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#### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR | JOHN OTT



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Dear Alumni, Friends, Students, Faculty, and Staff,

A year ago, as I sat down to write my first newsletter as Chair of the History Department, I waxed enthusiastic on the start of fall term: faculty and students flocking back to campus, the rush of color painting the trees on the Park Blocks, the buzz and anticipation that accompanies a new year. This year is very different. The PSU campus is silent. Learning is happening not in classrooms but at kitchen tables, in bedrooms and home offices—wherever a wifi signal can be found.

As was already apparent at the time I was writing my column for the summer newsletter, department faculty

and staff have become increasingly comfortable with new technologies for distance learning, work, and communication. Most of us have in eight short months gone from being completely unfamiliar with Zoom and Google Chat to experiencing 'Zoom fatigue' from being on screen for many hours a day. Classes that we may never have dreamed of teaching anywhere but in a classroom, we now offer remotely—'synchronously' or 'asynchronously' in the current parlance. We are all learning. And we are also discovering that these technologies have certain advantages that face-to-face meetings lack. Our sponsored talks are now viewed by audiences globally rather than locally, and can be recorded and shared for later viewing. We can 'meet' with colleagues, friends, and family more readily and more spontaneously than was possible in person.

For example, I have been meeting once a month to discuss scholarship in medieval canon law with colleagues based in North America, the UK, and continental Europe. We never did these things pre-COVID, waiting instead to encounter one another at conferences or congresses. Now it seems difficult to imagine not seeing them monthly. As we talk shop, my European colleagues can sip their evening *aperitifs* while I enjoy my morning espresso drink. Like societies before us who confronted pandemic, a certain amount of creativity has blossomed in the face of the hard reality of doing things in a new way.

Yet, the experience of greater social isolation and distance learning is undeniably hard. The emotional and psychological toll is especially heavy, and grows as the virus case-load surges and daylight diminishes. Many of our faculty and students must deal with the added stress of supervising home-schooled children. Our students have confronted personal loss and the loss of jobs, the challenge of relocating, and are carrying the burden of social injustice. Our bandwidth—digital and mental—is at a premium.

The History Department is trying to help. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Friends of History, we are disbursing \$5,000 in hardship grants this fall. These grants will go directly toward student tuition accounts. We hope to give out another \$5,000 in fellowships and awards to meritorious graduates and undergraduates. Faculty speak on the phone with their students to check on their progress; we Zoom regularly; and we direct students to university services and the help they need.

We have also continued our sponsored talks and community programming, hosting a talk by Yale Distinguished **Professor Alan Mikhail** in October on "Columbus the Muslim," and another in November by **Professor Nathan Connolly** of Johns Hopkins on historical 'redlining' and the racist practices of real estate sales in the U.S.





#### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR | UPDATE FROM THE PACIFIC HISTORICAL REVIEW

Even as we focus on the enormous task of teaching, our faculty continue to publish: Chia Yin Hsu and Tom Luckett recently saw to print a new volume on *The Cultural Life of Risk and Innovation: Imagining New Markets from the Seventeenth Century to the Present* (New York, 2020), the product of the biennial Richard Robinson Business History Workshops. Katy Barber was recognized by the Oregon Historical Society with the Joel Palmer Award for the best article published in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* in 2019, "We were at our journey's end': Settler Sovereignty Formation in Oregon." In short, and as the faculty updates in this issue suggest, the intellectual life of the department continues ever onward. In that, there is reassurance of continuity with our mission.

I hope our alumni and friends will take the opportunity to stay in touch, update us on your doings, and reach out.

We may be remote, but the Department is still very much present.

John Ott, History Department Chair

### Update from Pacific Historical Review by Marc Rodriguez

It has been quite a year for everyone, and it has been no different in the offices of the *Pacific Historical Review* at PSU's History Department. Since March 2020, we have been working remotely and this has meant that we had our 2020-2021 fellows transition into their new jobs and undergo virtual training for the first time. Overall this process has gone quite smoothly. Our fellows for this year are **Alexandra Ibarra**, a second-year student in the MA program, and **Allison Kirkpatrick**, an Honors Program and History undergraduate. Both have transitioned quite nicely to the virtual workplace, but the social aspect of working together in the office is hard to accomplish via Zoom or Google Meet. Still, we do our best using the available tools.

We were ready for the pandemic in ways that some journals may not have been. Our journal had moved to a cloud-based submission and review system in 2014, and this has made the issues of dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic manageable. Submissions continue to come in at a brisk pace, but revisions, peer review, and book reviews are now taking longer to get back to us. We have had to adjust deadlines as academics from Iowa to Incheon now may have increased family, childcare, and elder care duties as a result of the pandemic.



We have found that people are doing the very best they can to keep things moving along for our authors but that reasonable delay is now part of the process.

**Brenda Frink**, our tireless Associate Editor, has prepared our journals for production and typesetting on schedule, working with our partners in California and India, a process that was not impacted by Covid-19 in any real way. *PHR* authors have so far in 2020 won four **prizes for their articles** from a number of leading historical societies, which keeps up our rather good track record of publishing prize-winning and important scholarship from PSU for two decades and counting.

# FRIENDS of HISTORY

#### GRADUATE STUDIES COORDINATOR | BRIAN TURNER

### From the Desk of the Graduate Studies Coordinator

Despite months of worldwide disruption, the last year has brought plenty of good news both to and from the department's MA program.

After two years of planning, Fall 2020 marks the beginning of our new MA program requirements. The most significant change sees the Department offering students two different culminating requirements for the MA. Students may now choose between completing a thesis or an examination. Both tracks remain academically rigorous but allow students to choose the best set of requirements for their own goals. These new program requirements are explained on our brand new History Graduate Program website, a platform which, thanks to **Andrea Janda** and **Jeff Brown**, is now much more inviting and intuitive.

This past year once again illustrated our students' outstanding academic capabilities. Among the success stories, Silvie Andrews published her article, "Material Witness: The Seaside Riots of 1962–1964," in the Oregon Historical Quarterly (Fall 2020). Silvie was also awarded a Donald J. Sterling, Jr. Fellowship from the Oregon Historical Society. Katie Bush and Adam Fitzhugh were recipients of prestigious and highly competitive Oregon Heritage Fellowships. If anyone has news of other publications, awards or presentations, please do let me know.



Over the last year, the department has conferred nine MA degrees. **Sarah Alderson** (Ott), **Ashley Bower** (Bohling), Jeffrey Braytenbah (Ruoff), Nicole Ann Kindle (Barber), Kevin McCormick (Turner), Samuel Mertz (Johnson), Johanna Katherine Murphy (Schechter), David M. Olsen (Ott), Caitlin Elizabeth Pala (Beyler). A hearty congratulations to one and all!

Several Graduate Students were recognized at our most recent Graduation Ceremony (June 2020). Zachary Hamilla won the Best Graduate Seminar Paper Award for "Civil Society and Political Discourse in Seventeenth-Century China". Halely Blackledge received the award for the Highest Graduate GPA (4.0 across 28 graded HST credits). Sarah **Alderson** and **A.J. Earl** were also honored for their Outstanding Service to the Department.

The Department also awarded thousands of dollars worth of scholarships and funding. In fall 2019, Adam Fitzhugh received the Joel Palmer Scholarship; Jeffrey Arnsdorf, Jacob Hutchins, Neil Lee, Johanna Murphy, Hannah **Reynolds**, **Liza Schade**, and **Icarus Smith** received awards from our Fulton-Dodds Scholarship and Friends of History Scholarship funds. Over the past year, Stephanie K. Oliver awards, which are granted to students nearing completion of their thesis, were given to Jeffrey Arnsdorf and Jason Ferguson. Among our new admits for fall term, Jordan Hallmark and Alexander Navruzov both received Anne Myers Scholarships. Sarah Harris, likewise a new admit, was awarded the Rose Tucker Fellowship in partnership with the Oregon Historical Society. **Alexandra Ibarra** is returning to work for the *Pacific Historical Review*, this time while holding the Caroline P. Stoel Editorial Fellowship. Finally several students also made use of hardship funds offered to offset unexpected difficulties associated with the Covid-19 pandemic.

All of these awards and scholarships are made available through the generosity of our donors, to whom we all offer the greatest thanks. If you wish to learn more about our scholarships and awards, please see the Giving to the Department **of History** page at the end of this newsletter.

The next year promises to be one of continued excitement for the Graduate program. New funding opportunities including a set scholarship application cycle, and subsidies for student membership in academic associations—will be introduced. Moving forward, Graduate Students will be able to apply for the Lauren Banasky Research Grant, and the Fulton-Dodds and Joel Palmer Scholarships in fall term. The Stephanie K. Oliver Award will be available each term.





#### GRADUATE STUDIES COORDINATOR | ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF HISTORY

Myers and Friends of History Awards will be granted to deserving incoming students. The Johnson Family History Award will be given to the outstanding MA thesis presented during the previous academic year. Further details for all of these scholarships and awards are available on the Department website.

Current and future students will be glad to know that starting in fall 2021 the History MA program will be included among PSU's Western Regional Graduate Programs, a consortium which allows students from select Western states to pay in-state tuition. For those of you considering joining our MA program, the university has launched a new application interface, SLATE, which promises to ease the process of applying. In other news, because of the limitations posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Department has suspended the GRE requirement for the upcoming Fall 2021 application cycle. If you are interested in our program, or in a History graduate program at some other institution, please do feel welcome to reach out with any questions, by emailing us at hist@pdx.edu.

That's all for now. Best wishes to everyone.

**Brian Turner** 

### About the Friends of History by John Stephens

A little about Friends of History at PSU for those who may not be familiar with it. Friends of History has been around for decades, but the association experienced a rebirth in 2012 as a result of faculty efforts, those of **Ken Ruoff**, who had a vision of all that FOH could become. Starting in 2012 and through this last summer, FOH was guided under the able and dedicated leadership of President **Lou Livingston**, who earned his Master's degree in History from PSU.

The objective of FOH is to promote excellence in the teaching and study of history within the University and share the University's collective historical knowledge with the surrounding community. To that end, and under Lou's leadership, FOH has sponsored over 25 lectures from renowned historians, including Pulitzer Prize winners and MacArthur "Genius" Grant recipients; sponsored faculty-run colloquia for national historians to present their works in progress; funded faculty travel and research requests; funded student travel and research requests; and most recently, established a student hardship fund to help undergraduate and graduate students continue and complete their studies in the time of Covid.



John Stephens

FOH has also sponsored recent and upcoming events, including a November 17 lecture by Nathan D. B. Connolly, the Herbert Baxter Adams Associate Professor of History at Johns Hopkins University, on racism in housing and American political culture. Connolly is the author of *A World More Concrete: Real Estate and the Remaking of Jim Crow South Florida* (University of Chicago Press, 2014). A slate of exciting speakers is planned for the first six months of 2021. Stay tuned!

I have served on the Board since its rebirth in 2012 and was elected as the new President this last Spring. Other officers are new Vice President **Dr. Joji Kappes** (profiled in the Summer 2020 Newsletter), Secretary **Mark Rothert**, Treasurer **Henry Breithaupt**, and Director of Membership Services **Mary Faulkner**. The rest of the Board consists of thirteen community members who are characterized not only by their love of history, but also their willingness to provide the financial support that has made these programs possible; plus three faculty members, including Department Chair **John Ott**, and the student president of **Phi Alpha Theta**, the History Honors Society, **Liza Schade**.

You can **become a member of FOH** and join in the support of its programs. If you have an interest in being a member of the Board and making the financial commitment that includes, you should **contact me**.





### The Johnson Family Fund

In appreciation for the inspiration he received from history students throughout his career at the university, Professor Emeritus of History **David A. Johnson** and his family have created four awards—for Outstanding M.A. Thesis, Outstanding (undergraduate) Honors thesis, and two awards for Outstanding Performance by an Undergraduate in a Lower Division (freshman-sophomore) Course.

Johnson believes that Portland State University's greatest strength is its students. Their striking determination, seriousness, and intelligence are central to the University's identity. History students stand out. Their scholarly and community accomplishments inspire the faculty and in turn are a central source of the teaching and research excellence for which the PSU History Department is known.



David A. Johnson

David was a faculty member in the PSU History Department from 1979-2019. He was Director of the PSU's NEH-funded Public History Program (1979-1982); Faculty Advisor to PSU President **Judith Ramaley** (1992-1993); and Chair of the History Department (1993-1996). He is the author of *Founding the Far West. California, Oregon, Nevada* (1992), which received the Outstanding Book Award from the PCB-AHA. From 1997 to 2014 he was Managing Editor of the *Pacific Historical Review*, and served as President of the Pacific Coast Branch-American Historical Association in 2019-2020. At PSU he received the Burlington-Northern Award Outstanding Faculty Award (1992), the Branford Price Millar Award for Faculty Excellence (2004), and the John Elliot Allen Teaching Award (2000, 2005, and 2015).

DEPARTMENT NEWS | JOHNSON FAMILY FUND | KATY BARBER OHQ AWARD

## Katy Barber wins OHQ's Joel Palmer Award



Scotts Bluff National Monument, SCBL-46

Each year, the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* (*OHQ*) presents the **Joel Palmer Award** to the author of the best article published in the journal during the previous year. The award was established by Omar C. "Slug" Palmer and William J. Lang in honor of their ancestor Joel Palmer, a nineteenth-century Oregon leader. Members of *OHQ*'s Editorial Advisory Board vote on what they deem to be the best article from the previous year.

This year's first-place **Joel Palmer Award** goes to **Katy Barber**'s article, "'We were at our journey's end': Settler Sovereignty Formation in Oregon." In the article, she expertly weaves diary entries written by Esther Bell Hannah, one of 60,000 overland migrants heading west in 1852 alone, into a narrative of resettlement, exclusion, and displacement. The article reveals the

structures — settler colonialism and white supremacy — and official and unofficial measures, such as federal and state policies coupled with violence and harassment, that have created "race-inflected advantages and disadvantages that have persisted through generations." An *OHQ* editorial advisory board member described the article as an important contribution to Oregon history for its description of "the realities of white supremacy and settler colonialism, placing Oregon in a national and global content, and explaining the impact on communities of color."



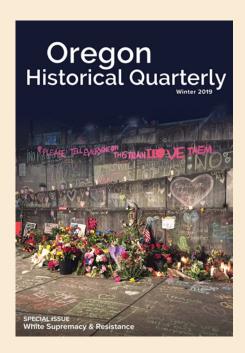


FACULTY REPORTS

### **Faculty Reports**

Katy Barber is grateful to her fabulous students for a mostly successful pivot to remote courses in the spring and to those graduate students who met with her weekly over the summer—on Zoom, of course—for remote writing sessions. Over the summer, she honed her online teaching skills thanks to classes and workshops offered by the university, worked on national conferences for 2021 that will likely be remote, taught online workshops for the Bonneville Power Administration, and did as much research for her new project as she could from home. She looks forward to sharing that work—an examination of how racially ambiguous spiritual leaders tapped into New Thought philosophies to oppose the American racial order—at Willamette University's annual Frost Lecture under the title "From 'Black Prophet' to Chief Rising Sun: Radical Dignity & Race Performance in 20th Century America" in early 2021.

Her article "'We were at our journey's end': Settler Sovereignty Formation in Oregon." in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*'s Winter 2019 special issue on White Supremacy & Resistance was recognized with the Joel Palmer award. The highlight of the fall promises to be performing in MacArthur fellow and playwright Larissa Fasthorse's (Sicangu Lakota Nation) "The Thanksgiving Play" for students at Gonzaga University from her home office.



Joseph Bohling postponed his sabbatical given the uncertainties of international travel, but he somehow managed to follow through with a visiting professorship in October at the Institut d'études politiques (commonly known as Sciences Po) in Paris, one of the world's most preeminent institutions for the study of politics. Known locally by his French colleagues as "l'aventurier," he has led seminars on energy history and the history of capitalism and continued with the research for his book project on the French nuclear energy transition since the 1970s. By day, he works in the archives; by night (that's midday in Portland), he teaches his PSU classes. Over the last year, he has stayed busy in numerous ways, among them preparing articles and book reviews for publication as well as offering his expertise on subjects as varied as wine, energy policy, and economic history in forums as varied as podcasts, documentaries, and college classrooms.

When not clumsily adapting to teaching via Zoom, Joe has sought to know Oregon, spending time on the coast and in Bend. He has also become obsessed with smoking meat after a pre-COVID trip to Austin, Texas, and spends countless hours pursuing the perfect brisket in his backyard smoker and then finding people to help him eat it.

**Jim Grehan** continues to tend to his sprawling research project on popular culture in the Ottoman Empire. One piece of it will appear sometime next year in the *Cambridge World History of Fashion* (edited by Beverly Lamire and Giorgio Riello). Jim's chapter is a study of fashion in the Ottoman Empire during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. In the midst of these labors, the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association* published **his contribution to a roundtable** on the question of 'early modernity' in the Ottoman Empire. He was very much looking forward to attending a conference this January at the Institute for Mediterranean Studies in Crete ("Enchantments and Disenchantments: Early Modern Ottoman Visions of the World") until Covid-19 laid waste to his travel plans.

Jim has consoled himself by baking lots of bread. He already makes the perfect cheese bread, and now amuses himself with various other recipes. His family sighs that he does not show the same enthusiasm for fixing up the deck in the backyard. His next project is to hunt down a bargain turntable so that he can dust off his old LPs for the remainder of the lockdown.

# Portland State



#### FACULTY REPORTS

This summer Chia Yin Hsu attended a virtual conference — "Trade and Empire in Eurasia"— that was originally to have taken place in Siberia, in the city of Tyumen. The conference fell on very early mornings, Pacific Time, to include participants from time zones up to 15 hours apart, demonstrating that you can get jetlagged without travelling.

Reflecting on the conference, as well as querying what constituted "empire," and what constituted the economic sphere of activities, she published a short article, "Empire and the Economic," in the February 2020 issue of the journal *Ab Imperio*.

Similarly dealing with interpreting economic activities from a cultural perspective, a volume of collected works she co-edited with Professor Thomas Luckett, along with colleague Erika Vause from St. John's University, came out in September. This anthology, The Cultural Life of Risk and Innovation: Imagining New Markets from the Seventeenth Century to the Present, is published by Routledge in hardcover and as an eBook.





Catherine McNeur and Mabel

Catherine McNeur is returning this fall from a sabbatical during which she wrote just about half of her new book (under contract with Basic Books) on the forgotten nineteenth-century scientists Margaretta Hare Morris and Elizabeth Carrington Morris. Over the year she presented a paper "Vanishing Flies and the Lady Entomologist" at a symposium on animal history at York University in Toronto that will be published with University of Calgary Press. Professor McNeur gave a "lightning talk" as part of the Smithsonian's Symposium on American Women Scientists this fall, on "The Women Behind the Pseudonyms: Uncovering the Lives of Anonymous Nineteenth-Century Science Writers."

At the start of 2020, McNeur also got a sabbatical puppy, Mabel, who soon after became a pandemic puppy. The year certainly took a turn! Now Mabel likes to join in during Professor McNeur's class videos, suddenly awakening from a long nap at just the moment when the record button is hit. Mabel

keeps the whole family entertained, busy, and well snuggled, which has been an enormous blessing given all.

Professor Marc Rodriguez saw his first article translated into French as "La maind'oeuvre mexicaine au cours du long XXe siècle : le travailleur d'origine mexicaine comme 'perpétuel étranger' aux USA" in Le Moing, Ouaked and Le Bihan (eds), Les défis de la diversité culturelle dans le monde du travail au XXIe siècle: Politiques, pratiques et représentations en Europe et dans les Amériques (Brussels, Belgium: Peter Lang Publishing, 2020), which explores the idea of the Mexican-ancestry people of the United States as "perpetual strangers" in a country many were born in and consider home. The article was based on a keynote address he gave in France at the University of Poitiers in 2017. He also recently spoke to KGW-TV, who produced a short video about the bracero experience in Oregon as part of the coverage for National Hispanic American Heritage Month.







### FACULTY REPORTS

Ken Ruoff was honored for two reasons this year. First, as the recipient of Tim Garrison Faculty Award for Historical Research this past spring, for his new book *Japan's Imperial House in the Postwar Era*, 1945-2019. The award is named after Dr. Tim Garrison, a model of a scholar-administrator (we remain grateful for his service as chair). Second, the funds for this award were provided by Lou Livingston, who led a remarkable renaissance of the Friends of History, a demonstration of how civic leadership can strengthen the History Department and Portland State University. Separately, this fall Professor Ruoff served on the nominating committee for the Gwangju Prize for Human Rights, offered by the May 18 Foundation in the City of Gwangju, South Korea. On May 18, 1980, the then-military dictatorship of the Republic of Korea brutally suppressed pro-democracy protests in the city of Gwangju. The prize commemorates this tragic moment in the eventual democratization of South Korea by recognizing individuals and organizations who are promoting human rights presently. On a more personal note, Ken and his family also managed to take a vacation to Yellowstone, a place he suggests everyone should try to visit once in their life. They spent many hours watching wolves and also bison, among other wildlife.



Patricia Schechter and Jan Dilg (MA 2005) "Chalking the Vote" in downtown Portland celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment granting women's suffrage.

Patricia Schechter finished a conference paper titled "Prison Records and Everyday Life in Pueblonuevo del Terrible, 1928-1930" for the XV Congreso Cordoba on contemporary history in January 2021.

In October, she was part of a conversation presented by the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education, Oregon Justice Resource Center, and WorldOregon that focused on the intricacies of moral leadership in times of genocide, civil rights, and women's rights movements.

In February 2021 she will be presenting her paper "Madre y Matríz: The Politics of Town-Making in Cordoba, 1887-1905" at the History Colloquium-Workshop. She also agreed to serve as President-elect of the Western Association of Women Historians, to begin in April 2021.

**Friedrich Schuler** was in Europe exploring how Europeans dealt with the Corona situation. In three months he encountered six U.S. citizens. The absence of U.S. voices in Europe was shocking. He spent his time continuing his research of the history of the Columbia River Quarantine Station after 1900, and he investigated the sources dealing with FDR's administration toward Latin America as expressed by his Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau Jr. Then he joined United's re-inaugural flight from Munich to San Francisco, which meant 36 paying passengers in one giant Boeing 737. It was an adventurous summer and fortunately, Corona-free.

Jennifer Tappan had to postpone her plans to visit archival collections in Europe and go on sabbatical as a result of the pandemic. She has taken the opportunity afforded by these unprecedented times to hone her skills in offering online courses, and she recently completed revisions on an article slated to be part of a special edition of the journal Health & Place. The article builds on work completed in a year-long workshop at the University of Oregon and looks specifically at how notions of place embedded in scientific delineations of endemic versus epidemic disease created highly unequal global burdens of yellow fever. Black Lives Matter and COVID-19 have taken center stage since the spring, although somehow she also found time to move into a new house, welcome a new puppy, and embark on several backpacking trips, including the first of hopefully many amazing backpacking adventures with just her daughter. She is cautiously hopeful that she will be able to embark on the research needed to complete her book project on the history of yellow fever before the end of this academic year, in order to make the most of her sabbatical leave next year.





## A.J. Earl at the Western Historical Association Meeting

STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS | A.J. EARL AT THE WHA | KYLE SALLEE AT AU



10 years before the better known Stonewall Uprising, the patrons of an LGBTQ friendly Los Angeles Cafe rioted in response to attempted arrests and scare tactics by the police

Second year Master's student A.J. Earl presented his work at the Western Historical Association's annual meeting this October. Participating on the panel "Queerness in the West," Earl presented a paper, "Meeting in Exile: Indigenous and Queer Convergence in 1950s Los Angeles," that explored the spacial intersections of queer and Indigenous communities in pre-Stonewall Los Angeles. LA became a site of convergence thanks to federal relocation policy that moved Native people from reservations into cities and because the city was, in Earl's words, "a hub for disembarkment of travelers and the dispossessed."

But identifying those linkages and restoring them to the historic record required Earl's innovative use of photographic and film sources to map their proximity. Earl's call for restoring Indigenous histories to queer historiography was

very well received, even eliciting interest from a journal editor.

Due to COVID-19, the conference was entirely remote, but it turns out that going remote has its upsides. PSU students were able to attend the conference with their \$25 membership and students in **Katy Barber**'s Introduction to Public History attended several sessions as a group as part of an initiative to bring WHA into classrooms. In 2021, the conference is slated to be in Portland, so the Department can look forward to more opportunities for engagement, hopefully in person.

### Kyle J. Sallee accepted to American University

**Kyle J. Sallee** was accepted into American University's United States Foreign Policy and National Security program (USFP) and began coursework this Fall. "I am coordinating with AU faculty to map out my next two years of academic work and pinpoint the focus topic for my Master's degree," Sallee says. "Thus far, national security and nuclear non-proliferation strategies are my top contenders and they have an abundance of overlapping coursework. I have also begun to investigate the Scoville Fellowship and am creating a strategy to apply."

Graduates of the USFP work in the intelligence community, the White House, executive branch agencies such as the State and Defense Departments, the Congress, private-sector consulting firms, think tanks, non-governmental



Kyle j. Sallee

organizations, and international organizations. Sallee writes, "This accomplishment could not have been possible without **Professor Hsu**'s support and assistance throughout the process and the academic skills I learned through her coursework."





#### STUDENT NEWS | FOH LETTERS OF THANKS

### Thank You Letter from Jordan Hallmark



To the Friends of History:

My name is Jordan Hallmark and I am a first-year graduate student in the MA in History program at Portland State University. I am writing to express my tremendous gratitude to the Friends of History for the generous financial support that your donations have made possible.

In light of the seemingly endless series of challenges that our community has faced this year, it can be easy to turn our attention away from the study of the past in order to address the urgent issues of the present. However, I feel that the study of history is more important now than perhaps ever before. I am so grateful for the Friends of History and the role you continue to play in supporting the academic goals of aspiring historians like me.

The History Hardship funds award that Friends of History has so generously financed will allow me to pursue my passion for historical research in spite of the many obstacles that seem to stand in the way.

Thank you for making my professional goals financially attainable.

With gratitude,

Jordan Hallmark

### Thank You Letter from Hannah Reynolds

To the Friends of History:

I am writing to sincerely thank you for your contributions, which have helped me greatly during this challenging financial time.

My name is **Hannah Reynolds**, and I am a high school Social Studies teacher on the Oregon Coast and an MA student at Portland State. I have been driving to and from the Coast to attend my PSU classes for the past two years, and it has been absolutely worth it. Working towards my Master's degree has not only helped me continue my passion for academic History, but it also greatly strengthens my skills as a K-12 educator.



Hannah Reynolds



#### 2 STUDENT NEWS | FOH LETTERS OF THANKS

I am currently working on a research project that seeks to position women's labor on 19th century homesteads in the context of settler colonialism in the United States. Working closely with the Nehalem Valley Historical Society, I have been able to rely mostly on two accounts by women near where I live on the North Coast of Oregon.

Connecting to the local history of homesteading and rural identity development through settlement have inspired me to look closer into this topic for my Master's thesis. I am hoping to be able to share this work with my community through teaching and events at the historical society in the future as well.

Thank you again for your generous donation that makes my continued learning possible! I am a fervent believer that understanding our history is critical to addressing the challenges of the present, and appreciate your dedication to that endeavor.

All my best,

#### Hannah Reynolds

### Thank You Letter from Icarus Smith

Dear Friends of History,

I recently applied for, and received, some much-needed financial help from the PSU History Department's History Hardship Fund. I am aware that a sizable portion of the department's funding comes from the Friends of History, so today I am writing you to express my deep gratitude for all of your generous support.

I have been a student of history at PSU for nearly four years now—two as an undergraduate, and two as a graduate student—and have developed great respect for the staff and faculty here. The professors at this institution have always gone beyond what is required of them in order to help their students succeed. I assure you that your financial contributions are well placed.



Icarus Smith

My academic path has brought me to my current study of the Depression Era, in particular a Federal Writers' Project undertaking called *America Eats*. This unpublished manuscript was meant to be a region-by-region account of cuisine and culture from every corner of America—a volume that was to focus on American cookery, and the gatherings that surrounded the fare, as important social institutions. My Master's thesis will examine the "Far West" portion of *America Eats*, and how this project marked an important example of the search for regional identity in the Pacific Northwest through cuisine. The funding that I received will help me continue this project through our current crisis.

Unfortunately, the field of history seems to be in decline. I have

read that history departments across the United States are seeing lower enrollment every year; funding decreases have meant that there are less positions available for professors; and the current reigning culture of ignorance has many



# FRIENDS of HISTORY

#### STUDENT NEWS | HARDSHIP FUND TO HONOR NICK FISH

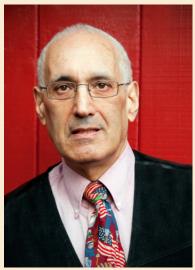
convinced that the study of history is mere hobbyism, rather than a marketable skill. Invariably, students go for history degrees because we love what we do, and because we firmly believe that it is vital for a healthy, functioning society that we continue to seek to understand our shared past.

I believe that the study of history is important now more than ever; I know that you all feel the same. Thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely,

Icarus J. Smith

## FOH Student Hardship fund donation to honor Nick Fish



**Gloria Myers** (MA 1993) and I have donated \$1500 to the Friends of History Student Hardship fund to honor City Commissioner Nick Fish, who passed away last winter. I read the following statement to the Friends meeting in July:

Sometime in 1997, several years after **Nick Fish** had volunteered to serve as FOH attorney, he discovered that the PSU Foundation customarily placed the organization's funds in a contingency account that accrued no interest on the principal. Learning that the Foundation Board was meeting off-campus at the University Club, Nick pushed **Friends of History** President Stephen Heard in his wheelchair several blocks to the location, where the only workable access to the second floor was the freight elevator.

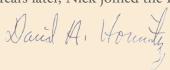
Bursting into the conference room, the two were met with objections from an aide, who protested that they were interrupting a private meeting.

David A. Horowitz

Ignoring the complaint, Nick looked directly at the Board Chair, introduced himself and Stephen, and told him the Board had grave liability issues over a serious fiduciary matter, and that he'd best instruct his presumptive aide to be quiet, a request to which the President quickly complied.

The issue was soon revolved and the account switched to one that accrued interest, where it has remained ever since.

Years later, Nick joined the Foundation Board.



David A. Horowitz



Nick Fish





### Spring Students get 'eyes-on' research with 500-year-old codex



Interior of the Malleus Maleficarum, or Hammer of Witches

Last spring, Professor John Ott was preparing to offer a hands-on research practicum for a mixed class of undergraduate and graduate students featuring a rare, 500-year-old codex acquired by the PSU Library's Special Collections in Fall 2018. The idea was to have students carry out original research on the codex, which contains the (for its time) best-selling world chronicle of a Carthusian monk named Werner Rolewinck, known as the *Fasciculus temporum*, or "Little Bundle of Times."

Also enclosed in the sixteenth-century

binding is a better known, indeed infamous work, a second-edition copy of the witch-hunting manual known as the *Malleus Maleficarum*, or *Hammer of Witches*. The works were published in 1490 by two printers (one based in Speyer, the other in Strasbourg), who may have collaborated on the project. In addition to the printed works, the codex contains numerous marginal annotations, ex libris marks, and handwritten lines on blank leaves between the printed texts.

"It's an amazing teaching tool, and fascinating object," Ott reported. Unfortunately, Covid had other plans. The course immediately pivoted to an online, remote format. Thanks to the extraordinary efforts of PSU's Special

Collections librarian, Carolee Harrison, who produced a 15-minute video and numerous digital images of the leaves, the students could still "view" the codex (several have since seen it in person).

"The results of the students' work were amazing," Ott noted. "Despite the challenge of not being able to see the book in person, or even to easily check materials out from the library, they dived in and did some amazing research examining the marginalia, woodcuts, watermarks, and the histories behind the printers who produced the texts." The class and codex were featured in a recent issue of *PSU Magazine*, *Willamette Week*, and KGW-TV. Ott hopes to resume working with students on the codex once the public health situation stabilizes.



Cover of the Malleus Maleficarum, or Hammer of Witches





#### STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWS | SILVIE ANDREWS & CATHERINE SAKS

# Silvie Andrews published in Oregon Historical Quarterly

**Silvie Andrews** holds a bachelor's degree in history from New York University and is working on her master's degree in public history at Portland State University. This fall, Andrews' article, "Material Witness: The Seaside Riots of 1962–1964" was published in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*.



The article highlights a sign from the museum's collection that is connected to a 1963 Labor Day weekend incident commonly known as the Seaside Riots. The sign was the result of a 1962 incident where a large crowd of young vacationers clashed with police and firefighters who tried to disperse crowds on the beach during the three-day weekend. The riots claimed national headlines,



Sylvie Andrews

and "opinions clashed over the melee's cause, its long-term implications, which parties were responsible for preventing a recurrence, and what actions those parties needed to take." As Andrews describes, "Objects do not speak for themselves; instead, they function as vessels for the spoken and unspoken values of those who observe, use, and own them." An object such as this stolen sign "reminds us that often the most

compelling histories are to be found in the margins."

Andrews currently works with Oregon Historical Society's museum collection, cataloging and storing historical objects. She most enjoys telling stories, solving institutional mysteries, and looking inside boxes that are best left closed.

### Catherine Saks, Oregon History Teacher of the Year Award



Catherine Saks

**Catherine Saks**, who received Master's degrees from Portland State, an MA in Education (1995) and in History (2010), is the 2020 Oregon History Teacher of the Year.

Saks has been teaching at David Douglas High School for 27 years and was recognized in 2002 by receiving the James Madison Graduate Fellowship, a national award for Master's students who plan to teach or already teach U.S. history.

Saks fondly remembers PSU College of Education faculty Ken Peterson and Leslie Rennie-Hill, who taught her so much, and PSU History **Professor Tim Garrison**, who not only afforded her a deeper insight into the nation's past, but also supported her as a working parent.

Read more about Catherine, the award, and her work on the PSU College of Education blog.





## Meet Anjala Ehelebe

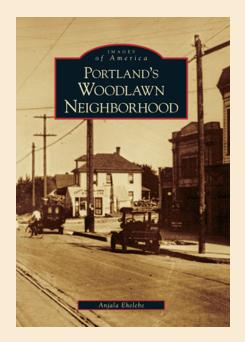
Anjala Ehelebe (BS, 1978, Arts and Letters) offers a prime example of the thousands of Portland State students who over the decades have passed through our classrooms and come away moved by the power of History. After being introduced to the department and its faculty by a friend in the now defunct Chiron Studies Program, Anjala took courses by Charles LeGuin and Basil Dmytryshyn.

She writes, "Those history courses electrified my curiosity. They went beyond 'this happened and then this happened' to showing how actions on one side of the world had resonance on another. I still have and cherish the textbook [LeGuin] wrote. I also was enthralled by the courses taught by **Professor Basil Dmytryshyn** because HE HAD LIVED HISTORY! He had been a part of the French Underground and had bombed bridges during World War II. He spoke fluently at least six languages, and had a great sense of humor."

While at PSU, attending the university's Handicapped Awareness Day events profoundly changed Anjala's life and led her to seek out disability accessibility advocacy opportunities. Many years later, she chaired the Oregon State Rehabilitation Council and testified in Washington, D.C.



Anjala Ehelebe



Anjala's love of history has carried over into myriad other enterprises. In addition to authoring a pictorial history of Portland's Woodlawn Neighborhood (Arcadia Publishing, 2008), she has spoken to urban planners about the history of the pocket park at NE 13th and Holman; given online presentations about the history of the Vernon neighborhood; led tours through the Woodlawn neighborhood to show planners the historical effects of redlining, urban development, and criminal activities, and occasionally gives free tours showing the sites of "The Criminal History of Woodlawn."

She's currently planning with the Woodlawn School PTA another event featuring the histories of notable Woodlawn minority residents, to be presented in February 2021. Anajala's love of history and its lessons shine through in her local advocacy efforts, historical preservation efforts, and celebration of Portland's diverse neighborhoods.





#### ALUMNI NEWS | TAYLOR ROSE RECEIVES FELLOWSHIP IN AEROSPACE HISTORY

### Taylor Rose receives Fellowship in Aerospace History

The Fellowship in Aerospace History and the Fellowship in the History of Space Technology are funded by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); both include a stipend of \$21,500 supporting advanced research in aerospace history. The review committee, made up of representatives from the American Historical Association, the Society for the History of Technology, and the History of Science Society, has selected **Taylor Rose** to receive the Fellowship in Aerospace History.

Rose is pursuing his PhD in history at Yale University, where he focuses on U.S. history, environmental history and humanities, Native American history and Indigenous studies, history of technology, history of science, and geography. His project, "Wasteland, Rangeland, Homeland," will link aerospace history with the history of contested territory in the American West, especially the Nevada Test Site. With



**Taylor Rose** 

this project, he would like to interrogate the legal, political, and material infrastructure of real estate and restricted airspace that underlay domestic US military expansion in the mid 20th century.

He tells *Perspectives* that three factors influenced policy makers' decision to locate a test site in Nevada. First, it was near the "warm political and economic climate that surrounded the burgeoning aerospace industry of Southern California." Second, the legally ambiguous status of Nevada's former public domain land made it easy for Congress to quickly and efficiently designate the land for military use. Finally, he explains that the "desert environment mattered as well, but not always in the way that advocates expected when they proposed to site weapons-testing proving grounds in the Southwest." The region's landscape offered up ample natural runways, but the arid, windswept, dusty environment posed serious challenges to sensitive machinery and a pilot's chance of survival in case of an airborne emergency.

Rose argues that, by situating the narrative of the Nevada Test Site in the region's longer political-economic, legal, and environmental history, "Wasteland, Rangeland, Homeland" will reorient our understanding of the origins of nuclear weapons testing. His primary goal for the fellowship is to spend time in the National Archives and Records Administration's College Park, Maryland, facility.

### Calling All Portland State University History Alumni!



We'd love to hear from you about your post-graduation career paths, accomplishments, publications, or other news and feature your story in our Spring newsletter.

Email us at: hist@pdx.edu





### In Memoriam: Basil Dmytryshyn January 14, 1925 - August 27, 2020



Basil Dmytryshyn, PSU Faculty portrait

**Basil Dmytryshyn** was the youngest of three children born to Ukrainian parents, Euphrosenia and Frank. He grew up on a farm in Poland and was educated both at home and in boarding schools. During World War II, Basil was active with Ukrainian and Slovak partisan units. After the war, he emigrated to the U.S., where he earned degrees in history from the University of Arkansas (BS, MA) and a doctorate from the University of California, Berkeley in 1955.

On his first day of classes at Arkansas, he gave his tuition payment to Virginia Roehl, who worked in the university's Business Office. It was love at first sight—he and Virginia married in 1949 and had two daughters. In 1956, he

joined the faculty of Portland State College (University) and taught for 33 years, before he retired as Emeritus Professor of History. Basil was a visiting professor at the University of Illinois, Harvard University, the University of

Hawaii, and Hokkaido University. He remained active in scholarship during his retirement and traveled the globe extensively with his wife.

Over the course of his academic career he was known as a beloved professor, tireless researcher and scholar, lecturer, and internationally respected author of some 20 textbooks, including *USSR: A Concise History, A History of Russia*, and the source books, *Medieval Russia* and *Imperial Russia*. Among his PSU honors were the John Mosser Award for Outstanding Teaching, Branford P. Millar Award for Faculty Excellence, and the Outstanding Retired Faculty Award.



Basil studying at UC Berkeley for his PhD in history in the mid-1950s



Basil & Virginia Dmytryshyn, in retirement, 2007, visiting daughter, Tania, at the University of Idaho

Sought-after as a visiting scholar, he was most honored to serve as an advisor at the National University of Kiev-Mohyla Academy, where he received an Honorary Diploma. The whole family accompanied him for a yearlong Fulbright Fellowship research project in Germany in the late 1960s. He loved spending time with his family and enjoyed hobbies that included soccer, skiing, hiking, stamp and coin collecting, and gardening.

He was predeceased by his wife, parents, and two sisters. He is survived by daughter Sonia, son-in-law Ben, granddaughter Elizabeth, grandson-in-law Kehl, and daughter Tania. The family expresses its deep gratitude to the staff of Kindred Hospice and the staff of Bonaventure of Salem. Arrangements were by Virgil T. Golden Funeral Services. Contributions in his

memory may be made to Oregon Historical Society, University of Arkansas Foundation, Portland State University Foundation, and Corban University.





### GIVE | DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY FUNDS

# Giving to the Department of History

If you are interested in contributing to the History Department, note that you can provide support to a specific fund. Simply note on your contribution where you would like your money to go. If you would like to discuss any of the particular funds, please email John Ott at ott@pdx.edu or phone him at (503) 725-3013.

Fund	Purpose
History Department	Supports the general expenses of the History Department, particularly faculty and student research
Pacific Historical Review	Funds travel, office expenses, research support, and professional development
History Graduate Scholarship Fund	Funds scholarships for incoming MA History students
Tim Alan Garrison History Faculty Awards	Provides a cash award for faculty who publish books
Bernard Burke Award	Provides scholarships for undergraduate students in History
Anne Myers Scholarship	Provides scholarships for incoming graduate students in History
Charles M. White Scholarship	Provides support to part or full-time undergraduate students with financial need and academic promise pursuing a degree in CLAS.
Caroline P. Stoel Fellowship	Provides fellowships for graduate students at the Pacific Historical Review
Lauren Banasky Grant	Funds graduate research expenses for students interested in European or women's history
Joel Palmer Fellowship	Provides fellowships for continuing graduate students in Pacific Northwest History
E. Ann Fulton Fellowship	Provides grants, scholarships, and awards for History students
Stephanie K. Oliver Award	Provides support for graduate students nearing the completion of their degree
Friends of History Operations	Supports lectures and other events sponsored by the Friends of History, faculty research, and student awards and scholarships
Friends of History Endowment	Provides funding to bring top historians to lecture at PSU
Gordon B. Dodds Fellowship	Funds fellowships for continuing graduate students in History
Ann Weikel British History Fund	Funds Student Research and Faculty Instruction in British History

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The Friends of History is a community-based organization affiliated with the Portland State University Department of History that is committed to supporting the teaching and study of history

within the larger Portland area. Thanks to the generous support of our members, we are able to provide lectures, discussion groups, and other programming that speaks to a variety of scholarly interests, as well as scholarships and grants to further important research in history by Portland State University students and faculty members.

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