities-sponsored—for example, *Slave Biographies*, *Islam and Modernity*, *What America Ate*, *Overcoming Apartheid*, and the *MSU Vietnam Group Archive Project*. Others have been funded by MSU—for example, the *Africa Past & Present Podcast*, *17 Moments in Soviet History*, and the *Football Scholars Forum*.

However, it was apparent that our digital historical research did not spill over much into undergraduate and graduate classrooms. We were conducting research through methods born in the twenty-first century but were teaching research methods born in the nineteenth. Simply put, the lecture halls and small seminar rooms to which we had access placed limits on what and how we could teach.

Then, in December 2012, something fortuitous happened. MSU History abandoned its home in Morrill Hall

and moved to the Old Horticulture Building. There we laid claim to a former classroom that had been turned into an enormous storage room. In it we launched a great experiment. After a fundraising initiative supported by the Office of the Provost and College of Social Science and in partnership with the Department of Anthropology and Matrix, History renovated this storage facility in summer 2014. Equipment purchases and the appointment of a director, Brandon Locke, followed. In August 2014 we launched The Lab for the Education and Advancement in Digital Research (LEADR).

What is LEADR?

It is a place—a beautiful high-tech flex space—where faculty and students research, design and launch public, web-based digital history projects. We emphasize teamwork. People bring a range of skills to the lab and work together, exchanging ideas and dividing tasks. Coursework includes instruction in web development, data management, data mining, and computational analysis—all introduced by the director, invited guests, and graduate and undergraduate teaching assistants. Students have also learned how to operate our 3D printer and drone and are now involved in creating history games, some of which are being designed in a platform that is

accessible through 3D goggles. We have large televisions for presentations and collaborative work, desktop and laptop computers, and cameras and audio equipment. And we recently added a sound and video annex and One Button Studio.

Since August of 2014, LEADR has been central to over 40 classes. Some have met there daily. Others have included a one- or two-week module featuring digital history. For us, LEADR is important because it is a space where students are acquiring new skills. They leave MSU with what history majors across the country tout: abilities in research, oral and written communication, and critical historical thinking. But they can boast more. They know how to undertake teamwork. They know how to compile datasets, mine them, and run quantitative analyses using a variety of programs. They know how to manage tremendous amounts of digital data. They know how to produce projects that have broad public appeal. And many have developed skills in coding.

Why is this important?

We are creating more well-rounded history majors—graduates better able to engage the world with a 21st-century skill set. And this is, of course, important for job and graduate school placement. A selection of student projects is available at leadr.msu.edu/projects.



Graduate Program

This History Department's Graduate Program continues to attract and mentor a dynamic group of students. Currently, we have 59 students in various stages of the program. Some are in East Lansing taking courses, and many of these students work as Teaching Assistants in both the History Department and the Centers for Integrative Studies. As is the case with History faculty members, our graduate students are known for their strong commitments to undergraduate education, and a number have received awards for their work in the classroom.



Graduate Program continued...

Many of our more advanced graduate students are engaged in field-changing research around the world, and a number of them have completed excellent dissertations on an amazing variety of subjects. In 2015 alone, we have had students complete dissertations on colonialism in Algeria, the politics of ethanol in Brazil, nineteenth-century American Calvinism, Native Americans and missionaries in the Midwestern United States, the Louisiana penitentiary system, the Michigan Chicano movement, family and kinship in the nineteenth-century Niger Delta, soccer in Zambia, the morality of credit and lending in Tanzania, and the role of young women in the Mormon Church.

Many of our graduates have won awards for their scholarship. For example, Amanda Lewis's dissertation on wildlife conservation and resource management in Kenya recently won the Gill-Chin Lim Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation in Global Studies from MSU's International Studies and Programs Center.

Our current crop of dissertations is no less impressive. Recently, two of our doctoral students, Christine Neejer and Jim Porter, were recognized in articles published by the College of Social Science highlighting their exciting research. Christine's work on women and bicycling promises to offer new perspectives on not only the lives of ordinary women but also the recreational practice of cycling. "As a social historian and a women's historian," Neejer remarks, "I am interested in ensuring that ordinary people, especially people often left out of historical narratives, are treated as worthy of scholarly attention." She notes that the "vast majority of the women in my dissertation were never particularly famous, but what they were doing mattered and had notable consequences both in their lives and in the future. Many of the ways women challenged gender norms by cycling set the stage for the early 1900s and the rise of the car culture. By choosing to bicycle when many men in their lives discouraged it, they were pioneers in a way without realizing it." In Jim's case, his previous work as an elementary and high school teacher led him to investigate the ways that psychologists and policymakers in the post-World War II United States came to understand and measure human intelligence. As Porter notes, his research is framed by such questions as "What was smart — how did we define it? Who was smart? And how did we try to measure or identify it in people? What subjects allegedly required the most smarts? And then — most importantly — how did these theories and definitions get used to structure and justify differential educational opportunities?"



Study Abroad

History's Professor Malcolm Magee and former PhD student Devlin Scofield, who is now a professor at Northwest Missouri State University, led two overlapping study abroad programs to Europe in the summer of 2015. Beginning with two days of study and intensive advance readings on the MSU campus, the programs traveled in an overlapping itinerary. One group, focused on "Europe at War, Politics, Love and Conflict," began their journey in June in Jena, Germany, at Schiller University. Jena was the home of philosopher Hegel when Napoleon marched through town. It was the home of the literary figures Johann Wolfgang Goethe and Friedrich Schiller and the alma mater of Karl Marx. From there students traveled to Strasbourg France, then Paris and finally London, where they were joined by the second program, which was focused on "Britain and the World, Politics, Love and Conflict." In London, students explored a number of historic sites and spent time with the families of rock legends George Harrison, Eric Clapton and Mick Fleetwood. After London, the first program went home while the second program went on to Cambridge and Edinburgh. They studied poets and philosophers. And they ruffled some feathers by setting off fireworks on the 4th of July, something the British did not find amusing. For summer 2016, MSU History has planned a similar program. Berlin has been added to the itinerary and fireworks on the 4th have been dropped. And History Professor Aminda Smith will take a different group of students to Amsterdam, Holland. Some students on History study abroad benefit from the J. Morgan Sweeny Memorial Scholarship, which helps with tuition. See history.msu.edu/awards.

Retirements

Leslie Page Moch



Professor Moch received her PhD in Modern European History from the University of Michigan in 1979. After teaching elsewhere, she came to MSU's Department

of History in January of 1996. Moch's interest in the history of human migration began with a study of mountain people coming into the southern French city of Nîmes and then expanded to the study of European migration in the longer term. At MSU, she initiated the undergraduate course in family history, taught European women's history, and co-taught a seminar on Nazi-occupied Europe. She worked with graduate students as Graduate Director in the Department of History and as mentor to the many graduate students interested in migration in the College of Social Science.



Charles Radding

Professor Radding received his PhD from Princeton University in 1973. Early on he developed a passion for medieval

European history. He began his academic career at Lewis and Clark College in Oregon in 1971. There he finished his dissertation, which focused on fourteenth-century Normandy. His career took him to several universities. He was on the faculty at Herbert Lehman College, Northwestern University and Loyola University of Chicago before joining the History Department at Michigan State University in 1988. At MSU, he made his mark as a gifted undergraduate teacher and researcher. His books, which are in Italian and English, cover a range of subjects from cognition and society to medieval jurisprudence to medieval architecture and learning.

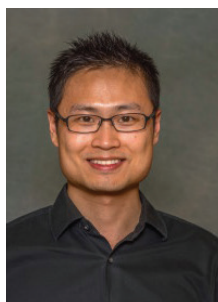
Recent Hires

Delia Fernández



Professor Fernández is a historian of Latina/o history whose work focuses on how Latina/os use panethnic identity to garner more political, social, and economic rights in the twentieth century. Her research and teaching interests also include the intersections of race, ethnicity, and sexuality in American history. She is particularly interested in immigration, migration, labor, social movements and women's history. She holds a PhD in history from Ohio State University.

Sidney Lu



Professor Lu is a historian of modern Japan, with research interests in the areas of colonialism, diaspora, gender, and transnational flow of people, materials and ideas. He is currently working on a book manuscript examining the relationship between Japanese trans-Pacific migration to North and South America and the construction of the Japanese colonial empire in Asia. He teaches courses on the history of modern Japan, East Asia and the modern world. He holds a PhD in history from the University of Pennsylvania.

Jamie Monson



Professor Jamie Monson joined our department when she was hired by MSU to become the director of African Studies. She became

interested in Africa when she served as an agriculture volunteer for the Peace Corps in rural Kenya in 1980. She then completed her PhD in African History at UCLA and took her first teaching position at Carleton College in 1991. Monson's early research focus was on agricultural and environmental history of southern Tanzania. In the late 1990s, she began a new research project on the history of the TAZARA railway, built with Chinese development aid in Tanzania and Zambia in the 1960s and 1970s.

Brandon Locke is the director of History's Lab for the Education and Advancement in Digital Research (LEADR). He completed a BA and MA in history and

women's and gender studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He also has a Master of Science in library and information science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. There he specialized in digital humanities and data curation. Over three semesters, he has helped us offer instruction to over 1,600 students in LEADR.

The History Club

The Michigan State History Association (aka the History Club) has experienced a tremendous expansion in its membership over the last couple of years. In the fall semester, student members held several events, including a book sale, movie nights, and a panel of professors who discussed careers for history majors.

This semester, the club has planned a great deal more. On March 3rd, club members hosted Irene Butter—a renowned speaker and Holocaust survivor—for a lecture on the tragedies of the Holocaust and social injustice more generally. On March 15th, the club held a fundraiser at Noodles and Company! All proceeds will help the club continue to provide educational service to students with a passion for history. The club is also pleased to be hosting another movie night and a panel for students about study abroad, internship and volunteer opportunities for history majors to pursue. In April, the club will host an off-campus picnic to celebrate the achievements of the members and to bring together students, faculty and alumni from the History Department. Families are welcomed as well. Please contact us if you wish to attend.

The club also manages the Undergraduate History Journal, which publishes excellent undergraduate research papers. These papers are posted online at history.msu.edu/journal.



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