

# The History NEWSLETTER

For Alumni and Friends, Department of History, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

ISSUE NO. XXXXXI, 2022-2023

## Hail to the Chiefs! Historians Ascend to Top Spots in University Leadership



*(l to r) Dean Kathy Sloan, Chancellor Charles Robinson, and Vice Provost Jim Gigantino*

It may be true that we historians at the University of Arkansas spend many of our waking hours cloistered away in libraries and archives or huddled over stacks of blue books with red pen in hand. But we have been known to emerge from time to time, bleary-eyed and blinking in the sun, to answer the call of service to our institution. Such was the case last year for three of our colleagues, who have ascended to critical leadership roles at the University and in Fulbright College.

First among these is **Charles Robinson**, professor of history, who was formally appointed as the seventh chancellor of the University of Arkansas. Robinson, who is the first African American to lead the University of Arkansas, has enjoyed a storied career in Fayetteville. Having earned a PhD from Rice University, Robinson first joined the faculty in 1999 and rose to the rank of professor before serving as director of the African and African American Studies program, vice chancellor of academic and student affairs, vice chancellor for

diversity, and university provost. In an interview with the *Arkansas Democrat Gazette*, Robinson spoke of his love for the U of A. "This is home for me," he said. "This is the place that speaks to me, and there's no institution I have a greater affinity for."

Shortly after Robinson took the helm as chancellor, his leadership team began to fall into place. Among these was **Jim Gigantino**, who was serving as interim vice provost for academic affairs and accepted a formal appointment in that position. Gigantino joined the department in 2010 as assistant professor with a specialty in the history of colonial America. He has served in that time as a member of the African and African American Studies faculty, and in a number of administrative roles, including director of graduate studies and associate chair of history, chair of the department, and associate dean of the Graduate School and International Education. As vice provost for academic affairs, Gigantino oversees academic programs, institutional accreditation, academic policies and services for the university and works with units throughout campus to ensure academic excellence.

## A New Academic Year Brings New Faces to the Department of History

Without a doubt, one of the biggest events of the last year for the Department of History was the hiring of three new assistant professors and one new(ish) teaching associate professor. It has certainly been a long time coming. Readers of the newsletter may recall that the department hired **Matthew Stanley** as our spectacular new *associate* professor of Civil War history in the previous year, but until 2023 it had been seven long years since the department last ran formal nationwide searches for new assistant professors. Thus, for the department's old-timers, which at this point is pretty much everyone, the past year marked an exciting opportunity. Of course, to get there, faculty search committees spent long hours in the fall reading dozens of applications, and then in the spring there were more hours of job talks and mealtime meet-and-greets. But

Meanwhile, back in Fulbright College, some leadership transitions had already been underway, and another of our esteemed colleagues, **Kathryn Sloan**, stepped in during the late summer of 2022 to serve a two-year stint as interim dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. With nearly twenty years' experience at the U of A, Sloan, too, has had a successful career as both a faculty member and administrator. She has served as associate chair and graduate director of history, chair of the department, associate dean for humanities, vice provost for faculty affairs, and interim vice provost for academic affairs. But the opportunity to return to Fulbright meant a lot to her. "Fulbright College has been my academic home since 2004," Sloan said. "It is a place where I grew as a teacher, scholar, mentor, and leader. I am delighted to return as interim dean and collaborate with its stellar leaders, faculty, staff, and students to advance its mission."

We are proud of our colleagues and appreciate all their efforts on behalf of the department, the college, and the university community. ■

it was all worth it, and the Department of History is delighted to welcome our outstanding new colleagues.

Among our new faces is **Dr. Ruby Daily**, who joins the faculty as an expert in the history of Modern Britain and the British Empire. Daily earned her PhD from Northwestern University, where she worked with Professor Deborah Cohen. An expert on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Britain, Daily's current book project explores the notion of a "sexual vernacular" in British culture and the ways in which it was linked with a rhetoric of violence in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. This particular intersection was transformed, Daily argues, in the catastrophe of the First World War, the discourse shifted to new conceptions of conventional sexuality. In this way, Daily reveals how "a sexual culture in the nineteenth century that frequently collapsed violence, authority, and hierarchy into sexual desire ceded to a twentieth century emphasis on sexual identities." The result is a book that takes sexuality seriously as a driver of historical change and approaches some of the most significant events in modern British history through this new lens. Daily has already been winning over students in courses on British and

modern world history, and she has graciously taken on faculty advising duties to the venerable Alpha Chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society.

Joining Daily is **Dr. Justin Gage**, who was hired as a new assistant professor of the history of the American West. Gage earned his PhD from the University of Arkansas as a student of none other than **Elliott West**, and he previously served as assistant professor of history at the University of Florida. He has already proved his mettle as a scholar, having published a path-breaking book on Native American history from the University of Nebraska Press, *We Do Not Want the Gates Closed between Us*, which won two national book prizes for its ambitious scope and innovative use of digital methodology. Gage is now making plans to bring those methods to the classroom, designing a new upper-level course on digital history that is sure to amaze and bedazzle all but the most unrepentant technophobes.

Speaking of digital expertise, we are also over the moon to welcome **Dr. Brian McGowan**, an expert on US history with research and teaching in the history of civil rights and an equally keen interest in both digital approaches and oral history methods. McGowan earned a PhD from Tulane and then spent a number of years at Grambling State University, where he won numerous teaching awards and was the recipient of the William McIntosh Endowed Chair in Liberal Arts. A highly versatile researcher, McGowan began his career as a specialist in early US history, writing a dissertation on the Mexican-American War, and then moved seamlessly into the twentieth century. He is editor of a forthcoming book for Routledge on *Sport and Protest in the Black Atlantic*, has published several articles on Louisiana history and sports history, and is currently writing a monograph on the history of HBCU's in the United States.

Rounding out our department's new assistant professors is **Dr. Jared Phillips**. Phillips was previously a teaching assistant professor in the International and Global Studies program, and he joins the history faculty with a promotion to teaching associate professor and undergraduate coordinator for history majors. He earned a PhD at Arkansas with a dissertation under the direction of **Randall Woods** on the history of US-Sino relations. He spent some time in the NGO sector, working on development projects in Tibet and on promoting food security with Feed Communities in Northwest Arkansas before returning to academia.

At Arkansas, Phillips has taught courses on peace studies, human rights history, and US history, among many others. Next year, he will be offering new courses on Ozarks history, including a signature seminar with the Honors College. Phillips is widely known as an outstanding teacher, and in 2022 was named a finalist for the Imhoff Award from the U of A Teaching Academy. For that matter, he is no slouch as a researcher and is the author of *Hipbillies: Deep Revolution in the Arkansas Ozarks* with the University of Arkansas Press. Somehow, Phillips finds time to run a successful farm with his wife, Lindi, just down the road in Prairie Grove. ■

## The History NEWSLETTER



Melinda Adams  
Assistant Editor



Stephanie Caley  
Assistant Editor

We would like to thank  
Brenda Foster, Todd Cleveland,  
and Laurence Hare for their assistance.

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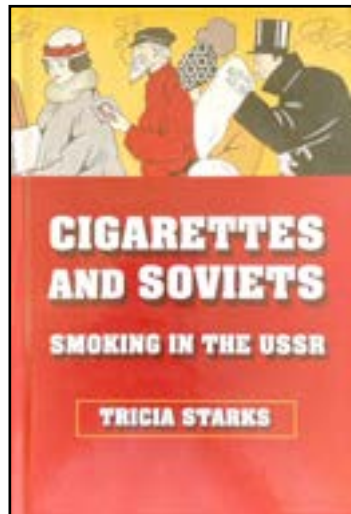
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## Publications to Applaud

### Starks Argues for New Perspectives on Global Tobacco Epidemic

Using resources from Russian and Soviet archives, as well as documents obtained as part of the historic Master Settlement against international tobacco giants, **Tricia Starks** has published a book arguing for new approaches to the global tobacco problem that de-emphasize Western perspectives of addiction. Starks, distinguished professor of history and director of the U of A Humanities Center, released a book on Russian pre-revolutionary tobacco addiction in 2018. This year, she has followed the story into the Soviet era with her latest book, *Cigarettes and Soviets: Smoking in the USSR*, which asks how the Soviets could introduce the first national cessation campaign in 1920, avoid capitalist incentives of marketing

and product manipulation, yet suffer one of the worst smoking problems in the world by the 21st century. With the lavishly illustrated *Cigarettes and Soviets: Smoking in the USSR*, Starks shows how tobacco use in the USSR followed a unique path. Soviet smokers encountered a tobacco landscape distinctive in its poor product quality and quantity. Without advertising, adulterated tobacco, cheap supply or easy availability, Soviets still smoked in alarming numbers. Perhaps even more astonishing, Soviet smokers continued even after the state in the 1920s began the first national cessation plan and started funding cessation clinics. Smoking remained a massive problem for Russian health. In 2020, 50.9% of Russian men and 14.3% of women used tobacco, mostly in cigarettes. American rates currently hover around 15% and 13%, respectively. Given that



smoking kills half or more of its users with cancer or other complications, this is a question of national and international importance with implications for the declining Russian population and long-term stability of the state. This summer, *Cigarettes and Soviets* was named a finalist for the prestigious Pushkin House Book Prize, which is an international award for the best non-fiction book in Russian history and culture, and Starks was invited to the official awards ceremony at the Pushkin House cultural center in London. Research for the project was funded or supported by the National Library of Medicine, the National Institutes of Health, the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies at the Woodrow Wilson Center, the University of Illinois's Slavic Research Lab, the University of California San Francisco's Industry Documents Archive and the U of A. Published by Northern Illinois Press, an imprint of Cornell University Press, the book is available for purchase through Cornell Press.

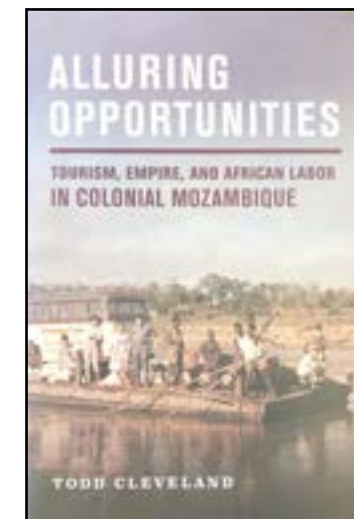
### Cleveland Publishes Two Books on Africa and the World

**Todd Cleveland**, professor of history, published two books this year, and we are not sure, but he may have authored another while we were writing this sentence. For now, we are happy to report that Cleveland published *Seguindo a Bola: A Importância dos Futebolistas Africanos no Império Colonial Português*, with Infinito Particular, a press based in Lisbon, Portugal. This text is a Portuguese translation of the original, English-language version of the book, *Following the Ball: The Migration of African Soccer Players across the Portuguese Colonial Empire, 1949-1975*, published by Ohio University Press in 2017. The book incorporates social, labor, sport, diasporic, and imperial histories to reconstruct the experiences of African football players from Portugal's African colonies as they relocated to the metropole from 1949 until the conclusion of the colonial era



in 1975. The backdrop was Portugal's increasingly embattled Estado Novo regime, and its attendant use of the players as propaganda to communicate the supposed unity of the metropole and the colonies. *Seguindo a Bola* examines the ways that players, such as the great Eusébio, creatively and strategically exploited opportunities generated by shifts in the political and occupational landscapes in the waning decades of Portugal's empire. Drawing on interviews with the players themselves, the book considers how they often assumed roles as social and cultural intermediaries and counters reductive histories that have depicted footballers as colonial pawns and exploited athletes. To reconstruct these players' transnational histories, Cleveland traces their lives from the informal soccer spaces in colonial Africa to the manicured pitches of Europe, while simultaneously focusing on their off-the-field challenges and successes. By examining this multi-continental space in a single analytical field, his book unearths structural and experiential consistencies and contrasts, and illuminates the components and processes of empire.

Cleveland's second major contribution of the year was *Alluring Opportunities: Tourism, Empire, and African Labor in Colonial Mozambique*, published by Cornell University Press. Here, he examines the lives of African laborers in the tourism industry in the Portuguese colony of Mozambique and the social



ascension that many of these workers achieved in spite of demanding conditions. From the origin of the colonial period until its end in 1975, the tourism industry developed on the backs of these laborers and ultimately became an important source of foreign exchange for Portugal. Cleveland explores the daily experiences of local tourism workers in the genesis and expansion of this vital industry with an analytical utility that transcends Africa's borders by complicating the narrative established and reinforced by an expansive body of literature that stresses the

exploitation of indigenous tourism workers. He argues that just as foreign tourists embraced the opportunity to travel to various locations in Mozambique, so too did many Indigenous laborers seize opportunities for employment in the tourism industry in an effort to realize social mobility via both the steady wages that they earned and their daily interactions with sojourning clientele. As part of his research, Cleveland collected oral histories from former laborers, drawing on their recollections to reconstruct their lives and to uncover their critical contributions to the local tourism industry. The result is a book that prompts a reconsideration of indigenous labor and social mobility in colonial Africa. Cleveland also reveals new ways of thinking, more broadly, about the ways that tourism shapes processes of empire, interracial interactions and power relations.

### Dominguez Searches the "Attic" for the Historical Bob Dylan

**Freddy Dominguez**, associate professor of history, first made his name in the scholarly world through his careful studies of Early Modern Europe, with a focus on Spain and England during the Reformation Era. What has been striking about his scholarship thus far is its deep engagement with selected texts and with selected writers. In his latest work, Dominguez shifts his frame from the sixteenth century to the twentieth but brings the same thoughtful,

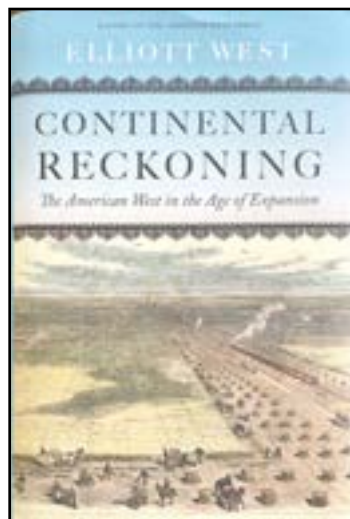
exegetical approach to the work of one of America's most celebrated musicians. *Bob Dylan in the Attic: The Artist as Historian*, published by the University of Massachusetts Press, takes a fresh look at the legacy of Dylan, the voice of a generation and Nobel literature laureate, by considering the historical aspects of Dylan's music and lyrics. Specifically, Dominguez emphasizes four ways in which history cuts across Dylan's oeuvre. He discusses the ways in which Dylan



thinks historically, including the “many historical vistas” that influenced his worldview and crept into his work. It also features an interesting discussion of how Dylan “produces historically evocative work,” how he utilizes the power of myth in his explorations of history, and, finally, how his musical representations have been interpreted by professional historians. Along the way, Dominguez seems fascinated by the ways in which Dylan plays with history to explore deeper truths about America. “In a way,” he writes, “Dylan subscribes to a melting pot conception of American history. It is a land where different cultural elements can meld into something coherently greater than its parts.”

## West Offers a New History of the West

Frequent readers of this newsletter may recall that we feted **Dr. Elliott West** last year as he retired from his position as Alumni Distinguished Professor at the



University of Arkansas. But that did not mean that West was ready to ride off into the sunset. On the contrary, this year he produced a magnificent work of history, *Continental Reckoning: The American West in the Age of Expansion*, which was published in February 2023 by the University of Nebraska Press. Based on years of intensive

research, *Continental Reckoning* is a monumental retelling of America’s expansion westward from the 1840s to the end of the 19th century. It argues for a new understanding of the importance of the American West in US history through a sweeping narrative that begins with the so-called Great Coincidence in early 1848, when gold was discovered in California barely a week before the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ceded California and the Southwest to the United States. As West explains, these events launched dramatic new waves of migration and settlement westward and transformed the United States in ways often overshadowed by the emerging Civil War in the east. West untangles numerous events and trends, considering the impact of expansion on the

Civil War and Reconstruction, on the growth of the national economy, and on the lives of Native American and Hispanic inhabitants and of settlers from the East impacted by the “fundamental restructuring” of Western spaces. The book also considers the West as a subject of myth, separating fact from fiction and emphasizing the “collective testimony-compelling, inspirational, horrifying, funny, bizarre of what it was like to live through one of the more telling chapters of our common past.” ■

## Close-Knit Staff

The ladies of HIST, Brenda Foster, Melinda Adams, and Stephanie Caley, keep the departmental wheels running smoothly, but when they aren’t herding cats... er...faculty, they can be found hanging out OUTSIDE of the office. In March 2023, they met at the Farmington Public Library to take on four other teams in a puzzle-building contest. They had three hours to build a 1000-piece puzzle (all teams had the same puzzle). Whichever team had the fewest pieces left to place when time was up, won a prize. Team Misfits, as they called themselves, won a \$50 gift card. No other team came close to beating them. It may have had something to do with the fact that there is always a puzzle to work on in the HIST office—they get plenty of practice.

In early October, the HIST ladies set out for Mt. Ida, AR, for a “staff retreat,” (a.k.a. girls’ camping weekend) where they went digging for crystals and had a blast just relaxing in nature. Rumor has it that they are already planning their next trip to Murfreesboro, AR, to dig for diamonds. ■



(left) Team Misfits: Stephanie Caley, Melinda Adams, Brenda Foster, and Collin Caley

(below) Brenda Foster, Stephanie Caley, and Melinda Adams at Mt. Ida



## UA Historians are on the Air!

As you know, historians love their texts, but they are not afraid to branch out into other media. After all, if there is anything that historians love more than texts, it is the melodious sound of their own voices. Thus, it is perhaps no surprise that this year has seen a number of our colleagues take to the airwaves to produce podcasts bringing their scholarship to a wider audience.

First among these new-fangled broadcasters is **Randall Woods**, distinguished professor in the Department of History, who recently lent his expertise to the latest season of *24 Hours After*, a podcast produced by the History Channel and hosted by Steve Gillon, professor of history at the University of Oklahoma. This season’s episodes focus on *24 Hours After: The JFK Assassination*. In an interview with *People* magazine, Gillon described the impact of the current season’s focus on JFK. “What’s unique is most of the podcast deals with what happens *after* the shots were fired,” he said. “For nearly six decades, there has been a fascination with the assassination and who shot JFK, but we are looking at what happened in the critical 24 hours after, focusing on the human response to the horrible events of that day.” The individual episodes accomplish this by following the acts of key individuals, including Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, first lady Jacqueline Kennedy, and the president’s assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. Woods was brought into the series for his expertise on American politics and foreign affairs in the decades after the Second World War. In Episode 2, he speaks about the actions of Vice President Johnson in the immediate aftermath of the assassination. Woods sets the stage by explaining aspects of Johnson’s rise to power before discussing his role in the Kennedy Administration.

Next up to the microphone is **Caree Banton**, associate professor and director of African and African American Studies, who has been the lead host of the podcast, *Undisciplined*, produced by KUAF public radio. *Undisciplined* launched in September 2022 with the goal of bringing to light student and faculty research at the University of Arkansas that crosses normal disciplinary boundaries and reaches outside the confines of the University. As Banton explains, the podcast is motivated by the goal of “taking the

interdisciplinary approach of African and African American studies to the classroom, into the community, onto the airwaves and beyond. With episodes appearing twice monthly on Wednesdays, *Undisciplined* has already touched on a wide range of topics, including new scholarship and applied research on food security, politics, international sport, and the history of medicine.

Last, but not least, is **Laurence Hare**, associate professor, who is co-hosting another KUAF podcast, *Points of Departure*. Along with co-host Rogelio Garcia Contereras, teaching faculty in the Walton College of Business, Hare brings to the air the latest work of Arkansas Global Changemakers, an educational and applied research initiative at the University of Arkansas that connects communities in Arkansas with partners around the world to enhance local solutions to global challenges. Now in its third season, *Points of Departure* includes interviews with changemakers from every corner of the globe who are innovating new solutions to the same issues that confront us right here at home. Topics thus far have included food security, public health, job skill development, and poverty relief, along with episodes discussing the future of such themes as impact investment, affordable housing, climate action, and microfinance. Guests have included academics, architects, business leaders, economists, engineers, and, of course, student innovators. At the root of *Points of Departure* is a theory of change that argues for the study of global challenges across cultural lines in order to learn how fresh perspectives on problems may yield new approaches and new solutions for communities at home and abroad.

Listeners can find all of these podcasts free of charge online or on your favorite podcast app. You can hear more from Randall Woods and *24 Hours After: The JFK Assassination* by visiting <https://www.history.com/24-hours-after>. Episodes of both *Undisciplined* and *Points of Departure* are available through KUAF Public Radio at <https://www.kuaf.com/>. ■

## Letter from the Chair

This is going to be a very exciting year for the Department of History at the U of A. As you will read in this newsletter, we are welcoming four new assistant professors, experiencing exciting growth in our student enrollments, and launching a brand new Bachelor of Arts curriculum for undergraduate history majors. With all this good news in mind, I thought I might share with you a letter I have prepared for new and prospective students in our program.

Enjoy!

Dear Current and Future Razorbacks,

My name is Dr. Laurence Hare, and I am the Chair of the Department of History at the University of Arkansas. On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, it is my pleasure to invite you to join us in the History BA program. In this letter, I would like to tell you a little about who we are, what we offer, and what we can do for you.

First, allow me to toot our proverbial horn just a bit. Our department is renowned regionally, nationally, and internationally for its research, teaching, and service, and you will be taking classes with some brilliant and caring professors. I hope, for example, that you will have a chance to study with recent award winners like Dr. **Trish Starks**, who was a finalist for the international Pushkin Prize in Russian history, or Dr. **Shawn Austin**, recipient of the Bandelier/Lavrin Book Prize in Latin American history, or Dr. **Justin Gage**, winner of two book prizes for Western and Native American history. Our faculty are also top-notch classroom teachers. History was proud to be the first recipient of the Daniel E. Ferritor Award for Departmental Excellence in Teaching at the University of Arkansas, and our faculty have been recognized with several institutional and national prizes, including Dr. **Jeannie Whayne**, who was a recent recipient of the SEC Faculty Achievement Award. These recognitions signify classroom excellence, but also an unwavering commitment to student mentorship. In other words, our faculty succeed because their students succeed. And there has been no



Laurence Hare

Scholarship from the US Department of State.

For the next cohort of students, the Department has launched a unique, new Bachelor of Arts curriculum that features specialized mentorship courses with leading faculty and a range of high-impact, experiential opportunities. As a history major, you might choose to research with one of our faculty, explore a key historical question in a topical seminar, participate in an internship, or study abroad at locations around the world. There are many options. You might want to take history courses at the U of A Rome Center, or travel with Dr. **Caree Banton**, director of African and African American Studies, on a summer trip to Ghana, or join me and the Arkansas Global Changemakers initiative for two weeks in Spain to discover how history can play a role in solving contemporary global challenges. You can also choose from among four concentration areas for advanced study, which will allow you to connect themes across diverse time periods and world regions. For instance, you might select a focus in “Global Societies and Cultures” and see the world through a broader lens, or study “Statemaking and the Limits of Power” and pursue an interest in politics and law, or choose “Knowledge, Belief, and Vision,” and trace histories of religion, science, or medicine, or “Conflict, Peace, and Justice” and examine the roots of conflict. Finally, our curriculum will give you a set of choices on how to study the methods and practices of the historian. Maybe you will want to take a course on public history and study how communities and scholars come together to discover and represent history and memory, or you might enroll in a digital history course

shortage of student success. Just ask recent graduates like **Jacob Condran**, who is currently studying on a US Fulbright Scholarship in Azerbaijan, or **J.P. Gairhan**, who was among a small group of Americans to be named a Schwarzman Scholar to China, or **Anna Rumpz**, who won a Critical Language

and learn how computer technology and data-driven methods are reshaping our view of the past. In short, our curriculum gives students a wide array of options for learning history, for cultivating key skills, and for applying those lessons to their communities and to their own academic and career goals.

History majors build great careers, and our program is designed to help students articulate and achieve their goals. History offers a variety of pathways to fulfilling professions across the public, non-profit, and corporate sectors. Our majors work as attorneys, educators, entrepreneurs, museum curators, and professors. Others serve in government agencies, NGOs, faith-based organizations, and start-ups. And our program offers accelerated programs, including our combined Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Arts in Teaching program for social sciences, a 4+1 BA/MA program for graduate study, and a 3+3 program with the U of A School of Law. History also offers great opportunities as a secondary major for students studying business, medicine, interdisciplinary studies, or as a companion to other humanities and social science fields.

There has never been a better time to study history at the U of A. If you would like to know more about our programs, you can visit our website, or, better yet, come see us in person in Old Main to talk about the possibilities that await you as a History student. You and your family are also invited to email or call me with questions. We can't wait to see you on campus!

Sincerely,

J. Laurence Hare  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Department of History  
(479) 575-5890  
lhare@uark.edu

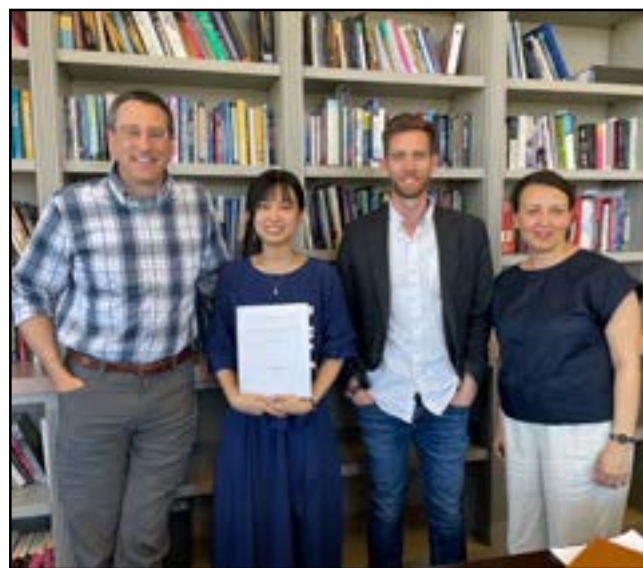
## Note from the Director of Graduate Studies

The graduate program continues to excel, even if in slightly different form than in years past owing to the declining numbers of PhD students in the Humanities, including History. Once again, we have a significant incoming cohort, including nine MA students, including two more from West Africa. Equally exciting is the fact that approximately 90% of our graduate students are funded via various Graduate Assistantships, topping last year's figure, which was, at the time, a record percentage. We also have a total of nine students in our “4+1” program, which enables students to start earning graduate credit while they are seniors, so that they can earn their MA degree in just a single year following their BA, instead of the two years it normally takes. We only started this program two years ago, so we're very excited how quickly it's grown, and, in fact, we are slated to have our first graduate later this summer! Going forward, we are envisioning slight changes to the program and look forward to many more students entering it. Finally, I am happy to report that we have been able to help many MA students earn their degrees via non-thesis MA track, which we just reinstated a year ago. Congratulations to them and to all our recent MA and PhD graduates!

—Professor Todd Cleveland

## History Major Anna Rumpz Wins Critical Language Scholarship

Anna Rumpz, a Little Rock native and honors double major in history and international and global studies, had an outstanding senior year. First, she was named the recipient of the Fulbright Prize for Distinction in the Liberal Arts from the College of Arts and Sciences. And then she was accepted into a top graduate program in international affairs at The George Washington University in Washington, DC. And then, as if that was not



Anna Rumpz (second from left) and her thesis committee: Laurence Hare, Shawn Austin, and Yajaira Padilla (ENGL)

enough, she won a highly competitive Critical Language Scholarship from the US Department of State. Rumpz was one of 500 students representing 245 institutions selected for the program, which is an immersive summer opportunity for American college and university students to learn languages essential to America's engagement with the world. The scholarship program allowed her to spend the summer of 2023 in Kyrgyzstan studying the Russian language. It was a fitting choice for a student who pursued a minor in Russian at the UofA and won honorable mention in a national Russian essay contest in 2020. But, then again, Rumpz is a true polyglot. In addition to Russian, she also possesses a strong working knowledge of Spanish and Polish. In fact, Anna was able to take her interest in language and develop a fascinating honors thesis in history. Under the expert direction of Dr. Shawn Austin, Anna perused historical records of indigenous Guaraní peoples in Spanish translation from the colonial period of lowland South America. She analyzed the texts with an

eye towards understanding how cultural meanings were lost in translation between the Guaraní and Spanish-language missionaries, and how those gaps informed the history of colonial-era encounters. Looking ahead, Rumpz hopes to take the CLS experience, along with her thesis research and other language studies, and pursue a career with the US State Department as a foreign service officer. We think that she is off to a pretty good start! ■

## Talk of the Gown

Shawn Austin, associate professor, made himself scarce part of last year while on a post-tenure research leave. During that time, he advanced two major research projects. The first project is his current monograph on the Guaraní-Jesuit mission militias. The second is a translation volume of several eighteenth-century Guaraní-language letters that he is publishing with his collaborator, Dr. Leonardo Cerno. This volume of original English-language translations is scheduled to come out with Dumbarton Oaks Press in 2024. Austin performed archival work for these two projects in May

and June of this year, visiting five different archives across three cities throughout Spain. In between archival visits, he presented ongoing research on Jesuit evangelical strategies amongst Guaraní peoples at the International Symposium on Jesuit Studies in Lisbon, Portugal, and gave a research talk with Dr. Cerno at the University of Augsburg, Germany on the rhetorical strategies and certain linguistic features of eight Guaraní letters written during the 1750 Treaty of Madrid crisis in the colonial Río de la Plata.

Alessandro Brogi, professor and director of undergraduate studies, returned from a sabbatical tanned, rested, and full of tales from his European travels. Among those was a stint as a Senior Fellow

at the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies, in Middelburg, Netherlands, where he worked on a book project on J. William Fulbright and liberal internationalism, and where he also mentored graduate students from a university network of Dutch and British universities. Brogi also gave a keynote lecture in the fabulously preserved medieval City Hall of Middelburg, followed by a mini-seminar on the current state of anti-Americanism in Europe. During that time, he became a member of the Committee of International Politics and Security Spring School of Padua, Italy, where in May he delivered a public lecture on recent developments in transatlantic relations. Somehow, Brogi found time to make his virtual return to Italy with an article in the journal *Italia Contemporanea* on the transnational reach of the Italian Communist Party during the Cold War. Back stateside, Brogi also had some American tales, including the time last year when he was “summoned” by the International & Global Studies Program to participate in the Honors College Pulse Discussion series on the state of Trans-Pacific relations in light of the crisis in Taiwan. Both at home and abroad, Brogi has been on his “farewell tour” as director of undergraduate studies in History. Before stepping down this June, he performed “hits” like: getting the whole Undergraduate Curriculum for the History Major updated in the catalog; steering the assessment of general education courses; developing a more sustainable Internship Program for History; joining the search committee to appoint a new director of career initiatives for Fulbright College; and hosting the Phi Alpha Theta annual initiation ceremony one last time. Next year, there will be two Brogis on campus, as Alessandro's son, Sam Brogi, makes his debut as a new college freshman studying as an honors student in the Fay Jones School of Architecture.

Todd Cleveland, professor, department vice-chair, and director of graduate studies, published two books, one of which was *Seguindo a Bola: A Importância dos Futebolistas Africanos no Império Colonial Português*, from Portugal's Infinito Particular Press, which was a translation of his very successful 2017 monograph, *Following the Ball: The Migration of African Soccer Players across the Portuguese Colonial Empire, 1949-1975*. Cleveland also published a new book, *Alluring Opportunities: Tourism, Empire, and African Labor in Colonial Mozambique*, published by Cornell University Press [see related story]. In recognition of his impressive

research production and massive impact on the field, Cleveland was honored with the Master Researcher Award from the Fulbright College of Arts & Sciences.

Jim Gigantino, professor, was named Vice Provost for Academic Affairs in February 2023 in the Office of the Provost after serving in the position in an interim capacity since August 2022. He did spend some time on history things, continuing to direct two doctoral students and presenting a paper at a conference sponsored by the McNeil Center for Early American Studies at the University of Pennsylvania in March 2023 celebrating the career of his advisor, Allan Kulikoff.

Laurence Hare, associate professor and department chair, mostly stayed home to write in the fall before spending much of the spring on the road leading a study abroad program and presenting research. In November, the University of Arkansas Libraries was one of just a handful of libraries nationwide selected to host a national traveling exhibit on *Americans and the Holocaust*, and Hare was invited to present the opening lecture, “Americans, the Holocaust, and the Maturity of Memory Culture.” In February, he participated in the Fifteenth Southeast German Studies Workshop at the University of Alabama, where he took part in a panel on “Visions of the Future.” Hare's paper, “Beyond Utopia: On Framing the History of the Future,” argued for a research approach analyzing historical visions of the distant future moving past the typical fixations on utopian/dystopian parameters and instead drawing on macroscopic and digital methods. In April, Hare accepted an invitation to present the annual Winchester Lecture at Tennessee Tech University, where he spoke on “Prehistoric Archaeology and Global Nazism, 1933-1945.” On the teaching front, Hare remains part of the leadership team of the Arkansas Global Changemakers initiative, and he co-led the program's first site-based study abroad program in Barcelona, Spain in January. Thirteen students from Fulbright College, the College of Engineering, and the Walton College of Business joined two faculty members and a partner from the Fayetteville non-profit community to study the ways in which regional culture and history in Catalonia impact efforts by social businesses, public agencies, and NGOs to address such global challenges as food security and job skill development. Closer to home, Hare and the Changemakers faculty team produced the second season of their podcast, *Points of Departure*, with KUAF public radio. The episodes

this year included interviews with students and community partners at the U of A Rome Center and in Barcelona. Hare also chaired a new committee in Fulbright College to improve outcomes in faculty-led study abroad, and he completed the requirements for a certificate in Designing and Leading Global Experiences with the School for International Training.

**Charles Muntz**, associate professor, spent a semester teaching about “Ten Really Bad Emperors,” as a special Honors College “Retro Readings” course. He was joined by fifteen really good honors students, who discussed ten really bad emperors of Rome, from Caligula to



**Charles Muntz**

Leopold II. Afterwards, students researched and reported on their own bad emperors, from Elagabalus to Henry Ford. Muntz also reviewed a book for the prestigious German H-Net site, *H-Soz-Kult*, refereed a research proposal from Krakow University, Poland, served on a thesis committee for the University of Western Australia, and had a paper proposal accepted by the French journal *Ktèma*. Outside of the university, he found some time to continue exploring more of the world, with trips to national parks and monuments in Texas, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona. Vermillion Cliffs National Monument was reportedly his favorite of the lot. His colleagues in the History Department enjoyed living vicariously through his travels, thanks to his trusty camera, intermittent wifi access, and Facebook.

**Michael Pierce**, associate professor, delivered a paper at the Southern Labor History Association’s fall meeting in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and did public humanities presentations at the Fayetteville Public Library, the University of Arkansas’s Pryor Center for

Oral and Visual History, and the Central Arkansas Library System’s Butler Center for Arkansas History. Pierce also served on the Faculty Senate, headed up the US West Search Committee, and reviewed grant applications for the National Endowment for the Humanities. He continued work on the Nelson Hackett Project, helping the city write a grant for a historical marker, testifying before city council during a debate about naming a street after Hackett, and organizing an educational program to accompany the unveiling of the marker and street sign [see related story]. In the spring, Pierce testified before the Michigan Senate on the racist origins of “right-to-work legislation.” He continued work on his book project on the rise and fall of New Deal/Great Society liberalism in Arkansas, authored a chapter for a forthcoming book on presidential libraries, and completed a book review.

**Matthew Stanley**, associate professor, presented papers at four academic conferences, including two international conferences: the British-American Nineteenth-Century Historians meeting in Leicester, UK, and a gathering on “Race, Class, and Space” held in Paris, France. Stanley published an extended review in *Reviews in American History* and five other essays and book reviews in the popular magazines *Slate* and *Jacobin*. He also appeared on several podcasts, completed a book chapter in a forthcoming volume, and conducted research in twelve archives and research libraries, including the Newberry Library and the New York Historical Society. His 2021 book, *Grand Army of Labor: Workers, Veterans, and the Meaning of the Civil War* (Illinois UP), was awarded the Alumni Book Award from the University of Cincinnati in 2022. Back in Arkansas, Stanley has been developing a new course on the Global 1860s and guest-editing a labor-themed issue of the journal *Civil War History*.

**Trish Starks**, professor and director of the University of Arkansas humanities center, published a new book, *Cigarettes and Soviets: Smoking in the USSR*, which came out in Fall of 2022 with Northern Illinois University Press. Aglow with over sixty illustrations and arguing for new ways to approach cessation for a habit that still ensnares a quarter of the globe’s population and kills half of all long-term users, the book has made quite a splash. The editor of the *American Journal of Public Health* gave the book a glowing review in his publication, a unique honor for a history book, and he engineered an invite

for Starks to serve as the Alan Berkman Memorial lecturer at Columbia University’s Mailman School of Public Health. The Pushkin House in London also looked favorably on the book, shortlisting it for their prestigious, and lucrative, £10,000 prize. In the midst of these accolades, Starks also received a well-deserved promotion to the rank of Distinguished Professor.

**Jeannie Whayne**, university professor, published two articles in 2022, “Post-Civil War Southern Agriculture,” in *Blackwell’s Companion to American Agriculture*, edited by Douglas Hurt and published by Wiley; and “Henry Lowery Lynching: A Legacy of the Elaine Massacre?” in *Race, Labor and Violence in the Delta*, edited by Michael Pierce and Calvin White and published by the University of Arkansas Press. Whayne also presented at several events on and off campus, one of them at the Southern Labor Studies Association on “The Henry Lowery Lynching.” She also gave two papers at the European Rural History Organization in Uppsala, Sweden: “Is Gender an Issue: Farming While Female in the Twenty-first Century,” and “Agriculture and the Environment in the US South, 1607-1865.”

And she spoke at the University of Arkansas, both for the Teaching and Faculty Support Center’s Winter Symposium and at the E. Fay Jones School of Architecture, where she delivered a talk, “From Tenant Shack to Tractor Barns: The Emergence of the Modern South,” for their *Place of Practice and the Practice of Place: A Symposium in Extension of the Exhibition “A South Forty.”* In June, she gave two presentations at the Agricultural History Society annual meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, “Opportunities and Challenges for Twenty-first Century Farm Women” and “Does a Picture Really Paint a Thousand Words?: Using Photographs to Interpret Agricultural History, Environmental Impact, and Climate Change.” Finally, she was delighted to supervise the defense for one of her doctoral students, **Michael Anthony**, who defended his dissertation, “Otherwise, You’ll Have to Suffer the Consequences: The Racial Cleansing of Catcher, Arkansas.”

**Patrick G. Williams**, professor, can be found in his office most days cursing the dead who can’t answer him back. He continues to edit the *Arkansas Historical Quarterly*—though too slowly for some people’s tastes—and has been secretary general of the Arkansas Historical Association almost as long as Stalin. Williams was honored with Fulbright College’s 2023 Ennui Award, which he accepted with a shrug. ■

## Alumni Roundup

I have retired from my job after 40 years with the State of Arkansas. My plans now are to travel! —**Judi King**

I graduated from UA in 2018 with a BA in history, political science, and middle east studies. In 2022 I graduated from the University of Oregon School of Law and passed the Washington bar exam. August 2023 was my one-year anniversary working as a staff attorney at the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation where I work in transactional law, agricultural law, water resource law, and general federal Indian law. —**Nicholas Kahmann**

**CPT Donald Holler** ’12 (BA History) graduated this may from Texas A&M’s Bush School of Government and Public Service with a master’s degree in international affairs. Additionally, he serves as a battalion intelligence trainer at the US Army’s National Training Center at Fort Irwin, CA.

I’m a mostly retired sportswriter but still do a weekly radio appearance with Phil Elson and Matt Jones on ESPN Arkansas and enjoyed covering my 41st Masters Tournament this year. My personal hole-in-one count holds steady at 3, all achieved within the last six years after going on for 61 years before that. I still keep close tabs on all the UA sports teams and the university itself. —**Grant W. Hall**, BA 1972

Since graduation, I worked in Dallas, TX, on an emergency teaching assignment – teaching elementary school art, 12 sections, 33 kids per class. They were desperate for an art teacher (art my minor), and I was desperate for a job. The next year, 1971, I moved to Washington, DC, where I worked for the late US Senator, John L. McClellan as his receptionist until his death in 1977. Married a local dentist and still living in Chevy Chase, MD. I now have 2 grand babies living in Little Rock, they are 3 ½. So I have a second home in LR —**Cassandra “Sandy” Elder** (Seymore), BA 1968

I have been with the division of Arkansas Heritage since 2017 and currently serve as executive director of the Historic Arkansas Museum. — **Stephanie Haught Wade**, MA History | **Cont. p. 19**



Our alumni and friends have been very generous, but we continue to need your support to maintain our tradition of excellence. Your unrestricted gift (**University of Arkansas Foundation-History Department, account 2780**) will allow the Department the greatest flexibility in allocating money where need is greatest. We would be most grateful, too, for larger gifts to endow scholarships, fellowships, chairs, and lectureships.

There are a number of other funds that may be of particular interest to our alumni:

- The Tom Kennedy Endowed Lecture Fund**
- The David W. Edwards Scholarship Fund**
- The Timothy Donovan Lectureship**
- The James J. Hudson Graduate Fellowship**
- The Robert E. Reeser Award**
- The Willard B. Gatewood Graduate Fellowship**
- The Walter L. Brown Scholarship in Arkansas History**
- The George V. Ray Memorial Award**
- The Gordon McNeil Scholarship Fund**
- The Ralph V. Turner Fund**
- The J. Margaret Roberts Endowed Award Fund**
- The Oscar Fendler Award Fund**
- The George Billingsley Award Fund**
- The Jesse Taylor Jr. Scholarship Fund**
- The Stokely-McAdoo Family International Study Scholarship**
- The Walter L. Brown Endowment in History**
- The Mary Hudgins Award**

Gifts to the  
**History Department**  
should be sent to:

Dr. Laurence Hare, Chair  
History Department  
416 N. Campus Drive, MAIN 416  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

with checks made out to:  
**University of Arkansas Foundation History Department, account 2780**

Gifts to the  
**James J. Hudson Fellowship**  
should be forwarded to:

Dean of the Graduate School  
340 N. Campus Dr., Gearhart Hall 213  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

Gifts to the  
**Tom Kennedy Endowed Lecture Series**  
should be directed to:

Department of History  
416 N. Campus Dr., MAIN 416  
Fayetteville, AR 72701

with checks made out to:  
**University of Arkansas Foundation**  
and with the subject line:  
**Tom Kennedy Endowed Lecture Series**

Gifts to the  
**Gatewood Fellowship**  
should be sent to:

1125 W. Maple St., ADMN 325  
Fayetteville, AR 72701



## For the Nelson Hackett Project, It's Public or Perish

Faculty and students in the Department of History have become keenly aware in recent years of the importance of public engagement and community service. We increasingly see it as part of our mission as historians in a land-grant public university to reach out and share our discoveries more broadly and to take on questions that concern our communities. Indeed, this idea is central to the Nelson Hackett Project, developed by Dr. Michael Pierce, associate professor of history. Over the years, the project has made tremendous strides to illuminate an under-explored chapter of American history with roots in Arkansas. This year saw the project team literally taking their work to the streets to make a significant impact on the City of Fayetteville.



*(l to r) Kathy Sloan, Michael Pierce, and an unnamed attendee at the Nelson Hackett historical marker dedication*

The project began with a website (<https://nelsonhackettproject.uark.edu/>), which details Nelson Hackett's story and its aftermath. As Pierce explains, "Nelson Hackett was once the most famous Fayetteville resident in the entire world." Born into slavery, Hackett made a daring escape from Fayetteville in the summer of 1841 and fled to Canada and freedom. There, he found himself at the center of a crucial legal case in which a Fayetteville slaveholder used a charge of theft to seek Hackett's extradition back to the United States. Sadly, the case went against Hackett, who was forcibly returned to Arkansas before being sold to Texas and disappearing from the historical record. Yet the case inflamed public opinion in Canada and led to consequential changes

to the 1842 Webster-Ashburton Treaty that limited extradition to criminal offenses, protecting future fugitive slaves who had fled to Canada.

On the 16th of June, 2023, the project took another important public step in partnership with the City of Fayetteville's Black Heritage Preservation Commission. That afternoon, the team hosted a series of public lectures at the Pryor Center for Arkansas Visual and Oral History to celebrate the life of Nelson Hackett. This was followed by an outdoor ceremony hosted by Fayetteville Mayor Lioneld Jordan on the Town Square that included an unveiling of a new historical marker dedicated to Hackett and announcement of a new name for the former Archibald Yell Boulevard, which is now officially designated as Nelson Hackett Boulevard.

The slate of events was made possible thanks to the generosity of the UofA Department of History, African and African American Studies Program, Arkansas Humanities Center, Pryor Center, and Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences.

This certainly will not be the last we hear of the Nelson Hackett Project. The research continues, as does the important work of public engagement. ■

## 2023 Award Winners

### Undergraduate Awards:

- George Billingsley Award for the Best Paper on a Middle Eastern or Asian Topic:* **Karlie Barnett**  
*George W. Ray Award for the Study of Western Civilization:* **Jacob O'Bannon** and **Thomas Medford**  
*David W. Edwards Scholarship for Outstanding Undergraduate Study of History:*  
**Ani-ya Beasley, Bethany Kiele, Anna Raezer, and Miguel Salcedo**  
*Gordon H. McNeil Award for the Outstanding Undergraduate Research Paper in European History:* **Anna Raezer**  
*Fulbright Award for the Senior History Students with the Highest Academic Achievement:*  
**Miller Bacon, Karlie Barnett, Anna Rumpz, and Ashley Taroni**  
*History Department Award for African History:* **Rosana Hicks**  
*History Department Award for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Spotlight:* **Claire DeVol**  
*History Department Award for Latin American and Latino History:* **Victoria Hernandez**  
*J. Margaret Roberts Endowed Award:* **Raegan Chennevert**  
*James J. Hudson Award for the Study of Military History:* **Abigail Boring**  
*Oscar Fendler Award for best paper on an Arkansas or Southern History Topic:* **Thomas Medford**  
*Phi Alpha Theta Award for Outstanding Undergraduate Paper:* **Clark DeVol**  
*Robert E. Reeser Award for Significant Contribution to the Study of the Classical World:* **Ava Buchanan**  
*Sidney A. Moncrief Scholarship for the Study of Black History:* **Ani-ya Beasley**  
*Stokely-McAdoo Family International Study Scholarship:* **Josie Zakrzewski** and **Hannah Cunningham.**

### Graduate Awards:

- Walter Lee Brown Scottish Rite of Freemasonry Scholarship:* **Stephanie Caley**  
*Matthew B. Kirkpatrick Prize for Excellence in History Graduate Teaching:* **Michael Anthony**  
*Helen and Hugo Goecke and Adalyn and Harry Kennedy Memorial Travel Fund:* **Sulaiman Albinhamad**  
*Gordon H. McNeil Award for the Outstanding Graduate Research Paper:* **Dellynn Prince-Travis**  
*James J. Hudson Graduate Research Award in Military History:* **Suleiman Albinhamad**  
*Jesse Taylor Jr. Endowed Scholarship for an Outstanding History Graduate Student:*  
**Samuel Adegbenjo, Robert Berry, Nathan Harkey, Maeghan O'Connor, Katlyn Rozovics, Jake Stagner, Elisha Wiafe, and Zachary Wilmouth;**  
*Ralph V. Turner Travel Award:* **James Cooke, Robyn Spears, and Cole Younger**  
*Willard B. Gatewood History Graduate Fellowship:* **Amber Lenser**

# History Alumnus J. P. Gairhan Selected as Schwarzman Scholar

In 2016, Stephen Schwarzman, co-founder of the investment firm, Blackstone, Inc., raised \$450 million dollars to establish a new international scholarship program intended to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Since then, the Schwarzman Scholars program has funded up to a small number of high-ability college graduates from around the world to participate in a Master's program in global affairs at Tsinghua University in Beijing. In 2022, one of those scholars was none other than J.P. Gairhan, a 2019 U of A honors graduate, who was one of only 151 students out of nearly 3,000 candidates worldwide to be invited to join



J.P. Gairhan

Gairhan told us, "I am honored and humbled to have the opportunity to further my education at Tsinghua University. My admission into the Schwarzman Scholars program is only possible through the mentorship and guidance of many University of Arkansas faculty and staff. Specifically, I want to thank Dr. Noah Pittman, Dr. Todd Cleveland, Dr. Mary Skinner, Jonathan Langley and Dr. Suzanne McCray."

The scholarships are intended to recognize future leaders in a broad range of disciplines, educating and preparing the world's most exceptional people to confront the most difficult challenges of the coming

century, while also developing an understanding of China that will be essential to leading in the future. "I am excited by the eighth cohort's potential," Schwarzman said in a statement. "As the geopolitical landscape grows more complex each day, I am inspired by this year's selected scholars and their readiness to engage thoughtfully with global issues and drive change. We are confident that this inspiring cohort of young leaders will make the most of this unique opportunity."

Gairhan plans to pursue a career with the US Agency for International Development as a foreign service officer and focus on projects related to youth development and education. While on campus, Gairhan served as president of the Associated Student Government and as chair of both the Programs Allocations Board and Distinguished Lectures Committee. He was a Chancellor's Scholar and also received the Henry Woods Student Leadership Award. "Congratulations to J.P. Gairhan and to all who supported him," said Chancellor Charles Robinson. "He is an extraordinary person who is committed to service and to positive change for all. I enjoyed working with him in his role as a student and as a student leader. I have no doubt that he will make a significant difference in the lives of others throughout his career. This is well-deserved recognition, and the program will help launch a distinguished career."

Gairhan has worked domestically and internationally in the years following graduation from the U of A. He was a staff assistant in Washington, DC, for the late Congressman John Lewis, where he managed daily office operations and staffing needs. As an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in Sunflower, Mississippi, Gairhan supported the Sunflower County Freedom Project and oversaw their anti-hunger initiative, the Freedom Cafe. Through the Freedom Cafe, he helped make and distribute more than 5,000 nutritious meals to food-insecure families in the Mississippi Delta. Selected as one of the first Fulbright English teaching assistants to Botswana, Gairhan taught English literature at a rural secondary school and supported community development projects in Tsabong, Botswana. Working closely with the community, he co-founded the Kgalagadi Women's Empowerment Centre, which promotes the social, political and economic interests of women in Kgalagadi District, Botswana. His work abroad also includes time with the US Peace Corps

in Panauti, Nepal, where Gairhan trained as a full-time service English teacher for Nepali government secondary schools. The Schwarzman Scholars were selected through a rigorous and thorough selection process designed to evaluate leadership experience and



## Alumni Updates Cont. |

Promoted to rank of Major, became the Senior Intelligence Officer at McConnell AFB, welcomed daughter Catherine in Aug. Start dissertation in American History in Jan '24. —**Major Adam K. Brown**

I am proud to say that I am a Distinguished Alumnus of the University of Arkansas. My degree is a Bachelor of Art. After graduation I joined the US Marine Corps. I served for more than 34 years and achieved the rank of General. I fought in Vietnam and in the first Gulf War (Desert Storm). God Bless America. Semper fidelis.—**Terry Drake, BA 1966**

It took me awhile to understand how lucky I was in 1970 when I came to the University of Arkansas. The talented and caring history teachers—Gatewood, Sloan, Woods, Donovan, Kennedy, Edwards, Brown turned out to be tolerant, patient, and encouraging folks—who helped prepare me for life as well as a satisfying career in public history. Much of my professional time this past year has been focused on a collection of Arkansas material for Special Collections research. The largest accumulation of documents in the collection, the internal records of a Union County sawmill, is now open for research. —**Bob Beson, MA 1973**

I currently work at Southern Arkansas University as the Assistant Director of Online Learning. I teach online

potential, intellectual and academic ability, strength of character and the capacity to understand emerging trends, design solutions and inspire others to a vision.

While in China, Gairhan will join his fellow Schwarzman Scholars in studying public policy, economics and business, and international studies, and spend a year immersed in an international community of thinkers, innovators and senior leaders in business, politics and society. They will learn from one another in an environment of intellectual engagement, professional development and cultural exchange, and pursue their academic disciplines while building their leadership capacities. The purpose of the Schwarzman Scholars program is to provide an experience that will expand students' understanding of the world and create a growing network of global leaders for the future. ■

United States and World History courses to undergrad students and Instructional Design courses to graduate students. —**John Gore, MA 2008**

Thesis committee: Willard Gatewood (supervisor), James Chase, David Sloan. Retired/disabled hospice chaplain. Other studies: Master of Divinity (1988), MA (Religion), Doctoral studies, Clinical pastoral education (4 units), Talmid Certificate (messianic Jewish Bible Institute 2021) . I've entered my third year on a feeding tube. Even though medical issues occupy much of my time and energy, I manage to do the following: walk most days, read, prayer and meditation, play tabletop sports simulation games (a longtime avocation). My wife and I live in a Dallas (Texas) suburb. She is an artist and calligrapher. We have two adult children and two grandchildren. Our dog "Calli" passed away last year at 17 1/2. —**Chaplain Robert Carl Scott, MA 1978**

Rodney Harris is the History and Political Science Department Chair at Williams Baptist University in Walnut Ridge, Arkansas. Harris also serves as the President and CEO of Five Rivers Historic Preservation Inc./Randolph County Heritage Museum in Pocahontas, Arkansas. Harris is the author of *Images of America Pocahontas and Randolph County* with Arcadia Publishing and has a new book forthcoming with the History Press entitled *Notorious Arkansas Swindler Dr. John Kizer*. In 2023, Harris wrapped up

his service as vice-chair of the Arkansas Review Board for Historic Preservation and was elected to the Randolph County Quorum Court. Harris and his wife, Kristi, live in Pocahontas, AR with their sons, Will and Trae. —**Rodney Harris**, PhD 2017

Recipient of the James J. Hudson Award for Military History. Currently working as an Export Archive Technician at the National Personnel Records Center. He is also an IT consultant with the National Archive's History Hub website. He recently received an accolade from the National Archives for his part in a special project with the Department of the Navy. The DON recently exonerated and upgraded the discharges of 15 African American sailors who served on the USS Philadelphia prior to WWII. Thomas handled their archival records and collaborated with the Navy in their discoveries. The Philadelphia 15 were exonerated after answering an article on racial discrimination in the US and were discharged as a result. Thomas enjoyed correcting this injustice. —**Thomas Richardson**, BA History 2012.

I am a Senior Vice President with Simmons Bank in Little Rock and handle the institutional and corporate relationships. My wife, Leslie (BA 1990), and I have a son, William, that is currently a senior at the U of A. Even though he is a finance major, he will be getting a minor in history. —**John Monroe**, BA 1990

Currently teaching at Tipton Rosemark Academy in Millington, TN, and am also the History Department Chair and adjunct teaches for Dyersburg States Community College. Currently serving on the 2023-2024 Civics Advisory Committee for the State of Tennessee under Secretary of State Tre Hargett.—**Jenny Vego**, MA 2009

I'm starting my 18th year teaching at Bentonville High School. It's been a busy 2023. I was named a College Board National Faculty Member in the spring and lead Pre-AP World History and Geography training for teachers across the US. I am now a published author as I wrote a chapter on mixed media arts-integration in the secondary social studies classroom in an Art-Integration that came out this summer. I was awarded a Norm Shumway Scholarship to travel to various Revolutionary War sites in Pennsylvania, Virginia,

and the Carolinas in July and in December I will present at the NCSS National Conference in Nashville about technology use in history classes. —**Lyndsey Duckworth Randall**, BA History, 2005 *cum laude*

Became an elected officer (Junior Vice) with the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) Chapter #93. Published two short stories with Airship 27; "Legends of L.A." in *Mystery Men and Women* volume 8 and "Blue Sapphires and Platinum Blondes" in *Domino Lady* volume 4. Freelance writer and content provider with Harhen Marketing. Youngest child graduated high school. —**Paul Findley**

I am a professor of History/Government at Texarkana College and been a college educator for 48 years. —**John J. Stuart**, MA 1975

Greetings from Nashville, Arkansas! I am into my eighth year of retirement from teaching civics (38 years) in public school and fourteen years on the adjunct faculty at UA Cossatot (American National Government, US History I and II, Arkansas History, Geography, and Western Civ II). I am currently serving as county election commissioner for Howard County and also secretary of the Howard County Historical Society. Hard to believe that was fifty years ago I was a sophomore on the Hill! —**Connie Evans Castleberry**, BA 1976

I am currently Director of Development for Community School of the Arts in Fort Smith and a recent life member of the Arkansas Alumni Association. —**Phillip Russell**, MA 1981

My name is **Betty Smith**, married to Lee and have two sons, both married, and one grandson, who graduated June 19, 2023 in Seattle, Washington. I graduated from UAPB in 1968 and came to the U of A and received an MA degree in 1971. I worked at Fayetteville High School for 28 years and retired. Now, this year we have traveled to NC, Chicago, Seattle, Las Vegas, and Baton Rouge, LA. We enjoy fishing, traveling, and I make quilts for babies. I wrote an extensive journal for my grandson, telling him about my life story.

Retired in Madison County.—**Don Walker Low**, BA 1971, MA 1978, Eds 1990, EdAd 2000

Retired from teaching after 27 years full time, 21 adjunct faculty, high school/local colleges, now U of A Rich Mt. —**Harold Coogan**, MA 1966

Retired after 20+ years and 1,003 columns on Arkansas history from *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*. I am compiling some of my favorite columns, editing, and revising them for a book. Gardening a great deal. Democratic County Chairman for Hot Springs County and V.P. of Friends of the Malvern Public Library. —**Tom Dillard**

I am still teaching from history courses, but most of my time is serving as the Assistant Vice President of Student Services at Weatherford College. —**Dr. Scott A. Tarnowiecky**, PhD 2009

Currently Executive Director Neenah, WI Historical Society and NHPRC Commissioner 2020-present. —**Clifton J. Taylor**, MA 1968

I continue to live in St. Petersburg, FL. I currently am president of the condo association and continue to be a trustee of the St. Petersburg Museum of History. I work part time both online and on the ground for Schiller International University. I walk 4.4 miles beside the bay every morning (over 1,055 logged miles this year). Life is good. —**Lyman A. Hussey**, MA 1964

Owner of "The Lillian Co." Home Improvement and Landscaping. Received HAM Radio license, call sign is "KJ5CEY". I enjoy fishing with my daughter and coaching her softball team. —**Joel Scott**, 2009

As of June 1, 2023 I am beginning my 48th year of pediatric practice in Northwest Arkansas. —**Dr. Barry Allen**, BA 1965

Over the last year, I finished my second year of law school at the University of Arkansas School of Law. I worked at Harrington, Miller, Kicklak, Eichmann, and Brown during the fall semester and Wales Law Firm during the spring semester as a law clerk. Over the summer, I worked as a law clerk at Cross Gunter and studied abroad in Cambridge, England. —**Nicholas Langham**, BA 2021

I retired as Director of the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute at the University of Texas Permian Basin but still serve on the advisory council. This past year I served as foundation chair for my Rotary club, trustee for the White Poole House (historical, older home in Odessa), docent for Presidential Museum, chairman-admin Council, Asbury UMC, and deliver Meals on Wheels. My wife Bonnie and I were honored with a plaque on the Odessa Wall of Honor located in Memorial Garden, Odessa, TX. —**Charles Cotton**, BA 1967

I retired in 2020. I thank the Lord for all of His blessings, particularly my new grandson. —**Dean Wilkerson Jr.**

Watching four daughters grow. Two may get married this coming summer. Madeline (b. 1990) is fond of a former semi-pro soccer midfielder from Milan; Mary Laurel (b. 1992) is fond of a very outdoorsy Texan fellow. Soccer, Texas. Poor Me. Kathleen (b. 2004) is starting her sophomore year at the College at Charleston. Flannery (b. 1975), the eldest, will celebrate her 10th anniversary with a wonderful guy; if you visit them, you are struck by how much he cracks her up with dry, unexpected shafts of wit. Me My humor is wet. Three Stooges Stuff. Borscht Belt Tumbler. —**Matt Horan**, 1972

I practiced law as a criminal defense lawyer for 26 years. 1st as a public defender and then in private practice. I am now retired living in Fayetteville. —**Tim Buckley**, BA 1987

**Tracy M. Rogers** (BA 2000; Med 2022) recently earned her master's degree in educational technology from the UA. She currently works as a UX content strategist at Deloitte and is pursuing an IAP CPACC web accessibility certification.

Living in Farmington, teaching at UAFS, Ancient Med/Roman History, US I & II, and Global Civ I & II. If anyone is still around send me an email at marvin.franklin@uafs.edu. —**Marvin R. Franklin**, MA 1974, PhD 1977

Presently the Sr. Director of Logistics Pricing and Solutions with Hub Group. Our oldest son will be off to

the University of Arkansas as a History/Pre-Law major in 2024. —**William Claesen**, BA 1996

I have been enjoying playing with and visiting 13 grandchildren and 1 great granddaughter and my 5 kids; playing pickleball and tennis; traveling with my husband (also a U of A 1970 graduate). Had a great trip to Iceland in July 2023. I have 2 grandkids at the U of A now. 1 granddaughter is a sophomore, and 1 grandson started this semester. —**Melinda Kincannon Hood**, BA 1970

Continuing as Vice-Chairman of the Arkansas Racing Commission, 28th year as play-by-play voice of the Batesville Pioneers, collecting 1st edition books, CEO of Atlas Asphalt, Inc. & Jamestown Investment. Favorite instructors: Dr. James Chase, Dr. Willard Gatewood, Dr. Timothy Donovan, Dr. Tom Kennedy, Dr. James J. Hudson, George Ray, and Dr. Bukey (but only for a summer class). —**Mark Lamberth**, BA 1971, MA 1973

Retired now; moved from Harrison to Hot Springs. Retirement seems to consist mainly of maintenance and repair of my body with a little golf and fishing thrown in. —**Robert Markle**, BA 1978

I celebrated my second year with the Department of History as an Administrative Specialist III but still am missing my seasonal work with Pea Ridge National Military Park (PERI) (2018-2021). 2023 was a year of growth for me as a historian and a human: in April my Junior Ranger Program for PERI was launched for Junior Ranger Day and became the staple program for children ages 4+ when visiting the park; in May I celebrated 6 years of marriage with my bestie, Collin; in June, PERI's Chief Interpreter, my mentor, friend, and fellow UArk History alumnus (BA 2003), Troy Banzhaf, passed away unexpectedly and left a legacy of dedication and education that cannot be replaced or replicated; in August I started the master's program with our very own department, something highly encouraged by Troy and hope to keep his spirit alive in my research and work; I'll turn 30 in November and I am looking forward to the next decade of my life and see where my research takes me! —**Stephanie Caley**, BA 2021

Earlier this year I was appointed by Governor Laura Kelly and confirmed by the Kansas Senate as the

Executive Director for the Kansas Historical Society. Despite the name, we are a state agency which includes the state museum of history, the state archives, the state historic preservation office, the state archeology office, and the 16 state historic sites—pretty much the one-stop shopping for all things history-related in Kansas. The entire process, which took about 6 months and included three interviews, was not for the impatient or the faint-of-heart! But I am excited about the challenges and opportunities ahead (currently we are in the midst of a \$6M museum gallery reinterpretation; the first since the museum moved to this facility in 1984). In any event, it's been quite a ride for this native Arkansas with (only) a BA in History from the University of Arkansas in 1989! I wish my old advisor Dr. Kennedy was still with us as I'm sure he would be both astounded and pleased to learn of this. Please give my regards to the small handful of professors that are still around that may remember me. Here is more information on our agency: <https://www.kshs.org/> And what our public information officer managed to conjure for a bio of me: <https://www.kshs.org/p/patrick-zollner/10001> —**Patrick Zollner**

Since you last heard from me nothing much has happened. The Covid panic shut down our travels. We left Lima and beat the lockdown and closing of all airports and ports by several hours. We sat home for the duration. We have resumed travels, just returning from a tour of Morocco. We were there during the earthquake and saw some of the damage. Moroccans would benefit from your contribution to their recovery. Please consider helping out. We will be cruising from Singapore to Sidney in December. High points include seeing Komodo Dragons. I plan on contributing to our History department from my estate and encourage others to consider making a bequest to the History Department. —**Tom Bercher**

Things are going swimmingly at the University of Arkansas, Far West Campus in San Angelo, Texas. We, as you may know, have three Arkansas PhD alums on staff here in the Dr. Arnaldo De León Department of History at Angelo State University, and I like to think we've done a good job of showcasing the kind of historians Arkansas produces. I completed my second book this year: *Daily Life in the Nineteenth-Century American West* (with ABC Clio). Dr. **Michael**

**Powers** (Arkansas alum) and I cowrote on article on our experiences in helping rename our local middle school from Robert E. Lee Middle Schools to Lonestar Middle School. It will appear in the November issue of the Public Historian title: "We and Bobby Lee: Public Historians and the Fight to Remove Confederate Memorials." **Rebekah McMillan**, our final Arkansas alum, is continuing work on her manuscript and completed a summer research trip to the UK last year. Both Rebekah and Michael will come up for tenure in a few years, and we're glad to have them! All in all, a very productive year here. —**Jason Pierce**

I am still Distinguished Teaching Professor of History at Northern Illinois University, where I've been since 1997. In 2022, the second edition of my book *A History of Popular Culture in Japan, From the Seventeenth Century to the Present* was published by Bloomsbury Academic. I am working on another book about the 1974 album **Kogun** by the Toshiko Akiyoshi-Lew Tabackin Big Band, which will likely appear in 2024 as part of Bloomsbury's 33 1/3 Japan series. —**Taylor Atkins**

A hearty hello to all. In retirement, I am holding forth in Topeka, KS, where my wife Louella continues to teach Accounting at Washborn University. Now in my 60s, quite often I find my mind leafing back through the pages of the past in what one might call a life review. It is amazing how a life course unfolds through the passing years, with so many twists and turns and unforeseen detours. Take my life for example: BA in history, aborted attempt at law school, taught high school a few years, returned to graduate school to earn a masters and PhD, practiced Clinical Psychology for many years, survived Lymphoma, and now find myself playing jazz guitar doing private parties and studio work. In spite of all my attempts to orchestrate the course, it now seems that my life took me where I needed to go, as I am sure your lives have as well. I am delighted to see a new generation of bright, inquisitive history students inhabiting the hallowed halls of our rich and storied department at the U of A. As you accumulate the pieces that one day will go into your own life review, may your journey be fulfilling and rewarding in every way. My best to you all. —**Dr. J. "Paul" Moore**, BA 1981, MEd 1986

After eight years teaching high school history at Westminster in Atlanta, I've just started a new job teaching world history at The Paideia School, also in Atlanta. The highlight of the new role is getting to teach an honors-level seminar on "Medieval Africa and the World." I've recently accepted a place on the American Historical Association's Program Committee for the 2025 conference and have an article forthcoming in an edited volume on teaching the Global Middle Ages (Rowman & Littlefield, 2024). I'm still singing in the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, entering my 8th year in that group. —**John Terry**, BA History 2008 *summa cum laude*

I am still in St. Louis, with a son who has now graduated from Mizzou, and a daughter who is in the nursing program at Missouri State in Springfield. Still lawyering but it does not appear I will be appointed to the Supreme Court. I make it to Fayetteville and NWA a few times a year, and BOY HAVE THINGS CHANGED. Hope everyone is doing well. —**Richard L. Gray**, BA 1989

"In the Spring of 2023 I had the good fortune to be named the 10th President of Utica University following a national search. I assumed my new responsibilities effective this past August 1st. To serve the university in this capacity is a humbling experience and has offered me much time to reflect on my days as an undergraduate major in history and economics at the University of Arkansas. From Professors West, Edwards, Donovan, Payne, and others in the History Department, to Professors Ziegler and White in the Economics Department, and many, many more, their mentorship is not forgotten. I remain thankful for my education at the University of Arkansas every day." —**Todd Pfannestiel**, 1988

Beginning with the 2023-2024 academic year, I am now an Assistant Professor of Humanities at Tulsa Community College. —**Mary Kathryn Moeller**, BA History 2000, MAT 2001, MA Art History [OSU 2014]

Greetings, fellow Historians. The rekindling of my interest into my [very] Irish roots has drawn me towards the study of the Irish Gaelic language. This accomplishment should open doors to new avenues into a more complete understanding of my proud heritage. My ultimate goal is to persecute my grandkid's school

counselors, saying English is but a second language, as we speak Gaelic, in the home [just to shake things up]. Keep your history close, and “Go raibh tú chomh Gaelach agus a cheadaíonn an Tiarna Maith.”

Best wishes. —**Frank O’Brien** BA, 2017 (Retired bricklayer, active [sleeping cell] Historian)

In 2009 I retired from a 40 year association with the Arkansas State Archives in Little Rock. In 2023 I became editor of the Arkansas Family Historian published quarterly by the Arkansas Genealogical Society. Recently I published a new book entitled, *Fading Memories; A History And Genealogy Of The Baker, Foote, McMillian, Hubbert/Hubbard, Lefleur, Holbrook, Jones, And Other Families*. It is more than just a genealogy of my family, it is an anthology of historical articles, essays, reminiscences, and transcripts of original records relating to a number of early American families, who were pioneer settlers of New England, Virginia, Tennessee, Mississippi, South Carolina, Alabama, and Arkansas. It is available from the publisher, Bookbaby. —Russell P. Baker, Mabelvale, Arkansas, BA(History, 1968), MA (Public History, UALR, 1983)

## In Memoriam

**Bobby L. Lovett** (MA 1969, PhD 1978) died December 23rd, 2022 at the age of 79. After earning a degree in History and Political Science at Arkansas AM&N State College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff), Lovett pursued graduate studies at the University of Arkansas under Willard Gatewood and C. Calvin Smith. He was one of the first African Americans to earn a PhD in the Department of History and had a very successful career as a scholar, educator, and institutional leader. He was a professor of US and African American history at Tennessee State History from 1973 until his retirement in 2010. During that time, he also served as Dean of Arts and Sciences. He authored eight books, including *A Touch of Greatness: A History of Tennessee State University* and *The African American History of Nashville, 1780-1930*. His most recent book was *The Civil Rights Movement in Tennessee: A Narrative History*, which won the Tennessee History Book Award from the Tennessee Library Association and the Tennessee Historical Commission in 2005. Beyond his work as a scholar, Dr. Lovett was very active in the

Nashville community, serving on the Board of Directors for Citizens Bank, R.H. Boyd Publishing Company, the Tennessee Historical Society, the Nashville Historical Society, the Editorial Board of the Tennessee Historical Quarterly, and the Advisory Board for the Tennessee



**Bobby L. Lovett**

Civil War Heritage Area. He also co-founded the Planning Committee for the Nashville Conference on African American History and Culture. Local NPR affiliate WPLN remembered Dr. Lovett as part of a story on “Seven Remarkable Tennesseans Who Died in 2022.” They wrote glowingly of Dr. Lovett’s work, saying that it “reshaped how many people thought of Nashville, deepening the story beyond the perception of it being all about country music.”

**John Charles Arnold** (PhD 1997), died August 4th, 2023, at the age of 69. Known to family and old friends as “Johnny,” he made a professional trek from Arkansas to New York state with a year-long stint at Cambridge University in England. Johnny was son to James Monroe Arnold and Mary Ledbetter Arnold and brother to Linda Arnold Valadez—all of whom preceded him in death. He spent his formative years in Camden, attending Fairview High School and graduating with honors in 1972. At Fairview High, Johnny served as Student Body Vice President and All-State saxophone player. His love of music and the “sax” led him to travel to the Ozarks and the University of Arkansas, where he earned a BSE in music (1977) as well as a master’s in music history (1980). As a musicologist, Johnny developed a strong interest in the sacred and secular melodies of the Middle Ages,

fueling his eventual PhD in medieval history (1997) also at the University of Arkansas, where he studied with professor of medieval history, Lynda Coon. John’s research area centered on the cult of the Archangel Michael, from late antiquity through the period known as the early Middle Ages (ca. 300-800). For this groundbreaking work, he conducted research in the collections of Cambridge University, doing so in four languages beyond English. At Cambridge, Dr. Arnold trained with luminary of the early medieval era, Rosamond McKitterick, mastering the complex techniques of manuscript study (paleography) as well as the history of the book (codicology). Upon graduating with a PhD, John published an article on the archangel in the top medieval journal in the field, a study cited frequently by scholars of medieval religion. He subsequently authored a brilliant book on the subject issued by Palgrave MacMillan in their New Middle Ages series: *The Footprints of Michael the Archangel: The Formation and Diffusion of a Sainly Cult*, c. 300-800 (2013). Along with fellow



**John Charles Arnold with Dr. Lynda Coon**

“angelologists,” Arnold formed an international society devoted to the subject and named after angels’ wings: Pinnatus. As a professor, Dr. Arnold assumed a tenured position at SUNY Fredonia in Fredonia, New York, where he dazzled students with his charismatic teaching style, his wit, and his rigorous approach to the study of the past combined with a humane treatment of the students under his charge. Taking his research project out on the road, Dr. Arnold shepherded SUNY Fredonia undergraduates on study abroad trips to France, culminating in a site visit to Mont-Saint-Michel, a numinous space sitting atop a tidal island off the coast of Normandy, where Christian votaries of the archangel made pilgrimage throughout the

Middle Ages and beyond. Dr. Arnold retired from the Department of History at SUNY Fredonia in 2021. Colleagues and close friends recall his Arkansas storytelling abilities, his lyrical voice, and his joyous laughter. Wickedly smart and exceedingly erudite, Johnny maintained throughout his life a humility of person and a generosity of spirit towards those around him. A devout Buddhist, Johnny was heavily involved in the Soka Gakkai International enterprise. As a queer Arkansan, he supported groups in the state working to improve the lives of LGBTQIA citizens.

—*This remembrance was provided to the Department by Dean Lynda Coon*

**Mary Lynn Kennedy**, longtime benefactor of the department and wife of our late colleague, Professor Tom Kennedy, died August 19th, 2023, at the age of 82. As reported in the *Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette* on August 24th, 2023, “Mary grew up in Dayton, Ohio, and graduated from the University of Dayton, where she met her husband of 54 years, Thomas Cummins Kennedy. She went on to work professionally as a writer and editor, retiring from the Arkansas Archeological Survey after more than three decades. Mary Lynn avidly supported women’s, civil, and human rights. She volunteered with the League of Women Voters when the first voting machines were introduced in Washington County, at the Yvonne Richardson Center, tutoring children in reading, and later at Meals on Wheels. She believed in standing up for the vulnerable, giving hospitality to all, and making the world a little easier place for everyone.” ■

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