



# Today & Yesterday

Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 49, 2025

## History students dive into archival research

*By Kyle Ciani, Ph.D., Professor of History*



Dr. Kyle Ciani's Senior Seminar section that traveled to archives: from left, Peder Sevig, Katie O'Brien, and Nate Stadler

The digital age has created greater access to historical materials formerly available only in print versions at an archival repository. Digitized finding aids, catalogues, photos, ephemera images, and documents abound yet still make up a small portion of manuscript collections.

History Department faculty know the value of archival research and regularly introduce students to collections within reach in Central Illinois, the state at large and beyond. While graduate student scholarships regularly include archival research, this academic year several history undergraduates discovered and used archival collections in public libraries, university special collections, and organizational repositories.

Importantly, two seniors recently received funding for their out-of-state travel to archives: **Kylie Black**, an accelerated master's program student, was

awarded a spring 2025 ISU Firebird Research Grant for her research at the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio; and **Christina Ulanowski** received support last fall from the John Freed Undergraduate Research Fund for travel to the Special Collections at Duke University and the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill.

Black is mentored by **Drs. Katrin Paehler** and **Christine Varga-Harris**, who have guided her study of genocide and gender in the modern European context, and **Dr. Keith Plummers** who is a specialist in environmental history.

Black's research project concerns the research of Raphael Lemkin, the lawyer who coined the term "genocide," and whose papers are housed in the American Jewish Archives. Black spent her spring break at that archive reading his findings on the role the environment played in

specific cases of genocide. Black reported that her thinking on archival research changed with her experience.

"Before going, I felt like the archive was a somewhat mythical place where the magic of the field truly took place. Going into the archives not only helped me answer my research question, but allowed me to research like a historian, reaffirming my decision to pursue history professionally."

Ulanowski discovered the archives in North Carolina during her research for **Dr. Kyle Ciani's** Senior Seminar section, where students examined elements of women's activism in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Ulanowski investigated the activism of several feminist organizations working to overturn the 1974 murder conviction of Joan Little, a young Black woman incarcerated in a North Carolina prison.

The Free Joan Little campaign emphasized that Little acted in self-defense against the assault of a prison guard, and Ulanowski found evidence from the campaign and the trial in the universities' special collections. Ulanowski connected with archivists prior to her visit to ensure the materials would be available to her and while in the archives used her phone to photograph hundreds of documents.

Ulanowski initially believed that her student status would hold little weight but experienced incredibly supportive and helpful archivists who continued to check on her research progress even when she returned to campus.

Three other students in Ciani's section had similar experiences with librarians and archivists. **Nate Stadler** traveled to the Chicago Public Library for his research on the environmental activist



Documents from the Joan Little Defense Collection, David Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University in Durham, North Carolina

Hazel M. Johnson. A resident of the public housing development, Altgeld Gardens on Chicago's south side, Johnson founded in 1979 the grassroots organization People for Community Recovery to secure the cleanup of toxic substances affecting that neighborhood.

Stadler explained, "Researching in the archives taught me that effective research requires more than sitting at my laptop. Archivists want to help, so use their resources."

**Katie O'Brien**, who researched the activism of feminist student organizations at ISU in the 1980s and 1990s, spent hours in the Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives, which led her to the alumni she interviewed.

"My experience with archival research was extremely helpful to my research process," she said. "It opened a window into sources that I didn't know existed. Seeing the personal writings, images, and signs made by the students of ISU years ago made me feel more connected both to my research as well as Illinois State University and the feminist movements that students have led over the years."

And **Peder Sevig** used the Gerber/Hart Library and Archives in Chicago for his research on activism among LGBTQ+ groups in the late 20th century. Sevig noted about his archival explorations that "the most intriguing history is hidden at the micro level within countless archives across the world. My time in the department has shown me that history is everlasting and constantly evolving, especially within specific fields."

Those fields include economic history, taught by **Dr. Camille Cole**. In her undergraduate course, *Work, Money, Power: Global Histories of Capitalism*, students visited as a class two local repositories: the Special Collections of Milner Library to explore the Circus and Allied Arts materials, and the Good Neighbor Center, which is the museum and archive for the insurance company, State Farm.

The class learned about the creation, preservation, and uses of archival materials, the differences between publicly and privately held corporate archives, and how museum curators use documents and artifacts to narrate history. Students looked at a wide variety of economic

documentation, from contracts to receipts to advertisements. They also completed field trips on their own, including the McLean County Museum of History, which features exhibits on work and workers, including Illinois agriculture and companies such as the Union Asbestos and Rubber Company (UNARCO).

Summer is the time when faculty dive into their research and head to archives across the globe. While their scholarship is front of mind during these trips, faculty will also bring their discoveries to their future classes and continue to encourage undergraduates to venture into the "mythical" world of archival research. Digitization allows for exposure to the wealth of primary sources, but time spent in the archives brings the "magic" of historical scholarship to life.



Trial testimony from Joan Little, Special Collections at the Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

## Today & Yesterday

2025—Volume 49

Published Annually

Illinois State University  
Department of History  
Campus Box 4420  
Normal, IL 61790-4420

### Editors

Lindsay Stallones Marshall, Katie Lopez, and Trish Gudeman



## History Department co-sponsors Charles Ives Festival

By Dr. Alan Lessoff, Professor of History

In February, the History Department worked with the School of Music to bring to Illinois State a segment of a national festival to mark the sesquicentennial of the composer Charles Ives. The festival—whose earlier segments took place at the Brevard, North Carolina, Music Festival, Indiana University in Bloomington, and New York's Bard College—was a project of Music Unwound, a consortium that arranged programs that connected music and the humanities.

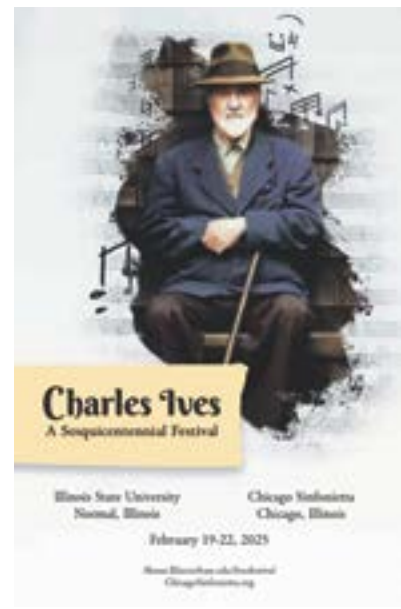
Illinois State became involved through a professional collaboration between **Dr. Alan Lessoff**, university professor of history, and Music Unwound's founder and director Joseph Horowitz, the renowned cultural and music historian and impresario whom many will have encountered through his "More than Music" segments on National Public Radio.

Born in Danbury, Connecticut, in 1874, son of a Civil War bandmaster, Ives, who studied composition at Yale before making a fortune in the New York insurance business, epitomized the goal of

Music Unwound. He drew on American music from popular songs to hymns and spirituals, and he filled his compositions with references to American literature, thought, history, and politics.

Over three days, February 19-21, ISU hosted University of Denver pianist Steven Mayer, one of the best-known performers of Ives, as well as baritone Sidney Outlaw from the Manhattan School of Music. The musicians offered programs of Ives's songs and of the "Concord Sonata," along with master classes for ISU music students. Horowitz and Indiana University musicologist J. Peter Burkholder provided context and explanations.

The project then underwrote about 70 students from many departments to go to Mandel Hall at the University of Chicago for a Saturday concert with the Chicago Sinfonietta. ISU's Ives Festival ended up as a sort of swan song for Music Unwound. Its funding came from the National Endowment for the Humanities, itself abruptly unwound about a month later.



Program cover from the Charles Ives Festival, February 2025

## Student highlights

### History produces another Robert G. Bone Scholar

**Jack Jordan**, a history and social sciences education major, is a 2024-2025 Robert G. Bone Scholar. The Bone Scholarship is the highest honor an Illinois State University undergraduate can receive and

is highly competitive. Bone Scholars are selected for their excellence in academics, engagement in the community, and their demonstration of outstanding character and leadership. The scholarship was established in honor of the retirement of ISU President Robert Bone in 1967.

Jordan's academic accomplishments include receiving the History Department's Kyle G. Sessions Honors Scholarship, working as a history of science research intern, involvement in the University's Honors Program, and working as a docent with the Cantigny

First Division Museum in Wheaton.

He also studied abroad through the department's summer program geared toward introducing future teachers to western European cities. Jordan volunteers with the Dean of Students Office on the University Hearing Panel and works for ISU's Production Services Department. Beyond campus, he has worked in leadership positions with the Boy Scouts organization, including the organization selecting him as a mentor and teacher for scouts at Canyon Camp BSA. Earning his Eagle Scout rank highlights his dedication to the scouting program. He is truly honored to be one of 14 recipients of the Robert G. Bone Scholarship.



Jack Jordan with President Aondover Tarhule and Provost Ani Yazedjian

## History club

By Julie Cullotta and Emma Hying

This year, **Phi Alpha Theta** welcomed 14 members into our National History Honors Fraternity. We also welcomed an all-new executive board, participated in two induction ceremonies, and created social opportunities for members.

Our board consists of President **Juliana Cullotta**, Vice President **Johnathan Schmidt**, and Treasurer/Secretary **Emma Hying**. At our induction ceremonies, members received honors cords and certificates of membership. And at both formal and informal meetings, our members shared and discussed a broad range of

academic interests from Latin American studies, cultural history, social justice practices throughout history, teaching history, and the history of scientific discoveries.



Phi Alpha Theta inductees, fall 2024

## 2024–25 Student Awards



Dr. Ross Kennedy awards the Lucy Lucile Tasher Senior Scholarship winners at the spring awards ceremony.

### HELEN M. CAVANAGH AWARD FOR BEST MASTER'S THESIS—

Narcedalia Ramirez

### HELEN M. CAVANAGH AWARD FOR BEST MASTER'S DEGREE STUDENT

Emma Malone  
Connor Monson

### CAVANAGH RISING MASTER'S STUDENT

Kylie Black

### LUCY LUCILE TASHER SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Fall 2024

TJ Marko  
Kate Norris

### Spring 2025

Kylie Black  
Thomas Carpenter  
Nick Kniebusch  
Mason McClure

### GLEYNafa T. RAY AWARD

Fall 2024

Raleigh VanDuyne

### Spring 2025

Julie Cullotta  
Madelyn Hubble  
Jack Jordan  
Veronica Weglarz

### MARK WYMAN SCHOLARSHIP

Wiat Miller

### JAMES TODD WILBORN SCHOLARSHIP

Jenna Klockenga  
Katie Kramer

### SESSIONS HONORS SCHOLARSHIP

Bobby Kallieris  
Carson Kehoe

### WILLIAM AND JEANNE HOWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Mason McClure

### HARMON RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Katie Kramer

### DARREL A. SUTTER SCHOLARSHIP

Andrew Hogan

### DARREL A. SUTTER TEXTBOOK AWARD

Ariana Akiti

### DARREL A. SUTTER WRITING AWARD

Aldan Coyne, Noah Ramos, Justin Stengel (best paper), Jake Thompson

### THE TOUSEY SCHOLARSHIP

Melanie Donis

### DARREL A. SUTTER STUDENT TEACHER AWARD

Fall 2024

Ryan McEldowney

### Spring 2025

Austin Bender and Matt Spilotro

### LAWRENCE MCBRIDE AWARD

Fall 2024

Zoey Gasinski

### Spring 2025

Emma Hying and Jason Pluister

### HOWARD ROMANEK AWARD

Fall 2024

Max Armas

### Spring 2025

Joe Paveleck

## History students present at annual Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies Student Research Symposium



Undergraduate students from the Women in the U.S. Since 1865 course are Kate Winger, Kylie Black, Ameerah Shatat, Isabelle Barriball, and Robbie Graham.



Graduate student Narcedalia Ramirez presents her research on Sex Work, Immigration, and México's Feminists.

The annual Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies (WGSS) Student Research Symposium offers students from across campus a supportive environment to showcase their scholarship. This year, students from **Dr. Kyle Ciani's** *Women in the U.S. Since 1865* course presented their analyses on

the ways young women in the early 20th century moved beyond boundaries that segregated them from higher education spaces and on the influences of delegates from Illinois who attended the 1977 National Women's Conference.

Graduate students delivered their research on the racialized and gendered erasures of British imperialism (**Baboshia Yusuf**) and the effects of feminist action in México on immigration laws in the early 20th century (**Narcedalia Ramirez**).

### Graduate program highlights

**Emma Malone**, co-recipient of this year's Helen M. Cavanagh Award for Best Master's Degree Student, will be attending the University of Connecticut to get a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on social studies education. Malone plans to research how to support teachers as they teach difficult and contentious histories in rural spaces. Her other research interests include gender and education as well as the history of education.

**Connor Monson** successfully defended his thesis in July, *Access, Education, and Entertainment: Digital Public History and Virginia Universities* and will be working on curating a digital exhibit about the famous Farm Aid 1985 mega concert, continuing his advocacy of historical newspaper digitization, and leading several community-based history programs and classes.

**Narcedalia Ramirez**, recipient of the Helen M. Cavanagh Award for Best Master's Thesis, will be attending the University of Illinois in the fall as a doctoral candidate studying history. Over the summer she will be working as a paralegal for The Immigration Project where she will travel across downstate Illinois to help immigrant communities apply for immigration benefits (asylum, temporary protective status, and work authorization).

Her award-winning thesis was titled, *Sexual Labor, United States Immigration Law, and México's Emerging Feminist Consciousness: Discourse, Rhetoric, Fears,*



Helen M. Cavanagh Award winners (L-R), Narcedalia Ramirez, Emma Malone and Connor Monson

*Cultural Icons, and Women's Gender Expectations in the Late Nineteenth-Century and Early Twentieth-Century.*



# New faculty/staff profiles

## Dr. Dan Knorr

I'm **Dr. Dan Knorr**, and I'm very excited to join the History Department at ISU. After receiving my Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 2020, I hopped across the pond to teach in the faculty of history at the University of Cambridge for 3 1/2 years. It was a fun adventure, but it's good to be back on this side of the Atlantic!

I specialize in the history of East Asia, especially China. My research crosses the early modern and modern periods, and I enjoy thinking in terms of timespans that are broad and/or do not align with conventional chronologies. Perhaps counterintuitively, I am also drawn to local history, which for me means studying places not as timeless entities but as living historical objects that are always being reshaped by the people who pass through them.

For my first book project I am revising the first portion of my doctoral dissertation about the city of Jinan, a city in eastern China, during the period when

China was ruled by the Qing empire (1636–1912). Jinan wasn't a major economic or even cultural center, but as the capital of a province (Shandong) with a population roughly equivalent to France at that time, it was still quite an important place. I examine both how Jinan's administrative functions and the people they brought through the city shaped material and subjective aspects of place and how these forms of "place-making" themselves were integral to Qing state-making and the formation of what I call an "imperial public."

My second book will follow Jinan's history through the turbulent final half-century of Qing rule, a period which saw major wars, environmental crises, and the encroachment of foreign imperialism—and a die-hard dynastic loyalism among Jinan's elites, despite everything that seemed to be going wrong.

I now live in Normal with my wife



Dr. Dan Knorr

Julie and two children, Ellie, 6, and Desmond, 3. I enjoy various sports (mostly just watching these days!), especially both types of football. I root for the Cowboys and Bears and support Liverpool. YNWA. Besides reading about history, of course, I also enjoy science fiction novels. I'm fond of both board games and video games, although I'm a bit more competitive when it comes to the former.



Dr. Matthijs Tieleman

## Dr. Matthijs Tieleman

I'm **Matthijs Tieleman**, and I'm excited to be a new faculty member in the ISU History Department.

Before coming to ISU, I was a postdoc at Arizona State University in Tempe. As a graduate student, I lived in Philadelphia, where I had a dissertation fellowship at Penn, and in Los Angeles,

where I did my Ph.D.

I was born and raised in the Netherlands, hence my weird name (which is just Matthew in Dutch!). I also lived in Edinburgh, Scotland, for a while during my master's program.

My current book project, entitled *The Patriot Atlantic*, examines the transatlantic connections between the American, Dutch, and Irish Patriot revolutions in the 18th century. The book builds on my dissertation at UCLA, which explored the linkages between the Dutch and the

American revolutions. I hope to get this book out by the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American independence in 2026.

At ISU, I teach classes on American history, Atlantic history, the history of revolutions, and the emergence of liberal democracy (broadly speaking). I'm very excited to spread my knowledge of this crucial part of history to ISU students, especially those in the University's education program, knowing that through them our teaching will create a ripple effect across the nation!

## Katie Lopez

My name is **Katie Lopez**, and I am excited to join the History Department as the coordinator of student teaching! I am a two-time alum of the ISU Department of History. I earned my undergraduate in history education in 2011 and my master's in 2017, during which I focused my field of study research on the history of 20th century education and reform movements within public education.

Until recently, I was teaching social studies at Normal West High School and have taught in Unit #5 schools since 2012. I have a passion for secondary education and am excited to bring my hands-on experiences to this position. I'm a suburban transplant who has made Bloomington my home with my husband, Phil, and my three children, Ella, 7, Nico, 3, and Jude, 1. I enjoy reading, traveling,

attempting to make bread, and cheering for the Chicago Cubs with my family!



Katie Lopez

# History social sciences education program

## Two history education students win university-wide award

Two history education student teachers were recipients of the 2025 Student Excellence Award from the Council for Teacher Education. It is awarded annually to five students across the 27 teacher prep programs on campus. Each candidate must submit a lesson plan and corresponding essay that align with the year's theme, which was, "Transcending Boundaries and Finding Common Ground."

The history education program is

thrilled to have TWO winners this year – **Madelyn Hubble** and **Jason Pluister**. Hubble's lesson plan focused on digital addiction in a high school psychology class, drawing inspiration and student reading selections from the book, *The Anxious Generation*. Pluister's lesson immersed students in the experience of boarding schools for Native American children in the 19th century with a wide variety of primary sources and personal reflections.



2025 Student Excellence Award winners Madelyn Hubble and Jason Pluister

## Summer student teaching in Taiwan

This summer, two ISU history education students will travel to Taiwan for a unique teaching experience. **Matt Ganson** and **Mason Beringer**, along with several other ISU students, will spend four weeks at the Ivy Collegiate Academy in Taichung,

Taiwan. They will assist with activities, classes, field trips, and residential student life with students in grades 5-12. This unique teaching experience will allow participants to combine teaching with international travel. Each student underwent

a series of applications and interviews to confirm their readiness and skills to succeed at ICA this summer. Good luck to Matt and Mason!



Winners of the inaugural Jozwik Spirit of Teaching Award, from left, Erin George, Matt Huston, Joe Paveleck, and Dan Sawyer

## Inaugural Jozwik Spirit of Teaching Award

The history education program was sad to learn of the passing of longtime supervisor and educator **Terry Jozwik**. He passed away March 12 after dedicating his life to public education. Terry earned his undergraduate degree from ISU and spent 39 years teaching social studies at Glenbrook South High School, where he pioneered classes on global religions and built up the school's Model UN program. He returned to ISU as a student teaching supervisor shortly after retiring, where he was beloved

by the student teachers he worked with. At this year's annual closing ceremonies for the graduating student teachers, four students were honored with the inaugural Jozwik Spirit of Teaching Award. These students, **Erin George**, **Matt Huston**, **Joe Paveleck**, and **Dan Sawyer**, were all working with Terry as student teachers in the spring when he passed away. The program is thankful for Terry's many years of service to both ISU and public education.

## 2025 History and Social Sciences Teacher Symposium

Over 320 practicing teachers and teacher candidates gathered in the Bone Student Center and Schroeder Hall February 21 for the 2025 History and Social Sciences Teacher Symposium. Sponsored by the Department of History, the School of Teaching and Learning, the McLean County Museum of History, and the Regional Office of Education #17, the annual symposium focused on the impact of political polarization in social studies.

Brian Deters, a social studies teacher at Morton High School and an ISU alum, delivered the keynote address, "Teaching in a Divided Society: Our Educational Roles in Preventing Polarization and Promoting Civic-Minded Students." His presentation and subsequent discussion explored the issues he and coauthor Michelle Blanchet examine in their recent book, *Preventing Polarization: 50 Strategies for Teaching Kids About Empathy, Politics,*

*and Civil Responsibility* (2023).

The symposium also included 36 different sessions with 60 presenters who explored such issues as the role of artificial intelligence, classroom simulations, ungrading, incorporating improv in the classroom, teaching ESL students, and the use of museums as catalysts for dialogue among students.

Elsewhere, history faculty **Drs. Richard Hughes**, **Dan Knorr**, **Lindsay**

*Continued on page 8*

**Stallones Marshall**, and **Keith Pluymers** worked with both experienced and novice teachers to discuss such varied topics as teaching World War I, environmental

history, Confucianism, and the fight for Indigenous sovereignty in the Civil Rights era. A special thanks to **Katie Lopez**, **Trish Gudeman**, **Andrew Hartman**,

**Emma Malone**, **Sara Piotrowski**, **Ben Wellenreiter**, **Candace Summers**, and **Molly Allen** for their assistance in organizing the event.

## 2025 Capitol Forum on America's Future

For the 12th time since 2012, the history and social science education program hosted *Capitol Forum on America's Future*, which provides opportunities for high school students to deliberate United States foreign policy — past, present and future. Convening all day in the State Farm Hall of Business and informed by the *Choices Program* curriculum, over 50 high school students and their teachers from eight schools throughout the state explored the impact of immigration, human rights, climate change, and nuclear proliferation on American policy.

This year's participants included: Fieldcrest High School, Chad Kuehn; Newark High School, Mike Hall; Galesburg High School, Erin Crawford and Kelsey Gaudette; Central Catholic High School, Daniel McEllin; Normal Community West High School, Jason Klockenga; El Paso Gridley High School, Michael Melick; Olympia High School Matt Modrusic; and Normal Community High School, Hunter Watts and Sarah Lamkin.

History teacher candidates from **Dr. Richard Hughes'** History 390 class served as instructors and discussion moderators

in the morning and the event culminated with a large simulation of a meeting of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in which high school students testified on contemporary foreign policy options. Department alumni and school partners **Hunter Watts**, **Jason Klockenga**, and **Kelly Keogh** played key roles in organizing the annual event which continues to be a valuable experience for the program as our teacher candidates prepare to teach government and civics.

## Alumni news

**Erin C. Barr M.A. History '17** earned her Ph.D. in history from Purdue University in 2023. In 2024 she began as assistant professor in U.S. history in the Department of History and Social Studies Education at Buffalo State University.

**Daniel Delaney B.A. History Education '14** is currently a U.S. history and civics teacher at Morton West High School in Berwyn. Last year he finally completed all the requirements of the James Madison Fellowship and was bestowed with the title Teacher-Scholar of the U.S. Constitution by the James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation.

This fellowship funded a master's degree for Delaney in American history and allowed him to attend seminars in Washington where he met members of Congress and federal judges, as well as studied the Constitution with constitutional scholars at Georgetown University. Delaney was then required to teach high school classes that emphasized the Constitution for several years.

**Gordon Duguid B.S. History '78** will be the 2025-26 and 2026-27 Donald F. McHenry Visiting Professor in Diplomacy and International Affairs. Duguid served as a U.S. diplomat from 1990 until 2020, when he retired with the third-highest dip-

lomatic rank of minister-counselor. More can be read about him and his appointment at ISU at [News.IllinoisState.edu](https://news.illinoisstate.edu).

**Kenneth Janda, BA Social Science, '57**, self-published *The Democratic Evolution: From Slavery to Equality, 1828-2020* (see <https://ResearchGate.net>) in July 2024. In it he says about certain faculty from ISU that they "They opened my mind and



(L-R) Robert Townsend, class of 1958; Kenneth Janda, class of 1957; Senator Kefauver, 1956 Democratic Vice-Presidential candidate visiting campus; Stanley Clausen, class of 1957; Donald McHenry, class of 1957, outstanding debater and later U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations

prepared me for graduate study in political science at Indiana University, which led me to a lifetime of learning and teaching." Janda started his academic career in Wilmington, IL where he attended a one room schoolhouse until eighth grade. After graduating from Wilmington High School in 1953, he enrolled in ISNU as an Industrial Arts major but quickly switched to Social Science, which at that time was a combined department. From there he went on to

earn his Ph.D. in political science at Indiana University in 1961, the same year he joined the political science faculty at Northwestern University. Janda received the Alumni Achievement Award in 1983 from ISU and was inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in 2005, after his retirement from teaching in 2001.

He would like to extend his gratitude to these long past faculty from the department of social sciences: Russell Glasner, economics; Leland Hess, history; Ben J. Keeley, sociology; John A. Kinneman, sociology; Helen Marshall, history; Earl Reitan, history; Carol Rylander, psychology; Theodore Sands, history; and Leo Yedor, political science.

**Richard Joyce M.A. History '80**

authored and recently published a book titled *Spring Valley is a Mining Town*, based partially on research he began decades ago when he was a graduate student. The book is available from Lulu Publishing.



*Spring Valley is a Mining Town* by Richard Joyce



**John Moreland M.A. History '16** earned his J.D. from Southern Illinois University School of Law in 2020 and earned his MLS from Indiana University Bloomington in 2022. In 2024 he began as a reference and special collections librarian at Stanford School of Law.

**Sylvia (Zethmayr) Shults M.S. History '92** has been writing books of paranormal nonfiction, two of which have won awards. Her book, *Days of the Dead: A Year of True Ghost Stories* won first place in the

BookFest Awards. Another book of hers, *Gone On Vacation: Haunted Zoos, Museums, and Amusement Parks*, also won first place in the BookFest Awards, and was named a finalist in the International Best Books Awards. She is currently working on the sequel to that one, to be called, *Gone On Vacation: Endless Summer* (projected publication date is September 2025). In addition, she released the second book in her true crime series, *Grave Deeds and Dead Plots*. The books are accompanied by a podcast, available on [voicemedia.fm](https://voicemedia.fm).



Sylvia (Zethmayr) Shults

## Faculty accomplishments

**Dr. Kyle Ciani**, professor of history and core faculty for Women's, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, is a member of the interdisciplinary scholar team developing the exhibition, *Surviving and Thriving: Queer History in Central Illinois*, for the McLean County Museum of History (MCMH). In June the team submitted a grant to the National Endowment for the Humanities to support the exhibition and received that grant. Unfortunately, in April the Trump administration rescinded the acceptance and terminated the grant. Ever resilient, MCMH staff and team members remain committed to producing this important exhibition and continue to work on its research, design, and implementation.

**Dr. Andrew Hartman's** book, *Karl Marx in America*, came out in May 2025 with the University of Chicago Press. A history of how people in the United States have contemplated Karl Marx's ideas from the mid-19th century to the present, the book offers in-depth historical analysis of American capitalism and its critics, past and present. Hartman gave the 2025 College of Arts and Sciences Distinguished Lecture on the topic of his new book. He also had a review essay published in *Modern Intellectual History*, "Liberalism During Its Respectable Era."

**Dr. Katrin Paehler** presented her current research at two international conferences. Last November, she attended the National Intelligence History Conference, "People in Intelligence," at Bletchley Park, UK, giving her paper, "Negotiating Involvement in Intelligence: Hildegard Beetz and U.S. Intelligence Efforts in Germany, 1945-1970." That she was allowed to poke a true, blue enigma machine was among the many highlights of the conference at the "home of the codebreakers."

In February 2025, she presented "From 'Felizitas' to 'Gambit:' Vetting Hildegard Beetz for U.S. Intelligence

Work in Berlin and Beyond," at the Annual Conference of the Society for Intelligence History at the International Spy Museum in Washington, DC.

Already in late summer, she gave an invited Zoom talk, also on Beetz, for a workshop on the "U.S. Military and the Holocaust" at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Going with the spy theme, Paehler was also invited to join the Board of the Society for Intelligence History. Her term will run through 2028. She also filmed a segment for a new multi-episode documentary on World War II in a warehouse in Brooklyn—with New York so near and yet so far!—and did a segment for *The History Hour of BBC World News*, deceptively entitled *Nazis and Sex Strikes*. She talked about the Reichstag Fire of February 1933; the sex strikes feature in a quite different segment of that hour.

Paehler remains the graduate coordinator and is happy to answer any questions anyone might have about joining the master's program.

**Dr. Keith Pluymers** published a review of "Port Cities of the Atlantic World: Sea-Facing Histories of the U.S. South" in the *Journal of Southern History*. He presented work from his new book project at the American Society for Environmental History conference in Pittsburgh, Pa.

**Dr. Lindsay Stallones Marshall's** work was accepted for the Clements Center for Southwest Studies 2024-25 Symposium, "Rethinking the 'Indian Wars'." She traveled to Taos, N.M., to meet coauthors on the project for a workshop in the fall and to Tempe, Az., for a Historians Roundtable public event hosted by the Arizona Historical Society. Her chapter, "The Memory War for the Indian Wars," will appear in the symposium's edited volume from the University of Nebraska Press. Also, this year she began her tenure as president of the Equine History Collective.

# Special events

## Illinois History Day March 1

This year the Department of History hosted for the first time the Central Illinois Regional Competition of Illinois History Day on March 1 in the Alumni Center. Around 30 local high school students presented their history projects judged by future history teachers and current faculty. Many thanks to **Greg Carter** for organizing this great civic engagement and recruiting event!



Grace Zeleski volunteers alongside other local judges to evaluate Illinois History Day projects at the Alumni Center on March 1.



The winning team: the Conquestionnaires

## History Trivia Spectacular March 20

The second annual History Trivia spectacular, held in Stevenson Hall, was a fun night of friendly competition, snacks and comradery. Questions were created by quizmasters **Katie Lopez**, student teacher coordinator, and grad student **Emma Malone**. It was hosted by our own history advisor, **Matt Blue**. Each of the six teams were led by history faculty members. **Dr. Amy Wood's** team, the Conquestionnaires, took the figurative first place trophy.

## The Robert G. Bone Lecture April 17

This year's History lecturer for the Robert G. Bone Distinguished Lecture Series, funded by the ISU Foundation, was Dr. Peter Fritzsche, the W.D. and Sara E. Trowbridge Professor in History at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

He presented the lecture, *Brown Vibe: How Hitler Won Over the Majority in 100 Days*. Prior to the lecture, distinguished guests and alumni had the chance to speak with him at a reception in the Bone Student Center. Fritzsche gave an invigorating lecture to a packed house where he explored how quickly a deeply divided people, left-wingers and monarchists, mechanics and professors, Catholics and Protestants, seemed to line up behind the Nazis.

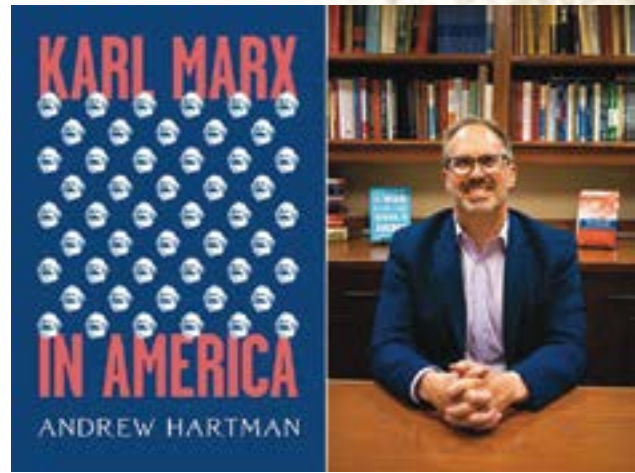
The Robert G. Bone Distinguished Lecturer Series was established by the late Illinois State University President Robert G. Bone (1956-1967). Shared by the Departments of History, Politics and Government, and Sociology and Anthropology, it enables these departments to bring distinguished scholars to ISU to deliver a public lecture and meet with faculty and students.



A packed house for this year's Robert G. Bone Lecture with Dr. Peter Fritzsche

## CAS Distinguished Lecture April 24

Congratulations to **Dr. Andrew Hartman** who was chosen to deliver the spring 2025 CAS Distinguished lecture April 24 in Old Main. In Hartman's lecture, based on his new book of the same title, *Karl Marx in America*, he argued that even though Marx never visited America, the country has been infused, shaped, and transformed by him.



Dr. Andrew Hartman's latest book *Karl Marx in America*

## In Memoria

**David John MacDonald**, 1943-2025, served in the department for many years as our historian of ancient history. Mac was a dedicated teacher and scholar who was beloved by his students. He died March 29. Visit *The Pantagraph* to read his obituary.

**Dorothy Haeffle**, 1926-2025, was the first secretary of the department. She died January 10. Visit *The Pantagraph* to read her obituary.

**Terry Jozwik**, 1952-2025, was a beloved student teacher supervisor for the history education program who died March 12. More about his life can be found on the Echovita website.

**Cherie Valentine**, 1948-2025, was a Department of History office staff member from 1996-2005 and transferred to the Department of Politics and Government from 2005-2018. She died January 31. Visit *The Pantagraph* to learn more about her interesting life with the Flying Valentinos.







**ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY**  
*Illinois' first public university*

**Department of History**  
Campus Box 4420  
Normal, IL 61790-4420

This document is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting the Department of History at (309) 438-5641.  
An equal opportunity/affirmative action university encouraging diversity • University Marketing and Communications • 26-33589

## YOUR GIFT MAKES A REDBIRD DREAM POSSIBLE!

### PLEASE DESIGNATE MY GIFT TO THE FOLLOWING:

- ☐ DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY (4425240)  
☐ ISU EXCELLENCE FUND (3065065)  
☐ COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT/OTHER: \_\_\_\_\_

### GIVING OPTIONS

- ☐ A sustainable recurring gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_,  
    ☐ monthly   ☐ quarterly   ☐ semiannually   ☐ annually  
☐ A one-time gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_

### WAYS TO GIVE

\_\_\_ **OPTION 1:** Check. A check for my gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to  
    Illinois State University Foundation is enclosed.

\_\_\_ **OPTION 2:** Credit Card:

☐ VISA   ☐ MASTERCARD   ☐ DISCOVER   ☐ AMERICAN EXPRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name on card

\_\_\_\_\_  
Account number                      CVV                      Expiration date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email

\_\_\_ **OPTION 3:** Make a gift online at [Giving.IllinoisState.edu](http://Giving.IllinoisState.edu).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name(s)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City    State    ZIP

(                      )

☐ mobile   ☐ home

\_\_\_\_\_  
Preferred phone number

### OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT ISU

☐ I (and/or my spouse/partner) work for a matching gift company:

☐ Please send me information about ways to support ISU through a provision in my will,  
    trust, retirement plan, or other deferred gift arrangement.

☐ I have already included ISU in my will, trust, retirement plan, or other deferred gift  
    arrangement.

*Please mail this form to:*

*Illinois State University Foundation  
Campus Box 8000  
Normal, IL 61790-8000*