

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Updates from the History Department at GVSU



Steeve Buckridge is the recent recipient of a Fulbright Scholars Award for the country of Namibia. During his Fulbright tenure, Professor Buckridge will be teaching at the University of Namibia and conducting archival research and interviews for his next book, *Dress and Trauma: Herero Women and the Aftermath of Genocide in German Southwest Africa, 1900s-2000*.

Bon Voyage, Reda!

The amazing Reda DeYoung, world's coolest Office Coordinator, is leaving us in May after more than thirteen years with the History Department. She is known for her herculean work in making the Great Lakes History Conference successful, her meticulous organization of History Day, her patient listening, and for being Professor McGonagall at Halloween. Asked what she liked about her time with us, Reda said: "Meeting wonderful academics, authors, and speakers from all over the world and getting to know GVSU students who've graduated and are doing great things!" She claims she'll miss walking the halls of MAK and hearing us lecturing as well as "celebrating marriages, births, PhDs, retirements, and published books." The history faculty will sorely miss Reda's presence, "her good-natured witticisms, optimistic outlook, and even an occasional eye-roll." Colleagues describe her as "always cheerful, ready to help in any way she can, asking after how we and our families are doing, and bringing the steadying and much appreciated qualities of good humor and good sense to our office." Thank you Reda! We wish you all the best with "your" lighthouse and other new adventures, in Culleoka and beyond.

AWARD WINNERS

BREEN PRIZE:

Charles Calcaterra

OUTSTANDING HISTORY

MAJOR:

Chrystina Ochsankohl

OUTSTANDING SOCIAL

STUDIES MAJOR:

Mary Meyer

PHI ALPHA THETA INDUCTEES

Chelsea Benoot

Rebekkah Bowen

Coltrane Bodbyl

Mast

Carolyn Corey

David Dehn

T.J. Friedgen

Ysabela Golden

Sophia Kaminski

Alex Michnick

Chrystina

Ochsankohl

FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Appointments

Dr. Nora Salas was appointed Director of the Kutsche Office of Local History in Brooks College.

Publications

Alice Chapman, Christ the Physician: The Medieval Roots of Christus Medicus in Luther, in *The Medieval Luther*

Peter Dobek, *Diplomacy and the Karczma/Taberna: The Role of Cracowian Public Houses in the Diplomatic Practice of the Jagiellonians (1430-1540)*

Chad Lingwood, *A Parvānchī Turned Poet Dilettante: History and the Persian Ghazals of Āq Qoyūnlū Statesman Najm al Dīn Mas'ūd Sāvajī (d. ca. 898/1493)*

Paul Murphy, ed. *The Sower and the Seed: Perspectives on the Intellectual History of the American Midwest*.

Patrick Shan, Assessing Li Dazhao's Role in the New Cultural Movement, in *A Century of Student Movements in China: The Mountain Movers, 1919-2019*.

David Stark, *Crossing the Threshold from Adolescence to Adulthood in Eighteenth Century Puerto Rico: The Baptismal Sponsorship of Enslaved Infants in Arecibo, 1735-1772*.

Student Reflection

by Maddie Nicholls

While this academic year imposed changes on all students (online courses, new classroom procedures, extra precautions, etc.), I quickly found negativity would only cause more problems for me. Instead, I decided to be more appreciative of my professors' efforts as well as acknowledging how great it will feel when more "normal" activities and opportunities are available again. I'm grateful to have had great professors who made me feel like every email, question, and meeting was valued and worthwhile.

As a History and Secondary Ed major, I love to think about how current events will someday appear in history books and in studies. However, before COVID-19, I never truly thought about how my own life experiences will help me teach history to high schoolers. I've realized over this academic year how personal connection and stories can change how we think and learn. Staying at home for weeks at a time, we learned to value relationships and opportunities more, prioritized wants versus needs, and maybe even picked up some new hobbies. Ultimately, I believe that the hardships of this academic year will help me become a more understanding and thoughtful history student and teacher.

A Reflection on Teaching

by Prof. Jason Crouthamel

Teaching the history of Nazi Germany (HST 200) and the Holocaust (HST 400) over the last year has generated intense discussions. Students in these courses initiated interesting comparisons between the 1930s and contemporary encounters with extremist rhetoric, the mainstreaming of racism in politics, and the normalization of violence. Conversations about Christopher Browning's book, *Ordinary Men*, a study of the motives and behaviors of German soldiers engaged in mass shootings, resonated with students who reflected on the universal lessons of the Holocaust and what ordinary human beings are capable of doing under certain conditions. While I emphasize differences in particular social, political and economic circumstances, it's been rewarding to see how students can apply the lessons of the past to the present.

A Message from the Chair

COVID has taken its toll. The teacher-scholars of the GVSU History Department persist in their mission to inspire student learning, expand historical imaginations, and advance the discipline through scholarship, teacher education, and public presentation. This is my first year as chair of this department, and it indeed has been a difficult one. But the year has also shown our mettle, our grit, our versatility in the face of daunting pressures. The inspiration continues via new teaching media. Remarkable scholarship is hitting the press. New Social Studies teachers are entering classrooms. I am privileged to serve a faculty and staff as outstanding as this one. Our students are remarkable as well. This year over sixty new graduates in History and Social Studies enter the world, extraordinarily prepared, with degrees from our department. GVSU is turning sixty-years old as an institution, and the History Department has been there since the start. We continue this labor of liberal-arts, democratic education with pride. -Prof. Mike Huner

