

HISTORY Matters

2017



Kevin Matthews

History major Kevin Matthews offers a comment at the Critical Conversations Keynote in November 2016.

p3



University at Buffalo

Department of History
College of Arts and Sciences



DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

In Memoriam

The history department was saddened this year to learn of the passing of Professor Emeritus Paul Guinn in April, who served the department for more than 30 years. Guinn taught British history, and was the author of *British Strategy & Politics, 1914-1918* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1967).

Also in April, we learned of the death of Ronald Batt, who earned a PhD from the department in 2009. Batt was physician and professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the UB Medical School, and pursued doctoral work after his retirement from clinical practice. His dissertation was published in 2013 as *A History of Endometriosis* (London: Springer, 2011).

Professor Patricia Mazón Retires

Associate professor Patricia Mazón is retiring this year. Mazón focused her scholarship on women in higher education in Germany, and was the author of *Gender and the Modern Research University: The Admission of Women to German Higher Education, 1865-1914*, published by Stanford University Press in 2003. She regularly taught courses on modern Europe and Germany, gender, and World Wars I and II. The faculty of the history department recently voted to rename the prize for best undergraduate research paper in Mazón's honor.

EDITING STAFF

EDITORS: Susan Buttaccio
Sarah Handley
Victoria Wolcott

CREATIVE DIRECTOR: Renee Ruffino

DESIGNER: Pierce Strudler

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT: Kristy Mangel

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On the cover

History major Kevin Matthews commenting at a talk given in November 2016 by acclaimed political scientist Theda Skocpol, the Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government and Sociology at Harvard University. The talk was the keynote of the UB Critical Conversations series, organized and sponsored by the office of the President. Dr. Skocpol spoke about the 2016 presidential election, analyzing its outcome and the likely policy changes that would come with the new administration. Whenever there's a stimulating event on campus, our students are there asking insightful questions.

Photography by Douglas Levere



Victoria Wolcott, Department of History Chair

As a new chair, this last year has gone by in a blur of challenges that were both daunting and stimulating. Luckily I was supported by an extraordinary group of colleagues and an efficient staff. Notably, in stark contrast with the national political leadership, our department is now entirely run by female faculty: Carole Emberton (Director of Undergraduate Studies), Gail Radford (Director of Master's Programs), Kristin Stapleton (Director of Graduate Studies), and myself.

In fact, the majority of our full professors are now female, a rarity in the academic world. I believe this is the direct result of a departmental culture that values diversity and supports the ambitions of all of its members.

In this tumultuous political year we have also worked to support our undergraduate and graduate students, shepherding them through a new curriculum and uncertain job market. And we communicated our own understandings of the world through our "History Facts" series that explored topics from the Second Amendment to Earth Day. Looking ahead, the department is committed to educating the public about

how our areas of expertise can explain both the present and the past. In doing so, we hope to foster a broader climate of tolerance and diversity in our university and community.

This past year we welcomed two new faculty — Adam Rome, who is interviewed in this issue, and Yan Liu, a cultural historian of China, specializing in the history of medicine in the first millennium. We were also pleased to welcome our own alumna, Sarah Handley-Cousins, to join our staff in a part-time capacity. This newsletter is almost entirely Sarah's handiwork, and she has already proven herself invaluable in the smooth running of the department. This year has also marked some losses, as faculty member Jason Young left us for the University of Michigan and Patricia Mazón retired due to illness.

No doubt the new year will bring new challenges, but our community remains strong and hopeful about the future, while looking towards the past.

Tell us how you ended up at UB – how did your career evolve, and what drew you to Buffalo?

I joined the UB faculty because my wife, Robin Schulze, accepted the position of dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Before coming here, I worked for more than 15 years at Pennsylvania State University and then for 4½ years at the University of Delaware, where I was a professor of History and Unidel Helen Gouldner Chair for the Environment.

I visited Buffalo for the first time a few months before we had the chance to move here – I gave a talk at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site – and I liked the city. It has a fascinating history, and a lot is going on now. As I quickly discovered, UB is very much a part of the Buffalo community, and that was appealing. Like Robin, I was also impressed by the faculty here.

What are your areas of interest in terms of teaching and research?

I specialize in how people have related to the environment. Environmental history barely existed when I was in college, but by the time I went to graduate school – after working as a journalist for almost eight years – the field was really taking off. It's obviously relevant, and it really changes the way we understand every other kind of history.

Though I teach a variety of environmental history courses, I mostly have written about the rise of the environmental movement. My first book was about how Americans came to see suburban sprawl as a problem, and my second was about the first Earth Day in 1970. I also coedited a collection of essays that offers historical perspective on a critical question in our time: Can capitalism ever be green?

What are you working on now? What brought you to your current areas of interest and research?

I'm exploring what the life of Frederick Law Olmsted can teach us about the challenge of building sustainable

communities. Olmsted wasn't just a designer of great urban green spaces. He was involved in every important environmental movement in the 19th century. He was also a social reformer, a journalist, and a pioneer in the field of management. So his thoughts about sustainability were remarkably wide-ranging. I began to think that I might write about Olmsted more than 10 years ago, but the clincher was moving to Buffalo! We bought a house near Delaware Park, which Olmsted designed with Calvert Vaux, and I loved the idea of reflecting on Olmsted's career in a place he did so much to shape.

What classes will you be teaching in the coming year? What classes would you like to teach in the future?

I'm especially excited about teaching a new course about business and the environment. In the future, I'd love to design a course about how city people have related to the non-human world. I also expect to teach a graduate course about the history of efforts to make the basic institutions of society more sustainable – that would be intended for students in Management, Architecture and Planning, and Engineering as well as in the College of Arts and Sciences.

I always like teaching American environmental history, which is a rich subject.

On the one hand, Americans have exploited the nation's natural resources with devastating speed – clearing forests, damming rivers, killing wildlife, fouling the air and water with pollutants. On the other hand, Americans have taken pride in the extraordinary beauty of the country. For more than a century, Americans have also fought hard to protect the environment.

What books are you reading right now?

Because I'm new to Buffalo, I'm reading about

the city's history. I really enjoyed Lauren Belfer's novel *City of Light*, which is set in 1901 as Buffalo was readying for the Pan-American Exposition. And I loved Verlyn Klinkenborg's *The Last Fine Time* – an incredibly evocative portrait of Buffalo's Polish community as seen through the story of two generations of saloon and restaurant proprietors. Next on my list is Francis Kowsky's *The Best Planned City in the World: Olmsted, Vaux, and the Buffalo Park System*.

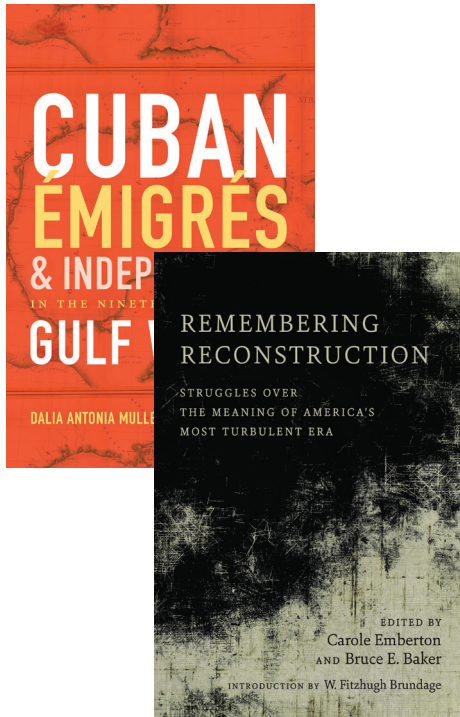
Would you share with us something that readers might not get from your CV or departmental bio? Hobbies, background, other activities/areas of interest?

I play tennis – that's how Robin and I met. I love classical music, and I'm already a huge fan of the Buffalo Philharmonic and the Buffalo Chamber Music Society. I also like hiking. I've been to a few of New York's state parks, and I look forward to exploring more. ‡



Adam Rome

Faculty Publications



In April 2017, Louisiana State University Press published a new anthology co-edited by Carole Emberton. *Remembering Reconstruction: Struggles Over the Meaning of America's Most Turbulent Era* examines how Americans have understood the history of Reconstruction and used it for different and, sometimes contradictory, purposes. In addition to editing the collection, Emberton also contributed an essay titled “*The Freedwoman's Tale: Reconstruction Remembered in the Federal Writers' Project Ex-Slave Narratives.*”

Ndubueze Mbah's article titled, “Performing Ogaranya: Kalu Ezelu Uwaoma, Male Slavery, and Freedom Politics in Southeastern Nigeria, c. 1860-1940,” was published in the *Journal of West African History* this spring. The article follows Kalu Uwaoma's “social mobility from slave to slaver, warrant chief, Presbyterian elder, and British knight between 1865 and 1940,” to offer a “subaltern view of enslavement and the attainment of freedom in the Bight of Biafra.” Mbah argues that “Kalu's biography was an argument against

re-enslavement, a social projection of his freedom, and a rebellious manipulation of a new form of masculinity known as ogaranya (wealth-power), which signaled the masculinization of wealth and the emergence of men as arbiters of more powerful political institutions.” The article can be found in *Journal of West African History*, Vol. 3, Iss. 1, (2017), 27-54.

Mark Nathan's new *From the Mountains to the Cities* will find a ready audience among researchers and scholars of Korean history and religion, modern Buddhist reform movements in Asia, and those interested in religious missions and proselytization more generally. At the start of the 20th century, Buddhism in Korea was arguably at the lowest point of its 1,500-year history in the peninsula. Discriminatory and punitive policies had severely weakened Buddhist institutions. Prior to 1895, monks were prohibited from freely entering most major cities, and remained isolated in the mountains where most of the surviving temples and monasteries were located. In the coming decades, profound changes in Korean society and politics would present the Buddhist community with opportunities for change. The central pillar of these reform efforts was called p'ogyo, the active propagation of Korean Buddhist teachings and practices in society, which became a driving force behind the revitalization of Buddhism in 20th century Korea. *From the Mountains to the Cities* traces p'ogyo from the late 19th to the early 21st century. While advocates stressed the traditional roots and historical precedents of the practice, they also viewed p'ogyo as an effective method for the transformation of Korean Buddhism into a modern religion—a strategy that proved remarkably resilient as a response to rapidly changing social, political, and legal environments. As an organizational goal, the concerted effort to propagate Buddhism conferred legitimacy and legal recognition on Buddhist temples and institutions, enabled the Buddhist community to

compete with religious rivals (especially Christian missionaries), and ultimately provided a vehicle for transforming a “mountain-Buddhism” tradition, as it was pejoratively called, into a more accessible and socially active religion with greater lay participation and a visible presence in the cities. The book will be released by University of Hawai'i Press in 2018.

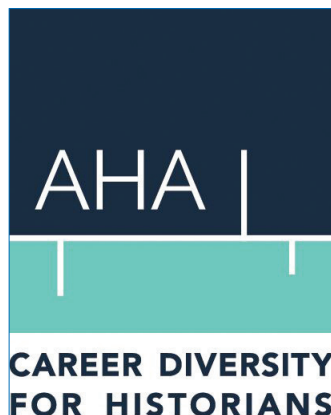
Dalia Muller's new book, *Cuban Emigrés & Independence in the Nineteenth-Century Gulf World*, was released in May 2017 by University of North Carolina Press. During the violent years of war marking Cuba's final push for independence from Spain, over 3,000 Cuban émigrés, men and women, rich and poor, fled to Mexico. But more than a safe haven, Mexico was a key site, Dalia Antonia Muller argues, from which the expatriates helped launch a mobile and politically active Cuban diaspora around the Gulf of Mexico. Offering a new transnational vantage on Cuba's struggle for nationhood, Muller traces the stories of 300 of these Cuban émigrés and explores the impact of their lives of exile, service to the revolution and independence, and circum-Caribbean solidarities. While not large in number, the émigrés excelled at community building, and their effectiveness in disseminating their political views across borders intensified their influence and inspired strong nationalistic sentiments across Latin America. Revealing that émigrés' efforts were key to a Cuban Revolutionary Party program for courting Mexican popular and diplomatic support, Muller shows how the relationship also benefited Mexican causes. Cuban revolutionary aspirations resonated with Mexican students, journalists, and others alarmed by the violation of constitutional rights and the increasing conservatism of the Porfirio Díaz regime. Finally, Muller follows émigrés' return to Cuba after the Spanish-American War, their lives in the new republic ineluctably shaped by their sojourn in Mexico. ‡

> In Memoriam: James Oliver Horton

In February, we learned of the death of James Oliver Horton, who graduated from the University at Buffalo History Department in 1964. After leaving Buffalo, he went on to a career in the Air Force, a master's degree in American Studies from University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and finally a PhD from Brandeis University in 1973. Horton wrote extensively on the lives of black Americans during the 19th century, taught history and American Studies at George Washington University, and worked tirelessly to bring African American history to the public.

According to his wife, Dr. Lois Horton, also a '64 UB alum, James Horton chose the history major because of the influence of none other than Professor Milton Plesur. James and Lois were also influenced by another Horton — Professor John Horton, who Lois describes as a “terrific storyteller.” “As he was wrapping up he would put on his coat and his hat and climb the stairs of the lecture hall,” Lois remembers of Professor Horton. “He would finish his last sentence as he pushed open the door. It was quite a performance.”

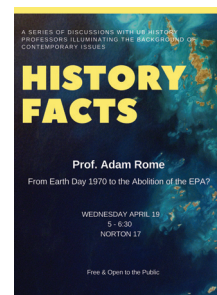
The history department joins with the historical community in mourning the passing of Dr. Horton.



Museum of American History. The program also included alumni from UB humanities disciplines who have gone onto a variety of rewarding and successful careers, such as Kritika Agarwal, a recent PhD from the UB Transnational Studies department who currently works for the American Historical Association, Gregory Michaelidis, a UB History MA who worked as a speechwriter and advisor in the Department of Homeland Security and currently runs the Security Awareness Lab, and Scott Eberle, a UB history PhD and director of the Strong Museum of Play. The symposium also featured a career and internship fair, attended by numerous local arts and humanities institutions such as the Buffalo History Museum, Burchfield Penney Art Center, Museum of disAbility History, and the Chautauqua Institution.

> History Facts

Starting in January 2017, the history department hosted monthly discussions as part of a series titled “History Facts.” These discussions were facilitated by departmental faculty, and were designed to help shed light on the background of contemporary issues, such as the healthcare debate, threats to the EPA, fascism, and voting rights. The events were well-attended by both students and members of the public, reflecting both the demand for this kind of public outreach, and the importance of historical thinking skills in today's world.



> Milton Plesur Graduate Conference

The Graduate History Association, led this year by President Alexandra Prince, Vice President Justin Masucci, treasurer David McCaskey, secretary Shanleigh Corrallo, and webmaster Maria Daxenbichler, organized the annual Milton Plesur Graduate Conference, March 31-April 1, 2017. The conference was anchored by a keynote from University of Chicago professor Mauricio Tenorio, a scholar of Mexican urbanism. The conference also served as a showcase for the scholarship produced by UB MA and PhD students.



History Buffs Awarded AASLH Good History Award

The History Buffs Podcast, a podcast created by a group of UB History graduate students and alumni, was recently awarded a Leadership in History Award from the American Association for State and Local History for doing “good history.” According to the AASLH, good history promotes the relevance of history, builds diversity and inclusiveness, and cultivates experimental and creative spirit. The podcast was honored for its series of episodes that offer deeply researched and engaging stories about Buffalo's history.

FACULTY NEWS

> **Andreas Daum** published, along with Sabine Hake and Brad Prager, a special issue of the *German Studies Review* in honor of the German Studies Association. In addition, Daum received a Baird Society Resident Fellowship from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC, to work on his book project, *Alexander von Humboldt and the Emergence of the Global World*.

> **Tamara Thornton**'s most recent book, *Nathaniel Bowditch and the Power of Numbers: How a Nineteenth-Century Man of Business, Science, and the Sea Changed American Life* (University of North Carolina Press, 2016), has been awarded the 2016 John Lyman Book Award by the North American Society for Oceanic History. It was also a finalist for the New England Society Book Award, which is offered by the New England Society of the City of New York.

> **Jonathan Dewald** has been named a SUNY Distinguished Professor, the highest rank attainable in the SUNY system. Dewald joined the Department of History in 1990 and became a UB Distinguished Professor in 2002. He specializes in the social and cultural history of early modern Europe. He is the author of six books and dozens of articles. He has been awarded fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Stanford Humanities

Center, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the National Humanities Center, among others. Most recently, Dewald was a guest fellow of the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies.

> **Adam Rome** published a short essay in the digital magazine *Process History*, a publication of the Organization of American Historians, reflecting on the history of Earth Day. Professor Rome was also interviewed for *Edge Effects*, another digital magazine run by graduate students in the Center for Culture, History, and Environment in the Nelson Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison about the overlap between politics, activism, and the scientific profession, with particular emphasis on the March for Science.

> **Kristin Stapleton** has had a busy year leading teaching workshops centering on her newest book, *Fact in Fiction: 1920s China and Ba Jin's Family*. These workshops encourage high school global history and literature teachers to use the graphic novel discussed in *Fact in Fiction* in their classes. An essay on how the book can be used in teaching was published in the spring 2017 edition of *Education About Asia*, a publication of the Association for Asian Studies. In addition, Stapleton published an essay in *The Journal of Modern Chinese History* titled "In Search of Frameworks for Productive Comparison of Cities in World History" in September.

> **Victoria Wolcott** was interviewed for two different news outlets, offering commentary and context on 20th century Black history. She spoke with Lester Grant from the Michigan Public Radio's *Stateside*, a program about history, culture, and current events in Michigan, about the Detroit Housewives League. The organization, founded in 1930, focused on boosting Black-owned businesses in the city of Detroit. Wolcott also spoke with *The Washington Informer* about the current role of the NAACP. She provided some context regarding the history of the NAACP, and how she believes the organization functions in today's society.

> **Susan Cahn** was named a UB Humanities Institute Faculty Fellow for 2016-2017. Cahn used the support from the fellowship to work on her new book, *Borderlines of Power: Women and Borderline Personality Disorder*.

L to R: **Jonathan Dewald,**
Susan Cahn,
Andreas Daum &
Tamara Thornton



GRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

> **John Marsland** was named one of the University at Buffalo's two Public Humanities Fellows, a fellowship funded in conjunction with New York Humanities. His fellowship work was aimed at creating a traveling exhibit to raise awareness about poverty in Western New York and to encourage community engagement to help alleviate the hardships of poverty.

> **Caitlin Hartney** won this year's MA Thesis Prize for her paper, "'Women Wouldn't Sit in Bars if They Knew How They Looked': Victory Girls, Women's Intemperance, and Feminine Incursions, Buffalo, 1944." **Steven Braunbach** and **Alec Rosati-Hohensee** each received an honorable mention for their excellent papers.

> In March, **Alexandra Prince** had an essay published in *Zygon: Religion and Science*. Her work focused on the use of stirpiculture — a form of population engineering — as an early form of eugenics, and she argued that this would place the start of the eugenics movement in the United States about two decades earlier than is generally accepted. Prince also received a microgrant from the vScholastic Art & Writing Group, which will fund a trip to Jamaica, where she will do research on the history and legacy of the religion known as Bedwardism.

> In September of 2016, **Eduardo Flores**, who graduated in 2017 from the master's program, published a co-written essay titled "China's Leadership in Global Economic Governance and the Creation of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank," with the digital journal *Rising Powers Project Quarterly*.

> PhD candidate **Elisabeth George** accepted a position at Squaw Valley Academy, a college-preparatory boarding school located in Olympic Valley, California. George is still working on a dissertation that explores the lived experience of queer communities in 20th century Missouri.

> **Michael Denman**, who graduated in May 2017 with an MA, received the 2016 Marleigh Grayer Ryan graduate student paper prize from the New York Conference for Asian Studies for his paper, titled "Identities from Shaolin: Identity and Culture in 1970s Hong Kong Kung Fu Genre Movies."

> PhD candidate **Marissa Rhodes** won several fellowships to support research for her dissertation, titled "Body Work: Wet-Nurses and Economics of the Breast in Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia and London." Rhodes spent time in Philadelphia as part of a fellowship from

the American Philosophical Society, and as a McNeil fellow at the Library Company of Philadelphia. Rhodes also recently attended a Folger seminar, supported by a grant-in-aid, on the topic of "Embodied Senses," in Washington, DC.

> During the 2015-2016 academic year, Public History master's student **Destiny Johnson** interned with the History Buffs Podcast, the history podcast project created by UB History students and alumni. During her internship, Destiny collected oral histories from Buffalo residents and used them to craft podcast episodes. Her final project for the internship was a podcast episode called "Race, Murder, and Protest in Buffalo, 1980."

L to R: **John Marsland**,
Marissa Rhodes &
Elisabeth George



Graduate Report

The department's graduate programs continue to attract outstanding students who work to cultivate their expertise in historical research, writing, and teaching. Many of them intend to teach at colleges or high schools, and, as can be seen in a "Recent Graduate Placement" page on our website, quite a few of our alumni have launched promising academic careers. Some of our recent MA graduates have gone onto PhD programs at other universities, including USC, Michigan State, and the University of California at Riverside. But, in addition to this more traditional direction, our students are exploring how they can put the knowledge and skills they learn in our graduate programs to work in a wide range of careers.

The department aims to do more to help students consider all their career options and prepare for diverse careers.

Two years ago, we launched the MA with Concentration in Public History. The first cohort of students in that program received their degrees in 2017, having supplemented their history training with courses in non-profit management, legal issues for small organizations, and museum studies, in addition to completing internships with local organizations. As part of their academic work, one of these students gave a public talk on the history of slavery in New York state at the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village and one created a podcast on an activist for the award-winning History Buffs podcast program set up by our students.

In regard to the PhD program, we are collaborating with the American Historical Association in a "Career Diversity" initiative generously funded by the Mellon Foundation. PhD candidate David Strittmatter secured an AHA grant that allowed us to bring several of our graduate alumni back to campus in April 2017, where they spoke with current students about their careers "beyond the academy." Scott Eberle (PhD '85) and Jon-Paul Dyson (PhD '02) of the Strong National Museum of Play in Rochester emphasized the importance of collaboration and management skills for work in a rapidly changing museum environment.

Rick Mikulski (PhD '14) reported that flexibility and broad curiosity are important for future librarians. Labor leader Todd Hobler (PhD '95) discussed how he complemented his scholarship on

labor history with work setting up UB's Graduate Student Employees Union (GSEU) and landed a rewarding job as a labor organizer. Paul Zwirecki (PhD '14) encouraged graduate students to make themselves known to future employers and show how they can contribute. In his own case, he volunteered at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site and "refused to leave until they hired me."

During the 2017-2018 academic year, we will continue to participate in the AHA Career Diversity initiative, sending departmental representatives to a series of faculty institutes involving 36 PhD-granting programs around the country. The goal is to identify ways to restructure PhD training to give students the preparation they need to take their historical knowledge and skills into non-academic professions that will value them. This, we believe, will benefit society as well as our graduates. With more well-trained historians taking leadership roles in the worlds of business, government, and public life, it seems likely that broader public appreciation of history—as historians understand it—will grow.

Funding for graduate study is always an important issue for the department. Thanks to generous donors among our alumni, we have been able to provide significant support to our PhD students, particularly as they conduct research and complete their dissertations. Beginning in fall 2017, we are also offering more support to MA students. A new initiative to provide \$3,000 grants to MA students over three semesters has helped recruit some excellent new students. The College of Arts and Sciences was so impressed with our efforts, it launched a similar MA scholarship program for all disciplines this year. ‡



(left) **Kristin Stapleton,**
Director of Graduate Studies

(right) **Gail Radford,**
Director of Master's Program

Undergraduate Report



<< Carole Emberton,
Director of
Undergraduate Studies

The Undergraduate Program is going strong! Beginning fall 2017, we will begin admitting new

freshmen directly to the major when they are accepted to UB. Previously, intended majors were required to take at least two history courses before being admitted to the program. However, this resulted in some students neglecting to apply to the major until their juniors or even senior years, and, as a result, they did not receive adequate advising from the DUS and sometimes missed out on opportunities such as internships and scholarships. Allowing students to become majors at the point of admission gets them on our radar early, and they can begin to receive advising before they even get on campus! This spring and summer, Carole Emberton has met with several newly-admitted students who wanted to discuss the history major and get a jump start on their academic careers.

Four history majors received Plesur and Schoelkopf awards for study abroad. **Marissa Mezzio** traveled to London during the winter term, while **Lora Sheridan** travelled to Vietnam. **Thaysha Sanchez** attended an intensive Korean language program in Seoul, South Korea this summer, and **John Slobodozian** attended a program sponsored by SUNY-Brockport in Ireland.

Other scholarships and awards went to: **Noelle Abdullah** (Bryan Argo Memorial Scholarship); **Paige Gagliardi** and **Samuel Trzaska** (Plesur Memorial Scholarships); **Christiana Johnson**, **Lauren Kacherski**, and **Caitlin Unger** (Selig Adler Memorial Scholarship); **Patrick Clark** and **Caitlin Unger** (Julius Pratt Memorial Scholarship); and **Caitlin Blue** and **Thaysha Sanchez** (Milligan Scholarship).

This year the department voted to name our annual undergraduate paper

prize in honor of our former colleague Professor Patricia Mazón, who retired this year, in recognition of her service and commitment to undergraduate teaching. This year's co-winners were **John Oshei** and **Christopher Jakubowski**. John's paper, "Jose de Silva Lisboa and the Limits of Liberalism in Brazil, 1810-1835," is an exploration into the world of 17th century Brazil and its encounter with the Enlightenment. John's honors thesis argued that Lisboa's historical reputation as "the foremost disciple of classical liberal political economy" has been overstated, demonstrating that Lisboa's efforts to loosen restrictions on Brazilian ports were limited and tied the nation into the larger world of British mercantilism. Christopher's thesis was titled 'Gojira, King of the Bombs!': Godzilla and Nuclear Scientists Against the Atomic Threat, 1946-1956," which examined the "anti-nuclear message" of Godzilla, that now-iconic figure of the nuclear age, a prehistoric sea monster awakened by nuclear radiation. Godzilla became a staple in American popular culture during the Cold War, and Christopher's research demonstrates the importance of these films for disseminating the views of the Federation of Atomic Scientists, a small group of distinguished nuclear scientists who were critical of the growing nuclear arms race.

Holly Atkins won second place for the prize with her thesis, "The Middling Argument: How the Middling Sorts of the Early Republic Transformed America." Holly's paper, written for Professor Malka's class on the Early American Republic, explored the role of the "middling sorts" — non-elites from humble economic and social backgrounds — in the founding of the nation. **William Fox** received an honorable mention for his paper, "Segregation Along Highway Lines: How the Kensington Expressway Reshaped Buffalo, NY," which examined the long-term impact of the building of the Kensington Expressway on the city's black neighborhoods and placed those changes as part of a much larger transformation of American cities in the 1950s and 1960s. ‡



Phi Alpha Theta Update

The Buffalo chapter of the national undergraduate history honor society, Phi Alpha Theta, has had a busy year! In the fall, they held the second-annual 50s Filmfest, an informational meeting for members and students interested in joining, which featured instructional and social guidance films from the 1950s, such as "What To Do on a Date" and "A is for Atom."

In December, the largest cohort in the chapter's history was inducted, made up of both BA and MA students. Among the inductees were Alan Becker, Caitlin Blue, Katherine Bonk, Corrine Cardinale, Tyler Colosa, Mary Angela Crisafulli, Michael Denman, Joel Finkelstein, William Fox, Anthony Franco, Antonio Ingenito, Destiny Johnson, Lauren Kacherski, Rebekah Kimble, Danielle Panaro, James Pannell, Michael Repole, and Amanda Vega.

Three PAT members presented at the regional conference at SUNY Brockport in March 2017, where Rebekah Kimble was awarded the prize for the best master's level paper. The PAT also took two field trips this year. Tamara Thornton took students on an adventure to the Clarence Antiques Market, and Carole Emberton took them on a trip to explore Forest Lawn Cemetery.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT NEWS

New Courses

This year, history, along with many other departments on campus, began offering a new freshman course called the UB Seminar. This 100-level course offers an intimate learning environment where students can learn both the topic at hand and the skills required for collegiate success. Faculty from the history department were eager to try their hand at these new courses and

developed stimulating new offerings. Students learn how to take notes, how to avoid plagiarism, and how to navigate the library while also learning about a historical issue or topic. Carole Emberton, for example, taught HIS 199: All in the Family, which asked students to complete a large genealogical project on their own family. Patrick McDevitt taught a course on Athletics and the University. Students could also contemplate the Vietnam War with Gail Radford, American utopias with

Victoria Wolcott, and the history and myth of Joan of Arc with Liana Vardi. The department also offered its first online courses this year. Online courses can make it easier for our students with factors that might make it difficult to get to campus — be they jobs, families, illnesses, or other issues — to get the same quality education as they would in one of our seminar rooms. Topics taught online this year included the American Civil War and Athletics and the University.

Upcoming Events

The History Department is committed to helping students, alumni, and the public understand the past. We're thrilled about our schedule of upcoming talks and events. They are all free and open to the public, so we hope that if you're local to Western New York you can join us! Our events line up is always expanding, so be sure to check the department's website and social media for the latest information.

SEPTEMBER

Thursday, September 21
4:00pm - Screening of Kings Park & Film discussion at 403 Hayes Hall, UB South Campus

We will be welcoming filmmaker Lucy Winer, along with historian Nancy Tomes, for a two-part event revolving around Winer's new documentary, *Kings Park: Stories from an American Mental Institution*.

Friday, September 22
1:30pm - 280 Park Hall

Tomes and Winer will give a talk entitled "Recovery as Concept, Model, and Movement in the Mental Health Field: Is it Time for a New History?" The talk will be held Friday, September 22 in Park 280 at 1:30pm.

OCTOBER

Monday, October 23
2:00pm - 280 Park Hall

The department of history will host Ann Little of Colorado State University — known for her internet persona Historiann — to discuss gender and violence in colonial North America.

NOVEMBER

Thursday, November 9
12:15pm - TBA

The department of history will welcome Beth Linker, of the University of Pennsylvania, to observe Veterans Day in a talk.

Friday, November 17
12:00pm - TBA

Wayne Tan of Hope College will give a talk as part of the Asia @ Noon series.

For more information visit: <http://history.buffalo.edu/>

Please tell us about your career since your graduation from UB.

I attended Buffalo from 1961 to 1964 and graduated with a major in history. As a 16-year-old from Queens, New York, I was always interested in international affairs. My career has built upon that interest and my education at Buffalo ever since. I graduated from Buffalo in three years. I went to law school and graduated by far the youngest in my class in 1967 during the Vietnam War. I then did a doctorate in international relations and studied in England for a bit. I've practiced and taught in this area ever since.

Where are you from and how did you end up at UB?

I'm from Queens, New York. Actually, my parents were separated and my father lived in Manhattan. I went to public schools in Queens. This is where I met my wife, Sandy, who went to the same high school as I did. I'm not sure how I wound up at Buffalo—never really thought much about college. I applied to a few schools and chose Buffalo since some of my friends were going there. Glad I did. I had a wonderful education.

What initially motivated you to pursue a degree in history? How do you feel these motivations continue to inform you today?

I believe history and government were one department when I went to Buffalo. I was always interested in American history but even more so in international affairs and in Russian and Soviet history and politics. I'm still very interested in these topics but have included others such as international law.

What do you feel was the most valuable for you in your experience at UB?

Probably the fact that I always studied and learned how to be on my own.

You've recently written about what the history of American foreign policy can teach us about America's standing in the world today. How do you believe that your history training has helped you in your work on contemporary international relations?

I simply cannot see how you can understand today without knowing about yesterday. It's absolutely impossible. History is just so essential.

What are you working on now?

I've just received a gubernatorial appointment by the Virginia governor to the new International Trade Advisory Committee. I've been very active in Richmond over the years and in particular in economic development for the Commonwealth while focusing on the roles of trade, investment, and export promotion. I was formerly appointed by another Virginia governor as a board member of the state's lead economic development agency.

I continue to teach international trade, international law, and about the WTO at the graduate and professional levels. I am very active in writing op-eds critiquing the Trump administration, among other subjects. Of course, I continue to publish with a recent article on China, trade, and the WTO. I'm very interested in the expanding role of states (such as New York and Virginia) in the global arena.

Can you tell us something about yourself that isn't on your resume/CV?

I've been living in Virginia for the last 40 years with my wife and two kids. Both are now lawyers with the federal government. I believe public service is of the highest calling. My teaching in a state university and my kids working for the federal government are different forms of public service. My wife has a private practice in marital counseling. But like many people in the Washington, DC, area, she worked as a contractor for years with the intelligence community. My son-in-law is an active duty naval officer who has



Stuart and Victoria, 2016

served in Iraq and Afghanistan. I teach at the largest public university in Virginia, which has very diverse demographics. I always start my classes by saying that I also went to a very large public university. I try to identify with my students at the very outset. I believe international interests flow from the diversity of the student body. I very strongly believe that it is the public universities (and public schools) that are crucial to building an exceptional America.

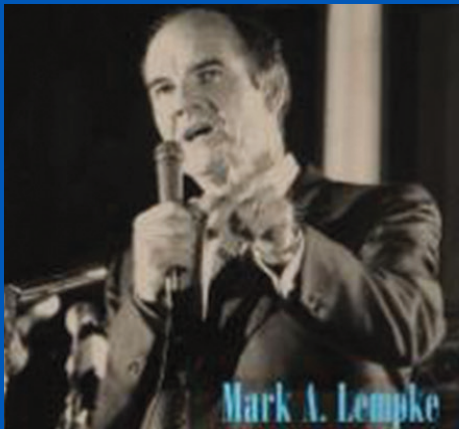
I've traveled to many countries. I particularly liked the many Asian countries I've visited, including Vietnam, Indonesia, China, Japan and Malaysia, among others. I wished I studied more about Asia while at Buffalo. I really like Asian food. Most of all I've been a horseback rider for the last 26 years with my horse Victoria (a quarter horse mare). I am very sorry to say Victoria died unexpectedly Christmas week, just two days after a great Christmas ride. I miss her very much.

I always considered my experience at Buffalo, and especially the history dept, as being the foundation of my educational and professional life. I'm very grateful. ‡

Alumni News

> **Averill Earls**, who graduated from the PhD program in 2016, accepted a position as an assistant professor at Mercyhurst University, located in Erie, Pennsylvania. Professor Earls was also featured in local Erie news outlets for her work with Mercyhurst students documenting local history through podcasts.

> **Mark Lempke**, a 2011 PhD, published a book with University of Massachusetts Press. The book, called *My Brother's Keeper: George McGovern and Progressive Christianity*, was based on his dissertation research on McGovern's role in creating a "religious left" in 1970s America.



> **Joe Gardella** graduated from UB in 2016, and accepted a position as the meeting and executive assistant for the American Historical Association. Joe helps to organize the AHA's annual meeting, and supports the AHA's governing board and committees.

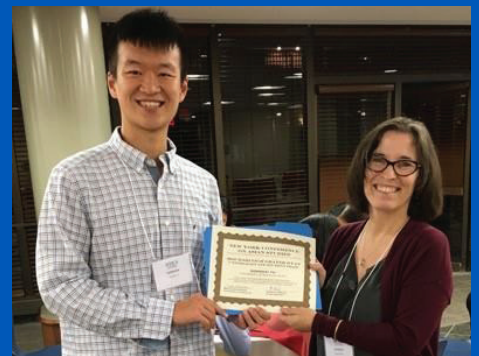
> **Jenny Nickeson**, who graduated in 2016, accepted a position at the Buffalo Niagara Heritage Village as the director of education and museum historian. Two other UB history graduates, Kathryn Lawton and Valerie Phillips, also work at the BNHV. Lawton serves as a program assistant, and Phillips is an assistant curator.

> **Phil Guingona**, 2016, published an article, titled "The Sundry Acquaintances of Dr. Albino Z. Sycip: Exploring the Shanghai-Manila

Connection, ca. 1910-1940" in the March 2016 edition of *The Journal of World History*. Guingona also accepted a position as assistant professor of history at Wells College in Aurora, NY.

> **Donghai Yu**, who graduated in 2016, received the 2016 Marleigh Grayer Ryan undergraduate paper prize from the New York Conference on Asian Studies for his paper, "Why the Chinese Sponsored the TAZARA: An Investigation about the People's Republic of China's African Policy in the Regional Context, 1955-1970."

> **Adam L. Norris**, a 2006 UB history graduate and social studies teacher at Maryvale High School in Cheektowaga, NY, was named the first recipient of the Empire State Excellence in Teaching Award.



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history.buffalo.edu/support-the-department

To get involved, visit <http://www.cas.buffalo.edu/alumni-friends/get-involved/> or email UB-CollegeAlumni@buffalo.edu

Stay Connected

You will always be a part of UB and we want you to stay connected and get involved by:

- Attending alumni **events and programs**
- Becoming a **Regional Network Leader**
 - Help build a strong network of alumni in your region
- **Mentoring** UB students
- Attending **career** events with students
- Recruiting **prospective students** as a UB Admissions Ambassador
- Connecting with an **alumni chapter** in your area
- Giving to UB and making an impact on students
- Following UB and the College of Arts and Sciences on social media

UB History: Moving Into the Future, Looking Toward the Past



Photos by: David McCaskey



University at Buffalo

Department of History

College of Arts and Sciences

546 Park Hall

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Department of History - University at Buffalo SUNY

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HISTORY Matters

2017