

# Department of History

WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

## Letter from the Chair

*Elizabeth Faue*

### The Pleasure of History

In my class this past week, we had a discussion of “happy stories,” or their lack, in labor history. There’s Mother Jones, who found her avocation in labor organizing after her family had died in an epidemic. Or Bill Foster, a radical trade unionist shaped by his childhood poverty. More happily we can look at workers after World War II whose lives were buoyed by home ownership and good wages. It is a history, not unlike other histories, marked by wins and losses and long periods of stability that do not a thrilling story make. It’s not even that people “live lives of quiet desperation,” so much as human history is a flat line interrupted by occasional spikes.

Our love of history is rooted in those rare flares: the blossoming of character, the invention of some tool or skill, change that colors the otherwise gray landscape of time. We revel in its telling—the cheeky politician, the upstart entrepreneur, the unbalanced monarch, the flamboyant radical whose clothing or speech engaged audiences that now include us as history readers. I loved reading Mary Beard on the Roman baker who left a monument to himself; Ron Chernow’s portrait of Ulysses S. Grant and his efforts to quell the eruption of racial violence after the Civil War; or the quirky “secret history of the workplace” in Nikil Saval’s *Cubed*. No, he’s not a historian, but he plays one on my syllabus.

My challenge to you is that you write us back, if you have the time. Let us know what you are reading and doing. And, if you have time, **join us on April 7th, for the History Department’s Otis-Reider Graduate Research Symposium and Spring Award Ceremony.**



#### SAVE THESE DATES

3/30: *Borderlands Conference IV*  
4/2-4: *Center for the Study of Citizenship Conference: Health and Well-Being*  
4/7: *Otis-Reider Graduate Research Symposium and Spring Awards Reception, 1-5 pm UGLi Community Room*  
4/30: *Commencement, Fox Theatre, 2:30 pm*

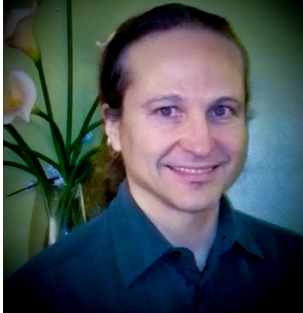


**WAYNE STATE**  
College of Liberal Arts  
and Sciences

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## Dr. William Lynch, New Director of Undergraduate Studies

*William Lynch, historian of science, environmental history, and cultural evolution*



I took over as DUS from **Betsy Lublin**, who has implemented much needed curriculum reform, including the development of the “**Historian’s Craft**,” and the approval of a new lower-level gateway course introducing historical skills to new students.

This year, I’m looking to develop course requirements for lower-level courses that teach historical concepts and methods as part of learning historical content. The goal will be to develop ever-deepening skills through all levels of the curriculum, culminating in the capstone seminar. I am teaching the capstone seminar for this first time this semester and am very excited to see our students develop their own research projects. I am also assisting faculty in carrying out the new system of assessment for General Education courses.

My scholarly interests include the history of science, environmental history, and cultural evolution. I just completed a book, *Minority Report: Dissent and Diversity in Science*, for the Collective Studies in Knowledge and Society series at Rowman and Littlefield, which will come out by the end of 2020.

## Dr. Tracy Neumann, New Director of Graduate Studies

*Tracy Neumann, in 2018, checking out postindustrial redevelopment in Bilbao*



I took over as DGS from **Eric Ash**, who led major curriculum revision that modernized the graduate program. This year, I will shepherd through remaining curricular updates and continue to work with our **AHA's Career Diversity Fellow Lillian Wilson Szlaga** to create professional development opportunities for graduate students and to strengthen ties with our master’s and doctoral alumni. I also serve as the **Director of Public History and Internships for the Department**, and am excited to use my dual roles to advocate for our graduate students and help them pursue meaningful careers at the end of their time at Wayne State.

My scholarly interests lie in cities and the built environment. I am the author of *Remaking the Rust Belt: The Postindustrial Transformation of North America* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2016) and of essays on urban history and public policy. My current research investigates the global circulation of ideas about urban design and international development since 1945. I co-edit the Global Urban History blog and the Cambridge Elements in Global Urban History book series.

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## History celebrates the work of Professor Emeritus, Christopher H. Johnson

*Elizabeth Faue, with Tom Klug & Janine Lanza*

A productive scholar and avid graduate advisor, **Christopher Johnson** taught courses on the **European working class and on modern France**. To capture his time at Wayne, one of his students, **Thomas Klug** (Wayne State University BA 1978, PhD 1993), and a colleague, **Janine Lanza**, have written reminiscences.

Tom wrote, “Under [Chris’s] supervision and guidance, I earned my doctorate in history at Wayne State. However, my first experience with him goes back to my undergraduate days. At the beginning of 1977, I took his course, in what I regard as a masterly move, Chris established the premise for the course on the first day by showing **The Turtle People**. A short film that documented the transformation of the lives of a group of **Miskito Indians of Nicaragua**, it showed how their subsistence economy, based partly on the consumption of sea turtles, gave way to a money economy devoted to commercial hunting of the animal for export to turtle meat markets in North America and Europe. I had never heard such a story or considered the effects of capitalism, but from that point I started to look at the world, both past and present, through a different lens.”

Tom continued, “Chris’s evolving scholarship clearly informed his teaching. His expertise on **Cabet** and the **Icarians** made tangible the **struggles of the journeymen tailors of Paris of**



**the 1840s. He was deeply engaged in the study of left-wing and Detroit-based attorney, Maurice Sugar, at the time when I decided to work on a doctoral dissertation focusing on the managerial strategies of Detroit employers in the early 20th century. His research on class and kinship culminated not only in his remarkable 2015 book, *Becoming Bourgeois*, but also in a course, **The Family in History**.**

I managed to sit in on the course not long before he retired from Wayne. I hoped to quickly grab some insights to help with my own teaching at **Marygrove College**, but I also knew that I was **witnessing the last classroom act of a master teacher who made a deep impact on many of his students’ lives.**

Historian **Janine Lanza** of our department writes that Johnson’s “work has spanned across continents and centuries, evidence of his intellectual agility and the considerable reach of his scholarly curiosity. The bibliography of his published work is long, but his research interests have primarily centered the experiences and challenges of the working classes, particularly in France,

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but also reaching to the United States in some of his comparative projects.” Lanza continued, “**Chris unearthed the human, social dimensions of movements that had primarily been considered as intellectual movements.** His interest in the vicissitudes of laborers, and the ways their lives changed with broader social and economic change, inspired his acclaimed work on deindustrialization in Languedoc, an examination of the expansion and decline of the industrial economy of this region of France over more than a century. More recently, Chris has turned his attention to **the ways family life and family ties have shaped the development of the French state through the activities of one important French family.**”

Chris Johnson continues to illuminate the connections among society, economy, workers and families in his second act as a retired emeritus professor. Beginning in his last years at Wayne, he began work on the **history of emotions frequently associated with the rise of bourgeois culture** in the 18th century and has an on-going project entitled, *Challenging Absolutism from Within: Family Conflict in Eighteenth-Century Paris*. He remains an active participant in forums at Wayne State and in the **Academy of Scholars**.

## History welcomes Paul Kershaw

*Elizabeth Faue*



The History Faculty welcomes Paul Kershaw, assistant professor, to our department in January 2020. Paul is a familiar face to many of us. For the past three years, he has been a visiting assistant professor here, teaching courses in the **history of U.S. foreign policy, the history of capitalism, and in contemporary United States history.**

He is a graduate of **New York University**, where he wrote his dissertation, “Arrested Development: Postwar Growth Crisis and Neoliberalism in the US and Mexico, 1971-1978,” with the late historian **Marilyn Young** as his advisor. A postdoctoral fellow at the **Charles Warren Center for the Study of American History** in 2015-2016, he currently is revising his dissertation for publication. Paul has a background as a mechanical engineer, earning degrees from **Boston University (B.S.)** and **Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (M.S.)**, and working as an aviation engineer before returning to graduate school in history at NYU.

He joins the department at an exciting time for the graduate program, and his courses fill an important niche in our graduate and undergraduate curriculum. Welcome, Paul.

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## Alumnus Scott Cortese on Publishing His Research and Life after Graduation

*Scott Cortese (BA 2010)*

Here, Scott Cortese shares the news of his publication, "US Artillery in World War I."

This project began in fall 2010 during my last semester at WSU in the capstone course. The sources were drawn primarily from a US Army publication titled *The Field Artillery Journal*. Upon successfully completing the course, I graduated from Wayne State with a BA in History and was awarded the **F. Richard Place Endowed Memorial Award** for my work on the capstone paper.



Several years had passed when I had **emailed my capstone paper to the editor of *Military History* magazine for possible publication.** The editor referred me to a sister publication, *The Artilleryman*, and a condensed version of my capstone paper was published in spring 2019. Around the same time, I had also emailed the editor of an official US Army publication titled *Fires Bulletin*, which is the successor to *The Field Artillery Journal*. My capstone paper was published in *Fires Bulletin* in three parts this year.

Since 1994, I've been employed in the automotive



industry as a design engineer and currently work at **KUKA Systems North America** in Sterling Heights.

The last few years have been busy but exciting for me. I got married to my lovely wife, Donna, in 2013. We share our life with our beloved dog, Sheldon. I also retired from the **Michigan Army National Guard** in November 2015, after **23 years of service, including tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.** In closing, I would personally like to thank **Dr. Eric Ash** and former WSU history professor **Dr. Denver Brunzman** for their mentorship and leadership.

### 2020 Otis-Reider Presentations

*Join us, April 7 1-5pm in UGLi Community Room*

"Feminism in Camouflage: Can a Soldier Be a Feminist? 1962-1978," **Christine Cook**, doctoral candidate

"Resistant Reading in the Reuther Archives: Uncovering Gender and Sexuality Transgression in the Pre-Stonewall UAW," **James McQuaid**, doctoral student

"Look Like a Lady, Play Like a Man: Gender Roles and Expectations in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League," **Leah Buhagiar**, MAPH student

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## Alumna Dr. Jacque-Bethel Tchouta Mougoué

*Dr. Tchouta-Mougoué, Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin, (right) shares her path from history student to professor and published author*

The story begins with a fascination for Japanese manga. I spent much of my childhood at manga conventions and drawing my own manga comic books. I am probably not the only person who signed up for Elizabeth Dorn-Lublin's Japanese women's history class because I hoped to learn more about manga. I had already declared a major in history, but it was this course that led to my fascination with gender history, and she was one of three professors whose support led me to follow my heart and pursue a PhD in history. It was David DeSilvio, whose world history class deepened my love for history as a student, who asked me why I wasn't planning to study African history. I had thought I wanted to study the U.S. Civil War, but as soon as he said it, I realized then, I really needed to know more about African history, my history as a Cameroon-born woman. And now-retired Charles K. Hyde made me believe that I could be a historian when he supported my decision to write an art history research paper in the senior-year capstone course.

The support of Elizabeth, David and Charles inspired me to go to graduate school at Purdue University. I soon settled on focusing on African women's history and gender history. I became engrossed with learning about constructions of gender in African societies and cultures. By the time I graduated, I was more of an interdisciplinary historian of Africa, melding the disciplines of history and gender studies in my work.



This was my mindset when I started to write my book, *Gender, Separatist Politics, and Embodied Nationalism in Cameroon*. I wanted to be creative, to tell the history in a way that could capture attention. Thus, I drew from history, political science, and gender studies to analyze the historical narratives of how issues of ideal womanhood shaped the Anglophone Cameroonian nationalist movement in the first decade of independence in Cameroon, the west-central African country where I was born.

I know that Jennifer Hart and all of the professors at WSU have a golden opportunity to support trajectories like mine, from WSU student taking a Japanese women's history course, to first time author. From the outside, my path might look nontraditional. But I'm an eclectic person. That path, now looking back on it, was the perfect one for me.



## Grad Students Podcasting with a Purpose

Rae Manela (below right) and Alexandria Penn created their podcast, *Students Teaching Students*, after attending sessions at the 2019 American Historical Association meeting in Chicago. The two noticed the absence of student voices and sought to remedy this by creating a podcast. Here, Allie shares their story.



The title, *Students Teaching Students*, comes from the idea that each of us are lifelong learners. Whether its by listening to podcasts, purchasing new technology, or simply reading, we all continue to gain knowledge and experience in our day to day lives. We each have a something we can share with each other, which ties into our objectives for the podcast —sharing knowledge and information.

That's represented in one of our favorite episodes, with the Michigan State University Museum. In this episode we go through the Sister Survivor Exhibit accompanied by Mark Auslander, the museum's director, and



by Mary Worrall, Curator, Textiles and Social Justice (above). Throughout the episode we hear the careful thought and intention behind each display, and how important it was not only for the survivors but for the museum staff that they could help share this history with the public.

We have interviewed entrepreneurs, fellow graduate students, professors, archivists, and museum members. We continue developing the podcast and recording new episodes, including with librarians, nonprofit leaders, museum professionals. We seek to highlight not only student voices but voices the public might not hear on a traditional podcast. We also seek to increase our knowledge as we go. Every episode is different and we have fun getting to know our guests as we interview them in a relaxed conversational manner.

Further, we always end the episode with our favorite question: **what are you currently reading?** This stems from our mutual love of books and likely our experience working in libraries. We learn a lot from our guests and our listeners.

Find us on iTunes or Stitcher and join our growing community of subscribers. Check out our website [studentsteachingstudents.net](http://studentsteachingstudents.net).

## Leon Bates on the Search for Dr. Joseph Ward

*Leon Bates, MAPH Student*

I discovered the story of **Dr. Joseph H. Ward** (1872-1956) while investigating line of duty deaths in the **Indianapolis Police Department**. One included the 1922 unsolved murder of an African American patrolman who died at **Ward's Sanitarium**.

I was filled with questions. What and where was Ward's Sanitarium? Who was Ward?

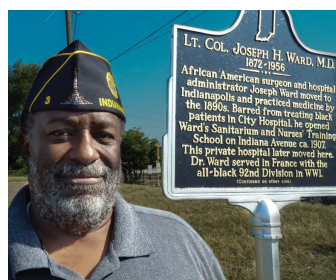


*Maj. Joseph Ward aboard SS La France in February 1919*

Photo courtesy Department of Veterans Affairs

Using the R. L. Polk directories, I learned Ward's Sanitarium was operated by a medical doctor named Joseph Ward. I traced his and the sanitarium's locations across Indianapolis from 1905-1945. At the Indiana State Archives, I discovered annual inspections from the state board of charities and hospitals, which revealed the details of the the institution's operations. On a ride through **Crown Hill Cemetery**, I discovered Dr. Ward's grave, which had a government issued marker. Further research revealed Ward was **Lt. Col. Joseph H. Ward, MD**, who had served as a U.S. Army medical doctor during the **First World War**.

A catastrophic fire, in 1973, at the **National Personnel Record Center**, a part of the



**National Archives** in St. Louis, **destroyed 16 million military personnel files**, including Dr. Ward's. Undaunted, I searched newspapers, other government records, and books covering the medical field and African American doctors.

Dr. Ward was intentional in his training as a doctor and a surgeon and in providing African Americans with much-needed medical care and doing it within the confines of **Jim Crow**. As one of a few doctors willing to treat Indianapolis's 169,000 Black residents, many of whom were often **denied medical care in Indianapolis City Hospital**, he opened Ward's Sanitarium, a privately owned hospital and surgery center. He was elected president of the **Aesculapian Medical Association**, the Indy chapter of the **National Medical Association**. By 1922, Black Indianans needing surgery were traveling as much as 100 miles to reach Dr. Ward's center. He was also an early **American Legion** member.

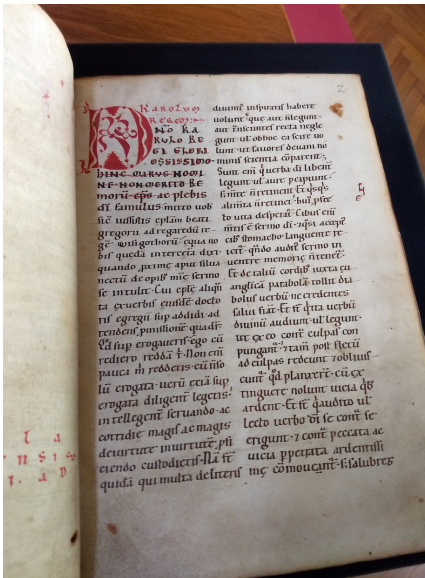
It seemed wrong that the only indication Dr. Ward, an accomplished African American surgeon, hospital administrator, and World War I veteran, had ever called Indianapolis his home, or made an impact during his lifetime was his government-issued grave marker. I wanted to rectify that by getting a historic marker. Thanks to the training and support I have received here at Wayne State, I was able to do that. **Dr. Ward's family is pleased and I couldn't be happier.**



## 2019 Sterne-Lion Recipient

*Bill Weis shares details on his return to Vienna*

I used the Sterne-Lion funding to travel back to Vienna during the end of May and beginning of June. While in Austria, I worked at the same archive for two weeks except this time I viewed an entirely different manuscript, codex 974.



This was a 12th century document which includes many writings from leading figures from the church and the Carolingian Renaissance.

While I worked with the manuscript studiously, I also remembered to take time out and explore my new European surroundings as well. Not only did I sample many of the exquisite local Austrian beers, but I also took time to visit the nearby monastery towns of Klosterneuberg and Melk, as well as the Slovakian capital, Bratislava.

After I finished my stint at the archive, I flew to Rome for a couple of days, seeing the ruins of many buildings I'd only previously ever read about.



I am incredibly thankful for the opportunity to experience both everything that Europe had to offer while gaining professional training, and look forward to completing my research paper in early fall.

In sum, I have two recommendations for future recipients of the Sterne-Lion Award. Primarily, make sure to experience as much of the local culture as possible, and strike up a conversation (in another language if possible) with everyone you meet. Secondly, there's a steep uphill learning curve for everyone during their first time in an archive, but it's important to work past this. My first time in Vienna, it took me a whole week to start feeling comfortable with my manuscript and in my surroundings, but after the first couple of days I felt completely at home.



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## News & Notes

*The Department proudly recognizes our Students' Achievements*

### Undergraduate Students

### Undergraduate Research

### Opportunity Award Recipients

**Rebecca Phoenix**, "The Unusual Six: A Case Study of the Six Horner Sisters and Their Role in Scientific Networking in Victorian-era Scientific Discourse";

**Rob Macaulay**, "Evolution and a Lion in London: A Consideration of Harriet Martineau's Role in Charles Darwin's Conception of Natural Selection"; and **Kyle Donahue**, "Allies Ist Kaput! War, Trauma, and Liberation in Stalag Luft 1." Congratulations, Rebecca, Rob, and Kyle!

### Internships

**Bill Weis**, an honors major, completed an internship over the summer at the **St. Clair Shores Public Library**, where he worked on a **project researching the history of the canals that line the lakeshore in the midst of housing developments**. The local archivist gets frequent inquiries about this topic, but she didn't have the time or resources to complete the research herself. Bill was happy to help and did a fine job.

### Graduate Students

**Leon Bates's** research and work on getting a historic marker for African American World War I Veteran and doctor, Joseph Ward, "Doctor, Surgeon, Soldier" was published in *The American Legion*.

**Christine Cook** has won the 2020 Garrett T. Heberlein Excellence in Teaching Award for Graduate Students.

JD/MA in history joint degree student **Erin Gianapoulos** was named a Michigan Political Leadership Program fellow at Michigan State University.

### Degree Completions

**Nathaniel Arndts**, MAPH

### Alumni News

**Dr. Renee Bricker** (PhD 2010) was promoted to Full Professor at the University of North Georgia. Congratulations, Renee!



**Scott Cortese** (BA 2010) published "US Artillery in World War I," in *Fires Bulletin*.

**Laura Kennedy** (MAPH 2019) started a new job as an assistant archivist at **Texas State University** in San Marcos, Texas.

**Joshua J. Morris**, (PhD 2019; adjunct instructor) had "Building a Movement: American Communist Activism in the Communities, 1929-1945," published in *American Communist History*.

**Kristin Waterbury** (MAPH 2019) has been hired as **Academic Program Specialist** at the **Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies** at the **University of Michigan-Ann Arbor's International Institute**.

## News & Notes

### *Faculty Recognition & Staff News*

**Jorge China** has just published an article, "Puerto Rico earthquakes imperil island's indigenous heritage," in *The Conversation*.

**Liette Gidlow** had "A Crack in the Edifice of White Supremacy," published in *Modern American History* 2 (Nov. 2019). She also **joined the editorial board** of the *Journal of Women's History*.

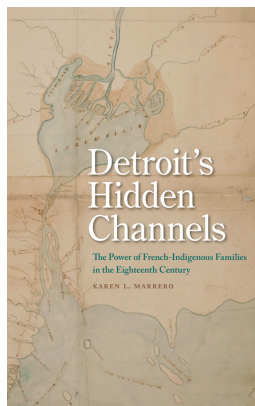
**Jennifer Hart** had an article, "Community Engagement and Grassroots Development," in the Fall 2019 issue of *Wayne State Faculty Impact*. She was also featured in *Today@Wayne* for her Digital Humanities Project, **Accra Wala**.

The department welcomes **Valerie Lamphear** as our new staff person.

**Janine Lanza** had "Why the Guillotine may be less cruel than Execution by Slow Poisoning" published in *The Conversation*.

**Elizabeth Lublin** had a short autobiographical piece published as "A Ninja Memoir," in *Tokyo: Geography, History, and Culture* (ABC-CLIO, 2019). She also completed her term as chair of the **Midwest Japan Seminar**.

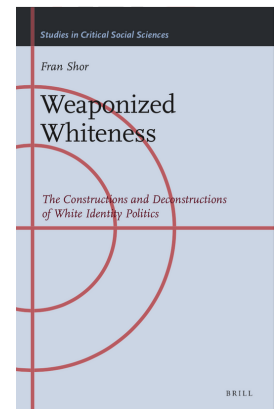
**Karen Marrero's** book *Detroit's Hidden Channels: the Power of French-Indigenous Families in the Eighteenth Century* was just published by Michigan State University Press.



**Tracy Neumann** won a the Faculty Teaching Travel Grant (FTTG) from the Office of Teaching and Learning to attend the American Historical Association as part of our Career Diversity initiative.

**Marsha Richmond** was an invited participant in the "New Directions in the Historiography of Genetics" workshop sponsored by the **Cohn Institute** (Tel Aviv University), the **Edelstein Center** (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), and the **Van Leer Jerusalem Institute**, held at Tel Aviv University. The topic of her paper was, "The Imperative for Inclusion: Women in the Historiography of Genetics."

**Fran Shor's** new book *Weaponized Whiteness: The Constructions and Deconstructions of White Identity Politics* was published by Brill.



**Sylvia Taschka** had the following published: "Should Public Servants Refuse to Serve Under President Trump" in the *Washington Post*, "Trump's America Shines Bright for Europe's Radical New Right" in *The Conversation*, and "What's Wrong with Hitler Comparisons?" in *America Now: Short Essays on Current Issues* (Macmillan, 2020).

**Kidada Williams** was featured prominently in **Henry Louis Gates's** PBS documentary *Reconstruction: America after the Civil War* and **Scene on Radio's** *The Land That Has Never Been Yet*. She is developing a course for K-6 teachers on Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction for the **Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History**.



## From the Editor

*Kidada E. Williams, PhD*

Coming from African American history, a field both born and steeped in the tradition of public engagement backed by the knowledge that accurate, widely-circulated history can be an instrument of positive change, seeing the History Department's increasing support for public engagement (extending from the faculty down throughout our minors) is a wonderful thing. To me, this seems rooted in an understanding that the either/or debate about history as a discipline—academic vs. public—is futile in a world where both are highly regarded and sorely needed.

It also reflects the values of our students who understand their place in the world through their cognizance of the past and who are clear in their desire to use that knowledge to envision a better future. Their embrace of such public-facing research projects as posters, historic markers, and podcasts suggests their deep appreciation of the ways the world has been transformed by new and evolving media formats and how that has made the future of history as a discipline dependent on our willingness and ability to educate, maintain public support for professional historical research, and make a case for trained historians' role in any conversation where history is invoked.

The basis for good history, that which provides, as the historian John Hope Franklin put it, “a good foundation for a better present and future,” is and will always be rooted in the kind of expertly crafted academic research that Wayne State historians do so well. We hope that is reflected in this newsletter.

If you are thinking about **Making a Gift to the History Department** we ask that you to visit <https://clas.wayne.edu/history/make-a-difference> to ensure your gift reaches us.

Want more immediate department updates? Follow us on the social medias at: HistoryatWayne.

*“Scholarships show that the history community thinks my research is worthwhile and trusts me personally to do that research well. It’s very affirming and empowering to know that people are willing to invest in you like that.”*

*— James McQuaid, graduate student*

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**Be a part of History at**  
**Wayne State.**

