



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of History

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2017-18 Newsletter

Department of History

2017-18 Newsletter

Department of History

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From the Department Chair



Greetings from the History Department! As always, our annual newsletter offers a chance to reflect on the highlights of our department. We had a remarkable year, with substantial accomplishments in the areas of teaching and scholarship.

The NIU History Department features faculty with strong research output who are also accessible to students at all levels. Our faculty regularly publish their work in the discipline's leading presses and journals, and they are highly successful in winning external support for their work. Unlike programs in larger, top-flight research schools, our faculty teach relatively small classes at all levels, including introductory surveys. As a result, students can interact directly with leaders in the field.

Many colleagues in the department serve the university in various administrative capacities both

inside the department and beyond, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank them for their tireless efforts in support of the Huskie community. We'd also like to welcome the newest additions to the department: Dr. Christina Abreu, the new Director of the Center for Latino and Latin American Studies, and Dr. Eric Hall, who joined as a visiting associate professor in Fall 2017 and will come into the faculty in a tenured position in Fall 2018.

As many of you know, the state of Illinois has dramatically reduced its support for higher education. At the same time, overall university enrollment has fallen significantly. We are very grateful for the continuing levels of support we receive via the NIU Foundation. Those funds allow us to continue to support our research, teaching and engagement missions even as state and university resources decline. Consequently, it is more important than ever that we have the support of alumni and friends of the department.

Thanks for your support!

James Schmidt

A Year of Excellence

- * Five books published in 2017-18 (four single-author monographs, and one edited volume);
- * Fellowships awarded: Guggenheim, Fulbright, American Council of Learned Societies, National Endowment for the Humanities, Bonnie Wheeler, NASA, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton
- * Two recipients of the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Awards;
- * One of our Ph.D. students received the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award;
- * Recipient of the Wilma Stricklin Award;
- * Recipient of the International Educator Award.

From the Director of Undergraduate Studies



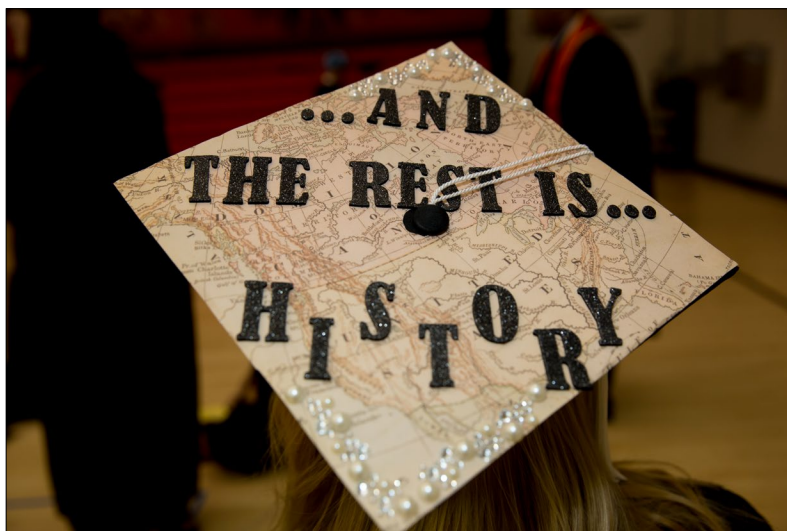
In August 2013 when I became director of Undergraduate Studies, I had little idea of the many difficulties and pleasures of the job. Despite the challenges facing higher education, the humanities and historians, our students have been the very best part of this job—the shining beacons that make it all worthwhile. Whether Rachel Jacob, who added Lincoln

Laureate to her many accolades this year, or the two students who had tears in their eyes when I gave them their senior thesis permits yesterday (both had returned to complete their degrees after years-long absences), or the prospective student I spoke with last week who can't wait to become a high school teacher, our majors are a continual source of delight. Equally, many alumni come to mind; not least those who have returned to campus to talk with our students and those who have generously given to our scholarship funds. To all students, past and present, thanks for making my work worth it. In July, I will step down as director of Undergraduate Studies in order to become chair of the department. And although I look forward to new challenges and pleasures, I am sure that our undergraduate students and alumni will remain among the principal reasons I find administrative work worthwhile.

I want to thank professor Andy Bruno who ably filled my shoes during my fall sabbatical at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. Our assistant chair, Taylor Atkins, equally deserves recognition for his diligent and thoughtful undergraduate advising. In addition, everyone in the History Department remains grateful to our faculty mentors who advise students each semester as they get ready to register for classes: Anita Andrew, Stanley Arnold, Andy Bruno, Heide Fehrenbach, Aaron Fogleman, Eric Hall, Anne Hanley, Beatrix Hoffman, Kristin Huffine, Trude Jacobsen, Emma Kuby and Vera Lind.

In addition to all this gratitude, a request: We love to hear what our alumni are up to, and I am especially interested in sharing with our present majors where history alumni have ended up working. In the present economy, many students want to major in history but wonder what they can do with that degree and worry about the kind of careers that are possible for history majors. Providing concrete examples from among our alumni is one of the best ways to underline the various career paths a history major can take. So please drop us a line letting us know where you are now employed and your line of work (history@niu.edu). Our present and prospective majors would be grateful for the information.

Valerie L. Garver



From the Director of Graduate Studies



I hope this note finds you well and in good spirits. This will be my last newsletter as director of Graduate Studies. I'm stepping down at the end of the year.

It's a bittersweet moment for me. I have enjoyed my time as DGS, particularly all the work with our talented M.A. and Ph.D. students. It's been and remains a very difficult time, but I very much appreciate your support

and can assure you that our M.A. and Ph.D. programs remain substantial and vibrant.

Three Ph.D. students and six M.A. students completed their degrees this past year. The Ph.D. students are **Victoria Stewart**, "Conscripting Billy Yank and Johnny Reb: The Plight and Consequence of Conscription Dodgers, Disruptors and Resistors" (director: professor Jim Schmidt); **Lily Ann Villaraza**, "Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow: A Study of Aurelio Tolentino's Articulation of Nationalism and Identity Through Theater in the Philippines in the American Colonial Period" (director: professor Trude Jacobsen); and **J. Marc Reynolds**, "Systems of Indebtedness: Wage Garnishment and Its Effects on Minority Communities in Chicago, 1957-70" (director: professor Rosemary Feurer). I am happy to note that Victoria was hired as assistant professor of History at Northwest Florida State College.

Recent M.A. graduates have taken other career paths. **Zach Bishop** (M.A., 2017), museum curator at Downers Grove Museum and DuPage County History Museum, was recently featured in the *Chicago Tribune*; while **Victoria Kothrade** (M.A., 2017) is Special Exhibits Manager at the Louisville Slugger Baseball Museum and teaches classes at Bellarmine University in Louisville, Kentucky. Congratulations to all and please keep in touch!

Over the past year we have welcomed 14 new students (12 in the M.A. program and two in the Ph.D. program), a talented group of young historians whose interests range from U.S.-Cambodian relations to the histories of female prison guards in German concentration camps during World War II. They have joined a successful academic community, featuring students who are actively engaged in the discipline both at NIU and further abroad. Our graduate students published articles in prestigious journals like *International Social Sciences Review* and the *American University Law Review* and gave papers at a variety of academic conferences this year, including the American Conference for Irish Studies, the American Historical Association, as well as symposia at Boston College and the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Of course, historians engage various publics with their work outside academe. A number of our Public History M.A. students helped design a number of exhibits at a variety of sites, including the Glidden House in DeKalb, and the Sycamore Historical Museum.

One of the highlights of the year was the 10th annual NIU History Graduate Student Conference, which featured presentations from M.A. and Ph.D. students from NIU and a number of colleges and universities from around the Midwest. The fifth annual Alfred F. Young Keynote Address was given by professor Douglas Egerton of Le Moyne College whose talk was entitled, "'The Black Iron Hand': Midwestern Soldiers and the Crusade to Save America." Another conference highlight was a panel discussion on "Varieties of Slavery and Unfreedom" featuring Professor Egerton and NIU faculty members Eric Jones, Natalie Joy, Ismael Montana and Jim Schmidt. It was a great day due to the hard work of graduate students and faculty alike, particularly **Justin Iverson**, the HGSA Chair of the Conference Committee, and professor Emma Kuby, HGSA Faculty Advisor.

In an era of declining support for public higher education, financial support for academic research has become even more vital. The NIU History Department has supported graduate student research through the Hayter-Young and Large Grant programs, which provide research funds for essential archival work. This past year, seven graduate students received grants totaling over \$7,000 from the two programs, which made possible research trips to London and Louisiana, Maryland and Michigan, Florida, Springfield, and Lincoln, Nebraska. The creativity and quality of our graduate student research is dependent on these fellowships and we are grateful for your generosity.

In 2017-18, the quality of our graduate students has been recognized both inside and outside NIU. One of our Ph.D. students, **Nicole Dressler**, received the Advisory Council Dissertation Fellowship from the McNeil Center for Early American Studies in Philadelphia. **Will Wojtkiewicz** (M.A.) and **Heeyoung Choi** (Ph.D.) won the department's Outstanding Student Awards this past year. This spring, **Susan Kwosek** ("Voodoo, Vodou, and the Development of the Black Atlantic, 1804-1915") was awarded one of the university's six Dissertation Completion Fellowships, while **Nicole Dressler** won an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. I hope it is easy to see why I am so proud to be associated with our programs. Thank you so much for your continued support. Have a great year and please keep in touch!

Sincerely,
Sean Farrell

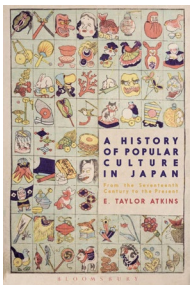
History Graduate Student Association (HGSA) Annual Conference

The History Graduate Student Association's tenth annual conference Nov. 3, 2017 was a great success. **Justin Iverson**, the conference chair, worked with many other dedicated NIU Ph.D. and M.A. students to organize the event around the timely theme of "Power and Resistance" drawing participants from graduate programs across the country as well as many undergraduate spectators. Douglas Egerton of Le Moyne College offered the keynote address on "'The Black Iron Hand': Midwestern Soldiers and the Crusade

to Save America." Several members of our own faculty joined him later in the day for an absorbing roundtable discussion of slavery and unfree labor. The graduate students are already hard at work preparing next fall's conference which will feature a keynote by Susan Lee Johnson of the University of Wisconsin.

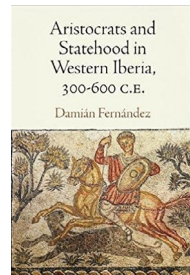
Emma Kuby,
assistant professor and HGSA advisor

New Faculty Books in 2017-18



E. Taylor Atkins, *[A History of Popular Culture in Japan From the Seventeenth Century to the Present](#)* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2017). The phenomenon of "Cool Japan" is one of the distinctive features of global popular culture of the millennial age. *A History of Popular Culture in Japan* provides the first historical and analytical overview of popular culture in Japan from its

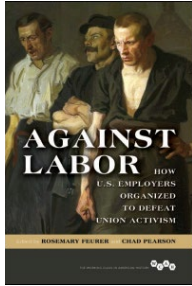
origins in the 17th century to the present day, using it to explore broader themes of conflict, power, identity and meaning in Japanese history. Atkins shows how Japan is one of the earliest sites for the development of mass-produced, market-oriented cultural products consumed by urban middle and working classes, who fashioned their own expressive forms and laid the groundwork for today's "gross national cool." Popular culture was pivotal in the rise of Japanese nationalism, imperialism, militarism, postwar democracy and economic development.



Damián Fernández, *[Aristocrats and Statehood in Western Iberia, 300-600 C.E.](#)* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2017) combines archaeological and literary sources to reconstruct the history of late antique Iberian aristocracies, facilitating the study of a social class that has proved elusive when approached through the lens of a single type of evidence. This is the first

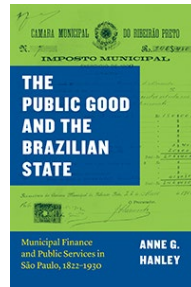
study of Iberian elites that covers both the late Roman and the post-Roman periods in similar depth, and the chronological approach allows for a new perspective on social agency of late antique nobility. While the end of the Roman empire changed the political, economic and social strategies of local aristocrats, the book also demonstrates a considerable degree of continuity that lasted until the late sixth century.

New Faculty Books in 2017-18 (continued)



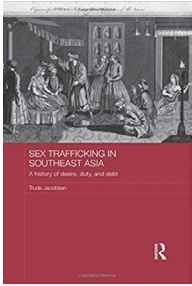
Rosemary Feurer and Chad Pearson, eds., *Against Labor: How U.S. Employers Organized to Defeat Union Activism* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2017) highlights the tenacious efforts by employers to organize themselves as a class to contest labor. Ranging across a spectrum of understudied issues, essayists explore employer anti-labor strategies and offer incisive

portraits of people and organizations that aggressively opposed unions. Other contributors examine the anti-labor movement against a backdrop of larger forces such as the intersection of race and ethnicity with anti-labor activity and anti-unionism in the context of neoliberalism. A timely and revealing collection, *Against Labor* deepens our understanding of management history and employer activism and their metamorphic effects on workplace and society.



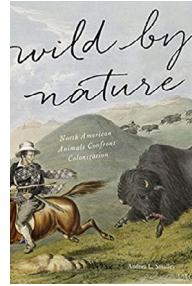
Anne G. Hanley, *The Public Good and the Brazilian State: Municipal Finance and Public Services in São Paulo, 1822-1930* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2018). Who and what a government taxes and how the government spends the money collected are questions of primary concern to governments large and small, national and local. When public revenues pay for high-quality

infrastructure and social services, citizens thrive and crises are averted. When public revenues are inadequate to provide those goods, inequality thrives and communities can verge into unrest—as evidenced by the riots during Greece’s financial meltdown and by the needless loss of life in Haiti’s collapse in the wake of the earthquake. *The Public Good and the Brazilian State* assembles an economic history of public revenues as they developed in 19th-century Brazil. Through detailed analyses of municipal ordinances, mayoral reports, citizen complaints and financial documents, Hanley sheds light on the evolution of public finance and its effect on the early economic development of Brazilian society.



Trude Jacobsen, *Sex Trafficking in Southeast Asia: A History of Desire, Duty, and Debt* (London: Routledge, 2017) brings an important new perspective to the study of sex trafficking by considering the different types of social contracts which existed in the past that had sexual labor or activity as an inherent component. It outlines the nature of these social institutions – marriage,

temporary marriage, debt bondage and slavery – which were recognized in local law, carried no stigma and endured for long periods. It discusses how labor pledged in return for a loan of cash or as a result of a punishment dictated by the state often included sexual labor, and how this could take the form of servicing the master of the house, his guests or foreign travelers who paid the debt-holder for the privilege, and how even wives of different ranks, temporary or permanent, and children, were pledged as sureties for loans. The book, which covers the modern states of Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia and Vietnam, argues that cultural norms are not static, that sexual contracts are more complicated than simply “marriage” or “prostitution,” and that as trafficking for sexual purposes increases, those engaging in humanitarian intervention should improve their knowledge of the historical underpinnings of cultural understandings of familial and contractual obligations.



Andrea L. Smalley, *Wild by Nature: North American Animals Confront Colonization* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017) argues that Anglo-American authorities’ unceasing efforts to convert indigenous beasts into colonized creatures frequently produced unsettling results that threatened colonizers’ control

over the land and the people. Not simply acted upon by being commodified, harvested and exterminated, wild animals were active subjects in the colonial story, altering its outcome in unanticipated ways. These creatures became legal actors—subjects of statutes, issues in court cases and parties to treaties—in a centurieslong colonizing process that was reenacted on successive wild animal frontiers. Following a trail of human-animal encounters from the 17th century Chesapeake to the Civil War-era southern plains, Smalley shows how wild beasts and their human pursuers repeatedly transgressed the lines lawmakers drew to demarcate colonial sovereignty and control, confounding attempts to enclose both people and animals inside a legal frame. She also explores how, to possess the land, colonizers had to find new ways to contain animals without destroying the wildness that made those creatures valuable to English settler societies in the first place. Offering fresh perspectives on colonial, legal, environmental and Native American history, *Wild by Nature* re-envisions the familiar stories of early America as animal tales.

Teaching Excellence

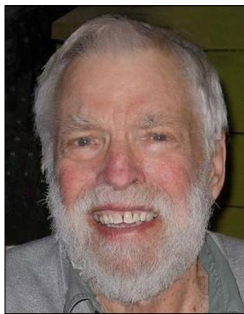
The department continues to display exceptional classroom prowess, hogging two of the three Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Awards given in 2018.

Emma Kuby and **Amanda Littauer** (who holds a joint appointment with the [Center for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality](#)) made their colleagues proud

with this significant achievement. Ph.D. candidate **Nicole Dressler** received the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award from the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center. These honors are in addition to two Presidential Teaching Professorships won by [Jim Schmidt](#) and [Taylor Atkins](#) in 2015 and 2013, respectively.



In Memoriam



Our former colleague [David Wagner](#) passed away Jan. 17, 2018 at the age of 91. He is survived by his loving wife, Renie B. Adams.

A native of Des Plaines, Illinois, David received three degrees from the University of Michigan. He became a member of Phi Beta Kappa, and upon graduation was commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Naval

Reserve and served on a patrol craft escort. Returning to graduate school, he was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 1953 for study in Italy. He received his Ph.D. in European History in 1960, and as a postgraduate he studied philosophy at the University of Chicago for two years.

David taught for 42 years in the History Department at NIU, retiring in 2003. During this time he was instrumental in establishing the [Concentration in Medieval Studies](#) and

served as its coordinator for 30 years. He was also the longtime faculty advisor for Phi Alpha Theta. He edited *The Seven Liberal Arts in the Middle Ages*, published by the Indiana University Press in 1983. This anthology was the offspring of a 1977-78 colloquium on the Medieval Arts which he sponsored at NIU.

He was an active member of the Phi Beta Kappa Association of Northern Illinois continuing into his retirement. David also taught a graduate seminar on “The Seven Liberal Arts in the Middle Ages” in 1987 at the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies in Chicago.

David created a [Medieval Studies Endowment Fund](#) to support student research in the concentration in Medieval Studies. Contributions to the [David L. Wagner Distinguished Leadership and Symposium Fund for Humanistic Inquiry](#) at the Newberry Library can be made by clicking on the link above or by check payable to The Newberry Library David Wagner Fund, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, IL 60610.

2018 Awards, Scholarships and Prizes Winners

Awards

LAS Dean's Award

Claire Spahn

Outstanding History Student

- Gabriel Sonntag
- Ronan Kaiser

Scholarships

Marvin Rosen Scholarship

Aaron Bluestein

Oscar Matasar Scholarship

Jarell Blakey

James P. and Mary Clare Sczepaniak Scholarship

- Gariecia Rose
- Justin Zerbe

Prize

HIST 495 Research Paper Prize

- Rachel Jacob. Essay title, "Policy Making: The Family and Medical Leave Act." Submitted for fall 2017.
- Benjamin Holliday. Essay title, "Big Brother, Little Brother: The Personal Diplomacy of U.S. President Richard M. Nixon and South Vietnamese President Nguyễn Văn Thiệu, 1969-1974." Submitted for fall 2017.

James Shirley Award in Asian History

James Ewing, Essay title: "The Russo-Japanese War: A Difference in Perception". submitted for: HIST 444 (Prof. Taylor Atkins) Fall 2017.

James Shirley Essay Prize

Jared Connors, Essay title: "Cherokee Motivations in the Civil War," Submitted for: HIST 464 (Prof. Natalie Joy) Fall 2017.



Lincoln Lecture



The NIU Department of History welcomed the prolific [Jeffrey Wasserstrom](#), Chancellor's Professor of History at University of California-Irvine, as the speaker for the 2017 W. Bruce Lincoln Memorial Lecture Series. A specialist in modern Chinese history, professor Wasserstrom has a parallel career as a public intellectual, publishing numerous essays, articles and

commentaries for general audiences in a wide variety of print and electronic media. He is a regular contributor to [The Huffington Post](#), [Los Angeles Review of Books' China Blog](#), [Twitter](#) and History News Network, and co-founded UCI's [Forum for the Academy and the Public](#).



His illustrated lecture entitled, "China and the Ghosts of 1900: Stories of the Boxers and the First Global War" revisited the anti-Christian uprising and international invasion that convulsed the Qing

Empire during the final year of the 19th century, paying particular attention to the varied ways these events were understood in different places at the time and the diverse kinds of stories that have been told about them since. Professor Wasserstrom noted in the Boxer uprising and the multinational intervention to crush it many intimations of things that would come in the troubled 20th century and our own anxious age.

Professor [Mark Steinberg](#) of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will deliver the 2018 Lincoln Lecture Oct. 4. Professor Steinberg has recently published [The Russian Revolution, 1905-1921](#) with Oxford University Press to commemorate the centennial of that event.

Named for the distinguished historian of imperial Russia, W. Bruce Lincoln, who taught at NIU from 1967 to 1999, the [endowed 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.

Bruce Lincoln honored by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The late W. Bruce Lincoln, Presidential Research Professor Emeritus, was honored in Fall 2017 with a Distinguished Faculty Award. Over the course of three decades, he raised Northern Illinois University's research profile by becoming a leading authority on Russia and an internationally-acclaimed author. The recipient of many national grants and awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship, Dr. Lincoln published 12 widely recognized books on Russia, on topics ranging from Nicholas I and the Romanovs to Russia before the Great War, The Russian Civil War, Siberia, artistic life in Russia, and reforming imperial Russia. His books can be found in college classrooms as well as on bookshelves of general readers. He continued his writing and research up until his death in 2000 from cancer. His last book, covering St. Petersburg and the rise of modern Russia, was published posthumously in 2001 and he had started work on a comprehensive history of Russia. During his 31-year career at the university, he became known among graduate students for taking promising academics under his wing and nurturing them throughout their careers. It is widely reported that he wrote at least a page a day in addition to teaching. His work was recognized by NIU when he was included in the inaugural class of Distinguished Research Professors recognized in 1982.

Faculty News



In Aug. 2017, the department welcomed new associate professor **Christina Abreu**, who took over as director of the [Center for Latino and Latin American Studies](#). She received her B.A. in American Studies and Communication Studies from Ursinus College in 2004, her M.A. in American Studies from Purdue University in 2006 and her Ph.D. in American Culture

from the University of Michigan in 2012. Her research and teaching focuses on Latino and Caribbean history with particular emphasis on race, ethnicity and popular culture. Her work has been published previously in the *Latin American Music Review*, *Journal of Sport History* and *Journal of Historical Biography*. Abreu's book, [Rhythms of Race: Cuban Musicians and the Making of Latino New York City and Miami, 1940-1960](#), was published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2015. She has an article on Afro-Cuban women singers forthcoming in the *Journal of Social History*. She was previously assistant professor of Latino and Caribbean History in the Department of History at Georgia Southern University. She lives in St. Charles, Illinois, with her husband **Eric Hall**, her 2-year-old daughter Carmen (who loves super heroes, dinosaurs, ballerina twirls and Daniel Tiger) and her Italian Greyhound Stuart.



E. Taylor Atkins published *A History of Popular Culture in Japan, From the Seventeenth Century to the Present* with Bloomsbury Press. The book is based on his HIST 352 Popular Culture in Japan course, which he introduced to the curriculum in 1999. In spring 2018, he developed and taught a graduate reading seminar on "The First World

War in Global Perspective." As assistant chair, he does academic advising and manages the [department web site](#) and [social media](#). He was interviewed for the BBC World Service documentary "[Jazzing Up Japan](#)" (broadcast Feb. 24, 2018), and his research on the Korean folk song "Arirang" was cited in a Feb. 22 [New York Times story](#) on the song's ubiquity at the 2018 Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games. He assisted University of California-Irvine's Professor Jeffrey Wasserstrom with his research on

the 1900 Boxer Uprising in China by examining Japanese media reactions to the event. He continues to play daruan (Chinese bass lute) in NIU's Chinese Music Ensemble and U-Bass, baritone 'ukulele and banjolele in the NIUkulele Ensemble. His eyes twinkle with pride in his doctoral student **Heeyoung Choi** who was named the department's Outstanding Ph.D. Student for 2017-18. As semi-official cheerleader in a high-achieving department, his pompoms never get dusty.

Andy Bruno earned tenure and promotion to associate professor in 2017. He also recently published "A Tale of Two Reindeer: Pastoralism and Preservation in the Soviet Arctic" in *REGION: Regional Studies of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Central Asia*; and "The Russian Revolution from Behind Bars" in *NewsNet: News of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies* (with Mark Steinberg). NASA and the History of Science Society awarded him a [Fellowship in Aerospace History](#) to conduct research on history of the 1908 Tunguska explosion in Siberia.

A paperback edition of **Kenton Clymer's** book, *A Delicate Relationship: The United States and Burma/Myanmar since 1945*, published by Cornell University Press in 2015, has now been published in a paperback edition by Silkwork Books in Thailand for distribution in Asia.

Sean Farrell won a coveted [Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities](#) for his next book project, "The Trillick Railway Outrage of 1854: Making Sectarianism in Victorian Ireland." He also published three chapters and articles in 2017: "Going to Extremes: Anti-Slavery and Anti-Catholicism in Early Victorian Belfast" in *European Romantic Review*; "Contested Histories? Richard Mant's *History of the Church in Ireland* and Religious Politics in Early Victorian Belfast," in Alan Ford, James Golden and Miriam Moffitt, eds., *The Church of Ireland and its Past: History, Interpretation and Identity*; and "An Irish Nationalist and Imperial Reformer: Charles Gavan Duffy and Australian Federation, 1857-71," in Timothy G. McMahon, Michael de Nie, and Paul Townend, eds., *Ireland in an Imperial World: Citizenship, Opportunism and Subversion*. Professor Farrell presented papers at conferences in Kansas City, Derry, Northern Ireland and Columbia where he also gave the invited keynote address to the Midwest regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies. He accomplished all this while serving as Director of Graduate Studies, a pedestal from which he steps down in 2018 after four years of service.

Faculty News (continued)



In April 2017, **Heide Fehrenbach** was reappointed for a five-year term as Board of Trustees Professor at NIU. The award “recognizes international prominence in research as well as excellence in teaching.” The same month, she delivered the [Second Annual Driedger Lecture](#) on the topic “Humanitarian Photography and the Irresistible Appeal of the Child” at the

University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada. In June, she participated in a workshop on “Visualising Peace” at the University of Edinburgh, presenting a paper on “Photography, Civilians, and the Polemics of Peace,” which will appear in a forthcoming volume. She also authored two essays for publication: “Children as Casework: The Problem of Migrating and Refugee Children in the Era of World War,” to be published this summer in the *Handbook on Migration and Childhood*, edited by Jacqueline Bhabha, Daniel Senovill Hernandez, and Jyothi Kanics, and “[A Horrific Photo of a Drowned Syrian Child: Humanitarian Photography and NGO Media Strategies in Historical Perspective](#),” coauthored with Davide Rodogno, which was published in late 2016 in the *International Review of the Red Cross* in a special issue titled “The Evolution of War.” In October, professor Fehrenbach served as commentator for a panel on “Ethnicity, Race, and Nation from Weimar to the Federal Republic,” at the German Studies Association annual conference in Atlanta. She continues to serve as a member of the editorial board of *Spektrum*, the book series of the German Studies Association. She also chaired that Association’s Book Prize committee for 2017 and has served on the selection committees of several national fellowship competitions.



In addition to his first book, *Aristocrats and Statehood in Western Iberia, 300-600 CE* (University of Pennsylvania Press), **Damián Fernández** also published two book chapters in edited volumes: “Desigualdad Económica, Propiedad Rural y Cultural Material en la Antigüedad Tardía: El Caso

de la Península Ibérica (Siglos IV-VII),” and “Taxation, Landownership, and the Infrastructural Power of the Visigothic State.” He gave a series of lectures at the Université de Lille 3 (France) as a visiting professor, and five conference papers and workshop presentations. Professor Fernández spent his sabbatical semester working on his next two projects: the translation and commentary of the *Liber Iudiciorum* (the seventh-century Visigothic law code) and a monograph on rebellion and political culture in the Visigothic kingdom of Toledo. To support each project, he won two prestigious fellowships from the Cornell University Society for the Humanities, and the [American Council of Learned Societies](#), respectively.



In December 2017, **Rosemary Feurer** spoke at a dedication [ceremony](#) at the Coalfield Rest Area for a memorial plaque honoring Mother Jones. She co-edited a volume entitled *Against Labor: How U.S. Employers Organized to Defeat Union Activism* for University of Illinois Press.

Aaron Fogleman continues to teach courses and graduate students in the fields of early America and the history of the Atlantic World from Columbus to the mid-19th century, as well as surveys and the senior thesis seminar. He has also begun teaching a new course entitled “War and Society in Early America.” Professor Fogleman is also working on project to catalog all published narratives produced by people born in Africa who were taken into the transatlantic slave trade. The catalog will include all narratives in all languages and locations of the Atlantic World. A cloth book is planned, followed by digitization with a link to the full text of each narrative. This project is well underway, with the assistance of a number of NIU graduate and undergraduate students, and others. This year he presented the results of some of his research at the Early Modern History Conference of the German Historical Association in Wolfenbüttel, Germany, and at a salon gathering for early Americanists in Philadelphia.

Everything seemed to happen in twos this past year for **Valerie Garver**. She received two prestigious fellowships. The [2017 Bonnie Wheeler Fellowship](#) supported her research in Switzerland, France and Belgium during the summer. In the fall, as a [Member in the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Study](#) in Princeton, New Jersey, she was able to spend her time working on a book manuscript entitled *The Meanings and Uses of Clothing and Textiles in the Carolingian World* in an idyllic setting. She also published two articles. “Conceptions of Children and Youth in Carolingian Capitularies” appeared in *Childhood in History: Perceptions of Children in the Ancient and Medieval Worlds*, ed. Reidar Aasgaard and Cornelia Horn from Routledge Press, and “‘Go humbly dressed as befits servants of God’: Alcuin, Clerical Identity, and Sartorial Anxieties” was published in the April 2018 issue of the journal *Early Medieval Europe*. In addition, she gave two invited lectures and two conference papers. Finally, she took on two long term service commitments. She was elected to a three-year term as a [Councillor of the Medieval Academy of America](#), the largest organization in the United States to promote Medieval Studies, and she will serve as chair of the History Department starting July 2018.



The department welcomed new associate professor **Eric Hall** in August 2017. He is an expert in African-American and sport history, and is a faculty affiliate at NIU’s Center for Black Studies. He earned his bachelor’s degree at St. Joseph’s College and his master’s and doctoral degrees at Purdue University. His first book was [Arthur Ashe: Tennis and Justice in the Civil](#)

[Rights Era](#) (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2014, 2016). He has also published articles in *International Social Science Review* and *Journal of African-American History*, as well as blogs for the [Johns Hopkins University Press Blog](#). He is currently working on two books; one on the historic tennis match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs, and the other on the Black Sox Scandal of 1919. Professor Hall, Robert “B.J.” Marach and J. Marcos Reynolds published “[Policy Point-Counterpoint: Do African American Athletes Have an Obligation to Fight Against Racial Injustice?](#)” in *International Social Science Review*.



After concluding her service as interim director of the Center for Nonprofit and NGO Studies (formerly NGOLD), **Anne Hanley** had a banner year. She finished her book manuscript, *The Public Good and the Brazilian State*, which will be published by the University of Chicago Press in April 2018, and was promoted to full professor.

Professor Hanley received two prestigious fellowships: a rare [Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities](#) to pursue a new research project, “Standardizing the Nation: the History of the 1872 Brazilian Census and Adoption of the Metric System” (parts of which she presented at the American Historical Association Annual Meeting); and a [Fulbright U.S. Scholars Award](#) to teach and conduct research in Brazil from February to July, 2019. She is working with Geography Ph.D. student Robert Fritzen to collect and map data for the new research project. Professor Hanley won the [Wilma D. Stricklin Award](#) in recognition of her exemplary and continual leadership and service resulting in a more favorable campus climate for women. She also traveled to Capitol Hill with Anna Quider and four other NIU faculty to talk to congressional staffers about the importance of federal funding for university research.



NIU’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences bestowed upon **Beatrix Hoffman** the John Hains Undergraduate Humanities Award, the purpose of which is “to enrich the content of programs and courses in the humanities and to foster interdisciplinary instruction, cooperation and scholarship in the liberal arts.”

The title of her Hains project is “Infusing Latinx History into the Early U.S. History Survey Class.” In the first semester of the award, she is teaching HIST 260 with a new curriculum that treats the history of Spanish and Mexican North America as integral to the narrative of U.S. development from 1492

History professor Aaron Fogleman wins Guggenheim Fellowship



With scarcely a day going by without proposals, protests or headlines surrounding the issue of immigration, Northern Illinois University history professor **Aaron Fogleman** informs present-day issues by peering deep into the past.

From 1492 to 1870, more than 22 million migrants made their way to the Americas, says Fogleman, who quantified the wave of migration through meticulous research. In many respects, current debates echo those of the past.

“When I listen to contemporary critiques of immigrants, there’s always a sense that we’re experiencing something new,” he says. “But if you look at immigration historically, you find tension in every generation, with people saying immigrants are going to destroy America. That goes back to the Colonial Era. Yet not only does America survive, later, many Americans look back with pride for their immigrant ancestors.”

With funding assistance from NIU faculty-grant programs, Fogleman began work three years ago on a book that aims to breathe new life into voices of migrants from the past who made their way to the Americas. Now his effort is receiving a major boost in the form of a prestigious and highly competitive Guggenheim Fellowship for 2018.

The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation ran a full-page ad earlier this month in the *New York Times* announcing the fellowship recipients. Fogleman is among 173 artists, scholars and scientists selected for the award from nearly 3,000 applicants. He was one of only three U.S. historians named as Fellows.

“Winning a Guggenheim is one of the highest honors a historian can achieve,” says Jim Schmidt, chair of the NIU Department of History. “We are incredibly proud of Aaron.”

Guggenheim Fellows are appointed on the basis of

distinguished achievement and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

Since its establishment in 1925, the Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has granted more than \$360 million in Fellowships to over 18,000 individuals, among whom are scores of Nobel laureates, Fields Medalists, poets laureate and winners of the Pulitzer Prize, National Book Awards and other internationally recognized honors.

As a Fellow, Fogleman will receive funding for a year, as well as time off from his teaching and other duties. He’ll use the time and funding to focus on his research from his home in Batavia.

A Presidential Research Professor at NIU, Fogleman is already well known among scholars for his work addressing the themes of transatlantic migration, gender, religion and revolution from 1492 to 1867.

He has published his research in top journals in the field and penned three highly regarded books, including his 2013 work, “Two Troubled Souls,” which traced the lives of a married couple who, as missionaries and religious seekers, traveled Europe, the Caribbean and North America during the 18th century. The work received the American Historical Association’s 2014 James Rawley Prize, which honors the best book exploring the integration of Atlantic worlds before the 20th century.

Fogleman’s current book project is tentatively titled, “Immigrant Voices: European and African Stories of Freedom, Unfreedom, and Identity in the Americas through Four Centuries.”

The project investigates hundreds of English, Irish, German, Spanish and other European immigrant voices, discovered in letters, diaries and memoirs from the Americas, as well as more than 160 narratives of enslaved Africans.

“These voices describe how people moving between two worlds sought escape, freedom and fortune, adventure and religious experiments,” Fogleman says. “They describe how people struggled to survive, sought justice in contradictory environments of freedom and unfreedom, returned home, or made sense of what happened to them.”

Of the more than 22 million migrants over four centuries, well over 10 million were enslaved Africans. Others also were among the “unfree,” including more than 50,000 convicts that the British sent to North America during the 18th century and nearly 600,000 indentured servants, mostly from Britain, Ireland and Germany.

“Related to the concepts of freedom and unfreedom, I’m also examining the different gender experiences,”

Fogleman says. “We associate Europeans coming to the Americas for freedom and opportunity, but that view has a heavy male bias. Many women didn’t want to go, and for these women, migration was a very different experience. It is one that is still part of the migrant experience today, where men often go first and then are followed by the rest of their families.”

Other themes of the past resonate in the present.

“Long-distance migration is fraught with opportunity, fear, achievement and degradation,” Fogleman says.

“There’s tragedy, wars, triumph, ethnic rivalries, tensions, identity issues and questions about ‘illegal’ migrants. That’s how it is now and has always been.”

In addition to his Guggenheim Fellowship, Fogleman has been an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellow, Fulbright Honorary Senior Scholar and guest researcher at the Max Planck Institute for History in Göttingen, Germany. He also held the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main in 2008 and 2009.

Faculty News (continued)

to 1860. She will also organize a workshop with NIU and community college faculty on using approaches from Latinx History to transform the U.S. history survey. Professor Hoffman also published a chapter in Alice Kessler-Harris and Maurizio Vaudagna, eds., *Democracy and the Welfare State: The Two Wests in the Age of Austerity*, entitled “Social Citizenship in the Affordable Care Act.”



Trude Jacobsen was invited to run a two-day workshop for the Asian-American, Native American, Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) grant at Middlesex Community College, Lowell, Massachusetts; an area with the second-highest population of Cambodian-Americans in the United States. She was also a consultant for two federal cases involving

child exploitation and human trafficking in Thailand and Cambodia providing legal, policy and cultural context, and translation of testimony and documents. When not saving the world, professor Jacobsen moonlights as an academic, delivering a paper, “In Defense of the Numbers: Mapping Experience in Southeast Asian Pasts” at the Annual Arts Education Research Institute Symposium in Naperville in October 2017.



Eric Jones won the [2017 Outstanding International Educator Award](#). He exercised his phenomenal schmoozing skills in 2017-18 as Acting Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, also taking responsibility for writing the grant application to continue federal Title VI funding for the Center.

Having spent 2016-17 as the NEH fellow at the New York Historical Society, **Natalie Joy** was awarded a short-term African-American Studies Fellowship at the Massachusetts Historical Society for 2017-18. In November 2017, she presented a paper, “‘The Wronged Red Man’: Indians in the Antislavery Movement,” at the Lapidus Center for the Historical Analysis of Transatlantic Slavery’s inaugural conference, “Reckoning With Slavery: New Directions in the History, Memory, Legacy, and Popular Representations of Enslavement.” The conference took place at the New York Public Library’s Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture.

Emma Kuby won one of three [Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Awards](#). She also received a Research and Artistry grant from the university to visit archives in France in summer 2018 for her next book

Faculty News (continued)

project, and presented some preliminary work on that project at the American Historical Association conference in Washington, D.C. in January 2018. Her first book, *Expert Witnesses: The Anti-Concentration Camp Movement in Postwar Europe*, is in press with Cornell University Press.

Amanda Littauer won one of three [Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Awards](#). She also received a Research and Artistry Grant and a Research, Artistry and Diversity Grant for student research assistance for her project on Queer Youth Histories in the United States. In addition to publishing a chapter, "Sexual Minorities at the Apex of Heterosexuality (1940s-1965)," in Don Romesburg, ed., *Routledge History of Queer America*, she presented papers at the American Historical Association conference, the Oral History Association annual meeting and the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women, Genders and Sexualities. Professor Littauer participated in the "[Femme Histories Roundtable](#)" that appeared on the *NOTCHES* blog site, and was interviewed for the inaugural episode of the *Sexting History* podcast ("[Prom Night](#)"), and for a feature story, "[The Equal Rights Amendment Persists: 45 and Still Unratified](#)," on Northern Public Radio.



Brian Sandberg stepped down as associate dean for research and graduate affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the end of June and will return full time to faculty. Professor Sandberg recently published a chapter on "Municipal Elections and Contested Religious Space: Electoral Practices and Confessional Politics

in Mediterranean France during the French Wars of Religion," in *Cultures of Voting in Pre-Modern Europe*, ed. Serena Ferente, Lovro Kuncevic, and Miles Pattenden. He also wrote a forthcoming essay on "Peace, War, and Gender," for publication in *Cultural History of Peace: The Renaissance*, ed. Isabella Lazzarini. Professor Sandberg published a review essay in a "Forum on Ellen R. Welch, *A Theater of Diplomacy: International Relations and the Performing Arts in Early Modern France*," ed. Hélène Billis, in *H-France Forum* (3rd ed., vol. 12). Professor Sandberg

taught a graduate seminar on "European Wars of Religion, 1560s-1640s," at the Newberry Library during fall 2017 through the NIU Newberry Consortium membership. The seminar included graduate students from NIU and other universities in the region. Over the past year, he presented research papers at a number of academic conferences, including "A Violent World? Changes and Limits to Large-Scale Violence in Early Modernity," *La domination comme expérience européenne et américaine (XVIe - XVIIe siècle)*, Renaissance Society of America Conference, Sixteenth Century Society and Conference, Society for French Historical Studies Conference, and "The Politics of Conversion: Martin Luther to Muhammad Ali." Finally, he presented on "Digital Humanities and Advocacy for Research across the Humanities," at the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences Conference.

Jim Schmidt is ending a five-year gig as chair. He's looking forward to taking a leave supported by his Presidential Teaching Professorship. He continues to do research on corporal punishment in schools, and he has recently begun an exciting new phase of this project based on investigations into punishment and abuse at Progressive-era industrial and reform schools. Look for another violent book in the coming years.

Andrea Smalley was interviewed about her new book, *Wild by Nature: North American Animals Confront Colonization*, on the [Ben Franklin's World podcast](#). In 2018 she steps down as director of History and Social Sciences Educator Licensure after seven years of service.



Board of Trustees and Distinguished Research Professor Emerita **Christine Worobec** received the [2017 Distinguished Contributions Award](#) from the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies. The Distinguished Contributions Award is ASEES' highest honor, recognizing individuals with an exemplary record of sustained

achievement in the field through scholarship, training and service to the profession.

Student News



Heeyoung Choi was named Outstanding Ph.D. Student in History for 2017-18. In July 2017, she presented part of her dissertation, "The Transnational Construction of National Music (*Kugak*): Musicking in the Korean Diaspora, 1900-1945," at the International Council for Traditional Music in Limerick, Ireland. She has had another paper accepted for presentation at the 11th Kyujanggak International Symposium on Korean Studies in August 2018.

Ph.D. candidate **Nicole Dressler** received the Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award from the Faculty Development and Instructional Design Center, and won the department's James Shirley Prize for best essay submitted for publication by a graduate student for "'Enemies to Mankind': Penal Servitude, Authority, and Humanitarianism in the British Atlantic World."



Ph.D. student **JoAnn LoSavio Fleming** won the department's Hugh Jameson Prize for best research essay in a graduate seminar, for "The Campfire Girl and the American Girl."

Claire Spahn (c/o 2018), a double major in History and Anthropology with a Concentration in Medieval Studies, was awarded a David L. Wagner Scholarship for Medieval Studies for spring 2018. Her project was a study of the diet and health of some communities of

friars living in the British Isles from c. 1300 - c. 1500. She will examine both monastic records and bio-archeological evidence of diet-related diseases.

Ph.D. student **Alex Sosenko** was accepted to participate in a research seminar at the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.

M.A. student **Matthew Timko** and Law Library faculty member Jeffrey A. Parness have published "Defacto Parent and Nonparent Child Support Orders" in *American University Law Review*, Volume 1, Number 3 (2018), 769-839.

William Wojtkiewicz was named the department's Outstanding M.A. Student for 2018.

History students earned honors at the annual Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day (URAD) on April 18.

Humanities Award

(presented by the Humanities group of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences)

First Place: Ronan Kaiser, Sam Lanigan, Billy Ritchey, Gabriel Sonntag, "Understanding Queer Youth Through Life Writings and Oral History, 1940 - 1985" Faculty mentor: Amanda Littauer.

Second Place: Stephanie Salazar, "Immigration Status and Health Professions" Faculty mentor: Beatrix Hoffman.

Third Place (Tie): Emily Eckles, "Der Rosa Winkel: The Colors of Persecution and the Damnation of Homosexual Men in Nazi Germany" Faculty mentor: Amanda Littauer.

Rachel Jacob named 2017-18 NIU Student Lincoln Laureate ‘Arguably the most accomplished Huskie in a generation’



Rachel Jacob, NIU's newly minted Student Lincoln Laureate, is the type of student who sets high goals for herself.

Then she wildly exceeds them.

Case in point. When history professor Beatrix Hoffman first met Jacob as a new freshman, Jacob said she hoped during her NIU career to land an internship in Washington, D.C., and study abroad. Like most NIU students, the Long Grove native hadn't traveled much outside of Illinois.

By the end of her sophomore year, Jacob had already accomplished a much longer list of amazing achievements and experiences that took her from DeKalb to D.C. to Indonesia. Throughout her NIU career, she squeezed every ounce out of the opportunities that came her way—while also generously giving of her own time to fellow students and NIU.

"She is, quite simply, the most ambitious and accomplished student I have worked with in my 21 years at Northern Illinois University," Hoffman says. "Rachel does NIU proud."

Being named as NIU's Student Lincoln Laureate, or top senior, is no small feat in itself, with competition from a pool of the university's most talented students. Annually, an outstanding senior from each of Illinois' four-year universities is selected for the prestigious Lincoln Academy Student Laureate Award. It recognizes excellence in both curricular and extracurricular activities.

A University Honors student with stellar grades, Jacob is pursuing majors in both history and political science, with minors in economics and Southeast Asian Studies. In a joint nomination letter, history chair James Schmidt and political science chair Scot Schraufnagel had no small praise for Jacob, calling her "arguably the most accomplished Huskie in a generation."

She has served a total of three internships, including one on Capitol Hill with U.S. Rep. Robin Kelly. She twice won funding awards allowing her to study in Indonesia. The awards included an ultra-competitive Critical Language Scholarship from the U.S. Department of State that took her this past summer to the predominantly Muslim city of Malang, where she lived with a host family.

Under the mentorship of Hoffman and political science professor Artemus Ward, Jacob also undertook three major research projects related to employment law and women's rights. They resulted in U.S. Library of Congress archive work, a first-place award during NIU's Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day, a position paper for Rep. Kelly's office and a public presentation in Indonesia, which Jacob delivered in the Indonesian language.

For all her accomplishments, Jacob credits others.

"I'm so grateful for all the support I've received here," she says. "I don't think it would have happened at another institution. NIU puts a lot of effort and time in its students, especially if you are willing to take the initiative."

In addition to her rigorous academic schedule, Jacob has embarked on a dizzying array of extracurricular and service activities. Just a few highlights: president of her sorority, Alpha Phi; Research Rookies peer mentor; and three years of elected service in the NIU Student Association, which serves as the voice of the student body.

This year, Jacob is serving as SA president—the first female elected to the post in more than two decades. In that role, she is spearheading an initiative to recognize mental health challenges faced by young people and is pressing for creation of a scholarship for undocumented students at NIU.

Jacob says she looks back and knows NIU was the right decision for her. As a senior at Adlai E. Stevenson High School, she had narrowed her college choices to two schools and was leaning toward the other before she came for a visit to NIU.

"I liked the feel of the campus, and NIU had good scholarship opportunities," she said. "I met with faculty in political science and history and ended up loving it. I committed to NIU that same day."

At NIU, she found faculty mentors who pushed her to excel, including former political science chair Matt Streb and federal relations director Anna Quider, who supervised one of Jacob's internships.

"My biggest mentor was Dr. Beatrix Hoffman," she adds,

noting that they continue to meet weekly on her senior thesis. “She’s been incredible, helping me with personal growth, academic growth and leadership.”

Jacob has received numerous scholarships and honors, including being the first student in NIU history to be named a finalist for the nationally prestigious Truman Scholarship. But for all the accolades, she is most proud of her experiences in Indonesia, for being unafraid of “stepping out of my comfort zone.”

“I would never have guessed I’d be so passionate about Southeast Asian studies,” she says. “Now I want to dedicate my career to it.”

Jacob will attend John Marshall Law School and hopes to someday work as a U.S. Department of State foreign services officer in Indonesia. Her Student Lincoln Laureate Award was presented Saturday, Nov. 11, during the annual Student Laureate Convocation at the historic Old State Capitol in Springfield.

Other nominees for the NIU Student Lincoln Laureate included first finalist Drew Donnally (chemistry), finalist Wataru Hashimoto (applied physics), Erin Hernandez (international politics and Spanish) and Sydney Johnson (corporate communications and community leadership and civic engagement).



Alumni News

The 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.

Erich Anderson (B.A., 2008, double major in Anthropology) published his first history book, [*Cataphracts: Knights of the Ancient Eastern Empires, was published by Pen & Sword Books*](#) in December 2016 in the U.K.; it became available in the U.S. in early April 2017. He has also written over 50 articles that have been published in 16 different magazines including *History Today*, *Ancient Warfare*, *Medieval Warfare*, *Military History Monthly*, *Minerva*, *KMT*, *Ancient History*, *Military Heritage*, *All About History*, *History of War*, *History Magazine*, *Renaissance*, *Strategy & Tactics*, *Ancient Egypt*, *Archaeological Diggings* and *Katsujinken* (The Life-Giving Sword).

Alan Baumler (B.A., 1987) is currently Professor of History and Asian Studies Coordinator, Indiana University of Pennsylvania. "I found that the education I received from the NIU history department was excellent and prepared me well for my later career," he says. "When I started graduate school I was better prepared than many of my fellow students. (This is actually true. Knowing your Marx helps a lot.) Even now I draw on what I learned about teaching from the NIU faculty, specifically, [Marvin] Rosen's claim that 10-50 years from now most of your students will have forgotten your name, the name of the building the class was in, all the exam essay questions they answered and the names of most of their classmates. They will remember every real book they actually read, however, so it is worthwhile for you to give that some thought."

Lindsey Bier (M.A., 2008) earned her Ph.D. in Communications at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville in 2017 and was immediately offered a tenure-track position as [*Assistant Professor of Clinical Business Communication*](#) in the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California. She teaches courses on business communication strategy and leads the international commerce program to Japan. Specializing in public diplomacy and country reputation, she focuses her research on corporate diplomacy, citizen diplomacy networks and international empirical analysis. Before joining USC, Bier taught public relations, mass media,

organizational communication and oral presentation courses at Middle Tennessee State University; developed an online intercultural communication course; and served as a faculty mentor. Her professional experiences encompass reputation management, media relations, visual communication and consulting in international/ intercultural strategy and training. Bier has traveled to 30-plus countries for professional and humanitarian purposes including fellowships in Korea and Vietnam. In 2016 she won an Achievement Award from the Vietnam Veterans of America organization for her research, and received substantial print and broadcast [*media attention for her work*](#) with east Tennessee veterans who returned to Vietnam.

Mathieu Billings (Ph.D., 2016) received [*NIU's 2016-17 Outstanding Dissertation Award*](#) in the arts, humanities, social sciences and education. Billings' dissertation was entitled "Potent Legacies: The Transformation of Irish and Irish-American Politics, 1815-45" (director: Sean Farrell). He is currently a full-time lecturer at the University of Indianapolis.

Natalie R. Cincotta (B.A., 2015), a Ph.D. student in German history at the University of Texas-Austin and former Research Rookie working with Professor Heide Fehrenbach, has been awarded a DAAD fellowship for her dissertation research on visual print media and sexuality in postwar West Germany. She also serves as Graduate Editorial Assistant for the history website [*Not Even Past*](#).

David Croft (B.A., 1965, M.A., 1968) has lived in Oregon for almost 50 years. "I still have very pleasant memories of my undergraduate and graduate years at NIU," he writes, referring specifically to professors C. H. George, Ralph Bowen, Bill Logue, John Collins, Bob Wagner, Reese Jenkins and Sam Kinser. "In his first year at NIU, we met at [Kinser's] residence on Sunday nights for his course on the Renaissance when he and his wife and several others would provide some musical entertainment." Mr. Croft taught both Western Civilization and U.S. History at Elgin Community College, at Shoreline Community College in Seattle, Washington, and at Lane Community College in Eugene, Oregon. "I was attracted to the community college curriculum initially because I loved the variety of approaches that one could take. I emphasized intellectual history in my courses which was novel for most of my students who never thought about the history of ideas before. I ended up developing courses in Chinese history after getting a study leave to do language training in Taiwan and later China. I was also encouraged (C.H.

George was probably an influence here) to develop a course on the History of Socialism.” He adds, “I am very aware that the days of \$115 tuition for a semester are long gone. I applaud NIU for giving so many of us a real chance in the world.”

Holly Harrison Fiala (M.S.Ed., 1965) shares the following account of her career trajectory, hoping to encourage “students who question what their history degree/art history or other humanities degree might do for them.” She earned her degree intending to teach, “But in the midst of the Vietnam War, teaching positions — particularly in history at the secondary level — were reserved for men who could also teach/coach athletics. As a result, my first two years out of college were spent substitute teaching and then returning for a master’s in art history at the University of Pittsburgh. I was offered a teaching position at NIU by Robert Even, chair of the art history department but decided instead to take a course in architectural history offered by the Chicago Architecture Foundation. This proved to be a good decision.

“Just by chance the Midwest Office of the National Trust for Historic Preservation had opened in Chicago and I was offered an administrative position. At that time NIU did not offer courses in local history and so I learned on the job. This led to the assistant director’s position in Chicago, the regional director’s position in the Boston and finally in the Western Office in San Francisco with eight western states including Hawaii and Alaska. My history background proved to be a wonderful foundation for that work. Surprisingly, the art history background was also a complement to that work because of the fine teaching of James Liakos in the art department. I took every course he offered and was particularly interested in medieval and Byzantine art. Working with the remote historic Russian Orthodox churches in Alaska while I was at the National Trust’s Western Office allowed me to use my art history background in identifying their valuable icons and how to preserve even the small churches on the islands that were falling into ruin.

“When a chance to work on historic Chicago area churches arose, I knew it would be a great opportunity. I was awarded a \$2.1M grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc., and created a new regional organization called Inspired Partnerships. It helped congregations care for and use their buildings for community outreach. With a staff of 12 we guided congregations as to how to maintain and use their historic properties. We did building condition reports, helped laypeople plan for building rehabilitation and repair, taught them how to raise funds and to use their properties for other purposes on the days when they were

not using them for religious purposes. My senior year’s course in black history at NIU made that work effective particularly with the African-American community. It was the first time at NIU that the course had been offered and it was a great eye-opener to me personally and with my work at the National Trust and with Inspired Partnerships.

“I retired just this past year after spending the previous 10 years working for a foundation and raising funds so that congregations could start new community service programs. I continue to have a keen interest in how congregations participate in civic life.

“In these times, the humanities are not always credited with being worthwhile, but my life experience would dispute that. I hope all your students find their background in the humanities and especially in history as valuable as I have. Thank you and your fellow educators for an excellent education.”

John Gustafson (B.A., 2008) lives in Rockford, Illinois, and substitute teaches in the Belvidere middle and high schools. “I am actually enjoying it,” he reports.

An [assistant professor at Columbia College](#) in Chicago, **Robert Hanserd** (M.A., 2000, Ph.D., 2011) has contracted with Routledge to publish his book [Identity, Spirit and Freedom in the Atlantic World: The Gold Coast and the African Diaspora](#), which uses “oral, archival and other interdisciplinary evidence from West Africa in its analysis of new world maroons, slaves and free blacks.” Hanserd argues that “West African cosmologies, regional statecraft and socio-cultural practice contributed to Atlantic ideas of freedom, identity and spirituality.” He also is working on a video documentary that “combines animation and archival accounts with oral history and video footage” to explore “historical narratives on freedom, diviners, and identity during the transatlantic slave trade.”

In February 2017, **Paulette Marie Hasier** (B.A., 1989) was named [Chief of Geography and Map Division at the Library of Congress](#). After earning a Ph.D. in transatlantic history at the University of Texas at Arlington, Hasier worked as a librarian at several institutions and in the private sector. She served as manager of Education and Member Services at OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) CAPCON (Capital Area Library Network). Also at Advanced Resources Technologies Inc. in Alexandria, Virginia, where she served first as library taskmaster in support of the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), and then as project manager for Research Services. She then entered federal government service with the U.S. National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). The

Alumni News (continued)

[Geography and Map Division](#) is among the world's largest map collections, holding some six million cartographic items in various languages dating from the 14th century to the present.

Michael Honey (Ph.D., 1988), Fred and Dorothy Haley Professor of Humanities at University of Washington-Tacoma, has published a new book, [To the Promised Land: Martin Luther King and the Fight for Economic Justice](#) (W.W. Norton & Company, 2018).

In September 2017, **Dan Klefstad** (M.A., 1993) celebrated 20 years on WNIJ-89.5 FM as the voice of public radio morning news in the DeKalb/Rockford region. "What's the difference between the news and history?" he asks. "A few years." He adds, "At NIU I learned how to research a story, and—thanks to professor Stephen Kern—how to make that story compelling to a general audience."

Sangmin Lee (Ph.D., 1991) worked for the National Archives of [South] Korea from 1997 to 2005 as a chief consultant archivist. Lee worked to reform the government records management and national archives systems in the Republic of Korea. He is an archives educator at various graduate schools in Korea and is the president of the Korean Association of Records Managers and Archivists (a Korean counterpart of the Society of American Archivists). "Archives institutions need professional historians and archivists to select and manage archives which are the evidence of human activities in the past," he writes. "I did my master's and doctoral research at the National Archives and Records Administration of the United States. It was my first encounter and use of archives to write a history. With the experience of searching and using the archives to train historical expertise, I learned more about archives and became an archivist." Lee has [presented on the creation of city archives in Seoul](#) at the International Council on Archives.

Carl Lindskoog (M.A., 2004) is an assistant professor of History at Raritan Valley Community College in Branchburg, New Jersey, where he teaches courses in United States, African-American and Latin American history. He is completing a book entitled *Haitian Refugees and the Rebirth of Immigrant Detention in the United States, 1973-2000*. He published a blog entitled "Writing Refugee History Amidst an Historic Refugee Crisis" on IEHS [Immigration and Ethnic History Society] online in February 2017.



David Oberg (M.A., 1998) was named the department's 2017 Alumnus of the Year. A mentor in the field of public history, Oberg is the executive director of the Elmhurst (Illinois) History Museum. He is the former director of the Grayslake Heritage Center and the Geneva History Center, and previously served as president of the Illinois Association of Museums.

William W. Pennscott (B.A., 1950) graciously praises the department for the "excellent education" he received as a student. He went on to earn a master's degree in history at the University of Illinois, and an Ed.S. and Ed.D. in Counseling and Guidance. He retired from teaching after 45 years.

David Pinelli (B.S., 2015) is employed at Guaranteed Rate (Mortgage Lender) as an Operations Assistant. "I was involved in multiple internships at NIU which played a big part in landing a good job two weeks after graduation. My B.S. history degree (focusing on digital research projects) has prepared me for extensive database research, data management, generating reports, pricing, meetings and articulation within writing and presenting."

Jim Prescott (Ph.D., 2012) is "simultaneously a retired high school social studies teacher and an independent scholar working from my home. Working on my degree was enjoyable, enlightening and provided me the direction for a new avocation; I very recently completed the draft of a book for publication."

Carol Harbrecht Rice (B.A., 1971) "was selected for the highly competitive Management Intern Program with the federal government's General Services Administration. I selected GSA because, at that time, GSA was the parent of the National Archives and Records Service. I held a variety of positions including head of recruitment for archivist and archives technician positions, personnel management evaluator reviewing operations at presidential libraries, and special assistant to the executive director of the National Archives. I retired in 1996 after 25 years of Federal service and then spent an additional five years working as a contractor or re-employed annuitant. In 1974, I obtained a master's degree from DePaul University in public sector management to supplement my history degree."

Markie Striegel (B.A., 2015) works as a graduate assistant at the Center for Burma Studies and is pursuing an M.A. in Art History with a graduate certificate in Museum Studies and a specialization in Southeast Asian Studies. “My History degree enhanced my research skills, which have been a huge asset not only in my work with the Burma Art Collection, but my graduate coursework as well.” Markie was named Outstanding Graduate Student in Art History in 2018.

After graduating with a teaching certificate, **Rod Watson** (B.A., 2002) served in the military in Iraq for a year, then earned a master’s degree from St. Xavier in Teaching and Leadership in 2007 and a doctorate in Curriculum and Instruction from NIU in 2012. He is now an associate principal at a middle school in Shawano, Wisconsin. He tells us, “My history degree has helped me every day since I earned it. I have remained a student of history since, using my acquired knowledge to interact with and understand the world. I needed my history degree as a social studies teacher at an alternative school in Elgin for 10 years. I used the research skills [Anne] Hanley helped me to hone as I pursued my doctorate studies and contribute to the field. I am very thankful for the education I received at NIU.”

The cup of Waubensee Community College in Aurora, Illinois, runneth over with the excellence of three of our Ph.D. alumni. **Stacey Randall** (Ph.D., 2009), Dean for Institutional Effectiveness and Title V Project Director, wrote successful applications for [two multi-million dollar Title V grants for Waubensee](#) (a Hispanic Serving Institution). **Tim Draper** (Ph.D., 2007) and **Amy Godfrey Powers** (Ph.D., 2007) participated in a teaching panel at the 2018 American Historical Association Annual Meeting called “Historical Thinking and the Survey Course: Sources, Strategies, Assessments, and Best Practices in the United States, Latin America, and World Surveys.” Draper presented “Globalizing the Heartland: Bringing a Transnational Focus to Midwestern History in the U.S. Survey Classroom”; Godfrey presented “From Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo to Norman Asing: Incorporating the ‘Pacific World’ into the Early U.S. History Survey.” The panel was a product of their work in the AHA’s Bridging Cultures program. Draper is the secretary for the Immigration and Ethnic History Society and the Book Review Editor for the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. Powers—who was the department’s [Alumna of the Year](#) in 2014—was named the [Outstanding](#)

[Faculty Member](#) for 2017, received the 2018 [National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development \(NISOD\) Excellence Award](#), and was nominated for the 2018 Illinois Community College Trustees Association’s Outstanding Faculty Member Award. With great power comes great responsibility: Powers serves on the Program Committee for the 2019 AHA Annual Meeting and the Faculty Advisory Council for the American Association of Community Colleges, and delivered the [keynote address](#) at a Veterans Day event.

Lael Weinberger (M.A., 2013) is a Ph.D. student in the University of Chicago’s Department of History and a J.D. student at the University of Chicago Law School where he studies American legal history. “My training in the M.A. program at NIU provided the foundation for my current research on legal history.”

Newsletter editor: Taylor Atkins

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