

**Department of History
at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Annual Newsletter
2017-2018**



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I'm delighted to update our community with our 2017-2018 Annual Report for the Department of History. Our faculty, student, and alumni achievements represent our Big Ten department's commitment to excellence and distinction. Of particular note, our department is pleased to welcome Latina and immigration historian, Laura Muñoz, who is Assistant Professor of History and Ethnic Studies.

Professor Muñoz completed her Ph.D. in American History at Arizona State University, and she joins our department from the Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. She is a scholar of American history and specializes in Latinx history in the American Southwest. She will contribute to our program in Western and American history, and she will build our program in Latinx history. Her current book project is entitled "La Buena Vida: A History of Latina/o Nebraska."

Coming off the winning of the University-Wide Departmental Teaching Award for the best teaching department in the University of Nebraska system in 2017, we continue to look toward the future. In this regard, we graduated 160 undergraduates, 7 M.A. students, and 5 Ph.D. students. Our classes continue to fill, and our faculty remain committed to teaching and mentoring.

From 3-7 April 2018, our department hosted Prague Spring 50, which was the world's largest commemoration the 50-year anniversary of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia. Over the course of the first week of April, the department hosted some 15 talks by eminent public intellectuals, musicians, writers, artists, and diplomats, and we collaborated with the Glenn Korff School of Music and the Sheldon Museum of Art to offer concerts and art exhibitions. Funded by the Frank A. Belousek foundation, the Belousek fund allows our department to take the lead

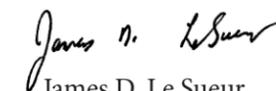
in the advancement of Czech history and to promote Czech history in Nebraska and the Great Plains. A major world event, Prague Spring 50 drew audience members from as far away as Australia and was two years in the planning.

Also of particular note, Professor Margaret Jacobs received Nebraska's first Andrew Carnegie Fellowship. Professor Jacobs, winner of the 2010 Bancroft Prize for her book, *White Mother to a Dark Race: Settler Colonialism, Maternalism, and the Removal of Indigenous Children in the American West and Australia* (Nebraska, 2009), will have a two-year sabbatical to work on her research that focuses on truth and reconciliation for Native Americans in the United States. This prestigious award, coming one year after Professor William Thomas's winning of a Guggenheim Fellowship, indicates the strength of our faculty and the department's national reputation for cutting-edge scholarship.

Looking ahead, on 27 September 2018, our department will host the annual Carole R. Pauley lecture. This year's speaker, Dr. Amy Bass, is Professor of History at The College of New Rochelle and will speak on race and sports in 1968 and particularly at that year's Olympics in a talk entitled "Listen to Athletes for a Change: Race, Politics, and Sports." On 2 October 2018, we will have our Inaugural Frank A. Belousek Lecture in Czech History, and our speaker will be Kevin J. McNamara, author of the best-selling *Dreams of Small Nations: The Mutinous Army that Threatened a Revolution, Destroyed an Empire, Founded a Republic, and Remade the Map of Europe* (Public Affairs, 2016).

I want to thank all the supporters and donors who made so many important programming and scholarly activities happened in our department. Donor and sponsor generosity enables us to maintain our national profile and leadership position among our Big Ten peers, and this support allows us to carry of important speaker series and other scholarly activities that impact the work of our faculty and students. We are grateful and proud of what we can do with this help. Thank you for continuing to support our department.

With kind wishes,



James D. Le Sueur
Samuel Clark Waugh Distinguished Professor of
International Relations &
Chair of the Department of History



CREDITS

Designed and Edited by:
Megan Brown

Contributors:
James D. Le Sueur
Greg Nathan
Danielle Alesi
Mike Dick
Tony Foreman
Katrina Jagodinsky
Sarita Garcia
Emily E. Slomski

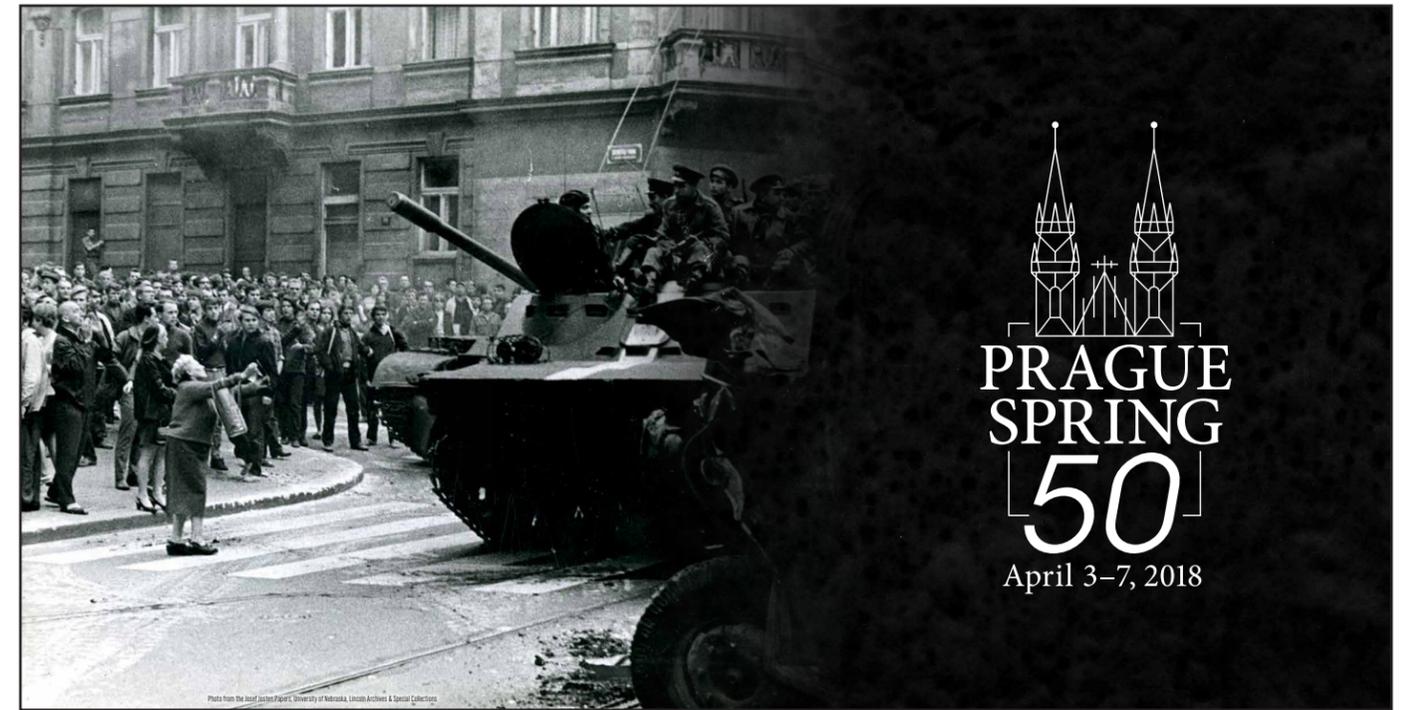
Cassi Tucker
Laura Muñoz
Deann Gayman
Simon Fraser University Department of History
William G. Thomas III
Leslie Reed
Emily Buder
Carole Levin
Megan Brown
Mikal Eckstrom
Victor Martinez and the University of Nebraska Foundation

EVENTS



University of Nebraska-Lincoln Chancellor Ronnie D. Green (left) accepts photograph of Queen Elizabeth II, Václav Havel, and his dog Ďula from Chair Le Sueur at Prague Spring 50 commencement; Havel photographer Alan Pajer (middle) looks on

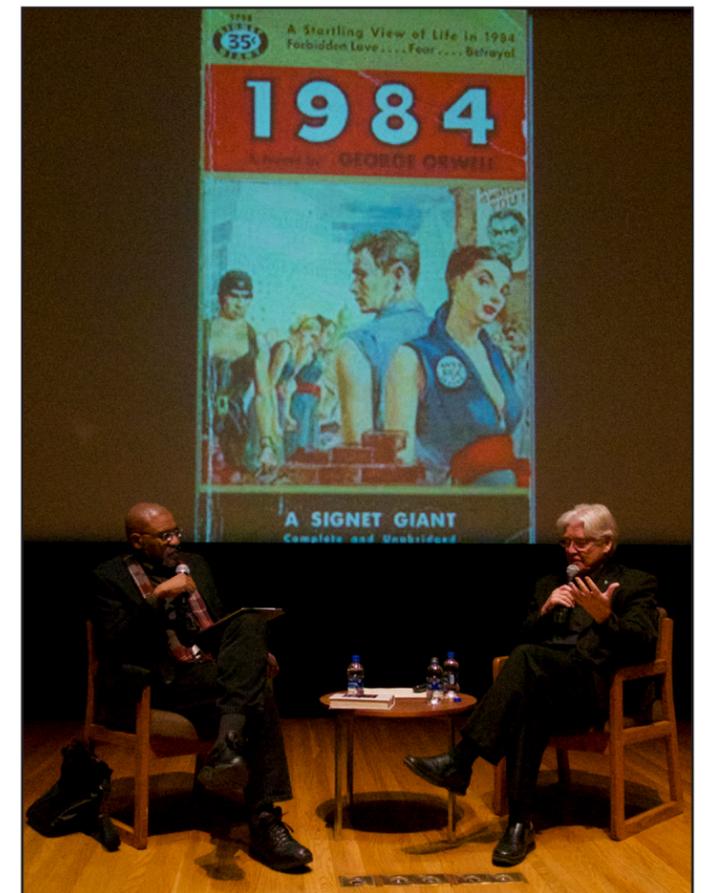
Photo by Mike Dick



From 3 to 7 April 2018, the Department of History hosted Prague Spring 50, the largest international event in the world that commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Prague Spring and the aftereffects of the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968. The event brought together diplomats, refugees, artists, photographers, economists, politicians, writers, publishers, historians, musicians, and other noteworthy witnesses to remember and comment on the Prague Spring, the tumultuous year of 1968, and the twenty years of “normalization” that took place until Václav Havel led the Velvet Revolution.

The majority of the talks and events took place on campus at the Sheldon Museum of Art, which we proudly partnered with, showcasing the incredible collection of Josef Sudek photography owned by the Sheldon. The schedule of events included an opening reception with keynote speaker Michael Žantovský, preceded by opening remarks from Chancellor Ronnie Green, Czech Republic Ambassador to the United States Hynek Kmoníček, and organizers of the Prague Spring 50 symposium Dr. James Le Sueur and Mariana Čapková.

With all of the events free and open to the public, we are proud to say that hundreds of people benefited from the diverse schedule of speakers and entertainers who filled the week and that thousands watched the event via livestream. Though each session was unique and powerful in its own way, providing something different for disciplines and interests that transcended just history, certain moments stand out brightly in a week already brimming with so much thoughtful commentary, joy, lively debate, and



UNL's Kwame Dawes, Chancellor's Professor of English and Glenna Luschei Editor of *Prairie Schooner*, (left) listens as Paul Wilson presents “The Ides of Marx”

Photo by James D. Le Sueur

reminiscence. Eda Kriseová's talk "Frozen Spring" elicited a standing ovation after recounting the harrowing years she spent hiding her writing in underground literary circles during the grueling, oppressive years of normalization. Petra Hůlová, prize-winning Czech novelist, playwright, and screenwriter, sparked a lively debate in the Q&A section that emotionally affected many of the participants and illustrated just how prevalent the divisions created in 1968 are in Czech society today. Tomáš Sedláček, Czech economist, writer, lecturer, and media personality, was captivating in his analysis of the economic transformations over the past fifty years, presenting a talk that was both poignant and refreshingly humorous. Speaking of humorous, the world-renowned and provocative artist David Černý appeared via Skype and had the audience cackling with laughter. Černý gave candid and amusing responses when asked about what the politically controversial sculptures that are displayed throughout Prague were intended to represent and the audience was treated to a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a raw and uncensored encounter with one of the great artistic visionaries of our time.

In addition to the great variety of talks included in the Prague Spring 50 schedule, there was also a photography exhibition and First Friday event with Alan Pajer, the personal photographer for President Václav Havel for over twenty years. Pajer's own talk included a slide show of the many now-famous photographs Pajer had taken of Havel over the years and his truly extraordinary commentary of

what was happening behind the scenes of these photos. A number of the photos included other notable public figures, such as the Clintons, the Obamas, and Queen Elizabeth II. As part of the First Friday event, Pajer was available to meet people exploring the exhibition and speak more about the photos. A silent auction took place in which many of the signed photos were auctioned off, with the proceeds going directly to benefit the continued study of Czech history in our department. Pajer's openness, generosity, and willingness to share his own perspective on the life of President Havel was truly astounding. In addition to the photography exhibitions, the History Department partnered with Special Collections to showcase UNL's many original documents, photographs, and ephemera from the Prague Spring, displaying a collection of our materials in the showcases throughout Love Library.

Prague Spring 50 was also an opportunity for the History Department to connect and collaborate with other departments and schools across the University, merging many disciplines, interests, and talents together. One of the partnerships that brought a great deal of energy to our event was with the Glenn Korff School of Music. Thanks to Hixson-Lied Professor of Piano Mark Clinton and his willingness and enthusiasm to participate in our events, we were able to present a public Prague Spring 50 concert. Furthermore, with the help of Martin Kratochvíl (below, front row, 2nd from left) and Tony Ackerman (below, front row, right), award-winning jazz musicians and participants in our program, we hosted a masterclass with the UNL

jazz orchestra. Directed by Dr. Paul Haar (between Kratochvíl and Ackerman), the student jazz musicians gave a special Czech-inspired performance while Kratochvíl and Ackerman interacted with the ensemble in a truly singular event. All the concerts and the Prague Spring 50 talks, as well as testimonials from some of our participants, can be viewed at <https://praguespring50.unl.edu/>.

largest commemoration of the Prague Spring anniversary and the History Department is incredibly proud, not only of this massive achievement of public history and interdisciplinary collaboration, but of how many distinguished Czech notables now call Lincoln, Nebraska a second home.

This year, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln put on the

Source: Danielle Alesi



Photo by James D. Le Sueur



Photo by Tony Foreman

Photo by James D. Le Sueur

Left: Czech-born Australian sisters Ivana and Alena Jirásek speak on their experiences at Prague Spring 50's opening ceremonies

Below: Marketa Goetz-Stankiewicz discusses the transmutable nature of Czechness in "What Would Kafka Have Said?"



Photo by James D. Le Sueur

Martin Kratochvíl (left) autographs a CD after an electrifying Thursday night performance while event organizer Mariana Čapková assists in distribution

2017 PAULEY LECTURE

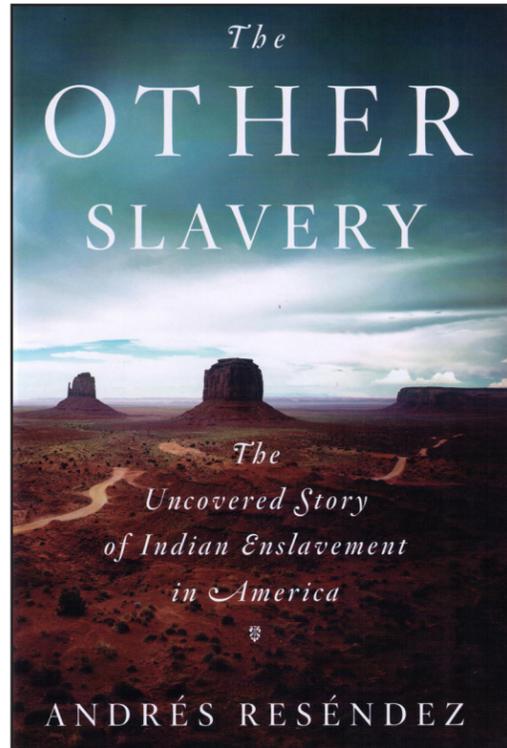


On 5 October 2017, we enjoyed record attendance at the Carroll R. Pauley Lecture with Bancroft winner Dr. Andrés Reséndez, who came to discuss his newest book.

The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America examines the system of bondage that targeted Native Americans, a system that was every bit as terrible, degrading, and vast as African slavery. Anywhere between 2.5 and 5 million Native Americans may have been enslaved throughout the hemisphere in the centuries between the arrival of Columbus and the beginning of the 20th century. And, interestingly, in contrast to African slavery which targeted mostly adult males, the majority of these Indian slaves were women and children.

Reséndez grew up in Mexico City where he received his

B.A. in International Relations, briefly went into politics, and served as a consultant for historical soap operas (telenovelas). He got his Ph.D. in History at the University of Chicago and has taught at Yale, the University of Helsinki, and at the University of California, Davis where he is currently a history professor and departmental vice chair. He lives with his family in Davis, California. He is the author of *The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America*, finalist for the 2016 National Book Award and winner of the 2017 Bancroft Prize. His other books include *A Land So Strange: The Epic Journey of Cabeza de Vaca* (Basic Books, 2007), and *Changing National Identities at the Frontier: Texas and New Mexico, 1800-1850* (Cambridge University Press, 2005).



Before offering the public Pauley lecture, Reséndez met with graduate students working in his areas of expertise and offered an interview about the scope of his work with Dr. Katrina Jagodinsky. The department is working to enhance the impact of the annual Pauley lecture by building a digital library of Pauley presentations and interviews with visiting



scholars that will be archived through the department's MediaHub page. These videos are available to the public and are useful as teaching tools in addition to building a repository of our esteemed Pauley lecturers.

Dr. Amy Bass of The College of New Rochelle (right) will be this year's Pauley lecturer on 27 September 2018 and will discuss her scholarship on the history of sports and the legacy of the 1968 Olympics, particularly as part of the department's year-long 50th-anniversary commemoration of the remarkable events of that year.

Sources: Katrina Jagodinsky; Sarita Garcia (event photos)



2018 RAWLEY CONFERENCE

On 9 & 10 March 2018, the History Graduate Students' Association welcomed more than a dozen graduate student speakers and two incredible keynote speakers to take part in the Fourteenth Annual James A. Rawley Conference in the Humanities. Held at the newly-opened Willa Cather Dining Complex, these speakers came together to create a dialogue along the theme of "On the Margins." Disciplines represented included Literature, Political Science, History, Digital Humanities, and Women's and Gender Studies, ranging from medieval to modern time periods.

Conference attendees were treated to two excellent keynote speakers. On 9 March, Dr. Stephen Robertson (George Mason University) gave an evening talk entitled "Reimagining Black Urban Space In the 1920s and 1930s: Mapping Places, Events, and Networks with Digital Harlem," in which he explored not only the ways that Digital Harlem has aided his own scholarship, but also the limitations of the project as a digital humanities tool. Dr. Robertson's keynote was supported in part by UNL's Faculty Senate Convocations Committee, as well as sponsorship from numerous UNL humanities departments and programs.

On 10 March, Mr. William Fliss (Marquette University) delivered the luncheon keynote, "Writings on the Margins: The J.R.R. Tolkien Manuscript Collection and the Archives Profession in a Digital Age." In this talk, Mr. Fliss discussed the complexity of the manuscript collection, how digital tools can aid both archivists and researchers in managing collections, and the challenges presented by a collection with both public and academic audiences. This talk was funded in part by a generous grant from Humanities Nebraska, as well as numerous UNL departments and

programs.

This year, the paper prize was awarded to Katherine Field (University of Texas at Austin) for her outstanding work on "Visualizing Complexity and Prosperity in Black Community Photographs." Her paper was selected by a panel of blind readers as demonstrating excellence in research and writing history.

The Fourteenth Annual James A. Rawley Conference in the Humanities could not have succeeded without numerous generous sponsors, whose contributions made it possible to invite two phenomenal keynote speakers and host the event in a beautiful new campus space. This event was made possible by the generosity of the Departments of History, English, and Political Science; the Nineteenth Century Studies, Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and Harris Center for Judaic Studies Programs; the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities; the University of Nebraska Faculty Senate; the University of Nebraska Graduate Studies Office; and Humanities Nebraska.

As conference organizers, Emily E. Slomski (Chair) and Cassi Tucker (Co-Chair) strove to make the 2018 conference a true *humanities* conference, and worked tirelessly to build relationships with other disciplines and departments at UNL, with Humanities Nebraska and similar organizations, and beyond. They look forward to seeing these relationships continue to blossom at the next James A. Rawley Conference in the Humanities.

Sources: Emily E. Slomski and Cassi Tucker

PEOPLE



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Department of History:
Profs. Waskar T. Ari-Chachaki, Tim Borstelmann, Amy Nelson Burnett, David Cahan, Parks M. Coble, James Coltrain, Jessica A. Coope, Dawne Y. Curry, Bedross Der Matossian, James A. Garza, Vanessa B. Gorman, Margaret Huettl, Margaret D. Jacobs, Katrina Jagodinsky, Jeannette Eileen Jones, Patrick D. Jones, Carole Levin, Timothy R. Mahoney, Victoria Smith, Gerald J. Steinacher, William G. Thomas III, Sean Trundle, Ann M. Tschetter, Alexander Vazansky, and Kenneth J. Winkle, lecturers Thomas H. Berg, Mark Lee, Randall W. Reddekopp, and Scott Stempson, and staff Megan Brown and Barbara Bullington

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: LAURA MUÑOZ

Danielle Alesi, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of History's Research Assistant for the summer of 2018, sat down (via email) with our newest faculty member to find out more about Dr. Muñoz!

Can you tell me briefly about your recent education and work experience and your research areas?

LM: I spent the first half of my career in my hometown at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, where I held the Joe B. Frantz Associate Professorship in American History. TAMU-CC is a regional university and a federally-designated Hispanic-Serving Institution, which means that its student enrollment is over 25% Hispanic. Starting my career at TAMU-CC was important to me because three generations of my family graduated from there. As a specialist on Latinas, I taught undergraduate and graduate courses on women's history, Mexican American history, oral history, the American West, and the modern half of the U.S. survey. During this time, I published articles and chapters on Latina/o education, including "Civil Rights, Educational Inequality, and Transnational Takes on the US History Survey" in the *History of Education Quarterly*. This publication won the AHA's 2017 William and Edwyna Gilbert Award for the Best Article on Teaching History.

I earned a Ph.D. in American History at Arizona State University in 2006. Under the guidance of Vicki L. Ruiz, Gayle Gullett, and Asunción Lavrin, I crafted a doctoral program that blended the histories of the U.S.-Mexico borderlands, Chicanas/Latinas in the Americas, and Western women's history. This allowed me to craft an expertise that explores various aspects of Latina/o experience in the Americas. For example, my current book manuscript (based on my prize-winning dissertation) considers how Mexican Americans in the late 19th/early 20th centuries engaged public education as students,

parents, teachers, and civil rights activists. I'm particularly interested in the histories of Latina/o professionals, especially teachers and lawyers, and am in the process of revising a journal article on Mexican American teachers in Texas. In the past, I wrote several encyclopedia articles about educators from Nebraska and Kansas. That work and the oral histories collected by UNL students in courses that I taught as a visiting professor in 2014-2015 inspired my new research project, "La Buena Vida: A History of Latina/o Nebraska."

What are you most looking forward to about coming to teach at UNL? What excites you most? Is there a specific class you are most looking forward to teaching or role you are looking forward to filling?

LM: I so appreciate the opportunity to return to UNL as a faculty member of the history department and the Institute for Ethnic Studies. I'm excited by ways that UNL faculty think; they are strategic about crafting new forms and purposes of history. They visualize history as an entity that requires human engagement, whether that's using the technologies of the digital humanities or the various methodologies of our craft such as oral history or deep archival research. Because UNL faculty have nurtured this vision among our students, my task as a



teacher of Latina/o history will be so much easier. It's often difficult for students to consider new fields, especially a recent one like Latina/o Studies that emerged in the 1980s. But already, I've met with a graduate student, Sarita Garcia, who is contemplating how digital history might help us conceptualize the experiences of Midwest Latina/os. I've also met with alumni who are prepared to promote the excavation and preservation of Nebraska Latina/o history. This is particularly important to both my teaching and research, which relies in part on oral history. When we study communities of "people of without history," we must learn to read against the grain for omissions and to rely on

the people themselves by recording their stories. One of my goals at UNL is to build an archive of Latina/o oral histories based upon the work conducted by my students in 2014-2015.

How do you see your experience in U.S. immigration history coming into play while teaching here? Your research seems highly relevant to some of the current affairs happening in our country – do you see this particular relevance playing a role in your teaching and research here?

LM: From its earliest homesteading days to its most recent status as a refugee resettlement site, Nebraska has sustained a mixed reputation as both “a welcoming state” and a “dangerous place” for documented and undocumented immigrants alike. My immigration and Latina/o history courses give students an opportunity to probe these existing narratives and to deepen their contextual understanding of migration, not only as a personal story, but also as a policy issue central to state formation. For example, in rural Nebraska, immigration is a highly sensitive aspect of community development and sustainability. As small towns seek successful corporate investment, they simultaneously struggle with meeting the required labor and housing demands of new industry. Such is the case this summer in the town of Scribner, Nebraska where residents are preparing for a new chicken processing plant. Fearful of change and unsure about the citizenship status of incoming construction and factory workers, the town council proposed a housing ordinance to ban rentals to unauthorized immigrants. If we study Scribner in relationship to the state’s lengthy immigrant past, then this contemporary event unfolds as part of a much deeper, complex history rooted in Nebraska’s social and economic foundations, from Fremont’s 2010 anti-immigrant housing

ordinance to Scottsbluff’s labor recruitment of German-Russian, Japanese, and Mexican sugar beet workers known as *los betabeleros* in the 1900s.

What excites you about Nebraska and our department and makes you look forward to coming back?

LM: There is such a strong desire among UNL students to learn Mexican American history and I’m thrilled to be able to return to UNL to continue sharing this history with them. During my visiting year, the students made such a significant impact on me because the teaching/learning was reciprocal. They introduced me to their worlds. In Grand Island, for example, Humanities Nebraska invited me to speak at an event to celebrate “500 Years of Latino History.” UNL alumni, students, and their families made every effort to impress me – taking me to local Mexican American restaurants, introducing me to community leaders, and sharing their personal histories of these Nebraskan places they call home.

UNL students from across the state also came to my courses with such a willingness to engage what it means to be Latina/o in Nebraska and with such an openness to relate how being or knowing Latina/o peoples shaped their lives and communities. Through social media, I have stayed in touch with many students who took my courses, as well as those whom I met through the Mexican American Students Association and the Define American chapter at UNL. I look forward to reconnecting with them, alumni and faculty, especially as I consider how we might begin to collect, preserve, and write new histories of Latina/o Nebraska.

Source: Danielle Alesi (interviewer)

the ICRC’s failure to speak out against the Holocaust or provide any substantial aid to the Jewish people persecuted by Nazis across Europe. As Switzerland’s flagship humanitarian institution, the ICRC was torn between upholding Swiss neutrality and supporting the fight against Communist criticism in the early Cold War. Though the Red Cross certainly attempted to increase their protection of civilians during conflict in the years after the war, it did so while simultaneously interfering with the Allies’ effort to bring Nazis to justice in the Nuremberg Trials and throughout other parts of Europe. The Red Cross provided opportunities for even Hitler’s most notorious henchmen, such as Joseph Mengele and Adolf Eichmann, to escape prosecution and flee Europe. Steinacher provides a refreshingly nuanced perspective of the ICRC’s post-war activities and attitudes in an effort that shows how the Red Cross went from its damaged reputation to the leading

beacon of humanitarian work. *Humanitarians at War*, according to Steinacher, “tells the remarkable and intriguing story of how the ICRC achieved this - trying to escape the shadow of its ambiguous wartime record to forge a new role and a new identity in the post-1945 world.” Steinacher has spent the past year on sabbatical researching in archives across Europe for his next exciting book project on the Catholic responses to postwar justice in Italy and Germany.

Why did you decide to focus on the ICRC for this project?

GS: Holocaust scholars have rarely taken a close look at the role and the work of the Red Cross during and immediately after the Holocaust. It is mostly remembered for its silence on the Holocaust and its 1944 notorious visit to the Theresienstadt ghetto camp that played into the hands of Nazi propaganda. My book shows the internal discussions and the philosophy of the ICRC in dealing with the unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe that was WWII. My research also sheds new light on the rivalry between the Red Cross flagship in Geneva on one hand and the American and Swedish Red Cross on the other. Relief efforts for civilians intensified in the last stages of the war, but there were significant logistical challenges faced by humanitarian organizations in the midst of a total war. In other words, there is much to learn here for other cases of humanitarian emergencies, wars or other incidents of mass violence.

Could you expand more about the role guilt played in the humanitarian organizations after WWII? Do the organizations respond to their actions, or lack thereof, in any way and how does that fit into the overall story you are telling?

GS: For many decades after the war, the ICRC shielded itself against critics. Only in the 1990s did the ICRC make some guarded apologies for its silence about the Holocaust and for the limited help that the organization had provided to

Jewish victims. Most historians agree today that the ICRC “should have spoken out.” Its decision to keep silent about the Nazi genocide damaged the reputation of the Red Cross and that damage still remains. The Jewish communities worldwide and in Israel have remained especially critical of the Red Cross (and Switzerland) also because of the wartime experience.

What role does antisemitism play in the organizations actions or are the responses motivated by other factors?

GS: The ICRC president Carl J. Burckhardt’s relationship with Judaism was ambivalent at best. Burckhardt repeatedly made anti-Semitic statements before and after the war. In a private letter to a friend in 1933 Burckhardt, for example, stated that “there is a certain aspect of Judaism a healthy Volk has to fight.” But it is difficult to determine how much his antisemitism influenced the ICRC’s decision-making.

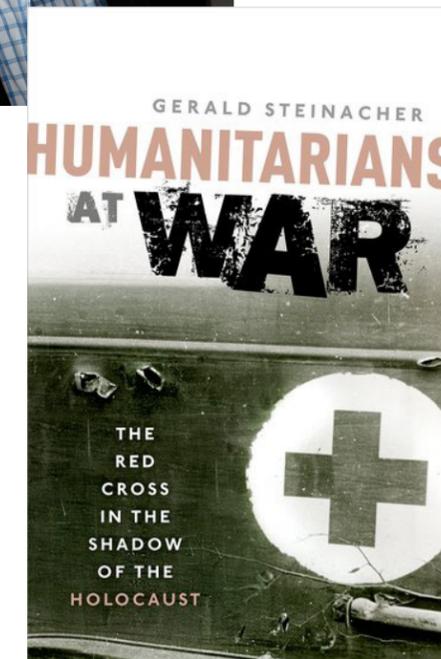
What are some of the implications this work has for other humanitarian organizations in conflict? Is there an implication that there’s a responsibility to act, or act in a certain way, for example?

GS: Based on its own statutes as a private association under Swiss law, the ICRC has “a right of initiative.” In other words, it can take humanitarian action whenever it deems necessary. The ICRC did so during WWI, when it started to take care of POWs, an area which was enshrined in the Geneva Conventions only afterwards in 1929. The same holds true about relief for civilian victims in concentration camps and ghettos during the Holocaust. The right of initiative allowed the opportunity to provide relief, but these relief efforts

(mostly food parcels) came late into the war. One lesson here, I think, is that a lack of international law should not be an excuse to turn the other way when a humanitarian catastrophe urges us to act.

Regarding the next book, can you tell us a little more about what we can look forward to reading?

GS: Under the working title “Catholic responses to



THE RED CROSS IN THE HOLOCAUST

Dr. Gerald Steinacher’s recent book *Humanitarians at War: The Red Cross in the Shadow of the Holocaust* (Oxford University Press, 2017) is a fascinating account of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) during the WWII. Steinacher’s research tends to focus on questions of guilt and responsibility surrounding WWII and this certainly applies to his new book as it addresses

postwar justice in Germany and Italy,” the book raises important questions. Why was the Vatican so clearly and very outspokenly opposed to the Nuremberg trials and denazification? What were the Pope’s alternatives for coming to terms with dictatorship, war, and genocide? Nobody has looked into these questions before and systematically re-constructed the Pope’s answer to the allied postwar plans for Germany, formulated at Yalta and Potsdam in 1945.

Finally, while working in the archives for the upcoming book, is there anything that stands out to you?

GS: There were plenty of “ah ha” moments. In the last four years I looked into over 30 archives from the US, UK, Israel, Switzerland, Austria, Italy, and Germany. When it comes to church archives, I often found resistance. The Vatican was no different and held many surprises. One of these was that the so-called Vatican secret archive, which is probably the best known one, is the most easily accessible archive inside the Church state (although there was too much waiting time and paperwork involved). What is less known is that there are a number of other historical archives in the Vatican, that are incredibly difficult to access and that most people have never heard of.

The History Department is proud of Steinacher’s appointment in Summer 2017 as a scholar in residence at the Bogliasco Foundation as well as his appointment as an Honorary Fellow at the Historisches Kolleg (Institute for Advanced Study) in Munich. Steinacher was also competitively chosen as a Distinguished Fellow at the Center for Holocaust Studies at the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich for spring and summer of 2018. The Institute for Contemporary History is one of the world’s leading centers for the study of National Socialism and the Holocaust.

Source: Danielle Alesi (interviewer)



the future of historical work in and out of the classroom. This project builds on the national success of our History Harvest program. Of note, Brandon Locke, one of our former graduate students, is also on the Michigan State team.

Source: James D. Le Sueur & <https://sourcelabuiuc.com/2017/12/30/major-grant-explores-classrooms-place-in-the-future-of-the-historical-record/>

JONES & THOMAS WIN HUMANITIES WITHOUT WALLS GRANT

Drs. Patrick Jones (Nebraska’s PI, right) and Will Thomas (left) are part of a team that won a Humanities Without Walls \$136,360 grant for “The Classroom and the Future of the Historical Record: Humanities Education in a Changing Climate for Knowledge Production.”

A team project collaborating with University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Michigan State, and UNL, their three-year project will explore how higher education should respond to recent shifts in the collection and transmission of historical resources and strive to prepare students for

RECOVERING THE GENOA INDIAN SCHOOL



Near the end of the 19th century, the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs decided that the Indigenous American people should be assimilated into Euro-American culture.

The best way to do so, they reasoned, was by educating Native American children in boarding schools, where the students had to use English, were taught Christianity, and were called European names. School administrators often tried to force young Native Americans to abandon their culture.

By 1900, more than 150 of these schools had opened with more than 21,000 students enrolled - sometimes through force or coercion.

One of the largest American Indian boarding schools was built in Nebraska. The Genoa Indian Industrial School opened in 1884 and enrolled students from more than 40 Native tribal nations. When the school closed in 1934 - much like the other American Indian boarding schools - little care was taken to keep records and materials together.

Now, through a \$290,123 “Digitizing Hidden Collections” grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources, Margaret Jacobs, Chancellor’s Professor of History and Director of Women’s and Gender Studies, and Elizabeth Lorang, Associate Professor of University

Libraries, have launched a project to compile, digitize, and make accessible records and other materials from the Genoa school. They are working closely with Nancy Carlson and the Genoa U.S. Indian School Foundation in Genoa. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Digital Research in the Humanities will host the Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project. The records will be made available to families of individuals who attended the school, researchers who study the boarding schools, and the general public.

“Genoa was one of the largest American Indian boarding schools,” Jacobs said. “The records are dispersed all over the United States and are very difficult even for a trained historian and archivist to find. We want to recover that history. Finding materials that help us to understand and learn from what happened to children in the boarding school, and the long-term implications of those experiences, is the first step in a truth and reconciliation project.”

The project presents unique research questions for Jacobs and Lorang.

“Some of the records are of a very sensitive nature,” Jacobs said. “The student files might talk about disease and death or describe the student without the needed context.”

In order to move the project forward with sensitivity and respect, Jacobs and Lorang will work with an advisory council that includes representatives from the Ponca, Pawnee, Omaha, and Winnebago nations and UNITE, the university’s Native student group. Honorary co-chairs Judi gaiashkibos, Executive Director of the Nebraska Commission on Indian Affairs, and James Riding In, Associate Professor of American Indian Studies at Arizona State University, will lead the council.

Lorang said these ethical questions are compelling to her as a digital humanist and that there is an opportunity to build and deploy new strategies of digital presentation to maximize accessibility of the records to ancestors, while respecting privacy in some areas of the research. “The tradition of scholars studying and libraries collecting information related to Native Americans and other marginalized populations hasn’t always taken into account the people whose lives they’re representing and the materials they’re bringing into the collection. We want to work in a different model where the project is driven by the people whose history we’re telling and whose materials will be documented in the project, so the community-building piece is really important.”

Jacobs and Lorang said the grant-funding period begins in June, but efforts to find records and build the community advisory council are ongoing.

Jacobs estimates the initial digitization and website building will take at least four years to complete, but sees it as a

long-term project. “I can envision curriculum development and collecting oral histories and testimonies to go with the documentary record,” she said. “I think there will always be new things to add to it.”

Lorang, Jacobs, Carlson, and gaiashkibos shared information about the project during the Science Café at 6:30 p.m. on 27 March 2018 at the Nebraska History Museum.

Sources: “Achievements | Honors, awards, publications for Feb. 2,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/achievements-honors-awards-publications-for-feb-2/>, 2 February 2018 & Deann Gayman | University Communication, “Project aims to recover history of Genoa’s Indian School,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/project-aims-to-recover-history-of-genoas-indian-school/>, 26 March 2018

VISITING SCHOLARSHIP AT SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

The Department of History at Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, British Columbia) is pleased to introduce Dr. Katrina Jagodinsky as the first Jack & Nancy Farley Distinguished Visiting Scholar in History.

Jagodinsky is a legal historian and the Susan J. Rosowski Associate Professor of History at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She holds a Ph.D. in History and M.A. in American Indian Studies from the University of Arizona. Her research focuses on women’s creative and critical uses of the law in the long nineteenth century as they countered the expansion of empire, misogyny, and racial hierarchies in personal and political contexts throughout the North American West. In addition to many articles, she is author of the award-winning book *Legal Codes & Talking Trees: Indigenous Women’s Sovereignty in the Sonoran & Puget Sound Borderlands, 1854-1946* (Yale University Press, 2016) and co-editor of *Beyond the Borders of Law: Critical Legal Histories of the North American West* (University Press of Kansas, September 2018).

As the 2019 Farley Distinguished Visiting Scholar at SFU, Jagodinsky will teach a course in comparative legal

histories of race, gender, and empire, and offer a public forum featuring Indigenous women’s anti-colonial activism in the past and present. Jagodinsky will also conduct research on her current book project, examining women’s habeas corpus petitions and borderlands legal strategies in nineteenth-century British Columbia and Washington Territory.



The Farley Distinguished Visiting Scholar position is named after Jack and Nancy Farley who have longstanding association with SFU, including years of service and support. Jack Farley is a past member of SFU’s Board of Governors (1984-85) and earned the Distinguished Community Leadership award in 1990. Dedicated to the teaching of history, which is understood to include studies of the past, including the recent past, the position is carried out within the departments and programs of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

Source: “History welcomes new visiting scholar, Dr. Katrina Jagodinsky,” <http://www.sfu.ca/fass/news/2018/03/history-welcomes-visiting-scholar-katrina-jagodinsky.html>, 28 March 2018

NEBRASKA’S FIRST CARNEGIE FELLOWSHIP

For 20 years, Nebraska’s Margaret Jacobs has studied the removal of Indigenous children from their families during the settlement of America’s West by white Europeans.

Though she has written extensively on the subject from a historical perspective, Jacobs will now have the opportunity to answer questions about how the United States can reckon with this hidden history as a 2018 Andrew Carnegie Fellow.

The Carnegie Corporation of New York announced 25 April 2018 that Jacobs, Chancellor’s Professor of History and director of Women’s and Gender Studies at Nebraska, is one of 31 scholars and writers selected for the prestigious honor. The award grants each recipient \$200,000 over two years to



complete a major project. Winners were chosen by a jury from a pool of 270 nominees.

Jacobs will take a two-year sabbatical to research and write a book asking how the United States can

confront and take responsibility for the human rights abuses against Indigenous children, their families, and nations that occurred when children were forced into Indian boarding schools in the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries. Similar actions were taken in other countries as Europeans settled.

“Both Australia and Canada have had major public inquiries into this phenomenon, and I’ve followed and researched both,” Jacobs said. “I’ve always been thinking about why this isn’t happening in the United States, and if it did, what would that look like?”

Jacobs started Native American research as a graduate student at the University of California, Davis, where an American Indian colleague, Annette Reed (Tolowa), often shared stories and a different historical perspective from what Jacobs had heard as a history major at Stanford University.

“She often had things to say about something we were reading or discussing and I thought, ‘I have never heard any of this,’” Jacobs said. “I was already interested in women’s history and I became fascinated by Native American history, particularly the ways in which white women became involved in carrying out a lot of policies toward American Indian children and families.”

Her resolve to continue that work came from a personal connection she felt to the mothers of the children who were sent to the boarding schools.

“I went to Australia in 1998 [to research the Stolen Generations acknowledging the forced removal of Indigenous children from their families], and I had left my

own small children at home - they were 2 and 5 at the time,” Jacobs said. “I was there for two weeks and I was really missing my children and was hearing all this discussion about Indigenous children, and I thought, ‘Wow, what would that be like to be a mother and the authorities can just come in and take your children away and you can’t do anything about it?’”

She will continue asking these questions through her Carnegie Fellowship research project, which will also include a podcast of interviews with people who have confronted and sought to make redress of these past abuses, and a future symposium at Nebraska that brings together scholars and people involved in reconciliation movements from around the world.

“I think it would be beneficial to talk about the value of the reconciliation process, as well as the potential drawbacks,”

she said.

Jacobs will officially start her project in August with research to South Africa, New Zealand, Canada, and Australia - all countries with historical reconciliation efforts.

“It was an intense nomination process, but it is so fulfilling to receive the award that will allow me to complete this research,” Jacobs said.

Source: Deann Gayman | University Communication, “Jacobs earns Nebraska’s first Carnegie Fellowship: Award will allow historian to research U.S. policies toward Indigenous children,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/jacobs-collects-carnegie-fellowship/>, 25 April 2018

ANNA MAKES ONE FORMER SLAVE’S HISTORY ACCESSIBLE

A story about slavery in American history is reaching wider audiences, thanks to a group of UNL scholars.

Based on research by UNL historian William G. Thomas III, a team of Husker artists and scholars are using animation to create a dynamic new interpretation of Anna’s life. The

Sold and separated from her family, an enslaved woman called Anna leaped out of a third-story window in Washington, D.C. in November 1815 (depicted right). Abolitionist pamphleteers soon latched onto Anna’s story, depicting her as an object of pity and an example of how slavery drove people to madness or suicide.



11-minute short film – Anna – features a screenplay by Kwakiutl Dreher, Associate Professor of English and Ethnic Studies, and animation by Michael Burton, Assistant Professor of Practice in the Department of Textiles.

The story of Anna, whose full name was Ann Williams, reveals a part of American history long ignored – the interstate slave trade. Williams and her two daughters, who had lived on a plantation near Bladensburg, Maryland, were taken against their will and sold into the human pipeline of the interstate slave trade; about 1 million Chesapeake-area enslaved people were sold south to supply the cotton frontier in the years after the transatlantic slave trade was banned in the early 19th century.

In April 2017, Georgetown University and its founding Jesuit order apologized for the 1838 sale of 272 men, women, and children to Louisiana sugar planters. “Ann’s story was a significant precursor to the Georgetown sale,” Thomas said. “Her actions in the face of the interstate slave trade drew attention to its depravity and demonstrated the burning quest for human freedom and fulfillment... Americans are only just beginning to come to terms with [this] as a part of American history. Ann’s story is an emotionally wrenching, dramatic story and [is] as an opportunity to present the moral problems of slavery in ways that broadly affect many audiences.”

Thomas and other scholars confirmed that Ann Williams survived her jump and went on to win her freedom in court 17 years later in 1832. The discovery was thanks to O Say Can You See, an online database of D.C.-area court records spearheaded by Thomas. Thomas and the research team consulted with Candyce Carter, an art historian at Stanford University, who also worked to uncover Ann’s story using the database. The team also explored the testimony of other ex-slaves from Maryland. These narratives described every aspect of slavery in Maryland – whipping, terror, deception, and cruelty. The film draws on these historical records in its depiction of all that “Anna” faced and represents slavery as it existed in early 19th century Maryland. As Thomas said, “We wanted to illuminate a life for ‘Anna’ while remaining faithful to the historical record.”

Anna premiered on The Atlantic Selects 1 May 2018 and showed at the third annual Hampton University Film Festival 24-25 April 2018, the New Media Film Festival in Los Angeles 16-17 June 2018, and the Hip Hop Film Festival in New York City 3-6 August 2018. The film won Best Animation at the New Media Film Festival. *Anna* was also selected for BronzeLens Film Festival in Atlanta, an Oscars-qualifying event.

Completed in January 2018, the film has created positive

buzz since its release. Prior to the New Media Film Festival, Thomas traveled to the Washington, D.C. area to show the film to several audiences including the Prince George’s County Historic Preservation Annual Awards Recognition Gala in Bladensburg.

“When Anna says she’s from Bladensburg, there was an audible murmur in the theater,” Thomas said. “A ripple of excitement and interest in the story and in the connection to real families and real communities today.”

The team continues to enter the film in festivals, an important step for a film’s success according to Burton, and new calls for entries continue to be made. “There’s a lot of energy at these festivals, which creates future opportunities for more people to see the film,” he said. “Plus, we’re aiming to make more and we’re finding our audience... *Anna* was very well received [at the New Media Film Festival]. The crowd was fixated with positive assurances and a loud cheer at the end. There was a lot of chatter about the film after the screening.”

The festivals allow for audience feedback as well. “Post-screening, some attendees expressed how moved they were by the story and the animation,” noted Dreher. “Others were intrigued by Francis Scott Key’s involvement, which I believe is an important historical index.”

Anna will show at more film festivals over the next year, and it is part of a planned animated series set in early Washington, D.C., exploring slavery. Dreher (below, right) and Burton (below, left) successfully pitched the series at the New Media Film Festival and Burton said that the series garnered the attention of a notable animation producer.



Burton, Dreher, and Thomas are also forming a production company to further development.

“We are honored by the award from the New Media Film Festival and are excited to take the next step together and begin working on a series,” said Thomas.

Sources: <http://annwilliamsfilm.com/>; William G. Thomas III; Leslie Reed | University Communication, “Anna’ team combines to tell slave’s story through innovation,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/anna-team-combines-to-tell-slaves-story-through-innovation/>, 24 April 2017; Emily Buder, “The Atlantic Selects: A Slave

Who Sued for Her Freedom,” <https://www.theatlantic.com/video/index/559364/ann-williams/>, 1 May 2018; Deann Gayman | University Communication, “Nebraska-produced ‘Anna’ selected for film festivals,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/nebraska-produced-anna-selected-for-film-festivals/>; 3 May 2018 & Deann Gayman | University Communication, “Nebraska-produced ‘Anna’ collects top animation prize at festival,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/nebraska-produced-anna-collects-top-animation-prize-at-festival/>, 22 June 2018

JONES WINS NEH GRANT

Dr. Jeannette Jones has received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Jones, an associate professor in the Department of History and the Institute for Ethnic Studies, received \$196,000 for “To Enter Africa from America: The United States, Africa, and the New Imperialism, 1862–1919.” The award will fund research and preparation of an online resource (<http://greystoke.unl.edu/>) and print publication about United States engagement with Africa during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. More information about funding from the NEH can be found at <https://www.neh.gov/news/press-release/2018-08-08>.

Led by Jones, this project will bring together scholars from Nebraska (namely, the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities and University Library research associate and project manager Kaci Nash), George Washington University (associate professor of history and international affairs Nemata Blyden), Johns Hopkins University (associate professor of English Nadia Nurhusein), and Sam Houston University (senior research scholar John Cullen Gruesser) to examine little known patterns of American movement across Africa during the Gilded Age in the late 19th century and the Progressive Era, which ran up to Prohibition in the 1920s. These periods of American life coincide with the colonization of Africa by European imperialists, and Jones argues that the connection between the United States and these European empires has been overlooked, underestimated and understudied.

The project will analyze these movements by engaging in close reading of selected printed and archival primary

sources and through a network analysis of those documents designed to expose explicit social, diplomatic, political, cultural and literary relationships, and explore how such connections formed through American diplomatic, social, religious and leisure activities in Africa.

Sources: College of Arts & Sciences Communication, “Three humanities projects receive NEH funding,” <https://cas.unl.edu/three-humanities-faculty-receive-neh-funding-projects>, 8 August 2018 & Deann Gayman | University Communication, “Three Nebraska projects awarded NEH funding,” <https://news.unl.edu/newsrooms/today/article/three-nebraska-projects-awarded-neh-funding/>, 8 August 2018



UNDERGRADUATE REPORT

The members of the History Department continue to work hard to teach courses that allow our students to gain in their abilities to read critically, write analytically, and do substantial primary research while gaining understanding and appreciation of the past. Our majors have been very enthusiastic about what they have learned and how they can use these skills. Many of our students were very successful this academic year. We had six History majors who were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa this spring: Johnathon Boyd; Paige McCoy; Katie Meegan; Eleanor Schmidt; Erin Sheehan; and Laura Springer. Laura Springer also graduated with Highest Distinction and was named a Chancellor’s Scholar. Sara Duke graduated with High Distinction, and Peter Burnett, Jessica Carter, CJ Kracl, Katie Meegan, Dan Schulze, and Erin Sheehan graduated with Distinction. Junior Paige McCoy received the Larry Gerlach History Scholarship and junior Rhianna Giron received the Ed Hirsch Award. Graduating seniors Jessica Carter and CJ Kracl received the Glenn Gray Award and the Levin Scholarship respectively. We are very proud of all of these students and know they will continue to do work that brings honor to the Department of History and the University of Nebraska.



Carole Levin, Jessica Carter - Glenn W. Gray Memorial Award for Outstanding History Student - and mentor Patrick Jones

Source: Carole Levin (Undergraduate Chair); Megan Brown (photos)



Carole Levin and Paige McCoy - Larry R. Gerlach History Scholarship



Carole Levin and Rhianna Giron - Ed Hirsch Award



Carole Levin and Cecilia (CJ) Kracl - Carole Levin History Scholarship

The Graduate Committee shared three objectives for the 2017-2018 academic year: 1) running a robust recruitment cycle; 2) refining our graduate handbook; and 3) stabilizing our graduate funding. Thanks to the energetic contributions of our committee members Tim Borstelmann and Alexander Vazansky, and to the tireless assistance of our department staff Megan Brown and Barb Bullington, we managed to achieve all three of those goals this year.

In Fall 2018, our department will welcome 4 M.A. students and 3 Ph.D. students into the program, many of whom chose UNL because of our award-winning faculty and innovative certificate and specialization opportunities. We are very pleased that we proved able to find funding for many of these students and look forward to announcing their successes in upcoming reports.

Our committee consulted throughout the year with faculty and staff to refine our departmental policies and graduate program features in the updated graduate handbook. We hope the new handbook clarifies the benchmarks and expectations that define our M.A. and Ph.D. tracks and will be of great use to our students and their advisors.

In addition to updating our handbook, the committee also worked to stabilize our graduate fellowship and travel awards. We are glad to be able to advertise our funding opportunities more transparently and to be able to link funding opportunities to programmatic strengths. As of the 2018-2019 academic year, we will be able to offer 10 awards for conference and research travel ranging from \$250 to \$500, in addition to more substantial graduate fellowships intended to support students working in particular areas of history or to support students in the dissertation stage. The committee and our faculty more broadly are working to ensure that graduate student funding remains robust and sustainable for years to come. We always encourage our students to pursue external funding in addition to internal opportunities and are very proud of all of those who showcase their work at UNL by applying for awards in their respective fields.

Source: Katrina Jagodinsky (Interim Graduate Chair); Megan Brown (photos)

Graduate Awards:

Dov Ospovat Memorial Award: Kathleen Kokensparger

Louis Max Meyer Fellowship: Michelle Kaiser

Marguerite C. and Clare McPhee Fellowship:
Baligh Ben Taleb

Travel Awards: Danielle Alesi, Baligh Ben Taleb,
Tony Foreman, Christy Hyman, and
Michelle Tiedje (Ph.D., Dec. 2017)



Baligh Ben Taleb and
adviser Margaret Jacobs



Tony Foreman, Michelle Tiedje (Ph.D., Dec. 2017), Christy Hyman,
Baligh Ben Taleb, and Danielle Alesi

Thanks to the Maslowski Research Travel Award, **Baligh Ben Taleb** was able to conduct extensive archival research at the University of Nevada-Reno Special Collections and hold interviews with a number of Western Shoshone people in Crescent Valley, Nevada. The Award also allowed him to interview two key attorneys who have been involved in Western Shoshone legal cases: John O'Connell (lead counsel based in Salt Lake City, Utah) and Thomas Leubben (in Albuquerque, New Mexico).

For approximately four weeks in the summer of 2018, **Tony Foreman** researched the employment of honor in the military tribunal of World War II German Field Marshal Erich von Manstein. The trial transcript is housed at King's College, London, and the British National Archives contains 86 other records related to the case. In Germany, the state and military archives in Freiburg and Berlin contain records of Manstein's military campaigns and professional career and the West German parliament's debates concerning the release and reintegration of former Wehrmacht officers.

Because of the generous support of the UNL History Department toward **Christy Hyman's** participation in the second annual Transient Topographies conference, she was able to gather with digital humanists from around the world at the National University Ireland at Galway. The conference addressed questions of our place within

understanding issues related to history and biopolitics, the incorporation of human and non-human code, and how we gain knowledge from these systems. In terms of Christy's future engagement within the digital humanities field, this forum has expanded her network for future fellowship opportunities as well as allowed for her to receive vital feedback on her digital work. The Moore Institute at the National University Ireland at Galway hosts a large variety of digital humanities projects and resources while offering training and support for students and scholars engaged in digital humanities research.

The Maslowski Award for Conference Travel was critical to **Michelle Tiedje's** ability to participate in this year's annual meeting of the American Studies Association (ASA) and present a paper based upon an article she wrote and is now revising for the journal *Utopian Studies*. As a national organization with an emphasis on interdisciplinary, globalized approaches to research and teaching, the ASA was an ideal venue to present her research and garner feedback. By granting her access to the ASA community, the Maslowski Award for Conference Travel allowed Michelle to receive vital feedback on her research and learn about exciting new directions of research across multiple disciplines. Michelle graduated with her Ph.D. in December 2017; her thesis is entitled "Alternative Modernity: Utopian Socialist Practice During the *Fin de Siecle*."

GRADUATE STUDENT NOTES

Over the last ten months, **Baligh Ben Taleb** has collected thousands of documents from national archives, university libraries, and other federal government records, including the Omer C. Stewart Papers at the University of Colorado-Boulder, Western Shoshone Nation and Dann Band Papers at the University of Nevada-Reno, the National Archives in Washington D.C., and Nixon Presidential Library in Los Angeles. He has also visited and interviewed a few members of the Western Shoshone people, including Carrie Dann in Crescent Valley, Nevada, and key attorneys such as John O'Connell (Salt Lake) and Thomas Leubben (Albuquerque) who have been involved in Western Shoshone legal cases. Furthermore, Baligh published six book reviews in peer-reviewed journals, presented a chapter of his dissertation at Columbia University's "Present Past: Time, Memory, and the Negotiation of Historical Justice" conference and presented chapter three of his dissertation at the Western History Dissertation Writing Workshop (sponsored by the nation's premier programs for the study of the American West), at Chautauqua National Historic Landmark at the University of Colorado-Boulder, 17-19 May 2018.

Donna Devlin has recently received an appointment as a Graduate Fellow for the Center for the Great Plains. She also interned for the Willa Cather Foundation in Red Cloud, Nebraska, during summer 2018.

Mikal Eckstrom (pictured right, with his Committee - Drs. Kenneth J. Winkle, David Wishart, Margaret D. Jacobs [adviser], and Katrina Jagodinsky) spent the year finishing his dissertation, "Probationary Settlers and Indigenous Peoples in the American West: American Indians and American Jews, 1850-1934." He published a book review in the *Western Historical Quarterly* and a co-authored journal article in the *Great Plains Quarterly*. Mikal graduated in August 2018 and accepted a post-doctoral position at the Center for Great Plains, uncovering the lives of African American homesteaders on the Great Plains.

Tony Foreman completed coursework for the Ph.D. program in May 2017 and passed his Comprehensive Final Exams in January 2018. In the Fall 2017 semester, Tony worked as one of Professor Kenneth J. Winkle's Teaching Assistants in HIST 110. Tony then taught his own class in the Spring 2018 semester. His section of the History of the Holocaust was filled with 70 students,

involved profound psychological and moral issues, and included several guest speakers and Holocaust survivor presentations. Tony has received support from the Pauley Travel Award for Dissertation Research and the Harris Center for Judaic Studies to conduct research in British and German archives during the summer of 2018. This and prior research will inform his dissertation prospectus, entitled "Defending Honor: The Significance, Utilization, and Evolution of German Military Honor in Twentieth-Century Courtrooms." Tony's first book, *The Greatest Undertaking: The Unique History of the Nebraska Forest Service* (University of Nebraska, Nebraska Forest Service; ISBN 978-0-692-83849-5), was published in 2017.

Kenneth Knotts, Jr. completed his third year toward his Ph.D. in Modern European History, with a focus field of Twentieth Century U.S./International History. Ken, a retired Air Force officer, is a former Intelligence Officer and Soviet Area Specialist, who served as a military attaché in Russia, Belarus, and Turkmenistan.

In August 2017, Ken conducted a research trip to the National World War One Museum Archives in Kansas City. In the fall of 2017, he taught History of the United States to 1865 at UNL, and he also taught Introduction to World



Civilizations II, as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO). In the spring of 2018, he taught U.S. History 1877 to the Present at UNL and also taught Introduction to World Civilizations II at UNO.

In February 2018, Ken presented a talk, "U.S. Railway Assistance to Russia During World War One," to UNL's newly organized Railway Club. In March 2018, Ken helped to organize a panel at the Missouri Valley History Conference, Omaha, at

which he presented a paper entitled "They Kept the Trains Running: The U.S. North Russia Transportation Corps in Northwestern Russia, April to August, 1919."

Ken taught Introduction to World Civilizations I at UNO during the summer of 2018. In Fall 2018, he will teach U.S. History to 1865 and Introduction to World Civilizations II at UNO. In September/October 2018, Ken will complete his comprehensive exams.

Ken continues to conduct research on Twentieth Century World and U.S. History. He focuses especially on topics associated with U.S. and Allied military units on World War One's Eastern Front.

Rory Larson continued to work with colleagues to complete the final editing of the Omaha language textbook project begun under the leadership of Dr. Mark Awakuni-Swetland in 2006. The manuscript is in press at the stage of copy-editing, and is projected to be published later this summer.

In the summer and fall of 2017, Rory began work with Dr. Bedross Der Matossian to prepare for comps in the area of World History. A list of books was assembled and analysis of them was begun.

In the fall of 2017, Rory took Dr. William G. Thomas III's HIST 970 class on Digital History, and developed the beginnings of a project intended to present a historical theory model employing HTML, CSS, JavaScript and SVG. In the spring semester, he took two classes from Dr. John Turner of the Classics & Religious Studies Department, including HIST 807, "History of Early Christianity," and HIST 809, "Philosophy and Religion in Classical Antiquity." These courses were exceptionally mind-opening, and Rory hopes to pursue further research in these areas with Dr. Turner.

In the spring, Rory gained Dr. Jessica A. Coope as his advisor, and was finally able to assemble a committee and submit a Program of Studies. Committee members include Dr. Der Matossian, Dr. Turner, Dr. Vanessa B. Gorman, and Dr. James Coltrain. An issue discovered was the need for establishing residency, which requires 24 credit hours in two years, or two classes per semester. So for two years starting in January 2018, Rory will be taking classes at the challenging rate of two per semester, in addition to work. At the end of that time, 900-level class requirements should be completed as well, and comps will follow after that. An approximate focus area has been established, which

will involve Visigothic Spain.

The annual Siouan and Caddoan Languages Conference was held in Chicago, 7-9 June 2018, for which Rory prepared a paper concerning glottalized consonant clusters in Siouan.

Andrea Nichols completed two publications in the past year, co-authored a chapter ("How fair, how beautiful and great a prince': Royal Children in the Tudor Chronicles") with her advisor Dr. Carole Levin, and finished another chapter - "The Power of the Mythological Past: Reader Response to Queen Gwendolen and the Thirty-Three Daughters of King Diocletian in English Histories" - for *Forgotten Queens in Medieval and Early Modern Europe* that will be coming out with Routledge in late 2018. She attended an NEH Advanced Institute in the Digital Humanities, "Make your edition: models and methods of digital textual scholarship," 10-29 July 2017, at the University of Pittsburgh. For the Renaissance Society of America's annual conference in March 2018, Andrea was part of a roundtable with her 2013 NEH seminar colleagues on "Why the NEH Matters: Case Studies in Early Modern Manuscripts and Printed Books." Andrea also taught one course online in spring and fall 2017 for the Department of History and is finishing edits on her dissertation.

In the past year, **Svetlana Rasmussen**, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of History, presented her research on the evolution of the Soviet secondary school system from 1917 to 1958, origins of the collectives at schools, the analysis of the Soviet school photographic narratives, and the *Photoarcheology* project at the Graduate Student Workshop at the University of California, Berkeley, the 57th Annual Meeting of the History of Education Society, and the 2017 Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES). Her article, "The Many Faces of the Collective: *Poruka*, Responsibility, and Requirement in the Soviet Society," appeared in the first issue of *Russian History* in 2018.

In the spring of 2018, **Sean Scanlon** completed his coursework for the Ph.D. in History. He took his comprehensive exams in late August of 2018 and will teach HIST 112, "The History of the U.S. Present," during the Fall semester.

Faculty Awards:

James A. Rawley Faculty Research Grant:

Dawne Y. Curry and
Katrina Jagodinsky (below, right)

Clay Thomas Faculty Research Grant:

Timothy R. Mahoney (below, left)



FACULTY NOTES

Tim Borstelmann used a leave from teaching in the spring semester to finish his new book manuscript, *Inside Every Foreigner: How Americans Understand Others*. He continues to serve on the governing Council of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR), of which he was president in 2015, and to teach courses in the University Honors Program as well as in the History Department. His newest course is entitled “How Did We Get Here? From the Enlightenment to Donald Trump.” He gave an invited talk at Trinity College, Dublin, in September on white nationalism in international perspective.

Amy Nelson Burnett was busy with activities related to the commemoration of the 500th anniversary of Luther’s 95 theses in 2017-18. She published three essays in journals related to her research and teaching on the Reformation:

“Questioning Authority, Tolerating Dissent” in *Archive for Reformation History*, Volume 108 (2017); “Luther and the Eucharistic Controversy” in *Dialog: A Journal of Theology*, Volume 56, Issue 2 (2017); and “Luther, Learning, and the Liberal Arts” in *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Volume 20, Issue 4 (2017).

She also gave public lectures related to the 500th anniversary in Oklahoma, Texas, Florida, and Virginia, as well as for the Medieval/Renaissance Studies program at UNL, and she presented papers at the International Luther Congress in Wittenberg, at conferences on the Reformation in Ulm and Berlin, as well as at the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference in Milwaukee. Burnett’s 2016 book, *Companion to the Swiss Reformation*, co-edited with Emidio Campi, was published in German translation as *Die Schweizerische Reformation. Ein Handbuch*. Last but not least, she finished her book, *Debating the Sacraments: Print and Authority in the Early Reformation*, which is scheduled for publication by Oxford University Press in early 2019.

David Cahan’s book, *Helmholtz: A Life in Science* (University of Chicago Press), will appear in September of 2018. He received a UNL Faculty Development Award for research leave in Fall 2017 to work on a project entitled “The Second Industrial Revolution: Science, Technology, and Economic Growth, 1865-1918.” He also received a James A. Rawley Faculty Research Grant (UNL, Department of History, 2017). He was reappointed as Charles Bessey Professor of History. He delivered a paper entitled “Helmholtz as a Leader of Atmospheric Science: From Krakatoa to Count Zeppelin,” at a session (“The Emergence of Atmospheric Science: From Helmholtz to Earth System Science”) organized by Cahan for the History of Science Society’s Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada, 9-12 November 2017, and presented a paper entitled “The Burdens of Building Physics in Berlin: Institutional Development of the Sciences in Nineteenth-Century Germany” at Columbia University’s Center for Science and Society in the “Material and Institutional Aspects of Field and Discipline Building” workshop, 25-26 September 2017. He reviewed manuscripts for several professional journals: *Annals of Science* (8); *History of Science*; and *Studies in History and Philosophy of Science*. He served as Member, Editorial Board, of *Annals of Science*. Finally, he published two book reviews, one in *Isis* and one in *Physik-Journal*.

During the academic year 2017-2018, **Parks M. Coble** continued work on his new book project, *The Collapse of Chiang Kai-shek’s China: Hyperinflation and its Consequences, 1944-1949*. In the summer of 2017, he made a research trip to the Hoover Institution at Stanford

University to work in the archives, as well as a research trip to Harvard University to work in their libraries. Much of this work has been done in collaboration with Chinese colleagues in the Department of History at Fudan University in Shanghai. He visited Fudan again in October 2017 where he gave a paper, “The Failure to Stabilize the Financial Industry after Victory Over Japan, 1945-1948,” at a conference jointly organized by the Center for China’s Financial History Studies, Fudan University, and the Shanghai Institute of Financial Legislation, in October 2017.

Coble also attended the American Historical Association annual meeting in January 2018 held in Washington, D. C. He served as a discussant for a panel of younger scholars who are working on various aspects of World War II in Asia.

In teaching, he taught the first two classes in the revamped modern China sequence at the upper division. In the past academic year, he taught the newly offered History 376, “China from 1644 to 1911” and History 377, “China in Revolution from Sun Yat-sen to Chairman Mao.” This coming spring, he will offer the final class, History 380, “China since the Death of Mao: Reform and Opening.” Coble was also honored to receive a UNL Parents Association Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students, awarded in February 2018. He continues to serve as vice-chair of the Department of History.

This past academic year, **Dawne Y. Curry** has been fulfilling her capacity as a U.S. Fulbright Scholar. During her tenure in South Africa, she has been conducting archival research at the William Cullen Library at the University of the Witwatersrand, the Campbell Collections, and the Archives in the Western Cape and the National Archives in Pretoria, respectively in Johannesburg, Durban, Cape Town, and Pretoria, South Africa. She is also conducting interviews with South African women in order to explore how they contributed to intellectual thought before and after the fall of apartheid. While in South Africa, Curry had two publications: “What is that We Call the Nation?: Cecilia Lillian Tshabalala’s Diagnosis and Prognosis of the Nation in Segregated South Africa,” which appears in *Safundi: The Journal of South African and American Studies*, and a book chapter in the anthology *The Ghetto in World History*. Her piece examines the relationship of the ghetto as a racialized space in the 1946/47 squatters’ movement in Alexandra, South Africa. In addition to these scholarly achievements, Curry has presented her work at the University of Pretoria and the University of Ghana. She was awarded the opportunity to participate in Fulbright’s Africa Regional Travel Program where she served as an ambassador to Ghana and presented her work at the University of Ghana’s

prestigious Institute of African Studies.

Bedross Der Matossian has been very active in the past year, giving talks and participating in symposia in Lincoln and in different universities across the country. In May 2018, he participated in a workshop at Bochum and Bielefeld University on Social Movements and Global Revolutions. As the Associate Director of the Harris Center, he organized three lectures on Jewish History and Genocides. In April, Der Matossian gave a talk at the Hebrew University on the Armenian Genocide. Currently, he is working on his second book on the Adana Massacres of 1909.

This year, **Vanessa B. Gorman** has concentrated on creating two online courses to be taught in alternating summers, HIST/CLAS 209, “Ancient Greece,” and HIST/CLAS 183, “Heroes, Wives, and Slaves.” In research, she continues with her collaborator, Robert (Bob) Gorman, on a long-term digital stylometry project, designed to teach computers to determine the authorship of fragments and epitomes of ancient Greek writings based on syntax alone. Over the last few years, she has personally increased the database of syntactically-analyzed Greek prose by more than 400,000 words, including large chunks of twelve different authors. These pieces range in size from 21,000 to 105,000 words. Bob Gorman has used the program R to run classification tests on this data that are yielding impressive results, ranging from 99% accuracy on 100 word samples to 64% on 10 word samples. Professors Gorman have disseminated preliminary results in an article in *Open Linguistics* and a presentation (via Google Hangouts) to the Leipzig eHumanities Seminar, and they were leaders of a two-day workshop in Toronto, teaching classicists to make syntactic trees.

Margaret D. Jacobs won two major grants this year. She and Liz Lorang in the Center for Digital Research in the Humanities garnered a \$290,000 grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources for the Genoa Indian School Digital Reconciliation Project, which seeks to contribute to historical recovery, reconciliation, and healing through making the history of the Genoa U.S. Indian boarding school more accessible to the families of Indian people who attended the school, to researchers who study the boarding schools, and more broadly to the American public. The first stage of this project will digitize, describe, and make accessible materials related to the school, one of the largest U.S. Indian boarding schools, which was in operation from 1884 to 1934 and included students from over forty Indian nations. Jacobs also was awarded

a \$200,000 fellowship from the Carnegie Corporation for her book project, *Does the United States Need a Truth and Reconciliation Commission?* This two-year grant will allow her to carry out comparative research and writing on truth and reconciliation efforts in relation to Indigenous child removal in Canada, Australia, and the United States.

Katrina Jagodinsky will begin her five-year appointment as the Susan J. Rosowski Associate Professor of History at UNL this fall and will serve as the inaugural Jack and Nancy Farley Distinguished Visiting Scholar of History at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia from January-August 2019. Jagodinsky has received a UNL Enhance Grant and a Phillips Grant for Native American Research from the American Philosophical Society to support the research she will do in British Columbia and the vicinity while in residence there.

Jagodinsky's book, *Legal Codes & Talking Trees: Indigenous Women's Sovereignty in the Sonoran and Puget Sound Borderlands, 1854-1945* (Yale University Press, 2016), won the Armitage-Jameson prize for best book in Western women's history and her article, "A Tale of Two Sisters: Family Histories from the Strait Salish Borderlands," in *Western Historical Quarterly* earned the Jensen-Miller Award for the best article in women's and gender history from the Western Historical Association. Both awards were announced at the 2017 Western History Association Conference. She is the co-editor of *Beyond the Borders of Law: Critical Legal Histories of the North American West* (University Press of Kansas, September 2018) that is the result of works presented at the 2016 Pauley Symposium here at UNL and at the Clements Center for Southwest Studies at Southern Methodist University.

In late May 2017, **Carole Levin** led workshops for undergraduate and graduate students and presented "From the Mountains of Mexico to the Streets of York: the History of Chocolate" as a public lecture at the University of York in England, where she had previously been a Fulbright Scholar. In November 2017, Professor Levin presented "Queen Elizabeth, the Reformation, Secret Thoughts, and Historical Accidents" at the University of Nebraska-Kearney and participated in a talk back with the actors after a performance of her one act play, *Elizabeth I: In Her Own Words*. Her essay, "Queen Elizabeth and the Power of the Gift," was published in *Elizabeth I as Author/ Authored: Language, Learning and Power in the Tudor Age* (edited by Iolanda Plescia and Donatella Montini). On a more lighthearted note, late 2017, Professor Levin published the children's fantasy book, *The Secret History of How England & Elizabeth I Defeated the Spanish Armada*. The first week

of April 2018, she was twice interviewed and quoted as a historical expert for articles in the *Omaha World Herald*.

Gerald J. Steinacher's new book, *Humanitarians at War: The Red Cross in the Shadow of the Holocaust*, was published by Oxford University Press in May 2017. Steinacher launched his book with events at the University of Stockholm, the Center for Holocaust Studies at the University of Vermont, and in a number of Jewish communities in the U.S. and Europe. In continuation of this research, together with Jan Lambertz from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Jan Láníček from the University of New South Wales, he worked on an edited volume titled *More than Parcels: Wartime Relief and Aid for Jews in Nazi Europe*. The research findings of this team of 12 international scholars will be presented at a seminar at the next *Lessons and Legacies* conference in November 2018 at Washington University in St. Louis.

While on sabbatical during the 2017-2018 academic year, Steinacher continued to work on his next major book project, *Catholic Responses to Nuremberg Trials and Denazification, 1945-1950*. For this project he received prestigious fellowships and support from the Center of Holocaust Studies at the Institute for Contemporary History in Munich, the Institute for Advanced Study (Historisches Kolleg) in Munich, and the Bogliasco Foundation in Italy. He was also working on an edited volume titled *Unlikely Heroes: The Place of Holocaust Rescuers in Research and Teaching*, which publishes the proceedings of the Sommerhauser Symposium on Holocaust Education held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in the spring of 2017 and sponsored by the Harris Center for Judaic Studies. This will also be the first volume in a new series on Holocaust research and education jointly edited by Steinacher and Ari Kohen (Political Science, UNL) and published with the University of Nebraska Press.



Photo by Megan Brown

Southwest side of Oldfather Hall, summertime view

ALUMNI



Alumni Advisory Council President Jack Campbell and History Chair James D. Le Sueur at Prague Spring 50 reception

UPCOMING EVENTS

Pauley Symposium

27-28 September 2018; Lecture on 27 September @ 5:30 pm

Dr. Amy Bass - "Listen to Athletes for a Change: Race, Politics, and Sports" - Nebraska Union Auditorium

Alumni Advisory Council meeting

28 September 2018

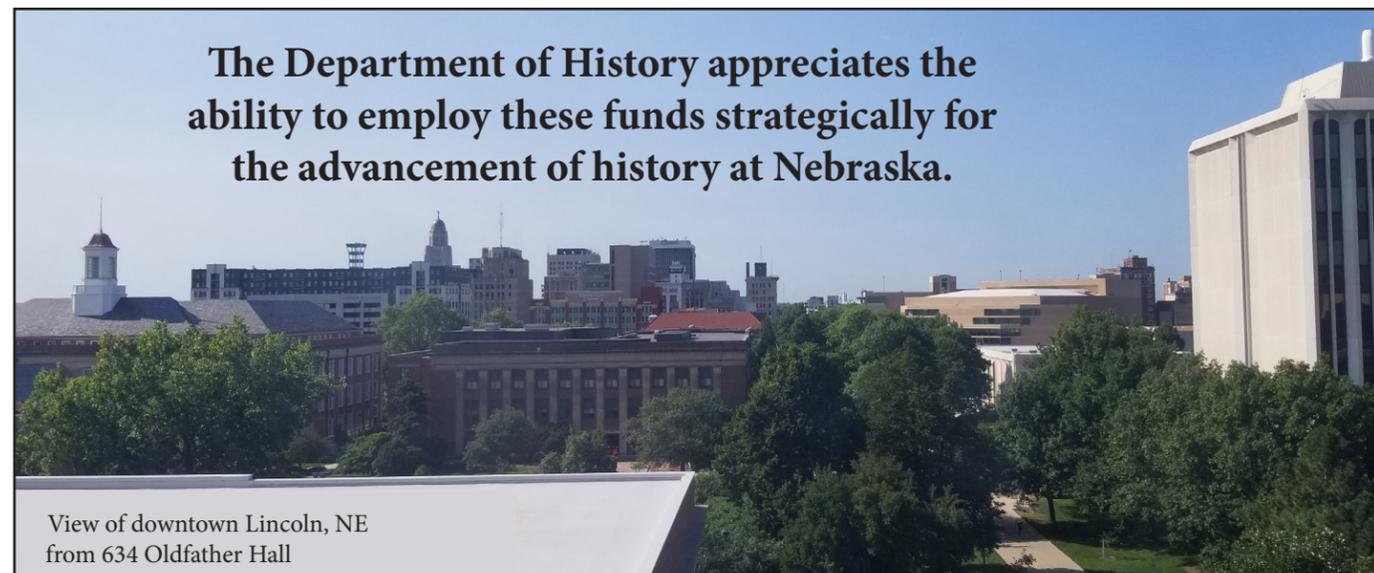
Frank A. Belousek Lecture in Czech History

2 October 2018 @ 4:00 pm

Kevin J. McNamara - "Reluctant Warriors: How One Professor and 50,000 POWs Destroyed an Empire, Founded a Republic, and Remade the Map of Europe" - Ethel S. Abbott Auditorium in the Sheldon Museum of Art

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View of downtown Lincoln, NE from 634 Oldfather Hall

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Department of History
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
660 N. 12th St.
612 Oldfather Hall
Lincoln, NE 68588-0327

