



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of History

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

HISTORY NEWSLETTER

NIU Department of History
2022-2023





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Newsletter editor: Emma Kuby



FROM THE CHAIR



Greetings from the Department of History. Each year our newsletter offers us occasion to review our achievements and to think about our future. Championing our students and faculty is one of the best parts of being chair. Equally rewarding are my interactions with our wonderful alumni. Greatly because of the fantastic people associated

with our department, I have decided to continue on as chair for another term and I am excited to think about what the future may hold in store.

We hope the future will include the contributions of alumni and friends, not just our present students and faculty. There are many ways to remain connected to our department. Some choose to volunteer. For example, our students are often eager to hear from alumni about their career paths. Please let us know if you would be willing to talk with students about your job either at an in-person event or online. If you live close enough to DeKalb and are interested in volunteering at a departmental event, we have a few occasions where we could use help. Just let us know that you are interested in volunteering by emailing history@niu.edu. You can also simply attend our public events such as the annual Lincoln Lecture.

We love to hear from alumni and friends. Please let us know about your accomplishments, whether a new job, an award, or a publication — or tell us about the way a professor or class continues to affect you. Celebrating our alumni not only brings us pleasure but also gives us examples to share with current students. We also know

that alumni genuinely enjoy hearing what their fellow alumni have been up to. Send your news to history@niu.edu.

We also remain deeply grateful for the donations that allow us to continue to support our students as well as our research, teaching and engagement missions even as state and university resources have declined. In gratitude for the generosity of our donors who give \$20 or more, we will happily mail you one of our departmental T-shirts if you send your address and T-shirt size to history@niu.edu.

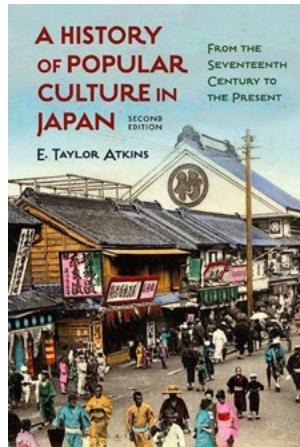
We had many reasons to be proud Huskies this year. To name just a few, Professor **Damián Fernández** was the recipient of a prestigious Humboldt Fellowship and spent the year in Berlin. Fall saw the celebration of Professor **Andy Bruno**'s book *Tunguska: A Siberian Mystery and Its Environmental Legacy* with a book talk and reception on campus. In the spring, we similarly honored Professor **Aaron Fogleman** and alumnus **Robert Hanserd** (Ph.D. 2011) for the publication of their book *500 African Voices: a Catalog of Published Narratives by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936*. I hope you will enjoy learning about the many other achievements of our faculty, staff and students recorded in this newsletter.

I want to close this letter with a special word of thanks for a departing faculty member. Our assistant chair, **Emma Kuby**, has accepted a new position at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Professor Kuby excelled in every area of faculty life: research, teaching, service and administration. She was also a delightful colleague. We miss her already, but we are also happy for her and wish her well on her new adventure.

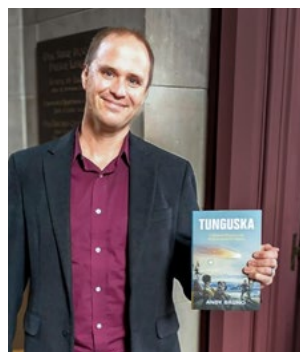
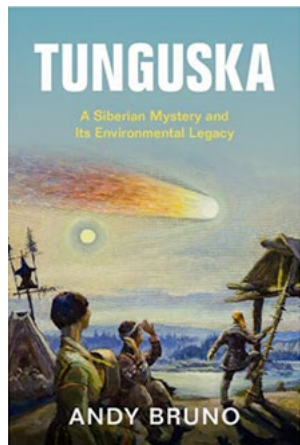
Valerie L. Garver

NEW BOOKS IN HISTORY

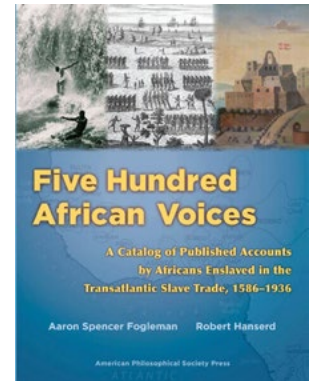
It was once again a year filled with new book publications for the Department of History. In October, Bloomsbury Press released a beautiful second edition of Professor **Taylor Atkins' *A History of Popular Culture in Japan, From the Seventeenth Century to the Present***. The fully revised edition of this widely praised, "immensely readable" (Choice) volume, first published in 2017, features a new chapter on popular culture in the Edo period, an expanded section on pre-Tokugawa culture, and more discussion on recent pop culture phenomena such as TV game shows, cuteness and J-Pop.



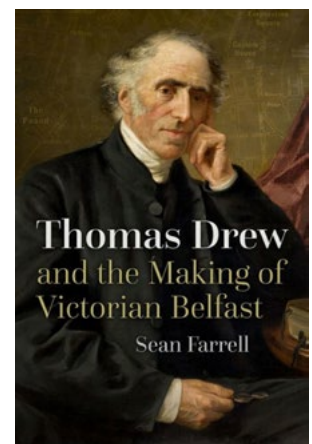
Likewise in October, the department celebrated Professor **Andy Bruno's** new *Tunguska: A Siberian Mystery and Its Environmental Legacy* from Cambridge University Press. In this deeply researched account of a mysterious 1908 explosion in Siberia and its legacy in Russian society, culture, and the environment, Bruno recounts the intriguing history of the disaster and researchers' attempts to understand it. His engaging and accessible account shows how the explosion has shaped the treatment of the landscape, how uncertainty allowed unusual ideas to enter scientific conversations, and how cosmic disasters have influenced the past and might affect the future. We had a wonderful time honoring his accomplishment along with family, students and environmental studies colleagues.



We reconvened in April 2023 at the Center for Black Studies to fête another exciting new book by Professor **Aaron Fogleman** and 2011 NIU History Ph.D. **Robert Hanserd**, now a faculty member at Columbia College. Their jointly authored *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936*, published by the American Philosophical Society, is a groundbreaking new compendium of nearly 500 discrete accounts by African slave ship survivors and more than 2,500 printings of them over four centuries in numerous Atlantic languages. This remarkable new inventory will serve as an invaluable resource for scholars and students of the transatlantic slave trade for many years to come, and it was a joy to celebrate its publication. For more on Hanserd and Fogleman's work together, see the interview on Page 12 of this newsletter.



More faculty books are coming onto shelves in the year ahead. In the short term, keep your eyes open for Professor **Sean Farrell's *Thomas Drew and the Making of Victorian Belfast***, which will be out in September 2023 with Syracuse University Press.



15TH HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The History Graduate Student Association was thrilled to hold its 15th annual conference this spring. The April 7 conference was chaired by Ph.D. student **Hollis Harris** and organized around the theme of “Imagining the Past: Fact, Fiction, and the Historian’s Pursuit of Truth.” An exciting array of conference panels, all chaired by faculty, brought NIU graduate students into dialogue with counterparts from around the country and even some who traveled from abroad. It was capped off with a public lecture by Professor

Erik S. McDuffie of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. McDuffie’s rousing Alfred F. Young Keynote Address titled, “Louise Little, the Diasporic Midwest, and the Politics of Possibility,” centered on a woman who is best known as Malcolm X’s mother but who was also a pan-African organizer and a grassroots activist in her own right. Other conference highlights included a special mentorship session co-sponsored by the History Club for undergraduates with an interest in teaching high school or college-level history courses.



FACULTY AWARDS



Professor **Taylor Atkins** was selected as an Honors Faculty Fellow at NIU for 2023.

Professor **Andy Bruno** was a finalist for the George Perkins Marsh Prize for best book in environmental history, awarded annually by the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH). His book *Tunguska: A Siberian Mystery and Its Environmental Legacy* was recognized at ASEH's March 2023 conference in Boston. Bruno was also the recipient of a Great Journeys award from NIU in fall 2022, in support of his next book project.



Professor Emerita **Heide Fehrenbach** was honored with a 2022 College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Faculty Award. The award recognized her years of extraordinary service not only to NIU but also to the historical profession as a whole, and her great accomplishments as a scholar, teacher and mentor. The college fêted Fehrenbach and this year's other recipients at a gala dinner Oct. 28, 2022.

Professor **Damián Fernández** was awarded a prestigious **Humboldt Fellowship** for the entire 2022-2023 academic year from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in Germany. He spent the fellowship year at the Freie Universität-Berlin.



Professor **Eric Jones**, who stepped into a new role this year as the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' executive director of Global Initiatives, was selected to participate in NIU's 2022-2023 Emerging Faculty Leadership Program overseen by the provost's office. This program provides an intensive, yearlong professional development experience for faculty seeking to expand their capacity for leadership in higher education. (Professor **Christina Abreu** was a participant during the program's inaugural 2021-2022 year, and Professor **Ismael Montana** will join the 2023-2024 cohort.) Jones also received a much more unusual distinction this spring: he was knighted by the Royal House of Gowa, Makassar, in Indonesia. As Jones explains, "The Kingdom of Gowa-Makassar is one of historically powerful kingdoms controlling the Spice Trade from its strategic port in what is now eastern Indonesia." The title bestowed on Jones by Raja Gowa (the 38th king of Gowa) is Daeng Marewa, meaning Bravelord. "Bestowing royal title, or being knighted, is a longstanding Southeast Asian tradition dating back to the earliest recorded sources. It is a way for traditional kingdoms to engage and diplomatically connect," Jones says. This knighthood recognizes Jones' many years of work in Indonesia and **the relationships he has helped to cultivate** between NIU and multiple Indonesian institutions.

Professor **Vera Lind** was one of the inaugural recipients of a new funding initiative from NIU, the **Curricular Innovation Grant**. She will use the award to revamp her "West in the World" course (History 110). "The new course design intends to spark creativity, ingenuity and imagination by engaging students in novel ways," Lind explains. "It will integrate arts into the teaching of history as an alternative way to approach thinking and learning ... Instead of using the traditional teaching tools of lectures, textbook, quizzes and essay writing assignments, I would like to invite students to reflect on ancient and medieval history through creating different works of art. This could be creative writing prompts, storyboards, poetry slams, painting, composing songs, printing, collage, photography, embroidery, building objects, digital projects, working on a newspaper, to name a few possibilities."



FACULTY AWARDS (continued)

History Professor **Amanda Littauer** also received a Curricular Innovation Grant, for work on an introductory survey of the field of LGBTQ+ Studies that she teaches through the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies program. Littauer will incorporate new research-based, trauma-informed **teaching practices** into the class in order to better serve students whose ability to succeed academically has been limited by trauma-related stress. We are excited about the ways that Littauer's experiences teaching this course will subsequently inform her teaching in the history department, too.

Professor **Ismael Montana** was awarded the **Deacon Davis Diversity Award** for 2023 by NIU's Presidential Commission on Race and Ethnicity in recognition of his momentous work chairing the Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Social Justice Committee. This committee, established in October 2020, was charged with reviewing NIU's policies, procedures and practices contributing to institutional racism and with taking actions to correct them. The Deacon Davis Diversity Award recognizes significant contributions made to the improvement of conditions on the NIU's campus for administrators, faculty and staff who belong to racial and ethnic groups that have been historically underrepresented. The award was presented on Friday, April 7 at the Presidential Commission on Race and Ethnicity Diversity Luncheon in Ellington's at the Holmes Student Center.



LINCOLN LECTURE AND OTHER EVENTS

Camilla Townsend, distinguished professor of history at Rutgers University, delivered a fascinating, smart and funny Lincoln Lecture Nov. 3, 2022 in Altgeld Auditorium. She is the author of several major books on Indigenous American history; her most recent, *Fifth Sun: A New History of the Aztecs*, won the Cundill History Prize. Her interests span Mexico, the Andean Region and the Chesapeake, and are currently focused on indigenous conceptualizations of history as they existed at first contact. Townsend's talk, "Loving to Hate the Aztecs, and Why We Should Give Up the Habit," focused on myths and misconceptions about Aztec history. It was a rousing success with students, faculty and community members alike.

Named for the distinguished historian of imperial Russia, W. Bruce Lincoln, who taught at NIU from 1967 to 1999, the **endowed Lincoln Lecture series** brings to campus distinguished scholars who address topics of interest to both the academic community and the general public. We are most grateful to his widow Mary Lincoln for creating and funding the lecture series. Contributions to the W. Bruce Lincoln Endowed Lecture Series should be sent to: Northern Illinois University Department of History, Zulauf Hall 715, DeKalb, Illinois 60115-2893; checks payable to the Northern Illinois University Foundation, with a notation in support of the W. Bruce Lincoln Endowment.

We are thrilled to announce that the 2023 Lincoln Lecture will be delivered by Greg Grandin, the Peter V. and C. Vann Woodward Professor of History at Yale University. A scholar of Latin American history, U.S. influence in the Americas, and Cold War politics, Grandin is the author of seven books, most recently including the Pulitzer Prize-winning *The End of the Myth: From the Frontier to the Border Wall in the Mind of America* (2019). His *Fordlandia: The Rise and Fall of Henry Ford's Forgotten Jungle City* (2015) was also a finalist for a Pulitzer, as well as for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award. We look forward to hosting Grandin at NIU on the evening of **Nov. 9**.

Our Graduate Colloquium series featured several distinguished speakers during the 2022-2023 academic year. Guests included Shawna Herzog, Washington State University; Gabriel Winant, University of Chicago and Phil Tiemeyer, Kansas State University. Many of us also enjoyed our own Professor **Anne Hanley's** Board of Trustees Professorship Lecture in April on "History and its Legacy: Brazil in the Nineteenth and Twenty-First Centuries."



PROFESSOR DAMIÁN FERNÁNDEZ REFLECTS ON RESEARCH IN GERMANY

Over the past year, I've been conducting research in Germany thanks to the support of the **Alexander von Humboldt Foundation**, a German government agency that promotes the collaboration of scientists and researchers from Germany and abroad. My host institution was the **Freie Universität Berlin** (Free University of Berlin), one of the two largest universities in the German capital. I've been working in close collaboration with Professor Stefan Esders, a leading scholar in the fields of late antique and early medieval legal and social history, who sponsored my application. In the following lines, I'd like to share some impressions of what conducting research in Germany looks like and give you a quick glimpse into some the activities this fellowship allowed me to pursue.

Germany has an extraordinary tradition in ancient and late antique history, my fields of specialization. In every major university you will find many scholars working in these fields with whom you can discuss ideas and share projects. As an illustration of the richness of the antique and medieval scholarship here, I will leave Germany with at least two new ongoing collaborations with local colleagues. Several of these collective projects were sparked by conversations that took place during or after guest talks organized at the university. In Germany, history departments organize several weekly events in ancient and medieval history, at which speakers from Germany and abroad present their ongoing research. In my brief time in Germany, I gave eight talks in four different universities (Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, and Tübingen) and attended dozens of talks by colleagues from different universities.

During my stay at Freie Universität, I benefited from a truly cosmopolitan environment. German scholars show considerable interest in research conducted in other countries and foster the exchange of ideas through numerous conferences and workshops with a marked international profile. Also as part of my fellowship, two German colleagues and I will co-organize a workshop on my current research project (post-Roman kingship), to which we invited speakers from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Great Britain, Spain and the U.S. This type of event is far from being the exception in major research centers.

The resources available to conduct ancient and medieval research are impressive. In addition to Freie Universität's

library, the city hosts major research libraries, such as the **Berlin State Library** (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin) and, more specific to my field, the library of the **Ibero-American Institute** (Ibero-Amerikanisches Institut). Moreover, European archives hold remarkable collections of ancient and medieval manuscripts. Access to these manuscripts has been fundamental to pursue my current project and embark on new ones not only in Germany but in other European countries too. Over the past year, I

was able to consult ancient manuscripts located in two medieval cathedrals in Spain (Vic and Seu d'Urgell), the National Library of France, and the Berlin State Library.

At a time when many voices call for the closing of borders and promote "looking inward," it is important to realize how much historical research depends on the exact opposite. Exchanging ideas and conducting innovative research benefits from exposure to new intellectual environments and academic cultures. I look forward to sharing my experience and research with colleagues and students next year at NIU.



NIU HISTORIANS REACH NEW AUDIENCES

Public history and community engagement have always been central to the work of many members of the history department. But 2022-23 saw a striking number of our faculty members undertaking creative and exciting efforts to bring their scholarship to new audiences, connecting history with major contemporary issues. Across multiple mediums, NIU's history department is bringing the past to life for the residents of Northern Illinois — and beyond.

One especially striking example of this comes from Professor **Rosemary Feurer** — no surprise, given her long record of achievement in public-facing scholarship. In November 2022, *A Table For Two At The Dill Pickle*, written by Irish writer and musician Larry Kirwan, had its world premiere at Chicago's Irish American Heritage Center. Feurer served as a historian on the project and helped provide context and insights as Kirwan was writing. *A Table for Two* imagines "a powerful conversation" between Irish republican and labor leader Big Jim Larkin and Mary Harris "Mother" Jones; Feurer is one of the world's leading experts on Jones, who was an Irish immigrant and a groundbreaking union and community organizer in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The play was directed by **Kay Martinovich**, a professor in NIU's School of Theatre and Dance. Proceeds from the performances were donated to a fund, spearheaded by Feurer, to erect a statue of Mother Jones at Chicago's Water Tower. The statue project has been authorized by the city and is in the final stages of planning.

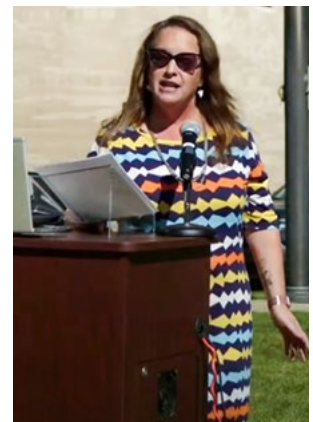


Other history professors found less theatrical but no less creative ways to reach broad audiences and engage the public. In October 2022, Professor **Natalie Joy** worked with History Club to get kids in the community excited about history at NIU's STEM Fest, one of our region's largest free family events of the year. Although it might seem that history is an odd fit for STEM Fest, which is billed as "a celebration of all things science, technology, engineering and math," Joy found innovative ways to engage many of the 4,000-plus attendees with STEM-oriented historical artifacts, activities, games and prizes. Meanwhile, Professor **Amanda Littauer** spoke Oct. 4, 2022 at **Waubensee Community College's LGBTQ**

flag raising ceremony, connecting her scholarship on queer history with her focus on mental health among LGBTQ+ young people today. Littauer also gave a public talk on "**LGBTQIA+ History**" geared toward both adults and teens at the Geneva Public Library in June 2023 to help celebrate Pride Month. She wasn't the only history faculty member to speak at a public library this year: in February, Professor **Eric Hall** gave a talk on "Arthur Ashe: Tennis and Justice in the Civil Rights Era" via Loudoun County Public Library's lecture series.

Still other faculty found listeners interested in connecting history to today's pressing problems right here on campus. For instance, Professor **Beatrix Hoffman** helped run a September 2022 teach-in titled "Voting Matters: Immigration Policy," sponsored by NIU Faculty Advocates for Undocumented Students. She and other NIU experts provided brief updates about recent changes to U.S. immigration and refugee policy and explained how we can all use our votes and voices to make a difference. Subsequently, in February 2023, Professors **Taylor Atkins** and **Stan Arnold** helped celebrate Black History Month on campus with a joint talk on "African American and Asian American Relations," past and present. And in April, three history faculty members — Professors **Bruno Hanley** and **Jacobsen Gidaszewski** — served as the majority of participants in a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences' inaugural **International Roundtable** in the "Rebuilding Democracy" lecture series.

The roundtable showcased the research of college faculty in areas related to democracy and a global society. Drawing on their expertise in Russian, Latin American and Southeast Asian history respectively, these professors helped lead a lively discussion of global challenges for democracy in our turbulent time.



500 AFRICAN VOICES: AN INTERVIEW WITH PROFESSOR AARON FOGLEMAN

This spring, ahead of the Department of History's book reception for Professor **Aaron Fogleman** and **Robert Hanserd** (Ph.D. 2011), NIU Today caught up with Fogleman to ask him some questions about the process of co-authoring *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936* and the significance of the work. Here are some choice excerpts from the interview:

Why did you write this book?

I began discovering these voices while researching another project and was shocked at the large number. Almost all scholars, teachers and students believed there were perhaps 20 published African voices available, if that, and even specialists who knew there were more did not know how many, nor did they have easy access to them. This project allows everyone to work with a large number of African voices like never before — to study the texts in all languages, to analyze the print histories of each text, and to use the indexes, maps and more to assess African perspectives in transatlantic slavery from hundreds of people who survived the slave ships.

How did you come to work on this project with Professor Hanserd?

Robert, who now teaches history at Columbia College, completed his dissertation under my direction at NIU in 2011. **Routledge later published his book** on the transfer of West African antislavery political culture to Jamaica and New York in the 18th century via the slave trade. We needed someone with expertise on the physical and cultural geography of Atlantic Africa to finish the project, and fortunately Robert agreed. He has spent a great deal of time in West Africa, where he led a student overseas program, and also contributed the photographic essay to *Five Hundred Voices*. Additionally, Robert has his Columbia College students completing creative audio-visual projects (using materials in our new book) that we will include in our website, once it is launched.

How did you find so many first-person accounts?

The short answer is that we looked. These are published accounts that began becoming available in the 18th century, and old written accounts continue to be published today. After an NIU history major working with me as a research assistant found over 50 accounts by people born in Africa in a large, well-known collection of "slave narratives," I found more in other well-known collections. Then I began looking in obscure printed sources and in modern publications. With other NIU students helping, and with transatlantic slavery scholars making suggestions and sharing their work, the number kept growing. Once we launch our website, we will begin looking for more published African voices and expect to find them.

Why was it important to you to tell these life stories?

As students of the history of the Atlantic World, we believe it is important to take Africa, African homelands and the many diverse peoples there seriously to understand historical developments in this large region of the globe. For this, African perspectives and African voices are critical. It is important to go to the origins in Africa to understand the perspectives and influences there, as they were critical to shaping the lives and perspectives of these forced migrants after they departed or rather were taken to what became for them new worlds.

Have these stories been told before?

Yes, because an individual African told each one to someone who recorded it for later publication, and at least a few people in the past have read them. But they have never been collected and edited in this manner, and scholars have only used a small portion of them.

What new ground does the book break?

This collection allows us to understand and explain the tremendous diversity in the experiences of men, women and children who survived the slave ships. There is no one slave ship story or one story of life in Africa interrupted by the slave ship. These 500 African voices tell us that many people appropriated revolutionary and other ideologies to attack slavery. They tell us that their African homelands and culture mattered to them. They tell us that class distinctions within their African homelands continued to play a role even in slavery in the Americas. They tell us that the published "slave narrative" was never merely an Anglo-American literary genre. They tell us that resistance on the slave ships was more common and varied than scholars have realized. They tell us how books with African voices circulated in the Atlantic World. Our new book provides a vast amount of material with which to study the large (not small) number of African voices in ways that will contribute to how future scholars break new ground in their own ways.



UNDERGRADUATE NEWS AND AWARDS

Scholarships

Marvin Rosen Scholarship

Becca Katz

Oscar Matasar Scholarship

Lea Blumka

James P. and Mary Clare Sczepaniak Scholarship

Blake Axelsen

Brian Bustos

Jacob Frankfother

Danielle Germain

Jose Gonzalez

Lucas Sus

Angelo and Linda Capua History Studies Scholarship

Riley Belick

Bryce Bicksler

Juan Cervantes

Nopah Laney

Brick Schiola-Williams

Awards and Prizes

CLAS Dean's Award

Grant Goral

Outstanding History Student

Grant Goral

HIST 495 Research Paper Prize

Randy Wilson

William P. Wirth History Prize

Nicholas Merrell

James Shirley Essay Prize

Chanel Bandel

Grant Goral

Bryce King

Patrick J. White History Education Awards

Winners: Seven Keller (fall 2022)

and Michael Maveus (spring 2023)

Runners Up: Scott Fleming (fall 2022)

and Mateo Marson (spring 2023)

Honorable Mention: Ashley Boyer (fall 2022)

and Luis Herrera (spring 2023)



UNDERGRADUATE NEWS AND AWARDS (continued)

Grant Goral, pictured on the cover of this newsletter, was selected as the Student Marshal for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at May 2023 Commencement.

Désirée Griffin won first place in the Humanities division at NIU's 2023 Conference on Undergraduate Research and Engagement for her project "The Lao Diaspora: Cultural Identity in America," mentored by Professor **Trude Jacobsen Gidaszewski**. Griffin was also selected as the Franklin Engagement Fellow for 2023.

Cameron Racelis won third place in the interdisciplinary division at NIU's 2023 Conference on Undergraduate Research and Engagement for his project "Municipal Madness: An Analysis of Metropolitan Industrialization in British Burma 1870-1920," mentored by Professor **Trude Jacobsen Gidaszewski**.



GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

2022-2023 M.A. Graduates

Abiodun Ademiluwa
Cody Austin
Sheila Bombaar
Chloe Green
Erik Masters
Caitlyn Stable
Katelyn Strietelmeier

2022-2023 Ph.D. Graduate

John Alcalde
Joshua Fulton
Kevin Luginbill



GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS (continued)

Fellowships and Awards

Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Alexander Craver

Hugh Jameson Graduate Student Essay Prize

Hollis Harris

Outstanding M.A. Student

Caitlyn Stabile

Outstanding Ph.D. Student

Alexander Lundberg

Norris Graduate Fellowship

Kathryn Bean

Earl W. Hayter and Alfred F. Young Research Grant

(Hayter-Young)

LeNie Adolphson

Chela Aufderheide

Kathryn Bean

Thomas Brown

Gabriel Edwards

Court Hansen

Anna Henderson

Yakubu Naporo

Caitlyn Stabile

Alfred F. Young Dissertation Research Grant

LeNie Adolphson

Thomas Brown

Court Hansen

Alexander Lundberg

Graduate Student Award for Excellence in Teaching

Chela Aufderheide

Anna Henderson

Alexander Lundberg

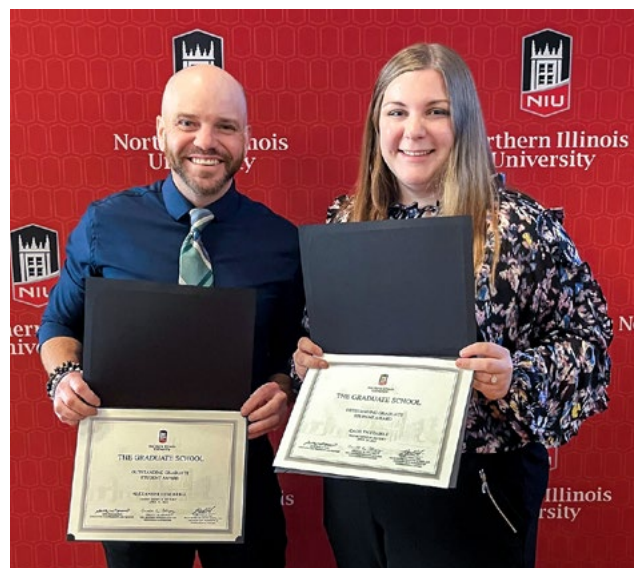
Damian Malak

Caitlyn Stabile

Angelo and Linda Capua Graduate Fellowship

Thomas Brown

Court Hansen



Abiodun Ademiluwa (M.A. 2022) was admitted to the history Ph.D. program at Emory University with a multi-year fellowship. She will begin her studies there in the fall of 2023.

First-year Ph.D. student **Jon Adsit** received Title VIII and Fulbright funding through American Councils to attend a Russian language program in Almaty, Kazakhstan, in summer 2023.

Peter Alexander (M.A.) has been awarded a fellowship by the Inya Institute (a Council of American Overseas Research Center site) in order to carry out archival research for his M.A. thesis, "From Monarchy to Bourgeoisie: How Stewardship of the Shwedagon Pagoda Passed to Colonial Rangoon's Burmese Elite." This fellowship is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the U.S. State Department.

J. Hollis Harris passed his Ph.D. candidacy examinations in March 2023. He presented a paper entitled "'The Fair Hills of our Little Green Island': Imagined Environments in Irish America, 1893-1910" at the Midwest Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies. The paper was well received, and he was invited to talk about his research at a **Clingen Conversation on the Irish Language in the USA** at the University of Notre Dame. In June 2023, Hollis also was elected the graduate student representative to the executive of the American Conference for Irish Studies.

Ph.D. student **Anna Henderson**, along with history Professor Stan Arnold, received a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences "Issues in Race and Racism" research grant to work in South Carolina archives this summer.

Derick Waters (M.A.), while completing his first year of part-time studies at NIU, has managed to save two lives (that we know of) while working at his full-time job as a deputy sheriff in McHenry County — no kidding.

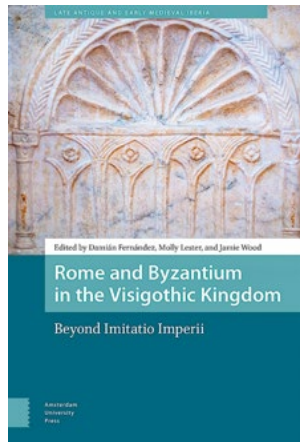


FACULTY NEWS

Professor **Andy Bruno** published his second book in 2022, *Tunguska: A Siberian Mystery and Its Environmental Legacy*. The American Society for Environmental History named *Tunguska* a finalist for the George Perkins Marsh Prize for the Best Book in Environmental History and reviews of it appeared in the New York Review of Books and Times Literary Supplement. He also was promoted to full professor starting in August 2023. Beyond scholarship and teaching, Bruno has spent much time this past year continuing to serve as the director of graduate studies and vice president of the United Faculty Alliance.

The road goes ever on and on for Professor **Sean Farrell**, who taught Victorian Britain and HIST 495 (Senior Thesis) in fall 2022, two of the strongest groups of undergraduate students he's had in 20 years at NIU. Administrative work dominated the spring, as he stepped in as acting assistant chair and served on two major department committees. In May, Farrell presented new research to the Irish Studies Seminar at the Newberry Library in Chicago. He also gave presentations at conferences at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse, San Jose State University and Radboud University in Nijmegen, The Netherlands. He is currently copyediting his new book, *Thomas Drew and the Making of Victorian Belfast* (Syracuse, 2023), which will be out in September.

Professor **Damián Fernández** has been on research leave this year in Germany on a fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. He has been conducting research on two major writing projects on late antique history at Freie Universität-Berlin. Over the course of the year, he co-organized two academic conferences and gave several talks in different cities of Germany, in the U.S. and in Brazil. He has published a few articles and other scholarly works, and he's particularly excited about the recent publication of his co-edited volume *Rome and Byzantium in the Visigothic Kingdom: Beyond imitatio imperii*, with Amsterdam University Press.



Professor **Aaron Fogleman** taught the U.S. survey (to 1865) and a graduate research seminar on the Atlantic World in the fall; in the spring, he offered “Historical Methods” and a writing intensive Honors seminar on the American Revolution. In January, the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia published a book Fogleman co-wrote with NIU alum **Robert Hanserd** (Ph.D. 2011) entitled *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936*. The book catalogs nearly 500 published accounts by slave ship survivors, including a biography and full print history of each, along with URLs and QR codes that take readers to the full text of each account, maps, images, indexes and more. They are now in the planning stages of an open-access website project with this material that will be tied to a number of other digitization projects involving Africans and African Americans throughout the Atlantic World.

Professor **Valerie Garver**'s year started well, with the delivery of a keynote lecture for the conference Beyond Exceptionalism II at the University of Manchester (U.K.). She was delighted to be one of the faculty mentors for a textile workshop hosted by The Textile Museum at George Washington University and sponsored by the Medieval Academy of America. Teaching the next generation of scholars how to understand medieval textiles was among the highlights of her year. Also rewarding was participating for the first time in the Wallace Johnson Program for First Book Authors as a mentor for an early career colleague. Her article “Little Children, Jewish Attire, and the Monks of Saint-John (Müstair),” was published in *In this Modern Age: Medieval Studies in Honour of Paul Edward Dutton* (Trivent Press). She also delivered two invited lectures via Zoom; one for the Institute for Historical Research Seminar at the University of London and the other for the University of Central Oklahoma, as well as one in-person paper at a conference in São Paulo, Brazil. Finally, for fans of Game of Thrones, you can hear her discuss the book *Clash of Kings* by George R. R. Martin in relation to medieval history on the “HOTD: A House of the Dragon Podcast – Electric Bookaloo.”

Specific episodes featuring Professor Garver:
HOTD: A House of the Dragon Podcast – Electric Bookaloo: **Ayra II (Clash)**
HOTD: A House of the Dragon Podcast – Electric Bookaloo: **Bran III (Clash)**
HOTD: A House of the Dragon Podcast – Electric Bookaloo: **Tyrion III (Clash)**

Professor **Anne Hanley** returned to campus after being on sabbatical for the 2021-2022 academic year. It was wonderful to be back on campus, to see students in person and to talk to her department colleagues in the hallways. In her capacity as president of the Gamma chapter of Phi Beta Delta, the honor society for international scholars, she arranged several lunches at Ellington's for members to get to know one another better. Her classes on the history of political voice, power and citizenship and on the history of Brazil were a joy to teach, although it took a bit to regain her sea legs after teaching only virtually since the pandemic began.

It was a real pleasure to give several public talks during the year. Hanley traveled to California in October 2022 to give a talk on Brazil's high-stakes elections to the Marin Chapter of the World Affairs Council. In April 2023 she delivered her board of trustees public lecture, telling the story of her journey into the world of research into Brazilian underdevelopment. Also in April, she participated in the CLAS "Rebuilding Democracy" series as a member of a panel talking about the challenges to democracy around the globe.

As she writes this in May, Hanley is in Brazil picking up where she left off in 2019 — in the archives conducting research for her book on 19th century standardization. She will spend a month in the public archives of the state of Sao Paulo exploring documents from small towns to see how mandates on standards from the central government percolated through the country.

As has been the case for years, some of her proudest moments came from her work with graduate students. Doctoral candidates Flávia Xavier and Felipe Valdez, both geographers of Latin America, are making progress on their dissertations. Doctoral candidate extraordinaire, **Alex Lundberg**, defended his dissertation prospectus and has begun writing. He was recognized as Outstanding Ph.D. Student in History by the Graduate School and traveled to Brazil over the summer to continue his research. Professor Hanley continues to be very proud of him.

In fall 2022, Professor **Beatrix Hoffman** gave talks at the History of Medicine departments at Johns Hopkins University and Yale University, and was interviewed on the **Johns Hopkins podcast "For the Medical Record."**

In May 2023, she delivered the Garrison Lecture at the American Association for the History of Medicine Annual Meeting. The lecture, entitled "The Menace to Immigrants," presented evidence of how the U.S. labor and immigration systems have been threats to immigrants' health and well-being. She also shared some of the "un-essay" projects completed by students in her History of Public Health and Pandemics class in a roundtable on "Teaching Undergraduate Research in the History of Medicine." These included a *Choose Your Own Adventure* book for surviving a pandemic, a hand-knit memorial scarf for the Spanish Flu modeled on the AIDS Memorial Quilt and even an original dance interpreting the suffering of tuberculosis. People attending the roundtable were extremely impressed by our students' creativity.

Professor **Emma Kuby** spent the spring 2023 semester in Boston, New York and Washington, D.C., conducting research for her second book project on American Jewish activism and intellectual life in postwar France. In the midst of her hectic domestic travels, she also made it to London to give the keynote at "Beyond Camps and Forced Labour," a multidisciplinary conference on survivors of Nazi persecution held at Birkbeck, University of London and the Weiner Holocaust Library. Other talks brought her to Toronto, Cincinnati and Detroit. After a wonderful, richly rewarding decade at NIU, she departed for the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall. She will miss her NIU history colleagues and students immensely — and is very grateful that one of her final tasks for the department has been to edit this newsletter overflowing with examples of their remarkable endeavors, brilliant ideas and formidable accomplishments.

Professor **Ismael Montana** completed his term as faculty senate president and university council chair for the 2022-2023 academic year and was awarded the **Deacon Davis Diversity Award** for 2023 by the Presidential Commission on Race and Ethnicity for chairing the Ad Hoc Faculty Senate Social Justice Committee. This committee, established in October 2020, was charged with reviewing NIU's policies, procedures and practices contributing to institutional racism and to take actions to correct them. During the fall 2022 semester, Montana also facilitated a signing of **Level 1 Memorandum of Understanding** between NIU and the University of Cheikh Diop of Dakar (UCAD), one of West Africa's oldest universities.



FACULTY NEWS (continued)

In the 2022-23 academic year, Professor **Brian Sandberg** taught undergraduate courses “History of the Western World I” and “Film and History: War in Film.” Sandberg enjoyed working closely with Honors student **Anna Scanlan** on her Honors Capstone Project, “WWII Espionage/Intelligence Film Analysis,” throughout the past year. He also taught “Mediterranean World,” led a graduate research seminar on “Civil Conflict” and co-directed (with Jonathan Davies) a Dissertation Seminar on Violence in the Early Modern World at the Newberry Library during 2022-2023.

Meanwhile, Sandberg conducted research in southern France and published a chapter on “Delivering Arms and Organizing Campaigns: Noblewomen, Artillery, and the Gendering of Violence during the French Wars of Religion,” in *Shadow Agents of Renaissance War: Suffering, Supporting, and Supplying Conflict in Italy and Beyond*, ed. Stephen Bowd, Sarah Cockram, and John Gagné (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2022). He also published two French-language chapters on aspects of the French Wars of Religion in *Un tragique XVIe siècle*, ed.

Caroline Callard, Tatiana Debaggi Baranova, and Nicolas Le Roux (Seysse: Champ Vallon, 2022) and in *Catherine de Médicis (1519-1589). Politique et art dans la France de la Renaissance*, ed. Caroline Zum-Kolk and Guillaume Fonkenell (Paris: Le Passage, 2022). In addition, Sandberg published a bibliographic essay on “Women and Warfare,” in an online resource: *Oxford Bibliographies in Renaissance and Reformation*, ed. Margaret King (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022).

Sandberg presented new research at a conference on Représentations et usages de la Saint-Barthélemy en Europe et dans le Monde (1572-2022) in Paris, at the Sixteenth Century Society Conference in Minneapolis, and at the Society for French Historical Studies Conference in Detroit. He also began serving on the “Renaissance Quarterly” Advisory Board in 2023 and became an Affiliate of the European Union Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He continues to write essays and blog posts on early modern history in research, teaching, and the media, which are available on his professional **website**.

ALUMNI NEWS



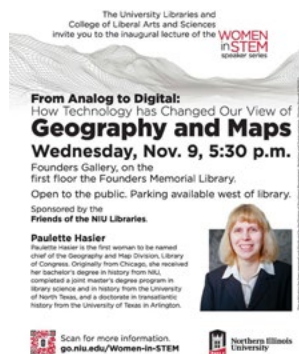
Our department encourages alumni of our undergraduate and graduate programs to share their stories. We constantly need to demonstrate to current students and their families the applicability, flexibility and potential lucrativeness of a history degree in the private and public sectors. Nothing makes this case better than alumni testimonials. Please share your stories by emailing us at history@niu.edu or by sending a letter to NIU Department of History, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Heeyoung Choi (Ph.D. 2020) received the 2022 Emerging Scholars Fellowship from Seoul National University Kyujanggak Korean Studies and was been appointed Adjunct Faculty at the Korea National University of Arts, serving as course director for the core course “English-language Research on Performing Arts.”

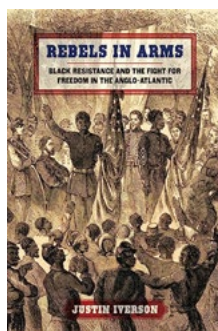
Natalie Cincotta (B.A. 2015), a 2022 History Ph.D. at University of Texas at Austin, was awarded the 2022 German History Society Article Prize for “**Ideal Men and Dream Women: Computer Matchmaking in Twen during the West German Sex Wave, 1967–1970,**” published in *German History*.

Janette (Jenny) Clay (B.A. 2013, M.A. 2016) writes that she finished her Ph.D. in history at Loyola University in Chicago in 2021 and next fall will begin her second year as visiting assistant professor at North Park University in Chicago. She teaches the U.S. history survey and global history courses, and still lives in DeKalb where her husband works in the NIU Founders Memorial Library.

Paulette Hasier (B.A. 1989), chief of the Maps and Geography Division at the Library of Congress, was the inaugural speaker for NIU’s “Women in STEM” series Nov. 9, 2022 in Founders Memorial Library. She spoke on “How Technology has Changed Our View of Geography and Maps,” and also about how history degrees can help prepare women for STEM careers.



Justin Iverson (Ph.D. 2020) is a historian with the federal government at Langley Air Force Base in Hampton, Virginia. In November 2022, the University of Georgia Press published his revised NIU dissertation, now entitled *Rebels in Arms: Black Resistance and the Fight for Freedom in the Anglo-Atlantic*. The book tells the



long story of how enslaved soldiers and Maroons learned how to use military service and armed conflict to fight for their own interests.

Matthew Jagel (Ph.D. 2015) recently published *Khmer Nationalist: Son Ngoc Thanh, the CIA, and the Transformation of Cambodia* with NIU Press, an imprint of Cornell University Press. The book is a political biography of an important Cambodian nationalist. It has been hailed by early readers as “a major contribution” that “exemplifies the best new scholarship in Cold War history.”



Robert Hanserd (Ph.D. 2011), associate professor in the Department of History, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Columbia College in Chicago, published with NIU history faculty member Aaron Fogleman *Five Hundred African Voices: A Catalog of Published Accounts by Africans Enslaved in the Transatlantic Slave Trade, 1586-1936* with the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia.

WNIJ Morning Edition host **Dan Klefstad** (M.A. 1993) retired in April 2023 after 30 years at the station and more than 25 years on the air at the crack of dawn. According to WNIJ, Klefstad is now planning to sleep in until the luxurious hour of 6 a.m. He will also be writing his **next novel** and is moving to Kentucky to be closer to family. “I thought 30 years is a good run at a WNIJ and talking to our beloved audience,” Klefstad said. “That includes a quarter century of Morning Edition alone. And I really haven’t had a good night’s sleep for 25 years.”

Susan Kwosek (Ph.D. 2020), assistant professor at South Carolina State University, received a 2023 NEH Summer Institute Grant to participate in a program in South Carolina this summer.

Alumnus **Joseph “Tip” McFadden**, the second recipient ever of an NIU Ph.D. in history (1968), received NIU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Alumni Award in October. A native of Joliet, McFadden came to NIU in 1961 and wrote his dissertation on perhaps the



ALUMNI NEWS (continued)

most DeKalb, Illinois, subject possible: barbed wire. In 2021, he published a book, *Barbed Wire: From Invention to Monopoly: the Story of American Style Capitalism in the Gilded Age* (2021), based on that dissertation. Why did it take so long you may ask? His long and distinguished service to higher education prevented him from completing a book sooner. Although his focus was more on teaching and administration, his scholarship on barbed wire and monopoly formation in United States history nevertheless made a mark. His earlier articles on these subjects are cited in a number of related publications.

Yet McFadden distinguished himself mainly as an administrator and teacher. From 1970 to 1974, he was dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences and professor of history at Kearney State College in Nebraska (now the University of Nebraska-Kearney). During his time at Kearney State, he introduced the Advanced Placement College Level Examination (CLEP), and he established programs in environmental studies, computer science, criminal justice and allied health. He was forward-thinking and worked to obtain funding for environmental studies research projects on the Big Blue River and the establishment of an innovative home for juvenile girls. He then moved on to become the dean of social and behavioral sciences at Slippery Rock State University in Pennsylvania from 1974 to 1977. He subsequently took his first presidential post — Northern State College in South Dakota. He then served as president of the University of South Dakota before becoming president of the University of St. Thomas, Houston (1988-1997). By all accounts, McFadden was a capable and admired president at each institution. A dorm at the University of South Dakota has been named for him. McFadden then returned to the Department of History



at St. Thomas where he was a much beloved professor for many years. He played a key role in founding that university's Center for Irish Studies.

Noah Neiber (M.A. 2022) was admitted to the history Ph.D. program at the University of Iowa, where he will pursue research on late antique history.

Amy Powers (Ph.D. 2007), professor of history at Waubensee Community College, was named Faculty Member of the Year by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC). With this award, the AACC honors Powers' extraordinary work developing inclusive, rigorous, strength-based history courses, including her "American History to 1865," which serves as a national model used for peer review training. "I see students' faces light up when they make connections between events in the past and today," said Powers, whose classes link local, national and global histories. "I watch students react with surprise when they discover that their communities in northern Illinois have a fascinating story and that their neighborhoods, local institutions and even ancestors have played an important role in history. I treasure these moments, knowing I am doing my part to prepare them for a rewarding future." Powers was recognized April 3, 2023 at the Awards of Excellence Gala at the AACC Annual Conference in Denver.



Lael Weinberger (M.A. 2013) moved from Boston to Washington, D.C., where he has begun work at the U.S. Supreme Court as a law clerk (staff attorney) for Justice Neil Gorsuch.





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