

Department of History Annual Newsletter 2023-2024



COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA-LINCOLN

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NEWSLETTER DESIGNED & EDITED BY:
Megan Brown

CHAIR'S REPORT

History is on a roll. In AY2023-24, we hired three new faculty: Dr. Cindy Ermus, director of the Humanities and Medicine Program and the Charles and Linda Wilson Professor in the History of Medicine; Dr. Abraham Gibson, associate professor of history; and Dr. Donna Anderson, Andrew W. Mellon Research Assistant Professor in U.S. Law and Race. Drs. Ermus and Gibson come to us from the University of Texas at San Antonio with tenure, and Dr. Anderson is a recent graduate from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Dr. Ermus is a specialist in 18th Century European public health and medicine. Dr. Gibson works extensively in the history of science, environmentalism, and the American South. Dr. Anderson specializes in Asian American immigration and the law in the Midwest. These are exceptional faculty, and we are proud to welcome them to campus.

History also saw the retirement of two of its most distinguished faculty, Professor Parks Coble and Professor Amy Burnett. As the James R. Sellers Professor of History, Professor Coble taught at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, for forty-eight years



and is widely regarded as a leading authority on China and Asia, with five major books published over his career here. Professor Burnett retired as the Paula and D.B. Varner University Professor of History, and is a world-renowned scholar of the German Reformation and a recent Guggenheim fellow. The department will not be the same without Professors Coble and Burnett.

Professor Laura Muñoz – a specialist in Latinx history, immigration, and the history of education – was promoted to Associate Professor of History and Ethnic Studies. Her book, *Desert Dreams: Mexican Arizona and the Politics of Educational Equality*, was published by the University of Pennsylvania Press.

With a heavy heart, I write that our imminent colleague, Lloyd Ambrosius, Emeritus Samuel Clark Waugh Distinguished Professor of International Relations, passed away in May 2024. You will read more about him on page 41 of this Newsletter.

Finally, this October, we are hosting a very special Carroll R. Pauley Symposium called “The Legacy of Republican China,” and we have invited six of the top China historians to campus as a marvelous way to celebrate Professor Coble’s forty-eight years of teaching as our own Asia historian in the department.

Thank you very much your support for our department and for the University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

With kind wishes,

Samuel Clark Waugh Distinguished Professor
& Chair of the Department of History

2023 PAULEY LECTURE



In 2015 and again in 2022, students and staff in South Africa relied on a series of protests, strikes, and campaigns to demand change in higher education. These demonstrations came to be known as the #FeesMustFall campaign, a decolonial strategy that referenced students' core demand for a free and quality education, what they claim is a sacred human right. How did South African students shut down all the country's universities while inspiring protests in the United States, the United Kingdom, Cameroon, and India?

Masango Chéry discussed the intersections between race, education, protest, and religion. Reaching back to the 1955 Freedom Charter that declared education as liberation and culminating in the Soweto Uprising of 1976, in which state-sanctioned violence thwarted youth protest, Masango Chéry historicizes these contemporary struggles as part of South Africans' tradition of protest. These historical moments in South Africa provide us with the political creativity and inspiration to reimagine the current neoliberal structures that organize our own universities in the United States.

Organized in memory of alumnus Carroll R. Pauley ('30), the lecture series and symposium feature a variety of speakers addressing current research in history and other social sciences. The 2024 Carroll R. Pauley Symposium will take place October 17-18, 2024 and will celebrate the 48-year career of Emeritus Professor Parks Coble with an examination of the legacy of republican China.

Sources: "Masango Chéry to give Pauley Lecture Nov. 2," <https://history.unl.edu/masango-ch%C3%A9ry-give-pauley-lecture-nov-2>, 24 October 2023; <https://events.unl.edu/history/2023/11/02/176171/>; <https://history.unl.edu/pauley-symposium-lecture>

Tshepo Masango Chéry of the University of Houston (UH) gave the 2023 Carroll R. Pauley Lecture on 2 Nov. 2023 at 4:00 p.m. in the Nebraska Union, Regency Suite. "The University Belongs to Us! Meditations on Protest and Change in South Africa's Higher Education and Beyond" was free and open to the public.

Masango Chéry, an assistant professor in the Department of History at UH, is a South African scholar who turns to religion as a site from which to historicize liberation struggles in Africa.

successful without generous sponsors whose contributions made the conference possible: The UNL Research Council; the UNL Convocation Committee; UNL Department of Political Science; UNL Digital Humanities; the Center for Great Plains Studies; UNL Institute of Ethnic Studies; UNL Women's & Gender Studies Program; and the History Graduate Students' Association.

Source: Brianna Rose DeValk, Joslyn Edmond, Jun Yi Goh, Miriam Nieto López, and Greg Payne, 2023 Rawley Conference Committee; Photo courtesy of HGSA



NEW FACULTY

We are delighted to welcome Profs. Donna Anderson, Cindy Ermus, and Abe Gibson to UNL!

Hi everyone! My name is **Dr. Donna Doan Anderson** (she/her). I am excited to return to my alma mater as the Mellon Research Assistant Professor in U.S. Law and Race in the History Department. I am coming back to Lincoln from sunny Santa Barbara, where I just completed a Ph.D. in U.S. History with an emphasis in Asian American Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Before

my short stint in California, I completed my bachelor's in Secondary Education at UNL and my master's in Historical Studies from Nebraska Wesleyan University.

My research examines the intersections of land policy and immigration within rural Asian American communities in the U.S. Midwest between the late 19th and the mid-20th

centuries through the theoretical frameworks and methodologies of Ethnic Studies. My research interests stem from my experience growing up as a mixed-raced Vietnamese American in Omaha and my former career as a history teacher at Lincoln High School. Throughout these experiences, I found my and my students' histories were often regulated to the margins of textbooks, singular units, or exceptional examples. Graduate school was the response to a desire for holistic knowledge, curriculum, and resources to better understand these histories. This focus also incentivizes me to concentrate on sites and histories often deprioritized in larger research institutions such as community-based museums, volunteer-run historical societies, and family archives. Pursuing these goals



2023 RAWLEY CONFERENCE

The 2023 James A. Rawley Graduate Conference in the Humanities – "In Between the Lines: Race, Class, Gender and the Intersections Between" – encouraged participants to examine history through an intersectional and interdisciplinary lens. The conference was held 5-6 October 2023, and gathered 75 attendees for nine panels, a digital tools workshop, a research lightning round, a guest lecture from the U.S. Law and Race Initiative, and a keynote address by Dr. Cathleen Cahill of Pennsylvania State University who discussed alternative "geologies of feminism" through her presentation on the suffrage movement. Through the use of a hybrid in-person and

online format, the Conference allowed graduate students, educators, and university professors from across the country to present their work and promote enriched dialogue and outreach. In addition to the various humanities departments across the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, participants came from the University of Florida, Florida International University, Purdue University, the University of South Alabama, the University of Iowa, Youngstown State University, the University of Nebraska Omaha, and Nebraska Wesleyan University.

The 2023 Rawley Conference would not have been

has led to opportunities in curriculum development with UCSB's ÉXITO program, editorial management with the *Journal of Asian American Studies*, and organizational leadership within the Association of Asian American Studies.

I continue to explore Ethnic Studies pedagogies within historical methods. At UNL, I hope to use my research to build curriculum and educational resources on the marginalized histories of the American heartland with the help of the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities, the Center for Great Plains Studies, and the extensive breadth of knowledge from UNL History faculty. I also look forward to being close to my archives, enjoying a black coffee at The Mill, a pastry from Goldenrod, and continuing to work within the community.

Hi! My name is **Dr. Cindy Ermus**, and I am the Charles and Linda Wilson Professor in the History of Medicine and the new Director of the Humanities in Medicine program. I specialize in the history of medicine and the environment, especially catastrophe and public health crisis management, in eighteenth-century France and the Atlantic World.



Growing up in Miami, Florida—with its annual cycle of hurricane seasons—I became interested in the history of disasters and crises, but I did not know that I could spend my career researching these events until I got to college. Since my undergraduate education focused primarily on medieval and early modern Europe, it was there that I learned about, and was captivated by, such transformative events as the Black Death, the Protestant Reformation, and

the Age of Revolutions, among others. I then took these interests with me to graduate school, where I focused primarily on the study of bubonic plague and other historical crises.

My first book, *The Great Plague Scare of 1720: Disaster and Diplomacy in the Eighteenth-Century Atlantic World* (Cambridge University Press, 2023), is a transnational study of the Plague of Provence of 1720 (or Plague of Marseille), one of the last outbreaks of plague in Western Europe. My second, shorter monograph, titled *Urban Disasters* (Cambridge UP, 2023), is a brief history of catastrophe that looks at case studies from around the globe over the last 300 years. Among other themes, it considers the ongoing effects of climate change and the future of cities.

I am now at work on a co-authored global history of epidemics, as well as an edited volume on the global history of revolutions. I am also co-founder and co-executive editor for the digital, open-access, peer-reviewed publication www.AgeofRevolutions.com, which explores themes and moments in the history of revolutions.

Some of my favorite things to do include playing and spending time with my two boys, traveling, and getting outside as much as possible.

I can't wait to get to know my colleagues and students at UNL! I look forward to sharing my passion for history and medicine with students and helping to direct them toward a lifetime of inquiry and learning, no matter what career paths they may take.

Hello, my name is **Dr. Abraham Gibson**, but you can call me Abe. I am looking forward to joining the History faculty as an associate professor this fall. I have previously held appointments at a number of institutions, including the University of Pennsylvania, Arizona State University, and most recently, the University of Texas at San Antonio. My research has been funded by a variety of grants and fellowships from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. Department of Education, and the Consortium for

the History of Science, Technology, and Medicine, among others. I was born and raised in southwestern Virginia, and I later earned a B.A. in English from James Madison University, an M.A. in History from Virginia Tech, and a Ph.D. in History from Florida State University.

I have eclectic research interests, but my projects generally examine the history of science, technology, and the



environment from a variety of different perspectives. My first book looked at the social and cultural impact of domestic animals in southern history, while my next book project looks at the rise of artificial intelligence and its potential implications for the historical record. Other publications cover everything from the history of one-room schools to the relationship between science and ideology. I am very active in the digital humanities, and I am thrilled to join a department that shares my enthusiasm. I am eager to develop a digital project that looks at the history of agriculture in Nebraska, and I am especially keen to establish connections with our colleagues within the department, across the College, and throughout the university. Go Big Red!

HUSKER ALUM SERVES AS NEXT DPAA FELLOW

The Department of History welcomed its next Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Research Partner Fellow, **Tony Foreman**, in January 2024. In this role, he will conduct research in support of the agency's mission to provide the fullest possible accounting for missing personnel to their families and the nation.

The Nebraska alum earned a Ph.D. in May 2023 and an M.A. in 2016, both focused on history, an area of the College of Arts and Sciences. He was a graduate teaching assistant in the department starting in 2014, and eventually became an instructor. His first book, *The Greatest Undertaking: The Unique History of the Nebraska Forest Service*, was published in 2017.

The fellow program is sponsored by the Department of Defense. James Le Sueur, department chair and Samuel Clark Waugh Distinguished Professor of International Relations, is the Principal Investigator (PI) of the grant, which was extended for another year to the end of June in 2025.

"The department began collaborating with the DPAA program two years ago," Le Sueur said. "They came to

us because they wanted a department with experience making documentary films and creating oral histories. It's been rewarding and interesting to watch so many researchers, based all over the world, working to bring home remains of our fallen soldiers from World War II and other wars.

"It makes me proud to know our department is involved in these national efforts."

Paul Behringer, who was previously in the role, is now in

RESEARCHER SPOTLIGHT

Tony Foreman
History ('16, '23)



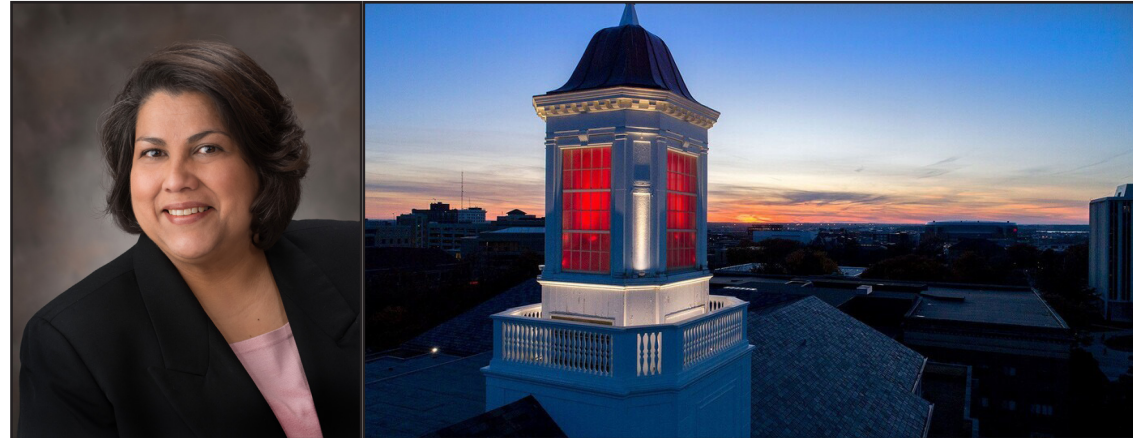
the DPAA office at Offutt Air Force Base.

Source: “Husker alum to serve as next DPAA fellow,” <https://history.unl.edu/husker-alum-serve-next-dpaa-fellow>, 12 December 2023

PROMOTION & TENURE

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln awarded promotion and/or tenure to 100 faculty in 2024.

Faculty receiving honors are listed at [2024 Promotion and Tenure](#).



Sources: “100 Nebraska faculty receive promotion, tenure,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/100-nebraska-faculty-receive-promotion-tenure/>, 15 April 2024; <https://executivevc.unl.edu/faculty/evaluation-recognition/promotion-tenure/2024>

Promoted to Associate Professor and Granted Tenure
Laura Muñoz, History & Ethnic Studies



2023–2024 IN UNL HISTORY

LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

William Thomas, the John and Catherine Angle Chair in the Humanities and professor in the Department of

History, was elected Vice President of the American Historical Association’s (AHA) Research Division.

The AHA promotes historical work and the importance of historical thinking in public life. Incorporated by Congress in 1889, it is the largest membership association of professional historians in the world with over 11,000 members. The [Research Division](#) works to help promote historical scholarship, preserve historical documents and artifacts, ensure equal and open access to information, and fosters the dissemination of information about historical records and research.

[Thomas](#) served as chair of the department from 2010 to 2016 and currently serves as an associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. He is the author of *A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nation’s Founding to the Civil War* (November 2020, Yale University Press) and is co-producing a series of animated documentary films based on his research.

Sources: “2024 AHA Election,” <https://www.historians.org/about-aha-and-membership/governance/committees/nominating-committee/2024-aha-election>, 1 June 2023; compiled by Liz Townsend, “2023 AHA Election Results,” <https://www.historians.org/research-and-publications/perspectives-on-history/september-2023/2023-aha-election-results>, 27 July 2023; “Thomas named to leadership role in American Historical Association,” <https://history.unl.edu/thomas-named-leadership-role-american-historical-association>, 7 August 2023; University Communication and Marketing, “Achievements | Honors, appointments and publications for Aug. 25,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/achievements-honors-appointments-and-publications-for-aug-25/>, 25 August 2023

FEATURE ON HISTORY CHANNEL SERIES



Scott Stempson, a lecturer in the Department of History, provided his sports history expertise for an upcoming episode of the History Channel series “[The Mega-Brands](#)

That Built America.”

Episode 3, “A Whole New Ballgame,” examines the evolution of the sporting goods industry and its effect on sports. It aired 6 August 2023 at 8 p.m.

Stempson has taught U.S. sports history at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln since 2009 and wrote the textbook *American Sports History*.

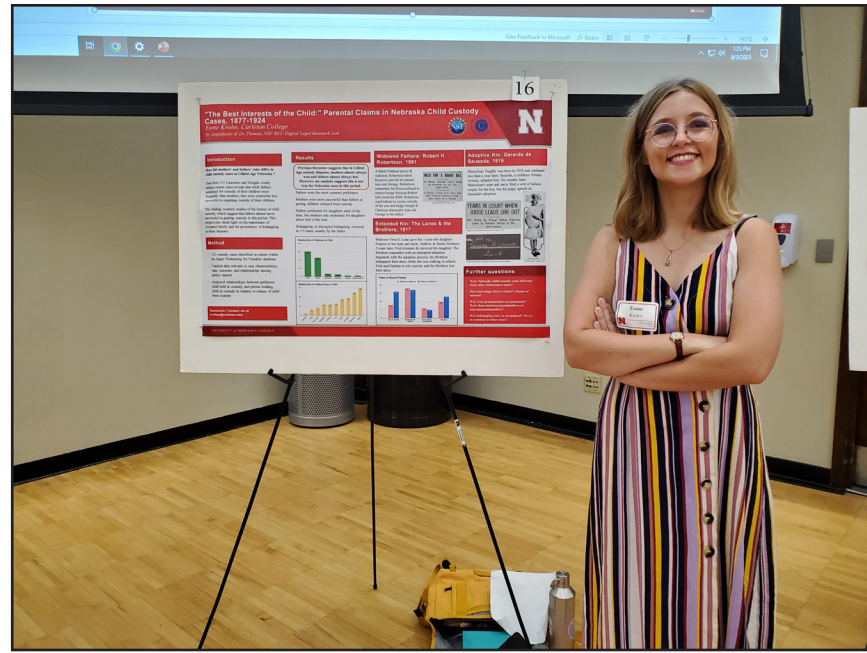
Sources: “Stempson to be featured on episode of History Channel series,” <https://history.unl.edu/stempson-be-featured-episode-history-channel-series>, 2 August 2023; Series trailer, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Datdg87560>

STUDENTS CONTINUE INVESTIGATING LEGAL RECORDS THROUGH REU

Eight students from around the United States spent the summer of 2023 studying digitized records of legal cases and uncovering the ways enslaved people fought for their freedom in the courts.

Student researchers from the Digital Legal Research Lab had the opportunity to present on their summer projects at a forum in Love Library on 2 Aug. 2023 and at the Research Fair on 3 Aug. 2023.

The students who worked on research projects in the lab were under the mentorship of Katrina Jagodinsky, Susan Rosowski associate professor of history and co-founder of the lab, and Will Thomas, professor of history and associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Arts and Sciences. The research experience for undergraduates in the Digital Legal Research Lab was funded by National Science Foundation.



Visiting Carleton College student Esme Krohn talks about one of her summer research projects at the research fair on 3 August 2023.

“We are a collaborative community of scholars and specialists who are using digital tools to tell critical legal histories,” Jagodinsky said. “We’ve had the pleasure of working with eight NSF REU researchers this summer.”

During the first half of the summer program, NSF REU students researched freedom petitions by enslaved people in several eastern states, and during the second half of the program they produced research on habeas corpus petitions from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Esme Krohn, a student from Carleton College, studied the case of 22 enslaved people suing the daughters of John Elliot, their former owner who freed them in his last will and testament. Elliot’s daughters, Susanna and Rachel, contested the will and refused to free the enslaved persons.

“Enslaved people had agency despite being trapped in the inhumane system of slavery, and [the plaintiffs] still were able to take their stories to the courts and advocate for themselves, even if they weren’t always



Will Thomas talks to students in the Digital Legal Research Lab.

successful,” Krohn said.

Early in the summer the NSF REU students spoke at the University Libraries’ second annual Juneteenth Commemorative Program, where they presented their research on legal cases of freedom petitions by enslaved people.

All the students noted that they found more documentation and information about the slave owners/defendants than they did on the plaintiffs. The

students used databases and resources from the Libraries to do some of their research to better understand the legal cases.

Krohn’s second project involved analyzing 121 Lancaster and Douglas County custody dispute cases made from 1877-1924 and found 20% of the cases involved the kidnapping of the child or children by one of the parent or relatives. She followed the case of Frances Lane, who at age 5 in 1917, went to live with an aunt and uncle after her mother died. Her father eventually remarried and wanted her back. Disputes ensued and Lane was first kidnapped by her own father, then again by her uncle. Lane’s father filed a writ of habeas corpus.

“It was a long emotionally involved trial, with many depictions in the newspapers of relatives crying in court,” Krohn said about the humanizing element that one discovers when delving into the research.

Krohn appreciated the opportunity to be a part of the program and the uninterrupted time to focus in-depth on such a project that

allowed her to “look into people’s lives.”

“We are spending time with them and learning their stories – then sharing them with the world,” Krohn said.

The Digital Legal Research Lab is an interdisciplinary hub for the social scientific study of freedom-making in the United States over the long nineteenth century. The research team explores legal mobilization among marginalized people who leveraged the law to challenge enslavement, deportation, coercive confinement, coverture, and institutionalization. The cohort of students came to UNL from colleges and universities around the United States, to study, research, and present that research

on freedom suits and habeas petitions.

Research done by the NSF REU students has been uploaded onto the [O Say Can You See](#) project site or [Petitioning for Freedom: Habeas Corpus in the American West, 1812-1924](#).

Source: University Libraries, “Students continue investigating legal records through REU,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/students-continue-investigating-legal-records-through-reu/>, 22 August 2023

Photo Credit: Craig Chandler | University Communication and Marketing

PLAY BASED ON THOMAS’S RESEARCH

“[Out of the Vineyard](#),” a play based on the research of historian Will Thomas, premieres 8 September 2023 at Joe’s Movement Emporium in Maryland and runs through 24 September 2023.

Written by Psalmayene 24, the work was developed from Thomas’s book *A Question of Freedom: The Families who Challenged Slavery from the Nation’s Founding to Civil War*, which was constructed through interviews with descendants of enslaved families and people connected to the history of freedom suits, including those in Prince George’s County, Maryland.

Each showing of the play will feature a post-show discussion. The play is part of the “Freedom Stories

Initiative,” which was inspired by Thomas’s book and is examining the local and national legacy of slavery...

Published by Yale University Press in 2020, the book has additionally received the 2021 [Mark Lynton History Prize](#) and was named a finalist for the [George Washington Prize](#).

[A trailer](#) is available on Vimeo.

Source: “Play based on Thomas[s] research premieres September 8,” <https://history.unl.edu/play-based-thomas-research-premieres-september-8>, 7 August 2023

BELL AFFAIR TEAM HELP HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES ANIMATE HISTORY

A team of Nebraska researchers is working with high school teachers to share stories from the past and connect them to the larger historical narrative of America through animation and film.

The project, “Animating History,” takes an interdisciplinary

approach to advance knowledge in areas no single discipline can achieve on its own.

Funded by an [Office of Research and Economic Development](#) Layman Seed Award, the project’s research team includes: [Michael Burton](#), assistant professor of art

and design in the Department of Textiles, Merchandising and Fashion Design, and director of the [Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery](#); [Kwakiutl Dreher](#), associate professor of English; and [William Thomas](#), Angle Chair in the Humanities, professor of history and associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Burton, Dreher, and Thomas have collaborated to produce three films: a short, *Anna*, and *The Bell Affair*, a feature-length film, which are completed; and *The Diary of Michael Shiner*, which is in production and scheduled to be finished this fall.

The Bell Affair is now in national distribution through [NUtech Ventures](#) and Random Media in a 10-year worldwide agreement.

Using their Layman funding, researchers are working with 12th-grade teachers at Lincoln Public Schools and Episcopal High School in Virginia to create an open-education resource for students who want to create history-based films. Students will use the “Animating History” framework to understand historical topics and create films of their own using the latest history scholarship. The team will also transfer their current website to the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities...

Once curricula are implemented, student work will vary depending on their academic focus. History students will write reflective papers using the film as a resource to study history. New media students will produce rough animations. English students will write screenplays and create a mood reel — a trailer built from existing film clips that conveys the project’s tone.

Students will use the same process

Burton and his team use to make their films, beginning with conducting exhaustive research on a specific topic and consulting with historians while they develop their film ideas.

Burton is eager to see how students interpret his filmmaking pipeline to create their own historical animated history...

Eventually, Burton said, the goal is national distribution of the curriculum and broader student engagement through funding from a larger grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Department of Education.

[Learn more about this project on the CYFS Research Network.](#)

Source: Chuck Green | CYFS, “‘Bell Affair’ team helping high school classes animate history,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/bell-affair-team-helping-high-school-classes-animate-history/>, 18 September 2023

Photo Credit: Courtesy | Salt Marsh Productions



A still from the animated film, *The Bell Affair*.

OTOE-MISSOURIA AND CGPS EARN MELLON FUNDING

The Otoe-Missouria Tribe once called the land around Salt Creek home, but the tribe was displaced in the 1800s. A new project, with funding from the Mellon Foundation’s Monuments Project, will continue reconciliation efforts to reconnect the tribe to the land where the city of Lincoln

now sits.

The University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Center for Great Plains Studies and the [Otoe-Missouria Tribe](#), based in Oklahoma, have been awarded a three-year, \$1.58 million

grant from the [Mellon Foundation](#) to launch the project, “[Walking in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors: Re-Indigenizing Southeast Nebraska.](#)”

The project will build on recent reconciliation work led by the [Center for Great Plains Studies](#) that included the establishment of the annual Otoe-Missouria Day in Lincoln. Each 21 Sept., the tribe is welcomed home to the Lincoln area on the day their nation ceded the land that became the university and the city.

“Walking in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors” aims to:

- Survey the current commemorative landscape in Southeast Nebraska;
- Bring together the City of Lincoln, the university, and the Otoe-Missouria nation to co-create new land- and relationship-based commemorations of Native peoples in the area;
- Document the process through film and other media to serve as a model for other communities.

Planned activities include a survey of area residents, an audit of current commemorations, the Confronting the Legendary Great Plains conference, the Decolonizing



Christina Faw Faw Goodson, member of the Otoe-Missouria tribe and Native language specialist with the National Indian Education Association, joined the project as co-director in January 2024. She spoke at Otoe-Missouria Day on 21 Sept. 2023.



Two tepees are erected by student members of UNITE and others for Otoe-Missouria Day on 21 Sept. 2023.

Museums lecture series in spring 2024, the third annual Otoe-Missouria Day, the “Contemporary Indigeneity” exhibition at the Great Plains Art Museum in fall 2024, and updates to commemorative signage in area parks and roadsides.

Otoe-Missouria Chairman John Shotton praised the project.

“We are excited to begin a new partnership with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Center for Great Plains Studies,” he said. “We thank the Mellon Foundation for the support of this very important project reconnecting the Otoe-Missouria Tribe with our former homelands in Nebraska.”

Margaret Jacobs, Charles Mach Professor of History and director of the center, will serve as co-director and principal investigator for “Walking in the Footsteps of our Ancestors.” As a historian of Native peoples, she was working on the multimedia project “[Reconciliation Rising](#)” several years ago and was surprised to learn the history of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe and its connection to Southeast Nebraska.

“Many Indigenous people, their presence and place has been almost entirely erased,” Jacobs said. “I would venture to guess that most people who live here (in Lincoln) don’t know the tribe that ceded the land that became our city, our university. It was such a wake-up call for me that I wasn’t aware of it.”

Prior to settlers coming to Lincoln and Southeast Nebraska, people from many Indigenous nations hunted along Salt Creek and its tributaries and harvested salt from its deposits. By 1714, the

Otoe had settled in a village on a Salt Creek tributary. In 1798, their relatives the Missouri joined them there. The Otoe-Missouria Nation signed two treaties with the U.S. government, on 21 Sept. 1833 and on 15 March 1854, that ceded the land that became Lincoln and the University of Nebraska. The Otoe-Missouria moved in 1854 to the Big Blue reservation near Beatrice, but Congress sold the land and moved them to Indian Territory (in Oklahoma) in 1880 and 1881.

“In the Jiwere-Nut’achi Ich’e (Otoe-Missouria language), there are different ways to express thankfulness,” Christina Faw Faw Goodson said. “To the Mellon Foundation, the University of Nebraska and the Center for Great Plains Studies, and my Otoe-Missouria Tribe, I say Warigroxiwi ki! — which literally means ‘I pray for/to you all’ and is the most formal heartfelt thank-you that can be expressed. I believe this project has the power to create lasting connections between the people and communities of Southeastern Nebraska and our Jiwere-Nut’achi people in Oklahoma and throughout the world.”

The City of Lincoln will also be involved and have been partners in establishing Otoe-Missouria Day.

“We are honored to be a part of the ‘Walking in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors’ collaboration between our partners at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s Center for Great Plains Studies and our friends and neighbors from the Otoe-Missouria Tribe of Oklahoma,” Lincoln Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird said. “The City of Lincoln supports the Otoe-Missouria Tribe by acknowledging that our city is on its ancestral lands. This new collaboration will build on that support by helping to engage Lincoln residents and visitors around the important history and ongoing contributions of our Native peoples. We are grateful to the Mellon Foundation for their support of this vital project.”

Jacobs said the grant will allow established partnerships among the tribe and community to grow and that project participants endeavor to form many more partnerships moving forward.

“The grant will allow us to fund Otoe-Missouria commemoration, but also to create a sustainability plan, because it’s something we want to continue into

infinity,” Jacobs said. “A lot of our budget is for bringing people together, because we need to have these conversations. I think a lot of unexpected things will grow very organically out of it.”

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is the nation’s largest supporter of the arts and humanities. Since 1969, the Foundation has been guided by its core belief that the humanities and arts are essential to human understanding. The Foundation believes that the arts and humanities are where we express our complex humanity, and that everyone deserves the beauty, transcendence, and freedom that can be found there. Through Mellon grants, the Foundation seeks to build just communities enriched by meaning and empowered by critical thinking, where ideas and imagination can thrive. Learn more.

Sources: Aaron Nix | University Communication and Marketing, “Otoe-Missouria Day reconnects Indigenous people to the land,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/otoe-missouria-day-reconnects-indigenous-people-to-the-land/>, 22 September 2023; Deann Gayman | University Communication and Marketing, “Otoe-Missouria, Center for Great Plains Studies earn Mellon funding,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/otoe-missouria-center-for-great-plains-studies-earn-mellon-funding/>, 29 November 2023; Deann Gayman | University Communication and Marketing, “2023 was a year of change, achievement for Nebraska U,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/2023-was-a-year-of-change-achievement-for-nebraska-u/>, 5 January 2024

Photo Credits: Avni Srivastav | University Communication and Marketing; Courtesy



Members of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe took a prairie walk during Otoe-Missouria Day festivities.

BOOK TALK AT CHINESE BUSINESS HISTORY WEBINAR

On 21/22 September 2023 Prof. Parks Coble gave a book talk at the Chinese Business History webinar introducing his new book *The Collapse of Nationalist China: How Chiang Kai-shek Lost China’s Civil War* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). The webinar was hosted by the University of

Hong Kong over the Zoom platform. It was open to global participants who needed to pre-register. The webinar was held on Friday 22 September, at 9 am Hong Kong Time (10 am in Japan). In Lincoln, NE, USA, it was 8 pm Thursday night (21 September). Participants from around the globe joined the speakers.

Coble spoke for about 30 minutes using a PowerPoint shared screen and introduced the major themes of the new book as well as a description of the research process that led to its publication. Participants in the webinar could ask questions by uploading them into the chat box on Zoom. Following his remarks, Professor Ghassan Moazzin read a selection of the queries. Coble was delighted with the opportunity to introduce his new book. The audience participants were mostly academics who work in Chinese economic history and the questions reflected this expertise.

Sources: Parks Coble, https://youtu.be/81CJYSzI0-U?si=oTH4851CtsvwWD_2

STUDENTS GET HANDS-ON HISTORY LESSON IN MEDIEVAL METALCASTING

Huskers traveled to the past on 2 Nov. 2023 as part of Carolyn Twomey’s History of the Middle Ages class and even walked away with a memento of the occasion.

Twomey, assistant professor of Medieval European history, in the shadow of Mueller Tower, held a practical lesson on metalcasting of pilgrim’s badges, small metal pins that people wore to commemorate their voyages to holy sites.

Through a demonstration and a souvenir of their own, Twomey hoped to connect students to the real people living in that time and show that in many ways, they thought and behaved much like we do now, like purchasing a knick-knack to remember a trip taken.

“I want them to get into the shoes of someone who lived a thousand years ago,” Twomey said. “I hope they can empathize with people from the past in a little more sophisticated way by recognizing how very much like some of our modern practices this is.”

William Anderson, junior horticulture major from Gothenburg, Nebraska, said the activity brought the reading to life, and he could see the connections between the practice and some modern traditions.

“A lot of times you think people a long time ago must have been very different, but it helps you think people are people and we’ve been that way for the longest time,” he



Most of these items depicted either a saint, their iconography, or a symbol representing how they were martyred. There were also secular badges. Some of them represent allegiance to a group, and some satirical ones even mock the sacred ones.

Twomey said there is no textual reference to the badges from the time, making it an opportunity to learn something from material objects. She encouraged students to compare it to what people in the future might learn about the present from our coffee cups.

“No one writes down the obvious in historical sources,” Twomey said.

Anderson said the class had discussed the history of objects like these in class, but he enjoyed being able to learn more about how they were made up close.

Marlee Moss, a freshman, tries carving on the soft soapstone used to make several of the molds as Mackenzie Kohunsky, a junior, watches.

said. “It’s cool to see people so long ago are just like me and you.”

Travelers during Medieval times would make pilgrimages to holy sites around the world, visiting a tomb or seeing sacred relics of a saint, and the badges served as souvenirs of their journey.

“On their way back, they’re going to buy the equivalent of a shot glass at the Alamo,” Twomey said.



A pilgrim's badge of Thomas Becket, former Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, is ready to be removed from the mold.

Students poured liquid tin into stone molds to create an image of the head of Thomas Becket, also known as St. Thomas of Canterbury. Becket, the Archbishop of Canterbury, argued with King Henry II over his power over the church and was beheaded in 1170 as a result of the conflict. Faithful started visiting his tomb in Canterbury, a pilgrimage featured in *The Canterbury Tales*.

“It really wasn’t that difficult of a process and you can really imagine this going on at different sites around Europe and the world at the time,” he said.

Twomey said people often envision the Middle Ages as a time of kings and queens and others working in the mud, and dispelling those kinds of stereotypes is one of Twomey’s goals with the class. The badges show students that even lower class people of the era were going as far as England to Spain, Jerusalem, or Rome, for example, and some were creating art like the badges. Twomey said some badges were made from gold and silver, but most would have been affordable for the people making these pilgrimages.

“This is an everyday, average activity people could take on,” she said. “This is not just for the elite.”

Some pilgrims kept badges as reminders of their personal devotion. The physical travel came with spiritual transformation as well, especially those who might ask the saints for both healing for a disease or injury and forgiveness for earthly sins. Pilgrim’s badges served as a reminder of that renewal.

“In going on these journeys, you’re not only healing your body but also you’re also healing your soul,” Twomey said. “You’re doing something in the world to affect your salvation and entry into heaven.”

However, most pilgrims sacrificed for the good of their family or town. Twomey said many have been found in river crossings and molded on to church bells. People wanted to share the holy protection with others in their community and believed they could do that by infusing it into the elements.

“That act of depositing in water extends the sacred power of the object through the air molecules or through the water,” Twomey said. “We rarely find them in individual contexts.”

Paige Jennings, senior classics major from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, said she hasn’t experienced a hands-on historical lesson like this before and she appreciated the opportunity to apply what they are learning in the classroom.

“It’s not easy to interact with objects from the past, so being able to work with replicas is really exciting, to be able to touch it with our hands and see exactly what people back then would have been working with, what it meant to them,” Jennings said.

Source: Kristina Jackson | University Communication and Marketing, “Students get hands-on history lesson in medieval metalcasting,”

<https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/students-get-hands-on-history-lesson-in-medieval-metalcasting/>, 3 November 2023

Photo Credit: Craig Chandler | University Communication and Marketing



Carolyn Twomey’s HIST211 History of the Middle Ages class watches as Twomey demonstrates how to cast medieval pilgrims’ badges.

MUSIC OF PROTEST CLASS COLLABORATES TO CREATE SONG



After being immersed in protest music from an array of countries, students in Dawne Y. Curry’s HIST 286 course collaborated with a Malawian musician to craft an original protest song, “L’il Bit.”

[Grace Reiman] observed as a student intern from the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Dean’s Office.

Curry’s research on protest struggles and women and gender in African societies has taken her to South Africa on multiple occasions. Through these trips, she was introduced to South African jazz. As she listened, especially to songs with socially conscious or protest themes, it became evident that it had many parallels with her research.

“My love for music and for resistance studies motivated me to create a new class,” she said.

The historical part of HIST 286: Music of Protest came from her expertise as a professor in the Department of History and Institute for Ethnic Studies. The course features music from Africa as well as the U.S., Brazil, Japan, India, and more. It also offers an experiential learning opportunity of creation and self-expression. Students can design their own album cover, complete their own tag (identity markers used by street artists), and write a song of protest as a class to culminate the semester.



Prof. Dawne Y. Curry in her office with assorted posters

To guide the students in their final project of music creation, Curry requested the help of Masauko Chipembere, an artist from Malawi, a country in Africa, and member of the socially conscious Blk Sonshine whom she had become friends with on one of her research trips.

“I know a lot of artists from South Africa and I was thinking I could make this course even more unique and experiential if I had them work with an artist,” she said.

Before meeting him, Curry and the students deliberated over topics they wanted to address. Their list, which included environmental justice, protection over children, and anti-war, was key to choosing central messages for the song.

Over the course of two class periods, Chipembere joined

via Zoom to discuss the significance of protest music, study a historic protest song together, discuss the main ideas of their song, form lyrics, and establish a beat and melody. He helped the students lean into the process of digging to discover the essence of what they wanted to communicate.

“He told them not to think about a song being a protest but to write something that is organic,” Curry said, adding that Chipembere reminded them of how John Lennon’s “Imagine” became a popular protest tune.

Students were given time to share their personal experiences, thoughts, and the reason they wanted to speak on that topic. Curry did an extraordinary job of facilitating conversation and fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment for each student to share and listen.

The next step was establishing the song’s musicality, and it was crucial to Curry that the students were directly responsible for the songwriting process. She and Chipembere checked to see if anyone had taken notes or formed the first lines while brainstorming topics.

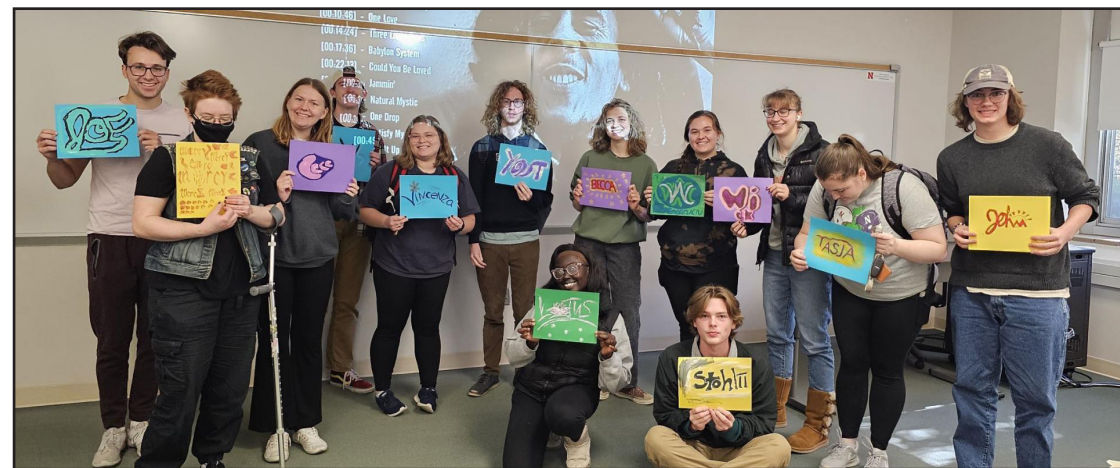
Quin Barton was the first to offer lyrics. She developed the first four strong lines, as well as their beat:

It’s an automatic enlistment into the system

It don’t matter if history’s playing victim

Someone’s pockets are full they’re still asking what hit ‘em

The mouth ain’t muzzled even after it bit ‘em



The students of the inaugural class of HIST 286

The students took incredible ownership of their feelings and emotions and translated them into musical form. In only one hour-and-fifteen-minute class — Chipembere asking students questions and helping to form lyrics — the



Students interacting with Chipembere via Zoom

central messages, lyrics for the first verse, and the beat and melody were established.

During the following class period, the lyric-building process continued until they had put together their song’s framework.

The students also created album covers, viewable at <https://history.unl.edu/music-protest>.

[From a student observer perspective], it was incredibly empowering to witness other students channel their

creative energy and express their experiences, thoughts, and beliefs. In only two class periods, the students, with the help of Curry and Chipembere, composed a song of protest with meaningful lyrics and driving musicality.

“I’m not a musician, but I think musically,”

Curry said. “When I’m in the archives researching about South African women, I see the material as a song with an intro, several verses, a bridge, and a conclusion.

“Music is the teller of truth that democratizes everyone who listens to its lyrics, its sounds, and even its silences.”

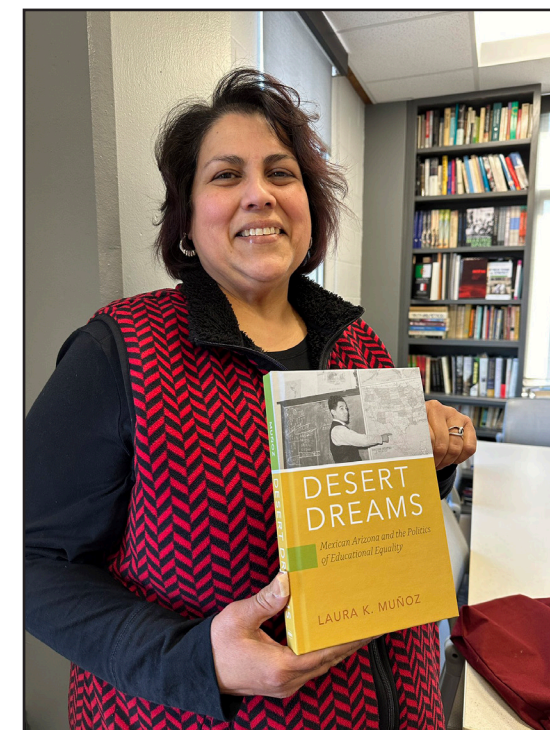
Source: Grace Reiman | CAS Marketing and Communication, <https://history.unl.edu/music-protest>, 30 January 2024

SOCIAL HISTORY OF ARIZONENSES PRE-1960 PUBLISHED

A launch party for Laura Muñoz’s new book, *Desert Dreams: Mexican Arizona and the Politics of Educational Equity*, was 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. 27 Feb. 2024 at the Van Brunt Visitors Center.

Muñoz is now an associate professor of history and ethnic studies within the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s College of Arts and Sciences.

In *Desert Dreams*, Muñoz chronicles 75 years of Mexican-American efforts to



achieve educational equality in Arizona, from its territorial period to post-World War II. She reveals how Arizona Mexicans, or Arizonenses, embraced the United States expecting that they would be treated as American citizens. As the first comprehensive social history of Mexican Americans in Arizona before 1960, *Desert Dreams* demonstrates that Arizonenses across generations engaged in vital political, legal, and educational debates about civil rights and subsequently gave rise to a national Mexican American political consciousness.

Desert Dreams was published by University of Pennsylvania Press in December 2023. A 30% discount is available by using the code PENN-DREAMS30 at checkout.

The launch party, organized by UNL’s Institute of Ethnic Studies, was free and open to the public.

Sources: “Launch party for Muñoz’s new book is Feb. 27,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/launch-party-for-mu-oz-s-new-book-is-feb-27/>, 21 February 2024; <https://events.unl.edu/2024/02/27/173049/>; <https://www.pennpress.org/9781512825114/desert-dreams/>

[pennpress.org/9781512825114/desert-dreams/](https://www.pennpress.org/9781512825114/desert-dreams/)

Photo Credit: James Dean Le Sueur

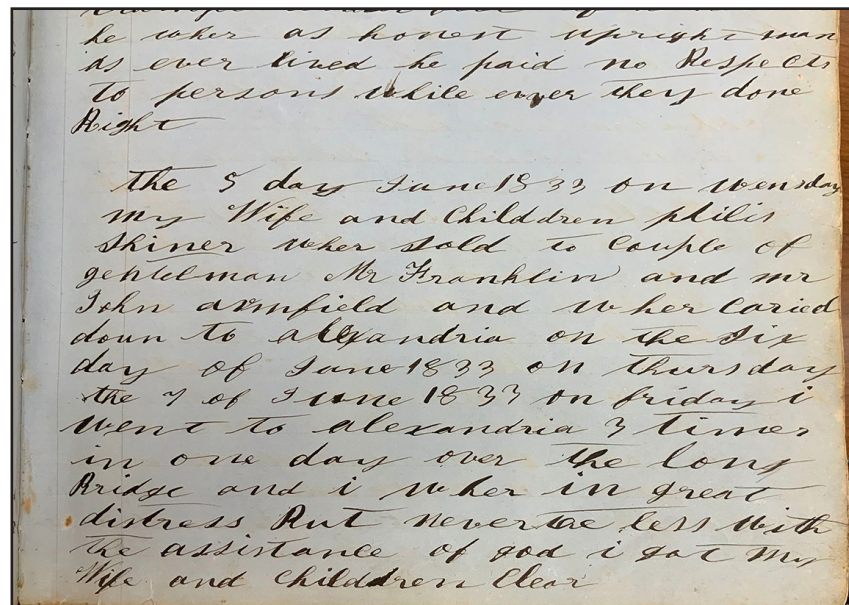
NEBRASKA TEAM PREMIERES FILM BASED ON ENSLAVED MAN’S DIARY

There are few known diaries kept by enslaved people, but Michael Shiner, who lived from 1805 to 1880 in the Washington, D.C., area, kept a meticulous and expansive recording of events he witnessed throughout his life.

Shiner labored as an enslaved man at the Naval Yard. Records show he was freed by 1840. Based on his writings — spanning 56 years and covering politics, family, and natural phenomena — a new short film from a University of Nebraska–Lincoln team depicts the day Shiner saved his wife from the notorious slave traders Franklin and Armfield.

The film, *The Diary of Michael Shiner*, premiered 29 Feb. 2024 during the Omaha Film Festival. The film also screened at the Phoenix Film Fest in April.

This is the fourth film produced by [Animating History](#), which was founded by the team of: Michael Burton, assistant professor in textiles, merchandising and fashion design; Kwakuil Dreher, associate professor in English; and William Thomas, professor of history, Angle Chair in the Humanities and



A page from Michael Shiner’s diary is dated the 15th of June, 1833.

associate dean for research and graduate education in the College of Arts and Sciences. The film was produced with support from an interdisciplinary grant Burton received from the Office of Research and Economic Development in 2022.

“We paged through all 186 pages of Shiner’s diary last summer at the Library of Congress, and we were amazed by his indelible memory of people, dates, and locations,” Burton said. “His stories about life at the Naval Yard and politics in Washington paint a clear picture of society at that time.”

Previous films by the team include *Anna*, an animated film based on true events in one woman’s quest for freedom and family; *A Gold Slipper*, an animation based on the short story by Willa Cather first published in 1917 in Harper’s Monthly Magazine; and *The Bell Affair*, a feature-



length animated film about the Daniel and Mary Bell family that chronicles the legal fight for Mary’s freedom.

[Learn more about all the films from the Animating History team.](#)

Source: Kelcey Buck | Education and Human Sciences,



“Nebraska team premieres film based on enslaved man’s diary: ‘Diary of Michael Shiner’ is fourth historical drama by Animating History,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/nebraska-team-premieres-film-based-on-enslaved-mans-diary/>, 4 March 2024

Photo Credits: Courtesy | Animating History; Courtesy | Michael Burton

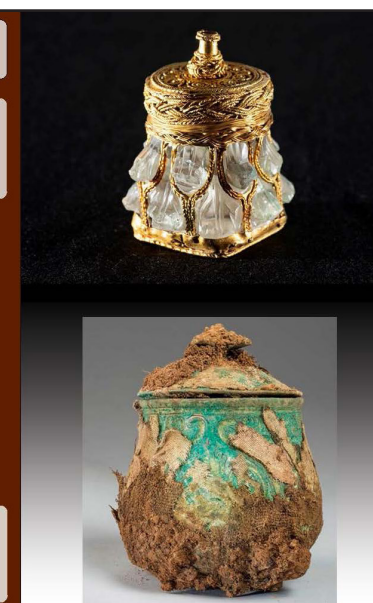
PUBLIC LECTURE ON BAPTISM PRACTICES

The UNL Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program Presents:
Prof. Carolyn Twomey, UNL History

“OIL AND WATER:
BAPTISMAL THINGS IN THE
EARLY MEDIEVAL INSULAR WORLD.”

Tuesday, March 19, 2024
5:15 PM
Lousie Pound Hall 124
Free and open to the public



and religious change in the pre-modern world as seen through the ritual objects and physical environments of conversion. Her lecture will be related to her current monograph project, *Living Water, Living Stone: A Material History of Baptism in Early Modern England*. The objects she studies include things like liturgical handbooks, Roman baptisteries, rivers in the landscape, blessed water and oils of anointing, and the stone baptismal font.

Carolyn Twomey, assistant professor of history, shared insights from research related to her current book project, which examines the places, objects and things of the baptismal sacrament between 600 and 1200 AD. Twomey is the newest faculty member in the Medieval and Renaissance Studies program. Twomey’s research is highly interdisciplinary, focusing on the history of cultural

Source: “Twomey giving public lecture on baptism practices,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/twomey-giving-public-lecture-on-baptism-practices/>, 18 March 2024

BELL AFFAIR AVAILABLE ON STREAMING

The award-winning film *The Bell Affair*, created by a team of Husker scholars, is available via video on demand beginning 26 March 2024.

The live-animation film will be available for purchase or rent on various streaming platforms, including iTunes, Google Play and Amazon. It is based on the 2020 book, *A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery*

from *the Nation's Founding to the Civil War*, by William G. Thomas III, professor of history, Angle Chair in the Humanities, and associate dean for research and graduate education in the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's College of Arts and Sciences.

The film tracks the story of the Daniel and Mary Bell family, chronicling the legal fight for Mary's freedom following a widow's rejection of a deed of manumission, the legal document granting freedom to an enslaved person signed by a slaveowner. These courtroom battles culminated in an escape attempt on 15 April 1848, when 77 enslaved people boarded the schooner Pearl. It was the largest escape attempt ever recorded, though unsuccessful.



Myeisha Essex and Anthony Wilcox play Mary and Daniel Bell in *The Bell Affair*.

Showcasing an important piece of history never before portrayed on film, *The Bell Affair* was filmed and directed remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic, with no two cast members ever in the same room. The film was led by: first-time director Kwakiutl Dreher, associate professor of English at Nebraska; digital artist, animator and first-time producer Michael Burton, assistant professor of textiles, merchandising and fashion design at Nebraska; and prize-winning historian and Guggenheim Fellow Thomas. The film stars Anthony Wilcox, Myeisha Essex, Deborah Madick, Arista Jackson, Darla Davenport, and Don White.

The Bell Affair was created by Salt Marsh Productions (co-founded by Burton, Dreher, and Thomas) and produced

by Western Meadowlark LLC. It received major support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Maryland Humanities, the Kitty M. Perkins Foundation, and the Office of Research and Economic Development at Nebraska. The video on demand distribution agreement is a partnership between NUtech Ventures and independent film company Random Media.

The Bell Affair is part of Salt Marsh Productions' *Animating History* series, combining the expertise of artists and filmmakers with the scholarship of historians and writers to produce unique and compelling historical documentaries. The streaming launch follows the film's award-winning festival run, which

included a win for best animation at the Prince George's Film Festival and recognition from the Silk Roads International Film Festival and Golden State Film Festival.

Sources: NUtech Ventures, "Bell Affair' available to stream beginning March 26," <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/bell-affair-available-to-stream-beginning-march-26/>, 25 March 2024; Andrew Ozaki, "New movie produced by UNL professors debuts Tuesday," <https://www.ketv.com/article/new-movie-produced-by-unl-professor-debuts-tuesday/60300225>, 25 March 2024; The Bell Affair | Official Trailer, <https://youtu.be/UXK0vQDDaek>

Photo Credit: Courtesy | Salt Marsh Productions

excellence. Incoming faculty member **Cindy Ermus** has been appointed the Charles and Linda Wilson Professor of the History of Medicine.

College Outstanding Research and Creativity (ORCA) Award recognizes significant research and creative accomplishments of UNL faculty in the last five years.

Bedross Der Matossian (History, Judaic Studies) is one of two recipients of this award.

Source: "Faculty and staff recognition, 2023-2024," <https://cas.unl.edu/faculty-and-staff-recognition-2023-2024>, 9 April 2024

ADVOCATES AND HISTORIANS URGE RETHINKING KEY BRIDGE NAME 'FOR GENERATIONS YET UNBORN'

The future rebuilding of the Francis Scott Key Bridge will create an opportunity for Maryland to rethink what it stands for, some advocates, legislators, and historians say.

Local, state and federal officials have already vowed to rebuild the steel structure that once spanned the Baltimore skyline and collapsed 26 March 2024 when the cargo ship Dali crashed into it in the early morning hours, sending six construction workers to their deaths.

Some advocates have demanded that part of that process include rethinking what the rebuilt bridge should be called. Originally known as the Outer Harbor Bridge, it was named after Key in 1976 before opening in 1977.

While the bridge's namesake is probably best known for writing "The Star-Spangled Banner," Key was also a slaveholder who found himself fighting both for and against Black freedom in his lifetime.

Addressing that contradiction with a name change isn't about erasing the past said Carl Snowden, convener atop the Caucus of African American Leaders. It's about fighting for the future, Snowden said, and that's especially true in this case, as the six victims of the collapse were all Latino.

"They died literally on that bridge," Snowden said. "To

rebuild a bridge to someone who did not see people of color as their equal, I think sends the wrong message — not for this generation, but for generations yet unborn."

William G. Thomas III is one of three authors who spoke on a panel 17 April 2024 at St. John's College in Annapolis, Key's alma mater. All the panelists said the state should consider renaming the Key Bridge.



A view of the Dali cargo vessel after it crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge, causing it to collapse in Baltimore, MD.

"Naming is an opportunity for the community to consider who it honors and who it commemorates," Thomas said. "I think naming a bridge or a building...should tell a story that helps us understand who we are and call forth a vision

CAS AWARDS

The College of Arts and Sciences annually recognizes the outstanding achievements of our faculty and staff. Find out more about each award on the [CAS Recognition web page](#) or from the award's originating area on campus.

Congratulations to all!

College Distinguished Teaching Awards recognize faculty with excellence in teaching. **Laura Muñoz** (History, Ethnic Studies) and **Gerald Steinacher** (History) were among the six awardees for 2023-2024.

CAS Inclusive Excellence and Diversity Award honors people, organizations, or units within the college involved

in innovative or exemplary activities that have an impact on campus or in the community that promotes inclusive excellence and diversity. This year, **Laura Muñoz** won this award for the College.

Ann Tschetter won this year's College Mentoring Award, which honors faculty or staff involved in exemplary mentoring activities.

Professorships recognize either distinguished scholarship or creative activity, a sustained record of teaching excellence and national visibility for instructional activities/practice, or significant contributions in research and teaching and exceptional promise for future

of who we aspire to be.”

The Caucus of African American Leaders, a statewide consortium of civil rights organizations, unanimously passed a resolution in April calling for renaming the bridge after the late U.S. Rep. Parren J. Mitchell, the first Black Marylander elected to Congress...

Thomas is a history professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln who researches freedom suits, lawsuits brought by enslaved people against slaveholders for their emancipation.

Key represented enslaved families in some of those lawsuits — only to later make public comments that disparaged Black freedom and suggested he regretted his role in those lawsuits, Thomas said. And that isn't simply because Key is a product of his time, Thomas added.

“Enslaved people sought freedom and many people spoke out against slavery in the founding era,” Thomas said. “The ideals of the American nation were in direct contradiction to the perpetuation of American slavery. And neither Key

nor many others sought to resolve that contradiction in any meaningful way.”...

Thomas said that even if the bridge is renamed, Key's connection to American patriotism via “The Star-Spangled Banner” won't disappear. But at the same time, “collectively, the story that monuments and named buildings and bridges tell right now across America often do not reflect the complete history of our communities or of the nation.”

Sources: Maya Lora, The Baltimore Sun, “Advocates, historians urge rethinking Key Bridge name ‘for generations yet unborn,’” <https://www.yahoo.com/news/advocates-historians-urge-rethinking-key-162300151.html>, 7 May 2024; Sean Hagewood | University Communication and Marketing, “Nebraska in the national news: May 2024,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/nebraska-in-the-national-news-may-2024/>, 3 June 2024

Photo Credit: Julia Nikhinson | Reuters

REFLECTIONS ON A TRIPLE DISASTER

On Wednesday 8 May 2024, Prof. Parks Coble gave a “Lunch and Learn” talk at the Kawasaki Reading Room. This event is held once or twice an academic year when a speaker discusses a topic related to Japan. Coble chose a lecture about the triple disaster which befell Japan on 11 March 2011. A severe earthquake hit northeast Japan. Estimated at 9.0, it was one of the strongest earthquakes in world history. Although several hundred were killed directly by the quake, the greatest damage was the resulting tsunami, unprecedented in its destructive power. Over 20,000 people died, mostly by drowning. Tragic as these events were, they were almost overshadowed by the third disaster. The Fukushima nuclear complex located on the coast near the epicenter of the quake suffered from the earthquake and was flooded by the tsunami. Explosions in several of the reactors led to radioactive material being released into the atmosphere



and ocean. Even today, many towns remain uninhabitable and closed to the public. Only heroic efforts by the local staff prevented a real meltdown. Coble examined the legacy of this disaster after twelve years. The social and economic costs remain high still cast a shadow over Japan.

Traditionally the “Lunch and Learn” lecture is aimed at students, hoping to interest them in Japanese history and the Kawasaki Reading Room. But when the staff (led by Madoka Wayoro) realized that this was after the conclusion of the semester and would be Coble's last lecture before retirement, they turned the event into a party (with lunch and cake) and invited a wider group of people. Students were joined by faculty and community members. It became a celebration that Coble deeply appreciated.

Source: Parks Coble

joined by faculty and community members. It became a celebration that Coble deeply appreciated.

Source: Parks Coble

GORMANS FIND PURPOSE AND SATISFACTION AS COMMENCEMENT LEADERS

Bob and Vanessa Gorman are the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's power couple on commencement day. Faculty in classics and religious studies (as well as a professor of history role for Vanessa), the Gormans find purpose and satisfaction in helping direct the graduation experience, particularly seeing joy in students' eyes.

The University Communication and Marketing team sat down with the Gormans in the days prior to spring 2024 commencement exercises on 17-18 May 2024.

Talk about the role you play during commencement. How did you get involved?

Bob: I was an undergraduate here in the 1980s and when I graduated, I didn't want to go to commencement. My parents told me I had to, so I did. I was really impressed by how friendly and how well organized all of the marshals and registrar staff were. It was really a good experience, and I wasn't expecting to enjoy it as much as I did. Fast forward and I became a faculty member roughly 30 years ago. Some years later the dean sent out a note asking for interest in taking the head marshal position and I said “yes,” and I have been doing it ever since.

As the head marshal, my primary job is to make sure students get their diploma on graduation day. There are very few universities of Nebraska's size who hand out each student's diploma in the moment. The registrar makes sure the diplomas are ready and in order and my job is to make sure students are coming up on stage in the right

order. This means I organize seating charts, sections for each college and facilitate the organization of students' movements. I must design, plan, and delegate marshals to share information. It can be complicated because the stadium has three stages and four lines, and each commencement is different.

Vanessa: When Bob became head marshal, one August commencement he had spent too much time standing in the heat and ended up in the hospital with heat stroke. Ever since then, I decided to become involved. I have been on the commencement committee for nine years now and have been the chair for five years. In this role, I run meetings with the larger group and weekly meetings with a smaller focused group. As the chair, I am a problem solver, a resource for students and staff, and put out fires.

My role as a marshal is to assist Bob in many ways. One of the bigger things I do is make commencement maps so all of the marshals know where they are assigned duties. I make separate booklets for each of the undergraduate and graduate ceremonies. If we are in Memorial Stadium, I ensure all of the chairs are numbered properly and help out wherever I can. If commencement is in Pinnacle Bank Arena, I organize the lines and put signage and instructions up behind the stage.

We have streamlined as many of the processes as we can



Bob and Vanessa Gorman played important roles at the 2024 undergraduate commencement in Memorial Stadium.

with our years of experience so we can avoid working until the early hours of commencement day...

How long have you been involved in commencement ceremonies? In all your years, do you have any favorite memories?

Bob: I have been involved in commencement for 25 or so years, but have served as the head marshal for 9 years.

My favorite memory is that students are very, very happy at graduation. You see, I was one of these students who thought they were too cool to be excited and enjoy being at graduation. Students who have a similar mindset look down at their diplomas and they just can't help but show how happy they are. I've seen that happen hundreds of times and watching students is my favorite thing.

Vanessa: This is my ninth year!

One of my favorite memories is a student who was quickly running into the commencement ceremony and unfortunately broke her heel. The Associate Registrar Gail Meyer gave the student the shoes off of her feet so they could enjoy their commencement. That was certainly one of the most touching moments I have seen.

For the students, it's not when they cross the stage or shake hands with their dean, it's when they sit down, open their diploma, and see their name on it. They almost always hold it up for mom and dad. It is such a priceless moment.

What is your favorite part of your role in commencement?

Bob: For me, it's the satisfaction of doing something that

people don't think can be done. We hear from colleagues at other universities "there's no way you can give students their diplomas at the ceremony." But we have done it forever. It's hard, but it's not impossible. It is worth doing because when the students see their name on the diploma, they are glad they came to graduation. You wouldn't think it matters if the student receives their diploma that day or a few weeks later in the mail, but it does.

Vanessa: The rituals of commencement — getting your cap and gown, lining up, listening to Pomp and Circumstance. There's a reason why these rituals are important in people's lives, and even more important this time because this is the COVID class. They didn't have a high school graduation.

Bob is right — I love making this moment happen for students. We get a much higher attendance rate for graduation than most universities with nearly 85% of the class attending the ceremony. We work with amazing people who depend on one another to bring this whole ceremony together.

That's why we do it. We wouldn't do it if it wasn't for the students...

Source: Caroline Gidlow | University Communication and Marketing, "Gormans find purpose, satisfaction as commencement leaders: Behind the Scenes," <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/gormans-find-purpose-satisfaction-as-commencement-leaders/>, 20 May 2024

Photo Credit: Kristen Labadie | University Communication and Marketing

RESEARCHERS FEATURED IN JUNETEENTH EVENTS

The University Libraries hosted several signature events to commemorate and celebrate Juneteenth in 2024.

It was the third annual celebration the University Libraries have planned and sponsored, said Charlene Maxey-Harris, associate dean in the University Libraries. All events were free and open to the public, including admission to a film festival at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center.

"Last year, we hosted the students of the Digital Legal Research Lab and their research findings of legal cases of freedom of enslaved people from Maryland, Missouri, and Nebraska to a captive audience," Maxey-Harris said. "This year we are hosting the students again and adding a mini-

film festival featuring the work of Dr. Kwakiutl Dreher, associate professor of English, women and gender studies, and ethnic studies. Libraries' faculty librarians are also offering a workshop to the summer research students."

Juneteenth is a federal holiday that commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans in the U.S. Juneteenth, the combination of "June" and "nineteenth," is celebrated on the anniversary of General Order No.3 issued by Mayor General Gordon Granger on 19 June 1865. First celebrated in Galveston, Texas, Juneteenth has been observed nationally across the United States with a focus on celebrating African American culture.

The nation's Juneteenth celebrations began as church-centered gatherings in Texas, then soon spread across the South, and finally proliferated nationally due in part to the Great Migration. Today, many celebrations include public readings of the Emancipation Proclamation, the singing of traditional songs, readings of works by noted African American writers, as well as rodeos, street fairs, cookouts, and historical reenactments. In 2021, Juneteenth became the most recent federal holiday since the adoption of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 1983.

Juneteenth events offered through the University Libraries included:

"From the Director's Chair: The Making of 'The Bell Affair'" — A Brown Bag Lunch Pre-Talk

12:30 to 2:00 p.m. 18 June 2024 | Platte River Room South, Nebraska Union, City Campus

Kwakiutl Dreher, associate professor of English and director, screenwriter, and producer took the audience behind the scenes on her involvement in the making of the team's feature film *The Bell Affair*, which was screened at the Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center on 19 June. A question and answer session followed.



The filmmaking team behind *The Bell Affair*, *Anna*, and *The Diary of Michael Shiner* includes (from left) Kwakiutl Dreher, William G. Thomas III, and Michael Burton. Their work was featured as part of the University Libraries' Juneteenth events.

Legal Fight for Freedom: Student Research
1:00 to 3:00 p.m., 19 June 2024 | Love Library South Auditorium (Room 102)

Katrina Jagodinsky, Will Thomas, and students in the summer research program of the Digital Legal Research Lab shared research findings of legal cases of freedom from jurisdictions throughout the United States. Students encoded freedom suits in the weeks leading up to Juneteenth and shared those stories along with a discussion about the importance of building research models that bring such stories into a broader conversation about American history. This event was recorded. Learn more about the [Digital Legal Research Lab](#).

Animating History: Stories on the Making of Freedom at The Ross

7:00 to 9:30 p.m., 19 June 2024 | Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center

Sponsored by University Libraries and the Ross Media Arts Center, this Juneteenth festival featured two films and a feature film. The screenings included *Anna*, *The Diary of Michael Shiner*, and the film *The Bell Affair*. Each production is based on the award-winning book *A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War* by William G. Thomas. In his research, Thomas discovered enslaved families used the court of law to initiate freedom-making and how each family strives to achieve and maintain freedom. The event included a post-screening Q&A with the filmmakers, which include Dreher, Thomas, and Michael Burton. [Learn more about the films and filmmakers.](#)

Source: "'Bell Affair' team, student researchers featured in Juneteenth events," <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/bell-affair-team-student-researchers-featured-in-juneteenth-events/>, 4 June 2024

Photo Credit: Craig Chandler | University Communication

UNDERGRADS EXPAND STORIES BEHIND HISTORIC SLAVERY LAWSUITS

The handwriting on the screen can be vexing, but the stories are fascinating.

Zoe Williams, a rising sophomore at Howard University in Washington, D.C., carefully read the scrawled words

of a 200-year-old document on her computer screen in the [Digital Legal Research Lab](#), a lab in the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s [Center for Digital Research in the Humanities](#).

“That is easily the biggest challenge,” Williams said. “You do get used to the handwriting as you go, and some pages are easier than others, but there have been some that look like chicken scratch.”

As the reading started to flow more easily, Williams began to untwine and understand the legal hurdles of an enslaved man named Paul Jones who was seeking his freedom through the courts.

“It’s been inspiring to learn about the different kinds of resistance that enslaved people used, because that isn’t the narrative that I’ve learned about,” she said. “My favorite part of this experience has been learning so much new history of enslaved people in the courts.”



Zoe Williams (left), a Howard University student, works with Katrina Jagodinsky, associate professor of history, to help decipher writing on an old legal document.

Williams, who counts Aurora, Illinois, as her hometown, found the Digital Legal Research Lab’s Research Experience for Undergraduates site through a listing from the National Science Foundation, which funded the lab for three years beginning in 2022. The opportunity immediately piqued Williams’s interest. Currently majoring in political science, she aims to get her doctorate in a social science field and plans to pursue research internships throughout her undergraduate years.

“This was my top choice for a summer program,” Williams said. “It’s unique research, it’s interdisciplinary, and it caught my eye because I’d never really heard of someone researching the legal history of enslaved and Indigenous people.”

Williams is one of 11 undergraduate students who spent their summer term as research scholars in the lab,

which was led by Katrina Jagodinsky, associate professor of history. During the 10-week program, the students combed through freedom suits and habeas corpus petitions scanned from archives, adding transcription and annotation.

The student scholars presented early findings from the cases they’re researching during a Juneteenth program, 1-3 p.m. 19 June 2024 in Love Library South’s auditorium, Room 102. Also presenting were three graduate students who are working in the lab, supported through a [Mellon Foundation grant](#). A Q&A followed. It was free and open to the public.

Eight of the undergraduates were enrolled as scholars through the NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates site, and three are completing research through the UNL’s UCARE program. Jagodinsky said having students both from Nebraska and across the United States working together is helpful in myriad ways, but especially for enriching the experience of the visiting scholars, who lived on campus during the Research Experience for Undergraduates term.

“Our Nebraska students play an important role as ambassadors, since they know campus and the community,” Jagodinsky said.

Veronica Sargbah, a rising sophomore at Nebraska, is majoring in landscape architecture. She realized history and architecture can intersect during a high school internship. After completing research in the lab during her first year on campus, she is considering adding a history minor.

“My mentor during the internship was doing historical preservation of buildings, and those kinds of projects,” Sargbah said. “She has a love of history and architecture, and I didn’t

really even know it was an option to combine those. I have always loved history, too.”

Sargbah initially joined the Digital Legal Research Lab as a freshman because it was an on-campus job that would be different from her architecture course work.

“I saw an email for a freshman year research experience program, and it worked with my course load,” she said. “It gave me the chance to do some history and humanities research. It’s almost felt like an escape from homework. It doesn’t feel like a job because I am deeply interested in it.

“Being here during the summer months is keeping me engaged — I’m working but doing something educational and I feel like when the new school year starts, I’ll be more ready.”

Since joining the lab last fall, Sargbah has been working

on the case of Lydia Titus, an enslaved woman seeking freedom and custody of her children.



Veronica Sargbah (right), a sophomore from Omaha, discusses her document with Anne Gregory, a graduate research assistant and participant in the Mellon Foundation-funded program.

“There was a kidnapping, and there are documents arguing that she wasn’t properly freed, and so her children and

grandchildren were enslaved,” Sargbah said. “When I started on this one case, we didn’t realize how many cases were interconnected, but now I’m working on several. One of the respondents is Alexander P. Field, who was a lawyer in the Dred Scott case and friends with Abraham Lincoln, so I’ve gotten to really see how so many of these cases are connected in history.”

To help simplify her presentation, though, Sargbah covered a different case during the Juneteenth event — *Spreers v. Chouteau*. It took place in Missouri in 1841, and concerns the estate of a free woman of color, Esther. The case includes accusations of fraud, forgery, and other deception and is a battle to keep real estate in Esther’s family.

Source: Deann Gayman | University Communication and Marketing, “Undergrads expand stories behind historic slavery lawsuits,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/undergrads-expand-stories-behind-historic-slavery-lawsuits/>, 18 June 2024

Photo Credit: Craig Chandler | University Communication

FACULTY & LECTURER NOTES

Emeriti Notes

From Prof. Parks M. Coble:

In the spring of 2023 my new book, *The Collapse of Nationalist China: How Chiang Kai-shek Lost China’s Civil War*, was published by Cambridge University Press. The work was the culmination of over a decade of research including archival work in Shanghai, China, the Hoover Institution Archives located at Stanford University, and the Harvard-Yenching Library in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In addition, the work benefitted from a dozen academic conference in China where I was able to present my research.

After the book appeared, I began a quest to publicize the work by giving book talks. In September 2023 I gave a talk by Zoom to the Chinese Business History Webinar hosted by the University of Hong Kong. Later I gave a similar talk by Zoom at Northwestern University and in person at

the Elliot School at George Washington University. I also did an interview with the New Books Network hosted by Professor Wang Dong who is based in Berlin. She recorded the hour long interview and uploaded in October 2023. It is still available at newbooksnetwork.com/the-collapse-of-nationalist-china. The work actually dealt with questions which I had encountered as a graduate student fifty-years earlier. But at that time sources were simply not available. The opening of new archival sources, including the personal diaries of Chiang Kai-shek, made the study finally possible.

Early in the year I decided that forty-eight years of teaching East Asian history at Nebraska was enough. Rewarding as being a history professor has been, I realized the time had come. After notifying the University of my decision, I began the long process of wrapping things up. The University Archives expressed an interest in my papers so I have been organizing and compiling those. I have begun the process of clearing out my office and donating books. I

received a nice surprise when the Department decided to hold the Pauley Symposium in October 2024 on the topic of Republican China, my research field. Six distinguished scholars will join me for the symposium, details of which are located elsewhere in this newsletter (p. 47).

Faculty & Lecturer Notes

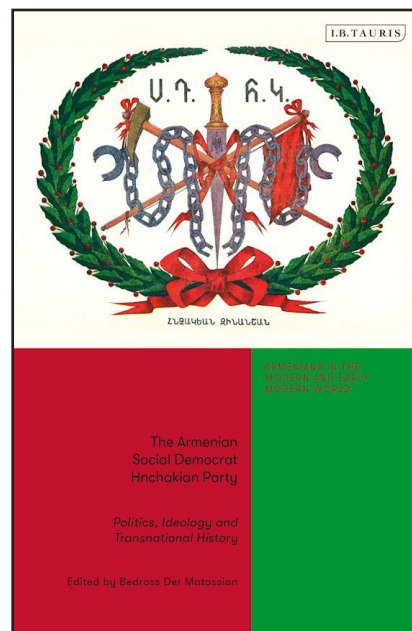
Prof. Dawne Y. Curry created an innovative, experiential course called Music of Protest. Students learned about the history of protest in Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, the Middle East, and other places around the globe through the lens of various musical genres.

Curry was accepted into the Global Campus on Human Rights' Program called "Authoring Justice." Lectures for the course were given by activists, scholars, and memoirists like Albie Sachs (South Africa) Kao Kalia Yang (Laos immigrant), and Jemma Neville (Scotland). Authoring Justice is learning different strategies and methodologies to tell human-centered stories.

Curry and her colleague Dr. Holly Y. McGee from the University of Cincinnati received an advanced contract for their anthology entitled *Sisters Across the Seas*, from the University of Wisconsin Press.

Curry rose up the ranks of the Nebraska Chapter of the Fulbright Association from treasurer, to vice-president, to president. She will be working with the Board to advance the goals of the national body regarding cultural exchange and engagement.

Prof. Bedross Der Matossian's new edited volume, *The Armenian Social Democrat Hnchakian Party Politics, Ideology and Transnational History*, came out in November 2023 from I.B. Tauris, an imprint of Bloomsbury Press. This book, based on new research, sheds light on the history of the Social Democrat Hnchakian Party, a major Armenian revolutionary party that operated in the Ottoman Empire, Russia, Persia, and throughout the global Armenian diaspora. Divided into sections that cover the origins, ideology, and regional history of the SDHP, the book



situates the history of the Hnchaks within debates around socialism, populism, and nationalism in the 19th and 20th centuries. The SDHP was not only an Armenian party but had a global Marxist outlook, and scholars in this volume bring to bear expertise in a wide range of histories and languages, including Russian, Turkish, Persian, and Latin American. Putting the Hnchaks in context as one of many nationalist radical groups to emerge in Eurasia in the late 19th century, the book is an essential contribution to Armenian historiography and transnational revolutionary movements in general. Furthermore, Der Matossian continued his book talks on his book *The Horrors of Adana: Revolution and Violence in the Early Twentieth Century* (Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 2022) and edited volume *Denial of Genocides in the Twenty-First Century* (Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2023) at leading universities such as Harvard, Stanford, and UCLA. He also gave talks at the National Humanities Center, the National Association for Armenian Studies (NAASR), and the Armenian General Benevolent Union Toronto Chapter. In addition, as the Series Editor of Armenians in the Modern and the Early Modern Period with I.B. Tauris, he commissioned the publication of ten books.

Prof. James A. Garza published a chapter – "For Wealth and Progress: Spanish Immigrants, Mexican Communities and the Conquest of the Environment in Late Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Mexico" – in a volume he co-edited with Matthew Esposito from Drake University, *Mexico on the World Stage: New Directions in Transnational Mexican History* (Lexington, Press, 2024). The chapter incorporates work from Garza's book manuscript in process on the environmental history of the Valley of Mexico. Garza is also part of UNL's Community Climate Resilience Institute and has been working with the Institute on various projects.

Dr. Jennifer Garza is the new director of the Nebraska Jewish Historical Society in Omaha. She continues to teach Russian history, Cold War, and World War 2 history online. Her book on the Nebraska Ordnance Plant comes out in July 2024 and she is currently working on a book on the Soviet Jews immigration to Nebraska from the 1970s to the 1990s. She was selected to participate in the inaugural World War II teaching seminar at the World War II Institute in New Orleans.

This year **Prof. Vanessa Gorman** wrapped up the work on her two-year, \$60,000 department teaching grant from the Center for Transformative Teaching (CTT). She has been collaborating with other members of the department to develop a series of topical first-year courses that excite young minds while teaching them the skills for success in college. These courses will incorporate best practices and will be shared as templates with graduate teaching assistants and faculty alike. The team's goal is to attract more first year students, especially more first generation

and underrepresented minority students, and guide them as they learn to think and write more analytically, all while falling in love with learning and choosing to approach the world around them with thoughtful discernment. In the spring of 2024, she offered the new course, Powerful Queens and Warrior Women in the Pre-Modern World, to a full class of students. She also prepped a new course on Greek literature and everyday life for Classics as part of a last-minute fill in (overload) course.

Her collaborative research on ancient Greek authorship attribution based on digital stylometry has resulted in another article, "A Morpho-Syntactic Authorship Attribution Study of the Speeches of Demosthenes and Apollodorus." Co-authored with R. J. Gorman, it uses digital measurements to distinguish between true Demosthenic orations and others that were erroneously attributed to him in antiquity. It should appear later this year in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, one of the most prestigious Classics journals in the world. During her leave in fall 2024 she hopes to write several similar articles about authenticity and normal author stylistic variation in the works of the historian Xenophon.

Finally, she wraps up her thirtieth year at UNL by continuing her work as chair of the UNL Commencement Committee. Coverage of her experience can be read on page 23 of this Newsletter.

Prof. Angel M. Hinzo's first year at UNL was a whirlwind of activity and she is already looking forward to next year. Prof. Hinzo teaches Native American History and is joint appointed with the Institute of Ethnic Studies. This past year she was able to have students in her Native American History course participate in the second annual Proclamation Day and Homecoming Ceremony for the Otoe-Missouria Nation. Students helped community members put up tipis to welcome Native American community members as part of the day's events. You can see Dr. Hinzo in the background of this news article covering the event which also features an interview with Dr. Margaret Jacobs: <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/otoe-missouria-day-reconnects-indigenous-people-to-the-land/>.

This year the Center for Great Plains Studies accepted Hinzo as a new Great Plains Fellow. She has been actively involved in supporting the Center's initiatives including the Walking in the Footsteps of Our Ancestors Project and has been able to have her Spring 2024 HIST/ETHN 464 Special Topics class contribute to Angela Two Star's Elizabeth Rubendall Artist-in-Residence project "Okizipi (To Heal)."

Other highlights from this year include Hinzo's participation in the panel "Environmental Justice: Why is Ethnic Studies Crucial in Our Age of Ecological Catastrophe?," the "Killers of the Flower Moon Roundtable Discussion" which was part of the Mellon-funded U.S. Law and Race Webinar Series, and offering a mini-lecture



Prof. Hinzo's students attending Angela Two Star's exhibit

for the UNL Language Fair on "The Vulnerability of Indigenous Languages." These were great opportunities for community discussion on Indigenous issues.

Recently, Hinzo completed a book review for Stephen Kantrowitz's *Citizens of a Stolen Land: A Ho-Chunk History of the Nineteenth-Century United States* (2023) for the *Western Historical Quarterly*. She recommends this text for anyone interested in Native American history of the Great Lakes Region or Civil War History. This review will be published in Fall 2024.

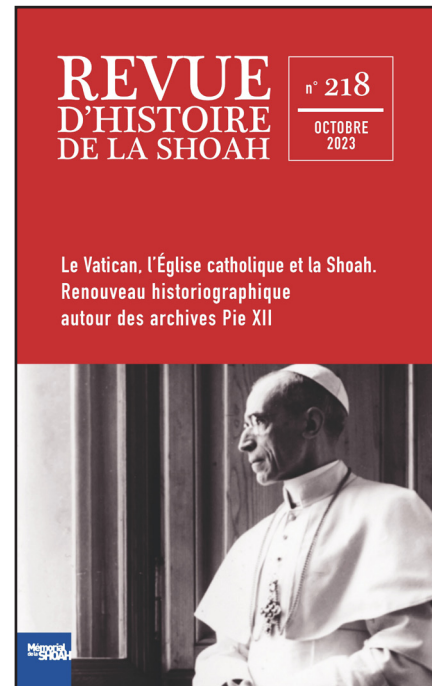
Additionally, in June Hinzo had the opportunity to present at the Native American and Indigenous Studies Annual Conference in Bodo, Norway, and The Indian Citizenship Act at 100: Indigenous Rights, Indigenous Futures symposium in Bordeaux, France. These opportunities have made this a very memorable year.

Prof. Margaret Jacobs is serving as the Director of the Center for Great Plains Studies at UNL. In 2023, the Center attained a \$1.58 million grant from the Mellon Foundation to develop new commemorations in southeast Nebraska that reconnect the Otoe-Missouria Tribe to their homeland and educate non-Natives in our region about the Tribe's history and culture. This project builds on Jacobs's latest research focus on truth and reconciliation, including her 2021 book, *After One Hundred Winters: In Search of Reconciliation on America's Stolen Lands*. Jacobs also co-directs the Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project with UNL Libraries dean Liz Lorang and Susana Geliga, a former UNL History Ph.D. student who now teaches at UNO. In addition, Jacobs is the co-founder and co-director of the Reconciliation Rising multimedia project with Kevin Abourezk, a Rosebud Lakota journalist with Indian Country Today. The project has produced a series of podcasts and an 11-minute film, *Return of the Pawnees*. Jacobs and Abourezk are working on an hour-long documentary, *The Land Returns*.

Prof. Gerald Steinacher is making excellent progress on his monograph about Nazi war criminals, the Vatican, and the issue of postwar justice. His new research is garnering broad recognition, evidenced by numerous invitations to present his findings. Notable events have included his talk at the Mémorial de la Shoah Museum in Paris, his endowed lecture at the esteemed Divinity School of Harvard University and his invited talk at the Vatican University (Gregoriana) in Rome. Furthermore, to advance this project, he was a Research Fellow at the University of Uppsala's Center for Genocide Studies in 2023.

Steinacher has also published several articles, including "Racism and Antisemitism in the Age of Globalization" in *Sociology of Globalization*, edited by Dirk Hofäcker and Christian Karner (Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elger, 2023), as well as "Le pape contre Nuremberg: Les procès des crimes de guerre nazis, le Vatican et la question de la justice après la guerre" in *Revue d'Histoire de la Shoah* ("Vatican, Église et Shoah: Renouveau historiographique autour des archives Pie XII," no. 218, October 2023: 301-322). Steinacher has been collaborating with Prof. Ari Kohen for a number of years on a major research project about how to teach effectively about the Holocaust and other genocides. This research is particularly relevant given the current surge in antisemitism and Holocaust distortion, coupled with a prevalent lack of knowledge among a wider public in Europe and the Americas, as indicated by recent surveys. Recognizing its urgency, the project has recently received substantial grant support from the Claims Conference in New York.

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In March 2023, Steinacher and Kohen organized the Sommerhauser Symposium on Holocaust Education, titled "Fascism: Then and Now." This symposium served as a platform for scholars to discuss and explore crucial topics related to the history and present of far-right ideology. The conference papers presented at the event will be published in 2024 as the fourth volume in the series *Contemporary Holocaust Studies*, co-edited by Steinacher and Kohen and published by the University of Nebraska Press.

Steinacher remains dedicated to serving the profession and advancing Holocaust studies. He holds a position

on the Academic Council of the Holocaust Educational Foundation, which organizes the preeminent conference in Holocaust studies. Furthermore, Steinacher was recently elected as a board member of the Austrian Studies Association, which studies all aspects of Austrian, Austro-Hungarian, and Habsburg territory cultural life and history.

Prof. William G. Thomas III worked with co-directors Katrina Jagodinsky and Jeannette Eileen Jones to collaboratively develop the U.S. Law and Race Initiative. The project, funded by the Mellon Foundation, will support new courses, graduate research, and fellowship programs over the next three years and include participating faculty from UNL's College of Law. He continues to collaborate with *Animating History* partners Kwakiutl Dreher (English) and Michael Burton (Textiles) to develop animated historical documentary films. Their feature film, *The Bell Affair*, was distributed on streaming platforms in March 2024 (Amazon Prime, Google+) with UNL's NuTech Ventures and Random Media, LLC, a firm that specialized in distributing award-winning independent films. Their new animated short film *The Diary of Michael Shiner* was released in February 2024 at the Omaha Film Festival and the Phoenix Film Festival. The team has made the short films and teaching guides freely available at <http://www.animatinghistory.com>. Thomas is beginning a new research project on the Dred Scott case in American history. In 2024 he began a three-year term (elected) as Vice President (Research Division) of the American Historical Association.

This year **Prof. Carolyn Twomey** had an essay published in a volume which came out of an interdisciplinary conference on baptismal architecture at the Sorbonne in 2020, "Baptisms and Baptisteries of Roman Britain and Early Medieval England," in *Baptême et baptistères entre Antiquité tardive et Moyen Âge: Actes du colloque international qui s'est tenu à Sorbonne Université, les 12-13 novembre 2020*, ed. Béatrice Caseau and Lucia Maria Orlandi (Ciniseo Balsamo: Silvana Editoriale, 2024), pp. 112-23. She gave a talk on her research from the fourth chapter of her monograph for the spring 2024 MRST lecture series; the talk was titled "Oil and Water: Baptismal Things in the Early Medieval Insular World." Twomey organized two panels for two different summer conferences in June 2024, which are titled *Carving Collective Practice: Working Against Monolithic Scholarship on Stone*, for IONA: Islands of the North Atlantic Conference, King's College London, and *Lives and Afterlives of King Alfred: Medieval and Modern Models*, for the Britain and the World Conference, University of Winchester, UK. This spring Twomey also was awarded a Pedagogic Intervention Grant of 1,000 from the CTT at UNL to support experiential learning in her introductory survey courses, including supporting the purchase of medieval manuscript fragments, quills & ink to practice medieval handwriting, as well as tin solder for metalcasting medieval replicas. This spring she has also

started a 3-year term on the executive committee of the Committee on Centers and Regional Associations (CARA)

of the Medieval Academy of America which will celebrate its centennial in 2025.

GRADUATE STUDENT NOTES

Catherine Baker Nicholson, J.D., finished the first year of her history Ph.D. program. In the summer of 2024, Texas Christian University Press published her narrative non-fiction book, *Running in Borrowed Shoes: Thane Baker and the 1952 Summer Games*. This work followed Thane Baker



and the United States Track and Field Team from qualifying in Los Angeles, to a ticker-tape parade in New York City, onto the Olympics in Helsinki, Finland, where the West competed against the Eastern Bloc countries for the first time. The American athletes faced physical, educational, financial, racial, and dietary obstacles on their way to success, but also created life-long memories and treasured friendships. Catherine published a deleted chapter from her book, "Thane Baker Helps Mother on Wash Day," in *Voices from the Plains Anthology, Vol. 6*, Nebraska Writers' Guild, December 2023. *K-Stater Magazine* (the magazine for K-State Alumni Association Members) also included an excerpt of her book in their Summer 2024 edition. Along with speaking engagements, Catherine studies women track and field athletes from the 1952 and 1956 Olympics in preparation for her dissertation.

Brianna Rose DeValk completed her second year in the Ph.D. program in May 2024. This past year Brianna worked as the Graduate Research Assistant with History Nebraska, using the State Archives to conduct surveys of thousands of Naturalization records sent to County Courts in the state of Nebraska for women whose U.S. Citizenship was taken and who applied to get it back throughout the twentieth century. She wrote an essay for History Nebraska about the story of Anna Ishii, a Bohemian-American woman

born in South Omaha whose citizenship was taken twice and whose marriage to her second husband, a Japanese immigrant, was found unnatural under Nebraska's anti-miscegenation laws of the twentieth century.

This research comes from her larger dissertation project to recover the identities and stories of American-born women on the Northern Great Plains whose citizenship was taken upon their marriage to a foreigner during the early twentieth century. This past year, Brianna was awarded a position on Grad Staff and received the WHA Graduate Student Prize to present this research at the 2023 Western History Association's Annual Meeting in Los Angeles, California, last October. She was also awarded a Graduate Student Prize in April following a presentation at the 2024 Student Research Days in the Nebraska Union for her poster on the same topic. Additionally, Brianna was awarded the 2023-2024 Don Ospovat Memorial Award for Distinguished Graduate Research Paper on this preliminary research that also focuses on her great grandmother's story of lost citizenship in Minnesota.

In June 2024, Brianna began working for the City of Lincoln as a summer league Swim and Dive coach for the Irvingdale Frogs. She is teaching kids aged 6 through 18 how to dive and is enjoying watching their amazing progress!

As **William Kelly** nears the end of his Ph.D., he continues to work on various projects that inform and are informed by his research. His dissertation discusses freedom, fugitivity, and slavery in Maryland during the era of the War of 1812 using legal and administrative documents to tell Black freedom-seeking stories. Meanwhile, William works with the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom (NTF) researching freedom seeking during the Revolutionary Era. As a program of the National Park Service, the NTF reworks our understandings of the Underground Railroad into a more geographically and demographically aware history. William also volunteers on the Nebraska State Board for Historic Preservation. And, most recently, William completed his term as the inaugural Larmore Fellow at the Maryland Center for History and Culture in Baltimore, MD, with a well-received lecture covering his dissertation topic.

Ann Vlock, a fourth-year Ph.D. student, presented at the Rawley Conference, the Kansas History Conference, and the Midwestern History Conference. Her article “Many Crusades: Women’s Pursuits of Populism and Women’s Rights in 1890s Kansas” was published by *Kansas History* in its Summer, 2023 issue. *Middle West Review* published

her state of the field essay on late nineteenth century Populism, “Everybody Took Part: A Regional Vision of Populism’s Participatory Culture Within Late Nineteenth-Century Midwestern Reform” in its Spring, 2024 issue. She was also the recipient of a Sheldon Travel Award and a Maslowski Research Grant.

SHOWCASE IN NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC’S WHAT REALLY HAPPENED SERIES

Pablo Rangel participated in a newly released documentary on the National Geographic channel titled *What Really Happened: America’s Wild West*, the true story of the making of early America. He contributed his historic knowledge concerning the history of vaqueros and their value in the Mexican north/U.S. southwest. Rangel is showcased in episode 5, “The Wild West: Building Pacific Railroads and

the Birth of the Cowboy.” The show was housed at this link – <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/tv/shows/what-really-happened-americas-wild-west> – and is now streaming via Disney+.

Source: Pablo Rangel, 10 July 2023

RANGEL DRAWS ON PAST TO HELP STUDENTS HARNESS THEIR FUTURE

Like a lot of people, Pablo Rangel describes his career path as nonlinear.

And though he was honored for five years of service at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln’s [Celebration of Service](#) 27 Oct. 2024, he was a Husker long before 2018, the year he joined Nebraska Athletics as a learning specialist. In 2021, he moved to Services for Students with Disabilities as a disability specialist.

His personal history makes his current work even more meaningful to him.

“I was a college dropout,” Rangel said. “I came to Nebraska in 1990, and I didn’t make it past my third semester. I worked in food service and construction for about 20 years.”

In 2008, he was forced to abruptly change course.

“Think about the economics then,” he said. “They called it a recession, but it was a disaster for me. Overnight, construction stopped. Not just new homes, which I was involved in, but also remodeling. Everything completely dried up in construction, where my skills and investments laid.”

In the back of his mind, Rangel knew he had 17 credits completed at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln.

“That’s what I had to build on,” he said. “Those credits still had value, so I came back to Nebraska.”

He re-enrolled in 2008 and earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in history. Then, he enrolled at the University of Chicago, where he earned a master’s in social

science, and started a doctorate in history.

He also found his new calling.

“I was working at a nonprofit in Chicago that was related to college and career readiness,” he said. “It served students on the south, southwest and west sides of Chicago – underserved communities, predominantly Black and Latino.

“I was teaching college courses, too, and I realized that I didn’t want to be a history professor, because standing in front of a classroom wasn’t what I enjoyed – it was the one-on-one experiences I had with students who would come to office hours to talk about things. Those experiences pushed me toward individualized educational support.”

Looking back, Rangel said his career pivots weren’t really a surprise. He’d always valued education.

“I was always interested in education,” he said. “I grew up with learning disabilities, but I never missed school. I had some great teachers who showed me learning could be fun, that I could be good at it, and I never lost sight of that. I wanted to help people do that, too.”



When the opportunity opened at Nebraska Athletics to work in student support, he jumped at it.

“I wanted to come back to the University of Nebraska because I value it and I want to contribute to it, and while I had a fantastic experience in Athletics, I moved over here because I’m able to reach more students more broadly and collaborate with other learning environments,” Rangel said.

About 1,500 students are currently registered with SSD, and Rangel and his colleagues work on an individual basis with many of them. They develop accommodations plans specific to disabilities, helping to ensure each student’s equitable access.

“We serve a large community of students, and work with their faculty,” Rangel said. “We’ve expanded our outreach, and I think that’s been important. We want campus to recognize what we do, for us to be more visible, and we want to reduce the stigma.”

And sometimes, Rangel’s work involves assuring students that everything will be OK.

“If I had to pick the most stressful part of my job, it’s helping students manage crises,” he said. “A crisis can happen at any time along the way, and helping students mitigate those things is a significant part of my job, too.”

His favorite part is overseeing a program for first-year students who are on the autism spectrum. Rangel meets with these students several times throughout their first semester, helping them make the transition to college.

“It’s very satisfying to see their success,” he said.

Rangel sees himself in many of the students he serves. Teachers and mentors made positive impacts on him along his educational journey, and he finds much fulfillment in doing the same.

“Helping students find solutions to the issues they encounter is honorable work,” he said. “If I had a Pablo when I first started college, things could have been different. I honestly believe that. My interactions with students are significant. And I like that we say, ‘every interaction matters,’ because

it’s true. I had good teachers and not-so-good teachers, and I remember both.”

Rangel is still pursuing a doctorate in history and hopes to complete it in 2025. Though he’ll have another degree that will open new doors for him, he said he’ll likely stay at Nebraska.

“I’ve thought a lot about what comes next,” he said. “I really didn’t think I’d be back in Nebraska when I was living in Chicago. I was headed the other way – to the East Coast – but I value this place, and I think my future is here.”

Source: Deann Gayman | University Communication and Marketing, “Rangel draws on past to help students harness their future,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/rangel-draws-on-past-to-help-students-harness-their-future/>, 25 October 2023

Photo Credit: Deann Gayman | University Communication and Marketing

RESEARCH DAYS GRADUATE AWARD WINNER

The 2024 Student Research Days Poster Sessions and Creative Exhibitions was held 26-27 March 2024, hosted by the Office of Graduate Studies, the Office of Undergraduate Research and Fellowships, and the Office of Research and Economic Development.

More than 120 graduate students presented, and those who were awarded prizes for their scholarship and presentation skills received \$400 toward travel grants to present their research regionally or nationally as well as support other research costs. Over 40 faculty and postdoc volunteer judges met with students during sessions and evaluated

their presentations.

There were four College of Arts and Sciences awardees, including History's Brianna DeValk (adviser: Kenneth Winkle). Her presentation was "Citizenship Taken: Recovering Married Women's U.S. Citizenship on the Northern Great Plains, 1907-1957"...

Source: "Research Days graduate award winners," <https://cas.unl.edu/research-days-graduate-award-winners>, 26 April 2024

DIGITAL HUMANITIES SUMMER FELLOWSHIPS AWARDED TO FOUR DOCTORAL STUDENTS

The Center for Digital Research in the Humanities announced its 2024 cohort of Digital Humanities Summer Fellows.

"This year we had the highest number of applications we've ever received, with lots of amazing, meritorious projects,"

said Carrie Heitman, associate director and fellow of the CDRH and director of the 2024 Digital Humanities Summer Fellowships.

According to Heitman, the selection process was extremely difficult, but she had help from the other members of the CDRH's Student-Centered Committee who reviewed the applications with her. Kevin McMullen, Katrina Jagodinsky, and Laura Weakly helped Heitman bring together a dynamic group of young scholars who will continue to push the field of digital humanities forward...



The CDRH Digital Humanities Summer Fellows met in the Dinsdale Family Learning Commons.

One of the four 2024 Digital Humanities Summer Fellows is Andrea Wagh, a third-year Ph.D. student in history at UNL. She received her master's degree in history from UNL and her bachelor's degree in history from Sam Houston State University. Her project, Hidden Histories, aims to create interactive maps to visually trace the lived experiences of Jewish children and the network of French orphanages that hid them during the Holocaust...

The fellowship began on 28 May 2024, and ran until 16 Aug. 2024, and each student received a \$4,500 stipend. The students spent the first half of the fellowship working on their projects in the Dinsdale Family Learning Commons. There they had access to technology and the expertise of faculty and staff with the CDRH. The fellowship program is designed to support the students' research, scholarship, professional development, and creative production skills.

Source: Joanie Barnes | University Libraries, "Digital Humanities Summer Fellowships awarded to four doctoral students," <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/digital-humanities-summer-fellowships-awarded-to-four-doctoral-students/>, 13 May 2024

Photo Credit: Craig Chandler | University Communication

GRADUATED STUDENTS

For the 2023-2024 Academic Year, the Department of History is very pleased to congratulate five students on the successful completion of three Masters and two Doctoral degrees. In chronological order, our newest graduated graduate students are:

Dr. Robb Nelson (below), who successfully defended his dissertation 13 September 2023. His "Complex Complexions: A Comparative Study of Colorism Across the Long Nineteenth Century" is compelling and promising! Thanks to committee members (from left to right) Profs. Jeannette Eileen Jones, Katrina Jagodinsky (adviser), and Max Perry Mueller (Classics & Religious Studies), and Laura K. Muñoz (not pictured).



Jun Yi Goh (bottom left), who defended his M.A. portfolio for his committee of Bedross Der Matossian (adviser), Parks Coble, and Laura K. Muñoz on 29 March 2024. His family in Malaysia also observed his defense via Zoom and then visited Lincoln for his graduation.

Joslyn Edmond (below), who defended her M.A. portfolio on 2 April 2024. Thanks to committee members (from left to right) Profs. Katrina Jagodinsky (adviser), Heather Richards-Risetto (Anthropology), and Laura K. Muñoz.



Miriam Nieto López (next page, top left), who defended her M.A. portfolio on 9 April 2024. Her committee consisted of Profs. James Garza (adviser), Waskar T. Ari-Chachaki, and Abla Hasan (Modern Languages and Literature [Arabic]).

Dr. Madelina (Lina) Homberger Cordia (next page, top right), who successfully defended an intriguing and well-researched dissertation, "Last Aztecas: Gender, Nationalism, and Sport in Mexico and the World in the Early 1970s," on 17 April 2024. This work was completed under Profs. James Garza (adviser), Laura K. Muñoz, Katrina Jagodinsky, Sergio Wals (Political Science), and Amy Bass (Manhattanville University).





EMERITI NEWS & ALUMNI INFO

RETIREMENTS

DR. AMY NELSON BURNETT

Amy Burnett, the Paula and D.B. Varner University Professor of History, retired from UNL in August, after 35 years at UNL. Burnett came to Lincoln after completing her Ph.D. in early modern European history at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. At UNL, she has taught a wide range of courses, from introductory level surveys of pre-modern European history to a recent graduate seminar on early modern Europe and the world. From 2000–2009, she was a faculty coordinator of UNL's Peer Review of Teaching Project, and she



developed the graduate seminar in teaching history at the college level that is now taught regularly in the department.

Burnett is an internationally recognized expert on the Reformation in Germany and Switzerland in the sixteenth century. She has been an active and prolific scholar, writing or editing ten books and over sixty essays. This past year she has given conference papers or public lectures in Strasbourg, France, Palermo, Italy, Stanford, Grand Rapids, and Baltimore. Two of her books, *Debating the Sacraments: Print and Authority in the Early Reformation* (2019) and *Teaching the Reformation: Ministers and their Message in Basel, 1529–1629* (2006), were awarded the Gerald Strauss Prize of the Sixteenth Century Society. Over her career at UNL, she has received fellowships from

the James Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, the Institute for Research in the Humanities at the University of Wisconsin, and the American Philosophical Society, as well as the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Duke August Library in Wolfenbüttel, Germany. She has also been a Fulbright Senior Scholar at the Leibniz-Institute for European History in Mainz, Germany and a Visiting Scholar at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

Burnett plans to continue her research after retiring. She will be giving papers in Germany and Austria next year, and she has been awarded an Erasmus Collection Fellowship at the Rotterdam Public Library next year to work on the network of German humanists and reformers in the early sixteenth century.

DR. PARKS M. COBLE

Parks Coble studies the past, but as a student in the 1970s, he settled into his area of study because of the current events of that time.

It was the height of the Cold War and U.S. President Richard Nixon had recently opened up diplomatic relations with the Chinese government.

“China was the big communist unknown,” Coble, James L. Sellers Professor of History, said. “China was in the middle of the Cultural Revolution period. The timing was right...There really were a lot of exciting things going on.”

Coble, who retired in August after 48 years with the University of Nebraska–Lincoln, teaches courses in East Asian history. His research focuses on 20th Century Chinese history. In his career, he’s published eight books and dozens of journal articles, and his most recent book, *The Collapse of Nationalist China: How Chiang Kai-shek Lost China’s Civil War*, was published last year.

Originally from South Carolina, Coble received his bachelor’s degree from the University of South Carolina and master’s and doctoral degrees from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He taught for one year at North Dakota State University before arriving in Nebraska in 1976.

It was difficult to travel to China when Coble was starting out because of the political environment, but he made his first trip to mainland China as part of a U.S. China Peoples

Friendship Association delegation.

“We traveled on a set tour,” Coble said. “Foreigners at that time were really isolated. We stayed at special hotels, had our own restaurants.”

Coble was still able to see many of the country’s most recognizable sites on that first visit, including the Great Wall, the Forbidden City and the Terracotta Warriors. Over the years, travelers have gained more freedom to travel around China, and he’s been able to venture more.

However, he’s also visited sites that might not seem as interesting to some but have significance to him as a historian, such as the location near Beijing where World War II in Asia began. He’s stayed at the Jinjiang Hotel, where Nixon and Zhou Enlai signed a communique opening diplomatic relations.

Coble lived in Shanghai for a year and had a couple of six-month stays for professional reasons, but those longer stays also allowed for some sightseeing trips. In order to read original source material and communicate with others in the field, he’s learned some Mandarin.



Coble said the Great Wall was more impressive than he could have imagined. When he saw the Terracotta Warriors for the first time, the excavation process was still ongoing, which Coble said was “pretty stunning.”

“There’s something about seeing it and thinking about all the work that went into it,” he said.

Because he studies the modern age, Coble has been able to access more archival material that has become available as political tensions have eased and historical figures have died. His most recent book on Chiang Kai-Shek, for example, wouldn’t have been possible 20 years ago, because new sources have opened up.

“You get the inside story, which is fascinating, personal

letters and things of that type,” he said.

[As his retirement neared], Coble said what he will miss most is working with students. His class is not a requirement for most students, so he said most of his students have a genuine interest in the subject matter. He’s taught many Asian-American students, for example, interested in learning more about the history of where their families originated, he said, and students interested in studying abroad.

Coble doesn’t have much planned for retirement, but he has scheduled a couple of stateside trips for later this year. And although he might not be making as many research trips anymore, there are still places in the region he’d be interested in seeing, like the wartime capital of Chongqing and Tibet.

“I haven’t seen a fraction of what there would be to see,” Coble said.

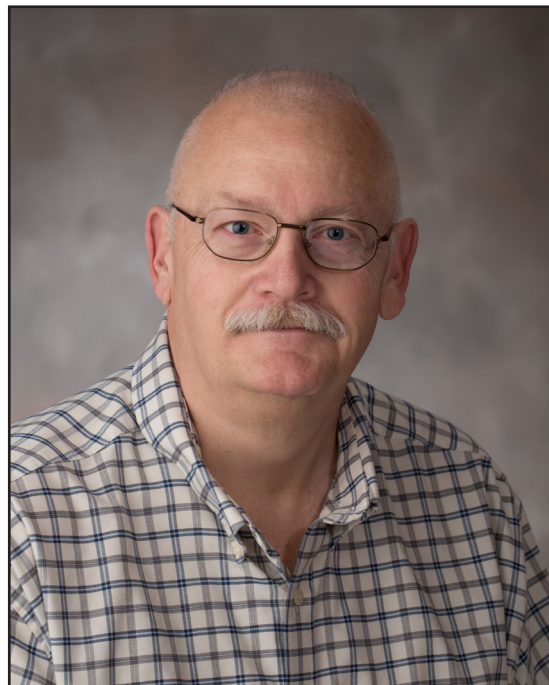
Coble gave a talk on the 2011 nuclear accident in Fukushima, Japan, during a Lunch & Learn at noon 8 May 2024 at the Kawasaki Reading Room. The Department of History’s Pauley Symposium in October will be themed “The Legacy of Republican China” in honor of Coble, who will give the keynote address.

Source: Kristina Jackson | University Communication and Marketing, “Coble reflects on research, travels as he retires after 48 years,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/coble-reflects-on-research-travels-as-he-retires-after-48-years/>, 6 May 2024

Photo Credit: Craig Chandler | University Communication and Marketing

DR. MARK LEE

Dr. Mark Lee retired this year after serving as a lecturer for 29 years. Lee entered the Department’s Doctoral program in the Fall of 1988 and graduated in the Fall of 1993. His dissertation was titled “Imagining the Empire: Political and Non-Political Empire Societies and the Vision of a United Empire,” under the guidance of Professor Dane Kennedy. Elements of this research were published in 2004 as “The



Story of Greater Britain: What Lessons Does it Teach?” National Identities, 6 (2), 123-142.

During his time at UNL, Lee taught courses on Europe, Britain, British Empire, World History, and created one of the Department’s first online courses.

FROM DR. RANDALL W. (RANDY) REDDEKOPP

I grew up in a small town just outside of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Although I loved my hometown, I knew from a very young age that there was an exciting world waiting for me out there. My parents traveled a lot, and they often took us kids with them, opening my eyes to that bigger and intriguing world.

I moved 1200 miles and into a different country for my undergraduate degree at a small private school, Grace University, in Omaha, in 1977. I graduated with a B.A. in 1981 and returned to Canada for two years to work while paying off my school loans. I returned to Nebraska and started working on my M.A. in History in the Spring of 1984 at UNL. I graduated in the Spring of 1986 and before pursuing my Ph.D. I switched from a Modern European major to American History with a double minor in European and Military History. I was very fortunate to have Teaching Assistantships through my courses of study. I worked for a wide variety of professors in a fairly wide number of fields and learned a great deal about the practical side of teaching. I also took a year away from UNL to teach in a small college in South Africa in 1989. It was an exciting time to be there as Nelson Mandela was released from prison and official Apartheid policies came to an end.

The History Department assigned me my first class in the Spring of 1991-92, a survey course, the 2nd half of American History.

I would end up over the next 30+ years teaching both halves of American History surveys, along with both halves of Western Civilization courses. Eventually I would teach upper-level courses in both Modern American and European History and my favorite one, The American Presidency. I was also one of the first UNL History Department professors to teach an online course. For a number of years, I also taught summer reading courses through Extended Education. I, also, occasionally taught History courses for Concordia University in Seward, and for the College of St. Francis and Grace University in Omaha.

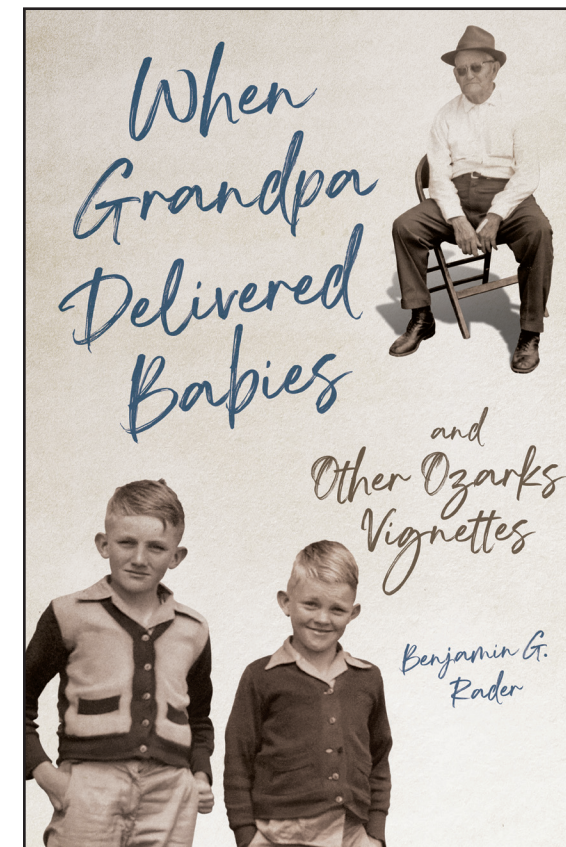
10,000 students would be a very conservative estimate of the number of



students that have attended my classes. It has been a very rewarding experience to connect with and watch students grow in their knowledge of and appreciation for History. A large number of those students have become educators themselves. When the pandemic hit, and we all moved our coursework online, it created a very different environment and then after the pandemic I experienced a few health issues, and the History Department graciously allowed me to continue teaching all of my classes online. Teaching has been a very fulfilling and rewarding career. I am grateful for all who contributed to my successes and to UNL for providing me with the opportunity to teach for nearly 35 years. I am looking forward to focusing on my photography hobby, reading more, and traveling more with my wife Carol.

BOOK EXAMINES OZARK STORYTELLING AS THREAD OF EVERYDAY LIFE

People in the Ozarks have long told humorous vignettes that make sense of triumph and tragedy, relay family and local history, and of course entertain. Benjamin G. Rader’s memoir offers a loving portrait of the Ozarks of his youth, where his grandfather midwifed babies and his great uncle Jerry Rader laughed so hard at one of his own stories that he choked to death on a pork chop. As he reveals the Ozarks of the 1930s through 1950s, Rader dispels the myths of the region’s people as isolated and sharing a single set of values and behaviors. He also takes readers inside the life of the extended Rader family and its neighborhoods, each of which drew on storytelling to strengthen resolve in lives roiled by change, economic depression, and the shift of daily life from the country to the city.



An alluring blend of remembering and reflection, *When Grandpa Delivered Babies and Other Ozarks Vignettes* provides a vivid portrait of a fading time.

Benjamin G. Rader is James L. Sellers Professor Emeritus of History at the University of Nebraska, Lincoln. His books include *Down on Mahans Creek: A History of an Ozarks Neighborhood* and *Baseball: A History of America’s Game* (now in its fourth edition).

(From the editor: On a personal note, I helped Ben scan many of the photos for his new book in hi-def last January and I think they turned out pretty well! --Megan Brown)

Source: <https://www.press.uillinois.edu/books/?id=p087844>, 25 March 2024

ASK AN ALUM: GARTH GLISSMAN

Garth Glissman ('05, '09) has experienced many arenas in the professional world: from becoming partner at a law firm to coaching to working in the NBA. Now the associate commissioner for the Southeastern Conference, Garth learned to adapt, compete, and lead.

UNL: Tell us about your time at Nebraska.

Garth Glissman: I graduated from UNL in August 2005 (with a double major in history and political science). During my freshman year in 2001–02, I was a member of the Nebraska basketball team (but never played in a game). Beginning in the spring of my freshman year (and through my senior year), I was a backup quarterback on the Nebraska football. I was a letterman on the football team.

I graduated from the University of Nebraska College of Law in May 2009. While in law school, I was on the Nebraska Law Review. During my final year of law school, I was the live-in “house dad” for the Sig Ep fraternity on UNL’s city campus...



Talk about your current role with the SEC. What does it entail; what is your favorite part?

I am an Associate Commissioner for the Southeastern Conference (SEC). I oversee men’s basketball and work on other projects that impact all SEC sports.

Working at a league/conference office is a service-oriented job. In my role, I work with a wide range of stakeholders including student-athletes, coaches, athletics directors, other school administrators, media partners, and SEC alums.

My favorite parts of working for the SEC are (1) building

relationships with young people and (2) traveling to SEC schools for a game (because nothing beats the excitement of game day in a college town).

Can you speak about your passion for collegiate athletics and the opportunities it provides for young athletes?

I grew up on a small farm outside of Lincoln, Nebraska, which is a great college town, and then had the opportunity to be a walk-on student-athlete at my state’s flagship institution. My experiences taught me that college athletics has a unique ability to bring people together and inspire people from all walks of life, and to provide life-changing opportunities for young people.

Are there any goals you are striving to achieve as the SEC Associate Commissioner for Men’s Basketball? What impact do you hope to have on the conference, the sport, and young athletes?

My guiding principles are to help (1) ensure a level playing field for all SEC schools, athletes and coaches, (2) preserve the many positive attributes of college athletics for future generations, and (3) provide joy and inspiration to all SEC fans...

What was your favorite memory at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln?

My favorite memories at the University of Nebraska came as a member of the Nebraska football team. I only played in a few games, but I loved competing in football practice. It brought out a boyish enthusiasm in me, and it had a way of putting my mind “completely in the moment.” And

I had the privilege to be the starting QB for the White Team in the 2003 Spring Game.

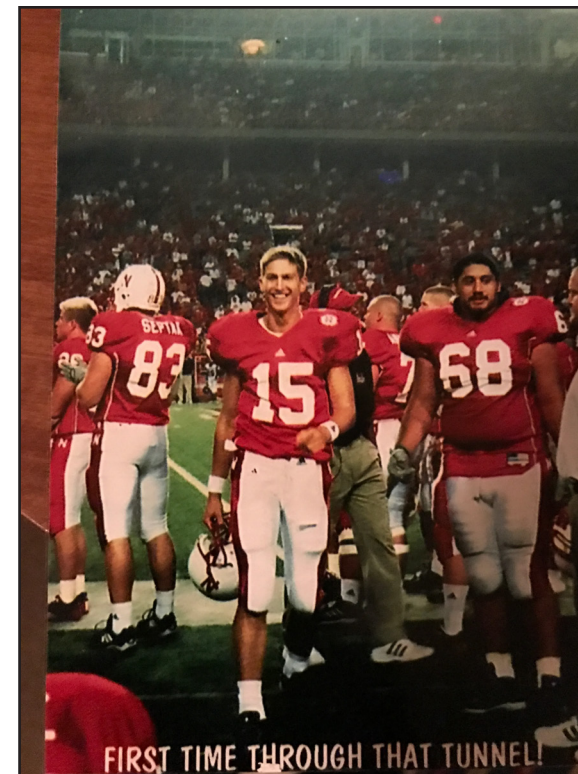
Was there someone at Nebraska that had a big impact on you?

Numerous professors, coaches, and other administrators poured into me during my time at UNL and the Nebraska College of Law. To name just a few:

- Professor Pete Maslowski taught Military History but, most importantly, taught me how to write and took an enormous interest in my overall education. We are still close friends.
- Professor Lloyd Ambrosius [was] a presidential historian who was my advisor on my senior honor’s

thesis, “Bill Clinton’s Blackness,” which explored the special relationship between Bill Clinton (who grew up in the segregated South) and Black Americans.

- Coach Frank Solich gave me an opportunity to be on the Nebraska football team (thanks to a recommendation from legendary strength coach Boyd Epley and his son, Jay). I will be forever grateful to all three of them.
- Assistant Athletic Director Keith Zimmer was remarkably kind to me and helped facilitate my community involvement in Lincoln and throughout the state.



...If you were to give current students advice on landing a job they are passionate about, what would it be?

The best career advice I can offer is to be a lifelong learner and willing to adapt; think independently and chart your own path; build authentic relationships; give much more than you take; make sacrifices other people are unwilling to make; learn from your mistakes and setbacks; and develop mental toughness.

Source: University of Nebraska-Lincoln, “Ask an Alum: Garth Glissman,” <https://medium.com/university-of-nebraska-lincoln/ask-an-alum-garth-glissman-83ebf4313033>, 1 April 2024

IN MEMORIAM: LLOYD AMBROSIUS



Lloyd Eugene Ambrosius of Winston-Salem, North Carolina (formerly a long-time resident of Lincoln, Nebraska), died at home on 7 May 2024 at age 82. He was born in Macomb, Illinois, on 21 August 1941, to Grace (Baxter) Ambrosius and Sterling Ambrosius. He is survived by his brother John Ambrosius and sister-in-law Margaret Adams of Platteville, Wisconsin. He is also survived by two sons with his late wife Margery (Marzahn) Ambrosius and two daughters-in-law: Walter Ambrosius and Leslie Underwood of Winston-Salem, as well as Paul Ambrosius and Valerie Daugherty of Tennessee. His beloved grandchildren are Michael Ambrosius and Em Ambrosius.

Lloyd Ambrosius grew up on a farm near Huntsville, Illinois, in the west-central part of the state, near the town of Augusta, where he attended high school, played basketball and baseball, and made friends he would keep for the rest of his life. This started a lifelong pattern of making and keeping friends wherever he went. He graduated high school in 1959 and enrolled at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, initially as a pre-

med student. By his junior year, Ambrosius had changed his major to history and had met Margery Marzahn. Lloyd and Margery married on 24 August 1963. They both stayed on at the University of Illinois for graduate studies. Ambrosius worked with the distinguished diplomatic historian Norman Graebner and completed a Ph.D. in history in 1967. The 1960s civil rights movement and the war in Vietnam greatly influenced Ambrosius's perspective on American and world history.

In the fall of 1967, Ambrosius joined the history department of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as an American diplomatic historian. He would remain there his entire academic career, retiring in 2015. During the second semester of his first year at the University of Nebraska, he taught the history of U.S. foreign relations after 1900 while the country experienced the trauma of 1968. He devoted his last three lectures to the origins of U.S. involvement in Vietnam during the early Cold War and the military



Archives and Special Collections, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Libraries

Aerial photograph of City Campus during a home football game in Memorial Stadium, Hamilton Hall is in the foreground and Avery Hall and Oldfather Hall are visible, ca. 1960-1975 (approximately when Ambrosius joined the Dept.)

escalation during the 1960s, criticizing American presidents from Harry Truman to Johnson for exaggerating the threats and ignoring the costs.

Ambrosius's academic career coincided with the emergence of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) and, later on, the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (SHGAPE), both of which became central parts of his professional life. His teaching and research interests led him and his family to spend extensive time in Europe, including as a Fulbright professor at the University of Heidelberg in Germany (1972-73 and 1996) and as the Mary Ball Washington Professor of American History at University College in Dublin, Ireland (1977-78). In the 1990s, Ambrosius served as chair of the University of Nebraska's history department for five years. A decade before his retirement, he was named the first Samuel Clark Waugh Distinguished Professor of International Relations.

Like his wife Margery, Lloyd was an active and faithful member and leader in the United Methodist Church (UMC). He served as a director on the UMC's General Board of Global Ministries from 1984 to 1992. In his final year as a director, Ambrosius helped establish a permanent fund for ministry and mission known as Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean. He is survived by many friends at Saint Paul UMC in Lincoln, Nebraska and throughout the UMC.

"Lloyd was pivotal," said the Rev. Wilson Boots, a former United Methodist missionary in Bolivia and the first staff person for Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Ambrosius died just a few days after attending the United Methodist General Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina. There he'd volunteered in the exhibition hall booth for Encounter with Christ in Latin America and the Caribbean. He also attended a breakfast that brought together supporters of the fund, including United Methodist bishops and leaders from autonomous Methodist denominations south of the U.S.

"He loved the breakfast and seeing old friends," said son Walter Ambrosius...

"He thought he could make a difference," Walter Ambrosius said. "He cared deeply about human rights, human dignity,

hunger issues."...

In 2022, a new fund was established at the University of Nebraska by two of Lloyd's former students, Kristin Ahlberg and Phil Myers. The Lloyd Ambrosius Graduate Student Support Fund provides annual awards to support graduate students who wish to pursue research in areas including American politics, foreign relations, and international policy...

Ahlberg, who served as Ambrosius' teaching assistant for many semesters, was able to tell Ambrosius about the new fund during a somewhat surprise Zoom meeting in early 2022.

"This is to honor everything you've done for us and for generations of students," said Ahlberg from her home in Alexandria, Virginia. "It was critical for me, both as an undergraduate and graduate student, to have funding to help pay tuition and to conduct my research throughout the United States. Phil and I are now in a position to help other students, and we could think of no other person we'd want to honor in this sort of way than you."...

Phil Myers has known Ambrosius since the late 1970s when he attended elementary school and Cub Scouts with Ambrosius's sons.

"Lloyd's commitment to the Department of History and its people is significant — from serving in a variety of leadership roles and teaching all levels of students," Myers



said. "His students and advisees have benefited from his wise counsel and unfailing support."... James Le Sueur, Samuel Clark Waugh Distinguished Professor of International Relations and chair of the Department of History, told Ambrosius that the new fund is a tribute to his career successes as a scholar and teacher.

"You're widely missed in the department, and this is a way to keep your legacy going and so that other students will enjoy the benefits of having awards from this prestigious fund," Le Sueur said. "It's a great thing to do for someone who's made an impact on their life. It's a really, truly honorable thing to do for a university professor, too."...

The Ambrosius family asks that, instead of flowers, you consider a donation to the Lloyd Ambrosius Graduate Student Support Fund in his honor. Gifts to the fund may be made online via <https://nufoundation.org/fund/01158790/> or by contacting Steve Allen, director of development, at 402-458-1140.

Source: Robb Crouch | NU Foundation, <https://news.unl.edu/article/new-fund-honors-ambrosius-supports-future-generations-of-history-students>, 15 July 2022; <https://affordablecremationswnc.com/obituaries/lloyd-e-ambrosius/>; Sam Hodges, <https://www.umnews.org/en/news/layman-led-effort-for-methodist-mission-fund>, 3 June 2024

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The Department of History appreciates the ability to employ these funds strategically for the advancement of history at Nebraska.

To donate to the Department of History, please go to <https://nufoundation.org/-/unl-college-of-arts-sciences-history-dept-discretionary-fund-01025860>.

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- **James A. Rawley Research Fund**
 - support faculty research in American history
- **Clay Thomas Memorial Endowment Fund**
 - support any American history research
- **Lloyd Ambrosius Graduate Student Support Fund**
 - support graduate students who wish to pursue research in areas including American politics, foreign relations, and international policy
- **Edward L. Homze Fund**
 - support graduate student research and travel, with a preference for European historians
- **Peter Maslowski Graduate Support Fund**
 - support any graduate student research and travel



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2024 Carroll R. Pauley Symposium The Legacy of Republican China October 17-18, 2024



Thursday, October 17
Center for Great Plains Studies

10:30 am to Noon
Prof. Parks M. Coble, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, emeritus
Keynote speech: "Creating a History of Republican China: Personal Reflections"

2:00 to 3:00 pm
Prof. Elisabeth Köll, University of Notre Dame
"Infrastructure Development and the Making of Modern China: From Sun Yat-sen to the Belt and Road Initiative"

3:30 to 4:30 pm
Prof. Brett Sheehan, University of Southern California
"A Century of *Midnight*: Business in Chinese Popular Culture since 1930"

Friday, October 18
Nebraska Union — Regency Suite

10:00 to 11:00 am
Prof. Emily Hill, Queen's University
"Historians' Fallacies in Accounts of China's Civil War, 1946-49"

11:30 am to 12:30 pm
Prof. Philip Thai, Northeastern University
"Bandit Goods and Petty Commerce: Taiwan in the Cold War Shadow Economy"

2:30 to 3:30 pm
Prof. Margherita Zanasi, Louisiana State University
"Qinjian jianguo 勤俭建国: Frugality and Nation Building across 1949"

4:00 to 5:00 pm
Prof. John Wong, University of Hong Kong
"Hong Kong as China's Financial Spigot: A Legacy of Republican China"

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