



Notes from the chair

As I come to the end of my term as history department Chair, I am happy to be able to resuscitate our annual department newsletter. I particularly want to thank Ted Lytle, staff member extraordinaire, who took on the newsletter project and brought it to fruition, and, while I am at it, our other two remarkable staff members, Kellie Matthews and Abi Peters, who also took on additional duties to keep our department afloat during a particularly challenging time.

We will remember 2020 as a remarkable and painful year. We continue to deal with a global pandemic that has reconfigured our lives and killed more than 400,000 Americans and more than two million people worldwide. We have seen a resurgence of racial violence and protest that has forced us, yet again, to reckon with the legacies of racism that sit at the heart of our history and the problematic ways in which we continue to memorialize our collective past. And we have recently lived through a presidential election and transition of power that has revealed deep partisan divides and raised profound questions about the health of our democracy. It has been a year like few others, a year that has reminded us of

the importance of what we do as historians.

As the screenshot above, taken during one of our fall 2020 faculty meetings, shows, our working lives were transformed in 2020. Our classes went entirely remote in mid-March, and the Class of 2020 was, sadly, denied a proper departmental graduation. We still hope to get the Class of 2020 back to Boulder and honor them properly at some point in the future, though now it looks likely that we will have to do the same for the Class of 2021. We were proud to have one of our distinguished departmental alumni as the 2020 CU Boulder campus commencement speaker: Dan Carlin (Hist'89), whose award-winning podcast, *Hardcore History*, is immensely popular. Dan also joined History faculty Lil Fenn, Susan Kent, and Tom Zeiler for a Conference on World Affairs virtual session on Historical Pandemics. After a summer of intense planning, our fall semester was a mix of in-person, remote, and online classes, and spring of 2021 will be the same. While the pandemic has been a technological education for us all, and our faculty have worked overtime to make teaching and learning in these new modalities as robust as possible,



we have also come to recognize the innumerable ways in which in-person teaching and learning is superior. We cannot wait to be back in the classroom.

Tragedy touched our department this year with the death of our friend and colleague David Shneer, the Louis P. Singer Endowed Chair in Jewish History. David was a remarkable scholar, teacher, and human being, and we will miss him tremendously. We also saw the retirement of two long-serving and beloved members of our departmental community, Professor Mark Pittenger and Graduate Studies Coordinator Scott Miller. Tributes to David, Mark, and Scott appear elsewhere in this newsletter. We were also happy to wel-

(Continued on Page 2)

(Continued from Page 1 —Notes from the chair)

come Erin Hutchinson to our faculty — see the brief feature on her as well — and we are in the midst of a search for an assistant professor in African American history.

As this newsletter highlights, our faculty continue to be highly productive. We have continued to grow our departmental outreach efforts. Marcia Yonemoto and PhD student Amelia Brackett Hogstad have a terrific piece in the newsletter on our San Luis Valley Project, which they have both been instrumental in reviving. In related news, we look forward to welcoming the regional competition of National History Day to our campus—that was supposed to happen in March 2020, but the pandemic prevented it. Our colleague Henry Lovejoy is helping us to build connections with the Black American West Museum (BAWM) in Denver, which will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2021, and we were privileged to have historian and BAWM board member Terri Gentry speak to the department last Fall. Our colleague William Wei completed his term as the Colorado state historian, and both Wil-

liam and Patty Limerick are serving on Colorado's Geographic Naming Advisory Board, as is one of the department's former PhD students, Nicki Gonzales, now an associate professor and vice provost for diversity and inclusion at Regis University in Denver. And my colleague Phoebe Young and I are working with the city of Boulder Parks & Recreation Department headed by CU history alum Ali Rhodes to complete a detailed historical assessment of their naming practices, a project that has involved our undergraduate and graduate students. Susan Kent and Peter Wood also received a grant from the Center for Humanities & the Arts to fund a Big Picture Climate Series, public programming on climate change and the humanities that was supposed to happen in nearby Longmont before the COVID-19 pandemic forced its cancellation.

At a time when a college degree is becoming a more expensive proposition, I am also happy to announce that we have launched a series of new undergraduate scholarships in history in 2020. The Robert G. Rogers Scholarship was repurposed to serve undergraduates; we offered our first Fred

Anderson Endowed History Scholarship after surpassing our endowment goals, with thanks to several generous alumni; we launched the Colton G. Erickson Memorial Scholarship, which we are working to endow (see the Giving section for more details); and next year we hope to offer the first Ehlers Scholarships in European history, thanks to a generous bequest from the estate of Carol J. Ehlers.

Finally, now that the history department newsletter is up and running again, we urge you all to please send us updates on what you are up to, which we can share on our website and in next year's edition.

We wish you a happy, healthy 2021 and a return to something closer to what Warren Harding famously called "normalcy."

—Paul S. Sutter, Chair

Send alumni updates to:
history@colorado.edu



Remembering David Shneer 1972—2020

This year, the history department lost our beloved colleague and friend, **David Shneer**, who died on November 4 after living with cancer for many years. David, who joined the CU faculty in 2008 and held the Louis P. Singer Endowed Chair in Jewish History, was also affiliated with CU's Program in Jewish Studies, for which he served as director from 2008 to 2015, and the Department of Religious Studies, for

which he served as chair from 2016 to 2019. David was the absolute model of an engaged scholar, a skillful and dedicated graduate mentor, an innovative undergraduate teacher with a devoted student following, and a campus leader and program builder of inestimable energy. His influence and impact stretched well beyond our department and our campus. David was a global leader in the fields of modern European and Jewish history as well as Jewish studies, and he was the author of numerous books, including *Yiddish and the Creation of Soviet Jewish Culture*, which was named a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award; *Through Soviet Jewish Eyes: Photography, War, and the Holocaust*, which won the 2013 Jordan Schnitzer Prize from the Association for Jewish Studies; and *Grief: The Biography of a Holocaust Photograph*, which appeared in 2020 from

Oxford University Press. At the time of his death, David was working on a book titled *Art Is My Weapon: Anti-Fascist Music, Yiddish Performance, and Holocaust Memory (1933-1989)*. David was also responsible for the establishment of the CU Boulder Post-Holocaust American Judaism Archive and the creation of North America's first endowed chair in Israel/Palestine studies, now held by our colleague Hilary Falb Kalisman. David was a beautiful human being, and we will miss him tremendously. David is survived by, among others, his husband, Gregg Drinkwater, a recent PhD in our department, and their daughter, Sasha.

To learn more about David's life, you can visit his website, davidshneer.com. To learn more about ways to honor his memory, you can contact us at history@colorado.edu.



Tiffany Beebe (modern British history PhD candidate) talks to students and teachers as Professor Paul Sutter presides over the class.

In spring 2019, the Department of History renewed a longstanding outreach and mentoring relationship with middle and high school students in the San Luis Valley in southern Colorado. The project centers on the annual National History Day competition, in which secondary school students all over the country spend months developing historical research projects for presentation, feedback, and judging at district, regional, state, and national levels.

In March 2019 and again in March 2020, Department of History graduate and undergraduate students and faculty traveled to Alamosa to spend a day working with students whose History Day projects had been selected to represent their region at the state competition in May. Members of the CU team met individually with local students and provided feedback and advice on revising aspects of their projects in advance of the state (and perhaps national) competitions.

In May 2019, on the day preceding the state History Day competition, the department hosted a group of about 30 students and teachers from Monte Vista Middle and High Schools and Sargent High School on a visit to the Boulder campus, which included presentations by admissions staff, a meeting with history faculty and students, campus tours led by student volunteers, and a pizza dinner at the student union. A similar trip was planned for May 2020 with a larger group of students, but unfortunately was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The response from participants about the project has been quite positive. Sargent High School history teacher John Willis reported that the experience

History Renews Connection with San Luis Valley Schools

By Marcia Yonemoto and Amelia Brackett Hogstad

“really allowed us—as a small, rural, public school—to present resources and opportunities to our students that were previously difficult to provide. Our National History Day participants have gained critical mentorship experiences, and the campus visit two years ago was a great opportunity for them to see a BIG institution of higher education up close.” One CU student mentor remarked that “it is incredibly fulfilling both professionally and personally to work with younger students who are so excited about their research and eager to share. I always learn something new from each of them, and it in turn makes me more excited to keep teaching and researching.” Another observed that “this kind of interaction with younger students is also good for gaining a sense of how potential future students have learned/engaged history before they enter the college classroom. Knowing students’ prior knowledge is always useful when designing courses and developing lessons at the undergraduate level.”

The history department-San Luis Valley outreach project has a long history: It began in the early 1990s at the initiative of former faculty member Maria E. Montoya (now associate professor of history and dean of arts and science at New York University’s Shanghai campus) and was developed and continued into the early 2000s by James Jankowski (now professor emeritus) and current faculty members Marcia Yonemoto and Lucy Chester. The project focused on the San Luis Valley principally because it was and remains a region of the state from which CU has not successfully recruited undergraduate students. The region, which is culturally and historically rich and diverse, and encompasses many school districts of varying sizes, also relies on only a few teacher-dependent National History Day programs. During the early phase of the outreach efforts, CU faculty and graduate students worked with San Luis Valley students on their History Day projects and hosted an annual visit to the Boulder campus—in some years as many as 75 students made the trip. The project flourished, with much faculty and student support at CU and in the San Luis Valley schools during the

years that CU Boulder hosted the Colorado History Day competition, but the project ended when state History Day moved to CU Denver in 2008. (As a sidenote, the CU Boulder History Day coordinator for several years in the early 2000s was then-graduate student Wendy Rex-Atzet (PhD 2009); Wendy now directs National History Day for the state of Utah).

The renewal in 2019 of the San Luis Valley outreach project is a welcome reinvigoration of a longstanding relationship. It has benefited greatly from the support of Colorado History Day Director Celeste Archer and staff member Kayla Gabehart. At Adams State University in Alamosa, professor of history Ed Crowther, a longtime supporter of History Day, and Director of the Library (and CU Boulder history alumnus) Jeffrey Bullington facilitated local arrangements. History teachers John Camponeschi of Monte Vista Middle School, Taylor Johnson of Monte Vista High School, and John Willis of Sargent High School enthusiastically encouraged their students to participate and accompanied them to Boulder and Denver for 2019 History Day. The history department looks forward to increased participation from more schools in the future, as the San Luis Valley outreach project forms a key part of the Department’s initiatives to increase inclusivity and diversity in all departmental endeavors and ongoing efforts at pedagogical innovation and reform.



Leadership team members: (L-R) Maria Abraas (B.A., '19), John Camponeschi (Monte Vista H.S. Teacher), Joanna Toohey (B.A., '19), Prof. Marcia Yonemoto, Connor O'Hara (B.A., '20)

2020 FACULTY NEWS

‘Lessons From Past Pandemics’ capped a historic year of the academic experience

On Dec. 2, 2020, Professors Susan Kent and Elizabeth Fenn offered a special undergraduate event called “Lessons From Past Pandemics.”



Fenn discussed the deep history of epidemics from the dawn of agriculture through the 1800s, including such diseases as malaria, plague, smallpox, yellow fever and cholera. Fenn argued that pandemics reveal the fault lines in afflicted societies and that the events of today have many historical precedents.

Kent provided an in-depth analysis of the influenza pandemic of 1918–1919. She emphasized the pandemic's global scale, its horrific death toll (50 to 100 million in the space of six months), its intersection with World War I, and its profound consequences. Not least was U.S. President Woodrow Wilson's incapacitation at the spring 1919 Paris Peace Conference. The mental and physical effects of influenza may be apparent in the many concessions he made in negotiations.

Eighty-two enthusiastic students attended the event. Some even left pondering new paper topics for their classes.

Lucy Chester presented a paper on “Networks of Partition in Britain's Withdrawal from India and Palestine, 1947-1948” at the American Historical Association's annual meeting in New York in January 2020. She is revising her book manuscript on anti-colonial exchanges between British India and the Palestine Mandate in the 1920s–1940s. Chester is also planning her next project, on the geographical imagination of Pakistan. She had the privilege of advising Adrian North's senior thesis, “The Invisible Eyes of the Raj: Indigenous Actors in Intelligence Gathering and Empire Building Along British India's Northwest Frontiers (1860-1895),” which (due en-

‘Lessons From Past Pandemics’ presenters Fenn and Kent noted after the forum that their own ancestors may have shared a common experience of malaria in southeast England's Fen(n) country in the seventeenth century. The poet George Wither described the disease's impact there in verse:

*“In Kent, and all along the Essex side
A troupe of cruel fevers did reside:
And around about on every other Coast
Of severall Country agues lay an Hoast.
And most of them, who had this place forsooke
Were either slaine by them, or prisoners tooke.”*



*Image of smallpox drawn by High Dog, a Native Dakota winter-count keeper, to remember the smallpox epidemic of 1837
Courtesy the State Historical Society of North Dakota*

tirely to Adrian's hard work and keen insights) won the 2020 History Honors Thesis Prize.

Vilja Hulden has been awarded an [NEH-Mellon Fellowship for Digital Publication](#).

Project title: “A Computational Analysis of Group Representation at U.S. Congressional Hearings since 1877.”

Project description: Research and preparation of a digital publication based on the computational analysis of congressional hearing records to explore the history of group representation and lobbying between the mid-

19th and later 20th centuries.

Like the regular NEH fellowships, this is a \$60,000 award, and Hulden is the only winner of any sort of NEH fellowship in the state of Colorado this year.

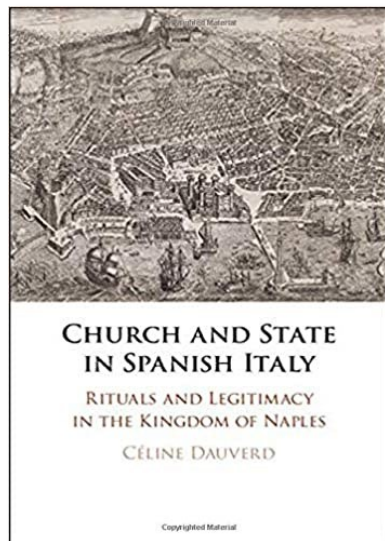
Hilary Falb Kalisman organized a fall 2020 webinar series titled “Plague and Quarantine: Past and Present” focusing on Israel and Palestine.

She recently had a chapter, “Local and Colonial Educators in the Mandates for Iraq and Palestine: Contested Expertise within National and International Frameworks,” published in *Experts et expertise dans les mandats de la Société des Nations : figures, champs et outils*. In the spring she will be on research leave completing the second semester of a National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship.

Peter H. Wood, at the request of the director of graduate studies in the Department of Molecular, Cellular & Developmental Biology, gave two Zoom talks to incoming science graduate students on “The Origins of U.S. Slavery and Racism.” In October, he took part in a public conversation on racism, sponsored by the Longmont Museum, along with Alphonse Keasley Jr., CU's recently retired associate vice chancellor in the Office of Diversity, Equity and Community Engagement. Wood also delivered Zoom talks on “The Early French Exploration of the West” to the University of Minnesota and the Rocky Mountain Map Society. In November, he presented, via Zoom, the Doris Z. Stone Lecture in New World Archaeology. This talk to the St. Louis chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America was titled “Missing the Boat: Ancient Dugout Canoes in the Mississippi-Missouri Watershed.”

Dauverd awarded Kayden Book Prize

Celine Dauverd, associate professor of early modern Mediterranean history, has been selected as a 2020 Kayden Book Award winner by the College of Arts and Sciences for her latest book, [*Church and State in Spanish Italy: Rituals and Legitimacy in the Kingdom of Naples*](#).



"In this study Céline Dauverd analyses the link between early modern imperialism and religion via the principle of 'good government'. She charts how the Spanish viceroys of southern Italy aimed to secure a new political order through their participation in religious processions, alliance-building with minority groups, and involvement in local charities. The viceroys' good government included diplomacy, compromise, and pragmatism, as well as a high degree of Christian ethics and morality, made manifest in their rapport with rituals. Spanish viceroys were not so much idealistic social reformers as they were legal pragmatists, committed to a political vision that ensured the longevity of the Spanish empire. The viceroys resolved the tension between Christian ideals and Spanish imperialism by building religious ties with the local community. Bringing a new approach to Euro-Mediterranean history, Dauverd shows how the viceroys secured a new political order, and re-evaluates Spain's contributions to the early modern European world." — **Cambridge University Press, 2020**

Honor Sachs published "Judith and Hannah: Eighteenth-Century Florida, South Carolina, and Virginia," in Erica Ball, Tatiana Seijas and Terri Snyder, eds., *As If She Were Free: A Collective Biography of Women and Emancipation in the Americas* (Cambridge University Press, 2020), 131-150

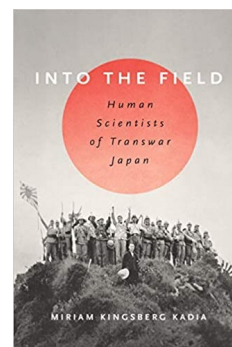
Timothy B. Weston organized and hosted a conference titled "China's Engagement with the Modern World." The conference, originally planned to take place in Boulder, involved more than 50 participants from the United States, China and several countries in Europe. Weston organized the conference in his role as president of the Historical Society for Twentieth-Century China. Weston took part in a roundtable at the conference titled "Out of Synch: Temporal Disruptions in Thinking 'Modern China'" and published "[May Fourth in Three Keys: Revolutionary, Pluralistic and Scientific.](#)" in *Journal of Modern Chinese History*, Vol 13, 2019, Issue 2, (Taylor & Francis Publishing, online, January 15, 2020), 319-324

Marcia Yonemoto published "Murderous Daughters as 'Exemplary Women': Filial Piety, Revenge, and Heroism in Early Modern and Modern Japan," in Boyd Cothran, Joan Judge and Adrian Shubert, eds., *Women Warriors and National Heroes: Global Histories* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2020), 75-91

Marcia Yonemoto, translator, "Early Edo-Period Guidebooks and Travel Literature: Introduction to and Selections from Nakagawa Kiun, *Kyō warabe* (Denizens of Kyoto, 1658), Asai Ryōi, *Tōkaidō meshoki* (Famous Places Along the Tōkaidō, 1661), and Kikukō Senryō, *Edo sunago onko meisekishi* (Gilded Edo: Traces of Famous Places New and Old, 1732), in Sumie Jones and Adam L. Kern, with Watanabe Kenji, eds., *A Kamigata Anthology: Literature from Japan's Metropolitan Centers, 1600-1750* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2020)

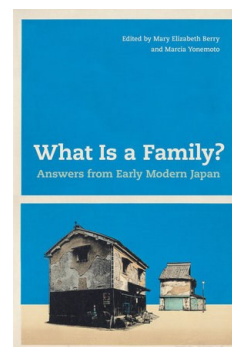
Hanna Rose Schell (affiliated faculty—art and art history) published *Shoddy: From Devil's Dust to the Renaissance of Rags* (U. of Chicago Press—2020)

NEW FACULTY BOOKS



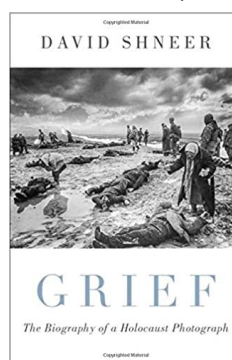
Into the Field: Human Scientists of Transwar Japan

(Stanford U. Press—2019) Miriam Kingsberg Kadia



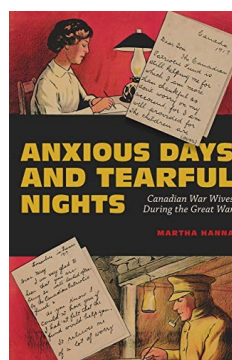
What Is a Family? Answers from Early Modern Japan

(Berkeley: University of California Press, 2019) Mary Elizabeth Berry and Marcia Yonemoto, eds.



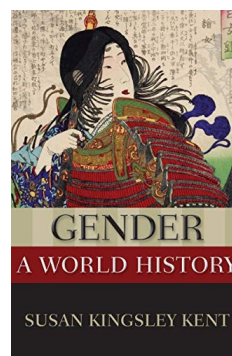
Grief: The Biography of a Holocaust Photograph

(Oxford U. Press—2020) David Shneer



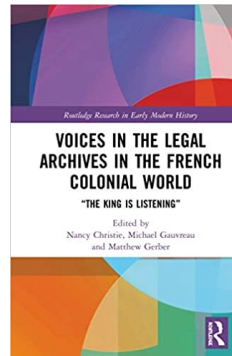
Anxious Days and Tearful Nights: Canadian War Wives During the Great War

(McGill-Queen's U. Press—2020) Martha Hanna



Gender: A World History

(Oxford U. Press—2020) Susan Kingsley Kent



Voices in the Legal Archives in the French Colonial World: "The King is Listening"

(New York: Routledge—2021) Nancy Christie, Michael Gauvreau, Matthew Gerber, eds. (2020)

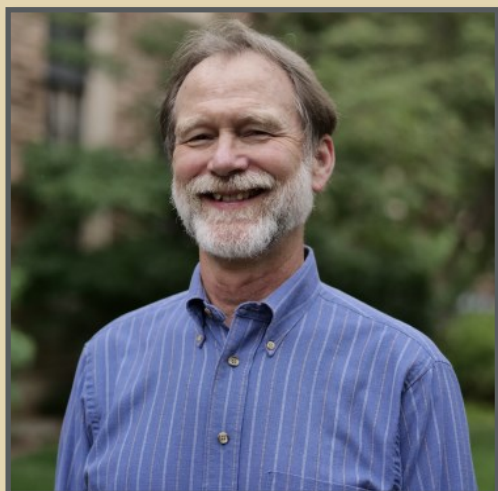
NEW HIRE Erin Hutchinson joins faculty



The history department welcomed **Erin Hutchinson** as a new member of the tenure track faculty in fall 2020. Erin is an expert on the history of the Soviet Union and she will be teaching courses on the history of Russia, the Soviet Union, and modern Europe. Erin received her PhD from Harvard University in 2020, and she is spending the 2020–2021 academic year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard. Her current book project, *The Cultural Politics of the Nation after Stalin, 1953–1991*, explores how intellectuals, especially those of rural origins, sought to transform cultural understandings of the

nation in the Soviet Union after the death of Stalin. Her first article, “*Ivan Denisovich on Trial: Soviet Writers, Russian Identity, and Solzhenitsyn’s Failed Bid for the 1964 Lenin Prize*,” will appear in the winter 2021 issue of the journal *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*. A native of Arizona and graduate of Arizona State University, Erin is eager to return to the West and teach at a public university. Erin will be moving to Boulder this summer with her husband, Mason Marshall, an atomic physicist, and their one-year-old son, Alex. We are thrilled to have Erin and her family join our departmental community.

RETIRING Mark Pittenger & Scott Miller



In 2020, the history department saw two long-serving members of the departmental community retire:

Professor **Mark Pittenger** retired in December after serving as a member of the faculty for 30 years. Mark came to CU in 1989, several years after earning a PhD at the University of Michigan. A historian of the modern United States with particular interests in intellectual and cultural history, Mark is the author of two important books: *American Socialists and Evolutionary Thoughts, 1870–1920*, in which he explored the impact of evolutionary theory on American socialist thought and political prac-

tice, and *Class Unknown: Undercover Investigations of American Work and Poverty from the Progressive Era to the Present*, a study of class passing and the construction of ideas about poverty and social class in the modern United States. A popular undergraduate teacher and a recipient of the Boulder Faculty Assembly’s Excellence in Teaching Award, Mark also was a major force in our history graduate program. By his own count, he supervised 14 PhD students and nine master’s students, and served on dozens of graduate committees. (He also estimates that he graded 4.25 billion papers and exams, which is perhaps a slight exaggeration). In retirement, Mark will continue to work on a book project about the connections between liberal religion and social activism, tentatively titled *The Unitarian Left in the Twentieth Century: Liberal Religion and Radical Politics*.

Scott Miller, history’s long-time graduate program coordinator, retired in March. Indeed, his timing was uncanny, as the United States descended into a pandemic shutdown within days of his departure. Scott had worked at CU since 1993, first at the CU Bookstore and then as a staff member in the Faculty Teaching Excellence Program, be-



fore moving over to the history department in 1998. For more than two decades, Scott was integral to the success of our graduate program, not only because of his administrative wisdom, creativity, and know-how, but also because of the sage counsel he provided to our graduate students. He will be missed around the halls of Hellems, though once the pandemic lifts, we hope to lure him out of retirement twice a year to serve as sommelier at our departmental parties.

GRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

By John Willis, associate professor and director of graduate studies



The past year has brought distinct challenges to the history department, and the graduate program was no exception. Yet, faculty, staff and our incredible graduate students met these challenges with determination and grace. It was my honor to assume the directorship of the graduate program this year, taking over from Thomas Andrews, who began a well-deserved sabbatical. The department also bade farewell to Scott Miller, the department's longtime graduate administrator and resident raconteur. Though Scott's administrative acumen and friendship will be missed by all, Abi Peters has ably assumed the administration of both the graduate and undergraduate programs, and we are all grateful for her hard work under difficult conditions. The pandemic put a halt to some of our activities, such as the graduate student internship program; nonetheless, a number of students were able to work closely (though remotely) with history department faculty as part of a graduate student mentoring program in summer 2020. Even during a semester

of limited in-person learning, the graduate students were able to convene their annual Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference (RMIHC) remotely in the fall 2020 semester. This annual student-organized conference brings together graduate students from across the U.S. to present and discuss original research in a supportive and intellectually stimulating environment that, even conducted via Zoom, was an unqualified success.

We were absolutely thrilled to see a number of our students graduate from the department in spring and fall 2020. Laraine Quirk and Jay Farrell completed MA degrees in history. Six students were awarded doctorates after defending dissertations: Gregg Drinkwater, "Building Queer Judaism: Gay Synagogues and the Transformation of an American Religious Community, 1948-1990"; Jacob Flaws, "Spaces of Treblinka"; Gelin Huang, "Journalistic Politics: Newspapermen, Politicians, and the Establishment of the Chinese Communist Party's Journalistic Norm"; Alexander Langer, "All Flights Lead to Rome: The Diplomacy of American Tourism in Italy, 1945-1980"; Graeme Pente, "Transatlantic Fourierism: Albert Brisbane and the Democratic Politics of Visionary Socialism, 1828-1898"; and Nikolas Wellstead, "Parish Business: London Churchwardens and the English Reformation, 1530-1580." The department is extraordinarily proud of the achievements of this year's gradu-

ates and looks forward to following their accomplishments in the coming years.

Finally, the graduate program welcomed a new cohort of students in fall 2020. Viola Burlew, Ian Hogg, Kami McDaniel, Andrew McKanna and James Willetts have joined the master's program in history, while Kate Foster, Amy Haines, and Katie King have entered as doctoral students. Together, they bring to the department interests in early modern and modern European history, the history of the American West and Native American history.

As we enter a new year and new semester, I look forward to working with our stellar graduate faculty and graduate students to further our department's mission of promoting cutting-edge pedagogy and research in a vibrant and supportive community of scholars.

From the RMIHC Committee Members . . .

The Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference (RMIHC) Executive Committee would like to extend a huge debt of gratitude to everyone who participated in this year's conference. For the first time in RMIHC history, the event was entirely virtual. But despite the turmoil of 2020, an impressive number of people gathered to engage in cross-disciplinary conversation and support student research. RMIHC 2020 took place Oct. 2nd-4th. The conference featured 31 presenters from across the United States and the world. It would not have been possible without the dedication of CU Boulder's history faculty and graduate student community.

—Micaela Cruce, Anna Kramer, Kim Jackson, and Alex Lund



Abi Peters

Undergraduate and graduate coordinator

(Abi has) "ably assumed the administration of both the graduate and undergraduate programs, and we are all grateful for her hard work under difficult conditions." — John Willis



UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM NEWS

By Phoebe S.K. Young, associate professor of history
and director of undergraduate studies

The undergraduate program graduated 153 new historians in 2020: 108 majors, 45 minors, 18 with honors. It's been a challenging year for students and faculty alike, but we are confident that these accomplished alumni will soon be taking their well-earned skills on new adventures in 2021 and beyond. Three history graduates earned high honors from the campus and College of Arts and Sciences: Amelia Kate Chouinard received the Chancellor's Recognition Award for collecting all A's throughout her career at CU, and Natania Bloch (double major with Jewish studies) and Lacie Lochard both received the Jacob Van Ek Scholarship for excellence in academics and exceptional service to the university and the community. Lochard, who is in her first year of law school at George Washington University, recalls arriving at CU as a transfer student and choosing to major in History, "almost on a whim," reflected on her experience: "That decision is one of the best I made . . . I absolutely loved ALL of my history professors because you could tell that they really cared about what they were teaching . . . Winning this award was a great finish to my time at CU."

We were also thrilled to welcome 75 new history majors in fall 2020, including Hannah Chavez who was the inaugural recipient of the Colton G. Erickson Scholarship. The Department of History established this scholarship in memory of former student Colton G. Erickson (1994–2018), who graduated in 2017 while living with brain cancer. Chavez notes, "I'm honored to have been awarded the Erickson scholarship for history, and in these unprecedented

times it's even more appreciated. Today, more than ever, am I reminded that we are living history every day, and I am more than grateful to navigate through that truth at such a prestigious university as CU Boulder." In another first, the department's new Fred Anderson Scholarship was awarded to senior Cayden Stice. The scholarship honors Professor Emeritus Fred Anderson and prioritizes students who are the first generation in their family to attend college—a group he devoted much of his career to supporting. Stice, who is completing his history honors thesis on the queer history of Boulder, says that, "As a first-generation student, my experience at CU Boulder has been phe-

"As a first-generation student, my experience at CU Boulder has been phenomenal, and I am ever-appreciative of the staff and faculty who have guided me to success while a student here. The Anderson Scholarship has enabled me to feel more confident in my abilities: I am as capable as any other student to aim high and achieve. Currently, I am working on my honors thesis through the Department of History, focused on the queer history of Boulder in the twentieth century."

—Cayden Stice (senior),
Anderson Scholarship winner

nomenal, and I am ever-appreciative of the staff and faculty who have guided me to success while a student here. The Anderson Scholarship has enabled me to feel more confident in my abilities: I am as capable as any other student to aim high and achieve."

The department has also been working to expand our internship program, giving students the opportunity to explore history outside the classroom. During spring semester 2020, eight undergraduates interned at multiple institutions. Senior Drew Gaines worked as a student archivist, and when the pandemic ended her hands-on job cataloging a

physical collection, she joined the CU Libraries' [Documenting Community](#) project, taking photographs and conducting oral histories about the ways COVID-19 has affected the university community. Junior Will Bangs assisted the Museum of Boulder in developing an exhibition on aviation history in Boulder and published his work at: [aboveboulder.wordpress.com](#). Seniors Kami McDaniel and Berkeley Newhouse-Velie completed important work at the CU Archives, on the Japanese and Japanese American Community History Project, and on the papers of former Colorado U.S. Sen. Patricia Schroeder, respectively. In recognition, they shared this year's James Field Willard Award for service to the field and department of history. Conor O'Hara interned at CU's Special Collections department, and part of his project involved compiling his own photographic archive of the aftermath of the 2011 Fukushima disasters. His images capture abandonment, decay, and reconstruction in areas that continued to see high levels of radiation eight years later. You can view his photo-book, *Unnatural Disaster and Migration in Fukushima*, at [insidefukushima.org](#). After graduating last spring, O'Hara reflected that, "I think that the internship was one of the most insightful parts of my time at CU." While we were unable to provide opportunities in summer or fall 2020, we'll be back up and running in spring 2021 with some new projects with the city of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department (headed by CU history alumna, Alison Rhodes), National History Day, and more. You can learn more about our internship program at: [colorado.edu/history/undergraduate/internships](#). If you're interested in hiring an intern or talking to history students about life after graduation, please let us know. We're eager to continue building our History Buff community, connecting students, alumni, faculty, staff, and the public.



Dan Carlin
2020 Commencement Speaker

ALUMNI NEWS

"We were proud to have one of our distinguished departmental alums as the 2020 CU Boulder Commencement speaker: Dan Carlin (Hist'89), whose award-winning podcast, Hardcore History, is immensely popular."

—Paul Sutter, Chair



View keynote address at www.youtube.com/watch?v=9OV9dWof5yk



Alumnus Dan Carlin, award-winning podcaster at *Hardcore History*, delivers 2020 Commencement address

EXCERPT FROM KEYNOTE ADDRESS

"You're going to be blindsided by events, both joyous and not, your entire life. What you've done by completing this chapter in your personal story is hedge against the future. You don't know what's coming. Who can? But because of the work you've put in, you have become a more formidable individual. A more formidable version of you will be better able to roll with whatever punches await, while also putting you in a better position to take advantage of the opportunities that come your way in life. Think about who you were when you started here at CU and think about yourself now that you've finished. You've done the equivalent of

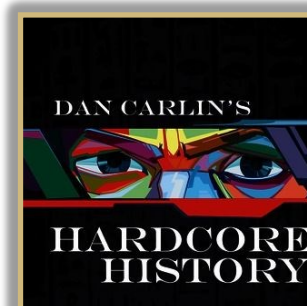
leveling up in this role playing game or computer simulation called "Life." This impacts everything for the rest of your days in ways that will be both obvious and not. A more formidable you will be a better employee, boss, parent, and maybe even person.

You may not be able to count on your specific plans for the future. They may get derailed or you may fall in love with another path, but because of your efforts and hard work, you're going to be more prepared for all of it. And remember to take your shots along the way because you never know which ones are going to pay off until you're in a position later on to connect the dots of your own past.

With one exception, I can guarantee you that the shot you took when you applied to this institution is one you will never regret. I don't have to wait until the end of your life to tell you that. I speak from experience. Congratulations 'Buffaloes' on radically improving your chances in life. Go make the world a better place. I am so proud of you all. Go Buffs." — Dan Carlin

For a text of the complete address go to: colorado.edu/commencement/2020/05/16/dan-carlin-spring-2020

LEARN MORE ABOUT *HARDCORE HISTORY* AT
Dancarlin.com





[\(From the Colorado Department of Education – News Release\)](#)

Gerardo Muñoz, a social studies teacher at Denver Center for International Studies at Baker in Denver Public Schools, was named Colorado's 2021 Teacher of the Year in a special virtual ceremony.

"I am honored and excited to announce that Gerardo Muñoz has been selected as Colorado's 2021 Teacher of the Year," said Colorado Education Commissioner Katy Anthes. "In an exceptionally tough year, we are grateful to have outstanding educators like Mr. Muñoz who dedicate their time and energy to supporting our students. Mr. Muñoz is a respected leader in his school and community. He encourages students to speak up on important issues and inspires them to pursue their passions. We are excited to watch his journey as our Colorado Teacher of the Year!"

As Teacher of the Year, Muñoz will represent the entire profession in Colorado and be the public face of Colorado's teachers. He will be entered as Colorado's nominee for the National Teacher of the Year Program competition and will receive many professional development opportunities. Muñoz, along with the country's other teachers of the year, will be honored at a special ceremony at the White House and get the opportunity to go to NASA's Space Camp. He will also become a member of the Colorado Education Commissioner's Teacher Cabinet.

"Mr. Muñoz is an incredible educator deserving of this honor," said Susana Cordova, Denver Public Schools super-

CU Boulder history alumnus Gerardo Muñoz named Colorado's 2021 Teacher of the Year

intendent. "Mr. Muñoz taught both of my children while they were students in DPS, and I know firsthand how he impacted them during their time in his classroom. His dedication to his students is representative of many outstanding educators you will find in DPS classrooms. He inspires, guides and uplifts students on a daily basis, and I am honored to serve our students alongside him."

Muñoz has taught middle and high school students at the Denver Center for International Studies at Baker for 14 years. His classes include Concurrent Enrollment Ethnic Studies, Advanced Placement World History and 5280 Challenge/Student Board of Education through DPS's Student Voice and Leadership program.

During his 21 years in education, Muñoz has been involved in a number of programs, initiatives and organizations to promote equity and anti-racism, including EduColor, Choose, the National Education Association's Racial and Social Justice Conference, and the University of Colorado's Teachers of Color and Allies Summit. Muñoz earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in history and Latin American studies from the University of Colorado, as well as a Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction from the University of Denver.

The Colorado Teacher of the Year program is supported by Denver7. Program partners include Colorado Education Association, Adams State University and Blue Bell Ice Cream.

[For more on the Colorado Teacher of the Year, visit the program webpage.](#)

Kate Moran (Hist'98, *summa cum laude*), an associate professor of American studies at St. Louis University, has published [The Imperial Church: Catholic Founding Fathers and United States Empire \(Cornell University Press, 2020\)](#).



2015 doctoral graduate David Varel publishes article in *The American Historian*, sparking change in the OAH as new book is celebrated

David Varel (PhDHist'15) has a powerful article in the Dec. 2020 edition of *The American Historian*, now available online. The article, [Those We Honor, and Those We Don't: The Case for Renaming an OAH Book Award | The American Historian](#), calls for the OAH to rename one of its major book awards, the Avery O. Craven Award. Because of the article and the case Varel has made, the executive board of the OAH recently announced that it has removed Avery Craven as the namesake of its book award in Civil War and Reconstruction history. As David wrote, "It's thus a rare moment where it feels like my work had a direct impact on the world."

Read the response: [OAH Executive Board Action | The American Historian](#).

Varel's second book, [The Scholar and the Struggle: Lawrence Reddick's Crusade for Black History and Black Power](#), has just appeared from UNC Press (Craven was Reddick's problematic doctoral advisor, which is the connection to *The American Historian* article), and Varel's book was named one of ["The Best Black History Books of 2020"](#) by the African American Intellectual History Society.

GIVING www.colorado.edu/history/giving

The CU history department is the home to award-winning faculty who conduct groundbreaking research into the human past and what it means to our present and future. Our faculty are committed to providing undergraduate and graduate students with the knowledge and tools to succeed in their chosen professions and to be thoughtful and involved citizens. Our alumni and other supporters are essential to our larger mission, and we are deeply appreciative for sustaining contributions to our department's success.

Undergraduate studies

One of our priorities is increasing the available funding for undergraduate student scholarships. Please consider a gift to one of our undergraduate scholarship funds:

[Colton G. Erickson Memorial Scholarship Fund](#)

The history department established the Colton G. Erickson Scholarship in memory of former student Colton G. Erickson (1994–2018), who graduated in 2017 while living with brain cancer. With the support of Colton's family, \$1,000 will be awarded to an incoming first-year or current undergraduate student with a major in history who has faced adversity and achieved excellence.

[Fred Anderson Endowed History Scholarship Fund](#)

The Fred Anderson Scholarship, named for Professor Emeritus Fred Anderson, is awarded to an undergraduate history student who displays a strong interest in the history of the Americas, Africa, Asia, or the Middle East. Preference is given to students who are the first generation in their family to attend college. The scholarship is awarded annually.

[Robert C. Rogers Student Scholarship Fund](#)

The memorial Robert C. Rogers Scholarship awards \$1,000 to an incoming transfer or current first-year transfer student with a declared major in history. Preference will be given to students with demonstrated financial need. The scholarship is awarded annually.

For undergraduates, gift funds can also sustain activities such as class outings, visiting speakers, events for majors and minors, or even class dinners with a professor to cultivate faculty-student interaction. If you would like to support these activities, please give to the:

[History Department Fund](#)

Graduate studies

For graduate students, gift funds can reduce costs associated with research trips to distant archives, attending conferences, and hosting or attending workshops where students network, gain visibility, and receive feedback on their work. Gift funds also allow us to offer recruiting fellowships so that we can attract the most competitive graduate applicants. Please give to the:

[Gloria Lund Main and Jackson Turner Main Graduate Fund in History](#)

Departmental research and programing

Departmental research and programing gift funds are crucial to supporting the intellectual life of the department and faculty research productivity. Gift funds can offset faculty research costs and seed new research programs, allow us to invite leading historians to visit the department to give lectures and seminars, support conferences, or fund exciting faculty initiatives in public outreach. If you are interested in supporting these activities, please give to the:

[History Department Fund](#)

If you would like to discuss other opportunities or ideas for supporting the Department of History, we will be happy to talk to you about your plans in detail. Please contact the Department of History Chair [Paul Sutter](#), or CU Boulder's [Office of Advancement](#).

University of Colorado Boulder

Department of History

204 Hellems Building

234 UCB

Boulder, Colorado 80309-0234



Students from the San Luis Valley visited CU Boulder in 2019 for mentoring and to work on their National History Day projects. Read the full story on Page 3.