



Great Lakes History Conference “History”

Acting on the suggestion of Professors Charles Sorensen and Anthony Travis, the history faculty of Grand Valley State University established the Great Lakes History Conference in 1975 to allow faculty from teaching institutions in the Midwest to present their scholarship to colleagues. Until 1982, the conference was held in the famed Pantlind Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The conference has evolved since its founding, now attracting faculty, graduate students, public historians, and independent scholars from across the country and meeting in the Eberhard Center on GVSU’s downtown campus. The conference places special emphasis on fostering collaboration among scholars in Grand Rapids and West Michigan history, academic and non-academic alike.

Even as the conference changes, it remains a general-interest history conference drawing participants from all fields and all periods. The goals of the conference organizers remain:

- To gather historians to present and discuss their research
- To bridge the divide between the university and the public
- To cultivate interdisciplinary work

The titles listed below are the Great Lake History Conference themes:

- Civil Division
- Private & Public Life
- History & Culture
- The Individual & Society in History
- The Problem of Identity in History
- Historic Perspectives on Diplomacy & Negotiation
- History and the Telling Of It
- The Uses of History
- Culture & Social Change
- From Slavery to Freedom in the Atlantic World
- Challenging Historical Borders: Exploring Intersections Between Nations, Regions and Disciplines
- World History in the 21st Century
- New Perspectives on War & Society
- The History of Racism, Slavery & Identity
- Recognizing the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade
- Gender & Society: Explorations, Discoveries, & Revelations in the Gendered World
- Indigenous Peoples of the Globe: Colonization & Adaptation
- Civil Wars in Domestic and Global Context: Conflict & Resolution: From the Battlefield to the Home Front
- Education & Society

Note: The Great Lakes History Conference did not have themes for a number of years.