

HISTORY

SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER



STUDENT RESEARCH

Rania Abbasi shares her research on the Salem Witchcraft Trials and MAPH students exhibit their research at Noel Night

ALUM'S INTELLIGENCE WORK

PhD Alum Kevin Nichols shares the impact of his history training on his work in intelligence

PANDEMIC PEDAGOGIES

Hans Hummer and Betsy Lublin showcase creative work in the classroom during the pandemic

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MAPH STUDENTS AT NOEL NIGHT

MAPH students **Lily Jiale Chen, Taylor Claybrook, Willow Hockett, Aaron Hollatz, Alyssa Noch, and Jay Williams** spent months working with the **Detroit Historical Society** to develop exhibitions of their research. **Noel Night** gave them their chance to shine before an in person audience. Willow Hockett spotlights their hard work.

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RESEARCHING THE SALEM TRIALS

HIS 3000 student **Rania Abbasi** shares her experience learning how to conduct archival research through the Salem Witchcraft Trials.

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PANDEMIC PEDAGOGIES

Hans Hummer and **Betsy Lublin** share the creative assignments they used to help their students think in innovative ways to demonstrate their learning during the pandemic.

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WORKING IN INTELLIGENCE

Alum **Kevin Nichols** shares his path to becoming a senior Foreign Intelligence Officer at US Army TACOM and offers tips for students who might want to work for government intelligence agencies.

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NEWS & NOTES

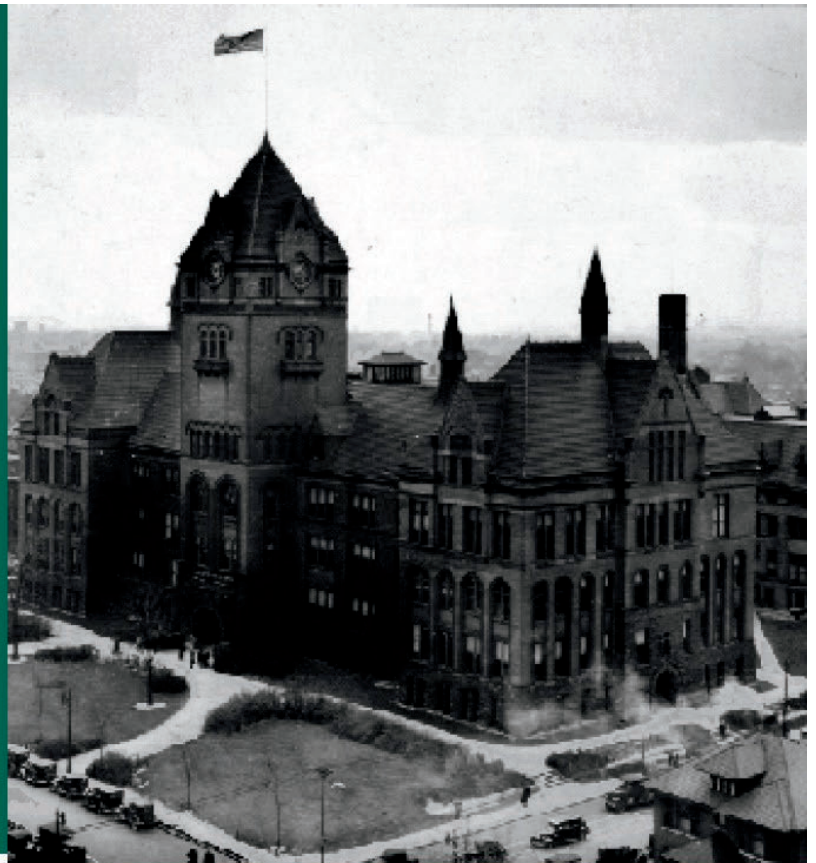
Our **New & Notes** section remains chock-full of students' degree completions and awards, and with faculty's publications, awards, and media and documentary appearances.

Save the Date

*90th
Anniversary
Celebration*

The Department of History will be holding a series of events from September 6-8, 2023 to celebrate students, faculty, and staff past and present, and decades of doing history.

Details will follow over the summer.



WARRIOR STRONG



**WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY**



Letter from the Chair



Elizabeth Faue, Chair of the Department of History, is in her thirty-third year at Wayne State University. Her passion for history grew from family outings to local history museums and Civil War battlefields and matured in travels to Greece and, more recently, Italy. The journey continues.

In my Italian class, we occasionally learn some Italian proverbs. The one that hit closest to home recently was “*Chi cerca trova*,” a phrase meaning “(S)he Who Seeks Finds.”

For academics, this sentence has a double meaning. To use but one example, those who seek specific answers in the historical record may easily find them, as long as they don’t search too hard. The proverb, however, also captures one of the most compelling of all human endeavors—the **search for knowledge and truth**. Seekers do find. In traveling, reading, and learning, **those who are open will find more knowledge, more stories, more ideas—while the “incurious” suffer a sadder fate**. The lack of curiosity, the failure to seek, and the silencing of knowledge diminishes—and desiccates—the richness of our knowing lives.

Our students at Wayne State, with few exceptions, are seekers. They seek information, skills, methods and ideas, experience, and opportunities. Most of them use and continue to build on their education to understand the past, the present, and the future. This kind of seeking might be seen in a chemistry lab, through a telescope, using a stopwatch, a calculator, or a software program that generates thousands of variations. It is also a searching that takes place in an archive, a library, a museum, or with a smartphone—interviewing and collecting, categorizing and

interpreting the remainders of our physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual pasts.

What these things have in common is the desire to know—to seek out evidence, to glean understanding, to create in words, images, and sounds what we have learned on our journey. If at times our seeking has a material goal—a better horizon of opportunity, different work, and better pay and benefits, the search we have for knowledge, education, and meaning is also spiritual and intellectual. It renders meaning that enriches our work but also our lives in and beyond the workplace.

I have been a fortunate seeker in my life—discovering ideas, poetry, art, music, friends, colleagues, students and joy and knowledge as I found my way. It opened up doors to different cultures, and different experiences, and to a richer life than I originally imagined. The capacity for our education—in history, the humanities, and social sciences—to both open up opportunities for work and to expand our lives continues. **They who search find.**

Elizabeth V. Faue



WAYNE STATE
College of Liberal Arts
and Sciences



MAPH STUDENTS SHINE AT THE DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY ON NOEL NIGHT'S RETURN

Willow Hokett

Over the course of this semester Dr. Tracy Neumann's Public History students have been working diligently to create their own exhibits with assistance from the **Detroit Historical Society**. The students finally got to see all their hard work in practice on **Noel Night** (12/03). Check out the student exhibitions!

Dallying in the Alley:

Starting as a small community fundraiser, the **Dally in the Alley** has become an annual community celebration in the Detroit's Cass Corridor neighborhood. The festival's art, music and food have been drawing crowds since 1982. Each year local artists submit their portfolio in hopes of being chosen to design the yearly poster. Our exhibit is a celebration of Dally in the Alley posters, as well as the influential music scene.

Designed by **Andrea Ozanich** and **Karren Yurgalite** (top)



Theater Palaces of Detroit:

Hollywood Nights at Detroit's Movie Palaces is an exhibit that analyzes the **significance of community movie theaters in Detroit** throughout the Great Depression and World War II. It invites audiences to learn about how theaters were more than just a place to watch films, they were a place to gather information and converse with friends and families.

Designed by **Taylor Claybrook**, **Alyssa Noch**, and **Jay Williams** (center)



Then and Now: Women's Social Movements in Detroit:

The **women of Detroit** in the years leading up to the 1920's fought for their **right of suffrage**. This exhibit explored how this fight compares to the women of today who are still fighting for the rights and entitlements of women and girls 100 years later.

Designed by **Lily Jiale Chen**, **Aaron Hollatz**, and **Willow Hokett** (bottom).

The WSU History community viewed the exhibits and met the curators at an **Open House** for friends, family, and supporters on **January 11, 2023**.

RESEARCHING THE SALEM WITCHCRAFT TRIALS

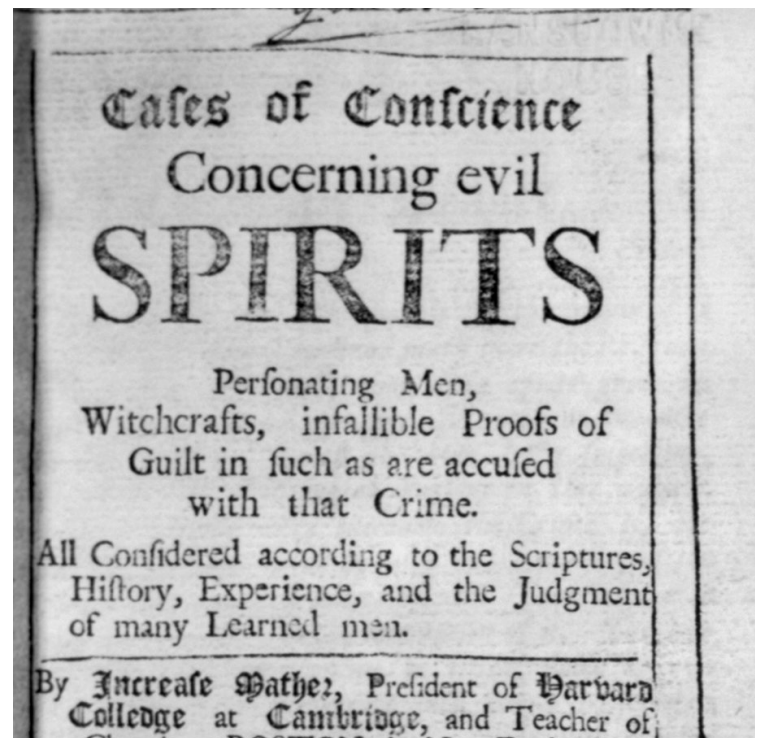
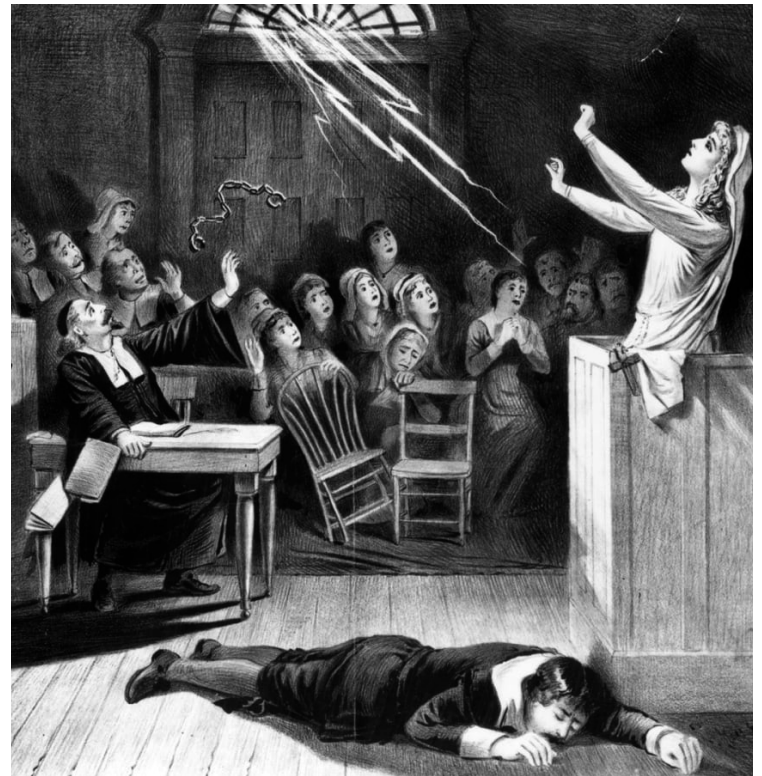
Rania Abbasi

In the Winter 2022 semester, I wrote a research paper on the **Salem Witch Trials and the role the Puritan church played for The Historian's Craft** (HIS 3000) which focused on history through the lens of **witches and witchcraft**. My task was to paint a picture of what Salem, Massachusetts, was like in 1692: who lived in the community, what belief system the people found solace in, and which religious figures led the clergy. I then had to prove that the Salem Witch Trials could not have become as vicious and as lethal as they did without the presence and growing influence of the Puritan church. Additionally, I wanted to describe **how the potent chemical mix of Puritanism and witch hysteria and the cruelty that resulted changed the beliefs of clergymen and community members**.

I am indebted to the online **Salem Witch Trials Documentary Archive** which holds **court records, letters, sermons, maps, and more from the 17th and 18th centuries**. I pulled specific court cases and depositions, letters to community leaders, and sermons given to Salem residents in the years prior to and during the trials. As I collected the primary sources and read secondary sources that provided context and analyses of the trials, my paper automatically became chronological. That is, my research allowed me to create a timeline of how fears of the "Other" and social instability paved the way for mass hysteria and violence. Historians' books and articles about the trials gave me a starting point: teenage girls began suffering fits (barking, convulsing, feeling like they were being bitten, etc.), and, with the encouragement of Puritan clergymen, began accusing other women of practicing witchcraft on them. I included the testimonies of these "afflicted girls" in my paper, along with the resulting sentences of those who had been accused; many were executed or imprisoned. Additionally, the **sermons of Reverend Samuel Parris**, an outspoken clergyman at the time of the trials, were crucial to my paper (his daughter was one of the afflicted). The transcripts in the archive demonstrated his paranoia and demonization of those who did not fit into his worldview, dubbing them "the Devil's Instruments," among other histrionic labels; his lethal role in the trials was evident throughout my research. The writings of **Increase and Cotton Mather**, father-and-son clergymen, were also an important inclusion in my paper. Their respective books, *Cases of Conscience Concerning Evil Spirits* and *Wonders of the Invisible World*, criticized both the

church and the courts for their handling of the trials and the kinds of evidence being used to convict innocent men and women.

Each source was valuable on its own, but when put side-by-side, they revealed a tragedy that was essentially the result of a handful of clergymen weaponizing people's fears of the unknown to grow their influence and power. The primary sources I used were purposeful; I felt a strong desire to learn why so much blood was shed within a year, and how it all came to an end.



hill, bordered by a forest, river, and plains on each side



PANDEMIC PEDAGOGIES

Dr. Hans Hummer

Pandemics for all of their unpleasantness historically have stimulated rethinking and renewal, as for example during and after the sixth-century **Justinianic plague** and the **Black Death** of the fourteenth century. Our pandemic seems to be no exception. Covid posed many challenges for students and teachers alike, but especially for the former who faced isolation and the resulting anomie. My own college-aged son advised that in his experience **teachers who changed pace during the online sessions and with their assignments were more effective at maintaining students' interest.** In other words, the moment was ripe for pedagogical innovation!



I figured that more hands-on projects among the weekly assignments in my **premodern World Civilization** course might mitigate the isolation; besides, I reasoned that **students learn in lots of ways and in a general education course with students of many majors perhaps shifting the modalities would engage and invite their varying perspectives.** I had always assigned Lu Yu's *Classic of Tea*, an eighth-century Tang-era text, but now **students recreate and film their own tea ceremonies.** They draw, or paint, or make computer simulations of, Roman villas, the unit of agricultural exploitation in the Roman world, according to the specifications of **Varro, Vitruvius, and Columella.** They cook, and make Power Point presentations of, dishes of the ancient eastern Mediterranean as explorations of the historical ecologies of the region, such as barley bread, dogfish, Delian sweets, or Teganitai (an Athenian street-pancake). This term as a lesson in medieval architecture students will visit McGregor Memorial and identify the Gothic themes that World Trade Center architect Minoru Yamasaki wove into his modernist masterpiece.



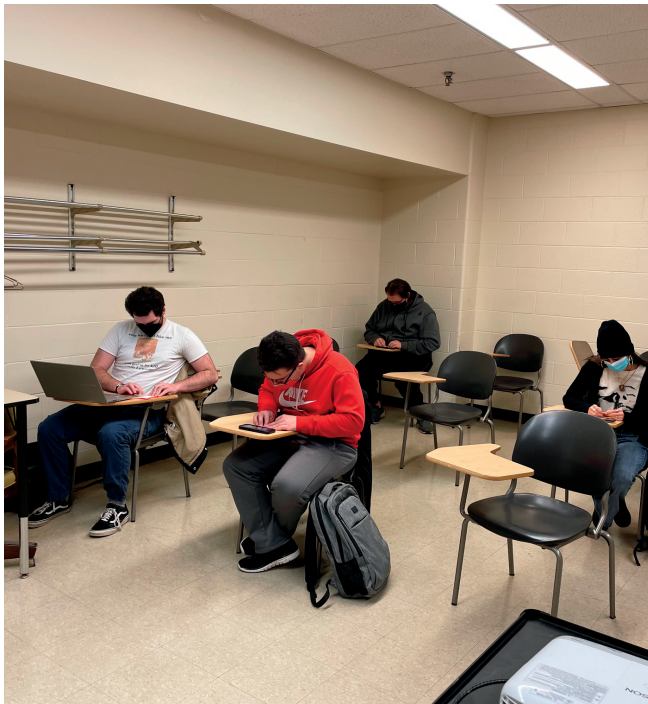
It is too soon to tell how the pandemic has shaped us, but whaddaya know! What began as pedagogical experimentation in one class during a crisis has helped me rethink assignments in my other classes and creatively engage students.

Pictures: **Charleston Rougny** (winter 23) created a fantastic Minecraft Roman villa; **Monique Clayton** (winter 22) makes a beautiful presentation of Teganitai; and **Elle Larion** (winter 21) elegantly recreated Lu Yu's tea ceremony.

HISTORY ORIGAMI CRANES

Dr. Betsy Lublin

In 1958, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum unveiled a statue of **Sasaki Sadako** as a memorial to children who died from the atomic bombing of **Hiroshima**. Before her death Sadako began folding paper cranes due to a legend that making one thousand would bring a wish. Sadako and her project have since become the **most widely known stories from the bombing**, and scores of Japanese school groups and foreign visitors continue to donate collections of paper cranes, both in strands and arranged to make images promoting peace and nuclear disarmament, in her memory.



My section of **HIS 3000: The Historian's Craft** in the fall of 2022 focused on **Hiroshima and Nagasaki in history and memory**. I asked students to explore the website for the Hiroshima museum. Prominent on its site for children is Sadako. Building on that assignment, students folded their own cranes in class one day. Come spring 2023, the students' work will join the other donated cranes in Hiroshima thanks to **Rebecca Phoenix**, a former student in HIS 3000, an MA candidate in the History Department, and a current assistant English teacher in Japan.

To learn more about my research and my upcoming classes you can visit my faculty page on the Department's website.



ALUM ON INTELLIGENCE WORK

Dr. Kevin Nichols

I completed my Ph.D. at Wayne State in 2020. My dissertation, "Frontier Freemasons: Masonic Networks Linking the Great Lakes to the Atlantic World, 1750-1820," looks at the Great Lakes Region as the westernmost frontier of the Atlantic World. The spread of Masonic Lodges during the Seven Years War provided a network of political, military, and business connections that stretched from the frontier on the Great Lakes, to the East Coast, and throughout the Atlantic World.

Today, I am a senior Foreign Intelligence Officer at US Army TACOM. My work involves providing intelligence (i.e. research) to the engineering community about what issues a given vehicle system and the troops operating it might face regarding worldwide deployment. In addition, from 2007-2013, I was working in Iraq and Afghanistan on various projects.

The intelligence field is always hiring and offers a great deal of opportunity as a career that can involve travel, living abroad, and working on problems including political, economic, national defense, public relations, environmental issues. Intelligence analysts will need at minimum a bachelor's degree. The most common degrees are in international relations, criminal justice, and social sciences. One does not need to have served in the military to work in this field.

The training I received at Wayne State was vital to the research, writing and skills I use every day. Being able to evaluate source material, synthesize information from numerous sources, and write clearly and logically in ways they are both persuasive and able to withstand peer scrutiny and produce timely reports for key leaders is valuable not only to my line of work, but virtually any field. Moreover, being able to present briefings, speak publicly, discuss broad topics and entertain thoughts and ideas from diverse people and perspectives, is what I do regularly and is something the history department strongly prepares one to do.

My military experience and more importantly his education in history gave me the research, writing, and briefing skills that I use daily as a Senior Foreign Intelligence Officer with the Department of the Army.

Students interested in careers in intelligence should know that history degrees are in high demand and the intelligence community is actively hiring. In addition, foreign language skills, and studying / living abroad experiences are helpful if one wants to focus on a given geographic area. Lastly, research methods and statistical analysis coursework is useful.

An internship is the easiest way to begin an intelligence career. Many are available on the Intelligence Careers (<https://www.intelligencecareers.gov/>) and Defense Intelligence Agency (<https://www.dia.mil/careers-internships/> and <https://www.dia.mil/Careers-Opportunities/Students/>) websites.

Top: Dr. Nichols at the Ziggurat of Ur, Nisiriyah, Iraq. Bottom right: Dr. Nichols, with analysts and friends, at Camp Arena, Herat, Afghanistan.



News & Notes

The Department Proudly Recognizes our Students' Achievements

MAPH student **Taylor Claybrook** won a nationally competitive 15-week internship at the **Henry Ford Museum**. She will be a member of their Collections Management team.

PhD student **Rochelle Danquah**, currently a lecturer at Oakland University, was interviewed on **CBS News Detroit** about the history of the **Underground Railroad** and early Black history in the area.

The **Hagley Museum and Library** (Wilmington, Delaware), a repository for economic, business, and labor history, recently interviewed PhD student **Alex Fleet** on his research. See "Company Unions and Worker Identity," *History Hangout: Conversation with Alex Fleet*.

History major **Doris Lanzkron-Tamarazo's** research proposal was accepted to the **American Historical Association's Undergraduate Research Lightning Round** at the 2023 annual meeting in Philadelphia.

PhD student **James McQuaid** won the 2023 **Garrett T. Heberlein Endowed Award for Excellence in Teaching** for Graduate Students.

MAPH student **Grace Moore** published, "A New Database for Congressional Oversight Reports," in *Wayne Law Review*, vol. 68 (2022).

Degree Completions

Thomas Cragg successfully defended his dissertation, "The Nature of Bourgeois Hegemony in Late Nineteenth-Century Detroit, 1865 to 1886."

Nicholas Rhein completed his MA essay, "Men from the Planet Earth: Gender in the Construction of the American Astronaut, 1945-1972."

Todd Villeneuve completed his MA essay, "Resistance to Emancipation in the Northeastern Texas Press, 1863-1865: Setting the Table for Violent Restoration over Reconstruction."

Alumni News

Kenneth Alyass, currently in the doctoral program at **Harvard University**, published, "Suburban Law and Order: L. Brooks Patterson and the Politics of Crime Control in Suburban Detroit, 1972-1992," *Michigan Historical Review* 48:1 (Spring 2022).

Leon Bates was interviewed by **WRTV 's Inside Indy** (Indianapolis) for ongoing efforts to rectify the matter of African Americans' unremembered history in Indiana. Bates has played an active role excavating this history and successfully applying for many of the new historic markers that dot the state's landscape.

Kaitlyn Burke published "Cyberpunk Anime: An Expression of Japanese Anxiety in a Modern World" in *The Wittenberg University East Asian Studies Journal*.

Elizabeth Chamberlain accepted a position as an Admissions Counselor for international and transfer students at **Aquinas College**, where she continues to teach history. She also has become a member of the **Board of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council**.

Miriam Eve Mora was awarded the **Jordan Schnitzer First Book Publication Award** by the **Association for Jewish Studies** for her upcoming book, *Carrying a Big Schtick: American Jewish Acculturation and Masculinity in the Twentieth Century*. The book is based on her research and dissertation, and will be released in early 2024 through **Wayne State University Press**. *Carrying a Big Schtick* examines Jewish masculinity as a tool (and a barrier) for American Jewish acculturation in the twentieth century.

Katie Parks (current PhD student) and alum **Harry Smith** (MA 2022) both work at the **Zekelman Holocaust Center** in Farmington Hills. Katie is an Adult Museum Education Manager and Harry is an Adult Museum Education Associate.



Joe Rector was interviewed on **WDET's Culture Shift** on his book, *Toxic Debt: An Environmental Health History of Detroit* (UNC, 2022).

Lillian Wilson has been awarded a Service Award by the Postdoctoral Office at the Graduate School of Wayne State University.

John Bukowczyk published, with Bruce Harkness, *Photographs from Detroit, 1975-2019* (Athens: Swallow Press/Ohio University Press, 2022).

Jorge China published, with historian J. Raúl Navarro García, *Esclavos, Penados y Exiliados en Puerto Rico, Siglo XIX: Cambios y Continuidades en una Sociedad en Transformación* (Universidad de Cádiz, 2022). (In English: *Slaves, Convicts and Exiles in Nineteenth-Century Puerto Rico: Changes and Continuities in an Evolving Society*). The book was presented at the General Archives of Puerto Rico by representatives from the University of Cadiz (Spain) and leading specialists of the island, including the former president of the Association of Puerto Rican Historians. He co-authored the first chapter on the impact of the **1812 Spanish Constitution** and the fifth chapter on bureaucratic attempts to shift the Puerto Rican sugar plantation system from slave to free labor. He also published an invited review of *Mark S. Quintanilla, An Irishman's Life on the Caribbean Island of St Vincent, 1787-1790: The Letter Book of Attorney General Michael Keane* (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2019), in *New Hibernia Review* 26:2 (Summer 2022), 141-143.

Associate Professor Emertius, **José Cuello**, was honored with a **Lifetime Achievement Award** by the **Hispanic/Latino Commission of Michigan**.

Reyna Equivel-King published "Unions: Foundation of the Mexican Film Industry" in *Mexican Studies/Estudios Mexicanos*, vol. 38, issue 2 (Summer 2022), 331-360.

Elizabeth Faue published "Work and the Politics of the Injured Body: Nurse Activism, Occupational Risk, and the Politics of Care in the United States," in Betti, Pastefanaki, Tolomelli, Zimmerman, eds., *Women, Work, and Activism: Chapters of an Inclusive History of Labor in the Long Twentieth Century* (Central European University Press, 2022). She is also the 2022-2023 recipient of the **Distinguished Service Award** of the **Labor and Working Class History Association** and has been named a **Visiting Fellow** at the **Institute for Advanced Studies at Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna**, in **October-November 2023**, to engage in her current research on occupational health and safety and the labor activism of nurses and teachers.

Liette Gidlow was interviewed for a recent article in *Smithsonian Magazine* on the racial politics of the **first female U.S. Senator, Rebecca Latimer Felton**.

Jennifer Hart will be departing **WSU** to chair the Department of History at **Virginia Tech**. We wish her the very best.



Esclavos, penados y exiliados en Puerto Rico, siglo XIX **Cambios y continuidades en una sociedad en transformación**

JORGE L. CHINEA
JESÚS RAÚL NAVARRO-GARCÍA
(Coords.)



PHOTOGRAPHS
FROM DETROIT 1975-2019

BRUC

News & Notes

Marc Kruman and English professor **Richard Marback** have co-edited a special issue of the journal, *Citizenship Studies*, Volume 26, Issue 8 (2022). They also co-authored the introduction.

Janine Lanza was interviewed on **WXYZ Detroit Channel 7** and on **WDIV Detroit Channel 4** (September 8, 5 pm) on **Queen Elizabeth's death and legacy**. She published "Family Law," in *Molière in Context*, edited by Jan Clarke, Durham University, (Cambridge University Press, 2022) and "Working Women in French Cities," in Routledge Resources Online – The Renaissance World Freemium. She was also awarded the **St. Andrews' Cameron Fellowship in Early Modern History** in the Department of Modern History at the **University of St. Andrews (UK)** for winter semester 2024.

Betsy Lublin published her article, "Sex Work during the Tokugawa Era," in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Asian History* (Sept. 15, 2022). She was interviewed on the **Paul W. Smith Show (WJR 760 AM)** on the 81st anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor, about the reasons why Japan struck.

Tracy Neumann will be leaving Wayne State. We wish her well in this next phase of her life.

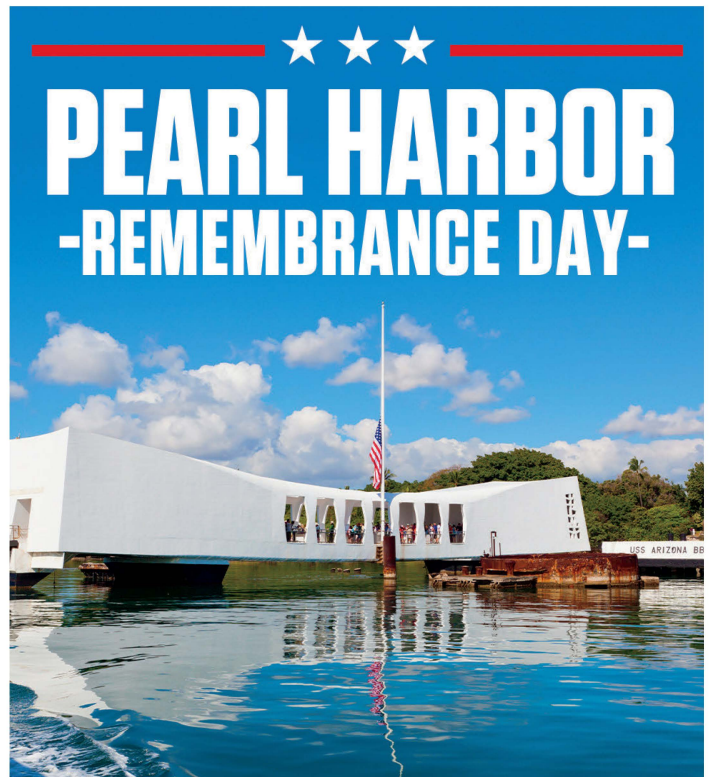
Emeritus Professor, Fran Shor, published, "Soupy Sales' Jewish and Motor City Connections," in *Michigan Jewish History*, Vol 62, Summer 2002, pp. 24-41.

Kidada Williams published *I Saw Death Coming: A History of Terror and Survival in the War against Reconstruction* with Bloomsbury and with enthusiastic reviews in the *LA Times* and *Washington Post*. Stops on her short but lively tour included **Politics and Prose** in D.C. and the **Ann Arbor District Library** which was recorded by **CSPAN**. She was interviewed on **Why Is This Happening?**, the popular **Chris Hayes** podcast and on **CSPAN's Booknotes+** podcast about the light her new book shines on Reconstruction. She's also headed to the **LA Times Festival of Books**.

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to **Liz Faue**, **Charisse Burden-Stelly**, **Jorge China**, **David Goldberg**, **Reyna Esquivel-King**, **Louis Jones**, **Janine Lanza**, and **Karen Marrero** for their outstanding work on this year's faculty searches; **Valerie Lamphear** for making the arrangements and managing a lot of the technology; and **Betsy Lublin**, for organizing our celebration of faculty publications.

The History Department's newsletter is created and published by our faculty, staff, and students. Editing by **Kidada Williams**. Please direct correspondence to **Elizabeth Faue** and sign up for our **HistoryEvents** email list. We're on the social medias @ **HistoryatWayne**.





HISTORY

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From the Editor

Planes are bursting at the seams. People are returning to gyms. Building cranes dot Detroit's landscape making significant changes to our skyline and city. Corporations and managers are trying drag employees who successfully worked remotely back to offices and workers are voting with their feet. More and more conferences are being held in person with fewer virtual options. Historians are packing their kleenexes, cameras, and allergy meds and storming the archives. Some of us are masking, many are not. We're not quite back like before, and we shouldn't be after all the loss of life, time, and energy we've experienced. But we're here, together, and many of us trying to make the world more free, equal, and secure for everyone.

Campus life is returning to something like normal, too. Students started the semester with some familiar annual rituals--the long lines at Starbucks, figuring out exactly where classes meet in the Prentis building, and how to get actual books from the library, and some hilarious rites of passage--the panic of the wild-eyed first year students who can't get the exit gate to work in the parking structures as the line of honking horns wraps around the first floor.

One of the realities we're still adjusting to is meeting our students' diverse wants and needs. It's hard to imagine that some students missed being on campus when they graduated, others missed being on campus their first year or two in college, and still others finished high school in time to get a full in person college experience. But they're back, even if there aren't

as many as before. Students seem divided on what they want in terms of instruction--in person, remote, hybrid. Many are adjusting to faculty restoring pre-pandemic work loads. What students are all clear on is their desire for connection and to be on campus (if not in a physical classroom). The Student Center is packed to the rafters. The Starship robots landed and are crisscrossing campus delivering food to fill empty bellies. Students are demanding more public spaces to study and relax while contemplating real security concerns. We're still working out the kinks but it feels like a new normal and it's looking good.

The department is saying goodbye to **Jennifer Hart** and **Tracy Neumann**. We really wish them the very best in their new endeavors. Although we're losing two fantastic colleagues, we're gaining some new ones. We welcomed **Reyna Esquivel-King** and **Carlos Hernández**, two highly regarded historians of Mexico. Two new outstanding labor historians will be joining us (and introduced) in the fall. We have one more addition to announce and we are hopeful we will be adding one expert on Slavery in the Atlantic World. **Rhonda Williams**, one of my favorite historians, will be joining Wayne State as the **Coleman A. Young Endowed Chair**.

Our democracy continues to erode and its impact is being felt more clearly through an upswing in censorship, attacks on Black people and Black history, rising anti-Semitism, and as autocratic attempts affect the academy. For me, educators uniting to teach accurate history, students and workers organizing to have their needs met, repeals of right-to-work and the 1931 abortion ban, new anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ+ people are important examples of hope in the dark. A lot of that justice-based organizing is happening on and around campus, which makes it a great time to be at Wayne State.

Kidada E. Williams

