



What's New in History

UPDATES FROM THE CHAIR

The expression “may you live in interesting times” has certainly applied to these last few COVID years. In Fall '21 the History faculty came back to the classroom and learned to lecture and lead discussions while wearing masks. It's amazing how you can adapt. Both students and faculty were excited to be back in person, but we didn't realize that the year would be challenging in new ways. The History Department has done better than most thanks to great students and ultra-dedicated professors. We all decided the Fall semester felt like it zoomed by (no pun intended) and the Spring felt two and a half semesters long. Perhaps that is why you are getting this end of year newsletter in August! But we also have many things to celebrate. The History faculty somehow managed to continue to be productive, with new books by Professors Meringolo and Vaporis, and to win grants. Prof. Musgrove won a Carnegie Fellowship which will allow him to pursue his research for two years, Prof. Voerkelius will be a fellow at the Kluge Library, and I will be on fellowship at the Huntington Library next year. Our M.A. students have persevered and finished their theses during an incredibly challenging period when many of them were not able to access archives or sources. The same was true for the History faculty. Summer '22 was the first time we were back to doing research in the archives with at least half of the faculty abroad this summer for the first time in three years. Lastly, our undergraduates are making us proud. The number of students coming to UMBC as declared History majors has ticked up (the world's problems have made History hot again) and our History majors are competing and winning impressive internships and research experiences. We are also proud of our alums. A former History M.A., Beth Tapscott, just earned tenure, and another, Conor Donnan, completed his PhD and has returned to teach at UMBC.

Drop us a line and tell us what you are up to. Here is to a less eventful '22-'23.

-Amy Froide, Professor and Chair of History

NEW AND UPCOMING

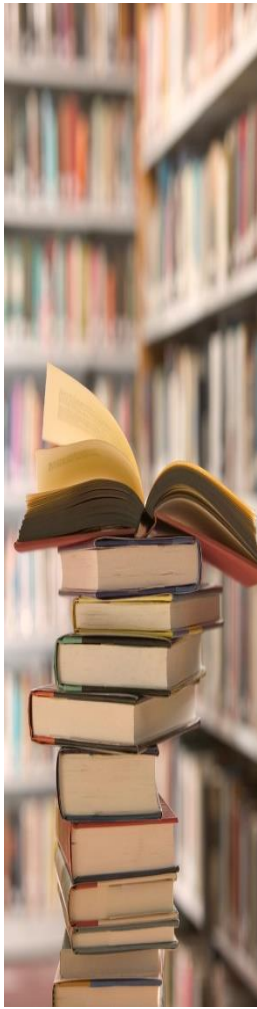
The History Department is pleased to announce its newest endowment: the Sheila Zerkowitz Fund for Historical Research. This fund has been established by one of our most zealous history students, Sheila (formerly Lambos) Zerkowitz, to fund faculty and graduate student research and scholarship in history. We are humbled and inspired by Sheila's support of her many professors over the years. Sheila doesn't like much of a fuss, but we were able to meet in Spring '22 to say thank you and gift her many signed copies of UMBC History faculty books.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Faculty News 2
- Lectures 2
- Faculty Fellowships . 3
- Faculty Awards 3
- Alumni News.....4
- Fall Graduates 5
- Spring Graduates.....6
- Student News 7

FACULTY NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS



It is with bittersweet feelings that we say goodbye to Dr. Marjoleine Kars, now emeritus Professor of History. Dr. Kars has spent her entire career at UMBC and was an exceptional leader in the department, college, and university. She served as Chair of the History Department for two terms and hired and tenured almost all of the current department members. Her own excellence in teaching and scholarship have served as a model for the History faculty. We will miss her but are excited to see her get time to devote to her research in her new position at MIT.

Dr. Meredith Oyen published “What the Field Stands to Lose” in *Diplomatic History* discussing how the COVID-19 pandemic will affect transnational and international history scholarship.

Congratulations to Dr. Denise Meringolo for being appointed Acting Director of the Dresher Center for the Humanities 2021-2022. Dr. Meringolo was also elected as Vice President/President-Elect of the National Council on Public History with her term beginning May 9.

Dr. Constantine Vaporis has published [The Samurai Encyclopedia: A Comprehensive Guide to Japan's Elite Warrior Class](#). The Samurai played a leading role in Japanese society for centuries, and this is the first encyclopedia to showcase the fascinating history and culture of these enigmatic warriors.

Dr. Meringolo published the open-access collection “[Radical Roots: Public History and a Tradition of Social Justice Activism](#).” This book theorizes and defines public history as future focused, committed to the advancement of social justice, and engaged in creating a more inclusive public record.

Dr. Vaporis has been appointed the Lipitz Professorship in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences.

The History Department participated in showcasing faculty creative achievements at UMBC's Retriever Empowered Event in Spring 2022. On display were recent digital projects by Professor Derek Musgrove, *The Black Power in Washington D.C., 1961-1998* website (blackpowerindc.umbc.edu) and Professor Anne Rubin, *Slave Streets, Free Streets: Visualizing the Landscape of Early Baltimore* (earlybaltimore.org/ssfs). Pictured to the right are Professors Scott, Froide, and Rubin at the Retriever Empowered Event.



LECTURES



This year's Social Science Forum: The Low Lecture, “Slavery, and the Problem of Memory and Public History,” was conducted on Wednesday, April 13 and featured Dr. Ana Lucia Araujo, Professor of History at Howard University. A recording of the lecture can be found on [YouTube](#).



The History Department's 2021 Webb Lecture, “MATATU: A History of Popular Transportation in Kenya”, featured Dr. Kenda Mutongi, Professor of History at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Annual Webb Lecture is part of the Dresher Center for the Humanities' 2021 Humanities Forum and can be found on [YouTube](#).

FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS



Professor Amy Froide has been awarded the Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellowship by the Huntington Library. Huntington fellowships support high-quality research that advances scholarship in the humanities and makes use of The Huntington's extensive archival and rare book collections. Dr. Froide's topic is "The Charitable Corporation: A Cautionary Tale of Financial Fraud in Eighteenth-Century Britain."



Professor G. Derek Musgrove won the prestigious Carnegie fellowship. His fellowship will allow him to work on his book project "We must take to the streets again: The Black Power Resurgence on Conservative America" which explores black activism of the 1980s and '90s that rose in opposition to the urban crisis and the conservative ascendance in U.S. politics.



Professor Mirjam Voerkelius has won a Kluge Fellowship for 2022-23. She will be in residence at the John W. Kluge Center of the Library of Congress for the year. The title of her book project is: "Evolution in Times of Revolution: Darwinism, Nature, and Society in the Soviet Union." The grant will offer her the opportunity to broadly explore published materials – scientific and popular – on Darwinism in the Soviet Union, and to work on her book manuscript.



Dr. Constantine Vaporis has been appointed as a fellow for the 2022 Dresher Center Faculty Fellowship for his project, "The Samurai in Fourteen Lives," a collection of samurai biographies.

FACULTY AWARDS



Congratulations to **Dr. Kars** for receiving the 2021 Cundill History Prize and the Frederick Douglass Book Prize for her book "Blood on the River: A Chronicle of Mutiny and Freedom on the Wild Coast." The Cundill History Prize is administered by McGill University and was awarded to Dr. Kars for her groundbreaking work on a 1763 slave rebellion in a Dutch colony in present-day Guyana. The Frederick Douglass Book Prize, awarded by the Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, honors the most outstanding new non-fiction book in English on the subject of slavery, resistance, and/or abolition. Dr. Kars shares this award with co-winner Dr. Vincent Brown from Harvard University.

Dr. Kars also received the 2022 USM Board of Regents Award for Excellence in Scholarship. This award is the highest honor presented by the Board of Regents to exemplary faculty members within the University System of Maryland.



ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to **Mimi Yaldram**, BA '20, for winning a Fulbright fellowship! The Fulbright Program is considered the largest and most prestigious educational exchange program, providing recent college graduates, graduate students, and young professionals the opportunity to continue their education or professional development through research and study in a foreign country. Mimi will work in Taiwan as a teaching assistant.

Daniel Burge, MA '11, published "A Failed Vision of Empire: The Collapse of Manifest Destiny, 1845-1872" with the University of Nebraska Press. Daniel credits his time as a MA student at UMBC with the idea for his book.

Jen Wachtel, BA '15, earned her Master of Library Science and Master of Arts in History from University of Maryland, College Park, as well as obtaining a graduate certificate in Museum Scholarship and Material Culture. Jen currently works for History Associates, Inc. where she provides archival surveys and digital collections assessments for public and private clients.

Joe Tropea, BA xx, has three exhibitions opening at the Maryland Center for History and Culture: "Visions of Night: Baltimore Nocturnes" (night photography by historic and contemporary photographers), "Passion and Purpose: Voices of Maryland's Civil Rights Activists" (oral histories and photography), and "losing Winter" (climate change and memory, with UMBC's Lynn Cazabon). More information can be found [here](#).

James Risk, MA '11, won the 2021 USC College of Arts & Sciences' Non Tenure-Track Undergraduate Teaching Award. In his fifth year as an instructor in their History Department, James also serves as the Faculty Associate for the College of Arts and Sciences Found Documents Initiative, the university's implementation of a legislated graduation requirement for all undergraduates.

Leslie McNamara (BA '14) received her Masters in Public Policy from the University of Maryland, College Park. She currently works as an analyst on the Health Care team at the U.S. Government Accountability Office conducting research and analysis on a range of health care issues.



FALL 2021 GRADUATES

B.A. Graduates

David James Acevedo
Honors: Cum Laude

Lindsay Bass

Mark Justin Breeding
Honors: Summa Cum Laude

Stephen M. Ceci

Susan Chen

Ian Eugene Crayton

Shelby Epperly

Yetnayet Seyoum Garedeu:
Honors: Summa Cum Laude

Benjamin Charles Hays

Anna Jenkins

Deane Richard Leacock

Nicolas Alfredo Mazariegos

Claudia Miranda

Julia Hunter Newman

Milciades Manuel Nororis

Jason Stolar
Honors: Cum Laude

Ly My Truong

Jonathan Wenck
Honors: Summa Cum Laude

M.A. Graduates

Jessica Riley—”Louisville’s Black Laborers of the Campbell Tobacco Company, 1915-1930” - Advisor Michelle Scott

Domonique Flowers—”The Reckoning of Republican Allies: The Collaborative Political Efforts Between Black and White Republican Leaders in Post-Reconstruction Baltimore” - Advisor Michelle Scott



SPRING 2022 GRADUATES

B.A. Graduates

Kevin Banner
Honors: Cum Laude

Reynold Bascal
Certificate: Honors College

Michael Lynn Bayliss

Emily Rose Beyer

Jonathan Bordo

Ian Eugene Crayton

Daniel Curtis

Dominic Charles Dorse
Honors: Magna Cum Laude

Peter Engel

Devon C. Fick

Joshua Fowler
Certificate: Education

Andrea Gregory

Nicholas Paul Harris
Honors: Magna Cum Laude
Certificate: Education

Shavonne Nicole Hedgepeth

Benjamin Joseph Nilsson Helmick

Kyle D. Henson

Anika Hossain

Sara Karmioli

Zachary Garrett Kay
Certificate: Spanish

Molly Claire Lea
Honors: Cum Laude

Danylo Lubomyr Petro Marian
Leshchyn
Honors: Summa Cum Laude
Certificates: Security Studies; Honors
College

Ethan Aleksandar Miletich
Honors: Cum Laude
Certificate: Honors College

Andrew Joseph Montgomery

Joseph Thomas Nestel

Johnreed Walden Peria
Certificate: Education

Garrett Richard Posey
Honors: Magna Cum Laude
Certificate: Chinese

Jacob Ford Ridgway

Julie Dale Catingan Rupal

Kristofer Morgan Schrupf

Aaron Beck Stone

Claudia Rilenrose Talbott
Honors: Cum Laude

Payton Dianne Tibbo
Honors: Cum Laude
Certificate: Education

Ly My Truong
Certificate: Education

Christopher Mitchell Viers

Matthew James Vorce
Certificate: Education

Jason Michael Ward

Sean George Wissman

M.A. Graduates

Hannah Balik—"Eating, Public Space, and Identity in Jewish Baltimore, 1900-1930" - Advisor Melissa Blair

Jeff Cooley—"Charismatic Leaders of the First Crusade: The Use of Preaching and Miraculous Events in Motivating the Crusaders to Take 'The Holy Land'" - Advisor Susan McDonough

Noah Jaques—"Considering Historical Objectivity" - Advisor Daniel Ritschel

SUMMER 2022 GRADUATES

M.A. Graduates

Fernanda Gasparion-Rodriguez—"The Emergency Committee to Aid Latin American Scholars (ECALAS): Liberal Academics and the Contradictions of Cold War Foreign Policy in Latin America" - Advisor Marjoleine Kars

Zachary Peterson—"The Group is a 'Fraternal Order' and Not a Labor Union: The 1974 Baltimore Police Strike and the Conservative Turn in Police Labor Union Organizing" - Advisor Derek Musgrove

Beth Debold—"According to my Ture Meaning: Emotions and Will-makers in Southern Britain, 1660-1690" - Advisor Amy Froide

STUDENT NEWS AND AWARDS



The 2021-2022 History Department Student Advisory Council was announced in January. Please welcome **Lexi Smith** (Junior), **Ousmane Diop** (Transfer student, Junior), **Flynn McCann** (Transfer student, Junior), and **Cassandra Wheelles** (Transfer student, Junior). Members of the Student Advisory Board foster connections between faculty members, fellow students, and prospective students interested in UMBC's History Department.

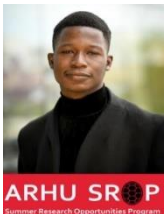
Congratulations to the following winners of the John Bell-Clifford Maas Prize for Academic Excellence: **Matthew Kelbaug**, **Garrett Posey**, **Chaviva Storch**, and **Jonathan Wenck**. This award is for Best overall achievement record in the Department of History by a History Major during his/her years in the program.



The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi Chapter 22BC University of Maryland-University of Maryland, Baltimore Count (UM-UMBC) has selected History M.A. student, **Meredith Power**, as the recipient of the 2022 Marilyn Demorest Love of Learning Award. Meredith was selected by the awards committee for her outstanding academic excellence and active participation within the university and the broader community. The committee was particularly impressed by Meredith's perseverance to succeed and to live life by the PKP Motto—Philosophia Kateito Photo—Let the Love of Learning Rule Humanity.

Congratulations to **Yoni Isaacs** and **Melissa Williamson** for winning the Joseph D. Reese Memorial Prize given for Best Essay on a historical topic.

Alexas Smith was this year's recipient for the History Department Achievement Award. Congratulations **Alexas**!



Congratulations to **Ousmane Diop** for being selected to participate in the 2022 Enslaved.org Summer Research Opportunities Program (SROP) cohort. Generously funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the open-access site "Enslaved.org: Peoples of the Historical Slave Trade" invites scholars, family historians, and the general public to grapple with the opportunities and challenges of data-driven humanistic research and inclusive research communications in slavery studies.



Congratulations to this year's Phi Alpha Theta Inductees!

Mitchel Agate
Elizabeth B. DeBold
Ousmane Diop
John Gori
Timothy Grooms
Shavonne N. Hedgepeth
Olivia Kehring
Matthew Langfitt
Wyatt Lindsey

Harrison Meyers
Flynn McCann
Connor McPherson
Joy Vogt
Cassandra Isabel Wheelles
Melissa Williamson
Mariam Yaldrum
Evelyn Grace Yuen

UMBC History Department

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