



**COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES**

Department of History

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September 4, 2019

Dear Friends of the UI History Department:

With the fall semester underway, Schaeffer Hall is buzzing with activity. I'd like to take a few moments to fill you in on Departmental news and also to thank you for your ongoing support.

First, it is my sad duty to report the passing of two esteemed colleagues emeriti, David Arkush, last October, and Henry Horwitz in January. For moving tributes by Stephen Vlastos and Jeffrey Cox, respectively, please see the departmental website, <https://clas.uiowa.edu/history/people/emeriti>.

On a happier note, we are enjoying an infusion of new energy and perspectives with the arrival of the four assistant professors to whom Lisa Heineman already has introduced you: Simon Balto (joint appointment with AFAM; African American history, Chicago), Lina Maria Murillo (joint appointment with GWSS; Latina/o, U.S. borderlands), and Alberto Ortiz Diaz (joint appointment with Global Health Studies; Latin American history), all of whom joined us last year, and, beginning this semester, Ashley Howard (joint appointment with AFAM; African American, gender history). Our mid-career ranks have been augmented by two historians from other UI departments: from American Studies, Nick Yablon (cultural and urban history), and from Classics, Sarah Bond (Roman history, digital humanities)—we welcome them and take their wish to join us as a compliment! I'm also pleased to announce that Alyssa Park (Korean history) has been promoted to associate professor. On a more bittersweet note, two distinguished senior colleagues, Doug Baynton and Katherine Tachau, retired in June—we shall miss their wisdom and fellowship.

Our **faculty** continue to excel in research, teaching, and service to the profession and the public good. Just a few highlights:

- Five colleagues have books hot off the press—Simon Balto, Nick Yablon, Alyssa Park, Glenn Penny, and Colin Gordon! Expect to hear more about those in the near future; if you can't wait, check their faculty pages on our website.
- *Iowa Now* featured Leslie Schwalm's new course, "Making Change, Making History," in which undergraduates learn digital research skills as they investigate political conventions organized by African Americans in 19th-century Iowa. Part of the national Colored Conventions Project, for which Leslie has been named a Teaching Partner, the ultimate goal is to create materials for K-12 classrooms.
- Sarah Bond won the 2018 Outreach Prize of the Society for Classical Studies.
- A new section of our website features our work in various "public history" projects, created for, and sometimes with, diverse publics beyond academia: <https://clas.uiowa.edu/history/public-history>.
- Glenn Penny was elected to the Advisory Board of the German Historical Institute.
- Professor Emerita Linda Kerber was appointed to the Advisory Committee of the Smithsonian Women's History Initiative. She also spearheads the Richard Kerber Memorial CPR Initiative to promote training in the life-saving techniques of CPR and AED use. Since History piloted the program in 2017, it has spread far and wide.

I'm proud to report that our **undergraduate program** is thriving. Overall enrollments continue to rise, and the number of majors is climbing as well, albeit more modestly. On both measures, our success stands in contrast to trends at most of our peer institutions. In addition to the high quality of our undergraduate teaching, I credit our increased attention to articulating—to students, parents, and campus advisers alike—the wide-ranging rewards of training in historical analysis. Meanwhile, the revitalization of the History Honors program continues: last year, eight students completed honors theses, and thirteen more are busy writing first drafts. Many of those students completed archival research far from Iowa City and even abroad, thanks in large part to support from our donors. Also with assistance from donors, History

undergrads completed internships at sites including the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (Emily LeFeber), the National Archives (Michael Steffen, Seth Torchia), and the Sioux City Public Museum (Salma Rios).

Exciting things are happening in our undergraduate courses, both in and out of the traditional classroom format. The popular Rapid Response History lecture series showcases the range of our faculty's expertise and demonstrates the relevance of history to current controversies. Last spring, the course's topic was "#MeToo: Historical Perspectives on Gender and Violence." Seven faculty presented cases from across the centuries and around the globe—eliciting rave reviews from students, many of whom had not taken a college history class before. Meanwhile, in response to an invitation from the Brucemore Historic Site, Stephen Warren enlisted students in his Introduction to the History Major course in a collective project to research the history of a major industrial accident in Cedar Rapids, a 1919 explosion at the Douglas Starch Works (the Douglas family lived at Brucemore). This rewarding example of community-engaged research concluded with the students' presentation of their findings at the Brucemore Visitor Center.

The **graduate program** too had a great year. Our graduate students achieved a record success rate in competition for internal fellowships from the Graduate College and CLAS. Others won fellowships from sources as diverse as the Japan Foundation, American Association of University Women, American Association for the History of Nursing, and North Carolina's National Humanities Center. Several recent PhDs obtained tenure-track positions, at institutions including DePauw, the University of Missouri-Columbia, and Florida State; others landed jobs in archives and in higher education fundraising.

Here are some more specific examples of what our **students** have been up to lately:

- Mila Kaut (B.A. 2019) followed up on her junior-year success in winning a History Scholar award from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History by earning the Kay Keeshan Hamod Award for Scholarship in History (awarded by UI Honors College), as well as the History Department's Stow Persons Award for Outstanding Senior Honors Thesis, which examined black churchwomen's print culture in 19th-century Iowa.
- Jeffrey Clark (B.A. 2019) received a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Award to South Korea for 2019-20.
- Gwyneth Forsythe (B.A. 2019) was recognized by the Provost's Office for her exceptional research. The UI Theatre Department performed her play, "Messenger: The MI5 Girl," which was based on her senior honors thesis.
- Nicholas Dolan (B.A. in progress) won an outstanding academic achievement award from the History department and also published an article in *Little Village* magazine, "'Bright Radical Star': When John Brown Came to Iowa."
- Michael Steffen (B.A. in progress) was awarded the Alan B. Spitzer Scholarship for his exceptional academic performance, and he also was selected for a competitive internship at the National Archives.
- Joseph TenHulzen (Ph.D. in progress) won the new Bozeman Fund Graduate Research Award to work on his dissertation, "Peacemaking and Religious Tolerance in the Valentinois-Diois" (16th-c. France).
- Aiden Bettine (Ph.D. in progress) received an Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award for 2018, in addition to an OVPR \$7,000 grant for the Transgender Oral History Project of Iowa.
- Salvatory Nyanto (Ph.D. 2019) secured a three-year postdoctoral position in East African history with Gent University (Belgium).

As usual, our remarkable **alumni** are distinguishing themselves in many ways, across the spans of their careers:

- Cormac Broeg (B.A. 2016) published his honors thesis on Reconstruction-era political violence in *Annals of Iowa* (Spring 2019).
- Kimberly Meller-Angus (B.A. 2006) was named Iowa History Teacher of the Year by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.
- Catherine Denial (Ph.D. 2005) won the AHA's 2018 Eugene Asher Distinguished Teaching Award.
- Jesse Spohnholz (Ph.D. 2004) was awarded Albert C. Outler book prize by the American Society of Church History.
- Michelle Armstrong-Partida (Ph.D. 2008) won the AHA's 2018 Premio del Rey Award for her book on medieval Spain.
- Sue Peabody (Ph.D. 1993) won no fewer than three book prizes for *Madeleine's Children: Family, Freedom, Secrets, and Lies in France's Indian Ocean Colonies*. They were from the Society for French Historical Studies, the French Colonial Historical Society, and the Western Association of Women Historians.
- Silvano Wueschner (Ph.D. 1993) received the 2018 Air Education and Training Command Heritage Award, which recognizes the accomplishments of Air Force History and Museums personnel.
- Trudy Huskamp Peterson (Ph.D. 1975) won the 2018 Emmett Leahy Award for her outstanding contributions to the Records and Information Management profession.

Beyond celebrating those alum successes, the Department also had the pleasure of welcoming several alums back to campus this past year to share their experiences with current students, including Gail Bowman (B.A. 1974), Mitch Burgess (B.A. 1978), Paul Heer (M.A. 1982), David Obermiller (Ph.D. 2006), and Admire Mseba (Ph.D. 2015)—apologies if I missed anyone! And we are looking forward to a visit from Trudy Peterson in October.

These and many other achievements of our faculty, current students, and former students would not be possible without the ongoing generosity of our donors. I've already mentioned how important donor support is for undergraduate internships and research travel. Donor-sponsored fellowships also extend our graduate students' ability to work in far-flung archives, and enhance the opportunities for faculty to reduce their teaching load in order to create a new course or conduct their own research. For all of this, the department is deeply grateful.

Recently—I've saved an especially wonderful piece of news for last!—our ability to support faculty and student research has been significantly enhanced, thanks to our colleague emeritus Dwight Bozeman and his wife Hannelore Bozeman. The **Bozeman Department of History Fund** will fund each year one or more graduate students (competitive, but unrestricted by field), for dissertation fellowships and research assistantships; it also is available to support undergraduate and faculty research as needed. The generosity of the Bozemans will help sustain our research and teaching missions for years to come.

It will not be news to you that public universities continue to face huge challenges, including reduced funding from state legislatures and unpredictable funding for federal programs such as Pell Grants. In this climate, support from our donors is ever more critical—financially, and also as an indicator to University administrators of our collective commitment to the department's mission. On behalf of the entire department, thank you, again, for your invaluable support.

Sincerely,

Landon Storrs
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p.s. We're always delighted to hear from our alums and other friends, so please keep us posted on your activities. Send me an email, or click the "Alumni" tab on our departmental webpage--upper right corner at <http://clas.uiowa.edu/history/>--and submit your news there.

p.p.s. To keep up with departmental happenings during the academic year, please sign up for our new and improved weekly newsletter by emailing our wonderful staff member Kathleen O'Neill (Kathleen-c-oneill@uiowa.edu).