

History News

UMBC HISTORY



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STUDENT AWARD WINNERS WITH DR. FROIDE

An eventful year behind us, an exciting new year on the horizon

As I write this column, I am looking back on a whirlwind year packed with classes, events, student research, faculty grants and publications. It is always busy and interesting in the UMBC History department.

Our graduate students and alumni continue to shine, impress us, and make us proud. Read on for all they have accomplished this year. And we hit a new milestone this past Spring with three former M.A. students teaching courses for us: Prof. Conor Donnan (Penn, PhD, '22) teaching Native American Studies; Cole Volman, (WVU, PhD, '23) teaching the History of the Reformation, and Caitlin McGeever, (GMU, ABD) teaching U.S. Women's History.

The faculty continue their amazing record of research success with 2-3 faculty winning competitive fellowships each year. We successfully concluded a search for a new historian of China and will welcome Prof. Jinghong Zhang (UC Santa Cruz, PhD, '23) to our department in the Fall to teach courses in the history of China and medicine.

Prof. Zhang replaces Prof. Nianshen Song (who visited us this Spring on his way to a conference from his new institution in China).

I will close on a personal note. In a month's time I will end my tenure as Chair of the History Department and begin a new role as Director of the Drescher Center for the Humanities. Prof. Denise Meringolo is our incoming Chair. It has been an honor to help lead such an impressive department and represent such excellent faculty and students. My thanks to Carla Ison and Sakeena Garris for all of their help in running the department. I'll just be in the building next door!

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Dr. Froide Presidential Teaching Professorship

Congratulations to Dr. Froide, who has been selected to receive UMBC's Presidential Teaching Professorship! The award is for three years, 2024-2027.



Dr. McDonough IAS Fellowship

Dr. McDonough is the recipient of a 2024-2025 fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton.

Congratulations, Dr. McDonough!



Dr. Meringolo NCPH President

Congratulations to Dr. Meringolo on her new position as President of the National Council on Public History! This role expands her long involvement with NCPH; she will serve as president from 2024-2026.



Dr. Zaidi NEH Fellowship

Dr. Zaidi received a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to continue work on her current book project, *Translations of Zaynab*.

Congratulations, Dr. Zaidi!

Interviews & Publications

The DC Historical Preservation Review Board approved a proposal penned by **Dr. Musgrove** and **Susan Philpot (MA, 18)** to make the headquarters of Pride Inc., which was the subject of Susan's thesis, a historical landmark.

In addition to several lectures this spring, in venues ranging from the Naval Academy to the Smithsonian's Journeys in Japan, **Dr. Vaporis** was interviewed about the FX series *Shogun* for the CBC Radio, Vancouver, program "On the Coast with Gloria Macarenko." Find his March 12, 2024 segment here: <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-46-on-the-coast>

Dr. Laurents's chapter "'One of the Boys': Identity, Crisis, and Vera Brittain's War" was published in the book *Women, Children, and the Collective Face of Conflict in Europe, 1900-1950*, edited by Nurpur Chaudhuri and Sandra Dawson.

Dr. Blair published a new article: "Working Freedom: Black Farmers Building Industrious Landscapes in Maryland, 1814-1880." *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes* vol. 44:1 (2024): 38-56.

FACULTY NEWS AND HAPPENINGS

Welcome Dr. Jinghong Zhang!

The department is pleased to welcome new Assistant Professor Dr. Jinghong Zhang to UMBC, beginning in Fall 2024!

Dr. Zhang's research interests include the social and cultural history of modern China, the history of medicine, gender history, and Science and Technology Studies (STS). Dr. Zhang will teach courses in Chinese history, the history of medicine, and Global Asia. She joins UMBC as part of a cohort hire in Asian Studies that also includes new professors in Ancient Studies, Philosophy, and Political Science.



GRIT-X 2023

Dr. Scott presented at GRIT-X in October 2023 as part of UMBC's Homecoming festivities. Her talk discussed the institutional history of the Theater Owners' Booking Association (T.O.B.A.) and the way Black Vaudeville performers used economic empowerment as a form of resistance in the 1920s. View a recording of her talk here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KimuPcFF7-8>



Lipitz Lecture

Dr. Vaporis gave this year's Lipitz Lecture on December 6, as part of the Dresher Center's 2023 Humanities Forum. "The Black Ships: Commodore Perry, American Exceptionalism, and the Opening of Japan, 1852-54" explored the story of the official American expedition to Japan in 1852-54 to "open" the far-flung country to trade and a western-based diplomatic order.

DEPARTMENT NEWS AND HAPPENINGS



Webb Lecture

This year's Webb Lecture was presented by **Dr. Julie Gottlieb**. Her talk, "The Crisis seems to have filled the world with nervous break-downs': Narrating Britain's War of Nerves, 1938-1940," explored the projection of nervous disorder onto bodies and the body politic.



Low Lecture

Dr. Kevin Dawson gave this year's Low Lecture, "Liquid Motion: Canoeing and Surfing in Atlantic Africa and the Diaspora, 1444-1888." He examined how Africans perceived, understood, and interacted with oceans and rivers through swimming, underwater diving, surfing, canoe-making, and canoeing.

In Memoriam

THIS PAST YEAR WE WERE SAD TO HEAR OF THE PASSING OF TWO FORMER UMBC HISTORY DEPARTMENT FACULTY, PROFESSOR PAPADAKIS AND PROFESSOR BECKER.

WHILE WE MOURN THE LOSS OF THESE SCHOLARS WE ARE ALSO GRATEFUL FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT, OUR STUDENTS, AND TO UMBC.

Professor Aristeides Papadakis (1936-2023)

Prof. Papadakis, who passed away in September 2023, was a scholar of Byzantine, medieval, and religious history at UMBC. He was born in Heraklion, Crete, Greece in 1936 and moved with his family to the United States as a child. Prof. Papadakis earned his B.A. from Holy Cross Orthodox Seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts in 1968. He continued his studies and earned both a M.A. and Ph.D. at Fordham University. In 1968, he completed his PhD and began his tenure as a faculty member in the History Department at UMBC. The institution was only a few years old, so Prof. Papadakis was one of the founding department faculty.

In Memoriam

While at UMBC, Prof. Papadakis served as Director of Religious Studies from 1990-94. He authored two books: *Crisis in Byzantium: The Filioque Controversy in Patriarchate of Gregory II, 1283-89* (1986) and *The Christian East and the Rise of the Papacy 1071-1453* (1994), as well as numerous articles. He was also a contributor to *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium* and *The Encyclopedia of Monasticism*. Prof. Papadakis received grants from the American Numismatic Society, Harvard University's Center for Byzantine Studies at Dumbarton Oaks, and the Medieval Academy of America. He also was involved in Public History before that was a term in the field by serving as assistant to the director of the Greek Monasteries Project, whose goal was the preservation of the monasteries on Mount Athos. Prof. Papadakis retired from UMBC and became Professor Emeritus in July 2002.

Former History Department Chair and CAHSS Dean Emeritus, Prof. John Jeffries, says of Prof. Papadakis, "Ari was a superb scholar, an important figure in his fields of Byzantium and the Eastern Orthodox Church. A warm and generous colleague, he helped shape the norms and ethos of the History Department by both example and precept. He routinely received very high evaluations of his teaching, which came as no surprise given his high standards and his commitment to his courses and his students. What was somewhat surprising was that this quiet, gentle man was so animated and commanding in the classroom. He was for decades essential to the department, its faculty, and its curriculum."

Professor William Henry Becker (1943-2023)

Prof. Becker, who passed away in 2023, was one of the founding professors in UMBC's History Department. Born in New York City in 1943, Prof. Becker earned his B.A. at Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania. He then went on to earn his Ph.D. in History from Johns Hopkins University in 1969. As a newly minted Ph.D., he was hired by UMBC as an Assistant Professor in 1969, and earned the rank of Associate Professor in 1973.

In 1980, Prof. Becker left for a 38-year-long career at George Washington University. Here he became Professor of History and Strategic Management & Public Policy and served two terms as Chair of GWU's Department of History. He retired as Professor Emeritus at GWU after writing a number of books in business history, business-government relations, and the institutions of the international economy.

According to his obituary, Prof. Becker "built unbreakable bonds with the other young professors at UMBC. From play dates when their children were growing up to playing charades every New Year's Eve for decades, these friendships endured and grew well beyond their brief time as work colleagues." Prof. John Jeffries, former History Department Chair and CAHSS Dean Emeritus, reports that these celebrations continued until just last year.

GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS AND ACCOLADES

Congratulations to our recent History MA graduates!

FALL 2023

Brianna Baker
George Lewis

SPRING 2024

Martha Berkheimer
Mark J. Breeding
Joshua Paul Masser



Nikki Vietz Wins Rupperecht Award

Congratulations to BA & MA History alum Nikki Vietz (MA, '23) for winning the Nancy Rupperecht Memorial Prize for the best Graduate student paper in European Women's History. Her paper was part of her UMBC MA thesis: "Putting on the Posh: Retail, Crime, Gender, Class and the Forty Elephants in 19th and 20th century London" (Advisor: Prof. Amy Froide).



Beth DeBold Wins M.A. Essay Prize

Beth DeBold, History MA alum, won the 2023 M.A. essay prize from the North American Conference on British Studies for her thesis: "According to my true meaning: Emotions and Will-makers in southern England during the seventeenth century." Beth is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Book History at the University of Newcastle.

Mark Breeding Wins Inaugural Reese Prize for MA Paper

Mark Breeding (MA, '24) won the inaugural Reese Prize for the best MA History Paper in 2023-24. Mark won the prize for his thesis chapter entitled: "Cessation of Labor Is Cessation of Bread: 'The Ship Caulker Riots and Violence Towards the "Free Negro." The faculty committee was impressed by the depth of research, polished writing, and strong analysis in Mark's essay on the struggles of free black workers in the shipbuilding industry in mid-19th century Baltimore. Congratulations, Mark!



Graduate Student Spotlight: Cathy Till's Exhibit on Blaze Starr, *The Hottest Blaze in Town*

Public History MA student Cathy Till's research on Baltimore dancer and entrepreneur Blaze Starr led to an exhibit this past spring at CCBC Catonsville.

Running from April 25-June 18, *The Hottest Blaze in Town* celebrated and explored Starr's life on and off the stage. The exhibit drew on Cathy's thesis work, which included interviews with and materials on loan from Starr's sister.

The exhibit generated a fair amount of buzz around town, including an interview with Till in Baltimore magazine's May 2024 issue.

Even if you missed the in-person exhibit, you can view a virtual 'twin' of Cathy's CCBC show online at <https://my.matterport.com/show/?m=RbLXXtvSaXc>

(above: Cathy with some of the exhibition materials. photo: Christopher Myers for *Baltimore* magazine)

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS AND ACCOLADES

Congratulations to our recent History BA graduates!

FALL 2023

Gabriella Maria Burleson
Summa Cum Laude
John Philip Pineda Cabrera II
Minors: Cultural Anthropology, Public History
Solace Cassell
Minor: Information Systems
Certificate: Honors College
Kenneth Arthur Ernstberger
Cristian Moises Galvez
Minor: Public History
Sydni James Malette
Minor: Art History
Clara Moyer
Julia Hope Palmer
Magna Cum Laude
Minor: Writing: Creative
Certificates: Education, Honors College
Charalampos Papacharalampous
Stephanie Parker
Thomas Pate
Magna Cum Laude
Minors: Public History, Philosophy
Dakota Akira Pereira
Second Major: Ancient Studies
Minor: Public History
Darwin Reyes
Cum Laude
Alexa Pearl Smith
Magna Cum Laude
Second Degree: Economics
Minor: Public History
Certificate: Honors College
Aminata Thaim
Minor: Medieval and Early Modern Studies
Lauren Ruth Toole
Summa Cum Laude
Minor: Public History
Melissa Andrea Williamson
Magna Cum Laude

SPRING 2024

Brandon L. Bankert
Alexander Michael Bauserman
Magna Cum Laude
Minor: Writing
Certificate: Honors College
Michael Beaird
Cum Laude
Minor: Literature
William Burdette
Travis Alan Clatterbuck
Summa Cum Laude
Minors: Ancient Studies, Public History
Bryce Cerie
Cum Laude
William Michael Darago
Magna Cum Laude
Certificate: Education
Matthew Jay Davidson
Ousmane Diop
Cum Laude
Minors: Africana Studies, Political Science
Certificate: Education
Lucy Rigglin Fleckenstein
Summa Cum Laude
Emily Flynn
Nicholas Shaun Rowan Grempler
Magna Cum Laude
Second Degree: Political Science
Minor: Modern Languages and Linguistics
Certificate: Intercultural Communication
Hunter Louis Higgins
Cum Laude
Minor: Public History
Katherine R. Howe
Ali A. Ibrahim
Minors: Arabic Language and Culture, Medieval and Early Modern Studies
Alexis Jacobs
Cum Laude

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS AND ACCOLADES

Congratulations to our recent History BA graduates!

SPRING 2024 CONTINUED

India Jasmin Kelly
Cum Laude
Minors: Medieval and Early Modern Studies, Gender and Women's Studies
Aaron Satchel Krucoff
Minor: Political Science
Samuel Leff
Katharine G. Marcotte
Minor: Public History
William Tant McDonald
Cum Laude
Minor: Sociology
Xiomara Mistrelovic
Daniela Michelle Monreal Castillo
Minor: Public History
Sophie Grace Nielsen
Cum Laude
Certificate: Human Context of Science and Technology

Steven Peck
Sara J. Phillips
Minor: Asian Studies
Kylie Jordan Plumb
Magna Cum Laude
Certificate: Education
Madelyn Emma Pollack
Summa Cum Laude
Kristofer Morgan Schrupf
Thomas Stevens
Aminata Haoua Thiam
Magna Cum Laude
Minor: Medieval and Early Modern Studies
David Charles Whitney

Student Awards and Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society

JOHN BELL-CLIFFORD MAAS PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Travis Clatterbuck
Lucy Fleckenstein
Madelyn Pollack
Amina Thiam
Alex Bauserman
Nick Grempler
Kylie Plumb
Will Durago
Katharine Marcotte

JOSEPH D REESE ESSAY PRIZE

Clara Moyer
Thomas Pate (runner up)

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR SCHOLARSHIP & CITIZENSHIP

Ousmane Diop
India Kelly

PHI ALPHA THETA INDUCTEES

Christina Chaffman
Tristan Diaz
Brad Engel
Alexis Jacobs
Caroline Johnson
India Kelly
Joshua Masser
Olivia Prouty
Lauren Toole
Walter Valle
Sam Walczak
Jose Zavala

ALUMNI NEWS AND ACCOLADES

Our alumni have been busy this year! Here's some of the recent news and accomplishments they've shared with us.

O. ABIOLA AKINTOLA

Abiola graduated from George Washington University in May 2023 with an MA in International Education. While at GW, Abiola received a UNESCO Fellowship and became a founding member of the school's Refugee Educational

ROBERT BAILEY '01

Robert is currently working as a historical and cultural resources planner and historian with the Maryland DNR. He wrote an article about the history of segregation at Sandy Point State Park which will be published in a forthcoming issue of *Maryland Historical Magazine*.

ALEXIS MCINTYRE '14

Alexis finished her M.A. in American History at Gettysburg College this spring. Alexis will begin her Ph.D. in History at Morgan State this fall, studying the intersections of Black and Indian peoples during Indian removal.

ANDREA ROMERO

Andrea is an assistant teacher at the Barrie School and is working towards a Montessori certification. Her elementary students are completing a year-long project about the Mayans.

MORGAN MILLER SCARBOROUGH

Morgan began work at the Maryland State Archives as a contractual Reference Archivist in June 2023, and was hired as a permanent employee this past December.

JEN WACHTEL

Jen began working at the US National Archives in DC this past November. She makes Vice Presidential record collections available for research and provides archival reference services.

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