

HISTORY Matters

2018

Why History Matters

Victoria Wolcott in conversation with
UB Distinguished Speaker Susan E. Rice

p5





TABLE OF CONTENTS

UB History Welcomes Teaching Faculty

The Department of History has hired two new faculty members for undergraduate instruction. **Cari Casteel**, who earned her PhD from Auburn University in Alabama and spent time as a fellow at the Science History Institute in Philadelphia, is a scholar of the intersections of science, technology and business. Professor Casteel will expand the department's ability to provide courses in business and technology history. **Sarah Handley-Cousins**, a 2016 graduate of the department, will also join the faculty in the fall, teaching courses on the history of disability, medicine and health. In addition, Handley-Cousins will assist Michael Rembis in the direction of the Center for Disability Studies.

On the Cover

Department Chair Victoria Wolcott moderates the conversation with UB Distinguished Speaker Susan E. Rice, a former UN Ambassador and National Security Advisor.

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In this Issue:

4 >> **Message from the Chair**

5-6 >> **Features**

- > Why History Matters: A Conversation with UB Distinguished Speaker Susan E. Rice
- > Faculty Publications
- > Visiting Speakers
- > Humanities Beyond the Academy
- > Civil War Film Series

7 >> **Faculty News**

8-9 >> **Graduate Students News**

10 >> **Undergraduate Student News**

11 >> **Phi Alpha Theta Update**

12-13 >> **In Memorium**

- > SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus Georg Iggers
- > Professor John Milligan

14 >> **Alumni Profile**

- > Robert C. Plumb

15 >> **Alumni News**

CALL FOR PHOTOS The department recently created a gallery wall featuring photos of the late Professor Milton Plesur in the Plesur Seminar Room. We now invite you to share photos of your time in the department (classes, professors, events, etc.) for display throughout our space. Please send photos, including the location, date, and names of the subjects and photographer (if known) to gahistory@buffalo.edu.



Victoria Wolcott, Department of History Chair

Robert F. Kennedy, assassinated 50 years ago, said: “All of us might wish at times that we lived in a more tranquil world, but we don’t. And if our times are difficult and perplexing, so are they challenging and filled with opportunity.” These are certainly challenging and perplexing times in academia, but they are also times rife with opportunity for the discipline of history. While there is an overall decline in enrollments for humanities disciplines, as well as in traditional academic jobs for humanities PhDs, interest in history is at an all-time high. And employers value the critical thinking, research and writing skills our graduates possess. The American Historical Association (AHA) recognizes these trends and has taken a leadership role in rethinking teaching in the humanities and the role of the PhD in the context of shrinking tenure-track jobs. In addition to training a new generation of historians for an increasingly diverse job market, the AHA has been tracking PhD students in their “[Where Historians Work](#)” database. The results show that the majority of graduates continue to work as college and university faculty, primarily in teaching-focused institutions. The remainder have found employment across an array of institutions, from government agencies to private businesses.

Our department has been proactive in taking advantage of the AHA’s resources and responding to the changing job market. We are a proud recipient of a Mellon-funded AHA Career Diversity Grant, along with institutions such as Georgetown University, Brown

University and the University of Michigan. This grant has allowed us to hire a fellow, Shuko Tamao, to begin the process of implementing the five skills that historians both within and without traditional academia need to be successful: Communication, Collaboration, Quantitative Literacy, Intellectual Self-Confidence and Digital Literacy. We will be introducing a new two-semester course for our graduate students this upcoming year, which will provide additional pedagogical training as well as professional development. This new training will also benefit our undergraduates, who will encounter better prepared teaching assistants and graders in their classrooms. And graduate students will have greater accessibility to internships and other resources as they prepare for their careers. In addition, we anticipate that our pioneering work in this area will serve as a model for humanities departments at UB more generally.

A key aspect of career diversity is thinking about the labor historians do out in the world, rather than within the walls of academia. Many of our faculty have been thinking along the same lines as they increasingly communicate to the public through opinion pieces, contributions to online blogs, social media, podcasts and collaboration with a variety of community institutions. To give one local example, UB’s president’s office invited our Civil War historian, Carole Emberton, to speak about the mixed legacy of Millard Fillmore at their annual commemoration of Fillmore this past January. Fillmore signed the Fugitive Slave Act in 1850, which led to the suffering of African Americans seeking to escape slavery and caught up in the brutality of the bounty hunters who sought to profit from the legislation. Fillmore also founded the university and served as chancellor until his death in 1874. In addition to providing historical balance at the commemoration ceremony, Emberton published an op-ed for the January 5, 2018 edition of the *Washington Post* entitled “Remembering the Sins of Millard Fillmore.” Thus, Emberton

modeled the kind of engaged scholarship that we teach in our classrooms by providing a fuller account of Fillmore’s impact on Buffalo and the nation.

The department is also experiencing change in our personnel. We are pleased to announce the addition of three new faculty to the department. Camilo Trumper is moving from UB’s Department of Transnational Studies to History in fall 2018. Trumper is a historian of modern Latin America whose first book, *Ephemeral Histories: Public Art, Politics and the Struggle for the Street in Chile*, has already garnered multiple prizes. In addition to teaching a wide variety of courses, Trumper will also be serving as the director of undergraduate studies, taking over from Carole Emberton who led the department through the transition to the new UB Curriculum with great skill and good will. We have also hired two clinical assistant professors into the department. Cari Casteel earned her PhD from Auburn University and will be teaching courses on the history of business and technology. Sarah Handley-Cousins earned her PhD in our department and has been working as a staff assistant for the last two years. Her forthcoming book, *Bodies in Blue: Disability in the Civil War North*, will be published by the University of Georgia Press. In addition to teaching a variety of courses, Handley-Cousins will be assisting Prof. Michael Rembis in running the Disability Studies program.

Sadly, we also had some departures this past year. Our colleague, Adam Malka, will be starting a new job at the University of Oklahoma this fall. And our assistant to the chair, Susan Buttaccio, left to take a coveted position at the Buffalo and Erie County Library system. Replacing her is the very capable Michelle Burger, who is serving as our new assistant to the chair. Both on the departmental level and in the discipline, our world is hardly “tranquil.” But the department will continue to adapt to rapid change with flexibility and foresightedness.

Why History Matters: A Conversation with UB Distinguished Speaker Susan E. Rice

In March 2018, Professor and Chair Victoria Wolcott moderated the conversation with UB Distinguished Speaker, former UN Ambassador and National Security Advisor Susan E. Rice, as part of the 42nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Commemoration. After Rice gave her remarks on Dr. King, she participated in a question and answer period. As moderator, Prof. Wolcott was able to sneak in the first question — about how Rice believed her undergraduate degree in history shaped her life and work.

Rice responded: “History has always been a passion for me. I loved the rigor, and studying history turned out to be extraordinary prep for the career I ended up in, teaching me critical thinking and historical perspective. My history studies also help me to frame and put into perspective the issues of the day.”

Visiting Speakers

Throughout the past year, the department was lucky to play host to several fascinating historians who visited to share their work with UB students and faculty. In October 2017, **Ann Little**, professor at Colorado State University, came to speak about her new book, *The Many Captivities of Esther Wheelwright* (Yale University Press, 2016). Professor Little, who is known for her online persona “Historiann,” also led a conversation about being a historian in public alongside producers of *Dig: A History Podcast*.

Later that month, we hosted **Liliana Fernández Mollinedo**, a historian at the University of Havana, Cuba, who spoke about the historical roots and contemporary issues in U.S.-Cuba relations.

Jonathan Davies, University of Warwick, led a research workshop with dissertating graduate students, and also spoke about violence in early modern Europe.

Mary Fissell, who teaches at Johns Hopkins University and serves as an editor of the *Bulletin of the History of Medicine*, also led a seminar for graduate students, focusing on publishing journal articles. Additionally, Professor Fissell gave a talk entitled: “Before Sex Ed: The Long History of Sex Advice.”

In the spring, **David Herzberg** helped bring two speakers to give lectures on United States drug history. **Isaac Campos** of the University of Cincinnati spoke on myths about marijuana and their impact on drug policy in Mexico and the U.S., and **Emily Dufton** spoke about the convoluted history of American marijuana laws.

In April, the Department of History joined with the Confucius Institute to sponsor a visit from **Scott Tong**, a journalist for the public radio program *Marketplace*. Tong spoke on his recent book: *A Village with My Name: A History of China's Opening to the World*. In the book, Tong explores the history of China's opening to the West through his own family history.



Susan E. Rice (left) and Victoria Wolcott



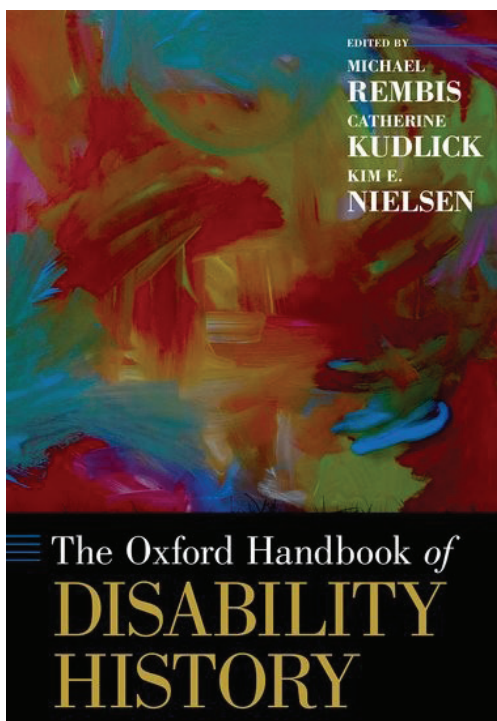
Speaker Ann Little with Professor Erik Seeman

Faculty Publications

Michael Rembis, along with historians Catherine Kudlick and Kim E. Nielsen, published an *Oxford Handbook of Disability History* in July 2018. The handbook includes chapters on a variety of topics and time periods, offering a broad introduction to the burgeoning field of disability history.

Ndubueze Mbah published an article in the *Journal of Women's History*. The article, entitled "Female Masculinities, Dissident Sexuality, and the Material Politics of Gender in Early Twentieth-Century Igboland," examines women's individual challenges to changing practices of gendered access, sexuality and power. By performing *ogaranya* (wealth-power), masculinity through trade, mediumship and matronship, Ohafia women expanded the ideological scope of gender hegemony beyond colonial patriarchal structures in early 20th century West Africa. The article appears in the journal's Winter 2017 issue.

Erik Seeman, along with co-editor Jorge Cañizares-Esguerra, published a second edition of *The Atlantic in Global History* from Routledge Press.



Humanities Beyond the Academy



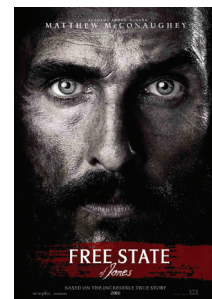
CAREER DIVERSITY FOR HISTORIANS

Expanding the marketability of history MA and PhD graduates is a pressing issue for the historical profession. Over the past several years, the Department of History has taken steps to prepare our graduates for a wide variety of exciting and satisfying careers, both inside and outside the academy. Last year, this commitment was demonstrated in the **Humanities Beyond the Academy** symposium. This year, the department secured funding to help expand our work on this issue.

In March, the department was one of 20 universities chosen by the American Historical Association for a **Career Diversity Implementation Grant**. Each grant winner received funding to support a Career Diversity Fellow, a PhD candidate who will collaborate with a faculty team to better prepare history PhDs for careers inside and beyond the academy. The department's first fellow will be **Shuko Tamao**, who will receive training from the AHA and help Chair Victoria Wolcott and Director of Graduate Studies Kristin Stapleton implement new career diversity initiatives. One of their first changes is the creation of two new courses for incoming graduate students focused on professional development and career planning. These courses will be offered for the first time in fall 2018.

Civil War Film Series

Over the Spring 2018 semester, Carole Emberton facilitated a Civil War film series featuring films that were included in her "The American Civil War" course. Professor Emberton introduced each film, then led a question-and-answer session. Among the films presented were *The Free State of Jones*, *Dakota 38*, *Ride with the Devil* and *13th*.



Gail Radford, who first joined the faculty in 1993, was awarded a 2018 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. According to those who nominated her, Professor Radford is "one of the most conscientious, thoughtful and generous teachers" at UB, one who "creates a congenial and academically challenging classroom atmosphere that encourages discussion, active learning and a group spirit of inquiry." She has taught 12 classes during her time at UB, ranging from the U.S. History survey and political history to specialty courses on the New Deal and the Cold War, and has supervised numerous dissertations, master's theses and undergraduate honors theses. The award is richly deserved!

Tamara Thornton has had a busy year, traveling for speaking engagements related to her newest book, *Nathaniel Bowditch and the Power of Numbers: How a Nineteenth-Century Man of Business, Science, and the Sea Changed American Life*. In January, Professor Thornton was honored by the Massachusetts Historical Society with the 2018 Peter J. Gomes Book Award. As part of the award ceremony, Professor Thornton participated in a conversation with Massachusetts Historical Society president Catherine Allgor about historical biography.

Erik Seeman took part in Babeville's Science & Art Cabaret, where he gave a talk on Victorian-era death photography entitled: "The Corpse in the Parlor."

Michael Rembis was profiled by *UB Now* for his work bringing together different disability advocacy groups in the Buffalo community to create DEAN, the Disability Education and Advocacy Network. In 2017, DEAN organized the creation of a book, *(Dis)Integration: Buffalo Poets, Writers, Artists 2017*, featuring poetry, short stories and artwork from people living with disabilities in the Western New York area.

Kristin Stapleton gave a talk at the Yale Macmillan Center at the invitation of the Council on East Asian Studies. She spoke about the subject of her recent book, urban planning and development in Chinese cities.

Adam Rome discussed his paper, "DuPont and the Limits of Corporate Environmentalism," at a research seminar at the Hagley Museum in Wilmington, Del. The Hagley Museum is the site of the gunpowder works founded by E. I. DuPont in 1802.

Several faculty members published op-eds this year, demonstrating the department's commitment to sharing history with the public:

> **Carole Emberton** wrote about one of Buffalo's most famous sons, Millard Fillmore, and his role in the Fugitive Slave Act, as well as the historical context for the White House Chief of Staff's comments about compromise and the Civil War.

> **Victoria Wolcott** wrote about the history of race and amusement parks in response to the decision by theme park Six Flags to remove the Confederate flag from its six flags.

> **Sarah Handley-Cousins** offered historical context for the recent policy change adding work requirements for able-bodied Medicaid applicants.

> **David Herzberg** co-wrote an essay about racist roots of the opioid crisis.

> **Patrick McDevitt** wrote about student athletes and the NCAA's insistence on maintaining amateur status.



(left) **Tamara Thornton** (right) speaking with Catherine Allgor

(right) **Erik Seeman**

Milton Plesur Graduate Conference

The 2018 Milton Plesur Graduate history conference went off without a hitch once again this spring. The conference was organized by the 2017-2018 executive board of the Graduate History Association, including President Derek Taylor, Vice President Emily Bowlus-Peck, Secretary Joshua Keil, Treasurer Patrick Nash and assisted by other graduate students. The GHA hosted keynote Robert Deal, professor of history at Marshall University, who gave a talk entitled: “Rediscovering Oceanus: Twenty-first Century Approaches to the Atlantic World.”

Awards and Achievements

> PhD candidate **Marissa Rhodes** was awarded the Graduate Paper Prize at the Mid-Atlantic Conference of British Studies this spring for her paper entitled: “It Sprang from the Teats of the Devil’s Breast: Wet Nurses’ Bodies as Vectors of Disease and Defect.” The paper was drawn from her dissertation research on wet-nursing in London and Philadelphia.

> **Derek Taylor, Emily Bowlus-Peck** and **Richard Deverell** were each awarded a fellowship from the Anne Reilly Tirone (MA ‘94) and Charles S. Tirone (MD ‘63) Endowed Scholarship Fund this past spring. The fellowship funding, generously provided by the Tirone family, will be put to good use as these doctoral students conduct dissertation research.

> Two PhD candidates were awarded fellowships for 2018-2019: **Alexandra Prince** received a Gender Institute Fellowship and **Elizabeth Garner Masarik** received a Humanities Institute Advanced PhD Fellowship. Alexandra was also recently awarded a four-week research fellowship from the Mary Baker Eddy Library to research the history of Christian Science and the life of its founder, Mary Baker Eddy.

> **Andee Nero**, who is heading out on research in the coming year, will be supported by two research fellowships. Andee was named a 2018-2019 Library Resident Research Fellow at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, and she also won one of just four Lapidus Pre-doctoral Short-term Fellowships for 2018-2019 from the Omohundro Institute. She will use this funding to do dissertation research in Philadelphia and Boston.

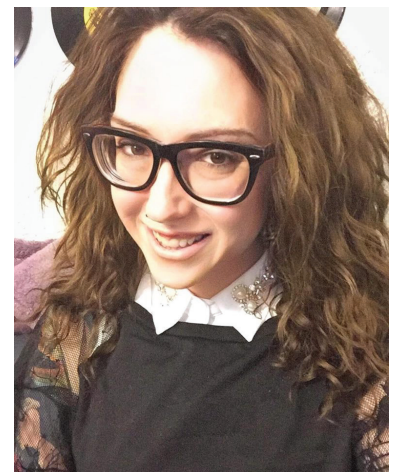
> **David Strittmatter**, who graduated in May 2018, won an Excellence in Graduate Teaching award from the UB College of Arts and Sciences. David was one of six students recognized out of the 650 graduate teaching assistants in the College.

> **Elizabeth Garner Masarik**, who is currently writing a dissertation on the history of women’s activism during the Progressive era, was interviewed by public radio program *Texas Standard*, based in Austin, Texas, about the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. Elizabeth also took part in the annual Susan B. Anthony Gender & Sexuality Writing Collective. The Collective is designed to bring together scholars to engage with one another in interdisciplinary discussions led by established scholars in the humanities, arts and social sciences whose experience and outstanding research in their respective fields will benefit and help shape the papers.

> **Xuening Kong**, who graduated from the MA program in 2018, won this year’s Graduate Student Paper prize from the New York Conference on Asian Studies. The paper will be awarded in September 2018 at the conference. Xuening’s writing also earned her the Master’s Paper Prize for the best Master’s Thesis written in the department in the preceding year for her thesis: “Experiencing Normal Education: Beijing Normal University for Women and Its Students.” Xuening recently traveled to Ashoka University in New Delhi, India, to speak on a panel at the Association for Asian Studies AAS-in-Asia conference.



Alex Prince



Andee Nero



(left to right) President Satish Tripathi, Patrick McDevitt, David Strittmatter, D. Scott Mackay, Graham Hammill



Xuening Kong

Graduate Report

Our department continues to benefit from the presence of creative, smart and hardworking graduate students. Over the past year, we awarded five PhD degrees to students who have become experts, respectively, in religion and censorship in 18th century France, the commemoration of history through monuments in modern Britain, the development of hydro-power in 20th century China, workers' activism in Britain between 1968 and 1985, and the lives of WWII veterans. Alexander Yarbrough, author of the study of France, received a joint degree from UB and the Sorbonne, with a marathon bilingual defense of his work.

Many of our MA students also completed their degrees. The prize for the best MA project was awarded this year to Xuening Kong, who wrote about the challenges facing the first generation of Chinese women to enroll in university classes a hundred years ago.

The department continues to collaborate with the American Historical Association as part of its Career Diversity initiative. We are one of only 20 programs to receive a grant to support the appointment of a Career Diversity fellow to help us develop strategies to train our graduate students in ways that will give them broad career prospects inside and outside the academy. Shuko Tamao, an advanced PhD student interested in public history and disability studies, will serve as Career Diversity fellow for the next two years. With her help, this fall we are inaugurating a new class on techniques for effective teaching. In the spring, she will coordinate a professional development course. We hope to invite graduate alumni to help teach that course by sharing their own strategies and advice on skills useful for historians as they seek a wide variety of careers. **If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Kristin Stapleton at kstaple@buffalo.edu.**

In summer 2018, the department was invited to participate in UB's [Social Impact Program](#), which teams up MBA students with Social Work graduate students to design projects for local organizations that serve particular communities. With support from the College of Arts and Sciences, History graduate student Michael Harper joined one of nine such teams this summer. He and his team are working with "Explore Buffalo" to develop a plan for incorporating its walking tours into the curricula for fourth grade classes so that local schoolchildren will experience Buffalo and its history as memorably – and meaningfully – as possible. The work culminates in a "pitch" competition, where each team makes a case for funding for its project in front of judges.

As usual, our graduate students have traveled far and wide to attend conferences and visit archives and libraries. The department continues to support these scholarly activities with small grants. We welcome contributions to support graduate student travel and research. This coming year, three of our PhD students working on dissertation research will receive generous funding from the Anne and Charles Tirone Scholarship, an award established by the Tirone family. We thank them and the many others who have supported our graduate programs!



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

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

New Courses

This past year, the department offered a new historical methods course for undergraduate students entitled: **“Historical Writing.”** The course is History’s answer to the new university-wide required writing course, “Communications Literacy II.” Designed by Carole Emberton and taught in the Spring 2018 semester by Sarah Handley-Cousins, the course used the history of the American presidency as a gateway to practicing historical skills.

Though the course focuses on historical thinking and writing skills, it is open to students from all disciplines. This semester, the class included students from Legal Studies, Architecture, Biology and Nursing. Students learned about everything from the basics of historiography to how to format a footnote. They also spent time poring over primary sources, including some from the Department of History’s own collection of Abraham Lincoln iconography, in practice for writing their research papers. The course will be offered in both Fall and Spring semesters in the coming years.

Undergraduate Report

In an effort to provide students better—and earlier—advising within the department, we began admitting freshmen directly to the major and eliminated the previous requirement that they first complete two History courses. In the past, it was not uncommon for graduating seniors to neglect to fill out the application to the major and meet with the DUS until their final semester! Most completed the degree requirements, but a few were missing some due to the lack of advising. Our goal is to ensure that all new majors are welcomed to the department and advised about courses, internships and scholarships as soon as possible.

This year’s graduation speaker was Melissa Brown, executive director of the Buffalo History Museum. Brown received her BA in History and a Minor in Museum Studies from Oswego State College and a master’s degree in historical administration from Eastern Illinois University. She joined the staff at BHM—then the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society—as a collections assistant in 1998. She was instrumental in the creation of many of the museum’s exhibits, including: “John Mix Stanley’s Trial of Red Jacket” and the “Buffalo Bills 50th Anniversary Season,” in addition to consulting on more than a dozen major exhibits at the museum and other Western N.Y. institutions.

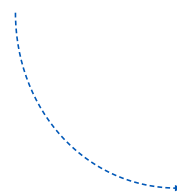
Lauren Kacherski was our Outstanding Senior this year. Lauren is a native of Middle Island, N.Y., and graduates magna cum laude with a BA in History and Spanish and a Minor in Education. Lauren was the recipient of the Selig Adler Memorial Scholarship for two consecutive years. She also received a Milton Plesur scholarship to study abroad in Barcelona, Spain. She works in the Student Association as the Director of Club Services, volunteers at the Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site, and works in the Buffalo Public Schools in ESL classrooms helping students prepare for the U.S. History Regents Exam. As a member of the History honors program, Lauren completed a senior thesis entitled: “An Up-

Hill Battle: The Introduction of the Australian Ballot in N.Y. State, 1888-1890,” under the direction of Professor Gail Radford.

The faculty awarded the prize for best Honors Thesis to Corinne Cardinale for her thesis: “A Penny for Your Rags: Rag Pickers and the Paper Industry in the Later 19th Century.” The paper explored the economic structure and labor history of the paper industry, in particular the contributions and daily lives of impoverished rag pickers, whose work—often ignored by historians of the paper industry—made the mass production of paper possible. Corinne’s thesis brought together the history of business and technology with a sensitive social history of the lives of ordinary people struggling to make a living amidst the tumult of the Industrial Revolution.

And finally, we welcome **Professor Camilo Trumper** as the new Director of Undergraduate Studies!

« **Carole Emberton,**
Director of Undergraduate Studies



PHI ALPHA THETA UPDATE



Phi Alpha Theta Initiation, December 2017

UB's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national History honors society, had a full year in 2017-2018! We kicked off the semester with a walking tour of South Buffalo—its Irish-American and industrial history—courtesy of “Explore Buffalo,” finishing up at Gene McCarthy’s Tavern for lunch. Later in the semester, we had our 4th annual 1950s Movie Fest, featuring those weird and wonderful “educational” films of the era, addressing everything from how to be popular with girls to what to do in case of atomic attack. Fifties food (Girl Scout cookies and Ring Dings) set the scene. In December, we held our annual initiation ceremony, welcoming a record number of new members, celebrating with maximum ritual and maximum chocolate cake.

For PATers, the focus of Spring Semester is the regional Phi Alpha Theta conference, hosted this year by Nazareth College in Rochester on April 7, 2018. Once more, we set a chapter record, as 15 students presented their research before students and faculty from colleges and universities throughout western and central New York. Several members came

to listen to papers, some with the thought of presenting next year. There were prizes as well: Corrine Cardinale took away a “Best Paper” award and Elizabeth Hart received an “Honorable Mention.” All gave polished performances and handled the Q&A with poise and authority. It was a proud day, with wonderful esprit de corps!

Meanwhile, we hosted a Game Night for members, but with a twist. No computers here, just a 1950s games of *Careers* (a tad bit of gender bias in this one!) and *Go to the Head of the Class* (people actually knew the answers to those questions—we felt like dunces!). We also played the circa-1860 game of *Life* (you can land on “Gambling” or “Suicide”) plus its circa-1960 version (“Millionaire Acres” and the “Poorhouse”).

Next year, we’ll be gearing up to host the 2019 PAT regional conference in the spring, so it will be an all-hands-on-deck year for us. We’d love to have alums attend—stay tuned to the department’s Facebook page for more information!

If you’d like to support our chapter’s activities (just five dollars pays for one student to go on an “Explore Buffalo” walking tour), you can make a contribution to our department’s dedicated PAT fund. PAT membership fees go to the society’s central office, so our students would appreciate your help!

Phi Alpha Theta Conference, April 2018



SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus Georg Iggers



Professor Georg Iggers (left) with Professor Andreas Daum in 2007



Georg and Wilma Iggers, 1959

The Department of History was terribly sad to learn of the passing of long-time faculty member, SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus Georg Iggers, on Sunday, Nov. 26, 2017. Professor Iggers fled Nazi Germany in 1938, later earning a PhD from the University of Chicago. He arrived at UB in 1965, where he taught European intellectual history until 2007. Professor Iggers was a life-long activist for civil rights, working with the NAACP and helping to shape the lawsuit that eventually desegregated the Little Rock school district in 1957. In 1953, Iggers became the first white man inducted into the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity for his work in the effort of the Civil Rights movement.

In 1968, Professor Iggers published his first book, entitled: *The German Conception of History*, followed by *New Directions in European Historiography*; *Historiography in the Twentieth Century*; and *A Global History of Modern Historiography*, co-authored with Qinjia Edward Wang and Supriya Mukherjee. In 2006, he co-wrote a memoir, *Two Lives in Uncertain Times: Facing the Challenges of the 20th Century as Scholars and Citizens*, with his wife, Wilma Iggers, professor emerita of modern languages at Canisius College, reflecting on how their lives as scholars and citizens intersected with some of the most important moments of the 20th century. These books have been translated into 14 languages. Professor Iggers's work was supported by fellowships from the American Philosophical Society, the Fulbright Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Guggenheim Foundation. He is survived by his wife Wilma and their three sons.

Professor John Drane Milligan

Professor John D. Milligan passed away on July 8, 2018. Professor Milligan taught in the Department of History for several decades and was a popular teacher. Professor Milligan, his late wife Joyce, (who served as a secretary in the Department of History), and their children created an annual scholarship awarded to history majors from underrepresented minorities.

Destiny Johnson, BA '15, a recipient of the Milligan Scholarship and now a law student in the University at Buffalo School of Law, recalls Professor Milligan's kindness: "I was a recipient of the Milligan award as an undergraduate. I got to meet Mr. Milligan and his daughter at the awards banquet. They were two of the most genuine and kind individuals I had ever met. I am thankful for his generosity and encouragement."

UB Distinguished Professor Emeritus David Gerber penned the following remembrance of Professor Milligan:

Professor John Milligan, a longtime member of the UB Department of History, passed away on July 8 in his 93rd year. Milligan will be remembered by many generations of history students for his engaging courses on the U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction as well as on race, slavery and historiography and theory in history. He will also be remembered for his consistent support for high standards of instruction that sought to engage students in caring about moral issues when and where they presented themselves in the study of the past. Students had no stronger advocate in UB History during the years of Milligan's presence in the department. A man of strong but disciplined and understated social and political commitments, Milligan was able to convey his concerns for the world and the place of history in the efforts to improve the world without ever insisting that the price for gaining his respect and affection was that students or colleagues had to agree with him. As a young faculty member, I had no better model, on the occasions when I was wise enough to seek one, for conducting myself with thoughtfulness and restraint than John, who was, by example rather than preaching, a very effective mentor.

John Milligan was born in New York City, but like his father, Carl Glover Milligan, who graduated with an engineering degree in 1896, sought his education in the Midwest at the University of Michigan. After service in the Caribbean in the Army Air Corps in World War II guarding the Panama Canal, like many returning veterans, Milligan was well into his twenties when he received his BA in 1952 and his MA in 1953. He went on to receive his doctorate at Michigan in 1961, serving as a teaching fellow for two years while engaged in research on his dissertation. Milligan came to UB in 1962, and taught here consistently until his retirement in 2000. While at UB, Milligan demonstrated his concerns for students and for the department's teaching program by serving as Graduate Program Director during 1963-1968 and 1994-1995 and Undergraduate Program Director during 1979-1986. At a time when the department chair got relief from summer administrative duties, Milligan was the summer chair in 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1988.

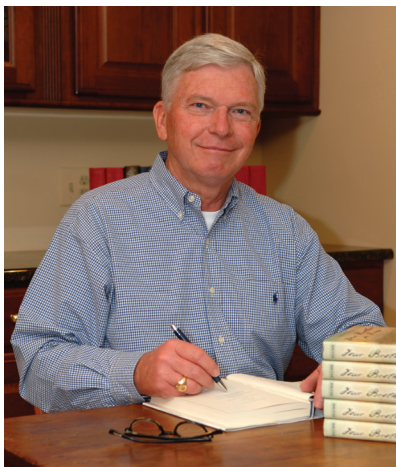
Professor Milligan's intellectual specialization was military history, not the new military-and-society type of social and cultural history of warfare, but rather the older strategy-and-tactics type of military history. His dissertation became the basis for his outstanding monograph, *Gunboats Down the Mississippi*, which was published in 1965 and in a second edition in 1980. It analyzed the neglected Union naval campaign that helped greatly to contain the Confederate war effort to the area east of the Mississippi River. The book continues to be cited as a thorough survey of that effective campaign.

I always found Milligan's engagement with military history somewhat difficult to understand. A gentle, soft-spoken man who abhorred violence, I wondered what about war held an interest for him. The answer lay in his various engagements with the past. He believed in the Union cause as necessary to end slavery, and respected the men who saw it to success on the battlefield. His analytical interests were in questions of the assertion and rewarding of military leadership among individual officers, each in Milligan's telling with his own singular and significant character, within the complex hierarchy that is a military institution.

Milligan and his wife Joyce, who died in 2007, were participants, often in leadership roles, in many progressive causes within Buffalo having to do with opposing war, desegregation and racial equality, civil liberties and social reform, and were active in a number of local and national political campaigns. The Milligans expressed their concern with racial justice in setting up the Joyce J. and John D. Milligan and Family Scholarships for underrepresented minority students studying history at UB.

Professor Milligan leaves four daughters and one grandchild as well as former colleagues and students to remember him.

David Gerber
July 18, 2018



Robert C. Plumb

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

I went to high school in Fayetteville, N.Y., a suburb of Syracuse. The school was a “central school” and covered the towns of Fayetteville and Manlius. We had a diversity of students. My classmates were the sons and daughters of Syracuse University professors, corporate executives (General Electric, Carrier, Bristol-Myers, etc.), local tradesmen, small business owners and dairy farmers. Students from very different backgrounds had an opportunity to take classes, socialize and play sports together. Our family dentist knew of my possible interest in dental or medical studies, so as a graduate of the UB Dental School, he lobbied my parents to send me to Buffalo. After a semester or two at UB, I found that a career in dentistry or medicine was not for me. But I also discovered the incredible courses available to liberal arts students at UB. My deep interest in history coupled with a knowledge of UB’s stellar history faculty made my choice of a major easy. By the end of my sophomore year, I had completed the required courses and was accepted into the UB Department of History. I found the department to be filled with bright, motivated students and a faculty staffed by professors who were the best of the best.

Could you tell us about your career trajectory after you left UB? What role do you believe your history studies played in your career?

After I graduated from UB, I decided to fulfill my obligation to Uncle Sam (aka the “draft”) by attending Navy Officer Candidate School (OCS) in Newport, R.I. I discovered that my

liberal arts education (with classes in mathematics, science and language in addition to history classes) gave me the necessary intellectual tools to succeed as a Navy Officer. I felt my studies at UB sharpened my critical thinking skills, helped me communicate with clarity and deal with complex situations. When I finished my Navy obligation, I attended graduate school at Syracuse University’s Newhouse School. After completing the requirements for my master’s degree, I was hired by General Electric in its Advertising and Promotion Training Program. I advanced in GE, taking jobs with increasing responsibility that involved assignments with GE’s domestic and international businesses. In 1996, I left GE after being recruited by Fannie Mae, the home mortgage company. I worked on marketing assignments until I retired in 2005. All along my career path, my study of history helped me with problem solving, decision making and communications in the corporate world.

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

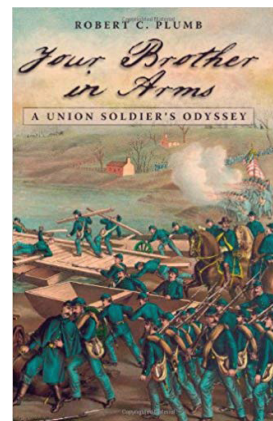
My primary motivation to major in history was my own personal interest and curiosity about history—European, American and Asian—in different time periods. Today, I continue my on-going interest in history by reading history, attending history seminars and conferences near me, and, of course, writing about history.

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

I may sound like a broken record here, but the faculty at UB in the Department of History were truly amazing. They knew their subject inside and out, and were able to communicate that understanding with clarity and passion to us students.

Do you have any stories that stand out for you from your time at UB, or from your time in the department? Favorite faculty members or classes, etc.?

As a junior I took a class in Medieval France. For the final exam, the professor gave us three different essay questions. We had to choose one to answer. One question was in Latin, one in French and one in English. Our answers could be in English. I could translate the Latin question, but felt I knew more about the English question and could do a better



job with my response to that question. I might add that these were not simple questions to understand or answer regardless of the language. I recall that I did well on

the exam, and the course, but not without some anxiety along the way.

You’ve written several history books in recent years! Could you tell us about the projects, and how you came to writing?

I have had an interest in writing and history for a long time. But it wasn’t until I retired from my corporate job that I had the necessary time to research and write a book. I had one book published in 2011 by the University of Missouri Press: *Your Brother in Arms: A Union Soldier’s Odyssey*. The book is based on letters from a Union soldier who served in the 155th Pennsylvania Infantry from 1862 to 1865. For the narrative, I wrapped the letters in historical context so the reader could understand what was happening as the soldier wrote his letters. The original letters—42 in total—were obtained by a relative and given to me in the late 1990s. When I retired, I had the time to transcribe the letters and do the necessary archival and battlefield research required to write the context part of the book.

My second book project is under contract by Potomac Books, an imprint of The University of Nebraska Press. Right now we’re in the pre-publication stages. I expect the book to be released by mid-2019. The title is *The Better Angels: Five Women Who Changed Civil War America*. The book covers the critical contributions of Harriet Tubman, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Julia Ward Howe, Clara Barton and Sarah Josepha Hale at key times during the Civil War. I felt that Civil War bookshelves were filled with military history and the men who led the troops. I make the case in *The Better Angels* that the five women made some of the most significant and far-reaching contributions during the war without commanding an army or firing a shot.



Riva Hirsch (left) and Josephine Bolling McCall (right) with Jake Newsome

> **Jake Newsome**, PhD '16, sent along this photograph and story from his work as a program officer for National Academic Programs at the United States Holocaust Museum: "Recently, I had the honor of moderating the conversation between two incredible women as part of a USHMM event co-organized with the Institute for Human Rights at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. This is Riva Hirsch (left), who survived the Holocaust at the age of seven, and Josephine Bolling McCall (right), whose father was lynched in Alabama in 1947. They shared their powerful stories about the personal impact of antisemitism and racism. Their tenderness, resilience and calls-to-action were moving."

> **Mark Lempke**, PhD '11, delivered the Stark Lecture at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, S.D. He was in



Mark Lempke

the area after giving a talk as part of the McGovern *Living the Legacy* gala in honor of the late Senator and presidential candidate, George McGovern. Mark recently published a book on Senator

McGovern with University of Massachusetts Press.



Richard Mikulski

> **Richard Mikulski**, PhD '14, recently left his previous position

as Documents and Reference Librarian at Drew University in Madison, N.J. to become Assistant Professor and Social Sciences Librarian at Portland State Librarian.

> **Ilaria Scaglia**, PhD '11, previously Assistant Professor at Columbus State University, has accepted a new



Ilaria Scaglia

position as Lecturer at Aston University in Birmingham, England. Ilaria is also serving a term as Membership Outreach Committee Chair of the Coordinating Council for Women in History.

> **David Head**, PhD '10, touched off some nerdy history hilarity on Twitter last summer when he made a joke about his flight number on his way to the annual Society for the History of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) conference: "Flight #1793 is bringing the yellow fever." Southwest Airlines, eager to solve the problem, asked David to give them some more information so they could solve the problem, not realizing he was referencing the yellow fever outbreak that ravaged Philadelphia in the year 1793.

> **Mark Boonshoft**, BA '10, won the 2018-2019 Amanda and Greg Gregory Fellowship from the Fred W. Smith Library for the Study of George Washington. He will be using the fellowship to conduct research for his manuscript, *Monarchical Education and the Making of the American Republic, 1730-1812*. Mark is now Assistant Professor of History at Norwich University.



Mark Boonshoft

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- Connecting with an **alumni chapter** in your area
- **Giving** to UB and making an impact on students
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