

W I N T E R 2 0 1 9

the  
**History Department**

Wayne State University

**Research Symposium  
&  
Spring Reception**

This year's annual **Otis-Reider Graduate Research Symposium** on the **History of Gender and Sexuality** showcases the work of **James McQuaid**, a PhD student in U.S. history, who will present, "**A Platform for People; The Rise and Fall of the Human Rights Party and Its LGBTQ Advocacy in History**"; **Katie Parks**, a PhD student in European history, who will present, "**Indiana's Connection to Eugenics and the Third Reich**"; and **Alexandrea Penn**, an MA student in the MLIS/MA-History program and last year's **Otis-Reider** winner, who will present, "**'We Hold All the Power': Unionization of Domestic Workers in the American South.**"

After the symposium, we have our **annual award ceremony** for undergraduate and graduate students, followed by a reception for students, friends, family, and faculty.

Please come join us!

**Community Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor,  
Adamany UG Library April 9,  
2019, 1:00-5:00 pm**



**A Time to Make History is  
a Time to Write History**

We are living through an era of great change in the United States. The political spectrum has broadened and diversified. The global economy has seemingly shrunk its cycles of boom and bust into months or even milliseconds. Our attempts to understand the present moment, as either democratizing or retrenching, fall short. It would seem that the best efforts to carefully reconstruct our history inevitably are mashed up with the mythologies that sustain and divide us as well—the founding fathers, the lost cause, the final frontier, the battle of the sexes, and the conflicts among races. We are historians, though, and we are used to reading through newspapers, letters, and documents riddled with information that contradicts and conflicts but always sheds light on the past as it illuminates our current world. Come, join us! As you can see from our Dates column below, there are several opportunities. We'd like to see you there. ~Elizabeth Faue, Department Chair



**Save these Dates!**

**Citizenship Conference**  
March 21-23  
**Borderland Stories  
Conference**  
March 22

**Otis-Reider  
Symposium  
& the Spring  
Reception**  
April 9

**AP Day**  
April 23  
**Alumni Lecture and  
Fall Reception**  
October 24

## History Student Club

**Kenneth Alyass introduces the newly formed Undergraduate Student History Club and invites students to join.**

### Who We Are & What We Do

The **Wayne State History Club** invites all majors, minors, and students interested in understanding understand the past and its relationship to the present to join. The Club **hosts lectures, study sessions, essay writing events, movie nights, and dinners.** At our study sessions, you'll be able to receive help from history majors on studying for exams, writing essays, and getting more out of your weekly readings. Whether you are a history buff or just trying to get by in your classes, **this club provides a fun and energetic platform to meet other people and get the help you may need.**



### Everything Has a History, including the History Club

The History Club originated last year, when our three co-presidents **Aya Beydoun** (right), **Addie Walsh** (below), and **Kenneth Alyass** (below), all history majors, **were disappointed to learn that there was no place for undergraduates to discuss history outside of the classroom.** We decided to form a club that would **host events to connect students interested in studying the past.** Since our founding, The Club has held **over 50 study sessions, two lectures, multiple dinners, and co-hosted trips to local museums with the Museum Club,** with whom we share a mission of providing a platform to **facilitate history community at Wayne State.**

### What's Next?

Two of our three co-presidents will be graduating, so **The Club is searching for its future leadership.** We host study sessions on Tuesdays from 4-6pm, and on Thursdays from 1-2pm. Additionally, all of our events are posted on our Facebook: Wayne State History Club and Twitter @History\_Club. If you are interested in working with us on developing a leadership position, please contact [kenalyass@wayne.edu](mailto:kenalyass@wayne.edu) for more information.





# Bill Weis Traveled to Vienna to Research Codices 451 & 473 in the Austrian National Library

The generosity of Wayne State's **Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program** and the subsequent **Sterne-Lion Scholarship** enabled history major **Bill Weis** to travel to **Vienna, Austria**, for two weeks over the summer. His research project focused on two **Carolingian-era manuscripts** and their **implications for Medieval history writing**.

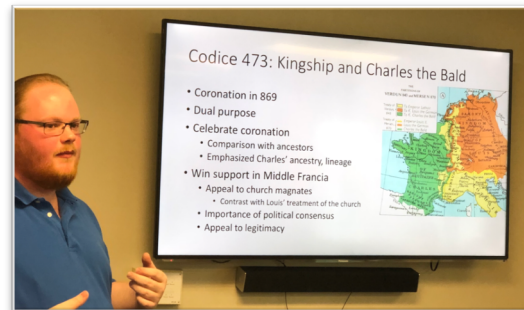


## What I discovered:

In the **Austrian National Library**, I examined **codex 451** and the more famous manuscript, the *St. Amand History Book*, to try to gain greater insight into the political facets of early medieval history writing. Both of these manuscripts were compilations of famous medieval documents copied by medieval scribes in the middle and late ninth century.

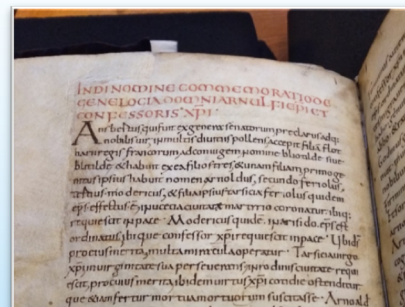
Ultimately, I discovered that **codex 451 legitimated Carolingian rule** by tracing back the roots of imperial power to the **Roman Empire**, linking the present

political structure with the past. The other manuscript, however, was used to celebrate the coronation of a famous Carolingian king, **Charles the Bald**, and stressed the **legitimacy of the line of Carolingian kings and placed Frankish history into a larger framework of salvific history**.



## Tips for Future Researchers:

The best tip I have for future recipients of these awards is that living in a foreign country, especially for the first time, is extraordinarily stressful: nevertheless, it is imperative to force yourself to explore the city that you are in as much as possible and get to experience the people and culture. **Some of the best memories I have from this trip are of the medieval and renaissance architecture I found, and of the conversations I had with random people in the streets.**



# Leah Warren traveled to Dublin & London to Investigate the Great Potato Famine of the 1840s

Thanks to the generous support of the **University Research Opportunity Program** and the **Sterne-Lion Scholarship**, history major **Leah Warren** traveled to **Dublin, Ireland**, and **London, England**. Her project focused on the **social history of medicine surrounding the Great Potato Famine** of the 1840s, which resulted in the **deaths of more than one million Irish people**.



## What I Discovered

In order to investigate my research topic, I **visited five archives** while on my **16-day trip**: The **National Archives of Ireland**, the **Royal College of Physicians in Ireland**, the **National Library of Ireland**, the **British Library**, and the **National Archives in Kew**. Throughout all of these locations, I viewed **medical textbooks, illustrations, journals, and lecture scripts from medical schools in the 19<sup>th</sup> century** as well as **government documents pertaining to famine relief and fever hospitals**. Due to the fact that the **germ theory of disease** was not discovered until years after the famine, I **was surprised to discover that mid-19<sup>th</sup> century physicians knew that there was a strong link between sanitation and health**. This association was key to understand how fever outbreaks were treated. In addition, while fever epidemics were frequent in the pre-famine era, it was clear that **doctors were drastically underprepared for**



**the multitude of the epidemic diseases that arose during the Great Famine**, not solely because of the lack of medical knowledge, but also because of the **lack of resources allocated by the Poor Law Commission and the Famine Relief Commission**.



## Tips for Future Student Researchers

**Make sure you visit cultural attractions when you can!** After a long day in the archives, it was a nice break to **take a kayak ride down the River Liffey** (below), stroll through the **Kew Botanical Gardens**, see a **play**, run a **race**, see the **changing of the guards ceremony**, or visit the **Dublin Zoo**.



Also, **make sure you talk to the locals**. I learned so much about the Irish opinion of the famine by talking to people in cafes and at local museums. From a research standpoint, **try to stay at universities in the area**, as they are generally inexpensive and centrally located. When preparing for the archives, **look through the online catalogs well in advance and ask the archivists for help finding materials if you need it**.

Have fun and be safe!



## Lillian Wilson Szlaga reports on the Career Diversity Grant

### History Department Awarded a Career Diversity Grant

Last Spring, the **Department of History** was pleased to become one of twenty PhD programs across the country to receive an **American Historical Association (AHA) Career Diversity Implementation Grant**. The grant is intended to help prepare history grads for a range of career paths within and beyond the academy. Funded by The **Andrew W. Mellon Foundation** and administered by the AHA, the grant funds two years of programming and a **Career Diversity Fellowship** for one PhD student at each of the twenty schools.



### Career Diversity Fellow

**Lillian Wilson Szlaga**, a fifth-year PhD candidate, was selected as the Department's Career Diversity Fellow (CDF). One of Szlaga's main goals as the CDF was to help other grads get the support they need to prepare themselves for meaningful careers suited to their interests and unique skill sets after completing the PhD. With this goal in mind, Szlaga has worked with faculty advisor **Tracy Neumann**, DGS **Eric Ash**, and department chair **Elizabeth Faue** to organize a range of programming including an alumni speaker series in Fall 2018 that included museum consultant **Dennis Barrie** (left), and professor and travel blogger **Amy French** (below). Szlaga is also working to build and maintain connections between the Department and other university offices including the **Office of Teaching and Learning**, and the **Humanities Clinic**.



### CD at the AHA's Annual Meeting

In January 2019, Szlaga attended the **AHA Annual Meeting** in Chicago where she and the other CDFs attended **workshops and panels on professional development, advising, teaching and pedagogy**. Seven other graduate students from **Wayne State** (below) also attended the annual meeting, with support from the Career Diversity Grant or AHA travel awards.



### Workshop and Panel

Szlaga planned a **mentorship workshop** for PhD students and faculty with **AHA Executive Director Jim Grossman**, which took place on February 25, 2019. She is also working with the History Graduate Student Association to coordinate a job talk panel with recent alums on April 17, 2019.

## News & Notes

### Students

PhD student **Andrew Hnatow** completed his degree requirements by defending “Envisioning the City of the Future: Responses to Deindustrialization, Segregation, and the Urban Crisis in Postwar Detroit, 1950-1970,” and accepted a new position at the **University of Texas-Austin Press**. Congratulations, Andrew!

### Alumni

**Meghan McGowan** just accepted a position in the Business Science and Technology/Social Science, English, and Religion Department at the **Detroit Public Library**.

**Andrea Ozanich’s** summer internship at the **Edsel and Eleanor Ford House** turned into a position at **Fairlane: The Home of Henry and Clara Ford**. She was hired on as a Researcher/Event Assistant to help with restoration process (below).



**Josiah “Joe” Rector** has joined the **University of Houston** as an Assistant Professor of American Urban History. Congratulations, Joe!

### Faculty

Professor Emeritus **Ron Aronson** published “The Philosophy of Our Time,” in the *Boston Review*.

**Eric Ash’s** *The Draining of the Fens* has won the **Local History Book Award for 2018: Highly Commended Book**, from the **Cambridgeshire**

**Association for Local History**, awarded to the best book published in the previous year on some aspect of local history in Cambridgeshire.

**Liette Gidlow** had “The Sequel: The Fifteenth Amendment, the Nineteenth Amendment, and Southern Black Women’s Struggle to Vote” published in the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 17:3 (July 2018).

**Jennifer Hart** and **Tracy Neumann** are part of a new **Working Group on the Public Humanities**, funded by the Humanities Center and co-sponsored by the CLAS and the College of Fine, Performing and Communication Arts to develop a **Detroit Walking Tour** (among other things).

**Janine Lanza** had “Women, Law and Business Formation in Early Modern Paris” published in *Gender, Law and Economic Well-Being in Europe from the Fifteenth to the Nineteenth Century. North versus South?* (Routledge, 2018) and “Workplace Culture” published in *A Cultural History of Work in the Age of Enlightenment* (Bloomsbury, 2018).

**Elizabeth Lublin** has just published “The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, Monogamy, and Defining ‘Modern’ for Women and Japan,” in *Christianity and the Modern Woman in East Asia* (Brill, 2018).

**Howard Lupovitch** appeared on *Detroit Today* with Stephen Henderson, to talk about the **Pittsburgh massacre, anti-Semitic and racist violence, and American political culture**.

**Bill Lynch** had “After the Gold Rush: Cleaning Up after Steve Fuller’s Theosis” published in *Philosophy of the Social Sciences* 48:5 (2018) and “Imre Lakatos and the Inexhaustible Atom: The Hidden Marxist Roots of History and Philosophy of Science,” published in *Epistemology & Philosophy of Science* 55 no. 3 (2018).



## Field Notes

### Bologna, Scholar City

Elizabeth Faue



This January, I went to *New Perspectives on Feminist Labour History*, a conference at the **University of Bologna** sponsored by the **European Labor History Network**. There, in front of a **15th century fresco**, at one of the first universities to be established (1088), I gave a paper that was about **the past thirty years of workplace history for women and the injuries (both material and hidden) that stemmed from the experience**. While in Italy, I took a couple days to discover a city new to me and to some of my companions.



Compared to monumental Rome, **Bologna** is human-sized. Despite the tall Due Torri, most of the **buildings in center city Bologna are no larger than 4 stories**, and the **streets are walkable—many, in fact, pedestrian-only streets that lead around churches, piazzas, and shops**. In wandering, we found a classic chocolate maker, toured the city museum, stopped at the statue of Neptune in the Piazza Maggiore, and drank tea in a historic coop, where students from the university gathered to read and to argue. We also had great Italian food. Bologna is the center of the region that produces balsamic vinegar, Parma ham, prosciutto, and such specialties as tortellini in brodo and pasta Bolognese. If history could be understood in such terms, we imbibed that, too. It doesn't take a **statue of Garibaldi** to understand the **importance of Italian nationhood** nor a textbook to understand how streets that curve, have covered porticoes, and were paved with stone expressed different understandings of community, art, and politics. **Travel is a gift to historians, for it engages us culturally in worlds that are bound by and embody the past we study.**

### My Time in Germany

Aaron B. Retish



I had the pleasure to receive a highly competitive fellowship to be in residence for the Fall semester at the **Imre Kertész Kolleg**, an **Institute of Advanced Studies**, at **Friedrich-Schiller University in Jena, Germany**. Jena is a studious, compact university town in **East Germany** and provided a wonderful setting to work on my book manuscript *In the Courts of Revolution*, a study of how the Soviet justice system functioned at the local level from the **Communist revolution** in 1917 until the eve of the **Second World War** in 1939.



The comfortable office accommodations and supportive colleagues of East European history made for a wonderful experience. I spent most of my days behind a desk, but my family and I also had the chance to hike up and down the surrounding valley, often stopping at the memorial to **the 1806 Battle of Jena-Auerstädt**. While in Germany I also gave two invited talks on the courts and ended my stay with another talk in the United Kingdom on visual images of modernity in **Revolutionary Russia**.

# Happening in History

From faculty publications and research excursions to graduate students attending and presenting their work in national and international conferences through undergraduate students traveling the globe and creating organizations to foster history community on campus, the History Department continues representing the discipline's finest work. Faculty are conducting research, being recognized by their peers, and gaining ever more media attention for our work. Some results of our fine mentoring and our students' talent was on display during the Sterne-Lion Colloquium where five of our brilliant majors shared their research with a packed room that included kin as well as impressed faculty and fellow students. Check out the pictures below. This year, we sent three majors to the AHA's annual meeting in Chicago where they presented posters based on their research. Graduate students are presenting their research, winning highly competitive internships as well as developing historic markers for under-recognized public figures.

## Giving? Choose History!

Visit <https://giving.wayne.edu/donate/cls> and select **History Department Annual Fund** from the drop-down menu.

