

University of Vermont

**History
Newsletter**

2021-2022



THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
COLLEGE OF ARTS
AND SCIENCES

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

PROFESSOR PAUL DESLANDES

I am delighted, once again, to write a chair's welcome message for our departmental newsletter. This is now our third annual newsletter and, this year, it has been produced by our department's communications interns, Mike Maloney and Sarah McAtee, both history majors. While Mike will be graduating in May, Sarah will continue on in the internship in 2022-23. After graduating, Mike is hoping to pursue a career in the world of archival management and librarianship. They have both been outstanding to work with and are to be commended for their fine work on this year's newsletter.

This past year saw a return to more normalcy, despite the continued threats posed by COVID. While we have been wearing masks for much of 2021-22, UVMers were recently greeted with the news that masks are now optional on campus. This has improved dialogue and exchange in our classroom enormously and has been welcomed by many members of our community. During the entirety of this crisis, faculty, staff, and, most importantly, our students have done a stellar job in trying to teach, write about, and learn history. One of the joys of the past year has been the return to on-campus programming. As this newsletter notes, we were able to host the inaugural David Haber and Robin Edelman Histories of the Present Annual lecture in the fall. The topic last October was "Race, Regulation, and Guns: The Latest Battleground in the Debate Over the Second Amendment." Professors Alan Steinweis and Jonathan Huener, who shared responsibility for directing the Miller Center for Holocaust Studies were also able to host on-campus lectures. And, just a few weeks ago, we held an in-person Alumni Career Panel.

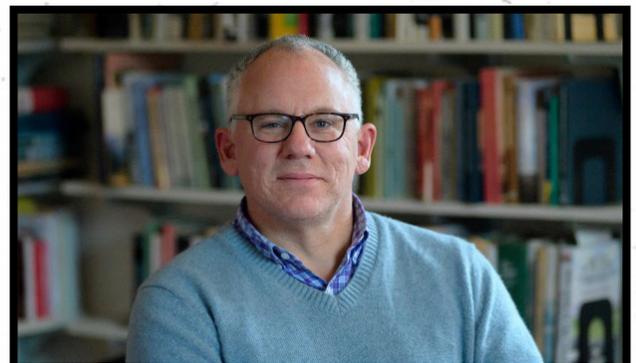
Our major is thriving and students continue to flock to courses on a diverse array of topics. Just a few of the titles from the current semester are illustrative: "Latin American Revolutions," "World's Fairs, 1876, 1893, 1904," "Samurai in History in Film," and "The World of Louis IX: King, Crusader, Saint." Additionally, our History M.A. program saw a record number of applications in 2021 and, in August of last year, we welcomed a new class of fifteen graduate students.

Our faculty continue to produce all sorts of first-rate scholarship that has received national and international recognition. Professor Felicia Kornbluh is getting ready to publish, during the Fiftieth Anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* in 2023, a major new book on reproductive health, with the title *How to Fight a War on Women: My Mother, Our Neighbor, and the History of Reproductive Rights and Justice*. Professor Andy Buchanan published a major new article in *Diplomatic History* titled "Domesticating Hegemony: Creating a Globalist Public, 1941-43." Finally, while I hesitate to blow my own horn, my new book *The Culture of Male Beauty in Britain: From the First Photographs to David Beckham* was just published in the winter. Other faculty have books in the publishing pipeline and it's looking like 2022 and 2023 will also be very productive years.

Our students have been doing wonderful things. Senior majors Katie Wynn and Joe Gallo are writing studies of female monarchs in modern British history and the execution of Charles I of England (in 1649), respectively. Graduate student Hannah Kirkpatrick spent the past two years producing digital media for the Vermont Historical Society. Finally, many of our alumni continue to do great things. Following an M.A. in Public Humanities at Brown University, Kaitlyne Morris has been working in various capacities in this field, most recently as Director of State Archives, Library, and Public Information in Rhode Island.

As I close, let me remind you all to stay in touch and, if you are a recent graduate or a graduate from many years ago, be sure to let us know what you've been up to. We'd love to hear from you. 2022 and 2023 promises, we all hope, a return to more regular travel. If you find yourself in Burlington, please be sure to stop by Wheeler House.

Best wishes,
Paul Deslandes



FACULTY NEWS

CHARLES BRIGGS

Professor Charles Briggs's research has focused on two aspects of his larger project of reconceptualizing the beginnings of Renaissance humanism. The first is a consideration of the political and moral ideas of Dominican and Augustinian friars from central and northern Italy who were active in the late 1200s and early 1300s. He has found that these friars showed a keen interest in the conditions and problems of urban political life and responded to these in sermons and treatises directed at both their fellow friars and at a broader lay public. Strongly influenced by Aristotle and classical Roman authors as well as by Scripture, the Church Fathers, and canon law, these friars counseled a politics of civic virtue, communal harmony, and the common good. He has written chapters on various aspects of this subject, forthcoming in three collaborative volumes. The second aspect of his research explores how the generalized crisis of the mid-fourteenth century, prompted by the Black Death, seems to have profoundly altered ways of thinking about morality and politics. Some of Professor Briggs's thoughts on this matter will be presented in Montreal this September at a conference plenary address entitled "The Pandemic and Petrarch: Some Reflections on Secular Crisis and Cultural Change."

ANDREW BUCHANAN

In the spring, Professor Andrew Buchanan's article "Domesticating Hegemony: Creating a Globalist Public, 1941-1943" was published in *Diplomatic History*, and in the fall, a synthetic and theoretical piece entitled "Globalizing the Second World War" was accepted for publication in the leading British journal *Past and Present*. Buchanan is currently working on a new book on the long World War II and the transition to the postwar world for Bloomsbury Press. He is also working with an international group of scholars on a collection of workshopped essays examining the global history of the Second World War. In his spare time, Professor Buchanan was project director for a volunteer preservation effort in his hometown of Whallonsburg, NY that renovated a derelict garage to create workshops and community spaces. In November, this innovative exercise in

adaptive reuse received one of the Preservation League of New York's awards for "Excellence in Historic Preservation."

JACQUELINE CARR

Professor Jacqueline Carr is retiring in May 2022, after an 18 year career at UVM. She joined the faculty in 2004, teaching the history of early America while also offering special topics courses on various subjects including social and cultural history, women's history, and the eighteenth-century British Atlantic world. In her ongoing research on New England businesswomen during the Early Republic, Professor Carr has unexpectedly found information on those who were part of the post-American Revolution migration from New England to the newly opened Ohio Valley. Traditionally, this migration has been viewed as a movement of men, alone or with families, seeking farm lands and business opportunities, but her research has shown that independent businesswomen were also a noticeable sector of this substantial relocation. This recognition opens the door to a more detailed understanding of women's lives in post-revolutionary America and the politics of civic virtue.

BRYNN GEFFERT

Professor Brynn Geffert is currently the Dean of Libraries at UVM. His historical research is primarily focused on Eastern Orthodox Christianity and the Russian Orthodox Church. Professor Geffert's current project, *Catholics without Rome: Old Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Anglicans, and the Reunion Negotiations of the 1870s*, will be published by University of Notre Dame Press in May 2022. This book will look at the Vatican Council of 1871 and the changes made to Roman Catholicism that subsequently created a sect of "Old Catholics". These Old Catholics desired a new church separate from Rome while still united with other Christian groups, most notably the Eastern Orthodox Church. Professor Geffert's book argues that despite their best efforts, Anglican and Orthodox church groups could not fully bridge inter-confessional divides, in part due to issues of internal sect unity.

JOHNATHAN HUENER

Professor Johnathan Huener was on research leave for the Fall 2021 semester in Munich, where he held a fellowship from the Institute for Contemporary History. His current research focuses on the Reichsgau Wartheland or Warthegau and he plans to write the first English-language study of this annexed western region of Nazi-occupied Poland. His research will consider the occupation regime's Germanization agenda in relation to the Warthegau's unique status as an experimental field for National Socialist policy. In this region, Nazis renamed villages, deported Poles, planted trees, built roads, incarcerated priests, and killed Jews as part of a larger struggle to assert German racial superiority and dominance in the future. The project proposes that the Warthegau was unique with respect to its size, demographic composition, and the role it was expected to play in the Third Reich both during and after the war. Arguing that the structure and governance of the Warthegau facilitated the rapid, radical, and even murderous application of Nazi ideological goals, this study also emphasizes that the Germanization program encompassed not only "racial" population policies, but also plans to transform the region's culture, economy, and infrastructure.

DAVID MASSELL

This past year Professor David Massell assembled and taught twice a new seminar called "The Invented Indian," an upper-level class which complements his existing courses on the history of Native Peoples, including a survey course of North American Indian History and a TAP seminar titled "Reel and Real Indians: Native Peoples in the Movies." "The Invented Indian" samples the rich and varied sources authored by Euro-Americans that concern North American Indians. These include colonial-era accounts of encounter, early memoirs of captivity, nineteenth century literature and art, and twentieth century textbooks, woodcraft, commerce, and film. As such, this is a course in cultural and intellectual history with an emphasis on close textual and/or visual analysis.

ROBERT McCULLOUGH

After a brief COVID hiatus, Professor Robert McCullough's Architectural History class resumed its annual pilgrimage to Harrisville, New Hampshire, a remarkably well-preserved, mid-nineteenth-century industrial community and a National Historic Landmark. UVM Historic Preservation program graduate Erin Hammerstedt, the Executive Director of the non-profit Historic Harrisville, Inc., conducted a tour of the village. Their weekend excursion began with a stop at Vermont's Rockingham Meetinghouse built in 1787, a National Historic Landmark. It was followed by a tour of the Bellows Falls Downtown Historic District, listed on the National Register of Historic Places and lunch on the village green in Walpole, New Hampshire, also part of an historic district.

ABIGAIL MCGOWAN

Over the past year, Professor Abigail McGowan has published two articles as part of her ongoing research on new home ideals in twentieth century India. One, which appears in the journal *South Asia*, examines the feminization of crafts leadership after Indian independence in 1947, by which crafts development and marketing efforts became women's work, tied to homemaking rather than economic development. The second article, which appears in the edited collection *Globalizing Everyday Consumption*, explores how books of house plans emerged in late colonial India, shaping expectations for the use and design of domestic space. In addition, McGowan co-organized a one-day international workshop at UVM in October 2021, called "The Ideal Home: Design, Housing, and Market Capital in Modern South Asia" which brought together scholars from the US, Canada, India, and Australia. McGowan's own paper at the workshop explored how domestic designs reveal elite trends in alcohol consumption in the mid-twentieth century, balancing fashionability and furtiveness in an era of public prohibition.

NICOLE PHELPS

Professor Nicole Phelps led ten undergraduate and graduate students in a seminar this fall on "Reconstruction and the 1876 Election." The course focused on both broad constitutional

questions and the minutiae of the election, the outcome of which was decided by a congressionally appointed commission amidst violence, charges of fraud, and a disconnect between the outcome of the popular and the Electoral College votes. The students then conducted primary source research and engaged in a robust writing workshop process, producing excellent, original papers. Many students analyzed cartoons from the popular magazine *Harper's Weekly*, investigating depictions of Catholicism, the Irish, military-funding crises, and the Liberal Republican politicians Horace Greeley and Carl Schurz. Others looked at political rhetoric, including reports written for President Andrew Johnson about the progress of Reconstruction, Congressman James G. Blaine's escape from a corruption scandal, and repeated revisions of the Georgia state constitution.

SUSANNA SCHRAFSTETTER

In 2021, Professor Susanna Schrafstetter published *After Nazism: Relaunching Careers in Germany and Austria*, coedited with Thomas Schlemmer and Jürgen Zarusky. This publication is volume 5 of the *German Yearbook for Contemporary History*, a series sponsored by the Leibniz-Institute for Contemporary History in Munich, Germany, and published by the University of Nebraska Press. This edited collection examines the various ways in which former enthusiastic National Socialists were able (or not) to rebuild their careers in politics, mass media, government bureaucracy, and higher education. Professor Schrafstetter will be on sabbatical in the spring and fall of 2022 and will be working on her project about German-Jewish emigration to Fascist Italy.

ALAN STEINWEIS

Professor Alan E. Steinweis recently completed the manuscript for his new book, *The People's Dictatorship: A History of Nazi Germany*, which will be published later this year by Cambridge University Press. He also wrote or published several articles or book chapters, and participated in a number of online symposia. He is now beginning work on a new book project about Georg Elser, a German cabinet maker who came close to assassinating Hitler in November 1939.

THOMAS VISSER

Professor Thomas Visser continued his community leadership, research, and technical service in public history, historic preservation, and sustainability over the past year. Professor Visser was the featured speaker on the history and preservation of New England porches at a special online event organized by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance in collaboration with the Preservation Trust of Vermont and other preservation organizations. He also presented his research on the history of New England barns and farm buildings at an online workshop for the National Barn Alliance. His latest research article on "Why are barns painted red?" published in *The Conversation*, has been reprinted widely. Professor Visser also served on an advisory committee to assist the Burlington Electric Department and Burlington's Certified Local Government program's efforts towards sustainability through Net Zero Energy for historic buildings.

STEVEN ZDATNY

In the last year, Professor Steven Zdatny has written two more chapters of his study of the history of hygiene in Modern France—with two more to go to finish the manuscript, tentatively titled "The Threshold of Disgust." The book will trace the modernization of the sensibilities and practices of hygiene in France from the primitive to the modern. Charting transitions from a world where water was scarce and washing rare, where clothes were dirty and rarely changed, and where lice were an inevitable part of the human condition to one where more modern standards of cleanliness and grooming prevailed, this work is a history of both practices and ideas. The story begins filthy but ends in a world of indoor toilets, soap, clean clothes, supermarket aisles full of toiletries, and Chanel No. 5.

Thank You to Our Generous Donors!

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FACULTY FEATURES

FELICIA KORNBLUH

Professor

Dr. Felicia Kornbluh is a Professor of History and Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies at UVM. Her teaching and research focuses on Post-1945 U.S. history, legal history, the history of women and gender, social welfare, disability history, and African American history. Professor Kornbluh recently secured a contract with Grove Atlantic, a leading independent trade publisher, for her forthcoming book, *How to Fight a War on Women: My Mother, Our Neighbor, and the History of Reproductive Rights and Justice*. The book will appear in time to join discussions of reproductive rights on the 50th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* in January 2023.

How to Fight a War on Women is a chronicle of the campaign to decriminalize abortion in New York State, as a stand-in for all the campaigns against restrictive abortion laws that led ultimately to the Supreme Court opinion in *Roe v. Wade*. It also chronicles the rise of organizing against sterilization abuse – organizing that was the seed of the contemporary effort to widen the reproductive rights movement into one for reproductive justice. The central figures in the book are Kornbluh's late mother, Beatrice Kornbluh Braun, who played a key role in abortion decriminalization in New York, and her family's next-door neighbor, the late Dr. Helen Rodriguez-Trias, who convened the first anti-sterilization activist group in U.S. history.

Professor Kornbluh was also one of the signatories to an amicus brief on behalf of the American Society for Legal History in the U.S. Supreme Court case considering Mississippi's current abortion law, to be argued in December 2021, and published an article on the Texas abortion law, and the Supreme Court's response to it, in the October/November issue of *The American Prospect* magazine.



PAUL DESLANDES

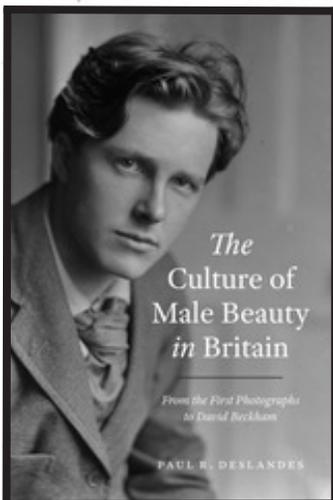
Chair, Professor

Professor Paul Deslandes is a specialist in British history, the British Empire, and the history of gender and sexuality. In December 2021, he published *The Culture of Male Beauty in Britain: From the First Photographs to David Beckham*, with the University of Chicago Press. This heavily illustrated study, covering the period from the 1840s to the present, is a bold analysis of the aesthetics of masculinity in modern British culture. With chapters that move between an array of topics including facial disfigurement during the First World War, cultural obsessions with body building in the 1950s, and anxieties about male body image in the 1990s, Deslandes's book reveals how men engaged with consumer culture. It also explores the relationship between grooming and social activities, the connections between the development of sexual identities and aesthetic enjoyment, and the intricacies of looking in modern Britain.

Aiming to unravel the origins of the modern male obsession with beauty, Professor Deslandes mined collections housed at the Bodleian Library, the British Library, the Wellcome Collection, the Gillies Archive at Queen Mary Hospital (Sidcup), and the Mass Observation Archives, among many other repositories. He also examined a variety of pop culture media formats, a range of magazines directed at gay men, and personal reflections on appearance and grooming from the last two centuries, to create a complex narrative on the development of male beauty culture in Britain.

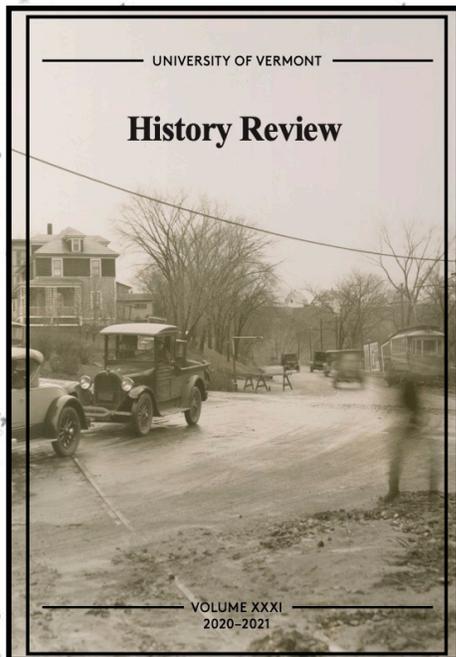
Paying close attention to matters of race, he reveals how whiteness was constructed and how men of color pushed back against prevailing beauty standards. In the end, he suggests that the study of male beauty helps to paint a more comprehensive picture of British history and consumer culture, revealing how concerns with grooming and appearance affected men who embraced a broad range of social identities. He also focuses on the relationship between good looks and the ability to thrive in a capitalist economy, arguing that appearance, for much of the period covered in the book, influenced professional and financial success.

Professor Deslandes's book offers a new take on the development and impact of male beauty standards in British society. It also successfully assesses how considerations of beauty and ugliness can help readers gain a deeper understanding of British visual culture.



STUDENT NEWS

THE UVM *HISTORY REVIEW*



The UVM *History Review* is a student run and published scholarly journal that is sponsored by the history department. Students can either serve on the Board of Editors or submit their own work and learn the process of reviewing, editing, and publishing manuscripts for a scholarly journal. The UVM *History Review* is highly regarded by both professional historians and the UVM community. It has been awarded the Gerald D. Nash Prize twice, earning recognition in *The Historian*, the Phi Alpha Theta national journal. The UVM history department takes pride in this student publication.

Lead Editor: Katie Wynn

Board of Editors:

Michael Tobin, Liam Hilferty, Patrick Sullivan, Juniper Oxford, Nick Wendell, James Hughes, Eleanor Setchko

2021 PHI ALPHA THETA INDUCTEES

Phi Alpha Theta is an academic honor society for colleges and universities. Its primary mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication, and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians.

Elizabeth R. Anderson	Catherine Elizabeth Zuk Hodges	Charlotte F. Nicholson
Isabel Linnea Nash Birney	Tori R. Jarvis	Bridget Mary O'Keefe
Sarah Elizabeth Chute	Kristin P. Ketterman	Andrew John Pieper
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Jake Declan Hession	Lucas John Newton	Jeremy D. Wollman
Liam J. Hilferty		Katherine G. Wynn

HISTORIES OF THE PRESENT: THE DAVID HABER AND ROBIN EDELMAN ANNUAL LECTURE

This fall, the UVM history department hosted the inaugural Histories of the Present: The David Haber and Robin Edelman Annual Lecture. Made possible by a generous gift, this series will invite one scholar to the UVM campus each year to provide a historian's perspective on a pressing contemporary issue related to the United States or its relationship with the wider world. This year's lecture was presented by Dr. Saul Cornell, the Paul and Diane Guenther Chair in American History at Fordham University. Cornell specializes in early American and legal/constitutional history and has published a variety of books and articles on these topics.

Professor Cornell's lecture, titled "Race, Regulation, and Guns: The Latest Battleground in the Debate Over the Second Amendment", addressed the ongoing argument about gun rights and the Second Amendment in the United States. In his lecture, Cornell questioned the difference between modern gun ownership and militia gun use at the time of the nation's founding. Over the course of his talk, he paid close attention to race, discussing the impact of slavery, the rise of Jim Crow laws, and the Civil Rights movement. He also traced the history of gun rights in American legal and political systems, examining Supreme Court decisions and modern-day legislation.

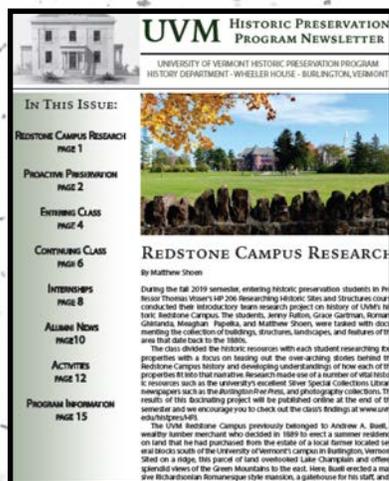
Professor Cornell left the audience with a thought-provoking message about the ways in which gun ownership and American perceptions of race have been closely linked for more than two centuries. In the end, he asked listeners to contemplate complex and difficult questions about next steps for gun legislation and the place of racial bias in American cultural and legal traditions.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

The University of Vermont Historic Preservation Program aims to acknowledge, conserve, and sustain a diverse range of heritage resources that have the potential to inform and to serve current and future generations. The Historic Preservation Program offers a Master of Science degree in Historic Preservation, as well as an Accelerated Master's Program, and an Individually Designed Minor for undergraduates.

Take a look at a student research project examining the history of UVM's Central and East campus, conducted last fall by historic preservation and history graduate students in the "Researching Historic Structures and Sites" course

<http://www.uvm.edu/~hp206/2021/>



Learn more about the Historic Preservation program and read the most recent edition of the UVM Historic Preservation Newsletter at <https://www.uvm.edu/cas/historicpreservation> or by contacting history@uvm.edu.

UNDERGRADUATE NEWS

STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

DOROTHY DYE

History, Minor in English, Class of 2022



In December of 2020, Dorothy began working for Silver Special Collections Library as a Transcriber and Library Assistant. Dorothy worked with the diaries of Mary Jean Simpson, Dean of Women at UVM in 1937, and, later, those of Henry Brownell. With the use of Transkribus, an online text-recognition program, Dorothy transcribed these diaries into a readable, online format. Dorothy's role in Billings Library was multifaceted and changed once returning to campus in-person. In the Fall 2021 semester, Dorothy had the opportunity to participate in an ongoing research project on Henry Brownell. Dorothy worked alongside Professor Erik Esselstrom, Silver Special Collections Library staff, as well as two undergraduate research assistants, to transcribe and analyze his diaries. Reflecting on the experience, Dorothy explained: "the interdisciplinary method of approaching these diaries is what made both projects so fascinating." As a senior History major and English minor, Dorothy has gained a breadth of skills useful in transcription and diary analysis.

LILLY PAGE

History, Minors in Journalism & Political Science, Class of 2022



In Fall 2021, Lilly Page, a senior history major, participated in an independent study with Professor Jacqueline Carr, where she dove into the topic of American women throughout the early periods of United States history, spanning from the 1750s to the 1830s. The focus of Lilly's independent study was the effect of the American Revolution on women's lives and their individual rights. In her final paper, she argued that the Revolution helped to prove women could think and act independently, especially in the public sphere, and that women's work was seen as essential to society after the war. The paper also shows that there was somewhat of a retreat for women back to the home during the middle to late decades of the nineteenth century, until this was questioned more fully with the rise of the women's suffrage movement. Her

research consisted of reading numerous books containing both primary and secondary sources, mainly diaries, letters, and written materials. Lilly noted: "It was so interesting to be able to look into two topics I am passionate about - the American Revolution and Women's History - and to be able to research and write about them under the guidance of Professor Carr."



MICHAEL MALONEY

History, Minor in Linguistics, Class of 2022

Mike Maloney is a senior history student with a concentration in medieval Europe and a minor in Linguistics. Mike has been the Communications Intern for the history department since spring 2020. In his role at the department, he has worked closely with faculty, students, and alumni to make new connections, develop career events, and publish the annual department newsletter. Since the spring of 2021, Mike has also been working as a Library Assistant at UVM's Silver Special Collections

Library. Mike commented: "Through the connections I have made and the variety of experiences I have had studying history and working in an archival environment, I have found that being a student of history gives you the opportunity to pursue anything you want as long as you put your mind to it. Applying the valuable communication skills you learn and recognizing the broader perspectives that history gives you are invaluable for a successful career in any field."

PETER LETOWT

History, Minors in Writing and Political Science, Class of 2022

Peter Letowt, a second semester senior, is currently writing his honor's thesis on the Lincoln Highway, the nation's first transcontinental highway, which ran from Times Square in New York City to San Francisco, California. Dedicated in 1913 and funded by private individuals and companies, the highway was a mix of preexisting roads and dirt paths that continued to be upgraded over the following decades. He hopes to use the highway to address the larger concepts that historian Frederick Jackson Turner first proposed in his 1893 Frontier thesis. Though the Lincoln Highway gained some notoriety due to Amor Towles's 2021 novel *The Lincoln Highway*, it is mainly featured as a footnote in the greater history of infrastructure and lacks any dedicated scholarly work. A grant from the College of Arts and Sciences, which was generously matched by the Department of History, allowed Peter to fly out to the University of Michigan to do archival work. Using these resources, he hopes to finish his thesis and, over the summer, drive across the country documenting the old road and his journey.



GRADUATE NEWS

RICHARD WITTING

Richard Witting is a second semester history graduate student at UVM. Food is a lifelong passion and through his studies Richard aims to become an “expert in Vermont food history.” Last semester, Richard did an independent study with Professor Dona Brown on the history of Vermont agriculture which has inspired him to further study Vermont food history. Outside of school, Richard has a successful career as a chef and runs his own catering business. Through his culinary skills, passion for food, and education on its history, Richard has hosted several dinner party lectures on works of historic literature and the food that exists within them. Series in his project include a dinner based on *Beowulf* and a four-part event on Hiroshige block prints titled “Fifty-three Stations of Tokaido Road.” These lecture-based dinner parties aim to accurately recreate the food represented in historic literature. Additionally, they allow Richard to experiment as a chef with his own interpretations of how the dishes highlighted would have been made. Richard has also pursued a project titled “Milk & Honey: Food of the Jewish Diaspora,” in which he worked with several Burlington synagogues to learn about the history of kosher food and offer lectures and culinary experiences connected to diverse Jewish holiday traditions. With the knowledge and skills he is developing at UVM and in his career, Richard aims to eventually publish a book on the history of Vermont food.



ELISABETH CHAMPION

Elisabeth Champion is a first-year graduate student in the History MA program, concentrating on Holocaust Studies. She spent three years at Smith College as an Ada Comstock Scholar, focusing on women’s history and the history of modern Europe. Elisabeth came to UVM with an interest in the experiences of children who lived through and survived the Holocaust, and did undergraduate research on this topic during her senior year at Smith. In her first semester at UVM, she began researching German children growing up under National Socialism, focusing, in a seminar paper, on the experiences of those who participated in the Hitler Youth. Elisabeth spent seven weeks last summer at Middlebury’s Language School studying German and hopes to visit Germany this summer to continue her language studies and conduct research for her thesis.



HANNAH KIRKPATRICK

Hannah is in her final semester of the Accelerated Master's Program in History. As an undergraduate at UVM, she gained research experience working with the Fleming Museum of Art and the Center for Research on Vermont. Hannah has also spent two years producing digital media for the Vermont Historical Society, including the "Before Your Time" podcast and a series of videos on the library and its collections. The collections videos span topics ranging from the advent of skiing in Vermont to toys, tools, and paintings made by Vermonters. Hannah's recent research at UVM, supervised by Professor Sean Field, has centered on gender, bodies, and religion in medieval Europe and, more particularly, on the life and writings of St. Clare of Assisi. As a research assistant for Professor Dona Brown, Hannah spent time searching through and transcribing Vermont census data and farm records. Hannah is currently working with the Writing in the Disciplines program as a research assistant.



Connor is a second-year graduate student researching the use of Native American imagery and names in the sale of automobiles in the twentieth century, inspired by Professor David Massell's course "The Invented Indian" and his own interest in cars. His goal is to understand how the automotive industry used Native American imagery to market to their clientele. His research begins with the use of native names in motorcycles to advertise them as rebellious vehicles and ends with the current day controversies related to the Jeep Cherokee. He looks at how the narrative has changed to suit different consumer trends. Early on, this use of Native imagery in motorcycles was aimed at escaping conformity and rebellion against the strictures of East Coast society. In the post-World War II era, the imagery shifted towards escaping to nature and exploring the great outdoors with family-oriented cars and campers such as the Winnebago. Lastly, his research looks at how shifts in social consciousness in the 1970s altered the ways in which automobile companies and the broader consuming public used and interpreted Native imagery. Connor argues that the automobile is a core facet of American life and by using Native American representations and names, the automotive industry has shaped American views and perspectives on indigenous populations. Connor's research relies extensively on information and advertisements from motorcycle magazines, car magazines, brochures, and automobile statistics in recounting this history.

CONNOR STRUYK



ALUMNI NEWS

ALEXANDER ELLIS

2017 BA, 2019 MA

ASSISTANT STUDIO MANAGER & REGISTRAR AT NAPLES STUDIO, LLC



Alexander Ellis earned his BA in History and Classical Civilizations in 2017 and went on to earn his MA in History in 2019. Alexander interned at both the Fleming Museum and the Shelburne Museum,

and while working on his MA he earned a fellowship opportunity to work at the Ft. Ticonderoga Museum in New York. Following graduation, Alexander worked as a curator at the Sharon Historical Society & Museum in Sharon, Connecticut. While there, he secured a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences to process a large multi-media photography collection and help turn the historical society into a full-time community center. Today, Alexander is the Assistant Studio Manager and Registrar at Naples Studio, LLC, a private professional painting conservation studio. He supports and manages the work of the company's two art conservators. Helping them manage transportation, scheduling, inventory intake, project contracts, evaluation, and proposals, Alexander "makes sure the ship is sailing." Studying and working alongside faculty such as Professors Andrew Buchanan, David Massell, and Nicole Phelps at UVM helped prepare Alexander for understanding the historical perspectives of the communities he works with. He values finding ways to explain complicated historical ideas to people within their specific life contexts. In reflection on his experiences, Alexander noted: "Of all things I got from the department, knowing how to organize oneself and being able to communicate clearly can help anyone in any time and in any job. Skills I learned from the department have been critical for success in a stressful, high standards environment."

ERICA BRUNO

2009 BA

ASSISTANT ACCOUNT DIRECTOR FOR THE AUTOMOTIVE VERTICAL FOR THE CONSTELLATION AGENCY

Erica Bruno graduated from UVM in 2009 with a dual degree in History and Anthropology. Erica initially considered going to college for business. She was raised in the automotive industry and always wanted to be a part of it thanks to her grandfather's guidance, love, and support. She instead decided to study history with the goal of learning more about the world and different cultures. To Erica, business at the end of the day is people and interactions. She believes there is a science to our culture, history, and societal norms and that understanding these trends can make you stand out in any career. Erica's career started during the Great Recession. At the time she was working as a building manager for the Davis Center but got a once in a lifetime chance to move to Los Angeles and join an eighteen-month management training program offered by Toyota. She worked at Toyota for another four years as an analyst and then as a field manager before moving to other positions within the automotive industry. Through her passion for her career, Erica has been very successful and is now an Associate Account Director for the Automotive Vertical for the Constellation Agency out of New York City. In providing some advice, Erica observed: "To current students, I would suggest you figure out what makes you really passionate and what you really want to do, something that drives you. If you can tune into what that exactly is for you, you'll be successful no matter what. Never give up on yourself, it does not matter how long it takes as long as you're true to yourself in the end."



TONYA LOVEDAY MERREM

2010 BA, 2012 MS

PRESERVATION PLANNER, EPSILON ASSOCIATES, LLC



Tonya Loveday Merrem received her BA in History with a minor in Business Administration in 2010 and her MS in Historic Preservation in 2012. From 2013 to 2016, Tonya was the Assistant Survey Director for the City of Boston. She subsequently worked as a Preservation Planner for the Town of Brookline before joining Epsilon Associates, Inc. in 2018. Tonya specializes in property research, utilizing a range of resources such as deeds, maps, and genealogical records to tell the histories of places and people. She prepares National Register of Historic Places nominations, cultural resource surveys, and historic tax credit applications. She also works with property owners, architects, and attorneys to provide strategic regulatory and design advice for real estate projects involving historic resources. In 2018, Tonya received the Paul & Niki Tsongas Award from Preservation Massachusetts as one of "The Next Generation" of preservation professionals.

Having held a work-study position in the history department during both her undergraduate and graduate years, her advice for current students is to try to get to know faculty members outside of the classroom, as they are invaluable resources for guidance with professional and personal development. She commented: "One of the most significant things I learned as a history student was to think critically about information sources. The importance of evaluating sources extends beyond academia."

KAITLYNNE MORRIS

2008 BA

DIRECTOR OF STATE ARCHIVES, LIBRARY, AND PUBLIC INFORMATION
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND



Kaitlynn Morris graduated from UVM in 2008 with a BA in History. Before pursuing her Master's in Public Humanities at Brown University, Kaitlynn worked with Americorps for a year developing service learning programs for civic engagement. With a goal of entering the cultural sector, she worked in both the National Park Service and the Rhode Island Governor's office before finding her current role in the Rhode Island Department of State. As the Director of State Archives, Library, and Public Information, Kaitlynn's goal is to ensure that information is transparent, accessible, and available to all. She works to provide Rhode Islanders easy access to government records and publications, state laws, information about legislative sessions, agency regulations, and the structures of state government. In studying history, Kaitlynn found great value in developing her critical thinking skills. Being able to "look at information, process its credibility, and ask questions that allow you to make new connections" has helped her in communicating thought processes and the larger perspective needed in any professional environment. She concluded: "It can be hard to see how history fits into a job until you go out and try things, there is no single answer so you should always keep your mind open and make both your academics and your career your own."



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