

*The Marauding MU Historian*  
*History Department Newsletter*  
*Issue #11 September 2024*

**Same newsletter,  
different year**  
*What's going on in  
the department this  
time around?*

Page

Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Victoria Khiterer, Professor of History  
Managing Editor, Jakob Logan, Graduate Assistant



MILLERSVILLE

# Letter from the Chair

by *Dr. Robyn Davis*

Dear Alumni,

If you've been keeping up with changes at the 'Ville, you know that the department recently updated the curriculums for the BA in History and the BSE in Social Studies, intending to promote historical knowledge while emphasizing historical thinking. You may not know that the faculty as a whole voted to transform the University's General Education model as well, moving away from disciplinary distinctions (no more G1, G2, G3s!) and instead instituting an outcomes-based approach. Think critical thinking and information literacy.

(You can learn more about our new gen ed program here: <https://www.millersville.edu/provost/gen-ed-reform/>)

If you're a historian, or history-adjacent, you already know the value of studying history and the ways in which it trains you in information literacy and critical thinking. The study of history teaches you how to ask good questions, how to gather information that might provide a plausible answer, how to interpret the data you've collected, and how to competently communicate your findings to any audience.

Non-historians don't necessarily understand that, when we study history, we learn more than names and dates. So, I recently had the opportunity to address the PASSHE Board of Governors and I took that opportunity to give them a little history lesson and a new way to think about our study of the past. Here's the gist of my remarks.

"Even before the Declaration of Independence was signed, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Continental Congress in 1775 established the Post Office of the United States, appointing Benjamin Franklin as our first Postmaster General. They did this because they understood that a self-governing people needed information to be able to fulfill their new civic roles as citizens, no longer subjects. At the time, most Americans got their information from newspapers, and the Congress agreed that newspapers needed to circulate freely in order that the citizenry inform itself. That postal service was for many decades the first, and most consequential, function of the new government.

*Continued on page 3*

## Letter from the Chair

Pages..... 2-3

## Faculty News

In the past year our Faculty published and submitted for publication three books, published an article, a book chapter and book reviews, and hosted the 39th MU Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide.

Pages..... 4-6

## Students' News and Special Events

Some of our students won History Department Awards and other Honors and Awards.

Pages..... 7-10

## Phi Alpha Theta

New Inductees come through while we celebrate the graduating members

Page..... 11

## Alumni News

Our alumni tell us about their experiences and give advice for current students.

Pages..... 12-16

## ***Letter from the Chair continued from page 2***

*The reliable flow of information is an absolutely essential first step for a stable democracy.*

Today, of course, we live in an environment of information abundance, maybe even overload. It's also an age of increasing and increasingly brazen political technology – the manipulation of information and the avalanche of misinformation we're subjected to is overwhelming and can be destabilizing. So, while good information remains a vital component for a healthy democracy, we can't blindly rely on its truth or utility. It's no longer enough for information to flow freely. We, as citizens, have to be able to decode it, to make sense of it, and then to apply it.

Knowledge for its own sake can be valuable, but as a society we mostly, and rightly, expect education to serve useful purposes. But I'd argue that doesn't mean we should look to higher ed solely with a vocational lens.

And that's where you come in. This Board makes decisions about curricular matters, writ large, and while I haven't always agreed with them, I know they're grounded in your best ideas about how to fulfill PASSHE's mission to prepare our students for professional and personal success.

I come before you today to implore you to impose a United States History requirement (1 semester, 2 would be better) as a graduation requirement at all PASSHE schools. Historical thinking plays a crucial role in public life. *\*Everything\** has a history and studying it brings context to current events; context matters but context also changes over time. History gives us the tools we need not only to know the history but to understand why it matters. And when we understand why and how things came to be, we can make better decisions about why and how to change them (if at all). More than just background, studying history gives us the habits of mind that are central to active citizenship. Please help us help our students step into their roles in our participatory democracy and make a US history course a requirement for graduation."

Though I don't expect the BoG to implement my recommendation (at least not yet), we can and perhaps should all act as ambassadors for the many uses and benefits of History in our daily lives.

As always, we want to hear from you. Send your updates to [History@millersville.edu](mailto:History@millersville.edu)

Warmest regards,

Dr. Davis



## ***Faculty News Coming Up Next!***

# ***Faculty News!!***



**Dr. Ronald Frankum** during the academic year 2023-2024 published and submitted for publication two books and one book review:

- *Ambassador Frederick Reinhart and his role in establishing the American relationship in Vietnam, 1955-1957*. Cambridge Scholarly Publishers (2024)
- *Between Two Ambassadors: J. Lawton Collins and his Special Mission to Vietnam, 1954-1955*. Texas Tech University Press (*Forthcoming*)
- H-Diplo Roundtable Review of Mark Moyar. *Triumph Regained: The Vietnam War, 1965-1968*. Encounter Books, 2022. (*Forthcoming*)

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**Dr. Tanya Kevorkian** published an article and gave a lecture related to her previous book,

- *Music and Urban Life in Baroque Germany* (published in 2022).
- The Leipzig-based *Bach Magazin*, which reaches fans of Bach's music, invited her to contribute a short piece on the soundscape of Leipzig during Johann Sebastian Bach's time working there. The article, "Das Leipziger Klangbild während J.S. Bachs Amtszeit," appeared in November 2023.

The English version is available here:

<https://www.bachfestleipzig.de/sites/default/files/u593/Bach-Magazin%202022%20English.pdf>

In July 2023, she presented a paper on "Munich's Catholic Baroque Town

**Continued on page 5**

***Faculty News continued from page 4.***

Musicians” at the 20<sup>th</sup> Biennial International Conference on Baroque Music in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dr. Kevorkian also gave two presentations related to her current book project on the history of the Lancaster area, both in October 2023: a lecture on “Henry Muhlenberg (1753-1815), Renaissance Man in Lancaster: Botanist, Pastor, Farmer, Healer, and More” for Lancaster’s Quest for Learning senior citizen program, and a paper on “Incorporating the Shenk’s Ferry People into the History of the Area of Lancaster County” at the Pennsylvania Historical Association’s annual meeting in Harrisburg.

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**Dr. Victoria Khiterer** submitted to publication her book

- *Bitter War of Memory: The Babyn Yar Massacre, Aftermath, and Commemoration* (420 pages), which is under contract with Purdue University Press and will be published in June 2025.

She also published a book chapter and a book review:

- “Kyiv as a Center of Soviet Jewish Culture in the 1920s-1930s,” in Leonard J. Greenspoon, ed., *Jews and Urban Life*, (West Lafayette, Indiana: Purdue University Press, 2023), 139–160.
- Vladyslav Hrynevych and Paul Robert Magocsi, eds. *Babyn Yar: History and Memory*. (University of Toronto Press, 2023), *The Russian Review*, 83, no. 3 (2024), <http://doi.org/10.1111/russ.12665>, <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/russ.12665>

**Continued on page 6**

She gave an interview about her book *Jewish City or Inferno of Russian Israel? A History of the Jews in Kiev before February 1917* (Boston: Academic Studies Press, 2016) to Dr. Ari Barbalat of New Books Network, June 5, 2024,

Link: <https://newbooksnetwork.com/jewish-city-or-inferno-of-russian-israel>

Dr. Khiterer presented three papers at national and international conferences and was chair of two conference sessions:

- Presented “KGB Against Jews: How Babyn Yar Turned into a Place of Protest and Struggle for Jewish Rights in the USSR” to the 2024 World Convention of the Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN), Columbia University, May 16–18, 2024.
- Presented “Babyn Yar Massacre Commemoration and Memorialization in Independent Ukraine” to the Symposium “New Perspectives on Ukrainian Jewry” at the Jewish Theological Seminary, New York City, May 14, 2024.
- Presented “Let My People Go: The Struggle of Kyivan Jews for Immigration to Israel” to the 28<sup>th</sup> Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, Phoenix, AZ, May 5–6, 2024.
- Chair of the session “Bringing Living Jewish Culture Into Holocaust Education” at the 39<sup>th</sup> Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide, March 21, 2024.
- Chair and Discussant at the roundtable “Jews in Modern Ukraine, 1914-2023” at the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), Philadelphia, November 30–December 3, 2023.

**And that’s the latest in Faculty news!! And now, let’s get into the special events from this past year.**

## Special Events –

### The 39th Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide

Millersville University's 39th Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide was held on Thursday, March 21, 2024 on the theme "Reimagining Education About the Holocaust and Genocide." This day of in-person workshops and a keynote lecture was geared toward secondary educators as well as Lancaster area and Millersville University communities. Act 48 credit was available for teachers. The conference opened with comments by State System of Higher Education Chancellor Dr. Daniel Greenstein; MU President Dr. Daniel Wubah; Provost Dr. Gail Gasparich; College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Dean Ieva Zake; and the Chair of the Conference Organization Committee, Dr. Tanya Kevorkian.

Dr. Tom Fallace of William Patterson University traced unexpected trajectories and timelines in his workshop "History of Holocaust Education in America." Dr. Jameson Sweet of Rutgers-New Brunswick offered an introduction to the less familiar topic of "Genocides of Native Americans." Following lunch, a panel of four Lancaster County public school teachers reflected on lessons they have learned from teaching courses and units they have designed: Mary Nolt, Social Studies department chair at Manheim Central High School; David Trok, Social Studies, Garden Spot High School; Melissa Kreider, English Language Arts, Landisville Middle School; and Eliot White, Communication Arts, McCaskey High School. Noted author Dr. Dara Horn discussed "Bringing Living Jewish Culture into Holocaust Education." Dr. Horn's Alan and Linda Loss Keynote Address, "Reimagining Education about the Holocaust," wrapped up the conference.

**This year, we had several  
department award winners!!  
Let's take a moment to  
congratulate them.**



Dr. Daniel Wubah,  
Millersville President



Dean Dr. Ieva Zake



Dr. Dara Horn,  
Key speaker and author



# Student News and Achievements

## 2023-2024 History Department Award Recipients

*Photos of the Recipients and from the Awards Ceremony*



## 2023-2024 History Department Award Recipients



The Bolton-Beck Award

This is a new award for the department

**Marianna Ladrilleros is the first recipient of the Bolton-Beck Award**

The Lyman R. Brenner '71

History Scholarship

**Reily Parker**

The Charlotte A. Lafferty

History Scholarship

**Bryanna Nase**

The Dr. Abram Foster Scholarship

For Excellence in History

**Sebastian Steen**

The Dr. Richard C. Keller Award in

American History

**Jace Siciliano**

The C. Maxwell and Edna H. Myers

History Award

**Jessica Berkheimer**

The Dr. Robert D. & Roma J.

Sayre Excellence in American

History Scholarship

**Gillian Stann**

The Joseph E Walker American History

Scholarship

**Andrew Vogelbacher**

The Joan M. Williams Scholarship

**Noe Perez**

The Guy K. Bard Endowment

**Leilani Krady**



## **Internships/Co-ops:**

Jessica Berkheimer (Spring 2024). Jessica interned with the Lebanon Chapter of the NAACP. She worked on a survey of housing disparity for Lebanon County that she shared with the group during their chapter meeting.

Mariana Ladrilleros (Summer 2024). Mariana was awarded a competitive internship with the University of Southern Mississippi's Mapping Freedom digital project. She focused on researching medicine and medical racism during the Civil War and Reconstruction in Mississippi. You can read about Mariana's experience in her blog: <https://w10200424.wixsite.com/nsf-reu-mapping-free>

Mariana Ladrilleros, BA HIST and ANTH-ARCH '25, addressed the Millersville University Council of Trustees at the September meeting, to present on her summer research in NSF-REU program. Please see for more information: <https://blogs.millersville.edu/news/2024/09/12/ville-student-presents-groundbreaking-nsf-rue-fellowship-experience>

## **Student Presentation**

Atlantic World Studies major and Honors College student **Claire DeVinney, BA 2024**, presented a poster at the undergraduate student poster session of the Pennsylvania Historical Association's annual meeting in Harrisburg in October 2023. Claire also participated in the annual undergraduate research workshop at the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in Spring 2024. At both the PHA and the workshop, she presented on research related to her BA honors thesis, "This Popular & Malcontent Temper": Pennsylvania Currency and Transatlantic Commerce, 1720-1723." Claire is beginning in the Ph.D. program at the University of Rochester this fall!

**Student News and Phi Alpha Theta News Up Next!**

# Student News and Achievements

## *McNeil Consortium Summer Interns*

Bryanna Nase, BA HIST major, was one of the five students selected to participate in the 2024 C. Dallett Hemphill Summer Internship, sponsored by the McNeil Center Consortium. Bryanna was selected for a paid internship at the American Philosophical Society, working on the Revolutionary City project in preparation for the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Working closely with staff at the American Philosophical Society, Bryanna contributed to Revolutionary City: A Portal to the Nation's Founding ("Rev City"),

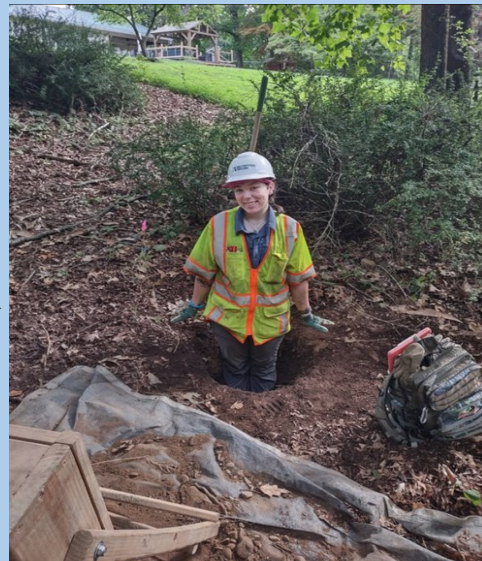
A public-facing digital archive of manuscript materials created or received in Philadelphia during the American Revolution (1774-1783). Rev City brings together collections scattered across multiple archives, reuniting manuscript and print materials that have been separated in some cases for centuries. Bryanna focused on the transcription of original manuscripts and biographical research on women and men named in these rare primary source materials, paying special attention to recovering the voices of women and men marginalized in the archival record. Bryanna learned to work with unique digitized archival holdings; transcribe and digitize eighteenth-century documents; generate meaningful metadata from historic documents; research historical sources in a range of formats; and communicate findings to local, national, and international audiences.

## *Summer Internship with McCormick*

### *Taylor Engineering Firm*

**Jocelyn Herres**, Senior, History & Anthropology Major with a concentration

In Archaeology, Member of Phi Alpha Theta History Honors Society. Jocelyn interned as an Archaeology Field Tech for 6 weeks in East Stroudsburg, PA.



# Congratulations to Our New Graduates!

## Phi Alpha Theta!

It was an active year for Phi Alpha Theta. In addition to several monthly activities, such as trivia, movies, the organization also visited LancasterHistory.org and toured Wheatland, the home of President James Buchanan.

### *Outgoing Officers*

President	Avery Frankel
Vice President	Claire DeVinney
Secretary	Grace Celley
Treasurer	Kaitlyn Leister

### *Incoming Officers*

President	Justin Deibler
Vice President	Sarah Casler
Vice President	Grace Celley
Secretary	Hamida Abdelhalim
Treasurer	Matthew Schouten

### *2024 Inductees:*

Jessica Berkheimer	Gabriel Gleb
Sarah Casler	Jocelyn Herres
Anthony Cordisco	Cole Mellinger
Justin Deibler	Bryanna Nase
Sarah Dutton	Kennedy Ressler
Mackenzie Ricketts	Darius Watkins



*May 2024 Phi Alpha Theta Inductees*



*Dr. Frankum presents the inductees*



# Alumni News

**Kritsin O'Brassill-Kulfan, BA 2011**, is an Assistant Professor in the History Department at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. She is also the director of the undergraduate Public History Program and the graduate Public Humanities Initiative there. She earned her PhD in History from the University of Leicester, England, and an MA in Modern History from Queens University Belfast. From 2012-2016, she was an archivist and research analyst with the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Archives, having previously interned there while an MU student in 2010. While at Millersville, she also completed an archival internship with Center for Pennsylvania German Studies. Her book *Vagrants and Vagabonds: Poverty and Mobility in the Early American Republic* was published by the New York University Press in 2019.

**Alexandra Mairs-Kessler, BA 2008**, has successfully defended her PhD dissertation at the University of Delaware. Dr. Mairs-Kessler was a dual major graduating from the History and Archaeology Departments in 2008 before going on to the University of Rochester and Delaware.

**Jake McCorkle, BA 2023**, as Apprentice Coachman. He is driving Presidents Washington, Jefferson, and Madison to Colonial Williamsburg's Presidents' Day address.



**Melissa Bryson, MA 2022**, started her doctoral work at the University of Missouri.

**Thomas Sciscento, MA 2023**, was hired as the 2024-2025 Lebanon Valley College archival technician, where he will be organizing and digitizing Governor Thomas Corbett's donated papers.

**Claire DeVinney, BA 2024**, received the Pennsylvania Historical Association Pencak Award for her undergraduate thesis! She will be officially awarded at the PHA Annual Meeting on October 11th!

**Jillian Bergin, BA 2023**, works as a researcher for the Battleship New Jersey Museum and Memorial digitizing records, film, and photographs housed at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland.

Advice to students: Take advantage of attending office hours. You're lucky to be at a university where you can foster relationships with your professors.

**Jordan Berman, BA 2021**, works at a private co-educational school in Titusville, NJ, teaching Social Studies to students with behavioral and emotional challenges.

Advice to students: Make sure you take advantage of the many opportunities Millersville provides to its students to get a well-rounded education. Branching out and experiencing a wide variety of opportunities, even if they're not directly related to your major will serve you well in your life.

**Seth Fluck, BA 2020**, works as Social Studies teacher at Bald Eagle Area School District.

Advice to students: As a student at Millersville you have deeply knowledgeable professors and fascinatingly weird peers. Both will offer lessons that will help you grow, so don't skip out on opportunities to learn from either.

# *Alumni Stories*

**Lawrance Jeter, BSE 2022**, works as 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher at School District of Lancaster.

Advice to students: Seek out opportunities. If you are in the BSE program, make sure you participate in your school activities.

**Wesley Maloney, BSE 2020**, works as Physical Science Teacher at La Academia Partnership Charter School.

Advice to students: Take the "pet" courses that the professors offer. The courses I remember the most were the ones that aligned with my professors' areas of expertise because they were knowledgeable and passionate. Special shout out to Economics of Sex, Drugs, and Religion with Dr. Gumper, Archaeology of the American Revolution with Dr. Kalos, and Vikings with Dr. Sommar.

**Tyland Mitchem Jr, BA 2023**, works as High School teacher at James Monroe High School.

Advice to students: Perseverance is key to finishing the goals you've set for yourself even when it seems almost impossible to achieve.

**Shane Moran, MA 2023**, works as Archives and Special Collections Librarian Juniata College.

As Archives and Special Collections Librarian, he is responsible for the organization, description, and preservation of the historic records and artifacts held by Juniata College. These primarily include institutional records and large holdings tracing the history of the anabaptist movement, with a particular focus on the Church of the Brethren. He also provides education to students and the larger community on the content of our archives and how to use primary sources effectively.



## ***Alumni Stories and Important Information***

Advice to students: Think outside the box when thinking about your careers. Build skills that compliment your major to give you experience for whatever you want your career to be in.

**Dana Rankin, BSE 2021**, works as a Learning Support teacher at Ephrata High School. She works with students in Special Education and help them meet their IEP (Individualized Education Plan) goals as well as write their IEPs. She co-teaches in a general education classroom for English and Biology. She also teaches Basic Occupational Skills in a Life Skills classroom.

Advice to students: Never hesitate to reach out to your professors and advisors. They are your resources that will help you make academic success. Another piece of advice is to take one day one step at a time. You will overwhelm yourself by thinking so far ahead in the future. Focus on the present, but at the same time, acknowledge what you will need to know and do for the future. This tip may be useful as you start a new semester and/or any life event that is important to you.

**Meagan Schulman, MA 2022**, is a doctoral student and a graduate assistant at Fordham University.

Advice to students: Talk to your professors, they are there to better your experience and have knowledge that is extraordinarily valuable to your success both in and out of the program.

**Megan Skillan (Knisely), BSE 2022**, works as Social Studies Teacher at Elizabethtown Area School District. She teaches 20th Century US History to ninth graders (on-level and honors).

Advice to students: Future teachers should have their resume ready and begin searching for jobs in February of their graduating year.

**Rhys Wallace, BSE 2021**, works with Scout units to recruit youth to the program and works with community partners to start new Scout programs in various communities.

Advice to students: Think outside the box about how to use your degree. Some jobs simply require a degree but do not specify what kind of degree. That is how I started working for the Scouts. Also, you are not a failure if you don't use your degree how you originally thought or intended. A degree can present countless opportunities, some of which you never imagined.

Alumni: [Alumni Information Update Form | Millersville University](#)

If you have information that you would like to share with us, please use our alumni update form. Once submitted, your form will arrive in the History Department email account. The faculty are interested in hearing how you are doing, and this is a great way of sharing information with them

**Thanks for tuning into this year's issue of  
the Marauding MU Historian!!**

**Please make sure to keep in touch with  
us to be the next one featured in the  
newsletter!! Use the form above and  
let us know what you've been up to!  
*Until then, see you next time***

