



UMBC  
HISTORY DEPARTMENT  
NEWSLETTER  
2023

# WHAT'S NEW IN HISTORY

## NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

It has been great fun to serve as the interim Chair of the History Department this year! A lot is happening at UMBC. The Carnegie Foundation reassessed UMBC's accomplishments and assigned us to a new ranking as a Research 1 University. This rank acknowledges UMBC's impressive track record in research and innovation. I think it's fair to say the History Department continues to make an important contribution to UMBC's success. Our faculty has continued to win prestigious fellowship awards to conduct research that is relevant and important. In addition to the awards highlighted in this newsletter, Dr. Brian Van Wyck won a residential fellowship to join a research group on religion and secularism at the Center for Advanced Studies at the University of Munich, Germany in the summer of 2023. He also won a National Academy of Education, Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship to continue his research during the 2023-2024 academic year. Further, our faculty communicate not only in books and articles mostly read by academics, but also in a variety of formats intended to facilitate broader public discussion; Dr. Constantine Vaporis appeared in the NHK documentary, "Tokugawa Japan Summit 2023" which provided historical background and context for a year-long historical drama about the founder of the Tokugawa dynasty (1603-1868), Tokugawa Ieyasu. Finally, we were also delighted to welcome three new babies to our History Department family this year! Dr. Meredith Oyen's daughter Magdalene, Dr. Brian Van Wyck's daughter Anneka; and history department accounting assistant Keena Garris's son Dallen.



Please drop us a line and tell us what you are up to personally and professionally!

-Denise Meringolo, Professor and Chair of History

## STAFF

From publishing books and articles to fellowships, travel, and awards, our staff has been busy making us proud this year.

*FINISH READING ON PG. 2*

## STUDENTS

Internships, awards, writing, and graduation has filled our students' calendars this year.

*FINISH READING ON PG. 4*

## ALUMNI AND EVENTS

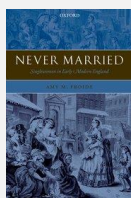
Our alumni have shone in the spotlight while our department events bring history into focus.

*FINISH READING ON PG. 5*

# STAFF HIGHLIGHTS



**Dr. Terry Bouton's** research was cited in the NY Times opinion piece "[Manchin is Just a Symptom. It's the Senate that's Sick](#)" by Jamelle Bouie.



During her Fletcher Jones Foundation Fellowship, **Dr. Amy Froide** has been researching and writing a book on financial scandal in 18th-century London. On that topic, she has written an [article](#) for The Conversation on the similarities between the FTX collapse and the 18<sup>th</sup> century Charitable Corporation Scandal, a second [article](#) on utilizing recipes to teach history, and had her book, "Never Married: Singlewomen in Early Modern England," placed on a [recommended reading list](#) of histories about women and their communities.

**Dr. Susan McDonough** spent a month in Palermo Italy's Archivio de Stato working with notarial registers for her research on women in the medieval Mediterranean which has so far resulted in the first "stake in the ground" [article](#) co-authored with Dr. Michelle Armstrong-Partida (Emory University) that appears in *Past & Present*, an Oxford academic journal.



Filling in as interim Chair of the History Department, **Dr. Denise Meringolo** has also completed her first year of a two-year term as Vice President of the National Council on Public History (NCPH). Her roles include assigning volunteers to NCPH committees and being a member of the governance, development, and executive committees. And even though this role requires a LOT of meetings, she finds it really exciting to contribute to the growth and evolution of the premier professional organization in her field.

While away on a Carnegie fellowship, **Dr. Derek Musgrove** has written an article on D.C. African Liberation Day that can be found [here](#). He also received recognition of his book, "Chocolate City: A History of Race and Democracy in the Nation's Capital," as one of the best historical books about Washington, D.C. Read about Dr. Musgrove's book and other D.C. books at [InsideHook](#).

**Dr. Julie Oakes** is excited to announce that after three years of waiting, she is finally taking students — twenty-three of them — to Japan over the summer. Four of the students are History majors: Annie Fowler, Siskind Oshry, Lauren Toole, and Walter Valled. Students are able to participate in the experience as either HIST 392 or ASIA 392 to receive credit as either culture or arts and humanities.



# STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

## (cont.)

**Dr. Daniel Ritschel** participated in the 2023 Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies at Riverside, CA with his paper “Fake History: The Curious Narrative of ‘Left-Wing’ Fascism in Interwar Britain. He and second-year MA student Nikki Vietz participated in a panel on “Myths, Mistakes, Misconceptions in Modern British History.”

“Slave Streets, Free Streets: Mapping Early Baltimore’s Working Class” was the title of **Dr. Anne Sarah Rubin’s** lecture for the Baltimore History Evening hosted by the Baltimore City Historical Society. The Historical Society holds these events the third Thursday of every month, January to June, and are currently being held over [Zoom](#).




**Dr. Michelle Scott**, recently promoted to Full Professor, has published her book, *T.O.B.A. Time: Black Vaudeville and the Theater Owners’ Booking Association in Jazz-Age America*. Dr. Scott also presented this topic for the annual Social Science’s Low Lecture. She was also a guest on “The Songbirds Radio Hour” hosted by the Songbirds Guitar & Pop Culture Museum.

**Dr. Constantine Vaporis** published *The Samurai Encyclopedia: A Comprehensive Guide to Japan’s Elite Warrior Class* in October and is currently researching a new book on Commodore Perry and the Opening of Japan that included a research trip to Naval War College’s Whaling Museum in Newport, Rhode Island. Dr. Vaporis has also been a recipient of the CAHSS Lipitz Professor award for 2022-2023, Association of Asian Studies travel award to Japan, Dean’s Research Fund awards, and spent part of his summer in Greece (Check out that view!!).




**Dr. Noor Zaidi** published an [article](#) in the Global Citizen titled “How Calls for a ‘Green’ Ramadan are Reviving Islam’s Long Tradition of Care for the Planet” and another [article](#) in The Conversation, “From caravans to markets, the hajj pilgrimage has always included a commercial component.”

### The Annual Social Science’s Low Lecture



TUESDAY, **APRIL 11**, 4 P.M. ET  
AOK LIBRARY, 7TH FLOOR

LOW LECTURE  
**T.O.B.A. TIME: BLACK SHOW BUSINESS AND THE  
THEATER OWNERS BOOKING ASSOCIATION  
IN 1920S AMERICA**

Michelle R. Scott, Ph.D.  
Professor, Department of History  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County



Organized by the Department of History  
Cosponsored by the Center for Social Science Scholarship.





# STUDENT NEWS

## AND AWARDS

### John Bell-Clifford Maas Prize for Academic Excellence

*Best overall academic record in the Department of History by a history major during his/her years at UMBC*

Gabriella Burleson	Pete Engel	Yoni Isaacs	Matthew Kelbaugh	Sydney Kempf
Tyler Kruzshak	Connor McPherson	Leigh Robertson	Andrew Shelton-Der	Lexi Smith
Annyah St. Louis	Melissa Williamson			

### Joseph D. Reese Memorial Prize

*Best essay on a historical topic*

Daniela Torres Romo

### History Department Achievement Award

Evelyn Yuen

Cassandra Wheelles



**Evelyn Yuen**, a History and Sociology major, joined the Governor's Summer Internship Program at UMBC with the Office of Research, Survey, and Registration (ORSR). Her internship includes working with the Cultural Resource Information Management section of ORSR by helping develop databases that can be integrated into Medusa, the Maryland Historical Trust's online database of architectural and archaeological sites and standing structures.

Majoring in History and Political Science, **Ousmane Diop** spent his summer as part of the residential Big Ten Academic Alliance Summer Research Opportunities Program. Read Jessica Weiss' [article](#) about his amazing experience. History major **Madelyn Pollack** interned at NASA over the summer and discussed her experience [here](#). Current M.A student, **Meredith Power** discussed her [internship work](#) helping preserve the Lewis Hine collection, one of the treasures of UMBC's Special Collections.

New Internships!! **Jeff Garcia** has accepted a summer internship, through the Latino Heritage Internship Program, with the National Park Service (NPS) at Jewel Cave National Monument in Custer, South Dakota in partnership with the Environment for the Americas. Jordan M. Baer will be interning at Great Falls Park based at the Great Falls Tavern for 26 weeks. Madelyn Pollack intern over the summer with the Office of Communications at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

**Nolan Varee's** [guest essay](#) was published by Made By History in the Washington Post. The essay centers on a piece of Nolan's upcoming thesis on the beginning of the oil industry.

Phi Alpha Theta welcomes inductees **Garrett Freas**, **Hyun Joo (Julie) Kim**, and **Madelyn Pollack**.

**India Kelly** will be traveling to Greece this summer on the Ancient Studies Department's archeology trip.

Congratulations to **Connor McPherson** who has been selected to commission into the U.S. Navy as an Ensign assigned to the LCC-19 Blue Ridge in Yokosuka, Japan.

Listen in to History MA grad student, **Nikki Vietz**, discuss her [research](#) on female criminal gangs, particularly the 40 Elephants, an all-women, all-working-class gang that operated for over 100 years in London. Nikki also attended the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies and presented one of her thesis chapters: "The Forty Elephants: The Many Myths of a Women's Shoplifting Gang in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century London."



# ALUMNI NEWS

Double UMBC History alumna **Camilla Sandval** ('17, M.A. '19) will coordinate the new [SHINE](#) (Strengthening the Humanities Investment in Nonprofits for Equity) Grants program that launches this fall.

**Cassanndra Wheelles (Talbot)**, a member of the Student Advisory Board, was awarded the History Department Achievement Award and also recently accepted her first post-graduate position in Japan where she instructs service members leaving the military on how to write resumes, network, and crossover into civilian life.

**Olufikayo Akintola** (BA '09) graduated from George Washington University in May 2023 with an MA in International Education. During his time at GW, he received a UNESCO Fellowship and became a founding member of the school's Refugee Educational Advancement Lab (REAL).

Alum **Alexis Geddis** has demonstrated true UMBC grit! After graduating from UMBC, she apprenticed with a painting conservator and eventually started her own painting restoration business. She now buys paintings at auction, restores, and resells them.

**Elizabeth DeBold** (MA '22) won the North American Conference on British Studies 2023 Prize for the best MA essay.

Congratulations to alum **Dr. Daniel Burge** on his new book *A Failed Vision f Empire: The Collapse of Manifest Destiny 1845-1872*. He's pictured here with his UMBC advisor Dr. Rubin.



**Elizabeth Pente** (MA '13) earned a PhD from the University of Huddersfield in the UK. After living abroad for about a decade, she recently returned to the US and accepted a position as a Research Program Administrator at Drexel University.

**Shae Nawoj (Adams)** (MA '13) is the Assistant Historic Site Supervisor at Log Cabin Village in Fort Worth, TX. She welcomed her son Asher in October '22

**Bethanee Bemis** (MA '11) curated an exhibit at the National Museum of American History, "Mirror, Mirror for us All: Disney Parks and the American Narrative." She also authored a companion book. [Listen](#) to **Bethanee Bemis's** talk about White House weddings.

Kristina Gaddy (BA '09) celebrated the release of her latest book *Well of Souls: Uncovering the Banjo's Hidden History* in the fall of 2022.

[Read](#) about **Rachel Brubaker** (M.A. '00), former History staff member, and current colleague, as she talks about her career at UMBC.



# M.A. GRADUATES

## Summer 2022

**Fernanda Gasparino-Rodriguez** – The Emergency Committee to Aid Latin American Scholars (ECALAS): Liberal Academics and the Contradictions of Cold War Foreign Policy in Latin America (Advisor: Prof. 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: Prof. Derek Musgrove)

**Beth Debold** – According to My True Meaning: Emotions & Will-makers in Southern Britain 1660-1690 (Advisor: Prof. Amy Froide)

## December 2022

**Corey Fitzpatrick** – Is that a Bird or a Plane in the Distance? No, It’s Superman: Metropolis, Illinois and the Hope in Becoming a Destination as Superman’s Hometown (Advisor: Prof. Melissa Blair)

**Samantha Rogers** – Daily Life and the Landscape of the Two Maryland Industrial Schools for Girls, 1916-1989 (Advisor: Prof. Melissa Blair)

## May 2023

**Austen Edelenbos** – Remembering Sacrifice: Veterans of the United States Colored Troops and the Battlefield of Civil War Memory (Advisor: Prof. Anne S. Rubin)

**Garrett Freas** – Uncommon Ground: The Image and Reality of the Congress of Racial Equality’s Interracialism During the Long Civil Rights Movement (Advisor: Prof. Derek Musgrove)

**Michael Morris** – Leave Her Johnny Leave Her:” The Cold War and the Decline of American Shipbuilding (Advisor: Prof. Christy Chapin)

**Nolan Varee** – More Enduring Structures: The Social and Economic Transformation of Pennsylvania (Advisor Prof. Anne S. Rubin)

**Nikki Vietz** - Putting on the Posh: Retail, Crime, Gender, Class, and the Forty Elephants in 19th and 20th Century London (Advisor Prof. Amy Froide)



MA Graduates: L-R: Nolan Varee, Austen Edelenbos, Nikki Vietz, Garrett Freas, and Michael Morris

# B.A. GRADUATES

## FALL 2022

**Mary Cassell**

*Certificate: Education*

**Timothy Ryan Chambers**

**Alex Clark**

**Peter Engel**

**Maxwell Fore**

**Selm Ftwi**

**Ornela Gjuta**

**Yonatan Raphael Isaacs**

*Honors: Summa Cum Laude*

**Sara Karmiöl**

**Alexis Kim**

**Younghyon L. Lee**

**Sydni James Malette**

**Sydni James Malette**

**Claudia Miranda**

**Milciades M. Nororis**

**Leigh Robertson**

**Kristofer Morgan Schrumpf**

**Chaviva Storch**

*Honors: Summa Cum Laude*

**Daniela Zuhey Torres Romo**

**Ly My Truong**

**Jason Michael Ward**

**Cassandra Isabel Wheelles**

*Honors: Magna Cum Laude*

**Alex Xhane**



# B.A. GRADUATES

## SPRING 2023

**Mitchell Stone Agate**

*Honors: Cum Laude*  
*Certificate: Education*

**Helena Portia Brown**

**John Philip Pineda Cabrera II**

**Francesca Cohen**  
*Honors: Magna Cum Laude*  
*Certificate: Education*

**Ishan Das**

**Brenden Donald**

**Erick Mauricio Escobar Aparicio**

**Ryan Patrick Gaines**

**Cristian Moises Galvez**

**John Francis Gori**  
*Honors: Cum Laude*

**Timothy David Grooms**  
*Honors: Magna Cum Laude*  
*Certificate: Education*

**Marvik De Jesus Jasso Flores**

**Matthew Rinaldi Kelbaugh**  
*Honors: Summa Cum Laude*

**Sydney Alexis Kempf**

*Honors: Summa Cum Laude*

**Tyler Robert Kruzshak**

*Honors: Summa Cum Laude*

**Destiny Leak**

**Younghyon L. Lee**

**Wyatt Lindsey**

**David Matthew Linchan**  
*Honors: Magna Cum Laude*

**Sydni James Malette**

**Flynn Patrick McCann**  
*Honors: Cum Laude*

**Connor John McPherson**  
*Honors: Cum Laude*

**Kyle Medlock**

**Daniela Michelle Monreal Castillo**

**William Christian Neumann**

**Julia Hope Palmer**  
*Honors: Magna Cum Laude*  
*Certificates: Education, Honors College*

**Pie Yocheved Parker**

**Steven Peck**

**Megalene Jones Philipp**

**Ethan Thomas Riser**  
*Certificate: Education*

**Andrew Ray Shelton-Der**  
*Honors: Summa Cum Laude*

**Alexa Pearl Smith**  
*Honors: Magna Cum Laude*  
*Certificate: Honors College*

**Annyah Teresa St. Louis**  
*Honors: Cum Laude*

**Nicole Valiansky**

**Albert Reeves Vance**

**Tyler James Wilson**  
*Honors: Magna Cum Laude*

**Evelyn Grace Yuen**  
*Honors: Summa Cum Laude*





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# UMBC



Thanks to Graduate Assistant Wendy Dunaway for her assistance with this year's newsletter.