

2021

History Newsletter, 2020-2021

University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Department of History

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The History NEWSLETTER

For Alumni and Friends, Department of History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

ISSUE NO. XXXXIX, 2020-2021

Hear, Hear, Herr Hare

As predicted (see *History Newsletter* 2017-2018), Administration's diabolical project to depopulate our Department and blow huge holes in our curriculum continues unabated. For the fourth time in a row,



Professor Laurence Hare

History's chair has been shanghaied over to the dark side. First, it was Lynda Coon, then Kathy Sloan, then Calvin White, and now Jim Gigantino—all given a title like "deputy dean" and carted off to a bunker someplace to push buttons and stuff. We never see any of them anymore—except Lynda Coon who will

occasionally buzz Old Main in the helicopter that some moneybags bought the Honors College. You'll look out the office window and see her hovering. "Hey ya, Kitten!" you'll cry. "You're a rock star, Cupcake," she'll shout over the roar of the rotors and then, when she's being sincere, parachute you a bottle of gin.

Jim Gigantino, our latest abductee, had been chair since 2018. His steady hand saw us through tough times, most especially the first ten months of the pandemic. Indeed, his daily, then weekly, communiques provided

| **Cont. p. 2**

Department Flickers Back To Life

Our beloved community wasn't much in evidence in 2020-2021. Sure, classes got taught, theses and dissertations got defended, books got published, honors got earned, and meetings got met. But it was all done at a distance, eroding the communal bonds. Many on the faculty choose to teach remotely and, for the most part, remained off campus. And even those of us who taught "face to face" found few faces to face. Students will tell their parents and the U of A administration that they prefer in-person instruction. But a lot of them took a powder at the first opportunity, opting for the far side of the hybrid classroom.

This fall, Old Main looks more like its old self. In many cases, Historians are seeing one another for the first time since the Trump administration, and the older among us might eventually be able to pick the younger out in a police line-up. Again, the halls peal with our arcane academic banter. "Sez who?" "Sez me!" "Yeah, well, you're nuts, Mac!" More importantly, students have returned to our halls and classrooms to peer at their phones--and also maybe learn a little. It was hot here in Fayetteville during the first month of the fall semester, and many of the undergraduates were clothed in not much more than their mandated masks. So even if official travel remained mostly shut down, faculty saw London, faculty saw France. One thing we haven't seen much of in the Department, mercifully, has been meetings. Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty viral scourge may speedily pass away. But at least we can thank COVID-19—and Laurence Hare—for breaking us of the meeting habit. ■

Hare Cont. | many of us our sole connection to reality (albeit only a tenuous one in some cases). But once Workday—our HR “platform” and angry god—was appeased in January 2021, Gigantino became associate dean of the Graduate School and International Education and, we think, minister of parking.

Fortunately, our thinning ranks yielded one ready to head once more unto the breach—Associate Professor J. Laurence Hare. Hare, having earned his doctorate at the University of North Carolina, came to the U of A in 2010 to teach modern European history, with a focus on Germany and Scandinavia. He is the author of *Excavating Nations: Archaeology, Museums, and the German-Danish Borderlands* (Toronto, 2015) and *Essential Skills for Historians: A Practical Guide to Researching the Past* (Bloomsbury, 2020). Hare has,

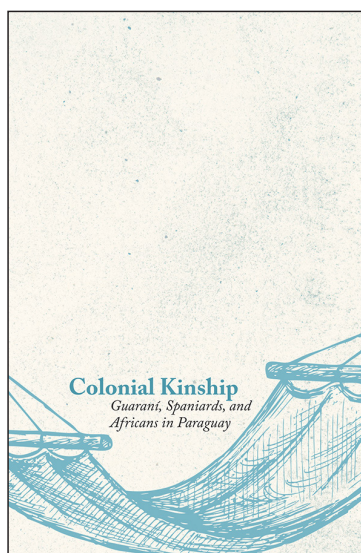
since 2015, been director of International and Global Studies, which used to be called International Affairs back when elderly professors were getting mixed up with Argentine firecrackers. But what best fits Laurence to chair History is his service as a police officer years ago. Back in Chattanooga, our Joe Friday dealt with even tougher customers than us—unruly mobs (even worse than us!), bunco artists (even worse than us!), wild animals (even worse than us!), newsletter shirkers (couldn't be worse than us!). When he says “Be there. Aloha!” you can bet even junior faculty show up for department functions. BA, MA, PhD—disappoint Hare and the only degree that will matter will be the third.

So, what do you think Chair Hare will be named deputy dean of in two years? Place your bets with the newsletter editor. ■

The Paraguay Way

For those of us who haven't visited Asunción since Operation Reptile wrapped, Associate Professor Shawn Austin offers a reintroduction in *Colonial Kinship: Guaraní, Spaniards, and Africans in Paraguay*, published this past year by the University of New Mexico Press. He explores Spaniards' conquest and colonization of Paraguay in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and their sustained interaction with the Guaraní, the indigenous people of the region. Though the Guaraní were exploited and abused by the Spanish, Austin—as all good historians will do—emphasizes their agency in shaping interethnic relationships and colonial governance, particularly through their understanding of kinship. “When the Spaniards got there,” Austin notes, “there was not a lot of easily extractable wealth. They didn't find mines and the indigenous peoples didn't produce a whole lot of surplus that could then be transformed into capital, or leveraged into higher social positions for the conquistadors. Instead, what the Guaraní offered was their kinship.” Spaniards “married” into Guaraní families, becoming *tovajá* (brothers-in-law) of chieftains in order to obtain women, who were put to labor and, in some case, made sexual partners. Women thus played a central role in

linking the Spanish and indigenous worlds—through their work and in giving birth to the second-generation mestizo population. Earlier scholarship assumed the



Spaniards reduced these Guaraní to the status of slaves. But Austin reminds us that “All forms of servitude and coerced service must be understood in local context.” For the Guaraní, kinship brought expectations of reciprocity, and Spaniards came to assimilate this mode of relations. Austin analyzes the differences and similarities in

African slavery and Indian tribute in early Paraguay and notes that Africans there came to speak Guaraní and, like native peoples, came to shape the larger society. The profound impact the Guaraní had in the creation of the modern nation can be seen most immediately in language, Austin says. “Today, 80 percent of the people in Paraguay speak Guaraní. In most Latin American countries, speaking the indigenous language marks

you as indigenous. In Paraguay, it's become wholly nationalized, with Guaraní as a dominant language among everyday people.”

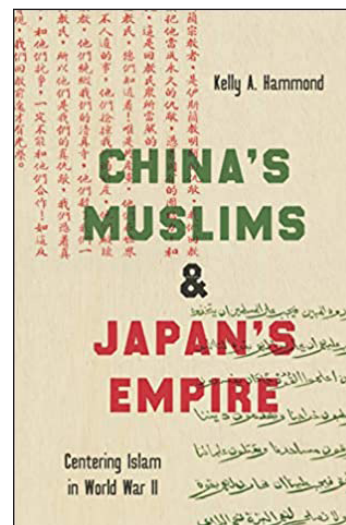
In bringing this history to light, Austin did archival work in Paraguay, Argentina, Bolivia, Spain, and the U.S. He heard Guaraní voices most clearly in litigation records from colonial Paraguay, as well as in *visitas*, records of inspections during which officials would conduct censuses of indigenous people and interview them about local conditions.

If you think all of this sounds swell, you're not alone. The Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies wasted no time in awarding *Colonial Kinship* its Bandelier/Lavrin Book Prize, which honors the year's most outstanding book in colonial Latin American history. Needless to say, Austin was granted tenure here at the U of A, as well as an *encomienda*. Graduate students know to scatter at the first signs of his approach. ■

Rising Star's Rising Sun

Don't call Associate Professor Kelly Hammond the Department's "old China hand." There's nothing old about her. Rather, she has secured her place at the forefront of the rising generation of China hands with publication in 2020 of *China's Muslims & Japan's Empire: Centering Islam in World War II* by the University of North Carolina Press. Hammond arrived at the U of A in 2015, part of a package deal that also included the appointment of Dino as Dogstinguished Professor and Department mascot. From there, Kelly's march has not been long. Instead, she quickly occupied her field's heartland. She is the *Journal of Asian Studies*' associate editor for Modern China and sits on the editorial board of *Twentieth-Century China*. And with her expertise in matters of current concern—not only China but global Islam—she has also become one of the Department's most prominent public intellectuals.

There's nothing coy about the title of Hammond's new book. It tells you what to expect—a transnational history of the Japanese Empire's wooing of Muslim populations in occupied northern China during the Second World War. Hammond shows how this interaction was part of a larger effort to undermine the Chinese Nationalists but also to rally Muslims in the Middle East, Central and South Asia, and North Africa to Japan's "anti-Western, anticommunist agenda"—as well as to foster commercial ties with them. Japan enjoyed some success in this, though Sino-Muslims' response to occupation varied widely. Occupation facilitated increased interactions among Muslims within China and further connected them to transnational



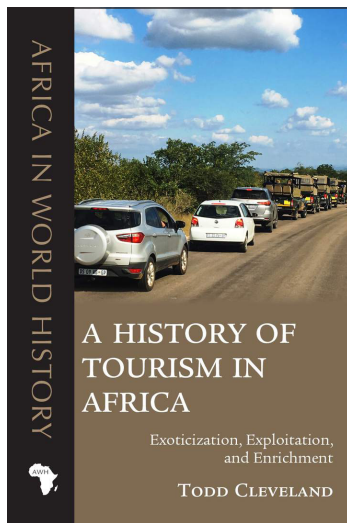
Islamic networks. The ethnoreligious identities forged during the war shaped Sino-Muslims' incorporation into the modern Chinese nation-state, an incorporation, the book notes, that "remains unstable and contested to this day." As UNC's Cemil Aydin says, "Centering Chinese Muslim experience in the process of Japanese imperialism, Chinese nation-building, and China's relations with Muslim countries, Hammond demonstrates why this history matters for contemporary struggles around minority rights and human dignity."

China's Muslims and Japan's Empire is based on research in seven countries, including the People's Republic of China, where access to archives can be difficult, and draws on sources in five languages. Hammond is also fluent in whatever it is they speak in Canada. ■

Cleveland Guardian of Department's Reputation

Historians ought to study the things they love. The newsletter editor, for instance, really needs to get around to writing *Rye, Railroads, and the American Century*. Professor Todd Cleveland clearly follows the same approach. He loves Africa, sports, and travel, and has accordingly produced a cascade of scholarship about these things. This past year Cleveland burnished the Department's reputation as a publication powerhouse, producing two new books and a translation of an earlier one, intended to crack the lucrative Lusophone market.

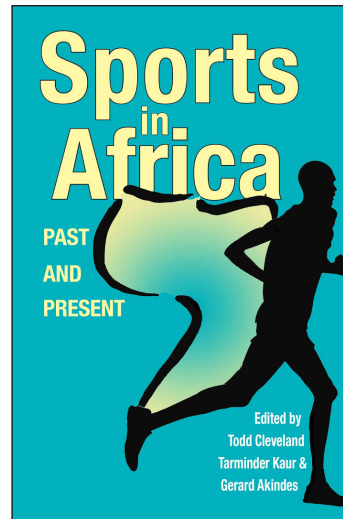
A History of Tourism in Africa: Exoticization, Exploitation, and Enrichment (Ohio University Press) begins with the nineteenth century and carries through to the present day. Cleveland discusses early European tourism in Egypt, hunting expeditions to eastern and southern Africa during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries (think TR, think Hemingway), the efforts of colonial regimes (especially British and



Portuguese) to build a tourism infrastructure, and the subsequent, often similar, projects of newly independent African nations. He concludes with more recent developments—the non-hunting “safari,” ecotourism, “voluntourism,” sex tourism carried on (and how!) by European women, and “heritage” tourism on the part of people of African descent. Through it all he finds tourists possessed of a persistent myth of an “exotic” Africa— what he defines as “an undifferentiated Africa teeming with big game, a land insulated from technology and the industrialized, frenetic pace of the Global North.” As with his earlier work on the diamond trade and professional soccer, Cleveland brings a

sensitive—and unprecedented—attention to African workers in the industry and the complex relationships they navigate. These skilled workers “repeatedly manufacture ‘authentic’ experiences in order to fulfill foreigners’ often delusional, or at least uninformed, expectations.” They make a living, but their stereotyped performances also contribute, Cleveland argues, to “objectification, exoticization, and myriad forms of exploitation.”

The second of this year's volumes, *Sports in Africa: Past and Present* (Ohio University Press), which



Cleveland coedited with Tarminder Kaur of the University of Johannesburg and Gerard Akindes of the Josoor Institute in Qatar, similarly places Africans' experience at the center—in this case of sports originally introduced to the continent by colonial overlords as tools of “civilization.” Cleveland and crew have gathered

seventeen essays on subjects as various as the writing and teaching of African sports history, athletes' resistance to discrimination, the play of apartheid, African weight-lifting and long-distance running, the transnational migration of soccer players, and varieties of fandom. If you can't find something in this volume to fascinate you, you probably don't like sports at all. Go and diagram a sentence instead.

The book for the Portuguese, Lusophone African, and Brazilian markets, *Diamantes em Bruto: Paternalismo Corporativo e Profissionalismo Africano nas Minas da Angola Colonial, 1917-1975* (Imprensa de História Contemporânea, Universidade Nova de Lisboa), is a translation of Cleveland's 2015 study of the Diamond Company of Angola (Diamang), *Diamonds in the Rough: Corporate Paternalism and African Professionalism on the Mines of Colonial Angola, 1917-1975* (Ohio University Press).

Don't think Cleveland is going to cut it out anytime soon. He's got a book on deck and another one in the hole. ■

History Lets Someone Else Have a Chance for a Change

History decided to ease off a bit this year. Those other departments were beginning to scare us. Their resentment of *the* Department's near monopoly in recent decades of Fulbright College honors—master teacher, master researcher, outstanding advisor, Yowell—had moved beyond pouting. To stink-bombs. To wiretaps. To doctored photos. So we decided to let the poor souls “win”—just this once.

Still, the Teaching Academy couldn't help itself. How could it not add yet another member of its best represented department? In 2021, **Todd Cleveland** became the 20th historian elected to the Academy, clinching his status as the Department's five tool player. Cleveland's a celebrated classroom instructor, even while eschewing the hell-fire theatrics and runway stylings of many of his colleagues. It seems like he's perpetually beginning, finishing, and publishing a book all at the same time [*see related story*]. Todd runs our graduate program with uncommon humanity. And he manages to keep up with every team in every sport in every part of the world. He can even name the skip on his least favorite curling team—you know, the team he hates even more than the Red Sox. Yet, all the while, Dr. Cleveland remains calmer and better humored than many of us who are far less busy.

Nor could our Department's tactical retreat keep another of our uncommonly decent and competent members from being honored—**Brenda Foster**, History's Administrative Support Supervisor. Brenda has been recognized for excellence repeatedly over the years, both individually and as part of History's team. The staff senate named her the University of Arkansas Employee of the Year in 2014-2015. And this year she garnered the Graduate School's Collis Geren Staff Award for Excellence in Graduate Education. Undergraduate, graduate student, professor, alum, and emeritus—all have come to recognize that anytime something good happens around here, it can in some manner be traced back to Brenda. Give her a lump of coal and it's going to be a diamond pretty quick.

Nor, it turned out, could Fulbright College really quit History. It named assistant professor **Ren Pepitone** one of 2021's Robert and Sandra Connor Endowed Faculty Fellows. They are the fifteenth historian to be awarded the Connor fellowship, which supports the work of a junior faculty member who provides “the highest quality teaching, research, and service” to the college. As Dean Todd Shields said of this year's class, “That each has continued their work at such a caliber even during this pandemic time is nothing short of amazing.”

Steven Rosales's extensive service to the Northwest Arkansas Latinx and veteran communities helped earn him a 2020 Hometown Hero Award, sponsored by the U of A Athletics Department and the Veterans Resource Information Center. It honored his 33 years of honorable service in the U.S. Navy/Naval Reserve. In addition to being recognized at a Razorbacks basketball game in January, Rosales scored a \$500 Slim Chickens gift card, which, he reports, has only been partially utilized. “One can only eat so much chicken.” The newsletter editor feels the same way about crow.

If you're among the few who watched the Tokyo Olympics, you'll know that **Jim Gigantino** overcame the twisties to take the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards' Faculty Gold Medal. Besides his prowess on the balance beam, the medal honors Gigantino's mentoring in assisting students in snagging national and international fellowships, grants, and prizes. **Lynda Coon** and **Jeannie Whayne** also medaled in international competition. Coon's *Tour Gearhart Hall*, a tribute to Russ Meyer masquerading as an Honors College recruitment video, won gold and silver Davey Awards from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts—the gold in Online Film & Video: Infomercial category (formerly the Popeil Award) and the silver for Best Use of Humor. The Serious Games conference, a “games-based learning” outfit, awarded the U of A's Tesseract Center for Immersive Environments and Game Design a silver medal in its Higher Education category for *Mornin' in Your Eyes*, Whayne's interactive game that takes students through major developments of the U.S. civil rights movement. ■

2021 Award Winners Out of Sight

What do we all know by now? Zoom meetings? They stink. Zoom happy hours? A pale imitation. Zoom award ceremonies? The worst, despite their granting us the power to mute teary, interminable acceptance speeches (“ . . . and finally I’d like to thank my fourth-grade teacher, Miss Ichijo. . . .”). So the Department didn’t have an awards ceremony—either dry or wet—this year.

Still, even if we never saw them—or, at least, never saw the bottom halves of their faces (and who knows what winning smiles and filed teeth we missed)—our undergraduates and graduate students are as brainy and deserving as ever. So they got awards, just not the ceremony—and probably didn’t miss the latter, given the sparse attendance these things have drawn ever since Laurence Hare scared us with zombies.

Our unseen undergraduate honorees were as follows: *Gene E. McKissic Endowed Scholarship for a History or Political Science Major*: **Melissa Corvera**; *George W. Ray Award for the Study of Western Civilization*: **Mabry Edwards**; *David W. Edwards Scholarship for Outstanding Undergraduate Study of History*: **Madison Atkinson, Melissa Corvera, Barrett Horton, Dellynn Prince-Travis, David Stancil**; *George Billingsley Award for the Best Paper on a Middle Eastern or Asian Topic*: **Alison Fong**; *Gordon H. McNeil Award for the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Paper in European History*: **Noah Roberts**; *Fulbright Award for the Senior History Students with the Highest Academic Achievement*: **Jamie Kim, Michaela Parks, Jacob Huneycutt, Lauren Campbell, Catherine Pickell, Jacob Condran, Melissa Corvera**; *J. Margaret Roberts Endowed Award*: **Liley Bozard, Clay Whitfield**; *James J. Hudson Award for the Study of Military History*: **Clay Whitfield**; *Jesse Taylor Jr. Endowed Scholarship for an Outstanding History Undergraduate Major*: **Jacob Huneycutt**; *Mathis Glenn Newkirk Award for an Outstanding Paper on the History of International Relations*: **Madison Huckaby**; *Oscar Fendler Award for best paper on an Arkansas or Southern History Topic*: **Dane Arbuckle**; *Phi Alpha Theta Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Paper*: **Jacob Huneycutt; Robert E.**

Reeser Award for Significant Contribution to the Study of the Classical World: **Alison Fong**; *Sidney A. Moncrief Scholarship for the Study of Black History*: **Dellynn Prince-Travis**; *Stokely-McAdoo Family International Study Scholarship*: **Devin Center**.

Graduate students grateful to be honored without having to be hugged included: *Diane D. Blair Fellowship*: **Michael Anthony, Tabitha Orr**; *Helen and Hugo Goecke and Adlyn and Harry Kennedy Memorial Travel Fund*: **Amber Lenser**; *Matthew B. Kirkpatrick Prize for Excellence in History Graduate Teaching*: **Airic Hughes**; *Gordon H. McNeil Award for the Outstanding Graduate Research Paper*: **Maeghan O’Connor**; *James J. Hudson Graduate Research Award in Military History*: **Amanda McGee**; *Jesse Taylor Jr. Endowed Scholarship for an Outstanding History Graduate Student*: **James Cooke, Nathan Harkey, Amber Lenser, Travis Perusich, Robyn Spears**; *Mary Hudgins Arkansas History Research Fund*: **Stephen Franklin, Ryan Smith**; *Mary Hudgins Endowed Scholarship*: **Taylor Cash**; *Willard B. Gatewood History Graduate Fellowship*: **Sulaiman Albinhamad, Samuel Scurry**; *Willard Gatewood Graduate Fellowship Fund*: **Laura Smith, Will Teague**.

The following undergraduates graduated with honors, having completed theses directed by Historians: **Sophia Bonadeo**, “A Formed Feminism: A Look into the Feminist Nature of the British Union of Fascists through their Publications from 1934 to 1936” (Kelly Hammond); **Catherine Caldwell**, “Peace in the Internet Age and the Importance of Cyber Security” (J. Laurence Hare); **Lauren Campbell**, “Instituto Indigenista Interamericano: Pioneering International Indigenous Rights through Indigenismo and Pan-American Cooperation during the Early Cold War” (Shawn Austin); **Sarah Joy Caster**, “Positive Peace: Out of this World?” (J. Laurence Hare); **Jacob Condran**, “Sacred Rhetoric and the Legitimacy of Unrecognized States: The Quest for Sovereignty and Statehood through Political Persuasion” (J. Laurence Hare); **Melissa Corvera**, “The Racial Transformation of Exploitable Labor in the United States: The Bracero Program’s Contribution 1942-1964” (Steven Rosales); **Alyssa Hope Davenport**, “New Agents of Nationalism: AfD and German National Identity” (J. Laurence Hare); **Emily Gean**, “Faith-Based Organizations and Latin American Refugees: The Case of the Southern Baptist Convention” (J.

Laurence Hare); **Jacob Huneycutt**, “An Awakening Against the Second Great Awakening: The ‘Primitive Baptist’ Protest in Antebellum North Carolina” (Jim Gigantino); **Jamie Kim**, “God and Guatemala’s Covenant: Counterinsurgent Evangelical Christianity in Ríos Montt’s Guatemala” (Shawn Austin); **Abigail Kotar**, “Investigating the factors which led to the relatively unprecedented mainstream success of South Korean entertainment in the West in the 2010s and how this phenomenon has affected the nation’s relations with western countries, particularly the United States” (Kelly Hammond); **Nicholas Langham**, “Legal Status, Exploitation, and Racism: The Challenges Facing Southern Latina/o Poultry Processing Workers in the United States” (Steven Rosales); **Samuel Peterson**, “Interservice Rivalry: Examining the Relationships Between the Intelligence Organizations of the Navy, the Army and the OSS in China 1939-1945” (Kelly Hammond); **Catherine Pickell**, “Frenchification on the Mississippi: A Comparison of Illinois and Natchez Reactions to French Colonization, 1673-1729” (Linda Jones); **Lucas Medeiros Ros**, “Contemporary Engagements: Russia and Nicaragua” (J. Laurence Hare); **Henry Schuelke**, “The Revolutionary Imperial Paradigm: Life and Death of the Communist Party of Germany, 1918-1956” (Alessandro Brogi); **Allison Tucker**, “Who Died and Made You President? John Tyler and Chester A. Arthur’s Transition from Vice President to President” (Patrick Williams); **Madison Whipple**, “We, too, Have Deeds of Heroism to Tell our Children: The Role of the United Daughters of the Confederacy in the Perpetuation of the Confederate Lost Cause in Fayetteville, Arkansas” (Louise Hancox). ■

What the World Needs Now

Even when pandemics leave us socially distanced and unable to get a room (Old Main 412, say), historians still manage to reproduce. How could we not breed more of our own kind? What the world needs now is love, sweet love—and more History PhDs, right? Four fine scholars have earned their doctorates in our Department since we last checked in.

Mehreen Jamal earned her BA and MA in history at the University of Karachi and taught there before coming to the U of A to study Pakistan at a greater distance. Joel Gordon oversaw her dissertation,

“Envisioning a New Pakistani Home: Gender, Class, and Identity in Women’s Urdu Journals, 1947-1960,” with Laurence Hare and Dr. Raisur Rahman of Wake Forest University rounding out the committee. During her time in Fayetteville, Dr. Jamal not only published in the *Journal of European Studies* but founded campus’s Pakistani Students Association. She is with us still, teaching world civilization and “New Women of the Middle East.”

Through his years of graduate study, **Alex Marino** has been rated the Department member with the best laugh. The Jolly Green Giant? Ed McMahon? Alex can chortle with the best of them. Yet his dissertation, “The United States and Portuguese Angola: Space, Race, and the Cold War in Africa” was officially rated “no joke” by his advisor, Randall Woods, and committee members Todd Cleveland and Alessandro Brogi. Marino earned a BA in history from the University of California, Santa Barbara, before coming here and completing a master’s thesis, “America’s War in Angola, 1961-1976,” also directed by Dr. Woods. He has presented his work at SHAFR, one of the tonier history conferences, and co-authored, with Todd Cleveland, an essay, “The Convergence of Tourism and Propaganda in Portugal’s Colonial Empire: The Case of Mozambique,” for Nuno Domingos’ *Portuguese Colonial Empire and Urban Popular Culture: Comparative Visions of the Metropolis and the Colonies (1945-1974)*. A well-regarded teacher, Dr. Marino continues in our employ, which means when “ho ho ho” echoes down the hall, we need to be careful not too hastily to conclude that we’ve been deemed either naughty or nice.

Marie Totten came to the U of A determined to do justice to the career of Arkansas’s arch-segregationist, Jim Johnson. She encountered no massive resistance along the way. Instead, her committee (Randall Woods, Michael Piece, and Patrick Williams) was quick to clear out of the schoolhouse door and usher her into doctorhood once she’d completed “‘A Rabble Rouser All the Time’: Jim Johnson and the Politics of Massive Resistance in Arkansas.” It’s a project she started when she was studying with Woods the Younger (Jeff) at Arkansas Tech, where she earned her BA and MA. Marie has spoken on Johnson around the state, including at the Old State House, conferences of the Arkansas Historical Association, and at the Special Collections division of the U of A libraries. Dr. Totten is well on her way to teaching at every college

and university in the state, including the U of A, the University of the Ozarks, UA-Fort Smith, Tech, and Arkansas State University at Stay More. She also serves on the Arkansas Humanities Council's Next Generation Advisory Committee.

Californians could never really tell Okies and Arkies apart and, increasingly, we're having the same trouble with **Arley Ward**. Ward got as far away from the Sooner State as the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, where he earned a BA in History and Secondary Education before "Take Me Back to Tulsa" began playing in his head. He earned an MA in history at the university there, but then snuck across the border to make himself at home in Arkansas. Since 2014, he has become one of the Department's finest teachers, winning the Yowell Award in 2018, and one of its best citizens, too. Arley served as the graduate student representative on the university's Academic Integrity Board and played a leadership role in the Graduate-Professional Student Congress. Still not able to shake that whole Sooner State thing, though, he recently defended a dissertation, "[Dis] Assembling Race: The FEPC in Oklahoma, 1941-1946," directed by Michael Pierce and crewed by Charles Robinson and Calvin White. Dr. Ward has taught both halves of the U.S. history survey, African American history, and Colonial and Modern Latin America. ■

Letter from the Chair

In the winter of 2017, I had the opportunity to accompany Dr. Shawn Austin, our resident expert on Colonial Latin America, as he took a group of bright and adventurous undergraduates to South America for an H2Passport course on "Hybridity and Heritage in Colonial Peru." Over two weeks, we visited museums, churches, convents, and lakeside villages in order to study indigenous ways of belonging, belief, and expression informed by the encounter between Europeans and Andean peoples. There were cases of altitude sickness along the way and a number of flat tires, but we managed to discover some fascinating artworks blending Spanish and Incan motifs. Familiar images from European Catholicism took on distinctly local characteristics, as in the 1753 painting of *The Last*

Supper by the Quechua artist Marcos Zapata, which depicted a cooked guinea pig amidst the feast shared by Christ and his disciples. Our students arrived in Peru expecting to see such unusual images and sites, but we hoped that they would also leave with lessons closely connected to their own lives, including the ways that societies respond to dramatic periods of change.

This notion of historical change was very much on our minds on the first day of our journey, when we took our students through the winding streets of Lima's Callao district. This was a part of town devastated by an earthquake in 1746. In his book *Shaky Colonialism*, historian Charles F. Walker argues that the disaster exposed social and cultural fault lines and brought latent conflicts to the fore. In his words, it "cracked open" contemporary Peruvian society. As we followed our local tour guide to assorted vestiges of the district's colonial past, we discussed the things that changed and how they shaped new forms of social behavior and cultural expression, and we also considered the continuities--the things that remained more-or-less unchanged. Such episodes may have seemed remote, given that they happened nearly three centuries in the past, but they can nevertheless inform the ways we face similar circumstances in our own time. As the historian Timothy Snyder has written, "The past does not repeat, but it does instruct."

Certainly, we could use those sorts of lessons today. As I write this, we are concluding our second year under the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic. While this disaster has been slower to unfold than an earthquake, it has nonetheless shown signs of "cracking open" our own society on a global scale. There is no question that it has upended life for many. Here at the University of Arkansas, we spent the last year learning how to teach students and conduct research remotely. It was not easy. Faculty often had to modify research projects, a few had promotion and tenure applications postponed, and all had to learn to juggle a variety of online learning tools. There was an equally sharp learning curve for our students, and we discovered that many struggled to transition to remote learning. The result for all was a great deal of physical and emotional stress. Even now, as we return to in-person learning, we still have colleagues and students confronting illness, family emergencies, or other hardships.

It remains an open question how many of the changes wrought by COVID-19 will become

permanent. It is hard to imagine, for example, that hybrid in-person and online teaching arrangements will not become a persistent feature of our courses, and we may generally find ourselves learning to be more flexible and creative in how we teach and mentor students. It is hard to know for sure. Our work as historians may not make us the best prognosticators, but, just as it did for our students in Peru, it can help us come to terms with the simple fact that crises such as the pandemic will inevitably have lasting effects.

At the same time, history might lead us to appreciate the aspects in our lives that remain familiar. This is certainly the case in our department, where faculty, staff, and students continue to achieve a great deal even in the face of daunting challenges. Among the things that did not change were the strong contributions University of Arkansas historians made as leaders on our campus. In addition to the ongoing leadership of Kathy Sloan, Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs, Calvin White, Associate Dean of the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences, and Trish Starks, Director of the University of Arkansas Humanities Center, the past year witnessed new roles for Lynda Coon, who served as Interim Dean of the University Libraries, Caree Banton, who became Director of African and African-American Studies, Jim Gigantino, who accepted a new post as Associate Dean in the Graduate School, and Charles Robinson, who was named Interim Chancellor of the University. At the same time, our faculty research was outstanding, with five new monographs and anthologies published by Professors Shawn Austin, Todd Cleveland, Kelly Hammond, and Trish Starks. Shawn Austin received the Bandelier/Lavrin Book Prize from the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies for his first book, *Colonial Kinship: Guarani, Spaniards, and Africans in Paraguay*. Kelly Hammond was named an Associate Editor for the *Journal of Asian Studies*.

Another constant in the last year was the Department's ongoing commitment to student success. We welcomed the first cohort of our 4+1 program this year, which allows students to complete the B.A. and M.A. in History within five years, and we launched our long-planned online minor in History, which makes our program available across the state and around the world. We hosted a super regional undergraduate and graduate research conference to celebrate the centennial of the founding of the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honors Society, which was established

right here in Fayetteville in 1921. Our efforts in the classroom also did not go unnoticed, and a number of faculty received high honors for their teaching and mentorship. This included Jim Gigantino, who was awarded the Faculty Gold Medal from the UA Office of Nationally Competitive Awards, Todd Cleveland, who won the Master Teacher Award in Fulbright College and was elected to the University's Teaching Academy, and Jeannie Whayne, who won the prestigious Charles and Nadine Baum Teaching Award from the Arkansas Alumni Association. Our staff got in on the act as well, with our administrative supervisor, Brenda Foster, winning the Collis R. Geren UA Staff Award for excellence in graduate education.

Our students, alumni, and supporters maintained a similarly high level of excellence. Examples abound, including PhD alumnus Dr. Michael Hammond, who was named the ninth President of Gordon College in Massachusetts, and senior honors undergraduate Jake Condran, who was named a finalist for the prestigious Marshall Scholarship to the United Kingdom. Condran also joined senior honors major Jacob Huneycutt in being named alternates for the Fulbright Scholarship. To support these terrific students, we continued to enjoy generous support from friends of the Department. Glenn Newkirk stopped by to visit in the spring and increased his contribution to the Newkirk Awards, and Wooten Epes made a strong contribution to the Kennedy Endowed Lecture Fund, which honors the memory of our late colleague, Tom Kennedy.

In the next few years, I know that we will keep working to address the challenges of the Covidic Era. Perhaps soon we may be able once again to take students abroad as we did in 2017. In any case, we hope that the lessons we impart about the past will help them look back upon these present days, to understand the changes that followed, and to determine the lessons for the future. For now, however, it is comforting to know that there are many things upon which we may still rely: the outstanding work and collegiality of our faculty and staff, the excellence of our students and alumni, and the support of our many friends. For that, and for them, I am grateful.

—J. Laurence Hare ■

Report of the Director of Graduate Studies

In spite of the significant, hopefully once-in-a-lifetime, challenges we faced this past year, the Graduate Program continued to flourish, owing to the hard work of the Department's faculty and graduate students. I continue to be duly impressed with our graduate students' commitment and perseverance, and I'd like to thank our faculty for their ongoing efforts to train and advise these promising scholars.

From Summer 2020 through Spring 2021, we witnessed the hooding of six Ph.D. students who are now primed to commence the next chapters of their lives. Congrats, Doctors!

They are:

June 2020, Chelsea Hodge, "Deserting the broad and easy way': Southern Methodist Women, the Social Gospel, and the New Deal State, 1909-1939," Committee Chair: Mike Pierce.

July 2020, Sarah Riva, "The Shallow End of the Deep South: Civil Rights Activism in Arkansas, 1865-1970," Committee Chair: Calvin White.

July 2020, Eric Totten, "A Suspected Democratic Regiment: The Fourth New Hampshire Volunteer Infantry in the American Civil War," Committee Chair: Dan Sutherland.

July 2020, Baris Basturk, "The Formation of Ottoman Sufism and Eşrefoğlu Rumi: A 15th-Century Shaykh Between Popular Religion and Sufi Ideals," Committee Chair: Nikolay Antov.

January 2021, Alex Marino, "The United States and Portuguese Angola: Space, Race, and the Cold War in Africa," Committee Chair: Randall Woods.

April 2021, Mehreen Jamal, "Envisioning a New Pakistani Home: Gender, Class, and Identity in Women's Urdu Journals, 1947-1960," Committee Chair: Joel Gordon.

We also saw the successful completion of three M.A. degrees – congrats!!

They are:

July 2020, Nathan Harkey, "The Defense of Principates: The English Appropriation of Marsilius of Padua's Defensor Pacis," Committee Chair: Freddy Dominguez

November 2020, Beth Withey, "Some Kind of Socialist': Lee Hays, the Social Gospel, and the Path to the Cultural Front," Committee Chair: Mike Pierce

April 2021, Jessica Mitchell, "Community and Idolatry: San Francisco Cajonos, Yalalag, and Betaza through the Criminal Court of Villa Alta, 1700-1703," Committee Chair: Shawn Austin

The department also honors the following students who have passed their comprehensive exams and entered the ABD ranks this year: Sulaiman Albinhamad, Michael Anthony, and Rachel Whitaker.

In an absolutely brutal job market, Arkansas Ph.D. Sarah Riva successfully showcased her skills and training for the fine folks at Barry University in Miami, Florida, scoring a tenure-track position shortly thereafter, while Arkansas Ph.D. Misti Harper realized the same outcome at UNC-Pembroke. Congrats to both Sarah and Misti!

Last but not least, graduate students have been awarded dozens of awards, grants, fellowships, and outside research support this year. Here is but a sampling:

Michael Anthony won the Arkansas Historical Association's prestigious and lucrative Lucille Westbrook Award for his essay, "Otherwise You Will Have to Suffer the Consequences': The Catcher Race Riot of 1923,"

Michael Anthony, Tabitha Orr, and Laura Smith were awarded the Diane D. Blair Fellowship.

Robyn Spears was awarded the Walter Lee Brown Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Scholarship.

Laura Smith and Will Teague were awarded Willard B. Gatewood Graduate Fellowship Funds.

Sulaiman Albinhamad and Sam Scurry were awarded Willard B. Gatewood History Graduate Fellowships.

Amber Lenser was awarded a grant from the Helen and Hugo Goecke and Adlyn and Harry Kennedy Memorial Travel Fund.

Stephen Franklin and Ryan Smith were awarded grants from the Mary Hudgins Arkansas History Research Funds.

Taylor Cash was awarded a grant from the Mary Hudgins Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Amanda McGee was awarded a grant from the James J. Hudson Research Fund.

Airic Hughes garnered the Matthew B. Kirkpatrick Prize for excellence in History graduate teaching.

Amber Lenser was awarded the Mathis Glenn Newkirk History Donation.

James Cooke, Nathan Harkey, Amber Lenser, Travis Perusich, and Robyn Spears were all awarded the Jesse Taylor, Jr. Endowed Scholarship in History.

—Todd C. Cleveland ■

The Talk of the Gown

Nikolay Antov, associate professor, abides. He just doesn't report.

Shawn Austin, associate professor, says the obligatory words about his recently published book and the prize it won [*see related story*] but then really lets loose: "Tenure! What else can I say, but 'yeah baby, it feels good!' Now I can be completely uninhibited in faculty meetings—yes, what you've seen so far is an inhibited me. [*You mean the guy with the chainsaw? Ed.*] What else? I survived the COVID March 2020 school shutdowns, balancing full-time tutoring my 10 year old whilst teaching two courses and maintaining an active research agenda. My wife, Cami, taught Jr High orchestra from home, clearly the more difficult job, and managed our 8 year old's virtual classwork. We nearly went insane. (Oh and if anyone thought my sartorial choices in the office were bad, they should have seen my dress for online lectures. I think one day I sported a holy t-shirt, shorts, and mismatching socks.) We don't know what our Jr High Schooler and High Schooler were doing during virtual learning—for all we know they could have been building a fortune on the futures market. In March 2020 I began studying colonial Guaraní with a linguist out of AR, that's Argentina not Arkansas, who resides some of the year in Germany with his wife and child. He regularly mixes German, Spanish, and Guaraní expletives, making the course worth every dime I paid. I continue to take private lessons from him. I'll be the only US scholar with some expertise in that language—it's very different from the modern Guaraní spoken today in Paraguay—which makes me ever so relevant in the anti-humanist politics of the day! I am not the poster-child for the relevance of history, but I can tell you how to say the Ave María in Guaraní. My next research project explores a culture of

firearms and war among seventeenth- and eighteenth-century Guaraní militias in the Jesuit missions in the Rio de la Plata. I'll make some weak connection to US gun culture in my epilogue and paint a target on my back for the NRA—then I'll be relevant."

Caree Banton, associate professor, has been named Director of the African and African American Studies Program at the U of A. She received a grant from UA Humanities Center for a program encouraging secondary school students to research race in Washington County and at the university. And her 2020 book, *More Auspicious Shores: Barbadian Migration to Liberia, Blackness, and the Making of an African Republic*, was a finalist for the Association of Caribbean Historians' Elsa Goveia Book Prize.

Alessandro Brogi, professor, wants you to know this: "Year Six of my US Citizenship Era. Year Two of the COVID Era. The latter has given new meaning to the words 'Off Campus Duty Assignment.' I was indeed supposed to be truly OCDA, off to the Netherlands. But that has now been reset for spring of 2022, given the obvious public health statistics going to and fro between the two sides of the Atlantic. Because of my frequent zoom interactions with students (more frequent than in person, since it all seems easier via screen: no need to shower, pack your stuff, put your shoes on...), I thought I was perhaps telegenic – or screen-congenial anyway (what a funny thought!). In fact, the frequency was simply due to the students' pure and simple need for assistance and guidance, more than in normal times. As History's Undergraduate Studies director, I want to say 'Thanks' to all the department colleagues who helped make life for our students somewhat more bearable through these challenging times. And rather than offering the usual narrative of my annual adventures and misadventures in Academe and elsewhere, I am now responding in haste (because I'm late) to the newsletter editor – who, causing a great deal of chagrin in all of us, announced his 'Last Hurrah' as not just the editor, but producer, pundit, *esprit*, and factotum of this fine paper – doing something a bit different from the usual: I am simply referring the reader to the short autobiography I was asked to write for the H-Diplo forum 'Learning the Scholar's Craft,' entitled 'Last Tango in Fayetteville,' which can be found here: <https://issforum.org/essays/PDF/E295.pdf> and in which I perhaps exposed much more than 'how I became a historian,' more about personal matters,

more than I have ever shown in the pages of this fine paper, and more than I should have, much to my usual embarrassment. I also wrote an essay on the US and Europe after Trump, for the same forum, now online, but also forthcoming in print, so I'll just wait until 2022 to speak more in detail about that (especially if my vague predictions on transatlantic relations will have been proven correct by then) – in whatever format the next newsletter editor(s) may permit.”

Todd Cleveland, professor and director of graduate studies, is splashed all over this year's newsletter—the three new books (*Diamantes em Bruto: Paternalismo Corporativo e Profissionalismo Africano nas Minas da Angola Colonial, 1917-1975*; *A History of Tourism in Africa: Exoticization, Exploitation, and Enrichment*; and *Sports in Africa, Past and Present*, which was a finalist for the North American Society of Sports Historians (NASSH) Best Sports History Anthology published in 2020; and induction into the Teaching Academy. In telling the newsletter editor what he already knew, Cleveland forgot to mention he was promoted to full professor this past year, having been denominated the cat's pajamas by specialists in his field.

Lynda Coon, professor, was “Double-Dean” for much of the year, continuing to run the Honors racket even while excavating the U of A Libraries as Interim Dean and running the search for a new *Magister* of Mullins. Never at rest, she published, with Kim Sexton, “Racetrack to Salvation: The Circus, the Basilica, and the Martyr,” in *Gesta* (April 2020). Sexton and Coon took their martyrs on the road, presenting their material/textual dog ‘n’ pony show to the Medieval Consortium at MIT (fall 2020). Two new tunes sung for Dark Age Jesus appeared in *The Oxford Handbook of Christian Monasticism* and the *Oxford Handbook of the Merovingian World*.

Freddy C. Dominguez, associate professor, says he sees the light at the end of the tunnel and is preparing for a 2022 conference at Notre Dame's London campus, after which he plans to take advantage of a Huntington Library/ Durham University grant to research in England for the summer. Dominguez (with colleague William Bulman [Lehigh]) are entering the production stage of an edited volume, *Political and Religious Practice in the Early Modern British World*, to be published by Manchester University Press. Dominguez is sending off a first draft of his edited volume *Spanish Elizabethans: Anglo-Iberian Entanglements during the*

Counter-Reformation to be published by Brill Press. He is also working on the final draft of his monograph, *Bob Dylan in the Attic: Song and Dance Man as Historian* (UMass Press). Furthermore, Dominguez is in talks with University of California Press, for his next monograph *Luisa de Carvajal: The Spiritual Politics of an Anglo-Spanish Life*. Dominguez has been invited to write a historiographical essay on English Catholicism for the *Journal of British Studies*, which will launch a new initiative by the journal to include such pieces. In the Spring of 2021 he created an on-line course (*Wars of Religion from the Crusades to 9/11*), in which students can hear him talk with flames and other moving images behind him, not to mention the canned history documentary music. He will also continue developing his version of the History Perspectives course, meant to introduce freshmen to the historical method and provide a general introduction to college life. In his front yard, Dominguez has a big sign that says, “In this house, we believe: Everybody must get stoned/You don't need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows/To live outside the law you must be honest/Don't criticize what you can't understand.”

Daniel J. Fischer, instructor, spent much of the last year plumbing the mysteries of Zoom and Kaltura so that he could go on teaching American history to undergraduates. When he was not experiencing such sorrows and joys, he continued to knock his dissertation, “The War on Winter: How Americans Put Down Roots on the Northern Plains,” into book shape and research a second book on Montana literature scholar, author, fly fisherman, and forester Norman Maclean.

James Gigantino, professor and associate dean of the graduate school, started out the year in the very same place he ended it...his home office. With his faithful corgi companion Bosco by his side, he continued to try and sort all the competing COVID messaging coming at the department from all sorts of places. In the end, he remained proud of how well the faculty, staff, and students performed during the COVID-19 pandemic. In the summer, he participated with several other faculty in designing the team-taught course “COVID-19 and the History of Pandemics” that debuted in August as a credit and non-credit course with Global Campus. His unit of the course was on smallpox. Also, during the summer and fall, with travel curtailed, he started a new short book project

on a forgotten Continental Congressman who played a pivotal role as the new republic's Collector of Taxes. In December, he accepted an offer to become the new Associate Dean of the Graduate School & International Education, a position that became effective in January 2021. He departed the department chair's office and now lives in Gearhart Hall, working to support graduate students across campus, though he continues to dabble in history every so often, though both his book projects are likely on hiatus for the time being. His book chapter in an edited book, *War in American Literature and Culture*, was published by Cambridge University Press in March and he presented at the Society of Early Americanists Biennial Conference virtually that same month. In April, he won the University's Faculty Gold Medal from the Office of Nationally Competitive Awards for his work supporting students over the years. Somebody told us that Jim and his wife, Stephanie, have had a baby. Maybe he's not spreading the news until a newsletter editor he trusts can report it.

Joel Gordon, professor, writes, "This year sure Zoomed by. I had 2 keynote addresses in European hot zones cancelled before we moved into the age of virtual visits (hopefully one will be successfully restaged in situ). I hosted or will have hosted 3 virtual international publication workshops in my capacity as Editor of *IJMES (International Journal of Middle East Studies)* and led a discussion in a graduate seminar 'at' Harvard. As editor I rode gentle or roughshod over about 300 article submissions, not to mention book reviews and roundtable essays. I finished an article on Egyptian cinema that will appear in the *Oxford Handbook on Egypt* and published 2 entries in the new updated *Encyclopedia of Islam 3*. On (yes, 'on') campus, after a year's hiatus I revived my Nadi Cinema/Film Club for a special spring limited edition. Everything else -- grant, proposal, manuscript review -- was done undercover."

Kelly Hammond, associate professor, was promoted and tenured for all the compelling reasons recounted elsewhere in this newsletter [see related story]. In addition to *China's Muslims & Japan's Empire: Centering Islam in World War II* (University of North Carolina Press), she published two shorter pieces this past year: "Muslim interactions between China, Central Asia, and Japan," in *Handbook of Islam in Asia*, edited by Chiara Formichi, and "The Politics of Religion in the Japanese Empire: Responses to and Reflections on Michael Laffan's 'The Forgotten Jihad under Japan,'" in

Journal of the Economic and Social History of the Orient (vol. 64: 160-173). And she has been out and about as much as the pandemic allowed, appearing through the ether when not on the red carpet. She gave talks on *China's Muslims and Japan's Empire* at Columbia, University of Chicago, Duke, and the Hoover Institute (with Niall Ferguson as discussant) and contributed "Was what you bought made with forced Uyghur labor?" to *The Conversation*. Hammond has a new gig as the *Journal of Asian Studies'* associate editor for Modern China.

J. Laurence Hare, associate professor and chair, is moving up in the world, or at least moving up in Old Main. In January, he decamped from his former gig directing the International & Global Studies Program on the second floor and set up shop on the fourth floor, where he started a new position as Chair of the Department of History [see related story]. In the twilight days of his directorship, Hare completed his supervision of a grant from the Chancellor's Innovation and Collaboration Fund, which produced a digitized collection of materials related to the history of the Fulbright International Exchange Program. He also continued work as co-leader of Arkansas Global Changemakers, an applied research and teaching initiative exploring ways to enhance local solutions to global challenges. The Changemakers team, which includes partners in Walton College, the College of Engineering, and the Fay Jones School of Architecture, launched a website (<https://globalchangemakers.uark.edu/>) and hosted a number of high-profile speakers, including Nobel Peace Laureate Muhammad Yunus and historian Riane Eisler. They also designed and taught several new courses, including an Honors Signature Seminar on Global Social Change and a virtual study abroad program with food security organizations in Barcelona, Spain. These programs were supported by a Study Abroad Capacity Building Grant from the U.S. Department of State. Finally, Hare joined Dr. Rogelio Garcia Contreras to present the results of their work so far, first in a joint presentation, "Improving the Promise of Community-Based Global Learning: The Arkansas Global Changemakers Project," at Auburn University's International Perspectives on International Teaching and Learning Conference, and second in a book chapter, "Arkansas Global Changemakers and the Effects of Collaborative and Disruptive Strategies," which will appear in *Multilateralism, Human Rights,*



Our alumni and friends have been very generous, but we continue to need your support to maintain our tradition of excellence. Your unrestricted gift (**University of Arkansas Foundation-History Department, account 2780**) will allow the Department the greatest flexibility in allocating money where need is greatest. We would be most grateful, too, for larger gifts to endow scholarships, fellowships, chairs, and lectureships.

There are a number of other funds that may be of particular interest to our alumni:

- The Tom Kennedy Endowed Lecture Fund**
- The David W. Edwards Scholarship Fund**
- The Timothy Donovan Lectureship**
- The James J. Hudson Graduate Fellowship**
- The Robert E. Reeser Award**
- The Willard B. Gatewood Graduate Fellowship**
- The Walter L. Brown Scholarship in Arkansas History**
- The George V. Ray Memorial Award**
- The Gordon McNeil Scholarship Fund**
- The Ralph V. Turner Fund**
- The J. Margaret Roberts Endowed Award Fund**
- The Oscar Fendler Award Fund**
- The George Billingsley Award Fund**
- The Jesse Taylor Jr. Scholarship Fund**
- The Stokely-McAdoo Family International Study Scholarship**
- The Walter L. Brown Endowment in History**
- The Mary Hudgins Award**

Gifts to the
History Department
should be sent to:

Dr. Laurence Hare, Chair
History Department
416 N. Campus Drive, MAIN 416
Fayetteville, AR 72701

with checks made out to:
University of Arkansas Foundation History Department, account 2780

Gifts to the
James J. Hudson Fellowship
should be forwarded to:

Dean of the Graduate School
340 N. Campus Dr., Gearhart Hall 213
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Gifts to the
Tom Kennedy Endowed Lecture Series
should be directed to:

Department of History
416 N. Campus Dr., MAIN 416
Fayetteville, AR 72701

with checks made out to:
University of Arkansas Foundation
and with the subject line:
Tom Kennedy Endowed Lecture Series

Gifts to the
Gatewood Fellowship
should be sent to:

1125 W. Maple St., ADMN 325
Fayetteville, AR 72701

and Diplomacy: A Global Perspective, edited by David Fernandez Puyana and forthcoming from the UN University of Peace Press. Hare's other ongoing research project, on the history of German Nordicism thought, led to two presentations: "On the Maturity of German Memory Culture," at the Southeast German Studies Workshop, and "European Nordicism(s) between Utopian Impulse and National Identity," presented at the Council for European Studies international conference.

Scout Johnson, instructor, reports in the third person, which might convey the impression that the newsletter editor wrote the following funny stuff. He didn't but wishes he had. "2020 was one of the longest decades ever. As we know, the Korean Baseball Organization is no substitute for the real thing, but just as it seemed that all had been set right with the return of Major League baseball, those pesky Rays showed up. Then came a year of teaching in very empty rooms on a very empty campus. (In fairness, there were the usual number of students, but it's *hard* to make a 150-seat auditorium feel full with 35 people...) Nevertheless, she persisted. Scout ceded some of her World Civ I Empire and instead taught new courses on animals and pop culture, occasionally simultaneously. Alas there was no petting zoo, and we had to cancel the appearance by Elvis, as no one could guarantee that spectral beings cannot transmit coronavirus. In her spare time, she added some fun new diseases to the department's course on pandemics and expanded the original offering into a 3-hour course that was successfully deployed this summer. And contrary to vicious rumors circulating this year, Scout did not blow out the audio system in the auditorium whilst shreddin' on her axe. Twice. Nor did she set said axe afire after a particularly moving rendition of the Star-Spangled Banner. And no animals were harmed in the production of any courses. That should go without saying."

Charles Muntz, associate professor, seems to be in a better mood than when he wrote the following: "In the annals of my academic career I doubt I (or anyone) will look back on 2020-21 with any nostalgia. Certainly it did not provide much good newsletter fodder, but here goes: In the fall, as the pandemic raged, I armed myself with my University-provided kit of hand sanitizer and dry erase wipes, and embraced the hybrid model of teaching to have at least some contact with my students. Even at the start of the semester only about half of them

were willing to come to class for the in-person sections, but within two weeks I was down to two students in one class and three in the other and switched to fully remote. And remote I stayed through the remainder of the fall and spring semesters. I found teaching by Zoom incredibly frustrating - students were far less engaged and I compensated by putting far more energy into every class, to the point that I must have seemed quite manic at times. I haven't felt so burnt out since I was finishing my dissertation."

Ren Pepitone, assistant professor, is one of Fulbright College's Connor Faculty Fellows for 2021.

Michael C. Pierce, associate professor, spent much of the last year on a detour away from his usual interests in the labor skates who bossed their way around postwar Arkansas to document the life of Nelson Hackett, an enslaved man who fled Fayetteville in 1841 only to become the sole such fugitive that Canada returned to bondage. In November 2020, he directed the launch of the [Nelson Hackett Project](https://nelsonhackettproject.uark.edu/) (<https://nelsonhackettproject.uark.edu/>), a public humanities website that is part of the University of Arkansas Humanities Center's Arkansas Stories program. The website provides a narrative of Hackett's flight, maps, historical images, and primary documents with transcriptions. He has also spoken about Hackett throughout the state—Shiloh Museum of Ozark History, Central Arkansas Library System's Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and the Arkansas Humanities Council. Short public history pieces have appeared in the Washington County Historical Society's *Flashback* and the Arkansas Humanities Council's *Connect Magazine*. Pierce, along with Calvin White, also edited a collection of essays on labor, race, and violence in the Delta that is slated to be published by the University of Arkansas Press in 2022.

Benjamin Purvis, instructor, struck it rich in the Klondike. He returned to us, nevertheless, to teach a ton of classes.

Charles F. Robinson, professor, has been named interim chancellor of the University of Arkansas. In announcing his appointment in August, System President Donald Bobbitt said "Dr. Robinson has a unique skill set, having led the university's efforts in academics, student affairs and diversity affairs during his tenure. He has a strong connection not only with our students and faculty, but also with the university's external constituencies. During a transition period,

it is imperative to have a leader in place who has the trust and confidence of all stakeholder groups, and I am confident that Dr. Robinson has the background, personality and temperament to work with everyone to drive the U of A forward through the coming year.”

Sarah Rodriguez, assistant professor, has returned from her fellowship at the Huntington Library, having survived five of California’s seven plagues. She says it rained frogs in the reading room once.

Steven Rosales, associate professor, has a record of service that’s hard to beat. His duties include: student outreach, College Access & Admissions, with U of A’s Multicultural Center; member, Fulbright College Faculty Development Committee; chair, By-Laws Committee and Awards Committee, Latin American & Latino Studies (LALS); member, Personnel Committee, LALS; affiliate, Gender Studies Program Advisory Committee; faculty advisor, LatinX Graduate Student RSO; board of directors (and founding member), Armed Forces Employee Impact Group; treasurer, LatinX Employee Impact Group; mentor, Community Outreach, Rogers Heritage High School, Counselor’s Office; member, Scholarship Committee and board of directors, Armed Forces Alumni Society (AFAS); mentor, LatinX on the Rise Mentorship Program, Northwest Arkansas Hispanic Leadership Council; member, ROTC Programs Committee and David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral & Visual History Advisory Committee. And that’s just the university and region. Lieutenant Commander Rosales has completed thirty-three years of honorable national service as a member of the United States Navy/Naval Reserve. This past year, he assumed responsibilities as a department head with 50 personnel under his immediate command.

Kathy Sloan, professor, continues to serve as Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs. She is working with colleagues across the university to build professional and leadership development programming for all faculty at the U of A. She is also a co-private eye on a \$1,000,000 NSF Advance grant to promote and sustain gender equity in STEM fields. She stays active in her favorite Latin American Studies academic organization (the Rocky Mountain Council for Latin American Studies) by serving as treasurer. Sloan’s eldest son, Ian, got married in Glacier Park, Montana this August.

Richard Sonn, professor, writes, “As with so many of us, I learned to teach remotely, leaving my car sitting

at home and teaching via Zoom from my daughter’s bedroom. That was ok pedagogically, and probably better than trying to lecture while wearing a mask. The oddest aspect of teaching remotely was not seeing the students, who mostly chose to remain invisible--especially those in morning classes. I suspect many did not feel presentable. I was vaccinated in late winter, and I am looking forward to seeing students again this fall. Likewise for colleagues, though I saw many via Zoom at various meetings during the year. While I did not miss commuting, staying at home didn’t do my car much good. Rodents, possibly chipmunks, chewed the gas lines as the car sat out day after day, and I eventually donated what was left of the vehicle to NPR. We then had the undersides of our remaining car and truck sprayed with peppermint to restrain further incursions. I was supposed to participate in a French history conference in Auckland, New Zealand, in the summer of 2020; instead, I focused on lining up illustrations for my forthcoming book *Modernist Diaspora: Immigrant Jewish Artists in Paris, 1900-1945*. I worked with museum curators in the United States, France, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, Poland, and Israel. I eventually sent my editor sixty images to include in the book. This past winter I had a chapter appear in a book edited by Sally Charnow, called *Artistic Expression and the Great War, a Hundred Years On*, published by Peter Lang. My contribution is ‘Immigrant Jewish Artists and Masculinity in France during the Great War.’”

Tricia Starks, professor, says that medical history is not as much fun to live as it is to research and teach. Still, she is more than usually thankful for her health this year and more than ever impressed with her students. In addition to teaching in the honors college PANDEMICS! course and a new course on addiction that went virtual mid spring semester she got to weather the fall of 2020 with stalwart students in her medical history classes, where daily events never failed to weigh heavily on contemplation of past disease. In between she finished an edited volume with Alison K. Smith and Matthew P. Romaniello – *From Fish Guts to Fabergé* – and her second monograph on tobacco is off to the publishers at last. Just in time for everything to fall apart, she took up the post of director of the University of Arkansas Humanities Center, where she will continue until they realize she’s not that sociable.

Elliott West, distinguished professor, finally submitted “Creating the West,” a history of the West from expansion in the 1840s to about 1880, to the University of Nebraska Press. It got a positive nod from the two outside readers. He also published “Theodore Roosevelt, the West, and the New America,” in *Theodore Roosevelt, Naturalist in the Arena*, ed. Char Miller and Clay Jenkinson (University of Nebraska Press). West has been a presence of consequence online, including lecturing at a fifty-year retrospective on Dee Brown’s *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* sponsored by Central Arkansas Library System and riffing on *Dances with Wolves* for the Modern Literature Club, Fayetteville’s own Trilateral Commission. With Dr. Anne Marie Martin, he developed a module on yellow fever for the department’s online class on global pandemics, taught an MA seminar on “The American West” online through the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History and Pace University, and hosted a webinar on “The Grass Revolution” through the National Humanities Center. West has been wrapping some things up, completing a ten-year stint as delegate for Oxford University Press and finishing a second term on the board of directors of the National Council for History Education. And from this valley, they say Yut is going. The newsletter editor is glad he won’t be the one that has to write up that farewell. Like Arthur Howitzer, Jr., he hates tear-stained copy.

Jeannie Whayne, University professor, who won the Charles and Nadine Baum Award for teaching excellence in 2020, was finally presented with the dang thing this fall, as the germs subsided. More recently, she has garnered the U of A Graduate School’s Outstanding Graduate Advisor Award. Whayne presented “At the River’s Edge: Agriculture, the Mississippi River, and the Corps of Engineers” at a virtual meeting of the Agricultural History Society on June 1, 2021. One of her doctoral students, Jama Grove, secured a tenure-track position at Centenary College in Louisiana and another, Michael Anthony, was selected as a recipient of a UA Humanities Center grant to conduct research on the Catcher Race Riot of 1923. Whayne continues to edit a Handbook of Agriculture for Oxford University Press and has an essay coming out in *Race, Labor, and Violence in the Delta: Essays to Mark the Centennial of the Elaine Massacre*, edited by Michael Pierce and Calvin White and due for publication in Spring 2022. Her essay is entitled “The Henry Lowery Lynching:

A Legacy of the Elaine Massacre.” She had an essay published in Mark Christ’s *The War at Home* in 2020 entitled “Women, Suffrage, and World War I,” and a forthcoming essay (Spring 2022), “Post-Civil War Southern Agriculture,” in *Blackwell’s Companion to American Agriculture*, edited by R. Douglas Hurt. She continues to work on her book on the connection between the Arkansas delta cotton counties and Memphis, Tennessee.

Calvin White, Jr., associate professor, remains associate dean of Fulbright College. We puppets call him “The Puppeteer.”

Patrick G. Williams, professor, is delighted that after twenty-two years he will no longer be sharing an office with the newsletter editor. The overflowing ashtrays, the dead soldiers, the constant griping about “microaggressions” younger faculty have committed against the newsletter—all will be things of the past. But because he edits the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*, Williams will keep the “No Crying” sign.

Randall B. Woods, distinguished professor, was one of the few of us to be seen in Old Main in 2020-21. Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night—nor any stinking pandemic—is going to keep the Leopard from meeting his classes or communing with John Quincy Adams. Rhoda doesn’t want him underfoot in any case. ■

Alumni Round-Up

Charlene Akers (MA 1970) claims that “nothing new” is happening. She never missed a day of work during the pandemic.

Farid al-Salim (PhD 2007) has been promoted to professor at the American University in Dubai.

Mike Anders (BA 1972) and his wife Bette (Shepard) Anders (BA 1973 [Art]) purchased a store front in late April 2020 on Main St. in Mountain View, AR and spent the next year plus renovating the 4,000 sq ft space, which is across the street from the Stone County Courthouse. They’ve made the building available to the Stone County Community Center, which had no physical facility. The Center had its official grand opening this past July 4th weekend and has been well received by the town and the county.

Justin Allen (BA 1995; JD 1999, Bowen School of Law) says, “Personally, and professionally, the past year has been a challenge, to say the least. On the job front, I have been very busy assisting my clients, which include large and small businesses and healthcare providers, navigate the pandemic. It has been difficult, but I feel good about what we have been able to accomplish. As for the family, the last school year was lost for the most part. I have three teenagers, 18, 16 and 14, that are very involved in school activities and it was sad to see so many things canceled. However, things are picking up and we have our fingers crossed that we will have a semi-normal school year in 2021/22. I hope to get up to Fayetteville this fall for some football games and to see what’s new on campus.”

Wesley Armstrong (BA 2020) has joined the American Enterprise Institute, where he is studying education policy.

Jack Stokes Ballard (BSE 1950) of Centennial, CO, had his 9th book published by The History Press in 2020, in the midst of the pandemic. It is a biography of Ivy Baldwin, who, as a pioneer balloonist and aviator, became a Denver celebrity at the turn of the 20th century.

James Barnes (MA 1961) lives in Eagle Creek, OR. He wonders if any of us ever met Robert Reeser or Gordon McNeil. Sure, a few of us. We haven’t entirely lost our sense of History.

Nicole Benedict (BA 2018) writes, “This past year I completed my Master of Public Administration degree in Nonprofit Management at Arkansas State University. Shortly before graduation, I accepted a position with the Boys & Girls Club of Benton County as the Rogers Unit Director. In this position, I enjoy working with at-risk children throughout the NWA area and use my history degree and past museum work experience to plan programming with local museums and teach/tutor on local and American history. Though the pandemic threw quite a few darts in our plans, my now husband and I married locally with close friends and family this past December. We also bought our first home and moved in this past spring from Fayetteville to the Rogers/Lowell area. It has been a year like no other, but I am thankful for the blessings that came regardless.”

Bruce Breeding (BA 1984; MA 1996) has finished his second year as a full-time faculty member at Jefferson Community and Technical College, after 17 years as an adjunct. He teaches on three campuses – downtown

Louisville, Shelbyville, KY, and Shepherdsville, KY. “The drive is not too terribly long and is through some of the most beautiful thoroughbred horse farm country in the world, so no complaints there. I enjoy my students and I work with wonderful colleagues. We survived (and continue to navigate) COVID and are hoping for this year to resemble something closer to our old normal (although I fear, as RFK used to say, that normal is ‘dead as Kelsey’s nuts’). My son Strohmman graduated in May 2021 from the U of A with his BA in History and Political Science and will attend Ohio University to work on an MA in Law, Justice & Culture, so I’ve lost my excuse for regular trips back to Fayetteville. Ah, to be young again....”

Matthew Byron (PhD 2009) took on the role of the Director of General Education, in addition to chairing the Department of History and Religious Studies, at Young Harris College in Georgia.

Tammy Byron (PhD 2008) was named Associate Dean in the School of Arts & Sciences at Dalton (GA) State College in July 2021. She was also promoted to Professor of History.

Jay Carney (BA 1999) published two books during the 2020-21 academic year: *For God and My Country: Catholic Leadership in Modern Uganda* (Cascade Press) and *Contesting Catholics: Benedicto Kiwanuka and the Birth of Postcolonial Uganda* (James Currey Press; co-authored with Jonathon L. Earle, Centre College). Growing out of his 2018-19 year as a Fulbright Scholar in Uganda, both books examine the public impact of Catholic leaders in late colonial and postcolonial Uganda. Carney was also grateful to have the opportunity to return to the U of A to teach an Honors course on Rwanda at the behest of Abbess Lynda Coon.

Terry Q. Carson (BA 1973) says, “We have been safe from the COVID virus as of today. My wife Janie and I moved from Alma to Ft Smith in June 2021. We both retired in 2020. This past March 2021 we spent a great weekend in the cabins at Mt. Magazine with our family. Our major travel plans were delayed in Fall 2020, but we are now scheduled to visit Ontario and Quebec in September 2021 if Canada opens up for non-essential travel. We are fortunate our 3 grandchildren are near and we enjoy spending as much time with them as possible. I am active in Lions International and just completed my term as president of the Van Buren Lions Club, which will be celebrating its 100th

anniversary in October 2022. I am also President of the Crawford County Volunteers for Literacy and the Crawford Library System Foundation.”

Jean Turner Carter (BA 1977; JD 1980) is Executive Director, Center for Arkansas Legal Services (a non-profit that provides free legal assistance to indigent clients with civil legal problems) and currently serves on the Arkansas Supreme Court’s Access to Justice Commission and on the board of directors of the Pulaski County Bar Association. “Not much has changed since last year. I am staying busy with work and enjoying family time, and in this COVID pandemic world, trying to remain healthy.”

Charles Cotten (BA 1967) writes, “The most significant event this past year besides being among the first here in Odessa to be vaccinated against COVID-19 was celebrating my 80th birthday. I continue to be active in my Rotary work as District 5730 historian, as an advisor to the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute at the University of Texas Permian Basin from which I retired as Director, board member for the White-Poole House Historical Site, Bond Committee member for our school district, and active in my church.”

Melanie Perry Cotton (BA 1999; MAT 2001) is currently a librarian at Lowery Freshman Center in Allen, TX. She says she has “one super husband (MSCE 2001) and two awesome kids, Rachel (13) and William (11).”

Charles W. Crawford (MA 1959), faculty member at the University of Memphis since 1962, is currently director of the Oral History Research Office there. He sends greetings to all friends from 1959.

Mary Margaret Cunningham, nee Hui, (BA 2009; MA 2011; EdD 2017) began a new position as Executive Assistant to the Dean and Chief of Staff for the University of Arkansas College of Education and Health Professions in May 2021. In addition to her work for the university, she is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Educational Statistics and Research Methods. She and her husband, **Trase Cunningham** (BA History and African & African American Studies 2014), are excited to welcome their first child in the fall of 2021.

John Kyle Day (BA 1997; MA 1999) is doing well in Southeast Arkansas. He continues to serve as editor of the *Drew County Historical Journal* and was recently reappointed to serve on the advisory council for the University of Arkansas at Monticello’s Historic

Properties (i.e., the Taylor House at Hollywood). Good things to come! His daughter, Sabina Day, was accepted to matriculate at the Arkansas School for Science, Mathematics, and the Arts in Hot Springs, beginning this fall semester.

Jared Dockery (MA 1997; PhD 2008) is an associate professor of history at Harding University in Searcy, AR, where he has taught the last 13 years. He contributed a chapter to the 2020 book, *George C. Marshall and the Early Cold War*, published by the University of Oklahoma Press. He and his wife, Natalie, have two young daughters, Elizabeth and Emma Grace.

Nathan Falls (BA 2014) recently completed a residency in internal medicine at UAMS in Little Rock. He is now a partner with Internal Medicine Associates, working as a hospitalist with Baptist Health Medical Center, also in Little Rock.

Dennis Michael Finnigan (BA 1974) is retired and is about to turn 70 in October. “Go Hogs!”

Marvin R. Franklin (MA 1975; PhA 1977) says, “Well, I am still teaching History at UAFS, Ancient Mediterranean and Rome, along with a host of other courses. This is my 22nd year there--who said you couldn’t get a teaching job with a PhA. But it’s good to have an Air Force retirement to supplement a low salary. My time in the Department (1973-1977) was the most difficult and the most rewarding.”

Jacobs Gilbert (BA 2020) is studying at the U of A School of Law and a staff editor of the *Arkansas Law Review*.

Richard Gray (BA 1989) is still in St. Louis, still lawyering. “Two kids in college now, both making more, um, ‘practical’ choices for majors. Son Avery is about to graduate from the University of Missouri with a degree in environmental biology. Daughter Olivia is about to start at Missouri State (getting closer to Fayetteville!) in nursing. Hello to all the Hogs on the Hill.”

Cody Hackett (BA 2008) is senior electronic resources specialist at Georgetown University Library. He is the 2021 recipient of the Fritz Schwartz Serials Education Scholarship awarded by NASIG.

Michael Hammond (PhD 2009) was named President of Gordon College in Wenham, Massachusetts. Mike started his service there on July 1. He previously served as Provost and Executive Vice President at Taylor University in Indiana.

Lawrence Handley (BA 1970) retired from US Geological Survey in 2014 after 38 years. In 2020, he co-authored with Dr. Catherine Lockwood, CNL World, “Seagrass Status and Trends Update for the Northern Gulf of Mexico: 2002-2017.” He lives in Eureka Springs.

Nathan Howard (PhD 2005) is Professor of History at the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he is beginning his sixteenth year. In May 2021, Howard delivered a paper titled “Sensing Friendship: Masculinity and Materiality in the Cappadocian Epistles” at the North American Patristics Society meeting. His article “Epistolary *Agōn* in the Cappadocian Fathers” will appear in the journal *Studia Patristica* in November 2021. And he has a book, *Christianity and the Contest for Manhood in Late Antiquity: The Rhetoric of Masculinity in the Writings of the Cappadocian Fathers*, that will be published by Cambridge University Press in June 2022.

Lyman A. Hussey (MA 1964) continues his work at the Florida campus of Schiller International University. The virus has precluded students’ entering the USA from abroad, so campus has been sparse of students. Lyman’s classes, mostly in international relations and diplomacy, are online and peopled by students mostly from the university’s Heidelberg, Madrid, and Paris campuses. Schiller partners with the University of Roehampton, so that a student may elect to get a dual degree, i.e., from an American and from a European university. For this program, Lyman is an internal moderator, examining dual courses to ensure that they meet the requirements of the dual degree agreement. He lives with his favorite number one wife of 61 years on the edge of the bayside park system of St. Petersburg. Lyman stays fit via a 4.4 mile bayside walk every morning.

Ben Johnson (PhD 1991) retired as the John and Dora Ragsdale Professor of Arkansas Studies at Southern Arkansas University at the end of 2019, and the world almost immediately shut down. The Sage of El Dorado published “‘The Staunchest of the Stout-Hearted Women’: The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union and the Varieties of Reform in Arkansas” in the autumn 2020 *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*.

Kelly Houston Jones (PhD 2014) finally found her name on senior walk on Dickson Street, in perfect position to be trod (and soiled?) by generations of students swaying and tottering their way back to their dorms and apartments in the wee hours. In spring

2021 Jones finished her third year as an assistant professor at Arkansas Tech University, at which point the administrators noticed her presence and proceeded to place her on several committees. As a trustee of the Arkansas Historical Association and President of the Arkansas Association of College History Teachers, she has become a local expert on how to plan and cancel conferences. In March 2021, Jones published *A Weary Land: Slavery on the Ground in Arkansas* (University of Georgia Press). Now that the book is out she spends all her free time on the phone with Tom DeBlack.

Lance Jones (MA 1972) of Hot Springs says he is “still a retired Presbyterian pastor, still filling pulpits as needed, still reading whatever suits my fancy, and still very pleased to have an MA in History from Arkansas—it has afforded me many sermon illustrations.”

Joseph P. Key (PhD 2001) is Associate Professor of History at Arkansas State and chairman of the board at the Arkansas Humanities Council. He published “An Environmental History of the Quapaws, 1673-1803” in the Winter 2020 *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*.

Karl Krotke-Crandall (MA 2015) successfully defended his dissertation, *The Holocaust in Russian Life: New Perspectives on Soviet Jewish Memory*, at Washington State University. He says that his project, and degree, would not have left the ground without Dr. Starks’s support.

Don Love (BA 1971; MA 1978; EdS 1989; EdAd 2000) celebrated 49 years of marriage to Ann (1973) and 15 years of life in Drakes Creek (Madison Co.). Horse camping/riding and travels to visit their daughters and grandchildren are primary features of their retired lives.

Robert Markle (BA 1978) retired two years ago after 34 years at North Arkansas College in Harrison—academic advisor in the daytime, history teacher at night. After surgeries in December 2019 and March 2020, he decided to move to Hot Springs to be closer to some of his family. He made the move last September and is now adjusting to a COVID world!

Anne Marie Martin (PhD 2018) has transitioned to a tenure-track position at Catawba College, in Salisbury, NC, after a year as a visiting assistant professor.

Jason McCollom (PhD 2015) is Associate Professor of History and Chair of the Department of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at Missouri State University-West Plains. His *Political Harvests: Transnational Farmers’ Movements in the U.S. and*

Canadian Plains, 1905-1950 will be published by University of Nebraska Press in 2022.

Rebekah McMillan (PhD 2019) and **Michael Shane Powers** (PhD 2018) both Assistant Professors at Angelo State University in San Angelo, Texas, welcomed a son, Jackson Shane Powers, on March 10, 2021. Jackson has already visited multiple historical museums and national parks and will soon be calling the hogs with gusto.



Rebekah McMillan, Michael Powers, and Jackson

Aaron Moulton (PhD 2016) is assistant professor of history at Stephen F. Austin University in Nacogdoches, TX. He has been publishing up a storm about counterrevolutionary synergy in Cold War Central America and the Caribbean, with recent articles in *Intelligence and National Security*, *Journal of Iberian and Latin American Research*, *Journal of Military History*, and *International History Review*, with more forthcoming in *Cuban Studies*, and *Journal of Latin American Studies*. His essay “Counterrevolutionary Friends: Caribbean Basin Dictators and Guatemalan Exiles against the Guatemalan Revolution, 1945–50” won the Conference on Latin American History’s Antonine Tibesar Award for best article published in *The Americas* in 2019. Though a born mathematician, Moulton has a hard time plumbing publishers’ metrics.

Frank O’Brien (BA 2017), a retired bricklayer and active historian in Rogers, hopes everyone is well. “With renewed vigor, and a lull in the pandemic, I headed through Tennessee and down to the Gulf

Coast of Alabama. Next road trip: Washington, DC (no insurrection planned). Everybody follow your love of history and stay safe!”

Todd Pfannestiel (BA 1988), contrary to popular belief, has not fallen from the face of the earth. “Following a twenty-year career as a faculty member, dean and provost at Clarion University in Pennsylvania, I have served as Provost and Senior VP for Academic Affairs at Utica College in New York since 2018. My wife and I have become acclimated to upstate New York winters, along with our two dogs. I still think fondly of my time at the University, and especially the amazing faculty who helped to shape my career, from my first history honors seminar with Elliott West, to my Russian history classes with David Edwards, and everyone in between.”

Mark Pryor (BA 1985; JD 1988) lives in Little Rock with his wife, Joi, and their Great Dane, Rubee. In the fall of 2020, he changed law firms and is now at the Denver-based firm of Brownstein, Hyatt, Farber & Schreck. He works primarily out of his home in Little Rock but travels to Washington, DC, frequently. He is engaged in the State Attorney General practice and in the Federal Policy practice.

Madeleine Forrest Ramsey (PhD 2018) is Assistant Professor of History at Virginia Military Institute. That’s *Major Ramsey* to you, bub.

Lyndsey Randall (BA 2005; MAT Secondary Social Studies 2006), in the spring, finished her 15th year teaching at Bentonville High School. “It was a doozy—I taught 100% virtually all year, AP World History and on-level World History. It was my hardest year of teaching to date. I am glad to report that I will return to face-to-face instruction this fall. This summer I was able to take a road trip across 9 states to see some incredible historic sites, including the battlefields of Gettysburg, Antietam, Princeton, Germantown, and Monmouth. I was also able to stay on property at the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge to study the Revolutionary Army of General George Washington. It was an incredible experience. Later this summer, I’ll be interviewed by a Pennsylvania radio station for a multiple-episode discussion about the Battle of Pea Ridge, which is what I wrote my Honors thesis over! So, thank you for the help with that, Dr. Williams, in Honors Methods!”

Thomas Richardson (BA 2012) is an archives technician with the National Personnel Records Center

in St. Louis, specializing in military awards and records research. Thomas also serves as a consultant for the NARA History Hub website and is a contributor to the Pieces of History blog. He has also launched his personal history blog and book review website, History Here and Now. He recently received the Archivist Achievement Award from NARA for his work digitizing US Coast Guard medical records and was chosen to write for the White House Historical Association.

Sarah Riva (PhD 2020) is Assistant Professor of History at Barry University in Miami Shores, FL.

Faye Robbins (PhD 1980) reports, “This has been an eventful year for me. My husband, Wayne, died in April. I fell and broke my hip, had surgery, and I am recovering in an assisted living apartment (and making good progress). I am a retired teacher—I taught at the University of Arkansas in the history department in the early 70s.” She lives in Fort Worth and is former vice president of the William B. Cockroft Foundation for Free Enterprise.

Sarah Rowley (BA 2006) is Assistant Professor of History at DePauw University.

Joel Scott (BA 2009), despite shortages of labor and materials (thanks to COVID), managed to keep his business afloat. He lives in Fayetteville and enjoys watching and reading about sports. Joel says he finally got married and likes to fish with his daughter Lily and dog Boo.

Robert Scott (BA 1976; MA 1978) had a trying spring. He was placed on a feeding tube at the end of March. Two nights later, while still in the hospital, he had a heart attack. A stent was placed in his right coronary artery. On May 31, three blood vessels ruptured in his abdomen. Lifeless, he was resuscitated and brought back to life. Scott writes, “I’ve been disabled since 2014, but I have found time to study through an online certification in Messianic Theology. I will complete the program at the end of this year. My wife Carol and I live in the Dallas suburb of Sachse (pronounced ‘sack-see’). We have an adult son and daughter. We also have a beloved dog named Calli. Calli will be 17 years old in November. I am the ‘great food giver.’ I look back fondly on my MA degree. Dr. Willard Gatewood was my mentor. It was an honor to be one of his students.”

Betty Smith (MA 1971) is retired from Fayetteville High School, where she taught Social Studies for 28 years. She is married to Leortice Smith and they have two sons, two daughters-in-law, and one grandson.

“The past year has been strange due to the pandemic, so we have only been able to travel from Fayetteville to Warren every other month and a wedding trip in April to Austin, TX. We are ready to travel. Fishing has helped.”

Spencer Soule (BA 2019) studies at the U of A School of Law and is note and comment editor for the *Arkansas Law Review*.

Michael Spivey (BA 1987; JD 1990), in 2021, founded the Ozark Outdoor Foundation, a non-profit foundation focused on creating healthy and enriching outdoor experiences in Northwest Arkansas (such as mountain biking events) that honor and celebrate the natural beauty of the Ozarks and elevate the region as a better place to work, play, and live, particularly for underserved parts of our community. Mike is the President & CEO of the foundation.

Caroline Powell Sykes, nee Thompson (BA 1988) reports, “Two years after my graduation, I moved to Oslo, Norway to live with my Norwegian husband. While living in Oslo, I became fluent in the Norwegian language, founded and directed a party retail business servicing both private and corporate customers, and chaired the Norwegian chapter of Democrats Abroad. Oslo attracted leaders from around the world and I was fortunate enough to participate in several world events, including the Oslo Accords in 1993. During this time, I travelled to over 21 countries and lived some years in Copenhagen, Denmark and Cannes, France. We have two children, Oliver (18) and Madison (13). After 21 years abroad, I returned to Arkansas following a difficult divorce. As my children settled and I remarried to a wonderful man, John Sykes, I decided to devote my career to public service. I volunteered for several organizations including Planned Parenthood, Emerge Arkansas, and Indivisible. In 2020, I graduated from the Clinton School of Public Service and used my entrepreneurial skills to develop and lead a project ([FightFear.us](https://fightfear.us)) with a mission to arm voters with the truth, encourage voter turnout, and promote empathy as well as community.”

C. James Taylor (MA 1968) retired as Editor-in-Chief of the Adams Papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society, Boston. He continues to work (remotely from his home in Wisconsin) on a digital edition of John Quincy Adams’s diary. He writes the introductions to the various sections and provides identifications of the people mentioned (the ID’s will

be added at the completion of the project). A significant portion is now online: <https://www.masshist.org/publications/jqadiaries/index.php/search>. In Fall 2020, he published, with two colleagues, *A South Carolina Chronology*, third edition (University of South Carolina Press). He was a member of the University of South Carolina History Department between 1978 and 2002. In January 2021, he began a four-year term as member of the National Archives' National Historical Publications and Records Commission. He is also a board member and vice president of his local Neenah Wisconsin Historical Society. "My travel has been interrupted, but I did make it to Barcelona (March 2020) and Paris (June 2021)."

Ronald Taylor (BA 1969) graduated from the U of A School of Medicine in 1973. He interned in Tulsa, OK, and completed his residency in Family Practice in Dayton, OH, in 1976. He has been in practice in Zenia, OH, for 44 years and says he will always appreciate the liberal arts education he received from Dr. Hudson and others.

Greyson Teague (BA 2017) is finishing up a doctorate in history at the Ohio State University. Last June, he published an opinion piece in the *Washington Post* concerning African American members of Congress

Tommy Thompson (MA 1965) lives in Omaha and has fond memories of Fayetteville.

Brenda Ball Tirrell (MA 1965) says she doesn't have any awards or honors to report, nor has she held any offices, but she was a teacher for 25 years in such places as Texas, Missouri (Southwest Missouri State College-Springfield), Arkansas (Arkansas State University, what was once called LRU and is now UALR, her hometown high school in Nashville, AR), and for eleven years in Saudi Aramco schools in Saudi Arabia. "I am now living in Hot Springs Village, AR, and married to a damn Yankee from Boston, MA, who came kicking and screaming to Arkansas but now loves it, and we have been here nearly 25 years. I have no children from my womb, but I have adorable children from my classrooms who are most dear to me and live all over the world as well as the US. I have been privileged to visit them in far away places with strange sounding names. The pandemic has not been a bother to me as I have probably read over a hundred books during this time, have organized files, photographs, and my library to the point that I now do not have to search the shelves

for a book that I know I have but could not find before the virus hit. It is now in its right place. By the way, I am a yellow dog Democrat awaiting the indictment of DJ Trump."

John Unger (BA 2003) received his Education Specialist degree from Arkansas State University and is now principal at West Fork Middle School in West Fork, AR, where he is starting his third year.

Stephanie Haught Wade (MA 2006) has been named director of the Historic Arkansas Museum in Little Rock. She published "John Andrew Riggs and Arkansas's Primary Suffrage Bill" in the autumn 2020 edition of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*.

Bobby Watson (BA 1973; MA 1975) reports, "Most of us would probably agree that 2020 was a year to both remember and forget. Like most people my wife, Priscilla, and I stayed close to our home in Fort Worth, Texas. That was easier for us than some since I retired from my business as a computer software consultant three years ago. However, there were highlights during the year as my grandson Kyle graduated from college and my grandson Seth graduated from high school. Kyle is a middle school coach now and Seth is already a sophomore due to taking several AP classes. We look forward to taking an Alaskan cruise in 2022 if COVID permits."

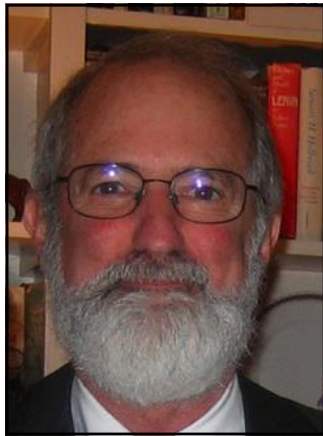
Rhona Weaver (BA 1977) saw her debut novel published in the fall of 2020. The book, *A Noble Calling: An FBI Yellowstone Adventure*, received the Bill Fisher Award for Best First Novel from the Independent Book Publisher Association. The book was also awarded the 2021 Best Action/Adventure, 2021 Best Christian Fiction, and was a finalist for 2021 Best Thriller from the New Generation Indie Book Awards. The novel is the first in the FBI Yellowstone Adventure Series and can be found wherever books are sold.

Andrew Wehrman (BA 2003, MAT 2004) is Associate Professor of History at Central Michigan University. He had a chapter, "Thomas Jefferson, Inoculation, and the Norfolk Riots: Public Health vs. Private Medicine in Revolutionary Virginia," appear in a collection published by the American Philosophical Society entitled *The Spirit of Inquiry in the Age of Jefferson*. The chapter is related to his book project, *The Contagion of Liberty*, which is now under contract with Johns Hopkins University Press. Last year, he had an op-ed published in the *Washington Post* comparing America's debate over "reopening" the economy during

the pandemic to Boston's similar debate in 1792. As someone who researches the relationship between epidemics, public health, and popular political action, he felt in the early months of COVID like he had already finished watching six seasons of a new TV series and everyone else was still on season one.

Deaths

David Block III (BA 1968) died in Houston on June 15, 2021. Born in San Diego in 1945, he grew up in Wynne. After receiving his BA from the U of A, Block served in the Peace Corps in the Bolivian highlands for three years. His interests fixed on Latin America, he subsequently earned a doctorate at the University



David Block III

of Texas. There followed a thirty-year career as a Latin American studies librarian, first at Cornell and then as director of the distinguished Nettie Lee Benson Collection at the University of Texas. An expert on the Andean region, he published *Mission Culture on the Amazon: Native Tradition, Jesuit Enterprise & Secular Policy in Moxos, 1660-1880* (1994), which won the Conference on Latin American History's Howard Cline Memorial Prize. A distance runner, amateur photographer, and collector of Andean textiles, he also delivered food for Meals on Wheels. Dr. Block is survived by his wife of 45 years, Peggy Robinson, a son, and a daughter.

Gretchen B. Gearhart (BA 1983) passed away on August 5, 2021, in La Grange, Illinois. She was born in Fayetteville, the daughter of Eloise Farris Baerg and William Baerg, a legendary entomologist at the U of A. She studied at the Cleveland Institute to Music and taught piano and played organ at a church in Stamford, Connecticut. After she returned to Fayetteville with her husband, John, she earned her BA in history and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. Gretchen was a member of the Department in the 1990s, serving as the Arkansas Historical Association's business manager between 1992 and 1997 and assistant editor of the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* from 1992 to 1999. She subsequently

edited *Flashback*, the award-winning journal of the Washington County Historical Society. Gretchen also published histories of the Friends of the Fayetteville Public Library and of Fayetteville's St. Joseph's Catholic Church. She is survived by four daughters and a son.

Sara Sharp (BA 1961; MA 1967) died in Tulsa on October 6, 2021. A student of history and a lover of literature and music, Sara was music director/organist at St. Theodore's Episcopal Church in Bella Vista, sang in the choir at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and was a mainstay of Fayetteville's prestigious Modern Literature Club. She served as president of the board of the Symphony of Northwest Arkansas and as founding dean of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. With her husband, Frank, she oversaw the Ozark Mountain Smokehouse empire, and together they had a hand in many good works in Northwest Arkansas, including the preservation of Mount Kessler as a natural area and public park. She is survived by her husband and four children.

Dorothy Stuck (BA 1943) died in Little Rock on July 1, 2021, at the age of 100. One of the state's most noted newspaper publishers, Stuck was born in Gravette and raised in Muskogee. After graduating from the U of A, she moved to Marked Tree, where she taught history for three years. In 1946, she married Howard Stuck, and the couple bought three newspapers: the *Marked Tree Tribune*, the *Lepanto News Record* and the *Trumann Democrat*. When her husband became ill in 1950, she became editor of the *Marked Tree Tribune*. Her editorials in favor of desegregation cost the paper business but drew her favorable attention from other quarters. In 1970, she was appointed regional director of the U.S Office of Civil Rights in Dallas and served nine years, overseeing the desegregation of schools and the implementation of Title IX. After returning to Arkansas, she founded a management and publications consulting firm with longtime friend Nan Snow. The pair collaborated on a biography of Roberta Fulbright published in 1997. Stuck also served thirty years on the board of Southern Bancorp. In 2008, U of A honored Stuck with its Distinguished Alumni Award, and in 2017 she was inducted into the Arkansas Women's Hall of Fame. ■

2020-2021

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