



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

**Department of History**

*College of Liberal Arts and Sciences*

# 2018-19 Newsletter

Department of History

# 2018-19 Newsletter

## Department of History

*Newsletter editor: Taylor Atkins*

From the Department Chair .....	4
History Graduate Students Association (HGSA)	
Annual Conference.....	5
Lincoln Lecture.....	5
2019 Undergraduate Awards, Scholarships and Prize Winners.....	6
Undergraduate Student News .....	7
Graduate Student News .....	8
Faculty News and Recent Publications.....	9
In Memoriam.....	13
Alumni News .....	14
Commemorative NIU Oral History Project .....	15

## From the Department Chair



Greetings from the History Department! Each year the newsletter offers us occasion to review our achievements and to think about the future. As a recently appointed chair, I have had the opportunity to get to know our faculty and students better than ever before, and I'm pleased to be able to help showcase their significant accomplishments during the last year.

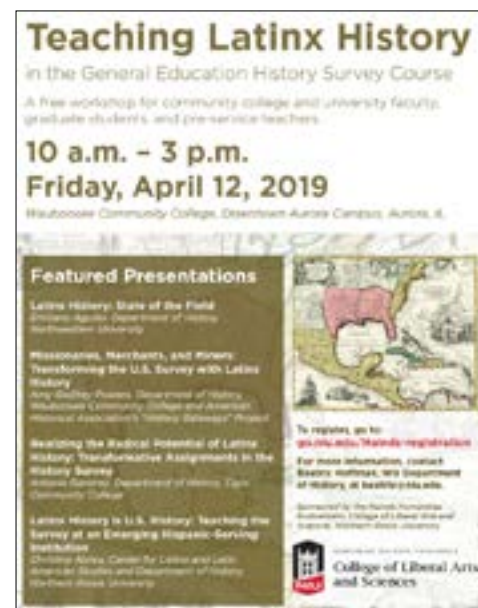
Our department sets itself apart through faculty dedication to both teaching and research. We strive to bring our scholarship into the classroom, to involve our students in our research, and to reach out to the regional community. An excellent example from the last year is the recent workshop on "Teaching Latinx History in the General Education History Survey Course" that our faculty and alumni helped organize and lead. This free workshop was open to preservice teachers, graduate students, and community college and university faculty. Professors Beatrix Hoffman and Christina Abreu were key to its success as was alumna Professor Amy Godfrey Powers (Ph.D., 2007) of Waubesa College. We are also excited to participate in the celebration of NIU's 125th Anniversary next academic year through the 125th Anniversary Oral History Project. Students in Professor Amanda Littauer's fall 2019 Oral History class will be interviewing alumni, faculty and staff willing to share memories and experiences of the university. Undergraduate history major interns, at least one of our Ph.D. students, and our faculty will also contribute to this project. We expect the project to have a web presence, so please keep an eye out for it in coming months. In the meantime, I hope you will enjoy learning about the many other achievements of our faculty, staff and students recorded here.

As many of you know, higher education was hit hard by the state of Illinois budget crisis, and we will continue to recover for years to come. We are therefore especially

grateful for the continuing support we receive from gifts to our departmental funds with the NIU Foundation. Those donations allow us to continue to support our research, teaching and engagement missions even as state and university resources decline. Consequently, it remains critical that we have the support of alumni and friends of the department.

I would especially like to recognize the contributions of our former colleague and friend, Professor Anita Andrew. When she passed away unexpectedly in December, I received many emails from her current and past students. All used the word passionate to describe her, and many mentioned her acts of kindness and her compassion for students. We miss her. It is fitting then to commemorate her by awarding a new annual scholarship in her name. The Anita M. Andrew Scholarship is for a graduating senior. It provides support to pursue a master's degree in Asian Studies following graduation from NIU. It was exciting to be able to offer this scholarship to its first recipient, Annie Hodal, this spring. We are extremely grateful to Professor Andrew's family — John, Amy, and Laura Rapp — for generously endowing this scholarship.

Valerie L. Garver



## History Graduate Students Association (HGSA) Annual Conference

One of this year's highlights was the 11th annual HGSA Conference, which occurred on Nov. 9, 2018. In keeping with the theme, "The Borderlands of History," the Alfred E. Young keynote was delivered by Susan Lee Johnson, Professor of history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Johnson's lecture was entitled "The Trail That Slaves Made: Captivity and Coerced Labor on the Santa

Fe Trail in the U.S.-Mexico War Era." Organized by NIU graduate students, the conference featured presentations by M.A. and Ph.D. students from NIU, Marquette University, the University of Iowa, the University of Chicago and other colleges from the area. The conference culminated with a lively workshop on "Writing and Teaching Accessible History," chaired by Professor **Ismael Montana**.

## Lincoln Lecture



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

Steinberg's talk explored angels, wings and flight as central to imagery used after 1917 to express the deepest meanings of the Russian Revolution. With key, but forgotten, images at the center of attention, the talk asked what the religious and the

sacred meant for understanding revolutionary ideas, emotions and lived experience in 1917 and after.

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, IL 60115-2893. Please make checks payable to the Northern Illinois University Foundation, with a notation in support of the W. Bruce Lincoln Endowment.

# 2019 Undergraduate Awards, Scholarships and Prize Winners

## Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society

- Kiera Donnamario
- Mark Raupp

## Awards

### CLAS Dean's Award

Gabriel Sonntag

### Outstanding History Student

- Cassidy Babler
- Sandra Puebla

## Scholarships

### Jeannie Hains Scholarship

- Lucy Johnson
- Brandon Trupp

### Marvin Rosen Scholarship

Timothy Fine

### Oscar Matasar Scholarship

Raúl Arroyo

### James P. and Mary Clare Szczepaniak Scholarship

- Ashley Boyer
- Andrew Collier

### Anita M. Andrew Memorial Scholarship

Annie Hodal

### David L. Wagner Medieval Studies Scholarship

Lucy Johnson

### J. Patrick White History Education:

- Mark Del Real

- Christopher Donaldson
- Laura Gray
- Jennifer Hernandez
- Benjamin Holliday
- Erin Krienke
- Jonathan Litewski
- Jonathon Molchin
- Andrew Nelson
- Michael Pondel
- Leann Schaffnit
- Joshua Shaw
- Brianna Stallter

## Prize

### HIST 495 Research Paper Prize

- Cassidy Babler. Essay title: "Protestant German Christian Theologians' Interpretation of Martin Luther, 1933-1939." Fall 2018 (Professor Emma Kuby)
- Gabriel Sonntag. Essay title: "The Beginning of Gay Liberation at NIU: Lesbian and Gay Huskies in the 1970s and 1980s." Fall 2018 (Professor Amanda H. Littauer)

### James Shirley Award in Asian History

Liam McCown: Essay title: "Greek Hysteria and the Wandering Womb: 300 Wandering Theories and the Trojan Horse of Enlightenment." (Professor Trude Jacobsen)

### James Shirley Essay Prize

Claire Spahn: Essay title: "Unworthy Handmaids, Worthy Authors: Agency and Authorship in the Letters of Eighth-Century Nuns."

### David L. Wagner Medieval Studies Capstone Prize

Claire Spahn, "From Dish to DISH: Evidence for a Practical Diet in Late Medieval British Monks."



# Undergraduate Student News

History and political science major **Sandra Puebla** presented her research on the history of the 1954 mass deportation known as "Operation Wetback" at the Undergraduate Research Lightning Round of the 2019 American Historical Association Annual Meeting in Chicago. Sandra has been mentored by Professor **Beatrix Hoffman**. She received a 2019 [Outstanding Woman Student Award](#) from the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women, and a [Kevin D. Knight Leadership Award](#).



History students were in force presenting their work at the annual Undergraduate Research and Artistry Day (URAD) on April 17, 2019.

- **Lucy Johnson**, "The Sensory Experience of Joan of Arc" (with Professor **Valerie Garver**).
- **Ronan Kaiser**, "'12 in Two Weeks!' Northern Illinois Student Reactions to National and International Violence in May 1970".



- **Jeremy Knoll**, "'Still They Tempt Us': Confederate Resistance Strategies in Union Prisons" (with Professor **Brian Sandberg**).  
— Second place in the CLAS Humanities Award category.
- **Benjamin Skipor**, "Protest for Change: Benito Juarez High School, Pilsen, Illinois".
- **Gabriel Sonntag**, "The Beginning of Gay Liberation at NIU: Lesbian and Gay Huskies in the 1970s and 1980s." Fall 2018 (with Professor **Amanda H. Littauer**).  
— First place, URAD PCSOGI (presented by the Presidential Commission on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity) category.  
— Second place, URAD Arts, Education, Health, Humanities and Social Sciences category.  
Congratulations to Gabriel, Jeremy, and their mentors for their [respective awards!](#)

Congratulations to **Lucy Johnson** (history major and medieval studies minor) and **Luis J. Sánchez** (history major and Latino and Latin American studies minor) who have both been selected to participate in the Summer Research Opportunity Program in summer 2019. Their mentors are Professors **Valerie Garver** and **Christina Abreu**, respectively.  
Undergraduate Huskie Historians **Kassidy Babler**, **Calvin Barbee**, **Anna Henderson**, and **Jeremiah Moore-Mauro** have been accepted into the M.A. program for the 2019-20 academic year.

# Graduate Student News

## 2018 graduates

### M.A.

- Jennifer Albertson
- Kelly Kass
- Hannah Palsa
- Kallen Terry
- William Wojtkiewicz

### Ph.D.

- Nicole Dressler
- John Marcos Reynolds

## Fellowships and Awards

### Dissertation Completion Fellowship

- Justin Iverson (2019-20)
- Susan Kwosek (2018-19)

### Hayter Young Fellowships

- Emily Eckles
- Justin Iverson
- Elisabeth Unruh

### Large Grant Fellowships

- John Alcalde
- Justin Iverson
- Megan Van Gorder

### Hugh Jameson Graduate Student Essay Prize

- Jonathan Munyon, "Jesus Comes to Hollywood: The Hollywood Free Paper and the Jesus People"
- Megan Van Gorder, "Framing the Dead: Verbalizing Death's Visuality in Civil War America" (honorable mention)

### Jeffrey Lunsford Fellowship

Victor Garcia

### Outstanding M.A. Student

Thomas Brown

### Outstanding Ph.D. Student

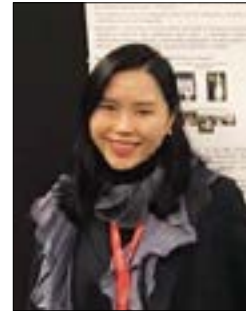
Kevin Luginbill

### James Shirley Graduate Article Prize

- Kevin Luginbill, "A Molecule in the Great Mass of Public Opinion: Imperial Sentiment in Letters to the Colonial Office, 1903."
- Megan Van Gorder, "Sorrow Comes to All: Bloomington, Illinois Demonstration of Community Participation in Civil War Grief," *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, 2019 (honorable mention).

## Research presentations, publications, and other accomplishments

**Alex Carlson** (M.A.) presented "Michael Farrell and the Ideology of People's Democracy" at the Midwest Regional meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Minneapolis, MN.



**Heeyoung Choi** (Ph.D.) presented her poster, "[Beyond the Constraints of Colonial and Social Hierarchies: Contributions of Korean Diasporas to Multicultural Events in Early Twentieth-Century Hawaii.](#)" at the 2019 meeting of the American Historical Association in Chicago, IL. She also presented three papers at conferences: "From the Lowest Class to

Becoming Benefactors: Charity Concepts of Kisaengs in Colonial Korea" at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs at Metro State University, St Paul, MN, in October 2018; "Cultural Convergence and Political Reconciliation Through the Performing Arts" at the 9th World Congress of Korean Studies, Academy of Korean Studies, Sungnam, South Korea, September 2018; and "The Role of the Performing Arts in Unifying Ideologies" at the 11th annual Symposium on Korean Studies hosted by the Kyujanggak Institute for Korean Studies, Seoul, South Korea, in August 2018.



M.A. student **Heather Darsie**, J.D., has [published a book](#) entitled [Anna, Duchess of Cleves: The King's 'Beloved Sister.'](#)

**Justin Iverson** (Ph.D.) presented "Fugitives on the Front: Runaway Slaves, Indians, and the Great Seminole Maroon War," at the Consortium of the Revolutionary Era Conference in Atlanta Feb. 28 - March 2. He was also awarded a short-term fellowship through the Newberry Library Center for Renaissance Studies Consortium in January. He received a Dissertation Completion Award for 2019-20.

**Susan Kwosek** (Ph.D.) has accepted a tenure-track position at South Carolina State University.



**JoAnn Losavio** (Ph.D.) presented a poster entitled "[Educated Professionals: Thai Women in Transnational Perspective, 1965-1970](#)" at the AHA in Chicago and "The 'Second Wave' of Thai-U.S. Migration: The Peace Corps, Professional Networking, and Higher Education, 1965-1968" at Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs in St. Paul MN. She also received the Center for Southeast Asian Studies' Clark and Arlene Neher Graduate Fellowship for 2019-2020.

**Matthew Maletz** (Ph.D.) published a [book review](#) of Susana Draper's *1968 Mexico: Constellations of Freedom and Democracy* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2018) in H-1960s.

**Megan Van Gorder** (Ph.D.) presented "Taught in the School of Affliction: Lincoln, Grief, and the Civil War in Bloomington, Illinois," at both the Conference on Illinois History and the Virginia Center for Civil War Studies Conference at Virginia Tech University.

## Faculty News

Associate Professor **Christina Abreu** published "*Más que una reina: Race and Gender in the Musical Careers of Graciela Pérez, Celia Cruz, and La Lupe*" in *Journal of Social History* 52, no. 2 (Winter 2018): 332-352.

Distinguished Teaching Professor and assistant chair **E. Taylor Atkins'** *A History of Popular Culture in Japan, From the Seventeenth Century to the Present*, was named a [Choice Outstanding Academic Title](#) for 2018. He published "[Frenemy Music? Jazz and the Aural Imaginary in Wartime Japan](#)" in a special issue on "[Music Notes and Weapons: Jazz and War, 1936-45](#)" in the Italian journal *Memoria e Ricerca: Rivista di storia contemporanea*. Professor Atkins was interviewed for an upcoming Cream Productions documentary, *The World Without Japan*, which will broadcast on the History Channel in late spring 2019. His doctoral student **Heeyoung Choi** is on track to finish her dissertation, "The Transnational Construction of National Music (*Kugak*): Musicking in the Korean Diaspora, 1900-1945," in the fall of 2019.

In 2018, Associate Professor **Andy Bruno** held a

[Fellowship in Aerospace History](#) from NASA and the History of Science Society, which allowed him to travel around Siberia for research on his new project on the 1908 Tunguska explosion. He also published an article on Russian climate history and two chapters in edited volumes.

Professor **Sundiata Djata** published "Racial Politics in the History of American Tennis" in [Routledge Handbook of Tennis: History, Culture and Politics](#), ed. Robert J. Lake.

Aided by a [Summer Stipend from the National Endowment for the Humanities](#), Associate Professor **Sean Farrell** spent a month in Ireland in September 2018 doing research on a railway disaster in mid-Victorian Ireland at various archives in Belfast and Dublin. He presented this work at conferences and invited lectures in Belfast and Cork in Ireland, as well as in Boston, Minneapolis-St. Paul, and Syracuse. He stepped down as Director of Graduate Studies in summer 2018, only to return as Acting Director for the spring semester of 2019. "I will step down again in June," he says, "and expect that it will take this time."

## Faculty News (continued)

**Heide Fehrenbach**, Board of Trustees and Distinguished Research Professor, published an article, "Children as Casework: The Problem of Migrating and Refugee Children in the Era of World War," in the [Research Handbook on Child Migration](#), edited by Jacqueline Bhabha, Daniel Senovilla Hernandez, and Jyothi Kanics (Edward Elgar, 2018) in summer 2018. In November, she presented a paper titled "Competing Internationalisms: Friends of Soviet Russia's Famine Relief Campaign contra Interwar Humanitarianism" for a panel, organized by NIU alumnus **Lael Weinberger**, on "Refracted Internationalism: Interwar American Interpretations of World Affairs" at the Society for U.S. Intellectual History Conference in Chicago in November 2018.

Typically, Presidential Research Professor **Aaron Fogleman** teaches 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, but this year he has been on research leave, funded by a [Guggenheim Foundation fellowship](#). He is writing a book tentatively entitled "Immigrant Voices: European and African Stories of Freedom, Unfreedom, and Identity in the Americas through Four Centuries." He is working on a related 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. With the assistance of a number of NIU graduate students, undergraduate students and others, this project is nearing completion. Professor Fogleman presented the Catalog to Africanists at the Symposium on Biography and Testimony at the Harriet Tubman Institute for Research on Africa and its Diasporas in York University, Toronto, and at a conference entitled "Enslaved: Peoples of the Historic Slave Trade" at Michigan State University. He also presented results of the "Immigrant Voices" monograph project at the annual meeting of the Society of German American Studies in Madison. Aaron is an active member of the department's cheerleading squad, organizing the morale-boosting receptions for faculty who have published new books.

In addition to becoming chair of the history department in July 2018, Associate Professor **Valerie Garver** published an edited volume, [A Cultural History of Work: the Medieval Age \(800-1450\)](#) with Bloomsbury Press, which included her own piece on "Work, Skill, and Technology." Moreover,

her article, "Sensory Experience of Low Status Textile Workers," appeared in the book [Sensory Reflections: Traces of Experience in Medieval Artifacts](#), eds. Fiona Griffiths and Kathryn Starkey. Nearly finished writing her book, *Clothing, Textiles, and Society in the Carolingian World*, she is about to begin writing a textbook on early medieval women and has been working with an undergraduate mentee, **Lucy Johnson**, on medieval women's history as part of her ongoing work in that field. Professor Garver also gave four public lectures on the HBO TV show *Game of Thrones* and its relationship to medieval history. She was cited in an [Agence France-Presse](#) story about the eighth season of *Game of Thrones* (she previously [taught an Honors seminar](#) on the series, which was widely [covered in the press](#)). Professor Garver was interviewed by three Chicago media outlets the day after the April 15 fire at Notre-Dame de Paris ([Univision](#), [WBEZ](#), and [Fox 32 Chicago](#)).

Associate Professor **Eric Allen Hall** published "Arthur Ashe: Politics, Racism and Tennis" in [Routledge Handbook of Tennis: History, Culture and Politics](#), ed. Robert J. Lake. He served as acting director of educator licensure in history and social studies for the 2018-19 academic year.

This past year has been the year of foreign travel and frequent flier miles for Professor **Anne Hanley**. The highlight of her year, hands down, was seeing her book [The Public Good and the Brazilian State](#) in print. She presented it to an economic history conference in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, in July 2018 and to the Jorge Paulo Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies at the University of Illinois in September. It received Honorable Mention for the Best Book Prize in Brazilian Social Sciences from the Latin American Studies Association in April. Much of the rest of the year was spent presenting,



honing, and refining her new research project on standardization in 19th century Brazil. Those presentations took her to Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Barcelona, Boston, Rutgers, Rio de Janeiro, and Santiago, Chile. She won a summer 2019 Research and Artistry Grant from NIU to expand this research. In between all those adventures, she spent the first semester of 2019 on a [Fulbright U.S. Scholars Award](#) in Ribeirão Preto, Brazil, where she

co-taught a graduate seminar on Brazilian economic history and worked with a Brazilian colleague on another research project about foreign banks in early 20th century Brazil. That research took her to Boston and Cartagena, Colombia. Nice work if you can get it!

Professor **Beatrix Hoffman** presented a talk entitled "Immigration and the Right to Healthcare" as part of the Park Street Speaker Series on Ethics and Health at Boston College in November 2018 and published an article, "[Undocumented, Uninsured, and Unafraid](#)," in *Dissent* magazine. She also was guest curator for the National Library of Medicine's project to [digitize the papers of Leonidas H. Berry](#), a Chicago physician who led the National Medical Association's fight against segregation in medical care.

As acting director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Associate Professor **Eric Jones** wrote a successful application for [Department of Education Title VI funding](#), enabling CSEAS to maintain its status as a National Resource Center.

In June 2018 Assistant Professor **Natalie Joy** published "The Indian's Cause: Abolitionists and Native American Rights" in a special issue of the *Journal of the Civil War Era* on "The Future of Abolition Studies" guest edited by Manisha Sinha. She also wrote a pedagogy post related to this article titled "[Teaching the Intersection of Abolitionism and Indian Rights](#)" for the journal's blog, *Muster*. In July she participated in an NEH Summer Institute for College and University Faculty at the CUNY Graduate Center in New York City on "The Visual Culture of the American Civil War and its Aftermath." In October she gave presentation on a paper titled "Native Women's Activism in the American Antislavery Movement" at the annual meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Assistant Professor **Emma Kuby** published her first monograph, [Political Survivors: The Resistance, the Cold](#)

[War, and the Fight Against Concentration Camps After 1945](#) with Cornell University.

**Amanda Littauer**, Associate Professor, published "Your Young Lesbian Sisters': Queer Girls' Voices in the Liberation Era, 1970-1986," *Girlhood Studies*, special issue on "Queering Girlhoods," Vol. 12 No. 1 (March 2019); and "Sexual Minorities at the Apex of Heterosexuality (1940s-1965)," in [Routledge History of Queer America](#), ed. Don Romesburg (Routledge, 2018).



**Brian Sandberg**, Professor, completed administrative duties as associate dean for research and graduate affairs in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in summer 2018, and taught courses on the Renaissance, European Wars of Religion, and the History of War since 1500 during the 2018-19 academic year. He wrote an article on

"Reflecting on the European Wars of Religion in an Age of Religious Violence," for *Sixteenth Century Journal* (2019, forthcoming). He published chapters in collective volumes on *Femmes à la cour de France. Charges et fonctions*



(XVe - XIXe siècle), *Aristocratic Souls in Democratic Times, and Cultures of Voting in Pre-modern Europe*. A Spanish translation (by Antonio Escobar Tortosa) of his article on "'Generous Amazons Came to the Breach': Besieged Women in the French Wars of Religion," appeared in *Revista Universitaria de Historia Militar*. Brian also writes a "[Historical Perspectives](#)" blog.

## New faculty book



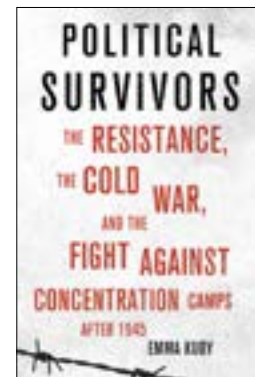
[Political Survivors: The Resistance, the Cold War, and the Fight Against Concentration Camps After 1945](#) by Assistant Professor **Emma Kuby** examines the humanitarian work initiated by French intellectual David Rousset (1912-97), a former inmate of the Buchenwald concentration camp, to denounce the Soviet Gulag as a “hallucinatory repetition” of Nazi

atrocities. She also uncovers the clandestine CIA funding of Rousset’s campaign against the continued existence of inhumane internment systems around the world, which aligned well with the anti-communist interests of the United States.

Throughout the 1950s, Rousset’s International Commission Against Concentrationist Regimes crusaded to expose political imprisonment, forced labor, and

other crimes against humanity in Franco’s Spain, Maoist China, French Algeria and beyond. Kuby explains how Jewish Holocaust victims were deliberately excluded from the commission, rendering the camps as primarily sites of political repression rather than of ethnic genocide.

*Political Survivors* shows how the memory of the Nazi concentration camp regime shaped postwar politics, ideological conflicts, Cold War policies, and the dismantling of the French Empire.



On March 22, the day of the department’s reception to celebrate Professor Kuby’s accomplishment, the book was reviewed in the [Chicago Tribune](#).

## In Memoriam



On Dec. 14, 2018, Professor **Anita Andrew**, the department’s China historian, died unexpectedly at Beloit (WI) Memorial Hospital. After receiving her Ph.D. at the University of Minnesota in 1997 and teaching as a visiting professor at Beloit College, she joined the department in 1994 and taught surveys on Asian history, upper-division

classes on China and Asian women, and a new course on Asian history as depicted in video games. A passionate advocate of Asian studies, she engaged in many public outreach activities for educator workshops, area hospitals and museums.

Professor Andrew was trained as a specialist in Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) history, co-authoring [Autocracy and](#)

[China’s Rebel Founding Emperor’s: Comparing Chairman Mao and Ming Taizu](#) (Rowman and Littlefield, 2000) with her husband, Beloit College political science Professor John Rapp. She served on the editorial board for the journal [Ming Studies](#), and was chief editor for several years.

In 1995 and 2001, Anita and John adopted two daughters from China, Amy Chunyi Rapp and Laura Mingyi Rapp. This experience inspired her research on intercountry adoptions of Chinese children, for a planned monograph entitled “From China’s Daughters to All-American Girls.”

Dr. Rapp has established a memorial scholarship fund for NIU undergraduates who intend to go on to M.A. degree programs in interdisciplinary Asian studies. Contributions to the Anita M. Andrew Memorial Scholarship should be sent to: Northern Illinois University Department of History, Zulauf Hall 715, DeKalb, IL 60115-2893. Please make checks payable to the Northern Illinois University Foundation, with a notation in support of the Anita M. Andrew Memorial Scholarship.

## New book receptions

Since 2009, the department has been regularly celebrating the publication of monographs by its faculty members with champagne receptions, usually in the Thurgood Marshall Gallery of the Law School on campus. These have been enthusiastic, well-attended events by faculty, graduate students, friends, families, and others in which we congratulate the authors, listen to them talk about their books, and ask questions. In the 2018-19

academic year we celebrated the following publications: [Anne Hanley](#), *The Public Good and the Brazilian State: Municipal Finance and Public Services in São Paulo, 1822-1930* (University of Chicago Press, 2018), on Sept. 7, 2018; and [Emma Kuby](#), *Political Survivors: The Resistance, the Cold War, and the Fight against Concentration Camps after 1945* (Cornell University Press, 2019), on March 22, 2019.



## 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](mailto:history@niu.edu) or by sending a letter to the NIU Department of History, DeKalb, IL 60115.*

**Zachary Bishop** (M.A., 2017) is the curator of the DuPage County (IL) Historical Museum.

**Noah Blan** (M.A., 2011) earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan and accepted a three-year visiting assistant professorship at Lake Forest College. He and his family are excited to return to the Chicago area. His research focuses on the intersection of nature and sovereignty in the medieval European Carolingian Empire from c. 780-814.

**David Carlson** (M.A., 2017) has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in history at the University of Notre Dame.

**Kathryn Densford** (M.A., 2012) recently accepted a three-year visiting assistant professorship at Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. Kate earned her Ph.D. from George Washington University in 2018. Her research focuses on the First World War in Habsburg Central Europe. She has published in *European Review of History* (2017) and in the edited volume [World War I in Central and Eastern Europe: Politics, Conflict and Military Experience](#) (I.B. Tauris, 2018). She teaches Western Civilization and Modern European History.

**Jesse Ercolani** (B.S., 2018) was accepted into the M.A. program in history at the University of New Mexico.

## Alumni News (continued)

**Ken Hall** (M.A., 1971), Professor of history at Ball State University, is currently serving his third senior-scholar teaching and research appointment in India in the 2018-2019 academic year, following previous Fulbright research/teaching assignments in Indonesia (2003-2004) and Cambodia (2013), and a Distinguished Senior Scholar-in-Resident at the Institute for Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore (2015). His graduate studies in South and Southeast Asian history and the multidisciplinary Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Northern Illinois University were foundational to his academic career, which has focused on the history of the Indian Ocean and includes a series of books, journal articles, and collected volume publications – with thanks to emeritus Professor George Spencer among other key NIU history department faculty in the early 1970s.

**Andres Hajar** (Ph.D., 2015) has accepted a tenure-track position in the Department of History at Georgia Gwinnett College in Lawrenceburg, GA.

**Samantha Hochmann** (M.A., 2015) was promoted to executive director of Tinker Swiss Cottage and Gardens in Rockford, IL.

**Jana Knezovic** (M.A., 2017) is an analyst at the Sidney Austin law firm in Chicago.

**Gabe Logan** (Ph.D., 2007), Professor of history at Northern Michigan University, has published *The Early Years of Chicago Soccer, 1887-1939* with Lexington Books. The book is based on his dissertation, directed by Professor Emerita Barbara Posadas.

**Palak Patel** (M.A., 2019) has been accepted into the Ph.D. program in history at the University of Iowa.

**Jason Perkiser** (B.A., 2017) graduated from Marquette University Law School where he was in the top 15% of his class. While at Marquette, he worked as a research assistant and student academic success program leader. He also served as the vice president of the Labor and Employment Law Society. In addition, he worked as a clerk for a law firm with offices in Milwaukee, Madison, Appleton and Eau Claire that specializes in the labor and employment (plaintiff side), family, and worker's compensation practice areas. Jason writes: "I have no doubt that the education I received at NIU, more specifically the history program, enabled my success in what is an academically demanding professional degree program. The reading, writing, and historical analysis provides skills that are – as you know – crucial to the successful completion of advance degrees. Lastly, I write to express my gratitude to the professors and staff that have enabled my success. I am truly thankful for the wonderful people at NIU. You have all had such a positive impact on my life, for which I am grateful."

**Reid Weber** (M.A., 2006) became Assistant Professor of humanities at the University of Central Oklahoma.



**Lael Weinberger** (M.A., 2013) was selected as the 2018 NIU History Alumnus of the Year. He received multiple prestigious fellowship offers for the 2019-20 academic year, of which he could only pick one, so he accepted the Berger-Howe Fellowship at Harvard.

## Share your memories of NIU through our oral history project

In September of 1895, NIU founders used a lead pencil to formally break ground on construction of a new university in DeKalb, Illinois. The following month, more than 20,000 people showed up to watch a crane slowly lower the cornerstone in place for what would become Altgeld Hall. Beginning in January 2020, NIU will celebrate its 125th anniversary. The year-long celebration will feature special events, history projects, music and fine arts, service projects and more. One of the history projects, conducted jointly by the History Department and the Regional History Center at NIU, is an oral history project.

We are seeking NIU alumni; former and current faculty and

staff; and DeKalb community members who are willing to share their memories and experiences of the university. The stories will be documented and recorded by a current NIU student and archived at the Regional History Center in Founders Memorial Library. Your interview will also be used and publicly shared as part of the university's 125th Anniversary events and commemoration. Critical as well as celebratory perspectives are welcome.

If you are interested in participating in this project, or if you have questions about it, please email Ph.D. student JoAnn Losavio at [jlosavio1@niu.edu](mailto:jlosavio1@niu.edu) or Professor Amanda Littauer at [alittauer@niu.edu](mailto:alittauer@niu.edu).

125  
YEARS  
1895-2020



Northern Illinois  
University

### *Help us continue the tradition of excellence*

By giving to the Department of History, you are playing an important role in supporting students and faculty. From annual giving to planned giving and endowments, there's a method to fit just about any budget. For more information, please contact **Ray Earl-Jackson**, Director of Advancement, at 815-753-1390.

There are several ways to make your gift to Northern

Illinois University's Department of History.

Online: Make a credit card gift [online](#) (designate your gift to the History Department).

Phone: 1-877-GIV-2-NIU.

Mail: One-time credit card payments or check gifts may be made using the [Gift Form](#).

Contact Ray Directly: 815-753-1390 or [rejjackson@niu.edu](mailto:rejjackson@niu.edu).





Northern Illinois  
University

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of History  
Zulauf Hall 715 | 815-753-0131

[history@niu.edu](mailto:history@niu.edu) | [niu.edu/history/](http://niu.edu/history/) | [Facebook](#)