

Alumni Newsletter

October, 2025



Dear Alumni, Partners, and Friends of the ISU History & Social Science Education Program,

Greetings from the ISU Department of History! On behalf of our colleagues Andrew Hartman and Megan VanGorder, we thank you for all you do to help students and improve the teaching and learning of history and the social sciences. We are writing with numerous updates on the program for Fall 2025.

Upcoming History-Social Science Teacher Symposium

The annual History-Social Science Teacher Symposium will be held on campus on **Friday, January 30, 2026**. This year's theme is **"The Classroom as a Public Landscape"** and Dr. Patricia Melvin-Mooney, a specialist in U.S. public history from Loyola University, will provide the keynote address. Please consider proposing a session for the symposium as the FREE event should be a great opportunity to learn, share, and reconnect with others in our field!

- Call for Proposals:
https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/symposium_proposal_2025
- Required Registration for the FREE event on 1/30/26 at [ROE 17 website](#).

New Hybrid Graduate Courses

Beginning in Spring 2026, the graduate program is offering one block seminar class each semester. The class meets one Saturday per month at ISU and two evenings per month on zoom. See links below for details as you can enroll in the class this Spring – "The History of Violence" – as a "graduate student at large." Classes taken as an at-large student can be transferred into the graduate degree program both at ISU and at other institutions.

What is a "Graduate Student at Large?"

For general information about the student-at-large status and advisors, visit Grad.IllinoisState.edu/admission or contact Dr. Katrin Paehler (kpaehler@ilstu.edu)

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We are delighted to welcome our newest colleague, **Dr. Megan VanGorder** to the department. Dr. VanGorder will teach our methods classes, HIS 290 and HIS 390, and courses in United States history. Her areas of expertise include the history of women, the history of medicine, and the history of Illinois and her forthcoming book entitled, *A Mother's Work: Mary Bickerdyke, Civil War-Era Nurse* will be published by the University of North Carolina Press in 2026.

Follow us on social media!



@HistoryEdBirds



Illinois State University
Department of History

Best wishes and we look forward to reconnecting with you and your important work in the future!

-Richard Hughes, Director, History and Social Sciences Education

-Katie Lopez, Coordinator of Student Teaching

Do you have an alumni update?

Please consider completing the updated "Alumni News" form to help us better track and follow the successes of our program alumni! Use the link below to share updated information about your career, success, and life beyond your time at ISU:

https://forms.illinoisstate.edu/forms/history_education_alumni_updates

If you are interested in serving as a CT at your current school and would like to host a student teacher, please contact Katie Lopez (Coordinator of Student Teaching) at KLLopez@ilstu.edu