



History Newsletter

2021 ISSUE



Department of History
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY



ANNUAL FIELDWORK

Photography Contest Winners

Thank you to all those who entered. Congratulations to all of our winners.

FIRST PLACE

(cover photo)

Trinity College Library
Dublin, Ireland

Ramya Swayamprakash
Graduate Student

SECOND PLACE

(pictured page 12)

Native Wildlife
Alaska, United States

Sophia Verzosa
Undergraduate Student

THIRD PLACE

(pictured above)

Academia Historica Archives
Taipei, Taiwan

Patrick Buck
Graduate Student

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR:

Dr. Lisa M. Fine

Happy 2022. Let's hope that this will be the year we can all return to a "new" normal. Last spring 2021, while we were teaching and working remotely, we began to receive our Covid vaccines, vaccine and mask mandates were put in place to allow students to return to campus for in-person and classes at the start of the Fall 2021 semester. We were able to stay the course throughout the semester, despite rising positivity rates in the state and the appearance of Omicron during the late fall. A few of our students and faculty were affected, but all recovered quickly, thankfully. We approach an entirely in-person Spring 2022 semester after the first three weeks on-line. Students and faculty are gearing up to begin traveling for research and study abroad again and I am happy to inform you that we are preparing to welcome a new class of graduate students this fall 2022, after pausing admissions for a year due to Covid. Large in-person events are being planned as well so we are hoping for the best.

Beyond our university world, it has been a momentous, historic year, that will have repercussions for many years to come. Not long after the start of 2021, the nation witnessed violence and insurrection at the Capitol. It has been a year of unprecedented violence and extraordinary scientific achievements. It has been a year of reckoning regarding our nation's racialized history and the year will conclude with the beginning of what looks to be the end of many reproductive rights for women. This will be a year "for the history books," as the saying goes, and as historians we will study, reflect, and attempt to provide our students, and the public with informed analysis and interpretation of our shared past, as we always do.

The History Department has performed heroically during these stressful times. The pandemic has not spared anyone; all of us in the History Department have experienced disruptions to our lives. The accomplishments of the last year, amidst extremely difficult conditions, are in the pages to follow. I started as Chair in May 2018 and I will be stepping down in August 2022. One of my colleagues described serving as Chair for one year during the Covid pandemic as the equivalent of two years during "normal" times. Using that calculus, I am finishing my sixth year, not my fourth, and it is time for me to pass the baton. It is my fervent wish that whoever follows will not serve in "interesting times." It has been my honor to serve as Chair and I thank my faculty, students and staff for their labor, professionalism, and grace.

First Juneteenth Celebration is a Success

Written by: Henry Mochida and Beth Brauer for MSUToday

Rainy weather could not dampen the spirits of more than 300 students, staff, faculty, alumni and community members who attended the MSU Juneteenth Celebration. June 19, 1865, the day enslaved Black Americans were told they were free, is referred to as Juneteenth, and for decades has been observed by local communities as a holiday and reason to remember the history of slavery in the United States.

This year, Michigan State University, for the first time, participated in a week-long celebration of Juneteenth events that included virtual film screenings and culminated in one of the first post-pandemic in-person events on campus on June 19, 2021.

Chillier temps, high winds and, at times, hard rain, would not deter attendees who queued outside a large white event tent on Munn Field beginning at 11:30 a.m.

Debora Sudduth, administrative assistant in the College of Human Medicine who was in attendance noted, “MSU Juneteenth Celebration was a wonderful coming together of the community. The speakers’ messages were on point and people did not mind the rain.”

Whether the excitement was combined exuberance for the first community-wide celebration on campus or the day’s new designation as a federal holiday, the energy was palpable.

“The federal government’s recognition of Juneteenth is paramount as it acknowledges the lingering impact and overall injustice of a system that authorized acts of violence and inhumane treatment that continues to plague Black people in this nation,” said Vice President and Chief Diversity Officer Jabbar R. Bennett, Ph.D.

After a tenuous year following the many revelations of disparities in the health care system and among essential workers, and ongoing police brutality, this year’s celebration sounded the alarm bell in a way that had not been heard previously. Juneteenth is the recognition of what continues to be the long road to freedom.

“From all accounts, the event was well-received by

those who attended as it provided an opportunity to reflect on the history of slavery in our nation, the lasting impact on Black people in America and the work yet to be done to achieve a fuller semblance of liberation,” said Bennett.

MSU research associate Nakia Parker, who begins her assistant professorship in the Department of History this August, presented a brief history of Juneteenth, remarking that it was 100 years after 1865 that a national reckoning with what it means to be free occurred — and another 56 years later Black Americans continue to fight for freedom following the death of George Floyd. Parker said, “Black Americans are still trying to get closer to freedom.”

Other speakers included Board of Trustee member Rema Vassar, who, commenting on the narrative of Juneteenth, questioned, “Why does it have to be that we can’t emancipate ourselves? Somebody had to tell us that we are free.”

Most counts of Juneteenth largely ignore the sacrifices made by enlisted African American soldiers to help win the Civil War.

Juneteenth is a reminder that, “We are in it [together], inextricably linked and bound,” said Vassar. All Americans and residents have a vested interest in freedom and if one group is oppressed then we all are.

Former two-term President of the Black Students’ Alliance, Sharron Reed-Davis, opened by saying, “We are stronger with our allies and that’s all of you today who do not identify as Black that are here. We are stronger together.”

The institutional recognition of Juneteenth has been decades in the making both at MSU and nationally. This day marked the cumulative celebration of these efforts at the MSU Juneteenth Celebration.

“We owe our gratitude to Opal Lee of Fort Worth, Texas, the grandmother of Juneteenth and her tireless efforts to make Juneteenth a federal holiday,” said social science alumna Felicia Wasson.

“We gather today as an MSU community for the very first time to acknowledge the pain of slavery and the delay of the benefit of the promise of America’s constitution for all of our citizens.”

An emergent theme of the celebration was the poignant message that freedom has been delayed. In the moments leading up to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Black and African American community grew weary and wary of being told to wait for change.

Wasson continued, “There are pieces of legislation pending right now in our Congress. The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act is pending. The Emmett Till Antilynching Act is pending. The renewal of the Voting Rights Act is pending.... In the Michigan legislature this week, they passed three bills that continue to erode voter access in this state.”

Lee N. June, MSU professor in the College of Social Science, said, “Hopefully remembering Juneteenth will prick our conscience and move us in a direction in doing something substantial.”

A number of key leaders from the institution and local community were also present, including additional MSU Board of Trustee members and executive officers, such as recently appointed Vice President of Public Safety and Chief of Police Marlon Lynch.

“These issues are very personal to me. I love MSU. I’m a product of what MSU can do. Also, I’m a Black man. I know firsthand the impact of racial profiling, police brutality on our underrepresented communities. The concept and reality of policing are viewed differently through racial and cultural lenses,” said Lynch.

Head Football Coach Mel Tucker who was also present said, “[Juneteenth] is an opportunity for me to reflect on what I am doing as a Black head coach... Educating our players and our staff about African American history in this country [should occur] on an ongoing basis.”

Current President of the Black Students’ Alliance, Kenneth Franklin said, “Going forward we expect President Stanley, the Board of Trustees and employees at the university of every level to show support for diversity, equity and inclusion.”

MSU Juneteenth Celebration provided an opportunity for learning about American history and shared

humanity, and it left an impression on many attendees including Teresa Mastin, professor and chairperson of the Department of Advertising and Public Relations.

“I found the inaugural MSU Juneteenth commemoration to be equally educational for all, embracing of all as a function of humanity and issuing an invitation to all to work collectively for long-term, meaningful change that benefits all,” Mastin said.

Seren Delaney, a rising sixth-grader in Okemos, shared her main takeaway from the event. “What I will remember most from this event is what Dr. Vassar said. You have to show up, which means be active. Be part of the movement,” Delaney said.

Perhaps most of all, to paraphrase Vassar, this historic commemoration of Juneteenth was a celebration of Black beauty, boldness and brilliance.

“Black people know how traumatic it is to be a Black person.... It’s hard, it’s very hard, but it’s very rewarding and I wouldn’t change who I am,” said Reed-Davis.

Left to right: Nakia Parker and Dantevius Branigan
Photo by Lisa M. Fine.



Featured Faculty: Dr. Emily Conroy-Krutz

Religion plays an important, if sometimes unrecognized, role in American foreign policy. We can see these connections in how Americans understand their allies and enemies, how they describe crises and events around the world, and how they construct their national identity as humanitarian actors or agents of development. These religious influences are not fully understood, however, in either their contemporary or historical forms. Prof. Emily Conroy-Krutz's work sits at the intersection of diplomatic and religious history to explain the ways that religion, and in particular Christian foreign mission movements, shaped American foreign policy in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Prof. Conroy-Krutz spent the 2020-2021 academic year on fellowship at the Charles Warren Center for Studies in American History at Harvard University as part of a cohort of scholars working on religion in American public life. Her focus was on her current book project, *Missionary Diplomacy: Religion and Foreign Relations in Nineteenth Century America*. The book follows American Protestant missionaries as they

traveled throughout the globe to stations in South and East Asia, West and South Africa, Europe, the Middle East, the Pacific Islands, and the Americas. Once there, missionaries played key roles in establishing the United States' role in the world. Over the course of the century, the foreign mission movement positioned itself as a centrally important institution of American knowledge about the world, with missionaries serving as trusted experts on global matters who both explained the world to Americans and Americans to the world.

As *Missionary Diplomacy* reveals, missionaries at key locations served the United States government directly as translators or consuls, easily combining their identities as Americans abroad and evangelistic missionaries. As they did so, they helped to establish policies about the rights of American citizens overseas, definitions of religious liberty, and priorities for American diplomacy over the course of a century that saw tremendous changes in American power. The book draws upon research in government and missionary archives in addition to the prolific print

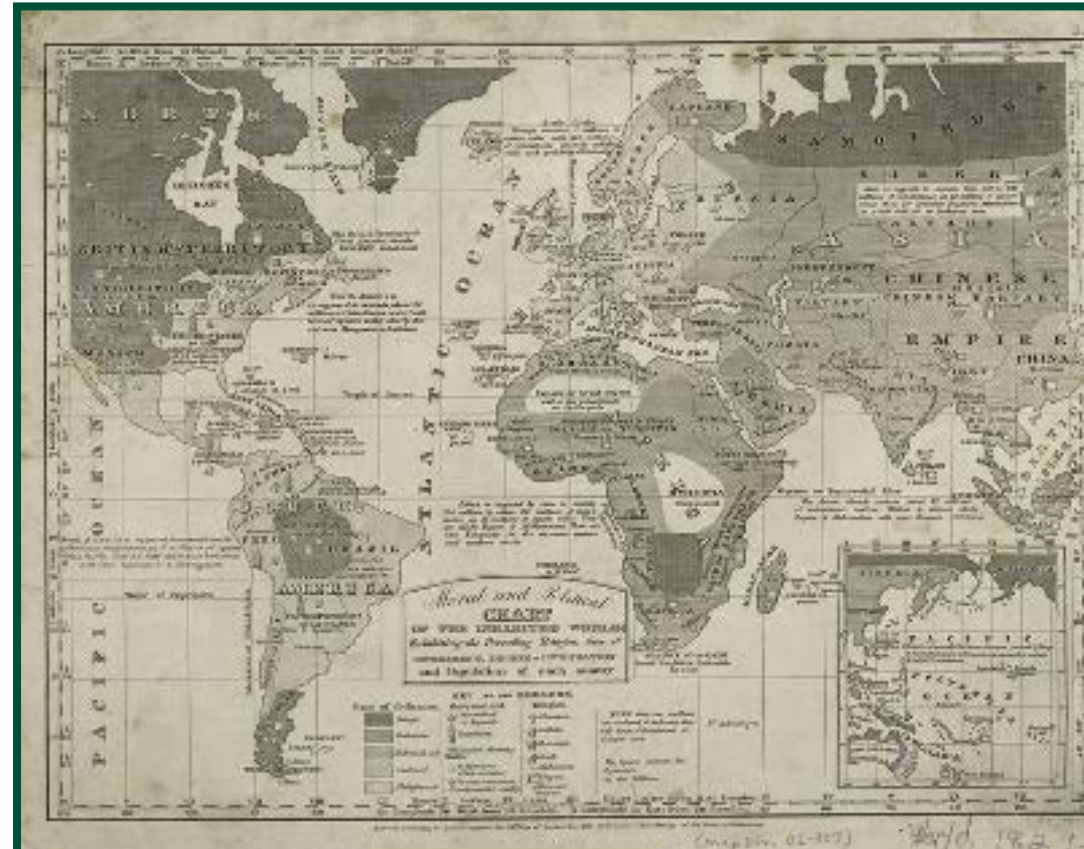
culture of the 19th-century mission movement. During her fellowship year, Conroy-Krutz completed a full draft of the manuscript, which is under contract with Cornell University Press.

Prof. Conroy-Krutz's research is animated by two major goals: to analyze the role of religion in foreign relations and to explore the many ways that nineteenth-century Americans thought about and engaged with the world beyond the North American continent. Her earlier publications have advanced these goals through studies of early American empire. In *Christian Imperialism: Converting the World in the Early American Republic* (Cornell University Press, 2015), Conroy-Krutz discussed the ways that Protestant foreign missionaries between 1790 and 1840 dreamed of an American empire that would advance Christianization and civilization around the world. This idealized Christian imperialism brought them out into both the British empire and an emerging American empire where they discovered that empire and Christianity were less easily or simply yoked than they had expected. Along with her colleagues Michael

Blaakman and Noelani Arista, she is currently editing a volume on early American empire titled *The Early Imperial Republic* (forthcoming with the University of Pennsylvania Press). She is proud to advance these goals not only through her own writing, but also as a series editor for Cornell University Press's US in the World series, a leading book series in American diplomatic history.

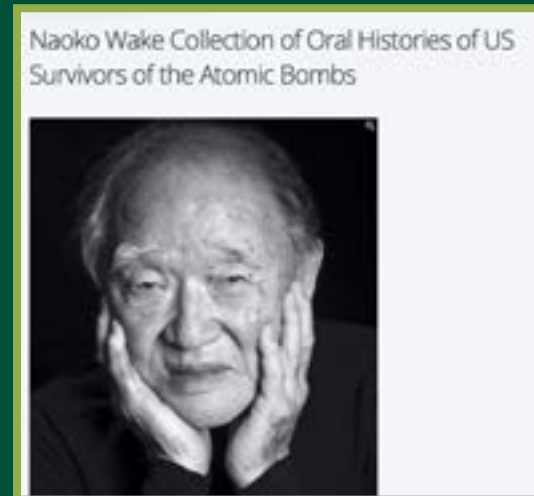
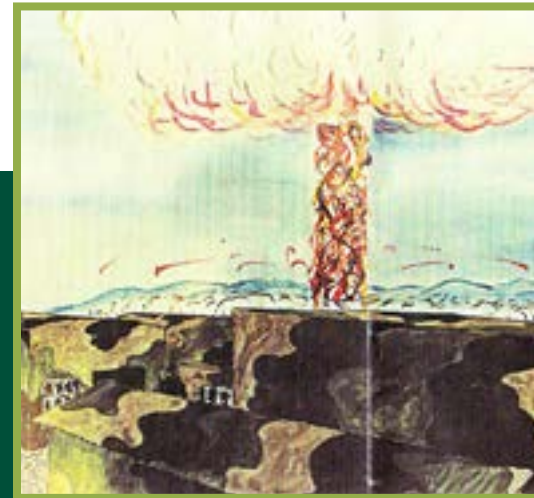
Recent essays by Prof. Conroy-Krutz can be found in volumes on *American Grand Strategy*, the intellectual history of American foreign relations, global evangelicalism, the "vast" history of the early American republic, and the historiography of American foreign relations. In them, she explores children's literature, missionary marriage, the competition between missionary and merchant conceptions of American foreign policy, mapping, and other related themes.

In 2021, Prof. Conroy-Krutz was awarded the Stuart L. Bernath Lecture Prize by the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR). This prize recognizes excellence in teaching and research in American foreign relations by younger scholars (defined as under forty-one years of age or within ten years of earning the PhD). She will deliver her lecture, "What is a Missionary Good For, Anyway?": Foreign Relations, Religion, and the 19th Century," at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New Orleans, after which it will be published in *Diplomatic History*.



Left to right: Conference in an 18th century Quaker meeting house and "Moral and Political Chart of the Inhabited World, Exhibiting the Prevailing Religious Form of Government, Degree of Civilization, and Population of each country," 1821. New York Public Library digital open access database.

Featured Faculty: Dr. Naoko Wake



I am a historian of Asian America, who explores race, immigration, and belonging in relationship to gender, sexuality, illness, and ability. I am fascinated by experiences of minorities on social and cultural peripheries, who seldom belong to any singular, clear-cut category and yet who create the energy that reveals hegemony's brutality, complacency, and banality. In contrast to the existing scholarship that largely focuses on notable accomplishments of the marginalized, my work considers day-to-day practices of Asian Americans, where they articulated their predicament in subtle, often not easily recognizable, ways. In so doing, my work illuminates what marginalized individuals shared with their families and communities, urging us to reconsider the history shaped by the powerful by seeing it through intimate, person-to-person interactions that also make history.

My interest in ordinary people's history-making has strongly shaped my recent book *American Survivors: Trans-Pacific Memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki* (Cambridge University Press June 24, 2021). Among others, I have become an oral historian by conducting interviews with my historical subjects—Japanese American and Korean American survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945—on different shores of the Pacific. The history of Japanese survivors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, as well as the histories of American nuclear weaponry, is well-known. The history of American survivors, by contrast, is nearly forgotten because of their ambiguity. Why were there US citizens in wartime Japan? Were they America's foes or friends? Were they victors or victims?

Because American survivors cannot be easily categorized, historical sources about them are scarce. It became a necessity that I create new primary sources. I worked with MSU Libraries to acquire the only existing set of oral histories with North- and South-American survivors in the world, created by Mexico-based artist Shinpei Takeda in the early 2000s and containing 54 interviews. The collection became freely available online as "Filmmaker Shinpei Takeda Interviews." After creating my own collection consisting of 86 interviews, I again worked with the MSU Libraries. They are currently processing my recordings. Because the library does not have the capacity to publish transcriptions, which I have created for all 140 recordings, I worked with Densho

in Seattle, Washington, to make ten of them available as "Naoko Wake Collection of Oral Histories with US Survivors of the Atomic Bombs." Densho's award-winning digital archive makes it easy for anyone to use my records for scholarly, educational, or artistic purposes.

Derived chiefly from oral histories, *American Survivors* stands on the intersection of immigration history and the history of atomic bombings. By seeing the nuclear attacks in a longer history of Asian immigrants in America, established categories such as "Americans," "Japanese," "Koreans" based on citizenship and national belonging become questionable. Many Asian American survivors possessed dual citizenship and had feelings of belonging to more than one country. Their survivorhood, then, must be reconsidered as part of a larger history of Asians making connections to America, a process that preceded and continued after 1945. *American Survivors* also illuminates how their lives were shaped by shifting notions of gender, race, and ability. Survivors have many identities, not just an identity as a survivor; just because a person is a racial minority, it does not follow that the person's life is exclusively or mostly explained by race. I have also found that, if we are to understand the bomb's history, it is crucial to think of survivors' gender. Without thinking their lives through many lenses, we may be left with a simplistic argument that makes sense only in abstract.

My current research continues to connect different threads of analysis—race, gender, illness, and ability—as it explores the history of disability in Asian Pacific Islander Desi America (APIDA). I am fascinated by how the stereotype of "model minority" associated with APIDA, which has underpinned the making of the ableist state, might have been generated by the lack of archives that tell of APIDA disability. I am also reading literature as a kind of historical source. Frequently autobiographical and yet presented as fictional, many APIDA literary works may be seen as a body of writing that floats between historical fact and imagination. I hope to capture a wider range of historical sources on disability than have been recognized, expanding the realm of what US historians can say about the nation's past.

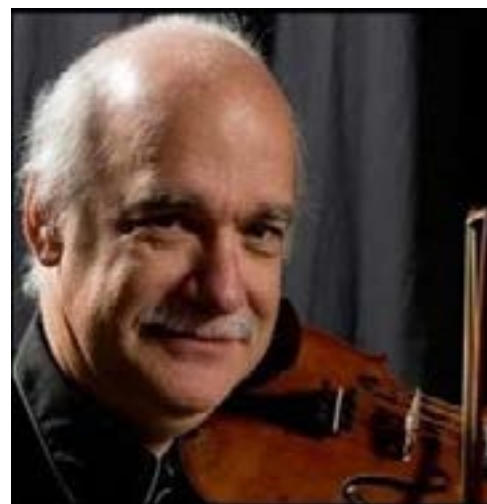
Susan Sleeper-Smith



Photo by: Jackie Hawthorne

Retirement seems a superb opportunity to finish research projects that have been long remaindered to my bookshelf. So, in my newly extended leisure hours I plan to finish my manuscript, *Gender, Race, and Empire: Mapping Empire and State Formation Through the Lives of Indian Women* for the University of Massachusetts Press and a more “popular” work for Norton, *Why American Indians Matter*, which challenges McCullough’s recently published work, *The Pioneers*. Several of us, including myself, reviewed McCullough’s work in *Midwestern History*, following a panel discussion at the Midwest History Conference in 2021. Don’t look for these books to appear very soon, lots of work remains, but if you are at OAH in April, please stop in to say hello, where I will comment on a panel on “Indigenous Leadership and Sovereignty Struggles.” I will continue to serve on the OAH Executive Committee, to which I was elected in 2021. My article, “Native Women and Mythmaking: The Agrarian World of Powhatan Women” is forthcoming in Brenda Stevenson’s edited volume on *Contested Foundations: The Red Letter Year of 1619*. I am also working on an article for the *Oxford Handbook of the Seven Years’ War*, “Native American After 1763” and I plan to engage in several on-line talks at MSU’s Town and Gown on Tuesday, November 30 and at the Washington Trail Summit in April 2022. We are now living in Chicago, near the Newberry Library, and in the summer and fall on Lake Michigan in New Buffalo. Please stop by to visit, coffee is always freshly brewed at our apartment.

Peter Knupfer



Peter Knupfer received his PhD in nineteenth century American history from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1988. He published *The Union As It Is: Constitutional Unionism and Sectional Compromise, 1787-1861* (Chapel Hill, 1991). After a decade of teaching and research at universities and community colleges, he joined MSU’s Ford-Mellon funded South African Cultural Heritage Training & Technology Project in 1998 as an in-country researcher before coming to MSU in 2000 to be project director and serve as Associate Director of Matrix, MSU’s humanities technology center. In 2005, he joined the History department as associate professor and Executive Director of H-Net: Humanities & Social Sciences Online, the premier online organization serving scholars, teachers, and the public. During his tenure with History, Dr Knupfer emphasized history education, humanities technology, and public history, leading seminars on local history, teaching methods, and in-service teacher curriculum development funded by the US Department of Education in collaboration with MSU’s College of Education. As H-Net’s director, he led the organization through a major technological transition and the expansion of its professional staff. After retiring from H-Net, Dr Knupfer resumed publishing on the Civil War era and the history of education. In May 2021, he retired from MSU to return to his vocation as a bluegrass fiddle player, do some gardening, and with his spouse Nancy, to travel to enjoy the company of their children’s welcome hospitality.

American Survivors

Naoko Wake’s book, *American Survivors: Trans-Pacific Memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki*, (Cambridge University Press June 24, 2021) is a fresh and moving historical account of U.S. survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, breaking new ground not only in the study of World War II but also in the public understanding of nuclear weaponry. A truly trans-Pacific history, *American Survivors* challenges the dualistic distinction between Americans-as-victors and Japanese-as-victims often assumed by scholars of the nuclear war.



Something Like Treason

Alumni **William Sonn’s** book, *Something Like Treason: Disloyal American Soldiers & the Plot to Bring WWII Home* (Sunbury Press, Inc. August 29, 2021), is the true story of how the U.S. Army woke up in 1942 to find that, in its rush to build a seven-million man army, it had inducted some iffy patriots. To be safe, the military dumped men it (often incorrectly) suspected of disloyalty into a misfit company, stripped them of their guns and dignity. The unintended consequence: the Army turned-patriotic soldiers into genuinely disloyal soldiers intent on revenge. And then it stationed them next to some 300 German POWs. What could go wrong?



The Frightened Physicists

Alumni, **Jim Sargent’s**, last five books are part of his Mickey Mathews mystery series. *Final Secret* (Wynwidyn Press, 2016), is about events leading up to the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941. *The Long Pursuit* (Wynwidyn, 2017) covers Mickey Mathews and his friends, Frank Tuttle, a retired Army officer, and African American Tommy Jefferson, a former heavyweight boxer, pursuing two Nazi agents who kidnapped Mickey’s fiancée and her roommate in 1943. His most recent is *The Frightened Physicists* (Doce Blant, 2021) about Mickey and Frank escorting by train the beautiful wives of two physicists who are hiding in Buffalo, New York, after being accused by the FBI of selling classified atomic secrets to Russian agents. There are more on the way!



Support the Department

Please consider contributing to our department. Your gift will be used to help undergraduate and graduate students carry out research, present at conferences, and other scholarly activities.

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Are you a faculty, student, staff member or alumnus of the MSU Department of History? Contact the department with updates and news you want to share!

Email: history@msu.edu

Website: history.msu.edu

Twitter: [@MSU_HistoryDept](https://twitter.com/MSU_HistoryDept)

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Photo credit: Sophia Verzosa

Undergraduate Update

The study of history offers our undergraduates much more than insight into the past. It provides a means of improving and sharpening their research, writing, and analytical skills. Courses in our department introduce students to times and places as varied as the Roman Empire, the Soviet Union, Imperial China and Japan, medieval Spain, and modern South Africa. Courses on special topics cover concepts, ideas, and practices that include – but are not limited to – Catholicism, sports, film, food and alcohol, the history of the book, and the history of magic, witchcraft, and the occult. In studying these places and themes, students also learn the fundamentals of research in primary sources, the construction of arguments and concise, persuasive writing. This set of skills prepares students for a variety of careers that rely on research and analysis while also providing them with the foundation for acting as engaged citizens in their local, national, and international communities.

The department offers three majors: the standard, very flexible History major; the History Education

major, for students interested in teaching History and Social Studies in secondary school; and the Global History major, for students particularly interested in a part of the world other than the United States. The department’s relatively new minor is proving to be popular. The department also sponsors the minor on Defense Studies and Leadership, which is open to all undergraduates but popular primarily with ROTC students.

The calendar year 2021 was, of course, unusual. Classes were remote in the Spring and large classes were still remote in the Fall, though most History classes in Fall were taught in person. Judging by student evaluations, most professors’ courses taught remotely continued to be done in fine style, though I think I am safe in speaking for all of us in saying that we were delighted in the Fall to return to the classroom and to personal contact with our students.

The pursuit of history is not limited to the classroom at MSU. The Undergraduate Club’s president Ogechi Osuji reported: “We held meetings over zoom during

Spring 2021 and had meetings in person during fall 2021. In meetings we had history presentations, played trivia, and watched historic movies.”

The History Scholars Program, directed by Dr. Helen Veit, did a variety of activities. In Spring 2021, when we were all online, they had a variety of events on Zoom, including: a Trivia Night; a “Not-So-Drunk History” event, where they took turns telling each other about their favorite little-known historical event or figure; and a movie night, where they watched “The King”, the 2019 film based on Shakespeare’s *Henriad*, followed by a discussion with Dr. Emily Tabuteau about the historical context. In fall 2021, the History Scholars had the following in-person events: a Halloween event at MSU’s Special Collection, where Dr. Liam Brockey led students through an array of early-modern primary sources related to witchcraft and the occult; an event at the MSU Map Library, where Dr. Ethan Segal gave a talk about the nature of map creation and conceptualization and showed students a variety of maps from different eras and places; and a Jeopardy-based game event.

Regrettably, because of the virus, the Department did not hold its usual awards ceremony in May, nor was there an on-campus commencement for us to celebrate our graduating seniors. Nonetheless, the Department had a large number of students to honor. The following students were awarded our undergraduate scholarships: the David Bailey

Scholarship was given to Makenzie Jacobs; the Harry Reed Scholarship to Wisdom Henry; the Sandra Sageser Clark Scholarship to Thomas Crain; the Anthony and Mary Joan Woods Scholarship to Rebecca Yeomans-Stephenson; and the Robert and Catherine Workman Scholarship to co-winners LiChail Gaines and Leah Welch. The department also had new scholarship to award, the David Blight Scholarship, which was given to Willem Conner. The David LoRomer Prize for the best undergraduate essay was awarded to Jakob Myers. The Rout-Williams Award went to Sophie Alegi. The Sweeney Scholarship for Education Abroad was not awarded because Michigan State did not send students abroad in the Summer of 2021.

We were all delighted to learn that Wisdom Henry was one of only sixteen students in the country to be awarded a Beinecke Scholarship, which will help her fund her future pursuit of a Ph.D. in U.S. history.

Last but not least, three students completed senior theses in May. Jakob Myers, working with Dr. John Aerni-Flessner, wrote *Oceans Apart: Transnational Trade, Political Contestation, and the Makings of Empire in Zanzibar, 1828-1860*. Gerald Sinclair, working with Dr. Emily Tabuteau, wrote *The Hand of God: Using Christianity to Secure Power in Seventh-Century Northumbria*. Lachlan Woods, working with Dr. John Waller, wrote *Times Past, Present, and Future: The Temporal Dimensions of South African Colonialism*.

Photo credit: Sophia Verzosa



History Scholars at MSU

The following are profiles of four of the outstanding undergraduate History Scholars:

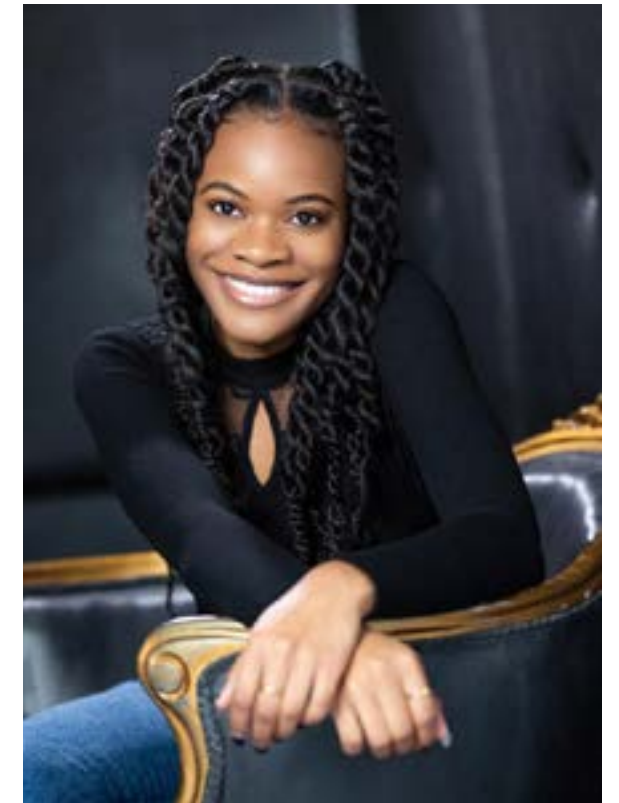


Gabriele Gurule

Gabriel Gurule is a Senior in the Honors College studying History, with minors in Classical Studies and Public Policy. This year, he is writing a history honors thesis on the role of Latinos in Detroit's automotive labor movement, focusing on the latter half of the twentieth century. The thesis is exploring how large societal changes can alter individuals' experiences within a certain industry, particularly within marginalized communities. Outside of classes, Gabriel serves as the Vice President for the MSU Crew Club and as the ASMSU (Associated Students of MSU) Representative for NAISO (North American Indigenous Students Organization). After graduation, Gabriel intends to apply to law school and, eventually, run for office.

Chelsea Hunter

Chelsea Hunter is a Sophomore majoring in History with a minor in Peace and Justice Studies. Her interest lies in African studies, American history, and early modern European history. While she had been familiar with American and European history, she had never fully explored the breadth of African history until she took a course with Professor Nwando Achebe that piqued her interest. For her, learning African history is not only about discovering the diversity of the African continent and people, but also about humanizing those who have been marginalized. Outside of class, Chelsea is on the Dean's Student Advisory Committee and a member of History Scholars. In the future, Chelsea plans to pursue a career in which she can integrate history and social justice.



Berkley Sorrells

Berkley Sorrells is a Senior double majoring in History and in Arts and Humanities through the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH), and she is a member of the Honors College. She is the research assistant for Dr. Marsha Macdowell, professor and curator at the MSU Museum, where Berkley's work on Detroit quilting won first place in the 2021 University Undergraduate Research and Arts Forum (UURAF). Berkley has undertaken other original historical research projects as well. In spring 2019, she completed research through RCAH on urban renewal, community displacement, and the razing of neighborhoods for construction of I-496 in Lansing in the 1960s, work she presented virtually at the Mid-Sure conference in summer 2020. Currently, Berkley is writing a senior history honors thesis under the mentorship of Dr. Lisa Fine on the various effects of race and gender on the people of the Tennessee Valley during the New Deal. She previously worked for the MSU Library in the Stephen O. Murray and Keelung Hong Special Collections and is currently working in the Art Library and MSU Museum Acquisitions. Additionally, she is in her fourth year as a violist in the MSU Concert orchestra.

Steven Brooks

Steven Brooks is a Senior triple majoring in history, women's and gender studies, and psychology. He is currently working on his senior history honors thesis on marriage counseling in the early and mid-twentieth century under the supervision of Dr. Aminda Smith. He writes, "I wanted to pick a topic where I could draw upon the knowledge I've gained from each of my majors. It's been really exciting to explore these interests in a single, culminating project." Steven also works as a writing consultant at MSU's Writing Center and as a research intern at the GenCen. In his spare time, he loves discovering new music and reading about music history. After his time at MSU, he hopes to go to graduate school to continue his study of women's and gender history.

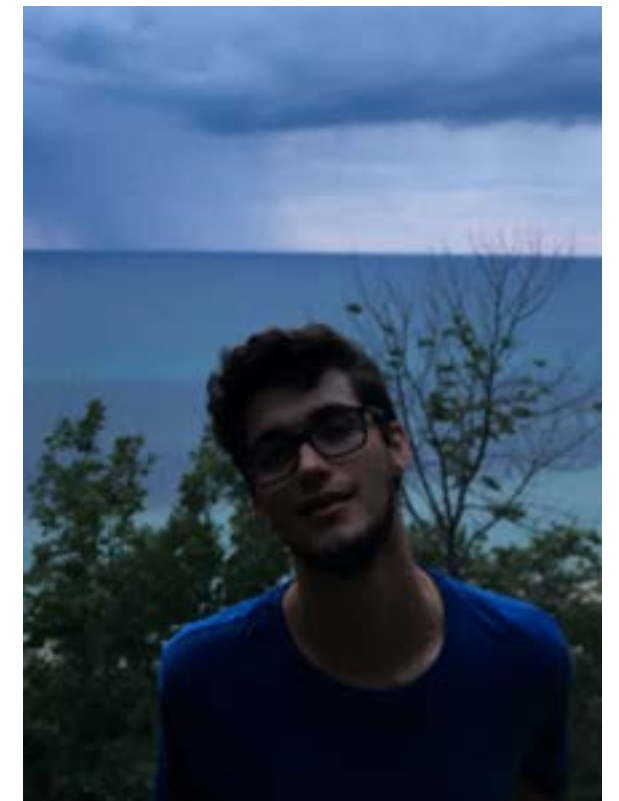




Photo credit: Caitlin Barker

Graduate Update

Ryan Carty

It feels surreal to finally begin dissertation research for a proposal that I wrote more than two years ago. My original focus, for which I received a Fulbright-Hays DDRA, centered on migrant leatherworkers in West Africa who settled in prominent towns along a livestock corridor stretching from the coast of Ghana to the grasslands of Burkina Faso. Unable to make headway on this topic during the pandemic, I expanded the scope of my research to understand leatherwork as part of the dynamic livestock system in 20th century West Africa. As I begin my fieldwork with the Fulbright funding, I seek to understand how livestock professionals--from the scientists and leatherworkers to the meat sellers--participated in the co-production of this regional food system.

During my first month in Ghana, I renewed the relationships written into my original proposal with the History Department at the University of Ghana and the History and Archaeology Department at Joseph Ki-Zerbo University in Burkina Faso. I also developed new relationships in Ghana with the Animal Research

Institute and the Veterinary Department to reflect the expanded scope of my project. The sources for my research include oral histories with livestock professionals as well as historical documents contained in national archives and livestock-adjacent institutions.

Caitlin Barker

Greetings from Yaoundé, Cameroon! I am currently one month into my twelve-month stint as a Fulbright-Hays DDRA and SSRC-IDRF fellow, and so far things are going well. I will be spending eight months in Cameroon and two months each in France and Taiwan studying the history of Cameroon-China relations during the Cold War. More specifically, my research investigates how a diverse array of Cameroonians mediated Chinese knowledge of Africa and imperialism during public diplomacy delegation visits to the PRC, and as they hosted Chinese delegates in Cameroon. I am using a mix of archival research and oral histories to carry out this research, and I am also incorporating sources I procured during pre-dissertation research in the PRC in 2019, as it is not currently possible to carry

out research in mainland China.

In Cameroon I am affiliated at the Heritage Higher Institute for Peace and Development Studies, where my colleagues have been incredibly welcoming and helpful. During a welcome ceremony for me my local supervisor, Dr. Willibroad Dze-Ngwa, presented me with this beautiful hand-embroidered garment from the Northwest Region. Having such a supportive host institution helps facilitate my research in so many ways, and I am very grateful.

Joe Karisny

Through the generous support of the Milton E. Muelder Fellowship, I will be conducting dissertation research throughout Europe in 2022. My project, entitled *“Regenerative Diets: Nutritional Modernism, Italian Fascism, and Europeanism in Interwar France,”* will take me to Paris and parts of Southern France before I round out my fieldwork with a short visit to Rome, Italy. Exploring the transnational networks of political exchange connecting Fascist Italy and Republican France – and how these paths converged around the idea of a “Mediterranean diet” and “Latin race” – my dissertation examines how the broader French-right appropriated and became admirers of Fascist political positions. I pay particular attention to how Mussolini’s programs of “bonifica agricoltura” (agricultural modernization) and “bonifica umana” (eugenic social engineering) – the imperatives to produce and consume “Latin foods” – influenced the French right’s conception of the body politic. In the process, I attempt to discern how Franco-Italian food politics constructed ideas of a Fascist “New Europe” dominated by the continent’s “Latin” nations. Working with an array of sources, ranging from material on Fascist propaganda networks to agricultural theses and travel literature, I plan for a busy but productive year in the archives.

Dani Willcutt

My dissertation, *Serving it Up in the Capital City: Restaurants, Labor, and Restaurant Labor in Lansing, Michigan, 1963-2008*, is the culmination of many years of researching and working in the restaurant industry, which began in Lansing. News and media have told bleak stories about Michigan’s automotive industry and overall economic outlook for decades, but these stories do not account for the people who do not leave the city but who instead forged new ways of living. My dissertation is hyper-local to MSU and the Lansing

community. First, I am following Dr. Lisa Fine’s work on the auto industry, masculinity, and deindustrialization in the Midwest. Second, I am using local archives like the Capital Area District Libraries Local History Archive, the Library of Michigan, the Alan and Shirley B. Sliker Culinary Collection, Feeding America, and the G. Robert Vincent Voice Library. Soon, I will begin collecting my own interviews with former and current restaurant or bar owners, workers, and customers. I am also beginning construction on a digital archive of Lansing’s culinary history. My archive will house audio files of the interviews (permission pending), digitized menus, photographs, postcards, matchbooks, receipts, or any other item of interest, and will be publicly accessible.



Photo credit: Joe Karisny

HISTORY AWARDS

GRADUATE AWARDS

FRED WILLIAMS AWARD	Jen Andrella
HARRY BROWN FELLOWSHIP	Jasmin Howard
DONALD LAMMERS AWARD	Akil Cornelius
JEFF ROONEY PAPER PRIZE	Ajamu Dillahunt-Holloway
MILTON E. MUELDER FELLOWSHIP	Joe Karisny
MADISON KUHN AWARD	Christopher Shell
MUELDER-LOWE AWARD	McKayla Sluga
KWAN-WAI SO AWARD	Erica Holt
SINCLAIR AND S. SUZANNE POWELL SCHOLARSHIP	Dani Willcutt
IRENE STEINDLER AWARD	Robin Crigler

FACULTY AWARDS

RICHARD E. SULLIVAN AWARD	Dr. Peter Knupfer
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UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

DAVID T. BAILEY SCHOLARSHIP	Makenzie Jacobs
ROBERT AND CATHERINE WORKMAN SCHOLARSHIP	LiChail Gaines
DAVID BLIGHT SCHOLARSHIP	Willem Conner
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HARRY REED SCHOLARSHIP	Wisdom Henry & Leah Welch
ANTHONY AND MARY JOAN WOODS SCHOLARSHIP	Rebecca Yeomans- Stephenson
DAVID LOROMER SCHOLARSHIP	Jakob Myers
ROUT-WILLIAMS AWARD	Sophie Alegi

Congratulations PhD Graduates!

A heartfelt congratulations to all of our 2021 graduates! You earned it.

Joseph Bradshaw

Advisor: Dr. Walter Hawthorne

Title: *"The Bandiagara Emirate: Warfare, Slavery and Colonization in the Middle Niger, 1863-1903"*

Susan Carter

Advisor: Dr. Emily Tabuteau

Title: *"John of Salisbury: Colleague, Critic, and Sometime Counselor to Thomas Becket"*

Robin Crigler

Advisor: Dr. Peter Alegi

Title: *"Laughter and Identity: A Social and Cultural History of South African Humor, 1910-1961"*

Ryan Huey

Advisor: Dr. Michael Stamm

Title: *"John Sinclair: Marijuana, Policing and White Revolutionary Activism in Michigan, 1950's-1970's"*

Sarah Jacobson

Advisor: Dr. Karrin Hanshew

Title: *"Squatting to Make Ends Meet: Southern Italian Migrants and the Right to a Home in 1970's Italy and West Germany"*

Kathryn Lankford

Advisor: Dr. Naoko Wake

Title: *"More Than A Way Station: Ground-Level Experiences in the Field Trials of Oral Contraceptives and IUDs in Puerto Rico, 1956-1966"*

Anh Le

Advisor: Dr. Charles Keith

Title: *"Taming the Intractable: Chinese Migrants, Inter-Asian Interactions and the Transformation of French Rule in Colonial Vietnam, 1862-1940"*

Aaron Luedtke

Advisor: Dr. Susan Sleeper-Smith

Title: *"Writing Against the Frontier: Contested Memory and Indigenous Counternarratives in the Nineteenth Century"*

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