

# History Review



DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
*Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters*

Spring 2026 Newsletter

FLORIDA ATLANTIC, BOCA RATON | [fau.edu/history](http://fau.edu/history)

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Graduates 2024/25 .....3

Alan B. and Charna  
Larkin Symposium on  
the American Presidency  
featuring  
Joe Scarborough .....10



The Festival for America's  
250<sup>th</sup> .....16



Faculty News .....18



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings from  
Florida Atlantic! I  
am delighted to  
update readers of  
this newsletter on  
recent happenings  
in the Department

of History, where it has been another eventful year. In the Fall 2025 semester, the History faculty welcomed two new tenure-track colleagues to the department, Dr. Yakov Ellenbogen and Dr. Laura Fretwell. Dr. Ellenbogen, an expert in Medieval European History, Jewish History, and the History of Disability, joins the department from Columbia University, where he received his PhD. Dr. Fretwell holds her PhD from George Mason University, where she specialized in Digital and Public History. In addition to revising her dissertation for publication as a book, tentatively titled *Forgetting the Freed: The Buried Histories of Chimborazo Park*, Dr. Fretwell is working with the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters to develop the long-anticipated Digital History Lab in the new Kurt and Marilyn Wallach Holocaust and Jewish Studies Building. The History faculty also bid a fond farewell to Dr. Ben Lowe, who retired after a distinguished career spanning more than three decades at Florida Atlantic. As Professor of History (1993-2025), Director of Graduate Studies (2006-13), and Department Chair (2013-

22), Dr. Lowe shaped the department in fundamental ways. His nine years as Chair were especially impactful. He oversaw the hiring of six of the current tenure-line faculty members in the department, and one of the current instructors. He cultivated new donors, strengthened ties with existing ones, and played a key role in launching important initiatives such as the joint fellowship program with the Huntington Library. He supervised the expansion and enrichment of the department's curriculum, and he received a substantial institutional grant for the buildout of the Digital History Lab. While carrying a heavy service load, Dr. Lowe published three well-received books, most recently *Political Thought and the Origins of the American Presidency*, which he edited for the University Press of Florida's Alan B. and Charna Larkin Series on the American Presidency. As a scholar, teacher, and colleague, Dr. Lowe brought rigor, passion, and compassion to his work. I know I speak for colleagues, students, and alumni when I say that we will miss seeing him around campus each week. The returning faculty, meanwhile, continued to demonstrate their remarkable commitment to scholarship and teaching. Douglas McGetchin co-edited a volume examining *German-Speaking Jewish Refugees in Asia, 1930-1950*; Nicole Anslover published a book chapter on "Politics and the Real Housewives" in *Historians on Housewives: Fashion, Performance, and Power on*

(continued)





## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

*Bravo Reality TV*; and Mark Rose co-authored an essay on “Oil Can Eddie” and the Battle for the Steelworkers’ Union” in the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. Dr. Evan Bennett’s book, *Tampa Bay: The Story of an Estuary and Its People*, published last year, received two prestigious awards: the Florida Book Awards Silver Medal for Florida Nonfiction, and the Florida Historical Society’s Stetson Kennedy Award. Dr. Bennett was promoted to the rank of Professor in recognition of his exceptional academic achievements, while Dr. Claudia Dunlea was named University Instructor. In order to meet student demand, the History faculty offered a record number of asynchronous online courses at the upper division, while also maintaining their commitment to traditional in-person classes on the Boca Raton and Jupiter campuses. They expanded their offerings at the lower division by offering additional sections of Writing History as well as a new course, Introduction to Humanities.

The department also maintained its robust tradition of public programming. The Alan B. and Charna Larkin Symposium on the American Presidency, delivered in February 2025, featured Joe Scarborough, former U.S. Congressman and co-host of MSNBC’s Morning Joe, in conversation with Dr. Anslover. In the Spring 2026 semester, the department will host Lindsay Chervinsky, noted historian and Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library, for the annual John O’Sullivan Memorial Lecture. The faculty will welcome three-time Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Doug Mills for the 2026 Larkin Symposium, where he will discuss his career as a White House photographer from the era of President Reagan through the age of President Trump. The semiquincentennial of the Declaration of

Independence in 2026 will provide the department with the occasion to commemorate 250 years of the American experiment through a Festival for America’s 250th, presented by the Family of Marvin and Sybil Weiner. The Festival, organized in conjunction with Florida Atlantic Libraries, is a multi-week series of events reflecting on the Revolution and its legacy.

Many of these activities are made possible by the generosity of our donors and other community partners. To this end, I am delighted to announce the renewal and expansion of the department’s partnership with the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Florida, which has helped for over five years to make Florida Atlantic a major hub for early American History. Donors have also made possible a number of recent research awards that became available to faculty and, in some cases, students, within the last two years, including the Ambassador Robert M. Orr, Jr. ’76 Research Travel Award, the Dr. Harry A. Kersey, Jr. Research Travel Award, the Traci Jill Edelman Research Travel Award, and the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Travel-Study Award.

I encourage you to read over this year’s newsletter, which showcases the many achievements of History students and faculty alike. Whether you are an alumnus, a prospective student, or a friend of the department, I would love to hear from you ([dkanter1@fau.edu](mailto:dkanter1@fau.edu)), and to see you at one of the department’s upcoming events!

**Douglas Kanter, Ph.D.**  
Chair, Department of History



## GRADUATES 2024-25

### BACHELOR OF ARTS

#### *Fall 2024*

WAGNER AUGUSTIN  
PETER CORRAO  
JOHNATHON FERGUSON  
SHYANN GUERIN  
JASON KRISTIAN  
DARIEL OSENDI CEBALLO  
NICHOLAS PETROKUS  
CHRISTIAN ROBINSON  
STEFAN TSAPENKO

#### *Summer 2025*

CHRISTINA FRONGILLO  
LOGAN McDONNELL  
ANDREW SCHROEDER

#### *Spring 2025*

JOHN COBB  
CHRISTOS DARRAS  
SUSAN HERNANDEZ  
JOHN KELLER  
Q KNIGHT  
MASON LOIS  
COLTON MADDEN  
JEFFREY NIEVES  
JEAN-VINCENT PARACHINI  
ALYSSA PAZ  
ANTONIO PONCE  
GIANCARLO SIGNORI  
MILAYNA WILLIAMS  
TREVOR WILSON

### MASTER OF ARTS

#### *Fall 2024*

PHILIP PRAZAN  
DOUGLAS PROVENZANO

#### *Summer 2025*

MICHAEL PAPP  
ANDREW CALANO  
CHRISTINE McDONOUGH

#### *Spring 2025*

DYLAN BLOSE  
RYAN KRIEGER  
ANSON SHURR  
KATHERINE HORAN  
ELLIS HALL  
BENJAMIN COHEN

### TEACHING ASSISTANTS SPRING & FALL 2025

AUSTIN CUPO  
BENJAMIN COHEN  
ELLIS HALL  
NATHAN SHULL  
ERIC KNIGHT  
DYLAN BLOSE  
JONAH HILLMANN  
PIERSON FULLMAN  
RYAN KRIEGER  
JOHN DIETRICK  
PATRICK PADRO

BETHANY CHAMPLIN  
DEAN PORTUGAL  
DOMINIC POLI  
GRAHAM ANDERSON  
AARON ORIN  
CHRISTOPHER  
CHADAREVIAN  
PATRICK BIO

### PHI ALPHA THETA

#### *2025 Spring Initiates Undergraduate*

ALANA ABEL  
SUSAN E. HERNANDEZ  
SOPHIA LINDGREN

#### *Graduate*

JONAH HILLMAN  
ERIC KNIGHT  
RYAN KRIEGER

## STUDENT AWARDS 2024/25

*Percy and Pauline Greenberg Memorial Award*  
MARY ELYNNE BUTLER

*Traci Jill Edelman Memorial Award in  
History of Women, Gender, or Sexuality by  
a History Major*  
SUSAN HERNANDEZ

*Traci Jill Edelman Memorial Award in History*  
FREDERICK LOURENSO

*Martin and Sylvia Shaw History Scholarship*  
DION MORADI

*Martin and Sylvia Shaw Award for the Best  
History Essay*  
MASON LOIS

*Hugh W. Ripley Prize in History*  
CHRISTIAN ROBINSON

*Traci Jill Edelman Award in  
Latin American History*  
COLTON MADDEN

*Traci Jill Edelman Award in European History*  
ALYSA PAZ

*Frances and Milton Levinson Award in  
East Asian History*  
NOT AWARDED

*Harold L. Glasser Memorial Award*  
STEFAN TSAPENKO

*Ed and Jean SeGall Memorial Scholarship*  
ROCHELLYS VARGAS

*Frances Edelman Graduate  
Teaching Award*  
ELLIS HALL

*John O'Sullivan Travel-to-Research Grant*  
NATHAN SHULL

*Traci Jill Edelman Memorial Award  
for Best M.A. Thesis*  
PHILIP PRAZAN

## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN HISTORY

### MESSAGE FROM THE UNDERGRADUATE DIRECTOR



During the 2025-26 academic year, the Department of History began implementing a number of changes to improve the academic experience and career potential of our 140+ Majors. Some of these changes were minor (e.g., changing the name of our Senior Seminar to Research Seminar), while others took a bit more work.

Working with the Center for Online and Continuing Education (COCE), my colleagues and I have begun to develop a more robust catalogue of "Distance Learning" courses. While we continue to maintain the highest standards in instruction, the new ACUE (Association of College and University Educators) certification that many of us have received allows us to offer more of our lower- and upper-division courses online and thus provide our students more flexibility when it comes to their individual academic journeys. Our current focus is on developing a more community-oriented Major, both in terms of community engagement/internships as well as fostering a sense of community among our students. Current plans that are being discussed include establishing a lecture series/poster display for our Majors

to give them the opportunity to share their research and gain valuable professional experience/exposure. In addition, we are looking to inaugurate a Welcoming Party for our Majors in the Fall 2026 term; this event will allow interested Majors/Double Majors/History Minors the opportunity to learn more about the Department, its Faculty, and various career/internship opportunities. Much like the Spring term Graduation Party in which we celebrate our graduating seniors' accomplishments, we are looking to make the Fall Welcoming Party an annual event and part of the "Tradition" of the History Department. Beyond celebrating our Majors' milestones and accomplishments, we are working on developing "professionalization" seminars in which we educate/train students on creating CVs, applying to graduate and professional schools, and taking part in the interview process. The academic and personal quality of our students is impressive; it is part of our mandate to help them promote both themselves and the Major as they embark on their careers. We look forward to continuing our journey of "Making History" at Florida Atlantic in the years to come. Go Owls!

**Eric Hanne, Ph.D.**  
Undergraduate Director

---

## HISTORY INTERNSHIPS

FAU students continue to sign up for internship opportunities at local museums and archives. This past year students have worked with the Palm Beach Historical Society, the Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum, the Old Davie Schoolhouse Museum, Jupiter Lighthouse, the Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society, the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum, the Monroe County Historical Society, and FAU's Avron B. Fogelman Sports Museum. Each gives students an opportunity to work under the direction of a true professional, and to offer their services to the sponsoring location. Over the years we have developed close relationships with many area museums. We already have a number enrolled for the spring and are in talks for the summer.

Image right (l-r): Ken Holloway, Ben Lowe, Christian Robinson ((Hugh W. Ripley Prize in History recipient), Doug McGetchin

### *Spring 2024*

LIAM BURKE - Jupiter Lighthouse  
SHAELEIGH FIELDING - Palm Beach Historical Society  
ZAINAB GHANI-SHAREE - Old Davie Schoolhouse Museum  
LOIS MASON - Palm Beach Historical Society  
SHANNON PATRON - The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum

### *Summer 2025*

ALANA ABLE - Monroe County Historical Society  
BRENDEN PAGE - Palm Beach Historical Society  
CLAUDIA PAUL - Spady Cultural Heritage Museum  
GUISEPPE DEL PRETE - Avron B. Fogelman Sports Museum  
NICHOLAS SPECIAL - The Schmidt Boca Raton History Museum  
WILSON CLEMENT - Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society

### *Fall 2025*

LIAM BURKE - Jupiter Lighthouse  
WILSON CLEMENT - Ft. Lauderdale Historical Society



## MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY

### MESSAGE FROM THE GRADUATE DIRECTOR



Our MA students have had a fantastically productive year! They have undertaken original research projects, written award-winning papers, and presented their work in thesis defenses and at conferences. Five of our students completed their MA theses in the 2024-2025 academic year, finishing a

major research project in consultation with a faculty member. Their topics ranged from national politics to seventeenth-century vernacular medicine. The Traci Jill Edelman Memorial Award for the Best Graduate M.A. Thesis was awarded to Phil Prazan for his project comparing Reconstruction governorships in Florida and Texas.

Our students have also been out on the road doing new research in archives far from FAU. Nathan Shull won the O'Sullivan Travel-to-Research Grant. With this support he conducted research in the South Caroliniana Library at the University of South Carolina for his current thesis project on the disestablishment clause of the 1778 South Carolina State Constitution.

Several graduate students presented at conferences in the region, bringing their work to new audiences and receiving valuable feedback from faculty members and graduate students from other institutions. Dylan Blose presented at the Florida State University History Graduate Student Association annual conference in February 2025, and Ellis Hall, Nathan Shull, and Anson Shurr gave papers at the Louisiana State University History Graduate Student Association Conference in March 2025.

Our graduate students are also able to hone their skills in the classroom in their roles as Graduate Teaching Assistants. With the support of the Teaching Practicum and their faculty mentors, these students are well-prepared to go into K-12 or University teaching in the future. In 2025, Ellis Hall was chosen for the Frances Edelman Graduate Teaching Award for the second consecutive year, demonstrating her commitment to excellence in teaching.

Congratulations to all the 2024-2025 graduates! We always love to hear from former students. If you have good news or need to update your contact information so we can reach you, please let me know at [afinucane@fau.edu](mailto:afinucane@fau.edu).

**Adrian Finucane, Ph.D.**  
Graduate Director





## THE MASTER OF ARTS IN HISTORY

Graduates of FAU's MA program in History have gone on to pursue successful careers in teaching, business, law and a variety of other fields. The Master of Arts in History has both a thesis and a non-thesis option. The thesis option requires 30 credit hours, with a minimum of 24 hours of graduate course work and the completion of an MA thesis, for which a minimum of six additional credits must be earned. The non-thesis option requires a total of 36 credit hours of graduate course work. Those students wishing to pursue the thesis track must submit an "Admission to Candidacy" form after the completion of 18 hours of graduate work. Once students are granted thesis option status, they work in conjunction with the Director of Graduate Studies to create a thesis committee. A student seeking admission into the graduate program in History should have a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited institution, or, for international students, an institution recognized in his/her own country as preparing students for further study at the graduate level. Applicants must have a minimum 3.0 grade point average (GPA)

for the last 60 undergraduate hours. In addition, the students must submit two letters of recommendation to the department, a three-page typed, double-spaced autobiographical statement indicating the nature of their preparation for graduate work and the reason for seeking the MA in History, and a formal research paper. For information contact the Graduate Director, Dr. Adrian Finucane by email at [afinucane@fau.edu](mailto:afinucane@fau.edu).

### THESIS DEADLINES

#### *Spring Semester 2026 Deadlines*

Application for Degree Deadline - **January 30**

Final copy of thesis to M.A. Committee - **March 2**

Submit signature page draft to Graduate College - **March 23**

Deadline for Thesis Defense - **March 23**

Thesis due to the Graduate College - **April 13**

---

## HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

### **The Sidney A. Goodman Graduate Stipend Enhancement**

In honor of Sid's commitment to education his family has established the Sidney A. Goodman Graduate Stipend Enhancement. Their gift will provide a meritorious incoming graduate student who also serves as a Graduate Teaching Assistant with a stipend enhancement of \$1,000 per year for up to two academic years.

**John Dietrick** is the recipient of the Sidney A. Goodman Graduate Stipend Enhancement. John was an FAU undergraduate before joining the program and has an interest in the history of US elections in the 20th century. His lecture as the Goodman Fellow is titled "'Maids', 'Mistresses', and 'Mothers': Gendered Performance and Selling Identity on the Auction Block."

The GTAs perform a tremendous service for FAU, the History Department, and the hundreds of undergraduates who take lower-division World History and American History surveys each year. The department thanks the Goodman family for recognizing the financial need and rising to the occasion to help meet it, in the same spirit as Sid Goodman wanted to be a friend and mentor to his fellow students.



Doug Kanter, John Dietrick, Debbie Haft (daughter of Sidney Goodman), Adrian Finucane



## HISTORY GRADUATE STUDENTS AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS

### **Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts & Letters Dean's Fellowship**

The general scholarship consists of \$1500 per semester in addition to the departmental stipend.

**Dominic Poli** is this year's recipient of the Arts and Letters Dean's Fellowship. He earned his BA in History from FAU before joining the graduate program, building on his enthusiasm for imperial and United States history. Now completing his first semester in the program, Dominic is particularly interested in studying the Carter Administration.

### **2022-23 Larkin Fellow**

Each year, the director of the Larkin Symposium series works with the department's Graduate Director and Chair to select a graduate student to serve as the Alan B. and Charna Larkin Fellow.

The Larkin Fellow assists the director with the organization of the annual Larkin Symposium, hosted by the Department of History every Spring semester. The Fellow typically works about 5 hours per week (slightly more as the event approaches, and fewer hours after the event). The duties of the Larkin Fellow include: contacting area high schools to invite teachers and students, handling book orders for the incoming speaker, helping to arrange a book signing, organizing volunteers for the event, and miscellaneous campus- and web-related activities, as necessary. The fellowship consists of a \$2,000 stipend.

**Bethany Champlin** is this year's Larkin Fellow. She completed a double major in History and English at FAU before joining the MA program, studying movements and organizations. During her first year as a graduate student, she was chosen as a graduate assistant for the Prestigious Fellowships Office at the University, where she helped connect students to opportunities like the Critical Language Scholarship. In her second year, she has jumped enthusiastically into the classroom, where she is a Graduate Teaching Assistant for AMH 2010: US History to 1877. In her second year of the program, Bethany has been expanding historical knowledge by researching for her MA thesis on Louise Thompson Patterson and the concept of triple oppression. After finishing her degree, Bethany is considering teaching or pursuing further research opportunities in a Ph.D. program.

## M.A. THESIS ABSTRACTS

MAKING AND BREAKING THE GOVERNOR: HOW THE STRONG GOVERNOR SURVIVED RECONSTRUCTION IN FLORIDA BUT NOT IN TEXAS

**Philip Prazan** | When former Confederates and their conservative allies retook power in the South after Reconstruction, they rewrote state constitutions. Lawmakers in the individual states gave their governors different powers based on their state's experience throughout Reconstruction and Redemption. The Texas Constitution of 1876 created a weak governor, producing a state governed by elected county leaders and court judges. The Florida Constitution of 1885 on the other hand, kept a strong executive but placed it underneath the power of a private organization, the Democratic State Executive Committee – the Democratic Party. The state governments – and governors' offices – redeemers designed in the 1870s and 1880s still governed Texas and Florida well into the twenty first century. Reconstruction directly shaped the size and scope of these modern-day state executives.

FOUNDATION OF SAND: THE EISENHOWER DOCTRINE AND THE 1958 LEBANESE CRISIS

**Douglas Provenzano** | Occurring in the context of the Cold War, the 1958 Lebanese Crisis forced U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower and top policymakers to balance a multitude of factors when considering an appropriate response to the crisis. While Eisenhower claimed publicly that Operation Blue Bat was an intervention aimed at containing the ever looming threat of communism, meeting records of top U.S. policy makers contradict such explanations and offer insight to the President's true motivations. Eisenhower instead sought to maintain U.S. influence among a coalition of Middle Eastern conservative governments operating in a U.S. led regional military alliance. The crisis forced the President to reconcile his foreign policy objectives with the political and cultural reality of the region and prompted a major foreign policy reassessment in which Eisenhower turned away from top-down international alliance building and instead, worked to address the obvious need to court public opinion in the Arab world.

QUACKERY UNMASK'D: DEFINING QUACKERY IN ENGLISH AND AMERICAN VERNACULAR MEDICINE, C. 1600-1800

**Katherine Horan** | This thesis argues that, from 1600 to 1800, healers in both England and America conceptualized quackery through an evolving understanding of what made a medical practitioner "acceptable." Through a close examination of vernacular medical print published in both England and America throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, this thesis complicates earlier understandings of quackery as being disconnected from politics and social biases. Instead, medical authors used social position – specifically gender, race, and religion –

(continued)



## M.A. THESIS ABSTRACTS (continued)

### Katherine Horan (continued)

and medical philosophy as ways to identify quacks. In England, the Royal College of Physicians used quackery to delegitimize their opponents, while critics of the College did the same. As Enlightenment thought grew in popularity, anti-quack critics in England and America emphasized the efficacy of medical treatments over any overt issues with a practitioner's social position. Throughout this period, quackery in England and America was dependent on physicians' biases against various identities or medical philosophies.

A LEGACY OF FIRE: ALMA BRIDWELL WHITE,  
THE SECOND WAVE KLAN AND COMPLEXITIES OF  
RELIGION, RACE AND FEMINISM

**Ellis Hall** | In the shadow of the Ku Klux Klan's white hoods and burning crosses stood an unexpected force: women. While a number of scholars have recently focused attention on women and the KKK, the role of women in the Northern states remains understudied. At the crossroads of religious fundamentalism and racial extremism was Alma Bridwell White, a pioneering yet controversial figure whose leadership in the Pillar of Fire Church intertwined with her avid support for the Ku Klux Klan. This research examines how White and other women used both pulpit and platform to advance the Klan's ideology, wielding their influence to promote early feminist ideals, along with an image of "Americanism" defined by racial purity and religious intolerance. In this, an understanding of female participation in ideological and social hate movements can reveal ways in which early feminist attitudes were expressed whilst still being reliant on male figures for progression and an audience in society. Through examining the life and works of key female figures such as White, it enables an exploration of how female members of the KKK were able to leverage their social, political and religious influence to promote a vision of nationalism, and "true Americanness" that was intertwined with racial and religious exclusion.

By examining these women's roles, motivations, and strategies, new light can be shed on an overlooked aspect, highlighting the complexities and contradictions of religion, feminism and race relations and bigotry in early 20th-century America. This research diverts from the typical southern, male brotherhood perspective of the Klan and gives attention to charismatic female religious leaders who were both directly and indirectly associated with the Klan of the early twentieth century. Ultimately revealing how women were not merely passive supporters but key architects of the Klan's goal to spread their social and political agendas in the 1920s.

THE SINGLE VOTE: THE SENATORS WHO ACQUITTED  
ANDREW JOHNSON

**Benjamin Cohen** | On February 24th, 1868, the House of Representatives impeached Andrew Johnson, and in May of that same year, he would be acquitted in the United States Senate by one vote. At the center of these events were the seven Republican Senators who defected from their party and found the President not guilty. This thesis examines the conflicts between Johnson and the Radical Republicans, framing this within the broader political context of the era as the key to understanding the political nature of Johnson's 1868 trial. This politicization culminated in the Tenure of Office Act, which was both protectionist and antagonistic and further discredited the validity of impeachment as a judicial process. Using correspondence, contemporary press coverage, and the debates of Congress, this thesis argues that moral fear over a broken constitutional system drove the seven "Defectors" to cast their votes, ultimately saving both the President and the American constitutional system.

Images: (left) Sandra Norman, Rochellys Vargas;  
(right) Dion Moradi, Steven Mitton





## STUDENT NEWS

### **Claudia Paul Leads Black History Education Program in Delray**

After interning at the Spady Cultural Heritage Museum in Delray Beach this summer, Claudia has joined the museum staff in a new role, project manager of the Black History Study – Palm Beach County program. ([spadymuseum.com/black-history-study](http://spadymuseum.com/black-history-study)). She will coordinate speakers, field trips and other elements of the seven-month curriculum and cultural immersion program for local middle school and high school students and adults.

"What I'm most excited about is having the opportunity to be instrumental in the teaching of Black History. Because we are in such uncertain times, I take my role as a historian very seriously. Because where the education systems fail, I have to be the one to step in," said, Claudia, who is in her senior year of FAU's BA program in history.

"The Black History Study program that's offered at The Spady Museum is something that I wish was available to me when I was in my adolescence. Growing up, there were so many gaps in how I understood my existence. I was aware of the feeling of being different, but I was lost on the context that enforced those differences. I am elated and grateful to take on this new role in shaping how people view the world and how they can make a difference."

The Black History Study – Palm Beach County is supported by The Cultural Council for Palm Beach County and Palm Health Foundation, and developed in collaboration with Power Builders, LLC. Palm Beach County African Diaspora Historical and Cultural Society serves as a community partner. To learn more about The Spady Museum, visit [spadymuseum.com](http://spadymuseum.com)

In February, graduate student **Dylan Blose** presented a paper, "Placing Blame: A Survey of the Liverpool Press during the Irish Potato Famine from 1845-1847," at the History Graduate Student Association conference at Florida State University.

In March, three graduate students presented their scholarship at the Louisiana State University Graduate Symposium in Baton Rouge.

- **Ellis Hall** – "A Legacy of Fire: Alma Bridwell White, the Second Wave Klan, and Complexities of Religion, Race, and Feminism."
- **Nathan Shull** – "Patriot in the Pulpit: William Tennent III as a Case Study of How Evangelicalism Informed the Disestablishment Movement in Revolutionary South Carolina, 1774-1777."
- **Anson Shurr** – "Quaking in Fear: The Reorganization of the Pennsylvania Militia and the Lessening of Quaker Power, 1755-1777."



Image: Kris Barrios presented her research at the 2025 Undergraduate Research Symposium

In March, graduate student **Ellis Hall** presented a paper, "A Legacy of Fire: Alma Bridwell White, the Second Wave Klan, and Complexities of Religion, Race, and Feminism," at the 23rd Annual Tri-University Graduate Conference at the University of Miami.

In April, four History students presented their research at the 2025 Undergraduate Research Symposium, held in the Schmidt Family Complex.

- **Kris Barrios** – "Mobilizing Motherhood: A Comparative Analysis of Women's Movements in Chile and Argentina, 1970s-1980s" (oral presentation) – Prof. Weinberg and Prof. Koppelman (Dept. of Sociology), mentors
- **Mary Elynne Butler** – "Pachyderms in the Palace: The Spread of Islam through the Symbolism of Elephants" (oral presentation) – Prof. McGetchin, mentor; 1st place in Music, Art, Literature, Theater, History & Philosophy Category I
- **Susan Hernandez** – "Unwilling Consent or Ravishment? Sexual Violence in Late Seventeenth-Century England" (oral presentation) – Prof. Lowe, mentor; 2nd place in Music, Art, Literature, Theater, History & Philosophy Category I
- **Christian Robinson** – "The Blackest of Crimes: Interrogating Familial Murderers in Early Modern England" (poster presentation) – Prof. Lowe, mentor



## THE PRESIDENCY AFTER THE 2024 ELECTION – THE STORY SO FAR AND WHAT COMES NEXT

### JOE SCARBOROUGH

Former Florida U.S. Congressman,  
Author & Political Commentator



FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
Department of History  
Dorothy F. Schmidt  
College of Arts and Letters



### THE ALAN B. AND CHARNA LARKIN SYMPOSIUM

The 2025 Alan B. and Charna Larkin Symposium, held on February 20th, 2025, was a tremendous opportunity for the campus and local community to learn more about the historical context of the 2024 presidential election. The keynote speaker was Joe Scarborough, former Florida U.S. congressman, critically acclaimed *New York Times* bestselling author and political commentator and analyst. Scarborough offered a lively address on the engaging topic, “The Presidency After the Election - The Story So Far and What Comes Next.” Larkin Director, Dr Anslover, led a Q&A session with Scarborough which included questions from the FAU community. Mr. Scarborough also attended a private session with about 20 FAU students, who enjoyed the opportunity to ask him numerous questions. The lecture was attended by more than 1,500 members of the Florida Atlantic and Palm Beach County communities. On February 26, 2026, the annual Larkin Symposium will

feature three-time Pulitzer-prize winning photographer, Doug Mills. Mills is a renowned photographer for the *New York Times* and has closely covered every president since Ronald Reagan. He will deliver a presentation showcasing several of his photographs and discussing the relationship between the president and the press. Mills, who also photographs major sporting events such as the Olympics, the World Series, and Superbowl, will address the topic of sports and politics. As part of the America 250 celebration, his photographs will be showcased in campus galleries beginning in January.

Images: (above) Joe Scarborough and Nicole Anslover on stage (right page, top row) Joe Scarborough with Dept. of History Students; (bottom row, left, l-r) Stephen Engle, Joe Scarborough, Nicole Anslover, Doug Kanter; (bottom row, right) Charna Larkin






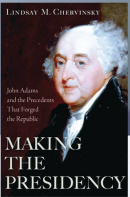
*The Symposium is made possible through the generosity of the **LARKIN FAMILY**, which established an endowment in 2004 to support the study of the American presidency at FAU*

## THE JOHN O'SULLIVAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

JOHN O'SULLIVAN MEMORIAL LECTURE 2026

**INHERITING THE REVOLUTION: THE MODERN LEGACY OF 1776**

LINDSAY CHERVINSKY

**4 PM, THURS., MARCH 19, 2026**  
Friedberg Lifelong Learning Auditorium  
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute  
Florida Atlantic, Boca Raton

Lindsay M. Chervinsky, PhD, is a historian of the presidency, political culture, and U.S. government institutions. She is Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library. Previously, she was a Senior Fellow at the Center for Presidential History, a historian at the White House Historical Association, and a fellow at the Kluge Center at the Library of Congress.

Tickets: \$25; Faculty, staff, students FREE; Groups of 8 or more \$15  
OLLJ students can purchase tickets through the OLLJ website.  
Tickets at [fauevents.com](https://fauevents.com)

Part of the **FESTIVAL FOR AMERICA'S 250<sup>th</sup>** (1776 - 2026)  
Learn more at [fauevents.com](https://fauevents.com)

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY  
Department of History  
Benjamin S. Schwartz  
College of Arts and Letters

The annual John O'Sullivan Memorial Lecture will also be a featured event in the America 250 celebration. On March 19, Dr. Lindsay Chervinsky will deliver a lecture on "Inheriting the Revolution: The Modern Legacies of 1776". Dr. Chervinsky is a renowned presidential historian and the Executive Director of the George Washington Presidential Library. She is the author of several books on the presidency and regular appears in the media to offer relevant analysis of modern events and provide historical context.

The O'Sullivan Memorial Lecture was created by a group of auditors, led by Joe Friedman, to honor the memory of Professor John O'Sullivan, a beloved member of the FAU History Department. The lecture series typically brings a prominent historian of 20th-century American history to FAU to for the University and local community to gain new perspectives on modern United States history.

Image: (left): Lindsay Chervinsky





## FLORIDA ATLANTIC-HUNTINGTON LIBRARY COLLABORATIVE SHORT-TERM FELLOWSHIP

In October 2025, the History Department and the Library welcomed their sixth cohort of fellows in the Florida Atlantic-Huntington Library Collaborative Short-Term Fellowship program.

The Collaborative Fellowship brings three doctoral students to Boca Raton to do research in the Marvin and Sybil Weiner *Spirit of America* Collection. For the month of October, the three scholars form a community by working side-by-side at Florida Atlantic's Special Collections on individual dissertation projects that benefit from sustained research in the Collection. The visiting scholars – who are among the nation's top graduate students – then proceed to a second month of research at the prestigious Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

Sixty-eight people, including Florida Atlantic President Adam Hasner, attended the *Spirit of America* Research Symposium on October 30, 2025, to see the fellows give public presentations about their month's discoveries.

Arya Martinez of the University of New Hampshire spoke on "The Bank of North America and the Creation of Early American Financial Systems." She revealed that the Collection contains manuscript letters on early U.S. economic history, including a dire warning in 1780 that the U.S. might falter unless it stabilize the monetary system by "establish[ing] some sort of currency among us upon a permanent footing."

Charlotte Biggs of the University of California, Riverside, presented "Waging War, Making History: Tracing and Un-Writing of Indigenous Worlds on the Eighteenth-Century American Southeast (1738-1762)." She spotlighted several pamphlets in the Weiner *Spirit of America* Collection that documented the War

of Jenkins's Ear (1739-1748) between primarily the empires of Britain and Spain in and around La Florida. She also shed new light on the William Vaughan scrapbook of newspapers clippings by revealing that some of the selections were selectively snipped to discard the end of the original story.

Collin Bonnell of Concordia University presented "The Other America: Irish Imperialists in the American South." He highlighted the obscured Irish origins of many leaders in the British colonial South and early United States.

Martinez said that she appreciated how the Weiner *Spirit of America* Collection "provides vivid insight into how ordinary people navigated scarcity, trade, and opportunity in a developing nation." Biggs added that the "vast array of multilingual pamphlets, printed tracts, and manuscripts" were a treasure trove for understanding how Americans viewed colonial wars.

During their month of research, the visiting scholars met with Florida Atlantic graduate students, visited undergraduate classrooms, and enjoyed professionalization opportunities with Florida Atlantic's faculty members.

The Florida Atlantic-Huntington Library Collaborative Fellowship program is made possible through the support of Dr. Howard and Judith Weiner, the Florida Atlantic Libraries, the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, and the Huntington Library. Members of the community are also an essential pillar of support. They can make contributions by joining the "Associates of the Spirit of America Collection" at [fau.edu/history/weiner-associates](http://fau.edu/history/weiner-associates).



# MARVIN & SYBIL WEINER SPIRIT OF AMERICA COLLECTION

## *As a Member, you help support...*

- Preservation and access for this amazing collection about America's origins
- Public exhibitions that make the Spirit of America available to the South Florida community
- Public lectures in the library and beyond
- Fellowships for scholars visiting and using the collection
- Education for the next generation about the ideals and struggles of the nation's founding

## FRANKLIN'S APPRENTICES

- \$25/year for students
- \$100/year for the general public invitation to collection events such as lectures

## ADAMS'S DELEGATES

- \$250/year
- Early invitation to collection events such as lectures and exhibits

## JEFFERSON'S CABINET

- \$1,000/year
- Preferred seating at lectures and priority status at events. Invitation to guided tour of exhibits related to the collection

## WASHINGTON'S INNER CIRCLE

- \$2,000/year and above
- Invitation to an exclusive yearly salon where patrons can learn from experts and interact with the material more closely

All associates of the collection will, with their permission, be recognized on the Weiner Collection website. To donate and for more information, visit [fau.edu/artsandletters/history/weiner-associates/](http://fau.edu/artsandletters/history/weiner-associates/) and contact Dr. Jason Sharples at [jsharples@fau.edu](mailto:jsharples@fau.edu) or at 561-297-3840.

Image: (left) Dr. Jason Sharples, Arya Martinez, Charlotte Biggs, Marvin Weiner, Sybil Weiner, Collin Bonnell, and Victoria Thur, Assistant Dean for Special Collections, Archives, and Distinctive Collections, FAU Libraries;





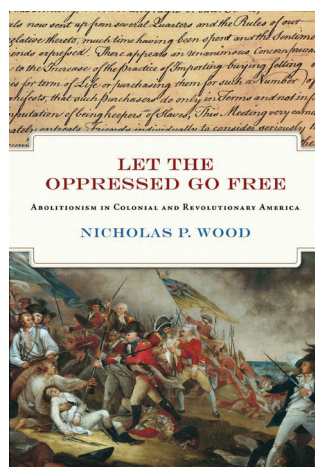
## THE SOCIETY OF COLONIAL WARS FELLOWSHIP IN MEMORY OF KENNETH R. LAVOY JR.

An ongoing partnership between the History Department and the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Florida continues to fund the research of scholars who are writing new books on the history of the American colonial period (1565-1775).

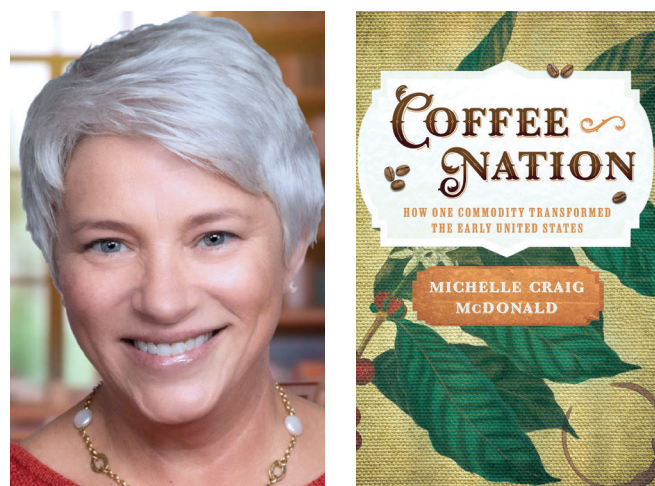
The "Society of Colonial Wars Fellowship in Memory of Kenneth R. LaVoy Jr." is a way to honor the legacy of a beloved member of the organization. The primary recipients are scholars who are completing books to be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press, a leader in the field that produces works that regularly win national awards. The fellowship also supports the research of Florida Atlantic's scholars of the colonial period in America.

The 2025 recipient was Dr. **Michelle Craig McDonald**, Director of the Library & Museum at the American Philosophical Society, who used the award to support the final stages of producing the book *Coffee Nation: How One Commodity Transformed the Early United States*. This work demonstrates that colonial history was the essential precursor to the emergence of the United States. Making the colonial period impossible ignore by including it in the same volume as Revolutionary history, it connects the global history of coffee with the colonial American history of coffee houses in the lead-up to the American Revolution and the new nation.

Professor McDonald presented her research to the public via a Zoom webinar at 4 pm on Wednesday, January 28, 2026.



In other news, **Nicholas P. Wood** completed a book that was supported in 2021 by the Society of Colonial Wars LaVoy Fellowship. *Let the Oppressed Go Free: Abolitionism in Colonial and Revolutionary America* is now available from Penn Press. Wood is Associate Professor of History at Spring Hill College (Alabama).



Images: (l-r) Michelle Craig McDonald; *Coffee Nation* book cover; (bottom left) *Let the Oppressed Go Free: Abolitionism in Colonial and Revolutionary America* by Nicholas P. Wood book cover

In recent years, the program has resulted in the publication of four other books.

- **Bradley Dixon**, Associate Professor of History at the University of Memphis, wrote *The Republic of Indians: Empires of Indigenous Law in the Early American South*.
- **Adrian Weimer**, Professor of History at Providence College, wrote *A Constitutional Culture: New England and the Struggle Against Arbitrary Rule in the Restoration Empire*.
- **Misha Ewen**, Lecturer [Assistant Professor] at the University of Bristol (UK), wrote *The Virginia Venture: American Colonization and English Society, 1580-1660*.
- **Mairin Odle**, Associate Professor of American Studies at the University of Alabama, wrote *Under the Skin: Tattoos, Scalps, and the Contested Language of Bodies in Early America*.

The work of scholars supported by this fellowship highlights that America's foundation began well over 150 years earlier than the Declaration of Independence or the U.S. Constitution.

The Society of Colonial Wars Fellowship in Memory of Kenneth R. LaVoy Jr. also enabled two classroom visits by researchers in Dr. Jason Sharples's course Colonial North America.

Images Right: (top) Yakov Ellenbogen, (middle) Laura Fretwell, (bottom), Department of History Students and Nicole Anslover wity Julian E. Zelizer, featured speaker of the John O'Sullivan Memorial Lecture 2024



## NEW FACULTY PROFILES

Dr. **Yakov Ellenbogen** joined the History Department in Fall, 2025, as Assistant Professor of European History and Jewish Studies. He received his PhD from Columbia University, where his areas of focus were the social and cultural history of the Jews of Western Europe, medieval history, and disability studies. His dissertation, *Disability in Medieval Ashkenaz: 1150-1500*, investigated the place of disability and disabled people in medieval Jewish society. His current book project builds on this work, asking how medieval Jews thought about disability, and how they accepted or marginalized disabled people in their communities. He recently presented a paper "Like the Eyeballs of Man: Negotiating Blindness and Visual Impairment in Medieval Ashkenaz" at the Association for Jewish Studies Conference.



Dr. **Laura Fretwell** is Assistant Professor of Digital and Public History at Florida Atlantic University. She researches the histories of cultural institutions, identity, memory, and ideas of belonging and power throughout the nineteenth and twentieth century American South. She teaches courses in U.S. history, public history, and digital history, and will teach oral history in the spring 2026. Her teaching often incorporates project-based work where students learn how to research historical topics using public and digital humanities methods, including creating digital maps, conducting oral history interviews, creating websites, and managing historical data in open-source platforms such as Omeka S, Zotero, and Tropy. Her book manuscript in progress, *Forgetting the Freed: The Buried Histories of Chimborazo Park*, analyzes the dynamics between past community organizing, placemaking, and memory by recovering the largely unknown experiences and memories of African American residents displaced from a public and commemorative site in Richmond, Virginia. She has held fellowships and worked as a Historical Consultant and Public Facilitator across a variety of public humanities institutions, including the National Park Service, the Smithsonian Institution, the Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media at George Mason University, the Centre for Contemporary and Digital History at the University of Luxembourg, and various nonprofit organizations. She is excited to bring digital expertise to the history department, collaborate with various university stakeholders across disciplines, and work with the local and regional museums and cultural institutions throughout South Florida.







## THE FESTIVAL FOR AMERICA'S 250TH

### PRESENTED BY THE FAMILY OF MARVIN & SYBIL WEINER

The Department of History has joined with the Florida Atlantic Libraries to organize a seven-week Festival to celebrate the nation's founding, focus sustained attention on the sacrifices, values, meanings, and legacies of the American Revolution, and to reflect on its call to civic engagement. Visit [fau.edu/america250](http://fau.edu/america250) for more information.

The natural rallying point for the Festival is Florida Atlantic's 13,000-item Marvin & Sybil Weiner *Spirit of America* Collection of 18th-century materials. It was first modeled on the libraries of Jefferson, Adams, and Franklin. It grew to be so much more. It includes literature, philosophy, sermons, and essays; one-of-a-kind handwritten artifacts such as a diary describing the Battle of Yorktown and Continental officers' letters; and inspiring "firsts" such as first printings of the Declaration of Independence and the Federalist Papers. The Seminole Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution has recognized the Collection's value and Florida Atlantic's long-term commitment to honoring the Revolution by awarding an America 250 Patriots Marker that will be dedicated during the festival.

The hub of the Festival will be a 7-week exhibition of rare gems from Florida Atlantic's Marvin & Sybil Weiner "Spirit of America" Collection alongside the visiting pop-up "American Revolution Experience." The American Revolution Experience is a collaborative project of the American Battlefield Trust and the Daughters of the American Revolution. It includes display panels and interactive digital kiosks that use storytelling, illustration,

technology and unique artifacts and primary accounts to connect modern audiences with the people and places that shaped the birth of our nation. The exhibit will also engage visitors with an opportunity to sign a large-format Declaration of Independence, play an iconic American Revolution video game, inspect a replica Continental Army soldier's tent, and write Post-it Note reflections and social media posts that reflect on their patriotism, what liberty means to them, and to commit to a plan to remain civically engaged.

Each week's special events during the Festival will generate buzz, casting several stones for many ripples. The Festival uses "hooks" to draw the public and students to presentations by speakers that were chosen for their expertise and charisma. Some hooks come from pop culture – AMC's television program *Turn: Washington's Spies*, SNL, *Drunk History*, and Broadway's *Hamilton*. Other hooks are fresh angles on familiar events, such as espionage in the Revolution, a "family history" of the Boston Massacre, and the role of international art in the Revolutionary cause. Others make the Revolution relevant to us in our time and place: our location in Florida, and our modern inheritance of the Revolution. Finally, although not a public event, the Department of History and Florida Atlantic Libraries are proud to offer students an unforgettable night with "George Washington's Ball" – a period dance workshop with live music and costumes.

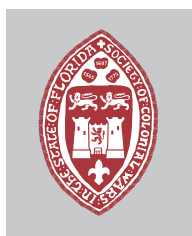
Admission is free with registration at [fau.edu/america250](http://fau.edu/america250)



## FESTIVAL FOR AMERICA'S 250<sup>TH</sup>

(CONTD.)

The Department of History would not be able to organize the Festival without generous support from the community: Family of Marvin & Sybil Weiner (presenting sponsor), the Society of Colonial Wars in the State of Florida, John G. Brim, the Boca Raton Historical Society, and the Seminole Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Equally essential is support from within Florida Atlantic: Office of the President, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, Study of the Americas Initiative, School of Communication and Multimedia Studies, Department of Anthropology, Department of Political Science, University Galleries, and International Espionage Studies Network. Join the effort with your contribution at [fauf.fau.edu/events/ffa250](http://fauf.fau.edu/events/ffa250)



AMERICA  
★250!  
Daughters of the  
American Revolution



- | DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
- | SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION  
AND MULTIMEDIA STUDIES
- | DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT  
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND LETTERS
- | FLORIDA ATLANTIC LIBRARIES
- | OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

## SPECIAL HISTORICAL DONATION RECEIVED BY FAU LIBRARIES SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

On April 10, Susan Watts donated a rare edition of Edward VII's autobiography *A King's Story* to FAU Libraries Special Collections on behalf of the St. George's Society, represented by Susan Oyer. Dean of Libraries Linda Golian-Lui, Assistant Dean for Special Collections, Archives, & Distinctive Collections Victoria Thur, and Professor Douglas Kanter were on hand to receive the book.



Images: (top, l-r) Doug Kanter; Susan Watts (bottom, l-r) Doug Kanter, Susan Oyer, Susan Watts, Victoria Thur, Linda Golian-Lui.

## FACULTY NEWS 2025 | 26



**Dr. Nicole Anslover** published her third book, *Nixon in China*, with Routledge in September 2025. This book reassesses Richard Nixon's historic visit as the first American president ever to visit mainland China in 1972, personalizing the actors involved and exploring the event's lasting impact. Nixon's visit signaled a dramatic change not only in U.S.-China relations but in the overall trajectory of America's Cold War foreign policy. With this visit, Nixon set in motion a new phase of the relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China, which is still evolving today. The volume places this important moment in its proper historical context by examining the various intriguing actors involved, and analyzing the lasting impact of this trip on U.S. foreign relations. It examines different types of diplomacy, Nixon and Kissinger's unique style of implementing foreign policy, and how the trip impacted the U.S., its Cold War allies, and China. With its primary focus on the American side of the story, this book also importantly examines the Chinese goals, preparations, and apprehensions.

**Dr. Evan P. Bennett** was promoted to Professor. He also received two awards for his book *Tampa Bay: The Story of an Estuary and Its People*: the Silver Medal in Florida Non-fiction

from the Florida Book Awards and the Stetson Kennedy Award from the Florida Historical Society. He also received a 2025-2026 College of Arts and Letters Faculty Research Recognition Award. He continues to work on his Mellon Foundation grant-funded project, "Voting Rights History as Civic Literacy." Information about the project can be found at [votingrightshistory.net](http://votingrightshistory.net).

**Dr. Douglas Kanter** presented a paper on "The Revenue Service in Ireland, 1801-1914" at the annual meeting of the Economic and Social History Society of Ireland in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Closer to home, he delivered a talk on "The Revenue Service and the Irish Revolution" in Savannah, Georgia, to the American Conference for Irish Studies. With Florida Atlantic Libraries he received a Technology Fee Grant from the university, which enabled Libraries to install a monitor and other teaching technology in the newly opened Alan B. and Charna Larkin American Presidential Study.

**Dr. Patricia Kollander** continues to serve as Provost Fellow for Academic and Administrative Affairs. In this position, she promotes online programs that enhance teaching practices of faculty and graduate students. She participated in the week-long 2025 Faculty Seminar on World War II at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, which took place in June. She also was a participant at roundtable on the U.S. Military and the Holocaust at the SHAFR (Society of Historians of American Foreign Relations) meeting in Arlington, VA, June 2025. Dr. Kollander's edited book, *The U.S. Presidency and American Jewry from FDR to Trump*, (based on the 2024 Larkin symposium on the U.S. Presidency, the Holocaust and the State of Israel) was accepted for publication by the University Press of Florida in summer 2025 and should appear in print in 2026. Her essay contributions to the forthcoming

books: *The U.S. Military and the Holocaust* (University of Texas El Paso Press) and *A Companion to World War II* (Wiley Blackwell Publishers) should also appear in print in 2026. Her current book manuscript, *From Immigration to Liberation: German and Austrian Emigres in the U.S. Army in World War II*, which focuses the emigres' unique contributions to the war against Hitler and Nazism, is under review at an academic press.

**Dr. Doug McGetchin** published *German-Speaking Jewish Refugees in Asia, 1930-1950: Shelter from the Storm?* co-edited with Cho and Kurlander (Routledge, 2025) as well as the chapter "Journeys East and West: Travelers Between German-Speaking Central Europe and India, 1919-1939," in *Transnational Intersections of Germany and India: Beyond Fascination*, ed. Perry Myers (Palgrave, 2025). He completed an over 200,000-word book manuscript "The Boycott or the Bullet: A Global History of Debates over Nonviolence since 1850," under contract with Routledge. He has started a new book project on Mutiny in World History and has completed a chapter, presenting it as the paper "Mutiny and Moral Injury in the Second World War," at the International Studies Association in Chicago in March 2025. He is a Faculty Affiliate of the FAU Center for Peace, Justice, and Human Rights (PJHR).

**Dr. Mark Rose** submitted the manuscript for "In the Heart of the Rustbelt: Race, Ethnicity, and Industrial Change in the Calumet Region," a book length manuscript co-written with Roger Biles, to Temple University Press in October 2025. He also served as a co-interviewer for a YouTube video on the third volume of Albert Churella's *Pennsylvania Railroad* and another for a roundtable on Calumet Region scholarship/archives/law enforcement.



## OWLSLEY GOES TO THE GRAND CANYON

### DR. STEPHEN ENGLE

Years ago, when advising history graduate student Kate Dahlstrand about her MA thesis, I suggested that she take the same approach to her research and writing that the mules do in walking the trails of the Grand Canyon. Simply put one foot in front of the other and look down at your feet with each step. Without blinking, she said, “so Dr. Engle you’re likening me to a Jackass.” Kate was never one to mince words! I laughed along with her but responded, “yes, I guess that’s what I’m doing.”

There’s a reason I gave Kate this advice, I wanted her to focus on the journey and to stay committed to the enterprise without fail, especially as she aspired to go on for her doctorate, which as it turned out she did at the University of Georgia. I’m so very proud of her accomplishments, even while taking my bovine advice. Today, she is a Historian, and Team Chief of Research & Books Team for the United States Army University Press.

Yet, recently, I challenged myself to take my own advice. What this meant was I needed to hike the Grand Canyon to determine if I could step into the role of mule, or “Jackass” as it were.

I made the journey April 14, 2025, a life-long bucket list endeavor and I took a companion with me. You may recognize Owlsley. We started at the South Kaibab Rim (elevation 7,260) at 5:30 in the morning and hiked down to the Colorado River arriving at about noon. We passed “Ooh Aah Point,” “Skeleton Point,” and “Cedar Ridge.” We crossed the Colorado River (elevation 1,160 feet) and then walked to Phantom Ranch. We then took a 30-minute break to refuel and refill our water and then we started the hike back to the South Rim. This time the 5,850 elevation seemed a daunting challenge. We arrived back at the South Rim at 9:30 p.m. In total, our team took approximately 62,000 steps, the equivalent of more than 29

miles in one day and ascended more than one mile in elevation.

To say that it was an awesome journey doesn’t do justice to the epic panorama surrounding us. But here’s what you should know. I took Owlsley as my companion, a metaphor of sorts for the many students like Kate endeavoring on a collegiate journey, and in her case, a master’s thesis. FAU students should embrace the challenge of hiking for four years on an academic journey through a maze of intellectual ideas that will challenge them. Hiking the Grand Canyon will quickly teach you to follow one simple formula: take one step at a time. But along the way, please know that your FAU experience will get you through the challenges in life and that your professors are here to help you on the journey!

You all have a common goal in your journey: get smarter so you can be the change you want to see in the world. Hiking down the Grand Canyon is physically grueling, but the trek out was mentally daunting. Looking up at the destination reminded me of Frederick Douglass’ famous words: “You are not judged by the height you have risen, but from the depth you have climbed.” I can now better appreciate this axiom.

Incoming freshmen should adopt the mantra of our graduating seniors and our graduate students in shaping their generation. It goes like this: what shall be! It was the same feeling I had in taking my initial step down the Canyon . . . what shall be! It’s not a rhetorical question but a statement of perseverance.

In preparation, I embraced three fundamental principles: self-reliance, self-governance, and self-determination. These are the same principles FAU students should embrace and should hone



during their time within the FAU community. Along the way, they discover the engine that drives self-justification comes from within. My journey, like yours, emphasizes making yourself credible and successful, such that you rise to the occasion and own your place in the future.

College is intended as an intellectual and transformational way station that allows you to enter a world of knowledge, challenge, adjustment, and perseverance. The Grand Canyon provides the same challenge, but you must embrace the hike to be all that you can be.

If you are energized by values and visions that give your college life meaning and purpose and you want to embrace the journey that uplifts and excites you, be inspired! Kate Dahlstrand was and she is now a part of the Owl community that is always with you! Keep this in mind along the way: looking down provides perspective looking up is aspirational! Either way, be like Owlsley and Kate, and own the day!



## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Benjamin Cohen** (BA, 2024; MA, 2025)  
Greetings from Nashville! I just wanted to reach out to tell you a bit about my time at Vanderbilt Law School thus far and how much my history BA and MA have helped me. This semester, I'm taking Contracts, Torts, Civil Procedure, and Legal Writing. Most of what we have been covering is case law, but Civil Procedure has been focused so far on the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. All of my classes have been amazing...I'm learning more than I ever thought I would. They're just pumping my head full of information. It's not as much reading as grad school but the reading is a lot more intense, and the cold calling is a looming threat! My professors are all amazing. My Contracts professor is one of the country's experts on antitrust law and will be a visiting professor at Harvard Law next semester.

As the semester goes on, I become increasingly thankful for having done my history BA and MA. I think the most obvious reason is that I'm already accustomed to the volume of reading and writing that we are doing. Law school reading is less pages but more content, but it still takes about the same amount of time as a graduate student taking a full courseload would have. While we haven't had any major writing assignments yet, I know that I will be better equipped for those when the time comes. Law school seminars require reading around two books and writing a 40-50 page paper. Doing my graduate work has definitely prepared me for this, and I would not be nearly where I am right now if I had not done my MA.

Aside from that, another benefit is being able to have real conversations with faculty about their research and legal academic topics. I think this is partially a byproduct of my research on Andrew Johnson, which gives me a different take on many of the Reconstruction laws that visiting speakers are talking about, but being in graduate classes and learning how to discuss academic issues has proven to be an extremely useful skill to develop relationships with my faculty.

Being a GTA is also proving to be more useful long-term than I originally expected. The experience of helping students learn these issues is going to be a good thing to talk about during interviews when it comes to interacting with clients. What I've also been told is that having my MA will be helpful while looking for a clerkship with a judge for after I graduate. Nowadays, they are turning to history more to justify their decisions, and our clerkship program director told me that my MA will be a big benefit for me during that process. All of this is to say that I'm extremely grateful for doing my graduate work at FAU with all of you.

**John Nall** (BA, 2019; MA, 2023)  
I was recently accepted to attend a week-long seminar program directed by the National World War II Museum's Jenny Craig Institute for the Study of War and Democracy, which focused on teaching the American side of World War II history and how to teach that same history in college-level courses. This in-depth seminar ran from June 15th - 20th, 2025 at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, Louisiana, where a broad range of topics concerning American World War II military history were taught by professional military historians who worked in the museum. Some of these topics included military concepts, operational history, the overseas campaigns in Europe and the Pacific, issues that plagued the American home front, the immediate aftermath of the war for America, and numerous strategies on how to teach World War II history in a classroom. This was my first time attending a seminar and it was an amazing experience that included a variety of faculty members who worked in different fields of history such as environmental, economic, and language history, although most specialized in military history. Everyone was so welcoming to a newcomer like me and treated me with equal respect as other faculty members in the seminar with doctorate degrees. I was even able to make many connections while attending the seminar with colleagues who shared similar research interests. To my surprise, I also found out that Dr. Patricia Kollander, one

of the former members of my MA thesis committee, was also in New Orleans to attend the same seminar; we had an excellent time together in discussion and getting beignets with our colleagues throughout the week of the seminar.

In Fall 2025, I started pursuing my PhD at the University of Southern Mississippi's Dale Center for the Study of War and Society.

**Christian Robinson** (BA, 2024)  
I recently attended the 8th Humanistic Buddhism Youth Forum in Singapore, hosted by the Fo Guang Shan Institute of Humanistic Buddhism. There, I presented a paper I wrote as an FAU undergraduate student, discussing how early Chinese Buddhist communities relied on iconographic statues to directly interface with their deities in an egalitarian relationship that allowed deity and practitioner to fully embrace their shared humanity. Moreover, I found textual support for this egalitarian interpretation in *The Vimalakirti Sutra*, in which the titular character, Vimalakirti, lives simultaneously as both a human and a deity, mirroring the equality fostered by Buddhist iconography. The conference was an amazing opportunity to meet a diverse cohort of young, like-minded scholars from across Asia. As the only American paper presenter, I felt privileged to be given the funding to travel around the world to share my work and receive critical feedback. Additionally, I found myself enamored with Singapore's cultural and religious syncretism, which is a result of the confluence of Malay, Chinese, and Indian communities, as well as the practice of both Buddhism and Islam throughout the country. This led to parallels with my current field of Ottoman and Middle Eastern history, demonstrating the global scale and relevance of historical study as a means of informing the present and providing a sense of place. Lastly, I would not have been equipped for this conference opportunity or for graduate study without the dedication of FAU's history faculty, particularly Dr. Kenneth Holloway, who guided my research in Historical Methods and referred me to the Youth Forum's call for papers.



## FACULTY & STAFF DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

**Nicole Anslover**, Associate Professor and Director History Symposia, 20th-century U.S., American Presidency, nanslover@fau.edu, 561-297-2444

**Evan Bennett**, Professor, 20th-century U.S., Florida, American South, ebennett@fau.edu, 561-297-0008

**Carla Bonfanti**, Program Assistant, cbonfanti@fau.edu, 561-297-3840

**Claudia Dunlea**, University Instructor, Modern Europe, cdunlea@fau.edu, 561-297-1001

**Yakov Ellenbogen**, Assistant Professor, Jewish History, Middle Ages, Disability, yellenbogen@fau.edu, 561-297-2893

**Stephen D. Engle**, Professor, 19th-century America, Civil War and Reconstruction, engle@fau.edu, 561-297-1329

**Adrian Finucane**, Director of Graduate Programs and Associate Professor, Colonial America, Caribbean, Shipping, afinucane@fau.edu, 561-297-3593

**Laura Fretwell**, Assistant Professor, Digital and Public, Space and Place, Memory, American South, lfretwell@fau.edu, 561-297-2687

**Barbara Ganson**, Professor, Latin America, Aviation, bganson@fau.edu, 561-297-4125

**Eric Hanne**, Associate Professor and Director of Undergraduate Programs, Early Middle East, Islamic, Ottoman, ehanne@fau.edu, 561-297-3847

**Kenneth Holloway**, Professor, Ancient China, Japan, Intellectual, khollow4@fau.edu, 561-297-2684

**Douglas Kanter**, Department Chair and Associate Professor, Modern Britain, British Empire, Ireland, dkanter1@fau.edu, 561-297-3841

**Patricia Kollander**, Professor, Modern Germany, Russia, European Diplomatic, kollande@fau.edu, 561-297-4156

**Douglas McGetchin**, Professor, World History, Modern Europe/Germany, India, dmcgetch@fau.edu, 561-799-8226

**Heath Mitton**, Instructor, 19th-century U.S., Historical Writing, World History, smitton@fau.edu, 561-297-1001

**Sandra Norman**, Associate Professor, Public, Material Culture, Environmental, norman@fau.edu, 561-297-2621

**Mark H. Rose**, Professor, 20th-century U.S., Urban, Business, Public Policy, mrose@fau.edu, 561-297-4295

**Jermaine Scott**, Assistant Professor, American Sports, African-American History, scottj@fau.edu, 561-297-1328

**Jason Sharples**, Associate Professor, Colonial North America, American Slavery, Revolutionary America, jsharples@fau.edu, 561-297-4928

**Eyal Weinberg**, Assistant Professor, Modern Latin America, Brazil, Science and Medicine, Cold War Politics, eweinberg@fau.edu, 561-297-3849

### HARRIET L. WILKES HONORS COLLEGE

**Christopher Ely**, Professor, Modern Russia, European Cultural, cely@fau.edu, 561-799-8607

**Chris Strain**, Professor, American Studies, African-American, Ethnic Studies, cstrain@fau.edu, 561-799-8017



Images: (top) Benjamin Cohen (below) Adrian Finucane, Ellis Hall

## Alumni

Please keep us current on where you work, promotions, new history ventures, and any business or academic honors. We would love to feature you in the next Department of History Newsletter! For more information, call Carla Bonfanti at 561-297-3840 or email [cbonfanti@fau.edu](mailto:cbonfanti@fau.edu).



# SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

## *Annual Department Awards*

General donations to the History Department (HUM 200) are always appreciated to further the work of our faculty, students, and general program needs or you can contribute to one of the established funds listed below. For more information, contact the History Department at **561-297-3840** or mail your check payable to the FAU Foundation, Inc. to: Florida Atlantic University - Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters, Department of History, 777 Glades Road, Boca Raton, FL 33431

It is now easy to make donations to any of these accounts by going to this online link and designating where you want your gift to go: <https://fauf.fau.edu/arts-and-letters>. Choose History Department in the drop down menu. You can further designate your gift to a particular foundation fund by checking the box next to "This gift is in honor, memory, or support of someone" and putting the fund number in the "full name" box. Many thanks to all of you who support us financially.

**HUM 200 History Department** – The general department account for which we may spend the principal to further the goals of the department. In the past we have used the funds to furnish technological equipment needed for research but not funded by general university support. We have also used the funds to support the activities of Phi Alpha Theta and the department lectureship series.

**HUM 201 Dr. Harry A. Kersey, Jr. History Endowment Fund** – The fund provides financial assistance for tenure-line History faculty members conducting research on the history of indigenous people of Florida, Oceania, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean; comparative studies research of indigenous people; the history of early Florida; and oral history related to these topics. It also helps support undergraduate or graduate students who have experience living or working among indigenous peoples and who have demonstrated financial need and declared a History major.

**HUM 202 St. George's Society of Palm Beach History Fund** – A monetary award to support History faculty research in British History.

**HUM 203 Anthony (Tony) Anderson '79 History Faculty Fund Honoring Dr. Boyd Breslow** – This fund is to be used to honor faculty in the Department of History for research funding, conference travel and other needs as defined by the Department Chair to support faculty.

**HUM 204 The Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America Travel - Study Award** – To provide a travel-study award for an outstanding History major who will write a significant research paper dealing with early American history or European roots that had a direct effect on American history through 1865.

**HUM 205 Martin and Sylvia Shaw History Scholarship** – A monetary award for a History major with academic merit and financial need. The award will be applied to tuition and fees. Students must enroll following receipt of the award.

**HUM 206 The Lady Susan Willis Reickert Fund for British Arts and Culture** – This fund has been established to support FAU's History Department faculty in their interdisciplinary approach to expose students to British Art, Art History, Architecture, History, Music, Literature, and Theater.

**HUM 207 Ambassador Robert M. Orr, Jr. '76 History Endowment** – A fund in memory of distinguished History alumnus Ambassador Robert (Skip) Orr, Jr. '76 – this endowment supports the greatest priorities within the Department of History as determined by the Department Chair.

**HUM209 The Rob Sylcox History Fund** – A fund established by students, colleagues, faculty, family and friends in memory of Rob Sylcox, a former graduate student in the History Department. This fund will provide an award to a current History graduate student who epitomizes Rob's inspirational qualities of dedication, commitment, personal initiative, and selfless leadership to the History Department.

**HUM 220 Francis Edelman Graduate Teaching Award** – A monetary award to a Graduate Student based upon academic achievement and student evaluations.

**HUM 220 Traci Jill Edelman Memorial Endowed Fund** – A monetary award for a History student based upon the best essay/paper in Latin American history; a monetary award for a sophomore or junior with academic merit; a monetary award for the best paper from a History major in women, gender, or sexuality; a monetary award for the best essay/paper in European history; and a monetary award for the best History M.A. thesis.

**HUM 235 John O'Sullivan Annual Memorial Lectureship** – Allows the Department of History each Fall semester to host a distinguished scholar in 20th century American history to lecture to students, secondary school teachers, faculty and the public.

**HUM 240 John O'Sullivan Travel Grant** – An award to defray the costs of graduate thesis research; amount varies based upon availability of funds and applications. To be eligible, students must have achieved candidacy and submitted a statement of purpose and budget for their research, as well as a letter of support from their primary thesis advisor.

**HUM 290 Levenson Award in East Asian History** – A monetary award for a History student based upon the best essay/paper in East Asian History.



Image: Sybil Weiner, Joe Scarborough, Marvin Weiner

**HUM 630 Harold L. Glasser Memorial Award** – A monetary award to a History graduate or undergraduate student to support research activities related to the Harold L. Glasser Collection.

**HUM 705 Ed and Jean SeGall Memorial Scholarship** – A monetary merit-based award recognizing a freshman-level History major who has demonstrated both academic excellence and a passion for historical study.

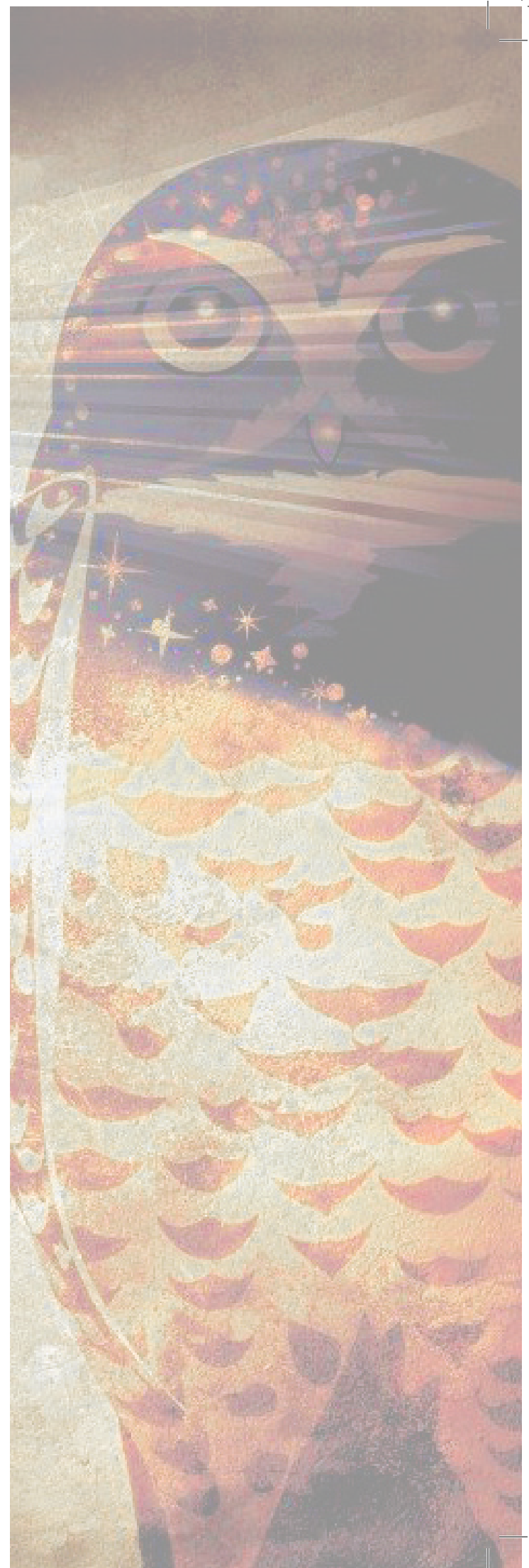
**HUM 708 Heather T. Frazer Memorial Fund in History** – An award to assist History faculty with preference to young tenure-track faculty within the History Department.

**HUM 715 Society of Colonial Wars** – An award to support the Department of History in undergraduate studies, undergraduate research, and publication.

**HUM 718 Sidney A. Goodman Memorial History Fund** – A competitive fellowship that provides additional funding to supplement the stipend and tuition waiver for a meritorious Teaching Assistant.

**HUM 745 Weiner Spirit of America Fellowship Fund** – The FAU Libraries and the Huntington will offer three joint short term research fellowships for advanced graduate students. These fellows will spend one month using the Marvin and Sybil Weiner Spirit of America collection in Boca Raton, and one additional month at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.

**HUM 785 Hugh W. Ripley Award** – A monetary award to a student who has demonstrated their research skills in Historical Methods or Senior Seminar.







## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Florida Atlantic University, Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters  
PO Box 3091  
777 Glades Road  
Boca Raton, FL 33431-0991

Phone: 561-297-3840  
Fax: 561-297-2704  
Email: [history@fau.edu](mailto:history@fau.edu)

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER • [fau.edu/history](http://fau.edu/history) • *History Review*