

2024-2025

HISTORY NEWSLETTER



Department of History
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

2024 Photography Contest Winners

FIRST PRIZE (Cover Photo)

Daniel Mugg

Golden hour in Florence's southern historical district
Florence, Italy

SECOND PRIZE (Page 9)

Rashad Bates

"Bringing out My Inner Napoleon"
Cairo, Egypt

THIRD PRIZE (Page 14)

Karena Coffie

Soweto township
Johannesburg, South Africa

TABLE OF

Contents

- 03 Letter from the chair: Michael Stamm
- 04 JWAH Celebrates 10 Years of Inclusive Research and Affirmative Action
- 06 Interview with ASMSU President: Connor Le
- 07 Professor of History Dr. Peter Alegi on Podcasting and the Football Scholars Forum
- 08 MSU Project Which Aims to Preserve Historically and Culturally Significant Recipes Receives NEH Grant
- 10 Celebrating the Academic Achievements of Freshly Tenured MSU Professors
- 11 New Books Published by History Faculty in 2024
- 12 LEADR: 10 Years of Empowering MSU Students With Modern Digital Tools
- 14 Graduate Program Update
- 15 Graduate Student Spotlights
- 16 Dr. Delia Fernández-Jones promoted to senior leadership role
- 17 Alumni Spotlight: Dr. David Glovsky
- 18 Michigan State University Fixed-term Assistant Professor Dr. Tim Retzliff receives Allan Bérubé Prize for his comic *Come out!* in Detroit
- 19 Undergraduate Program Update
- 20 Graduate Awards
- 21 Undergraduate Awards
- 22 History Scholars News
- 23 Doctoral Dissertations Completed in 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Dr. Michael Stamm



I am very pleased to introduce this year's annual newsletter from the Michigan State University History Department, which highlights some of the terrific achievements of our faculty, staff, and students in 2024. As educators and scholars, my colleagues and I form a group of 39 tenure-track faculty members, and our community is enriched by the 12 teaching-focused faculty who also do amazing work with our students. Some faculty members share joint appointments with the MSU College of Law, the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities, James Madison College, Lyman Briggs College, and the Department of Religious Studies. Faculty expertise spans the globe from the ancient world to the very recent past, and my colleagues are producing pathbreaking scholarship in multiple fields. As you'll see in this newsletter, faculty publications in 2024 included new academic monographs books by Dr. Emily Conroy-Krutz (*Missionary Diplomacy: Religion and Foreign Relations in Nineteenth-Century America*), Dr. Emine Evered (*Prohibition in Turkey: Alcohol and the Politics of Identity*), and Dr. Charles Keith (*Subjects and Sojourners: A History of Indochinese in France*). Other faculty members have been expanding public knowledge of the past using other media. Dr. Peter Alegi hosts the influential *Africa Past and Present* podcast. Dr. Helen Veit received a \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for *American in the Kitchen*, a digital project creating a major digital resource for food history. Fixed-term faculty member Dr. Tim Retzliff received the Allan Bérubé Prize from the LGBTQ+ History Association for his comic book *Come Out! In Detroit*, which tells in comic book form the story of the Michigan's first Pride celebration, held in Detroit in 1972. In other significant milestones of faculty success, we celebrated the tenure and promotion of our colleagues Dr. Noah Kaye and Dr. Amy Simon, and Dr. Delia Fernández-Jones began a new leadership position on campus as the Associate Dean of Equity, Justice, and Faculty Affairs in the College of Arts & Letters.

The 37 graduate students in the History Department are working hard to develop work that will shape the futures of their fields. We were very happy to welcome a new cohort of nine doctoral students in the fall. Among the accolades for current students, Caitlin Barker was awarded a Brady-Johnson Pre-doctoral Fellowship from Yale University's Jackson School of Global Affairs, and Gloria Ashaolu received the National Academy of Education's

Spencer Dissertation Fellowship. Five students defended their dissertations this year, and graduates took teaching positions at Loyola University in New Orleans, Alma College, and MSU's Lyman Briggs College. Our recent graduates continue to have great success, including David Glovsky (Ph.D., 2020), who started a new job as Assistant Professor of History and of African and African American Studies at Harvard University.

Our undergraduates are inspiring presences in the department in the work that they do in and out of the classroom. We have 323 majors in the department, all of whom are cultivating deep understandings of the past that we hope will guide them in their future endeavors. Many of them are already making positive impacts on their communities, for example Connor Le, a history major who this year became President of the Associated Students of Michigan State University. Like our graduate students, our undergraduates are also engaged in important original research, and I was deeply impressed by the seven students who presented their work in April at the department's annual Honors Thesis Showcase. The event was organized by Professor Dr. Emily Conroy-Krutz, who works with each student and a second faculty mentor over the course of the year to develop an original work of historical scholarship. The quality of the scholarship that these students presented was exceptionally high, and it was a terrific capstone to their undergraduate careers. Many of our students are pursuing the History: Social Studies Education major, through which the department collaborates with the College of Education in what has been one of our most important contributions to the state of Michigan. While maintaining scholarly excellence as globally informed researchers, we promote the public interest through teaching honest understandings of the past to future Michigan teachers.

Finally, I wanted to acknowledge the two institutional anniversaries that the History Department celebrated this year. One was for our Lab for the Education and Advancement in Digital Research (LEADR), which for ten years now has been a space where undergraduate and graduate students learn digital methods to create and communicate innovative social science research. Interim Director Gillian MacDonald has created a wonderful slate of programming this year to highlight the lab's work. We also recently celebrated the tenth anniversary of the *Journal of West African History*, which under the direction of Professor Nwando Achebe has become a leading journal in the field and is expanding knowledge about one of the world's most dynamic regions.

It has been an exceptionally successful year for the MSU History Department, and we're all looking forward to new endeavors in 2025.



Photo credit: Jacqueline Hawthorne

JWAH Celebrates 10 Years of Inclusive Research and Affirmative Action

By Patti McDonald

The Journal of West African History (JWAH) recently celebrated its 10th anniversary by holding a conference at Michigan State University's Kellogg Center. The conference featured a keynote address from Dr. Michael A. Gomez, the Silver Professor of History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at New York University, on "The State in West Africa." The event featured sixteen panelists who presented papers on a range of topics in West African history.

JWAH is a prominent peer-reviewed journal that is published twice a year and features innovative research on the social, cultural, economic, and political history of West Africa. The journal addresses significant voids in West African history by providing critical contributions to the field and a forum for thorough analysis and thoughtful discussion on various subjects such as women and gender, sexuality, slavery, oral history, popular culture, and religion. Each issue features scholarly book reviews, with articles available in both English, French, and Portuguese.

Dr. Nwando Achebe, the Jack and Margaret Sweet Endowed Professor of History and the journal's founding

editor-in-chief, said that her initial inspiration for creating *JWAH* came from a sense of wanting to give back to her field. "I never wanted to be a full professor who simply sat back without actively contributing to the discipline. For me, it has always been about growth and challenges – how can I continue pushing myself? How can I keep making meaningful contributions?" she said. "I remember sitting in my home office, and having an honest conversation with myself about the direction of my career. I knew I wanted to continue to publish, and as I reflected, a thought emerged: *Wouldn't it be wonderful to have the opportunity to edit a book series or even a journal?*"

While she was contemplating her future career endeavors, MSU Press approached Achebe a week later with the chance of a lifetime: an opportunity to edit her own journal from the ground up in any subject she chose.

"The former Director of MSU Press, Gabe Dotto, and the former Director of African Studies, James Pritchett, approached me and asked if I had any interest in editing a journal of my choosing that will be published

by MSU Press, and that was the beginning of this journey," she said. "Yes, we are celebrating 10 years, but this journey has been much longer – closer to 14 years. Why? Because building a journal from the ground up requires immense effort and foresight. The work that goes into laying a strong foundation to ensure its success is a significant and demanding undertaking." The first few years before launching the publication included getting buy-in from other departments at MSU to support the journal.

"The support I received from the History Department, MSU Press, African Studies, and the Graduate School was truly invaluable. *The Journal of West African History* would not be what it is today without their unwavering commitment and collaboration." Achebe said. "One of my favorite African proverbs is, 'It takes a village to raise a child,' and it has truly taken a village to build *The Journal of West African History* from its inception to the impactful publication it is today."

Achebe said she was surprised that a journal focusing on the history of West Africa did not already exist.

As a historian of the region, Achebe's goal was to create a journal that focused on this region to fill a crucial information gap.

"Everyone I spoke with immediately recognized the importance of having a dedicated journal for West African history. West Africa, home to Nigeria – one of the most populous countries on the continent – is a region of immense historical significance. In fact, one in four Africans is Nigerian, and one in six Black people worldwide is Nigerian. Given this reality, it simply didn't make sense that a journal focused on West African history didn't already exist." Achebe says she launched the first edition of the journal after having close to two years' worth of articles. Since the journal has a double-blind peer review process, it takes a significant amount of time for articles to pass the review stage. Achebe said she never wanted to face the issue of not having any articles to publish.

"It took time to gather enough high-quality articles for the first edition of *JWAH*. I wanted to establish the journal's reputation, and the key to putting a new journal on the map is twofold – securing contributions from distinguished senior scholars and being strategic about how and when you release content." The journal's success is not only attributed to senior scholars' contributions but also a unique mentorship program for African-born junior scholars. The program pairs mentees with senior scholars for one-on-one guidance, ensuring articles meet publication standards.

"It was important for me to lead a journal that not only addresses, but also actively redresses, the geographies of knowledge production – ensuring that African-born scholars have the support and platform to publish their work. And we've successfully done just that," she added.

According to Achebe, *JWAH* has published more African-born scholars' work than any other journal doing similar work.

"When an emerging African-born scholar submits an article with real promise but isn't quite ready for double-blind review, we don't simply reject it. Instead, we offer them the opportunity to join our mentorship program, where we pair them with a senior scholar who works closely with

them until the article is fully prepared for peer review." Achebe said her motivation for creating this type of mentorship program was to give African-born scholars a voice and opportunity to share their perspectives on Africa.

"When writing African worlds, it is essential to support and amplify Indigenous voices. We are deeply committed to ensuring that *JWAH* reflects African perspectives, centering African scholarship and ways of knowing in our publication," Achebe notes.

In addition to mentoring African scholars, *JWAH* also provides opportunities to graduate students at MSU, and Achebe has a team of graduate students who assist her with the review of articles that come in. One of those graduate students is Henry Fagan, who has been working with the *JWAH* team since 2022. "Working with *JWAH* is a great experience," Fagan said. "It helps prepare the grad student for similar demands they are likely to face in their careers, whether as academic faculty, authors, or as professionals involved in publishing. The work is also useful experience in terms of learning about how the publishing process works. In addition, the day-to-day critical engagement with submissions is helpful for getting a sense of the current state of the field and some of the hot topics that scholars are currently writing about."

Fagan added that he's also developed important analytical skills and attention to detail from reviewing and critiquing article submissions. "I would say the most important skills I have picked up are organization and awareness. When you have numerous forthcoming issues, each with half-a-dozen articles and reviews by different authors, keeping track systematically is very important. Working with *JWAH* also keeps my analytics skills nice and sharp as I am constantly being called on to read and critically access new submissions."

As part of its commitment to inclusivity and the promotion of West African languages, *The Journal of West African History* is launching an exciting new pilot program that allows authors to publish their article abstracts in the West African language most relevant to their research. As Achebe elaborated, "Language is central to knowledge production, and we are committed to ensuring that *The Journal of West African History* reflects the linguistic diversity of the region. Through our new initiative, we aim to collaborate with scholars to expand the range of languages in which our content appears. For example, if a researcher is working on Yorubaland, we want their abstract to be available in Yoruba. This effort is about more than translation—it's about making scholarship more accessible and engaging for the communities whose histories we publish."

For more information on *JWAH*, visit: jwah.msu.edu



Founding Editor in Chief of *JWAH*, Professor of History Dr. Nwando Achebe speaks at the journal's conference celebrating the publication's 10th anniversary. Photo credit: Jacqueline Hawthorne



INTERVIEW WITH ASMSU PRESIDENT: Connor Le

Connor Le, a senior majoring in history and political science (with a minor in law, justice, and public policy), was recently named the President of the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU). In 2024, Communications Manager Patti McDonald sat down with Connor to talk about his goals for the upcoming semester, his love for helping people, and what led him to run for student body president.

Can you tell us about your background and what led you to become involved with ASMSU?

I came to MSU in 2020. I have been involved in ASMSU basically for my entire college career. I started off as an intern within the organization, working on projects that were devoted to increasing recruitment for marginalized and underrepresented students on campus. From that, I became a representative in our legislative body where I represented MSU's Asian Pacific American Student Organization (APASO) where I helped represent all APIDA/A (Asian Pacific Islander Desi American/Asian) identifying students on campus. I also passed several pieces of legislation throughout the 59th session. I passed bills to help MSU and East Lansing become a sanctuary campus and city for undocumented immigrants. I helped change guidelines when it came to donor accountability and naming policies on campus.

I helped pass a bill donating parts of ASMSU's budget to Olin [Health Center] for vaccinations for students who are uninsured so that they can get vaccinations for COVID and the flu. I also helped with increasing security measures on campus after February 13. After all of that advocacy, I ran for Vice President of Internal Administration of ASMSU.

A lot of my journey through ASMSU has been dedicated to advocating for students and making sure that students are living their best lives at MSU and that we're solving any sort of problems that do fall into their laps. I want to help the community as much as I can.

Why is it so important for you to help represent underrepresented students?

MSU is a predominately white institution (PWI). So, it's important that we have the seats, so underrepresented students and communities have their voice, and they have the option to have their voice out in the student government and into the MSU community. If we do not help represent constituents from different backgrounds and cultures, then we truly are not representing the student body to our fullest extent.

What are some of your goals that you want to accomplish as ASMSU student body president?

I have two main goals as president that I want to accomplish, hopefully by the end of my term. The first goal is establishing a justice branch within ASMSU. Currently, we don't really have a good set in stone way of holding people accountable for their actions within the organization itself.

I want to work on our transparency as well as marketing with the student body. I feel like although we are a large organization and we have lots of free services that students can participate in, a lot of students do not know about the services we provide. I want to work with our marketing team to make sure that we can get as many students as possible to know about our services and what we provide. Also, I would like to work on transparency and communication with our student body, which would include what we

are doing when it comes to advocacy and being able to have students more involved with any sort of advocacy. That would include meeting with our ASMSU Admin. I feel like a lot of students who are outside the student government sphere do not really know who the ASMSU Admin is and what they do or what current projects that person is working on. So, connecting our admin with the actual student body to communicate to the students what this person is doing is something that I really want to work on as well.

What are some challenges you foresee as being the student body president?

For my upcoming term, we are in a very important and decisive election year. I'm sure that a lot of people have mixed feelings about this upcoming election year, too. So, the biggest challenge I would say is focusing on the general election and trying to get students engaged in voting. I want to make sure all students feel like they have a voice in who is representing them in the future.

Why did you decide to major in history?

I chose history because I was always drawn to the subject, both inside and outside of school. I enjoy learning about how different events, people, and movements can impact the history of the world, especially in relation to politics.

Would you like to give a shoutout to any mentors?

I would like to give a shout out to ASMSU Advisor Andrew Peckham. He's been a really big help. Even when I wasn't president, he's been a big supporter with assisting with any sort of situations that might arise or giving advice when needed and he's always been an open ear. I really appreciate him.

[Adjunct Professor of History and James Madison College] Professor Anna Pegler-Gordon has also been a big help, especially when I was an ASMSU Representative. She helped a lot with the advocacy work that I was doing, especially in relation to donor accountability.

Professor of History Dr. Peter Alegi on Podcasting and the Football Scholars Forum

By Patti McDonald

Today, there are countless podcasts to choose from on a wide variety of subjects spanning from culinary arts to true crime. Professor of History at Michigan State University Dr. Peter Alegi, who has been podcasting for nearly two decades, collaborated with a fellow historian, Professor Emeritus Peter Limb, in 2008 to establish *Africa Past and Present*, a podcast about African history, culture, and politics. After 17 years, *Africa Past and Present* is now the longest-running African studies podcast in the world.

Alegi said that he and Limb started the podcast after they brainstormed ways that they could foster new conversations about African history and challenge the prevailing narratives presented in high school history curricula and elsewhere.

"We were thinking what broader impact our scholarship was really having in African studies and African history," Alegi said. "Even though many of us were doing amazing work, the same ignorance and the same shallow coverage of Africa in high school curricula and in the media still existed. Peter and I got talking and I thought maybe we should try doing a podcast. Since the MSU History Department has several historians who work on Africa, and the MSU African Studies Center, a Title VI National Resource Center on Africa since 1960, brings in lots of Africanists from other universities and from Africa, we could interview them and have a kind of NPR-style conversation with guests."

Alegi said he and Limb wanted to create a space where anyone wanting to learn more about African history could do so for free and in a down-to-earth way. The monthly podcast features discussions with academics and professionals from various fields and disciplines and appeals to anyone wanting to learn more about African history.

"*Africa Past and Present* has that organic quality to it that I think appeals to listeners who have their earbuds in and maybe they're doing a workout at the gym, or they're on the bus or just walking the dog or whatever," Alegi said. "You know that there's an intimacy there in that kind of conversation that someone might not get in a typical intellectual, scholarly setting. Podcasting can appeal to more people because it's more engaging and accessible for everyday folks."

Africa Past and Present is produced by Matrix: The Center for Digital Humanities

and Social Sciences and supported by MSU's Department of History. Alegi said he is grateful for the support Matrix and the department have provided to the podcast over the years.

"We knew very little about podcasting in late 2007," Alegi said. "There were only a handful of academics who were doing any kind of podcasting at the time. Once we started the podcast, the chair of the department at the time, Mark Kornbluh made sure we had access to Matrix's resources."

Alegi said being backed by Matrix and the department made a huge difference and there was less pressure on him and Limb to worry about out-of-pocket expenses.

"We didn't have to buy access to a website or a hosting service or microphones or anything like that. So, the fact that the history department was behind us and Matrix was behind us was hugely encouraging."

Alegi said that it took him and Limb approximately a year to establish their podcasting rhythm. Then, Alegi said he observed an increase in their audience size.

"In the beginning, most of the listeners were from North America. But, as the internet developed and people got better access to faster connections and bandwidth and so on, we grew. By the early 2010s, we were already getting 3,000 or so regular streams per episode in 100-something countries, including about twenty or so African nations. Those listeners, especially in the earlier days, encouraged us to keep going."

"Without Peter and the support of the history department and Matrix, and now also the African Studies Center, I would not still be podcasting today. Being able to have access to Matrix's resources takes some of the burden off me as a scholar. I can do this podcast in addition to all my other responsibilities as a scholar."

With all that he's learned with 17 years of podcasting experience under his belt, Alegi incorporates podcasting into the courses he teaches.

"It's a little more work at times; it invites student creativity and freedom of expression that just doesn't come through as much when you're writing a paper. With the support of LEADR, I try to encourage that creativity in my courses because that's what can make history fun. As a pedagogical tool, podcasting can help us achieve the

same goals that historians try to achieve in paper form. In a world that's increasingly digital first, I like to think that this type of an assignment teaches useful skills and can do some good."

In addition to podcasting duties and a book project on podcasting, Alegi hosts the Football Scholars Forum. Founded in 2010, the Football Scholars Forum started as an online book club in MSU's History Department and includes authors, professors, graduate students, journalists, players, coaches, and soccer enthusiasts from around the world.

"The Football Scholars Forum is an international network of scholars and others who meet regularly to discuss soccer books from history and other disciplines. Our distinguishing feature is that we always invite the author. The author says a few things at the beginning and then everyone is able to contribute. It is very interactive and engaging in that way," he said. Each meeting is recorded, and the audio recording can be accessed on their website.

In 2025, Alegi will not be teaching classes as he focuses on finishing his book titled *Afripod: How Podcasting is Changing African Studies*. He was awarded a Humanities and Arts Research Program (HARP) Development Grant in 2024 for his book project. HARP Development Grants are designed to provide funds and support to faculty who are conducting crucial research leading to creative and performance projects or activities in the arts and humanities.

Alegi's book project explores the transformation of independent academic podcasting and its influence on the study of Africa within the humanities and social sciences. It examines the impact of podcasting on research, scholarly communication, education, professional development, and public engagement. Additionally, it serves as a guide for mastering the craft of podcasting. According to Alegi, the book's content is based on his experience as a podcast host and 50 hours of interviews with technicians, listeners, academics, and podcasters.

"I am quite excited to focus and use 2025 to finish my book," Alegi said. "I worked hard to get the grant and this has been a few years in the making. I was able to do all this work largely because of the sense of community I share with my colleagues within the department."

MSU Project Which Aims to Preserve Historically and Culturally Significant Recipes Receives NEH Grant

America in the Kitchen is a new project at Michigan State University that recently received funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities to digitize 200 of the most important American cookbooks published from the 18th century through 1960. The team behind the grant includes Associate Professor of History Helen Veit, MSU Libraries Head of Special Collections and University Archives Leslie McRoberts, former MSU Libraries Head of Special Collections and Librarian Emeritus Peter Berg, and Associate Professor of History and Director of Matrix: Center for Digital Humanities and Social Sciences Dean Rehberger.

The almost \$350,000 NEH grant will allow the team to modernize and expand *Feeding America*, one of the most-used digital resources on food history. Dr. Berg was one of the directors of the original project, which launched in 2003. *Feeding America* is comprised of 76 American cookbooks spanning the late 18th to the early 20th centuries.

"*Feeding America* is already an important resource for food studies scholars," Veit said. "Now, with *America in the Kitchen*, we'll be creating a beautiful new website that's even larger and more user-friendly. We'll not only be able to expand the number of cookbooks in the collection, but we'll also push the collection's chronology up to 1960 and emphasize how many different Americans have created and used cookbooks."

The team at Matrix will create the new *America in the Kitchen* website, while the MSU Libraries team will be digitizing the cookbooks. The finished website will also include short author biographies and photographs of historic cooking tools, among other resources.

"Besides expanding the availability of historic American cookbooks online, this NEH grant will also allow us to provide context so that users can better understand where each cookbook came from and why it's significant," Veit said.



Our goal is to create a place where people can learn more about food history, American history, and humanities ideas.

- Dr. Helen Veit

The website is aimed at scholars, researchers, students, cooks, and lifelong learners of all ages.

"The MSU Libraries is thrilled to receive this grant, which will be significant in helping us broaden the digital presence of our robust Cookery & Food Collection," said McRoberts. "The *Feeding America* digital repository is already a fabulous resource for researchers seeking out these important and influential American cookbooks, and we are so excited to soon be able to offer additional access to cookbooks through 1960, thanks in large part to these NEH funds. We are proud as well that these publicly available collections can help support MSU's position as a top-tier research institution by allowing researchers to browse our cookbooks across the globe."

Berg said, "One of the wonders of the digital age is the opportunity to bring the resources of a world-class special collection of books to people throughout the state, nation, and world who otherwise could not afford to make a trip to East Lansing to see the cookbooks. While the means to deliver our knowledge and resources may be modern, our work remains traditional as part of the land grant mission, the founding principle of MSU."

All cookbooks will come from the Murray & Hong Special Collections at the MSU Libraries, which has more than 40,000 cookbooks and food-related works and is one of the largest American culinary collections in the world.

The team behind *America in the Kitchen* previously created the *What America Ate* project, a digital archive and interactive website on food in the Great Depression also funded by the NEH.

Veit noted that she hopes the new website will entice people to cook from historic cookbooks as well as to read them. "We all have strong feelings about food, and it's a great way to get people asking bigger questions about why things happen and how culture works," she said.

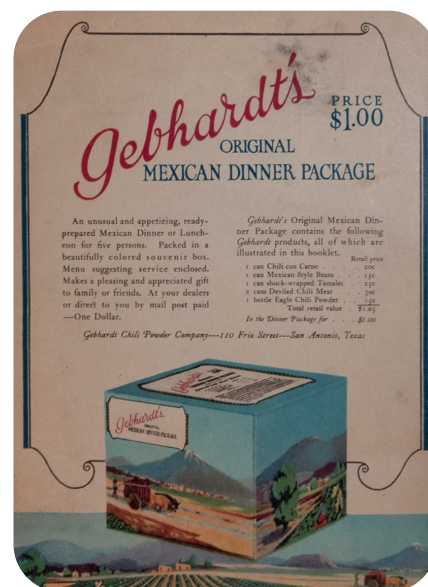


Photo Credit: Austin DeRaedt



Photo Contest | Second Place

Rashad Bates

"Bringing out My Inner Napoleon"
Cairo, Egypt

Celebrating the Academic Achievements of Freshly Tenured MSU Professors

The achievement of tenure is one of the milestones in a scholarly career, and the History Department in 2024 was very pleased to welcome two faculty members, Noah Kaye and Amy Simon, to the rank of Associate Professor. These were well-earned recognitions of exemplary research, teaching, and service. Professors Kaye and Simon have contributed much to the department, the MSU community, and the larger historical profession in significant ways as scholars, mentors, and public servants. In all their activities, they have responded to what Interim Provost Thomas Jeitschko described in his Spring 2023 Memorandum on University Philosophy and Guiding Policies on Faculty Tenure and Promotion as the “higher purpose of a land grant institution.”



Dr. Noah Kaye
Associate Professor of History

Noah Kaye joined the Department of History in 2017 after completing post-doctoral positions and visiting professor positions at the University of Oregon, Indiana University, and the University of Haifa (Israel). He holds undergraduate degrees from Princeton University and Cambridge University, and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of California, Berkeley (2012). Dr. Kaye is a specialist in Ancient History, especially that of the Eastern Mediterranean. His work is primarily focused on the Attalid dynasty of Eastern Anatolia (modern Turkey), a polity that emerged in the wake of the Roman conquest of that area. Professor Kaye's scholarship also comprises the wider contexts of the Eastern Mediterranean, with analyses of Greek and Jewish cultures in the classical period. He is the author of numerous articles and book chapters, and his first book, *The Attalids of Pergamon and Anatolia: Money, Culture, and State Power*, was published by Cambridge University Press in 2022.



Dr. Amy Simon
Associate Professor of History

Amy Simon is William and Audrey Farber Family Chair in Holocaust Studies and European Jewish History, and she holds a joint appointment in James Madison College and the Department of History. Dr. Simon holds an undergraduate degree in English from the University of Texas at Austin, and an MA in Holocaust Studies from University College London. She completed an MA and Ph.D. in History at Indiana University, and she joined MSU in 2016. Simon is the author of *Emotions in Yiddish Ghetto Diaries: Encountering Persecutors and Questioning Humanity*, which was published by Routledge in 2023. The book investigates scores of Yiddish-language diaries written by Jewish internees of three large ghettos established by Nazi German authorities in the cities of Warsaw, Vilna (Vilnius), and Lodz (Łódź). Simon's call for historians to revisit ego documents such as the extant diaries of ghetto internees and to take the feelings expressed in the diaries seriously represents an important intervention in the historiography of the Holocaust. In addition to her published scholarship, Dr. Simon has engaged in a wide range of important public-facing activities, and received MSU's prestigious Teacher-Scholar Award in 2021.

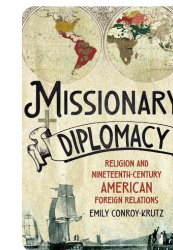
New Books Published by History Faculty in 2024



Emine Evered

Prohibition in Turkey: Alcohol and the Politics of Identity
(University of Texas Press)

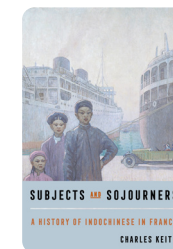
Prohibition in Turkey investigates the history of alcohol, its consumption, and its proscription as a means to better understand events and agendas of the late Ottoman and early Turkish republican eras. Through a comprehensive examination of archival, literary, popular culture, media, and other sources, it unveils a traditionally overlooked—and even excluded—aspect of human history in a region that many do not associate with intoxicants, inebriation, addiction, and vigorous wet-dry debates. Emine Evered's account uniquely chronicles how the Turko-Islamic Ottoman Empire developed strategies for managing its heterogeneous communities and their varied rights to produce, market, and consume alcohol, or to simply abstain. The first author to reveal this experience's connections with American Prohibition, she demonstrates how—amid modernization, sectarianism, and imperial decline—drinking practices reflected, shifted, and even prompted many of the changes that were underway and that hastened the empire's collapse. Ultimately, Evered's book reveals how Turkey's alcohol question never went away but repeatedly returns in the present, in matters of popular memory, public space, and political contestation.



Emily Conroy-Krutz

Missionary Diplomacy: Religion and Nineteenth-Century American Foreign Relations
(Cornell University Press)

Missionary Diplomacy illuminates the crucial place of religion in nineteenth-century American diplomacy. From the 1810s through the 1920s, Protestant missionaries positioned themselves as key experts in the development of American relations in Asia, Africa, the Pacific, and the Middle East. Across this period, missionaries forced the government to articulate new conceptions of the rights of US citizens abroad and of the role of the US as an engine of humanitarianism and religious freedom. By the time the US entered the first world war, missionary diplomacy had for nearly a century created the conditions for some Americans to embrace a vision of their country as an internationally engaged world power. *Missionary Diplomacy* exposes the longstanding influence of evangelical missions on the shape of American foreign relations.



Charles Keith

Subjects and Sojourners: A History of Indochinese in France
(University of California Press)

During the era of French colonial rule in Indochina, as many as two hundred thousand Indochinese sojourned in France. *Subjects and Sojourners* is a vivid and comprehensive social, cultural, and political history of this diverse group, which ranged from ruling monarchs to the most marginal laborers. Drawing from a range of rich but underused archives, Charles Keith explores how French colonialism extended Indochina's colonial society into France, where Indochinese subjects studied, labored, fought, and lived in imperial spaces and contexts that were profoundly different from those they had left behind. Time in France transformed these sojourners, and when they returned to Indochina, they in turn transformed colonial society. Indochinese, in short, did not simply encounter “France” in the colony: they went and lived it for themselves.

LEADR: Ten Years of Empowering MSU Students With Modern Digital Tools



Dr. Gillian Macdonald
Interim Director of LEADR

LEADR turns 10 this academic year (2024-2025) and we are celebrating in our own digital fashion! Chair of the History Department Michael Stamm opened our celebration with some remarks about the current happenings in the space and thoughts about our future. Founder and former chair of the History

Department, Walter Hawthorne followed up with a short history of the space itself, which used to be a very large storage room that has since been turned into a wonderful, lively and collaborative space for a community of digital experts. In the space of ten years, we have inspired and helped a generation of new practitioners, built a number of new class projects, and extended out outreach into history, anthropology, integrated studies, and digital studies. We are looking forward to 10 more years of computational advances and digital heritage and history. Please come and visit us.

Faculty Experiences

Dr. Walter Hawthorne
Professor

When we launched LEADR a decade ago, we pictured a space of collaboration. To this space, faculty and students would bring content knowledge, and LEADR staff would bring experience with digital approaches to research and publication. Most of us were used to being solo actors in the classroom, so LEADR would require us to step outside our comfort zones—to learn ourselves in classes we were teaching. Because Brandon Locke, MSU’s first director, and Gillian MacDonald, LEADR’s current director, have created in LEADR a welcoming, experimental, and collaborative environment, faculty and students have embraced it, and LEADR has become a model for digital history learning and research labs. Our students, graduate and undergraduate, have taken what they have learned in LEADR and done things they never could have done in a traditional classroom. And we teachers—me especially—have developed professionally in ways we never dreamed of before joining MSU’s History Department.

Dr. Emily Conroy-Krutz
Professor

Working with LEADR allowed my US Women’s History students (HST 313) to develop new skills and to take pride in making their work available to a wider audience. Over the course of the semester, students learned about the history of American women before the Civil War, and we thought a lot about biography as a genre for exploring complex histories. The class then created a website using Omeka that featured biographies of women that they researched in small groups. Our GA Marissa was a tremendous help, working with the students every step of the way so that they felt like they mastered the technology as well as the historical content.

Dr. Peter Alegi
Professor

It is my pleasure to report on the valuable assistance LEADR Lab provided my undergraduate students in the fall of 2024. I was grateful to have LEADR GA Kevin Cabrera, Ph.D. student in Anthropology, assisting my History 208 (African History, Culture and Society) students with their capstone assignment. Five-person groups had to pitch, develop, record, and produce a professional quality 15-minute African history podcast in scripted format based on a topic from the course syllabus. This assessment was carefully scaffolded throughout the semester and worth 20% of the final grade. Kevin and I held a class in LEADR Lab on October 3, 2024, during which we ran a podcasting workshop. Kevin shared a podcasting guide with my students, which I posted on D2L, to help them better understand the recording and production technology, learn about the resources available at LEADR, and how to reserve studio time and equipment. As a result of our cooperation with LEADR, each of the five group podcasts met or exceeded expectations. I was fortunate to have LEADR GA Devashish Saurav, PhD student in Anthropology, assisting my 49 students in History 397 (Global Soccer) with the group podcast assignment. Eight groups pitched, developed, recorded, and produced a professional quality 15-minute historical podcast on an aspect of the 1994 FIFA (Men’s) World Cup in the United States. This assessment was also carefully scaffolded throughout the semester and worth 35% of the final grade. Devashish and I held a class in LEADR Lab on October 10, 2024, during which we ran a podcasting workshop. Devashish created a podcasting guide, which I posted on D2L, to help students with podcasting technology, learn about the resources

available at LEADR, and how to reserve studio time and equipment. The eight group podcasts were submitted in a timely fashion and benefited from the assistance of LEADR staff. Finally, I must mention that throughout the semester Devashish and Kevin assisted students with recording sessions in the LEADR studio and helped them navigate the shark-infested waters of podcasting postproduction. Thank you and LEADR for all your help!

Graduate Assistants Experiences

Aubree Marshall (GA 2023-2024)

I loved it. Having the opportunity to teach students and develop my own learning materials was extremely valuable and has helped prepare me to be an educator and opened my world to digital innovation.”

Marissa Knaak (2024-2025)

“It’s been great, I’ve learned a lot. I got to teach students, make friends, and gain new skills. It’s a wonderful place to make community and learn about other people’s areas of research.”

Jarad Cornett (2024-2025)

“It’s been a positive learning experience. I gained access to new resources I didn’t know existed and can be utilized for my own research. I would recommend it to other GAs that want to diversify their technological skills and have fun while doing it.”

Scott Bullock (2024-2025)

“In the short time that I’ve been here, I have enjoyed seeing students be introduced to new opportunities and public-facing projects that allow history to engage with more audiences. It has better prepared both me and my students with digital literacy to go forward with their careers. Something I really love about the lab is that it is geared to be more accessible to students whether they previously had a strong background in computational methods or not. It is extremely gratifying working in such a collaborative space.”

Undergraduate Lab Assistants Experiences

Morgan Fox (2023-2025)

“It’s been very rewarding because I’ve been able to learn many new digital skills and implement them in my own projects and in work as well. It’s also a very fun and positive atmosphere. I love this job and would recommend it to anyone.”

Max Levanduski (2023-2025)

“I love it, it’s been a great experience, I’ve met a lot of people in my own field, and it’s been very rewarding to integrate digital tools into my research and help others do the same. I even added a history minor based on my experience in the lab.”

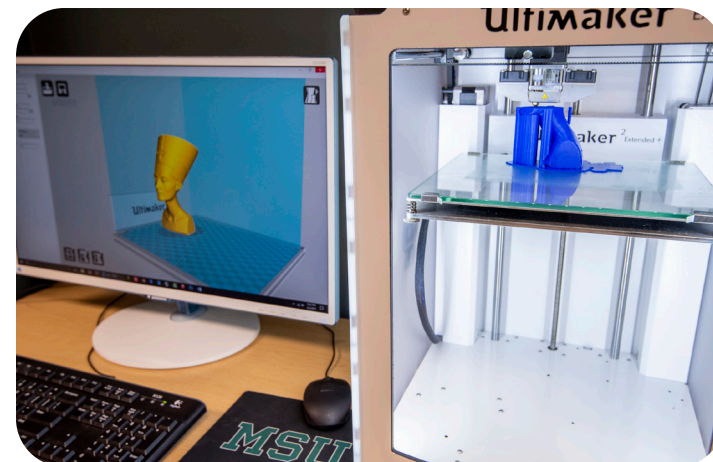


Photo credit: Jacqueline Hawthorne

Graduate Program Update

By Dr. Aminda Smith

The Department of History at Michigan State University has a vibrant PhD program with strong cohorts of students doing cutting-edge research in every major world region. *U.S. News and World Report* ranks our program in African History at #3 and our program in African American History at #17. Our students in all fields regularly win prestigious research grants such as Fulbright fellowships and are competitive for many different post-graduation positions, including at universities, museums, in publishing, consulting, and more. Our graduate students work closely with faculty to mentor undergraduates, and they are frequently recognized with teaching awards for their successes as educators.

Over the past year, we celebrated and said goodbye to our many successful graduates, we congratulated multiple award winners, and we welcomed new students.

We are delighted to announce that three recent graduates moved on to faculty and postdoctoral fellowship positions: Dawson McCall was offered a tenure track position at Loyola University in New Orleans. Bernard Moore started as a lecturer at Alma College, and Erica Holt started as an instructor in Lyman Briggs College.

In the fall of 2024, we welcomed nine new students to the Ph.D. program in History.

Two of our students received significant recognition from the College of Social Science for their work. Bernard Moore won the College of Social Science Research Award for an original, peer-reviewed publication. Just before completing her Ph.D., Erica Holt was honored with the Excellence in Teaching Citation from the College of Social Science.



Photo Contest | Third Place Karena Coffie

Soweto Township
Johannsburg, South Africa

Graduate Student Spotlights

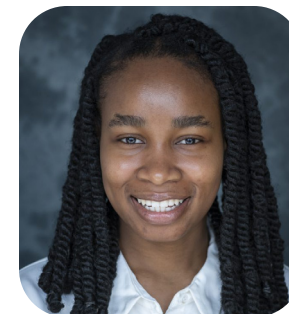
By: Emily Johnson



Caitlin Barker

Ph.D. candidate Caitlin Barker visited China and gave two presentations, one at Fudan University in Shanghai and the other at Peking University in Beijing. Barker's research is focused on African international relations during the Cold War, with a particular focus on Cameroon's relationship with China and Taiwan. She is interested in how ordinary citizens who are not normally considered to be diplomats participated in foreign affairs. Given the increasing importance of China-Africa relations, this is an exciting and vital research topic. Most social science research tends to frame the relationship as a product of the twenty-first century and focuses almost exclusively on Chinese influence in Africa and Western responses. However, by foregrounding

the longer history of Africa-China relations, Barker's research challenges understandings of African international relations as perpetually dominated by foreign powers. She demonstrates that these mainstream narratives tend to understate the agency and experiences of Africans in shaping their own foreign relations. As Barker stated of her visit to China, "It was wonderful to be back again after over five years away. I traveled together with one of my dissertation advisors, Professor Jamie Monson, and we had a great time taking the train together from Shanghai to Beijing and reconnecting with our Chinese colleagues."



Gloria J. Ashaolu

Gloria J. Ashaolu, a Ph.D. candidate studying African American history, was recently named a 2024 National Academy of Education (NAEd)/Spencer Dissertation Fellow. This prestigious fellowship was only offered to 35 graduate students nationwide. Ashaolu related that she was overwhelmed with joy and a deep sense of gratitude when she found out she was awarded this fellowship because it will allow her to dedicate more time to her dissertation and provide the opportunity to engage with members of her cohort and distinguished scholars in the field of education at the two professional development retreats organized by the National Academy of Education. Ashaolu's dissertation highlights the understudied educational activism, pedagogies,

and practices of local Black teachers during the Early Black History Movement through a biographical analysis of the life and times of Jane Dabney Shackelford, a Black female educator from Terre Haute, Indiana who was most active during the era of Jim Crow segregation. Ashaolu's dissertation highlights and situates the underappreciated presence and pedagogies of these educators within their rightful historical legacy. As Ashaolu stated, "I am grateful to God for the scholar-friends in the Department of History and College of Education who have been thought-partners and for their community of support."



Jayson Otto

Ph.D. candidate Jayson Otto won the *Michigan Historical Review's* Graduate Student Essay contest. The award comes with a \$1,000 prize, and the article will be published in the journal's spring 2025 issue. Otto's essay, "Better Flowers and Better Vegetables Easily Leads to the Subject of Better People: Back Down the Garden Paths with the Municipal Housekeepers of Grand Rapids, Michigan," investigates the social and cultural influence of club women in Grand Rapids during the Progressive Era. Otto came to the MSU history department after lengthy career of scholarship, teaching, and practice in projects relating to better understanding American food systems.



Dr. Delia Fernández-Jones promoted to senior leadership role

In January of 2024, Delia Fernández-Jones became the Associate Dean of Equity, Justice and Faculty Affairs for the College of Arts and Letters. We sat down with Dr. Fernández-Jones to discuss why she wanted this position, what challenges she's looking forward to solving, and what she has enjoyed the most in her new role.

It became apparent to Dr. Fernández-Jones when doing service work within Michigan State University's History Department that she had ideas that she wanted to implement, which is sometimes difficult as a faculty member.

"This is a very large university, and there's lots of support for different ideas and other places, but the things that I was interested in were systemic, and so I wanted to be able to affect change at a structural level. I thought that I might have an opportunity to make structural changes that can impact a lot of people," she said.

Dr. Fernández-Jones mentioned that she received encouragement from various faculty members, associates, and deans with whom she worked with at MSU, prompting her to consider applying for her new position.

One of the exciting parts of Dr. Fernández-Jones's role is that she gets to apply diversity, equity, and

inclusion (DEI) to faculty life. She also looks for equity and justice in the systems that govern the ways faculty move throughout the university and the College of Arts and Letters. One thing Dr. Fernández-Jones noticed is that she has learned a lot through her service work and tenure track. She often found herself offering advice to others, suggesting resources or solutions when she heard about problems. She realized that if she took on this position, she could help make faculty interactions and university systems more transparent and equitable.



It felt like a chance to bring everything I was doing together in one role. There are still things I'm learning, but I have great mentors here helping me.

- Dr. Delia Fernández-Jones

As a historian with a background in Chicano/Latino Studies, Fernández-Jones works closely with communities on public history and public humanities projects. She is excited to work toward expanding our current definitions of scholarship to include collaborative work with communities.

This new role allows Dr. Fernández-Jones to live the university's mission of equity and community engagement. According to Fernández-Jones, interdisciplinary collaboration has been challenging at MSU with its many separate colleges. However, being part of the College of Arts and Letters has allowed her to learn from faculty across different fields and connect with people.

"I'm really thankful for the opportunities that I've had in the History Department to gain leadership experience and to learn from colleagues who have been instrumental in mentoring me as a faculty member and administrator. I've had wonderful chairs and great colleagues who have also done admin, who have offered a lot of support and advice. It's just been great to have support from my colleagues," said Dr. Fernández-Jones.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Dr. David Glovsky

Michigan State University History Alumnus Dr. David Glovsky recently landed his dream job at Harvard University as an assistant professor teaching History and African and African American Studies.

Glovsky taught at Boston University and the University of Albany prior to landing his role at Harvard.

"The one thing I love about the MSU history department is that people show up to things," he said. "[Professor of History] Walter Hawthorne, [Chair of the History Department] Michael Stamm, and other mentors like Charles Keith have been huge supporters of mine by assisting me with mock interviews and talks so that I could be as confident as possible throughout the interview process as I looked for jobs."



MSU changed my life in so many ways, and I am grateful to have the department's support.

- Dr. David Glovsky

"MSU changed my life in so many ways, and I am grateful to have the department's support."

Glovsky indicated that his decision to pursue a Ph.D. in African history was influenced by his experience in Senegal while serving in the Peace Corps. Following his research into various African history programs, he reached out to Hawthorne, who subsequently became his advisor.

"Even before I applied, I had such a good idea of the program. I connected

with several current and past students who had nothing but positive things to say about the African History program and the history department. There's a real community feel in the department among faculty and graduate students and being a part of that is something I will always feel a strong sense of belonging to."

Glovsky specializes in 19th and 20th century West African history, concentrating particularly on Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea. His academic pursuits encompass the study of mobility and migration, borderlands, and the histories of popular culture and sports. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate students on a diverse array of subjects within African History and African Studies.

In upcoming semesters, Glovsky is teaching courses on modern African history, African history through pop culture, and the history of sport in Africa. He said his courses are inspired by courses and programs taught by MSU History Professors.

"[Professor of History] Dr. Nwando Achebe did a lot of work and portrayals in Africa through novels, films and other media. I decided I would try to create an entire class based on that, and so I'm going to offer it for the first time in fall 2025."

Glovsky said he was also motivated to teach a sports history class with his ESPN background and inspiration from MSU Professor of History Dr. Peter Alegi.

"Dr. Alegi hosts a Football Scholars Forum that I attended several times, and I've always wanted to teach a class related to sports and history. Having



worked for ESPN, I have also done a lot of freelance journalism and things like that. So, I'm teaching a class in the history of sport in Africa in the spring of 2026."

Glovsky said the most rewarding part of his job at Harvard is being able to mentor graduate students.

"I have amazing students," Glovsky said. "I get to work with a lot of graduate students. When I left MSU, I knew I wanted the opportunity to work with graduate students and give the kind of advising and mentorship that I had received."

In addition to the courses he teaches, Dr. Glovsky is presently working on his first book project: *Borderlanders: Popular Geographies, Mobility, and Belonging in West Africa*. The book explores the resilience and adaptability of various popular geographies in West Africa, with an emphasis on borderland perceptions of space and place. This research focuses on residents of four colonies/states—Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Guinea—and explores concepts of boundaries, citizenship, and community to create lasting, cross-border connections.

Recently, Glovsky started working on his second book: *Contesting the Nation-State: The Question of National Identity in Guinea-Bissau and Guinea, 1958-1985*. This research uses the cases of Guinea's socialist modernization project and Guinea-Bissau's struggle for independence to demonstrate the contested nature of ideas of belonging and national identity across late colonial and postcolonial Africa.

Michigan State University Fixed-term Assistant Professor Dr. Tim Retzloff receives Allan Bérubé Prize for his comic *Come out! in Detroit*



Michigan State University Fixed-term Assistant Professor Dr. Tim Retzloff recently won the Allan Bérubé Prize from the LGBTQ+ History Association (formerly The Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender History) for his comic book *Come Out! In Detroit*. The Allan Bérubé Prize recognizes outstanding work in public or community-based lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and/or queer history completed in 2022 or 2023.

Come Out! In Detroit is a full-color, 32-page nonfiction comic book co-created with freelance illustrator Isabel Clare Paul that tells the story of the first Pride celebration in Michigan, which took place in Detroit more than 50 years ago. The comic is the only published work of its kind and features firsthand accounts and artwork based on various previously unpublished photographs.

Retzloff, who teaches history and LGBTQ+ studies at MSU and has been studying and researching LGBTQ+ history for more than 30 years, said he is quite proud of this award, especially after meeting Bérubé several years ago.



I was thrilled when I found out we were getting the award. This award will allow local LGBTQ+ history to get wider recognition.

- Dr. Tim Retzloff

"I am especially pleased to get this award since it is for grassroots and public history and is named for Allan Bérubé, an esteemed working-class queer independent historian and MacArthur Fellowship recipient who I was fortunate to have met in the early 1990s on a visit to San Francisco," Retzloff said.

Retzloff had his own tumultuous experience coming out as a gay man. Prior to his coming out in high school, he grappled with feelings of isolation and loneliness, a common experience for many people in the LGBTQ+ community. He "had a rough go of it" and dropped out of college while he was studying at the University of Michigan-Flint. Despite this setback, Retzloff re-enrolled in college courses several years later and graduated from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor with his Bachelor of Arts degree in history. He then attended Yale University, where he earned his Ph.D. in history and wrote a dissertation focused on the history of queer life in metro Detroit from 1945-85.

After his dissertation, Retzloff still saw the need to capture Michigan's first Pride activities in a "more extensive, grassroots way." Retzloff began working with Paul on what he calls a "do it yourself, grassroots project" that eventually turned into *Come Out! In Detroit*.

Thanks to community fundraising and a Michigan Humanities Grant, the two printed and distributed over 20,000 copies at venues and Pride events across the state.

"Creating this comic book just struck us as a unique way to tell the story, and to reach audiences young and old that might not necessarily read history or read queer history," he said.

Retzloff also stressed the necessity of integrating LGBTQ+ history into the education system.

"In my experience in the classroom and talking to various groups, there is a kind of a hunger for learning more about LGBTQ+ history," Retzloff said. "So much of it isn't taught in K-12 and usually unless you're taking certain classes in college, it's not necessarily been taught at the university level either."

Retzloff said it is important to note that the initial organization of the Detroit Pride march started at MSU, with student organizers from around Michigan meeting in East Lansing to organize the event and other similar celebrations across the state of Michigan.

"The initial meeting was here at Michigan State," Retzloff said. "The student group at the time was called the Gay Liberation Movement. They were one of the key organizers and participants. There was a strong contingent from East Lansing that went to Detroit and then Ann Arbor and Detroit folks formed another two other cores. But then there were people involved from Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo and Battle Creek."

Despite a proliferation of Pride celebrations in recent years, most Michiganders were oblivious to prior celebrations. "People didn't realize there had been this earlier effort to bring people together, to me that helped make for a compelling story," Retzloff noted. "We've arrived at this moment where there have been some achievements. All these suburbs of Detroit including Berkley, Ferndale, Grosse Pointe, Livonia, Royal Oak and Macomb County have their own Pride events. Even the suburbs of Lansing, including Meridian Township, had their own Pride last year for the first time. There's this kind of desire to come together as a community, in a way that's celebratory and getting this award for *Come Out! In Detroit* will ensure this history is being told and is widely accessible to anyone who has the desire to learn more about this type of history."

As a testament to the comic book's impact, this year State Sen. Jeremy Moss, a James Madison College alumnus, cited the queer local history that Retzloff uncovered in introducing a resolution to the Michigan legislature declaring June as Pride Month.

Undergraduate Program Update

The study of history offers our undergraduate majors and minors and students from many other disciplines around the university more than just insight into the past. It provides a means of sharpening their research, writing, and analytical skills. Courses in our department introduce students to times and places as varied as ancient Greece, modern Russia, imperial China and Japan, the United States (of course) and South Asia. Thematic and special topics courses cover concepts, ideas and practices as diverse as Catholicism, sports, books, film, food and alcohol, law and the history of magic, witchcraft and the occult. Students learn the fundamentals of research in primary sources, the construction of arguments and concise, persuasive writing. This set of skills prepares students for a wide variety of careers that rely on research and analysis, while also providing them with the foundation for acting as informed, engaged citizens in their local, national and international communities.

This has been an exception year for the undergraduate program in History. Our two continuing majors, standard History and Global History, are strong, and we have a new major, History: Social Studies Education, which became available in Fall semester. The new major combines the former majors in History Education and in Integrative Studies in Social Science: Social Studies Education, which was housed in the Interdisciplinary Studies in Social Science. The new major also provides a single home for all students who want to teach Social Studies in secondary school. It enables students to complete all requirements for teacher certification in four years rather than five, saving students both time and money and getting sorely needed teachers into schools a year faster than before. Our two existing minors, History itself and Defense Studies and Leadership, continue to grow, and as of this fall History has become the home for minors on Cities, African Studies, Asian Studies, Asian Pacific American Studies, and Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

We have a large body of exceptional students. At our awards ceremony last May, we honored the recipients of our undergraduate scholarships and the writers of senior Honors theses, who are separately listed in this newsletter, as well as our outstanding graduating seniors, listed here in no particular order: Rebecca Yeomans-Stephenson, Zach Sebree, Josh Morrisey, Jack Behan, Billy Kristalyn, Kaya Wilske, Spencer Vora, Max Martus, Daniel Gutierrez, Hannah Winter, Katie Denzin, Isabelle Fanning, Jesi Abolins, Evab Burke, Chelsea Hunter, Marissa Nickerson, Hannah Hall, Avery Underwood, and Eli Zumberg. Daniel Gutierrez, Marissa Nickerson and Avery Underwood were additionally honored by being invited to join Phi Beta Kappa, the nation's most prestigious honor society for the liberal arts.

The History Club has been very active, as Professor Ethan Segal, its faculty adviser, reports. In Fall 2024, led by student president Rashad Bates, the club organized and held seven events. Following the opening night social mixer, the club hosted a movie night (screening the 2017 black comedy *The Death of Stalin*) and its always-popular trivia night. In late October, the club put on its annual Spooky Stories event, at which MSU faculty shares tales, legends, or accounts of strange historical events from the parts of the world that they study. This year's storytellers included Dr. Helen Veit, Dr. Noah Kaye, Dr. Gillian MacDonald, and Dr. Michael Toole. In addition, the club sponsored two History Behind the Headlines events: Dr. Thomas Summerhill spoke about controversial presidential elections in U.S. history (especially the election of 1856) and Dr. Peter Alegi spoke on recent elections in South Africa. Lastly, led by student editors Trey Davis and Anna LePage, the club is working to bring out a new edition of the *MSU Undergraduate Historian*, our journal which publishes papers written by MSU students for History classes.

Graduate Awards

Don Lammers Graduate Award Ryan Carty

This award honors former professor of history and Head of the Honors College Donald Lammers by recognizing graduate students who plan a teaching career at the college or university level as exemplified by Prof. Lammers, who was a scholar and teacher of British empire and international relations. The graduate student in good standing who receives the award, promises – through their research interests and related activities – to improve our knowledge and historical understanding of the nature and dynamics of international and intercultural relationships in any geographical region or time period.

Fred Williams Graduate Award Gloria Ashaolu

This award honors emeritus professor of history Dr. Fred Williams and is intended to recognize a graduate teaching assistant who plans a teaching career in History at the college or university level, with preference given to the teaching of American history.

Muelder-Lowe Graduate Award Marissa Knaak

This award is designed to recognize assistants who plan a teaching career in History (with preference given to the teaching of European history) at the college or university level.

Harry Brown Graduate Fellowship in American History Jada Gannaway

Awards a graduate student of American history who has demonstrated academic excellence. Applicants will be assessed on their accomplishments at MSU (GPA, academic citizenship, time-to-degree trajectory) as well as on evidence of external recognition (grants and fellowships, participation in major conferences, peer-reviewed and invited articles).

Jeff Rooney Paper Prize Emmanuel Ankomahene

This award is given to a graduate student who writes the best paper in a seminar in the year of the award.

Irene Steindler Endowment in History Bernie Moore

The award goes to an undergraduate or graduate student who has helped promote a culture of diversity on campus, or activities related to the History Department's participation in or collaboration with the university's Jewish Studies Program.

Madison Kuhn Award Henry Fagan

This award is intended to fund a second or third-year graduate student's pre-dissertation research. By doing so, it seeks to encourage students who have demonstrated the capacity to achieve educational and professional goals, the motivation to achieve these goals, and the initiative to seek opportunities to further their progress.

Milton E. Muelder Graduate Fellowship in History Marlo Buser

Milton E. Muelder Fellowship is awarded to a graduate student pursuing a Ph.D. in a field of European, Middle Eastern, and/or history of the Arabic/Islamic World. Recipients of the fellowship must be U.S. citizens and have received their master's degree or its equivalent. Preference will be given to applicants with reading knowledge of two European languages.

The Sinclair and S. Suzanne Powell Scholarship in Transportation History Yun Zou

The Sinclair and S. Suzanne Powell Scholarship is designed to support an undergraduate or graduate student in the Department of History who has a strong interest in Transportation History.

Blight History Scholarship Fund Jayson Otto

Professor David Blight is a distinguished professor and scholar of History and alumnus of the MSU History Department. The Scholarship is intended to support students in the History Department and encourage students who have demonstrated the capacity to achieve educational and professional goals, the motivation to achieve these goals, and the initiative to seek opportunities to further their progress.

Dr. Kwan-Wai So Memorial Scholarship Fund in History Daniel Fandino

Awarded in memory of Professor So, an internationally known historian and specialist of the Ming dynasty who for twenty-eight years also taught countless courses on the history of Japan, China, and Korea here at MSU. The award is given to a graduate student, preferably one with a focus or concentration in Asian History, who is in good standing with the department, has an exemplary academic record, and is also recognized as an effective and motivational teacher.

Undergraduate Awards

David T. Bailey Endowed Scholarship in History Megan Smejkal

The award honors the late Professor Bailey, who was a professor of American intellectual and religious history in the Department of History at Michigan State for many years. The intended recipient is a disadvantaged student from the state of Michigan who is a history major at Michigan State.

The Sinclair and S. Suzanne Powell Scholarship in Transportation History Joe Konczal

The Sinclair and S. Suzanne Powell Scholarship is designed to support an undergraduate or graduate student in the Department of History who has a strong interest in Transportation History.

Anthony and Mary Joan Woods Scholarship for Research Joe Konczal

Anthony E. Woods, Sr. and his wife Mary Joan Woods are the late parents of MSU alumnus Anthony E. Woods, Jr. Tony, Sr. served in World War II. After the war, he married Mary Joan, who was an English teacher with Tony at Mt. Clemens High School in Michigan. The couple later moved to Dearborn, where they both continued teaching. Anthony Woods, Jr. and Kay Samuelson Woods have established this scholarship in honor of Tony, Sr. and Mary Joan. The scholarship honors their legacy of teaching and philanthropy. It is the first established by a donor to support the History Scholars Program.

Sandra Sageser Clark Endowed Scholarship in History Rashad Bates

Sandra Sageser Clark is the Director of the Michigan Historical Center, a state agency that includes ten museums, the State Archives of Michigan and historic preservation, archeology and publications programs. She is the former editor of *Michigan History Magazine* and has served as president of the American Association for State and Local History. She is particularly interested in assisting students majoring in history who plan to enter careers that will help the public discover, enjoy and find inspiration in their heritage through museums, archives, publications, historical preservation, and other public history programs.

Robert and Catherine Workman Endowed Scholarship in History Kendall Brach

This award is intended for students who have demonstrated financial need as determined by the University's criteria, who are enrolled in the College of Social Science with a major in History, and who have achieved a minimum grade point average of 2.5, both cumulatively and in the last semester completed at MSU.

Harry Reed Endowed Scholarship in History Kendall Brach

This award is intended for undergraduate history juniors with either African American history or American history as their major area of emphasis. Harry Reed is an Emeritus Professor of History at Michigan State.

The J. Morgan Sweeney Memorial Scholarship Domenic Cedillo

This award honors the late Professor Sweeney, who led MSU Study Abroad Programs to Great Britain for many years. The award is for History students participating in the Department's Study Abroad Programs. Applicants should have an overall GPA of 2.75 and a History GPA of 3.25.

The LoRomer Scholarship Anna LePage

The David LoRomer Prize, which is awarded to the best paper written by an undergraduate in a History course during the past year.

The Rout-Williams Scholarship Domenic Cedillo

The Rout-Williams Award in history remembers Dr. Les Rout, one of the first African American professors in the department, and Dr. Frederick Williams, former chair of the department, honors an outstanding history sophomore.

History Scholars News

By: Dr. Emily Conroy-Krutz

In the late summer, our best students are invited to apply to join the History Scholars group for the coming academic year. Our program aims to help students build a community within the department, go deeper into their interests in history, and get to know the Michigan State University faculty and visiting professors a bit better. Membership in the group also makes scholars eligible for awards to advance their own research. This fall has seen an exciting lineup of events for the History Scholars. They had the chance to chat with visiting scholars Ronald Angelo Johnson and Eva Payne about writing, publishing, and careers in history. We were also excited to join the History Club for two workshops in LEADR. There, students learned about building a digital presence and about how to create powerful resumes, CVs, and cover letters.

We look forward to even more fun in the spring semester, when we will be getting a tour of the newly opened Special Collections, visiting with MSU Press, welcoming visiting scholars to campus, and more.

Our final event of the spring will feature presentations from this year's cohort of Honor's Thesis writers. Six students have chosen to take on the significant work of writing a thesis this year. This is a year-long project that will result in a thesis of 75-100 pages. Topics range widely, with this year's group writing about burial practices, memory and nation-building, gender and advertising, medicine and sexuality, lobotomies, and civil rights in Detroit. All are welcome to join us in celebrating the work of these excellent students.

2024 THESIS WRITERS

Kendall Brach

"The FBI and the Black Panther Party: How the FBI Used Unconstitutional and Illegal Means to Psychologically and Physically Harm Members of the Black Panther Party"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Delia Fernandez-Jones

Mia Chinni-lanzito

"Not of This Planet: The Life of Jazz Musicians During the Cold War and Personal Identity as a Product of National Power"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ronen Steinberg

Dylan Howell

"For All Eternity: Governmental Policy and the Wedding Dress on the American Home Front, 1940 - 1945"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Amy Simon

Joe Konczal

"Renewal and Race in Grand Rapids"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Delia Fernandez-Jones

Max Martus

"*Françarménie*: France, Orientalism, and the Armenian Genocide"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ronen Steinberg

Avery Underwood

"*Liberté, Égalité, Atrocité*: The Absence of French Accountability for Crimes Against Humanity in the Algerian War"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Ronen Steinberg

Kaya Wilske

"Unto Her Death: A Gender Analysis of Witchcraft Convictions in 1630-1650s New England"

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Aminda Smith

Doctoral Dissertations Completed in 2024

For all doctoral students, finishing a dissertation is a major life and career milestone, and it represents the culmination of years of thought and dedication. The History Department is very proud to acknowledge these achievements by three students in 2024:



Erica Holt

Leveraging Women: Medical Relationships between People, Party, and Provider in Twentieth-Century China and Taiwan

(Advisor: Aminda Smith)



Dawson McCall

"We pray, we work, we play": A Social History of a Kenyan High School in Iten, 1961-1976

(Advisor: Laura Fair)



McKayla Sluga

Grassroots Modernism: Collective Film Education, Politics, and Aesthetics in 1920s-1930s New York City

(Advisor: Michael Stamm)

Support the Department

Please consider contributing to our department. Your gift will be used to help undergraduate and graduate students carry out research, present at conferences, and other scholarly activities.

TO DONATE NOW VISIT: history.msu.edu

Share Your Updates With Us

Are you a faculty, student, staff member or alumnus of the MSU Department of History? Contact the department with updates and news you want to share!

Website: history.msu.edu

X: @MSU_HistoryDept

Facebook: facebook.com/MSUHistoryDept

Instagram: instagram.com/msu.history

COLLEGE OF
SOCIAL SCIENCE



#MSUSocialScience

Department of History
506 E. Circle Dr. Room 256
Old Horticulture Building
East Lansing, MI 48824

History Department merch now for sale!

