

# The Historic Transformation of Hellems.

Saying goodbye to the space as we remember it

2023  
NEWSLETTER



History

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

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*Newsletter cover photo—Hellems third floor demo photo credit: Dena Heisner*

*Content page photo—North entrance of Hellems - photo credit: Tim Weston*



## Notes from the Chair

As I write, wars in two critically important regions of the world rage on, and disarray reigns in the US Congress. We find ourselves preoccupied with global and domestic events, reverting to the multiple-times-daily doom scroll, a pandemic-honed habit some of us had tried valiantly to give up. It is enormously distressing—the loss of life and scale of human suffering are truly horrific. At times it is difficult to imagine how things might ever get better. But there are moments when historical understanding can shed some light on the unfathomable darkness.

One such moment was the [public panel discussion on the war in Israel and Gaza](#), organized by our colleague [Thomas Pegelow Kaplan](#) on Wednesday, Oct. 11, only days after the violence began. Speakers included faculty members [John Willis](#) (HIST), [Karim Mattar](#) (ENGL) and [Zach Levey](#) (Visiting Professor, IAFS), who provided context for understanding the current conflict.

More than 100 students, faculty, and community members attended, and while the tone of Q&A and discussion was intense, it was also respectful, a model of engaged civil discourse.

Our colleague, [Hilary Kalisman](#), a specialist on the history of Israel and Palestine, also has been doing multiple interviews, including those with [Bloomberg News](#) and [CU Boulder Today](#). In the European context, [Erin Hutchinson](#), a specialist in modern Russian history, has been called upon to comment on the war in Ukraine, as has [Tony Wood](#), our modern Latin American historian who trained and worked as a Russia specialist and journalist for many years. We are deeply thankful to all these colleagues for helping us understand the broader context of what we see in the news.

We continue to find both challenge and respite in our work lives, the former perhaps best embodied by our move out of Hellems and into temporary quarters on the first floor of Muenzinger,



*Graduate history students enjoy down time in the lounge portion of the Graduate offices in D120, adjacent to the administrative offices in Muenzinger*

zinger, which we are sharing with the Departments of English and Philosophy (we are in MUEN D110 and D120, if you have not yet stopped in to say hello). The “open-plan” arrangement evokes a mix of corporate cubicle and dormitory rec room, but our faculty have been remarkably good-spirited about the shortage of individual office space. Our graduate students, whose quarters on the old Hellems third floor featured dangerously sloped ceilings, no windows, an ancient, wheezing refrigerator, and a truly disgusting microwave, seem delighted with the new setup.

We find respite in our classrooms, with students who are engaged and energetic (a lot of them, most of the time, anyway) and in our research. This latter leads me to a second moment of light. Last spring, the new Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, Glen Krutz, visited our department, as the deans do on an annual basis. Our Arts & Humanities Dean of Division, John-Michael

Rivera, advised chairs to prepare some remarks highlighting the achievements of our respective departments, given that Dean Krutz was not yet familiar with the profiles of the various units.

As I compiled the “brag sheet” that would serve as my notes for the presentation to the deans, the numbers showed clearly what I already knew—which is that History faculty are truly outstanding in their research fields. Since 2015, our faculty have won an unusually large number of highly competitive external fellowships: two National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Faculty Fellowships; two NEH Public Scholar Fellowships; two NEH digital publication awards; five American Council for Learned Societies Faculty Research Fellowships; three National Humanities Center residential fellowships; two Fulbright Fellowships; two Institute for Advanced Study Fellowships; three Mellon Foundation research grants; three residential awards at major U.S. and European universities; and one Pulitzer Prize.

I was told later that History wins more external individual fellowships than *all the departments in the Social Sciences division combined*. Our faculty also consistently win internal fellowships and grants from the College, from the Center for the Humanities and Arts, and from other campus funding sources. It is important to note that our faculty are winning these research awards while teaching two courses per semester (certainly not as much as our colleagues at teaching-intensive institutions, but more than our colleagues at CU in the Social Sciences and Natural Sciences, who teach 2-1 or less), at all levels of the curriculum—more than half of all student credit hours in History are taught by tenured or tenure-track faculty.

Further, and equally importantly, our colleagues do this all while being extremely collegial, good people. As I close out my last year as department chair, I remain so grateful for my colleagues, our students, and our amazing staff. I will repeat here what I told the deans last spring: whereas some chairs might complain about the woes of personnel management, after two-and-a-half years, I can say I respect my colleagues even more than I did when I first became chair, because I see how hard they work, how many different ways they do their work, and how dedicated they are to scholarship and to teaching. They also willingly step up and do the (ever-proliferating) service tasks required to run our department.

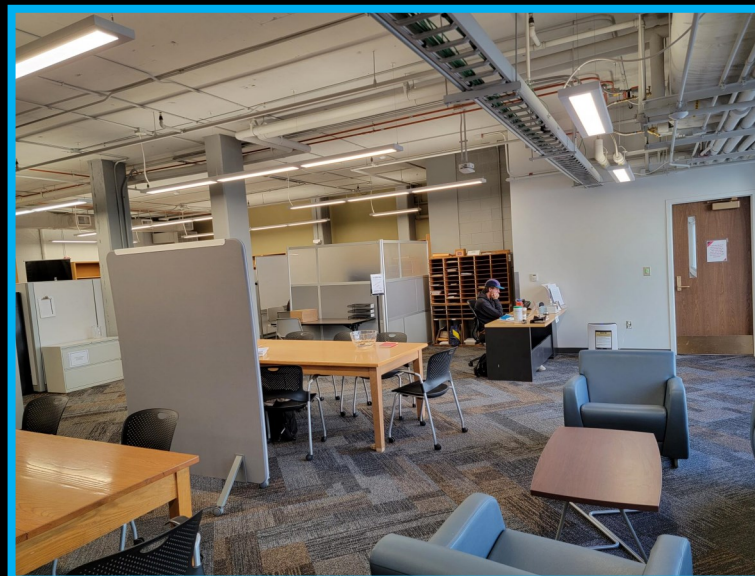
And finally, as you’ll see in the pages that follow, they have really cute pets. I hope you’ll read our faculty, student, and alumni updates for details on what we’ve been up to. Special thanks to our Operations and Communications Co-

ordinator, Ted Lytle, for designing and formatting this newsletter. Once again, many, many thanks to our donors, who so generously fund our undergraduate and graduate scholarships. We can’t do what we do without you.

—Marcia Yonemoto, Chair



***Pictured:** The Muenzinger swing space open floor plan provides a welcoming space for history administration, faculty, and students to work, meet, and relax. The space is the temporary home to the departments of English, History, and Philosophy, pending completion of the Hellems remodel in spring 2026.*



**Muenzinger D110**

# Saying goodbye to Hellems as we remember it. Moving pictures

Gregg Drinkwater

Hellems 222

Marcia Yonemoto - Department Chair

Hellems 203



Prof. David Ciarlo & Cherise Lamour,  
Education Program Coordinator



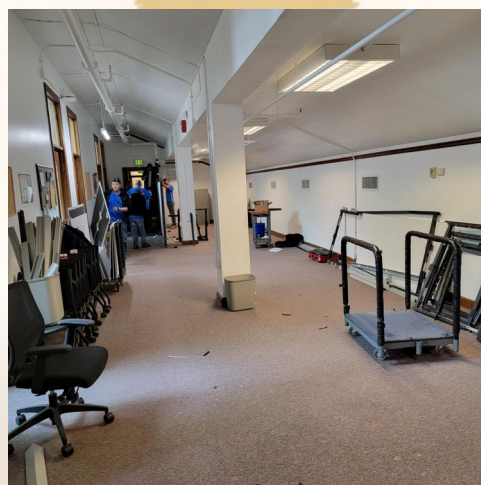
Ted Lyle, Operations & Communication  
Coordinator



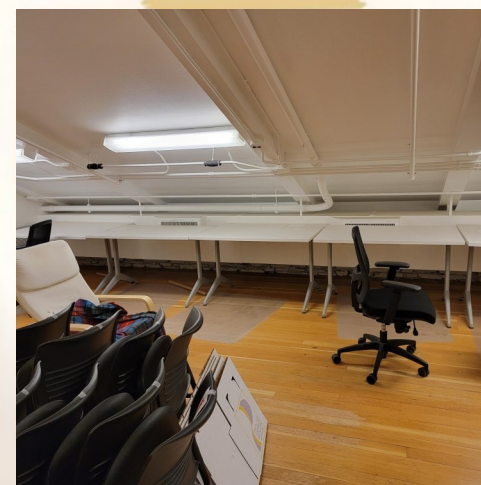
Kellie Matthews, Business & Finance Manager



Student Assistant, Sam Senseman



Hellems 351 (Carrels) dismantled



Graduate Student office, Hellems 359

Patricia Limerick

Henry Lovejoy

Hellems 352

ews

erations & Communications Coordinator

Hellems 204



“Packing up an office and moving out after 40-years feels like breaking up with your first girlfriend.”

—William Wei

## Saying goodbye to Hellems as we remember it.

Last year brought an end to years of speculation and doubt if a much needed renovation would ever happen. Details of the large-scale project were featured in the [previous newsletter](#). In 2023 it was time to pack up and move out.



*Credit: Ted Lytle*

Hellems 216—Home to Professor William Wei since 1980.



**Sungyun Lim** associate professor • director of graduate studies

## Students Graduate Program

Everything feels new in the History graduate program, perhaps due to our new environs. In August, the graduate students, along with the rest of the department, moved into a new space in Muenzinger.

Although this is a temporary space we share with two other departments, all the graduate students I have talked to agree that this space is a major upgrade from the small, window-less attic space in Hellems. I, personally, have been enjoying seeing more of the graduate students and other faculty members when passing through the new communal office spaces. I hope that this temporary space continues to function as a positive space for students to build a supportive community for each other.

We just wrapped up the 24th Annual Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference in the first weekend of October. This year's conference was the first to be held in-person since the pandemic. The organizing committee, **Amy Haines**, **Trevor Egerton**, **Maggie McNulty**, and **Augusto Rocha**, expertly organized the conference, featuring seven panels and two breakout sessions. The keynote speech was delivered by Dr. Tony Wood. Three papers were recognized with prizes; the first prize went to **Sohini Mukhopadhyay** from the University of Illinois, Chicago, and the second and third prizes to our own **Jeanne Cho** and **Greg LeDonne**.

Back in May, we celebrated our last commencement ceremony at the Mary Rippon Theater before Hellems renovation began. We had seven graduate students walk in the commencement: **Erika Brown, MA** (Advisor: Mithi Mukherjee; Thesis: "Memories of a Pogrom: 1984 India"), **David Harris, MA** (advisor: Kwangmin Kim) who graduated in 2021 but came back to celebrate with us in person, **Sophia Teed, MA** (Advisor: Phoebe Young; Thesis: "A Lesser Injustice: The Indian Residential School Settlement Agreement and the Price of Remembering"); and **Mami Trowbridge, MA** (Advisor: Thomas Andrews; Thesis: "Building a Necropolis: Life, Death, Newspapers, and Marginalization in Early Denver and Its Cemeteries"); **Amelia Brackett Hogstad, PhD** (Advisor: Thomas Andrews; Dissertation: "Colorado Lynx: the History of Canada Lynx in Colorado, 1870-2022"); **Andrew Pace, PhD** (Advisor: Tom Zeiler; Dissertation: "The Limits of Unlimited War: American Victory Doctrine from Unconditional Surrender to Peace with Honor, 1943-1973"); and **Sherri Sheu, PhD** (Advisors: Thomas Andrews and Lil Fenn; Dissertation: "Parks to the People": The National Park Service Confronts the Long Seventies").

Our faculty and students continue to develop interesting mentorship opportunities through our Graduate Research Mentorship program. Some highlights from this summer's GRM, which supported eight students in total: **Chloe Zehr**, (MA, US) collaborated on an online digital archive with Dr. Henry Lovejoy ([the Digital Slavery Research Lab](#)); **Maggie McNulty** (PhD, US) worked with Dr. Natalie Mendoza on a Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in History (HistorySoTL), where she coded student essays to analyze why students struggle to analyze primary source evidence in their essays; and **Miles Hubble** (PhD, US) worked with Dr. Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders on an unpublished autobiography manuscript, *No Way Out*, by Mary McGuire, a black domestic laborer born in 1900, to prepare it for publication.

Five recipients of the Roaring Fork Internships spent their summers working on these fascinating projects: **Holly Taylor** (PhD US) worked with the Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum to help them prepare their archival materials for their building renovation; **Alicia Moreno** (PhD US) collected Dr. Warren Hern's oral history in preparation for his biography; **Trevor Egerton** (PhD US) worked with the acquisition editor of the University of Washington Press; **Micaela Cruce** (PhD US) worked with the Native American Rights Fund archive; and **Katie King** (PhD US) worked for Wilson Bruce Evans Home Historical Society in Oberlin, Ohio, to help with their archiving effort.

**O**ur advanced students are making progress in their dissertation work and getting acknowledgments. Among them I want to highlight: **Michael Bunch** (PhD Europe), who returned from his six-month research trip to Osnabrück, Germany, under a Fulbright Grant, during which time he also conducted research in the National Archives in London, as well as consulting with many experts in German migration history; and



*Sierra Standish at research site in Chile*

**Sierra Standish** (PhD US), who received a National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant to support her project, entitled "Cold War Convergence: The Making of a California-Chile Scientific Network".

In August, we welcomed the entering class of eight students: **Aaron Bhatoya** (PhD; Asia), **Hannah DelVecchio** (PhD; US; Chancellor's Fellow); **Janice Dishner** (PhD US), **Nicolas Jones** (MA; Asia), **Isabella Montero** (MA, US), **Dylan Moucka** (MA Europe), **Ben Stewart** (MA US), and **Nina Walters** (PhD Europe). In addition, **Mathew Greenlee** (PhD Europe) transferred into the PhD program. We look forward to seeing all the exciting research these students will conduct. — Sungyun Lim

## Greetings from HGSA!

We are thrilled to continue working on fostering a positive professional and social environment for the department's graduate students this year. We understand graduate school can be isolating, which is why we strive to create a welcoming environment for all of our students. Following the traditions of previous HGSA executive boards, our goal is to facilitate comradery and encourage professional growth.

As we cautiously emerge from the pandemic, we strive (and sometimes struggle) to figure out what our new normal looks like. From facilitating group chats to organizing ghost tours, we aim to provide several inclusive opportunities for new and returning students to create lasting connections. We are especially excited for our annual softball game in the Spring. We feel confident our relentless training efforts will pay off and we will reclaim our rightful victory.

In addition to social opportunities, we continue the longstanding tradition of offering opportunities for academic and professional development. We are excited to announce the "Portfolio and Thesis" panel in November where students will gather to learn more about the process of the Ph.D. and M.A. portfolio, and the M.A. thesis. Additionally, we are beginning to organize the highly anticipated Spring Speaker Series, where we invite a popular scholar to meet with our graduate students and present to the CU community.

The results of HGSA's efforts have been overwhelmingly positive. Graduate students in the department speak positively of their strong bonds with one another and the beneficial impact this has had on their personal and academic lives. We feel honored to serve our department in continuing this mission, and we would welcome any suggestions on how we can better serve our community. We look forward to seeing you at our next event!

### Your HGSA Executive Board,

*Emily Swertfeger (President)*

*James Willetts (Vice President)*

*Chloe Zehr (Secretary)*

*Jeanne Cho (Treasurer)*





*Keynote Speaker—Tony Wood (standing), credit: RMIHC*



*Conference attendees, credit: RMIHC*



*Credit: RMIHC*

The 24th Annual Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference (RMIHC) was a great success! Our first in-person conference since 2019, RMIHC 2023 featured a number of high points over the weekend of Oct. 6-8. First, Professor Tony Wood gave a fantastic keynote address on Friday evening entitled “Pluralizing Mexico: Indigenous Rights, Radical Anthropology, and the State in the 1930s,” which was followed by a brief reception.

Additionally, Professor Hilary Falb Kalisman led a brilliant pedagogy workshop and Cat Diebel-Wilson from the Career Services gave a very informative CV workshop. We also hosted a fun evening of relaxation and non-academic conversation at Backcountry Pizza. Outside of these special events, RMIHC featured seven panels with 20 panelists, seven graduate student commentators, and seven faculty chairs. These panels ranged from discussions of gender in South and East Asia to explorations of memory and identity in historical context.

The RMIHC executive committee would like to thank all of the people who helped make our conference a reality. First and foremost, our thanks go to our amazing panelists. Our conference would quite literally not have existed without them.

Second, we would like to thank every member of the history department who helped with RMIHC. From our faculty chairs to our graduate student commentators, to graduate students who stepped in at the last minute to give papers, to our paper prize committee, everyone helped our conference run smoothly.

Finally, we would like to thank the history department staff—Cherise Lamour, Ted Lytle, and Kellie Matthews. They helped us every step of the way and served as an integral part of making RMIHC the success it was.

#### **The RMIHC Executive Committee,**

*Amy Haines, Trevor Egerton, Augusto Rocha and Maggie McNulty*



Miriam Kingsberg Kadia

professor • director of undergraduate studies

## Students Undergraduate Program

**A**t our May 2023 commencement ceremony, the undergraduate program graduated 123 new historians, including 88 majors and 35 minors. Ten of our majors achieved Latin honors and 20 achieved distinction. Congratulations to all! The history department can't wait to see what you'll do next.

Many of our students earned special accolades for their hard work and accomplishments. For outstanding service to the department, the historical profession, and the community, **Hannah Chavez** and **Shannon Thompson** won the James Field Willard Service Award. In addition, 2022 winner **Katlin Risen** was recognized for her contributions as our departmental intern, social media manager, History Club chair, and Learning Assistant for our Imperial Russia course.

**Brenna Bythewood**, author of “Now Designed to the Worst”: English Captive Labor and Perceptions of Slavery in the Interregnum,” achieved the Honors Thesis Award. The Philip Mitterling Paper Prize, which recognizes the best essay submitted by a history major or minor in a history course, went to **Emily Howard** for “Jews in the Mining Bonanzas in San Francisco and Melbourne.” **Kaitlyn Shirley** earned the Jacob van Ek Scholar Award for superior academic achievement and distinguished service to the university and community. **Shane Ball**, **Taylor Henderson**, and **Sarah Rosenbloum** achieved a Chancellor's Recognition Award for graduating with a 4.0 GPA.

The department also celebrated outstanding entering and continuing students with scholarships. **Nicole Sheerin-Weissenberg** earned the Katherine J. Lamont Scholarship for academic performance and dedication. **Casey Ringer** won the Cliff and Carol Pearson Scholarship. The Virginia and Fred Anderson Scholarship, named for two recent emerita faculty, went to **Hannah Chavez**, **Jinjae Han**, and **Emma LeDent**.

The Erickson Memorial Scholarship, which commemorates 2017 graduate Colton Erickson, was awarded to **Christine Bolt** and **Madelynn Sanchez**. Winners of the Carol J. Ehlers Scholarship, which supports incoming majors with a strong interest in European history, were **Sophia Gottemoeller** and **Kailynn Renfro**. Four transfer students majoring in history received the Robert C. Rogers Scholarship: **Zachary Carlino**, **Sarah Chavez**, **Katrin Neal**, and **Jonathan Wiemer**. We are so proud of our award winners!

Looking toward the future, we welcomed 55 first-year majors and 20 transfer students into our vibrant department. We continue to encourage students from underrepresented groups, women students, and first-generation students to pursue history. A range of exciting opportunities await. Our new History Matters Scholarship, generously created by alumni Louise and Mark Bohe, will make its inaugural awards to advanced undergraduates in 2024.

Our thriving internship program provides history majors and minors with the opportunity to explore real-world applications of their coursework and to put their historical skills to work both inside and outside the classroom. If you'd like to support our students, please consider acting as an internship supervisor, offering informal guidance about life after graduation, or donating to support their work. Information about giving is available at [www.colorado.edu/history/giving](http://www.colorado.edu/history/giving). In these challenging times, we are more convinced than ever of the value of studying history. — Miriam Kingsberg Kadia

# 2023 Commencement



**Pictured:** professor and history department chair, Marcia Yonemoto addresses the graduating class of 2023. The ceremony was the last to be held in the Mary Rippon Theater before the Hellems remodel, which will include expansive patio space and greater ADA accessible walkways in the theater (Credit: Sam Senseman).

## Saying goodbye to Mary Rippon as we remember it.



**Top left:** Katlin Risen (Hist'23) steps down from her undergraduate career before heading to Duke University for graduate school. **Top right and below:** faculty and newly hooded graduates, and current graduate students celebrate (Credit: Ted Lytle).



## The Colorado Historian

### Undergraduate History Journal

The [Colorado Historian](#) is CU Boulder's only undergraduate history journal, created every year by a small team that contributes their expertise, time and passion. As an editor-in-chief for two years—and an editor for the two preceding years—I have been offered a look into the exemplary work that CU history undergraduates generate in a field where individual perspectives and backgrounds are able to flourish in both methodology and interpretation. I have also seen three years of editors coming together to create a product that they and the department as whole should be proud of.

The Colorado Historian was a way in which I have been able to contribute to a project that brings undergraduate research to a wider audience. And, in this process, I have had the chance to develop my own skills as a student, historian and member of a community. Often, the papers we receive are messy or convoluted and lacking clear structure, definition, meaning. They are the works of historians in training. But this does not mean that they shouldn't be displayed. Those hesitant steps into the realities of any discipline are often where creativity and inspiration are most profound. We, the Colorado Historian, wish to help undergraduate students refine their work and to give them the opportunity to showcase it.

In our review process, we carefully select papers based on the strength of the research and the writing, as well as with the intent to promote geographic, temporal and methodological range. Once papers have been selected, we move on to editing the papers. This stage largely consists of correcting basic grammar and spelling errors, clarifying arguments and structure, and ensuring proper citation formatting. At the heart of this process is a commitment to maintaining the author's original intent, style and arguments. We work collaboratively in teams to make suggestions that we then send to the author. In turn, they can either affirm these suggestions, provide an alternative or argue for why their original version is better. The hope is to have a dialogue between the author and the editor in order to produce the best possible product.

Our archive of previous editions is available on the history department's website, and physical copies are also printed every year. If you're interested in joining the team in any capacity—to review, edit, or just hang out—feel free to reach out to our

email or social media. If you have a paper that you want to submit, guidelines and a submission form are available on our page on the website, on our social media, and via an email sent out to CU's undergraduates. The Colorado Historian welcomes anyone interested in the editorial process or submitting a paper regardless of their background and experience.

**Samuel Senseman**

**Editor-in-Chief**

**Get published.**



## Saying goodbye to Hellems as we remember it.



*Credit: Tim Weston*

**Second floor west wing**

## Students preserve and celebrate LGBTQ+ activism history in new collection and exhibition

From: [University Libraries](#)

The history of CU Boulder student activism for LGBTQ+ rights is now available at the University Libraries thanks to Emily Howard (Hist/SpanLang.'23), a Libraries intern who processed and organized the [Boulder Gay Liberation collection](#) when they were an undergraduate history student. The collection features materials from the Boulder Gay Liberation (BGL) student group on campus during the 1970s and early 1980s and was donated by Stanley Hohnholz, a member of BGL while he was a student at CU Boulder.

This collection is also the subject of a new exhibition at the Libraries, *On the Front Lines: A Brief History of Gay Activism in Boulder*, curated by art and art history graduate student Mattie Hough. Visitors can view the exhibition outside the Rare and Distinctive (RaD) Collections reading room (M350B) on the 3rd floor of Norlin Library.



# Student news

### Making the collection visible

Working with Senior Processing Archivist Ashlyn Velte, Howard spent the fall '21 semester organizing the Boulder Gay Liberation collection, creating an inventory of the materials and drafting the notes fields for [the finding aid](#), which added important context and made it discoverable by the public.

"I was extremely interested in working on the collection because I think that LGBT history is vital, especially local history about activist efforts that have happened in our own city," said Howard. "With all of the anti-queer laws looming on the horizon, learning how our queer elders have fought for their own place at the table is a beacon of hope to the queer community now. The dance flyers were my favorite part of the collection, as queer history is often



Pictured above: Emily Howard (Hist/SpanLang.'23), organizer of the BGL collection

told through the tragedies and the struggles. It's nice to see the joy and celebration present there as well."

Howard also appreciated the many Gay magazines, zines and publications in the collection for their rarity. These publications are in the process of getting cataloged and added to the Rare Books Collection.

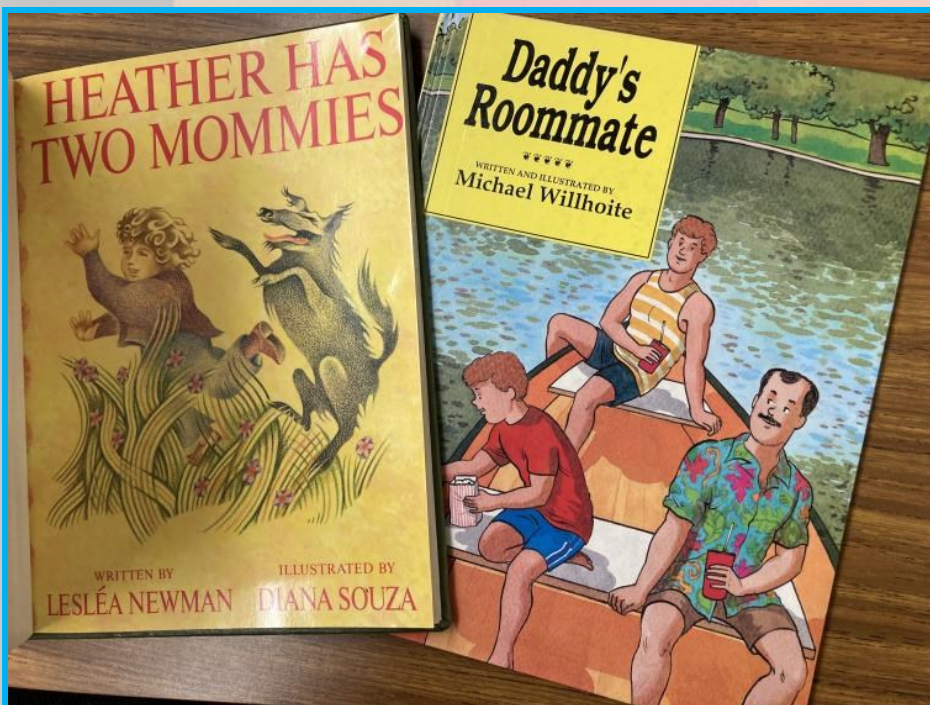
"The collection represents one of the few collections we have

entirely focused on LGBTQ+ issues," said Velte. "Before Emily processed it, it was unorganized and impossible for researchers to find and use."

### Seeing the collection in RaD

Since Howard organized and created the finding aid, the collection has proven popular for class use and with student researchers who have visited the Rare and Distinctive Collections reading room to learn from the materials.

**D**ulce Aldama, instructor and libraries and museum cultural heritage collections exhibit developer, brought her MUSM 5021: Gender in Museums of the Americas class to the reading room as part of the curriculum to learn from materials in RaD. The class analyzes museums from a gender perspective and RaD Collections Instruction Coordinator Sean Babbs, who teaches the session, selected the Boulder Gay Liberation collection and other materials to share with students in the course. Graduate student Mattie Hough (MAArtHist'23), was one of the students who attended the session, which sparked her interest in the collection. "We visited RaD to view materials that challenged notions of heteronormativity and gender constructs within large institutions such as CU," explained Hough. "I first picked up two children's books banned in other institutions because they depicted families with same-sex parents such as *Heather Has Two Mommies* or *Daddy's Roommate*. These books were wonderful and explained that all families don't look the same in an easily understandable way for children."



*Heather Has Two Mommies* and *Daddy's Roommate*, Rare and Distinctive Collections



**The Sweethearts** Bill Suggs and Joni Ginsberg posed in their tub without fear of censure—no dean, today, would dare expel such totally clean young Americans.

**The Gay Activists** They include Mr. Gay Colorado (Peter Greene, at top) and find Boulder "homophobic but mellow" as they champion their cause.

Above: Portrait of Stanley Hohnholz (center right) and 4 members of the Boulder Gay Liberation, *Life Magazine*, 1977

Hough was baffled by why these books were challenged or banned in certain communities across the country. Babbs noticed her interest and showed her materials from the Boulder Gay Liberation collection.

"These materials fascinated me as they were a glimpse into the struggles of queer individuals from so many years ago. But what troubled me was that some of the issues discussed in these journals and flyers are still very prevalent today," Hough said.

### Developing the exhibition

**A**fter seeing the collection in RaD, Hough knew that she wanted this to be the subject of her final project. “I decided to take a look at a local movement, the Boulder Gay Liberation Front (BGL). This visit to the archives was not long after the shooting that occurred at Club Q in Colorado Springs, and I was inspired to demonstrate that the fight for LGBTQ+ liberation is far from over,” she said

“While it is not typical for museums and libraries to let people outside of the institution curate exhibitions, the role of the university is to offer different experiences to students as part of their education,” said Aldama. “Allowing different people to curate exhibitions—including students—also serves as a way to decolonize museums and libraries by allowing new perspectives to highlight collections. Mattie has done a great job shedding light on these materials.”

Working with Aldama, Velte and Conservator Hillary Morgan, Hough learned how to curate an exhibition from selecting materials to writing interpretive text to the practicalities of displaying sometimes fragile objects.

“I spent hours in the archives going through every document in the collection,” Hough said. “Emily did a wonderful job organizing the materials, which made it easy to find specific documents. The collection is mostly made up of directories for the group, newspaper clippings detailing the progress of national and local liberation movements magazines, flyers for dances sponsored by the organization, and many copies of different newsletters produced by the group.”

In addition to including materials that showcased the main goals of the organization—educating the community, fighting for legal rights and providing a space for the LGBTQ+ communities of Boulder and the surrounding areas to socialize—Hough also wanted to include an interactive component for the exhibition.

“This took the form of a QR code that visitors can scan to view other resources, such as a link to an oral interview with Byron Sullivan, the founder of BGL, conducted in 1973 by History Colorado. It also links to sites like LGBTQ+ resources at CU Boulder, more information on RaD Collections, and a link that guides visitors to leave feedback and thoughts about what is on display,” said Hough. “It was difficult to pick and choose materials from the collection as there were so many that I found important to tell the story of this group and the impact they made. I hope others are inspired to take a closer look at the history of LGBTQ+ rights in their community.”

## Saying goodbye to Hellems as we remember it.



North wing second floor

## Elevating LGBTQ+ histories

For both Howard and Hough, working with the Boulder Gay Liberation collection offered invaluable experience.

“I think the biggest thing I took away from this experience is the importance of exploring local history and archives that hold so much information from the past which continues to be relevant to issues in the present,” explained Hough. “I was struck by the amount I did not know about LGBTQ+ history in Colorado and the parallels to issues that persist 50 years later. I also took away the fact that queer histories and stories are still underrepresented in museums and other institutions, often buried in the archives somewhere and never brought to the surface.”

Howard had a similar takeaway. “I have always been a history nerd, and as I’ve explored more histories, I have found that the most interesting histories are always the ones that were ignored or systematically silenced. Preserving these stories and elevating them is so important to empowering marginalized communities, as is making sure that marginalized peoples have access to these stories,” they said. “All the research in the world won’t do much good if people can’t access it and learn from it.

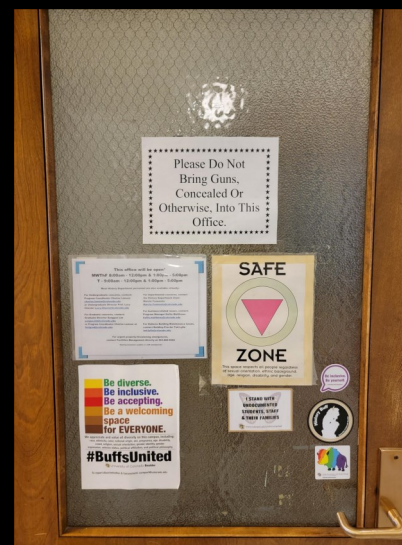
Howard decided to apply for CU Boulder’s Museum Studies program, a competitive program that only selects a few students each year. Their work on the Boulder Gay Liberation collection formed part of their application. Howard will start the Museum Studies program in the fall.



Mattie Hough (MAArtHist'23), Curator of the exhibition

Visitors can see *On the Front Lines: A Brief History of Gay Activism in Boulder* outside the RaD reading room (M350B) in Norlin Library now **until January 2024** and schedule a [reading room appointment](#) to see more materials in the Boulder Gay Liberation collection.

## Saying goodbye to Hellems as we remember it.



History office  
Hellems 204



Credit: Ted Lytle



# Pets of the History Department

Match these (mostly) furry friends with their humans in History.

Find answers on page 26

A.  
Zhu Li



B.  
Sofia



C.  
Tioga



D.  
Georgie



E.  
Hans



F.  
Aaron's  
Big  
Fish



G.  
Ruthie



H. Benny & Ernie

I.  
Frey,  
Oberon  
&  
Zephyr



J.  
Imogene



K.  
Ollie



L.  
Tali  
The Yak



M.  
Olive



N.  
Sheev,  
Coco  
Pancakes  
& Ronnie  
(L-R)



O.  
Arthur



P.  
Roxie



Q.  
Tigger





R. Maisy (right)  
Moose (top)



S.

Clio

&

Dante



## Saying goodbye to Hellems as we remember it.



Former Graduate Program Assistant, **Scott Miller** (Ret'20) began the tradition many years prior of putting unsalted peanuts on his office window ledge for the squirrels. **Ted Lytle** continued, and Office Mgr. **Kellie Matthews** would provide seed for birds on her window ledge. The well trained wildlife was never tardy for that 8AM Monday class—um—feeding, rather.



## History in the community By Marjorie McIntosh

### The Latino History Project a decade later

**D**o you love history but sometimes wonder if it really does have meaning for people in the present? Does history actually help us make wise decisions about current issues? Our faculty and students have been demonstrating how important understanding the past can be through several community-based projects that bring to light the previously invisible histories of people of color. As a former slogan of the CU Medical School claimed, “We practice what we teach.”

#### Local Projects

This work got off the ground in 2013 with the creation of the Boulder County Latino History Project. Led by an advisory committee of 15 respected Latino elders in Longmont, Lafayette, and Boulder, it was coordinated by Marjorie McIntosh, a retired faculty member in the CU Boulder History Department. Over the next seven years, several dozen paid high school and college interns joined with together with nearly 100 community volunteers to gather 1,800 primary sources, digitize them, and enter them into a website: <https://bocolatinohistory.colorado.edu>. The sources included 70 oral history interviews, hundreds of family photos, articles from local newspapers (preserved on microfilm), and quantitative information from school records, town directories, and national Censuses.



*Community members at a training session on how to lead and film oral history interviews, 2013.*

A key goal of the BCLHP from the start was to get these sources into the hands of K-12 teachers. It therefore ran workshops for teachers, showing them how to integrate Latino materials into the curriculum. The goal was to help Latino students realize that their heritage is an important part of our history and to help all students appreciate that Colorado has long been a multi-ethnic state. McIntosh also wrote a pair of books describing what project participants had learned.

As word spread, other communities approached the BCLHP, asking if it would work with them to assemble material about their own Latino experiences and hold teacher workshops. By 2020, the project was partnering with towns throughout Colorado, with generous support from CU's Office of Outreach and Engagement, as well as other sources.

In 2020, the Latino History Project gained sufficient funding to hire a paid director for the program. Jason Romero, Jr., is a BA and master's degree graduate from CU Boulder and a former intern with the Latino History project; he now teaches history and ethnic studies at a Denver high school. Under his leadership, the project has become the Chicano & Latino History Project and added new resources to the website: <https://latinohistoryproject.org>.

#### The History Department's Role in These Activities

Faculty members in the History Department at Boulder were valued partners in the Latino History Project. Paul Sutter, Fred Anderson, and Fredy Gonzales served on its Faculty Advisory Committee; Thomas Andrews advised about the books that resulted from the project; and David Hays of Rare and Distinctive Collections provided help with archives. Faculty have also contributed to several recent and current activities that build upon the work of the Latino History Project: exhibits at the Museum of Boulder on “Voces Vivas” (about local Latino families) and “Proclaiming Colorado's Black History”; and Greeley's Mexican American History Project.

The Latino History project was fortunate to have excellent assistance from graduate student interns. MA students Susan Becker and Shari Malloy provided general help, while three doctoral students gathered information on specific places or collections and prepared them for the website: Sierra Standish worked on Trinidad material, Tiffany Beebe on Denver, and Andrew Pace on the papers of Dr. Virgilio Licona.

The impact of the Latino History Project can be seen in the reports of three undergraduate interns led by McIntosh, who gathered primary sources for

Pueblo in 2018-19, supported by a UROP grant. Diana Bustamante-Aguilar and Cecilia Donovan were history majors, while Esmeralda Castillo-Cobian majored in ethnic studies but took some history courses. After doing online research, they traveled with McIntosh to Pueblo for four days to work hands-on with original materials there. Later, they helped to lead workshops for teachers. All three are now teaching secondary school history/social studies in Denver or Boulder.



Esmeralda, Diana, Marjorie, and Cecilia Donovan, 2019 (CU Boulder Today)

[CU Boulder Today](#) did a feature article about the students. After describing the project and what the interns did, the magazine reported their comments about the importance of such work. Castillo-Cobian said, “For Latino students, it is a time to see themselves, their culture and their stories reflected in some way and therefore gain knowledge and power in knowing they are being represented. Empowering Latino youth is critical in a time when most schools have a large Latino population. As a future educator, I strive to use the resources that this project has exposed me to in order to ensure I am an avenue by which all types of students can learn about Latino people and start to reshape how we value Latino people in our society.”

For Donovan, a non-Latino, working on this project opened her eyes to some-

thing she hadn’t noticed before. “I realized that I’d never processed that other people didn’t have their history represented in school. Now, I’m helping make those histories available to people. If you don’t understand history, you can’t understand where society is going. If you don’t understand your roots, how can you make an educated decision about your future? We can’t let kids graduate without knowing where they came from. History is just so important.”

We couldn’t put it better!

## Saying goodbye to Hellems as we remember it.



Credit: Tim Weston

### Southwest stairwell

# Historians Pegelow Kaplan, Willis, collaborate in panel discussion about the Israel-Hamas war.

By Maxwell Garby / [Colorado Arts & Sciences Magazine](#)

*At a panel discussion, CU Boulder experts on the modern Middle East noted that the current war differs from previous conflicts*

**T**hough conflict between Israel and the militant group Hamas has simmered and flared for decades, the war initiated (October 14) by Hamas's attack on Israel is different, experts on the region said.

At a panel discussion convened in response to the war in Israel and the Gaza Strip, [Zach Levey](#), the Israel Institute Visiting Professor at the University of Colorado Boulder, said that while tension between Israel, a sovereign state, and Hamas, a terrorist organization, has a lengthy history, everything from the past few days has been very different from previous clashes. The (October 14) attack by Hamas on Israeli territory yielded hundreds of Is-

raeli deaths, as well as dozens taken hostage. In response, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed retaliation, officially declaring war on Hamas and conducting airstrikes back across the Gaza Strip.

Levey said that the attack can be regarded as "a great failure and a security fiasco for Israel" and that accountability for the lapse likely will be demanded. He also noted that a ground invasion of the Gaza Strip would be extremely costly, and that the Israeli government's current strategy of inducing a humanitarian crisis via airstrikes to topple Hamas is nothing short of a "tragedy."

Panelist [Karim Mattar](#), a CU Boulder associate professor of [English](#), called the war an "ongoing catastrophe." He called Hamas a "stain on Palestine and the Palestinian people," as well as a "stain on the name of Islam." He said that if peace is to come, both sides must analyze their history, collectively come to terms about antisemitism and find a mutually beneficial agreement. Of particular concern, Mattar noted, are some of the U.S. government's actions, including essentially giving Israel the green light to do whatever is deemed necessary to protect Israeli citizens. This could lead to the continuation of the cycle of hatred and violence that has plagued the people of Palestine and Israel for the past 75 years, Mattar said.

*[John Willis](#), an associate professor of [history](#) who specializes in the modern Middle East and a panelist Wednesday, said that the current war may significantly affect Israel's relationships with the United States as well as other regional states, especially the Gulf States.*



University of Colorado Boulder faculty (left to right) Thomas Pegelow Kaplan (Moderator), Zach Levey, John Willis and Karim Mattar participated in a panel discussion about the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

**W**hen asked whether there might be an opening for negotiations or peace talks between the two sides, Levey responded with a firm “no.” He noted the long history of negotiations between the two sides, which are nonetheless at war.

“Negotiation prospects have been shattered,” Levey said, adding that if there any diplomatic overtures were to be made, they would likely come from Egypt regarding freeing the hostages.

Mattar said that attacks along the West Bank likely will only increase in the coming days, with deepening impacts on the Palestinian people.

Levey noted, “If the current Israeli government has its way, there will be no path forward,” and he sees “no solution to this issue, not in the short term, not in the medium term and possibly the long term, too.”

However, the panelists emphasized the importance of discussing such highly contentious issues in a respectful and informative manner, with the hope that further education and greater understanding can pave the way for a peaceful future.



*Image: Palestinian News & Information Agency (Wafa) in contract with APImages*

## Saying goodbye to Hellems as we remember it.



*Credit: Ted Lytle*

North stairwell

# Faculty news

**Céline Dauverd** (associate professor, early modern Mediterranean) is a senior research fellow of the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies at Columbia University for the 2023-24 academic year. She is working on a new book, called *All the Kings of the Mediterranean: The Role of the Renaissance Papacy in the North African Conquest, 1450-1620* <https://italianacademy.columbia.edu/node/582>. The Italian Academy is a premier global center for research in the humanities and sciences, founded in 1991 on the basis of an agreement between Columbia University and the Republic of Italy. Its chief commitment is to promote groundbreaking cross-disciplinary work while addressing international social issues.

**Vilja Hulden** (teaching associate professor, modern U.S. / digital history) was awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Chair's Grant to support "A computational analysis of group representation at U.S. Congressional hearings since 1877." The grant will allow her to devote Fall 2024 to research on the project.

**Erin Hutchinson** (assistant professor, Soviet Union / modern Europe) was invited to write an obituary for the Moldovan writer she studies, Ion Druță. It was published on a Moldovan site and translated into Romanian: <https://platzforma.md/arhive/393600>

Hutchinson also had an article published this year in *The Russian Review* (Vol. 82, No. 1), titled "Gathering the Nation in the Village: Intellectuals and the Cultural Politics of Nationality in the Late Soviet Period".

**Hilary Falb Kalisman** (assistant professor, Israel / Palestine) won the History of Education Society's Outstanding Book Award for 2023. Her book, *Teachers as Statebuilders*, was celebrated at the Society's annual meeting in early November. (see also: book award)

**Natalie Mendoza** (assistant professor, Mexican American / modern U.S.) won a CHA Faculty Fellowship for the upcoming 2024-'25 academic year.

**Myles Osborne** (associate professor, modern Africa) saw his edited volume, *Making Martial Races: Gender, Society, and Warfare in Africa*, published in November with Ohio University Press in their *War and Militarism in African History* series. It was based on a conference hosted by the Department of History held at CU in 2018. (see also: Books)

**Thomas Pegelow Kaplan** (professor, Singer Chair in Jewish History, interim director of the Program in Jewish Studies) published a co-edited volume entitled *Holocaust and Police: One Generation After Christopher Browning's Ordinary Men* (in German, with Brill/Schoeningh). The first (revised) paperback edition of his co-edited volume, *Resisting Persecution: Jews and Their Petitions During the Holocaust* (with Berghahn Books) also appeared in 2023. Finally, Pegelow Kaplan published a single-authored book entitled, *The German-Jewish Press and Journalism Beyond Borders, 1933-1943* (in Hebrew, with Yad Vashem Publications). He intervened in the controversy over the "German Catechism" by publishing "[Historikerstreit 2.0?](#) Deutsche Erinnerungskulturen, Holocaust und Kolonialverbrechen" at H-Soz-Kult. Pegelow Kaplan presented papers at the CU History Department's Faculty Seminar, at the Holocaust and Genocide Studies Center at West Chester University, at the GHI West's Germanists' Workshop in Vancouver, the annual meeting of the German Studies Association (GSA) in Montreal, and the annual conference of the Association for Jewish Studies in San Francisco. He gave the laudation for the winner of the NCGS Konrad H. Jarausch Essay Prize for Advanced Graduate Students in Central European History and served on the selection committee for the GSA's Sybil Halpern Milton Book Prize. Pegelow Kaplan also served as manuscript reviewer, among others, for *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* and the *Asian Review of World Histories*. Furthermore, he was invited to give a talk at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem in December, which will likely need to be rescheduled due to the war. He (co-)organized a series of programs on the CU campus, including visits and talks by Alan Steinweis (Vermont), Susanna Schraftstetter (Vermont), Kimmy Caplan (Ramat Gan), Dorota Glowacka (Halifax), and Holocaust survivors Judy Winkel and Osi Sladek. He also put together a public reading to mark Yom HaShoah and a panel discussion about the war in Israel and Gaza and spoke at Synagogue Har Hashem in commemoration of the 1938 November Pogroms. Lastly, Pegelow Kaplan received a grant from RIO's new Arts & Humanities Grant Program for a Russian-language edition of his book, *The Language of Nazi Genocide*.

**Honor Sachs** (associate professor, early America) has won a year-long Mellon residential fellowship for research at the Huntington Library in San Marino, California.





**Paul Sutter** (professor, environmental / modern U.S.) received the 2023 Lisa Mighetto Distinguished Service Award, which is given annually by the American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) to an individual who has contributed significantly to the development of ASEH as an organization and to the field of environmental history.

aseh  
american society for  
ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

**Tim Weston** (associate professor, modern China) was an invited participant in a Congressional Briefing on the History of U.S.-China Relations. Weston spoke on the history of Chinese nationalism and its intertwinement with the U.S. The briefing was held in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 29, 2023, and was organized by the American Historical Association.

**Peter H. Wood** (adjunct professor, early / modern U.S.) delivered a paper in Charlotte, N.C., in November at the Southern Historical Association. The session was named “Suspicious Minds: Conservative Knowledge Suppression and Attacks on Education”. His talk, relating to his current research on generations of forced Black illiteracy in the early South, was entitled “‘Drop That Book!’ How the South Made Too Much Learning a Dangerous Thing”.

Separately, W.W. Norton is publishing (with a forward by Imani Perry) a new 50<sup>th</sup>-anniversary edition of Peter Wood’s book about enslavement in early South Carolina. The publication date is set for Jan. 23 for *Black Majority: Race, Rice, and Rebellion in South Carolina, 1670-1740*. Earlier that month, a session at the AHA meeting in San Francisco is entitled “*Black Majority* in the Age of Black Lives Matter.”

**Tony Wood** (assistant professor, modern Latin America) co-edited a volume with Marc Becker, Margaret Power and Jacob Zumoff. Titled [Transnational Communism across the Americas](#) (University of Illinois Press — 2023), it explores how transnational connections shaped the trajectories of Latin Amer-

ica’s Communist parties. It has chapters on topics ranging from Black migrant workers in the Caribbean to race relations in Cuba, and from Communist women’s organizations in Guatemala to relations between the U.S. and Puerto Rican communist and Nationalist parties. Wood has a chapter in it on Latin American communists’ experiences in the USSR in the 1920s and 1930s.

Tony Wood also has a chapter in a volume published by Cambridge University Press in August. Titled [The Anticolonial Transnational](#) and co-edited by Erez Manela and Heather Streets-Salter, the volume explores anticolonialism as a global phenomenon. Wood’s contribution focuses on Mexico City in the 1920s as a hub for transnational radical politics.

**Marcia Yonemoto** (professor, early modern Japan) published an article entitled “[Trouble in the Family State: The Public Debate on Family and Adoption in Meiji Japan](#),” in the *Journal of Japanese Studies*, Vol. 49, No. 2 (2023): 363-393. The article is part of her book-in-progress on adoption and family formation in Japan from 1700-1925. She also submitted articles for publication in *The Oxford Handbook of East Asian Gender History* and in *Oceanic Japan: The Archipelago in Pacific and Global History*. Yonemoto received a 2023 “Women Who Make a Difference” award from the CU Center for Inclusion and Social Change.”

**Phoebe S.K. Young** (environmental / modern U.S.) was awarded the [Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award from 2022-23](#) from the Graduate School. Young is most grateful for the generous nomination for this by her history faculty and graduate student colleagues.

Young also launched a new book series with the University of Washington Press, titled [The Outdoors: Recreation, Environment, and Culture](#). She teamed up as co-editor with CU history alumna, Annie Gilbert Coleman (PhDHist’96), now a professor of American Studies at Notre Dame University.



## OER Awards


**Pictured:** Sheena Barnes (PhDHist’22), David Paradis (teaching associate professor), Todd Saliman (CU president)

**Next page.**

Answers



- A. **Aaron Bhatoya** (Zhu Li) *Graduate Student*
- B. **Augusto Rocha** (Sofia) *Graduate Student*
- C. **Benjamin Morton** (Tioga) *Graduate Student*
- D. **David Paradis** (Georgie) *Faculty*
- E. **Emily Swertfeger** (Hans) *Graduate Student*
- F. **Hilary Kalisman** (son, Aaron's Big Fish) *Faculty*
- G. **Honor Sachs** \*(Ruthie) *Faculty*
- H. **John Willis** (Benny & Ernie) *Faculty*
- I. **Kellie Matthews** (Frey, Oberon & Zephyr) *Staff*
- J. **Lucy Chester** (Imogene) *Faculty*
- K. **Marcia Yonemoto** (Ollie) *Faculty*
- L. **Myles Osborne** (Tali the Yak) *Faculty*
- M. **Paul Sutter** (Olive) *Faculty*
- N. **Phoebe Young** (Sheev, Coco & Pancakes) *Faculty*
- O. **Ted Lytle** (Arthur) *Staff*
- P. **Thomas Andrews** (Roxie) *Faculty*
- Q. **Vilja Hulden** (Tigger) *Faculty*
- R. **Tim Weston** (Maisy & Moose) *Faculty*
- S. **Tony Wood** (Clio & Dante) *Faculty*

 \*as seen on Tik Tok

## Champions of Open Educational Resources honored for achieving savings for students

### [CU Connections](#)

**P**resident Todd Saliman – along with the Office of Academic Affairs and the Open CU Committee – recently honored the four recipients of the 2023 Open Educational Resources (OER) Champion Awards.

The honor celebrates an educator from each of the four CU campuses who contributes to the open educational movement through the creation of open access learning materials, and in so doing, increases OER awareness and interest in exploring, adopting and creating OER to benefit CU students.

This year's resources included openly accessible/no-cost textbooks, curriculum based on open software, and open augmented reality anatomy models. For the first time, students this year received OER Champion Awards as key collaborators of the honored educators.

In the five years since the award's inception, open educational resources have provided CU students open access valued at nearly \$2 million in learning material cost savings.

The 2023 OER Champion Awards were presented at an event March 10 at 1800 Grant St. The recipients are:

### CU Boulder

**David Paradis**, teaching associate professor, Department of History

Also recognized: **Sheena Barnes**, former graduate student, Department of History; **Abby Lagemann**, former graduate student, Department of History

Awarded for: Creation of the Origins of European History open textbook in collaboration with students Barnes and Lagemann

*Notable:*

- Cost savings to CU Boulder students of approximately \$15,750 annually
- Creating a customized course text that directly addresses students' needs

Read more on other awardees in [CU Connections](#)

# Faculty Retiring



Distinguished Professor  
**Elizabeth "Lil" Fenn**

**D**istinguished Professor Elizabeth "Lil" Fenn retired from the Department of History in the summer of 2023. Fenn is best known outside the department as a highly acclaimed scholar of early American and Native American history and the winner of multiple awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for History in 2015 for her masterful *Encounters at the Heart of the World: A History of the Mandan People*; a John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 2005; the Cox Book Prize in 2004 for *Pox Americana: The Great Smallpox Epidemic of 1775-82*; and a National Endowment for the Humanities Public Scholar Award in 2019 to support her ongoing research on Sacagawea.

Inside the department, she was known as a stellar teacher whose classes regularly filled beyond capacity, an inspiring mentor to many graduate students, a resourceful and diligent leader who headed countless committees and served as department chair from 2014-17, and as a diehard cyclist and fixture at first base for the faculty softball team.

Fenn joined the Department of History in 2012 as the Walter and Lucienne Driskill Professor of Western American History. She came to Boulder from Duke University, where she taught from 2002-2012, and where she also received her undergraduate degree in History in 1981. (As a senior at Duke she lived in a canvas teepee she set up in a tobacco field outside Durham. It was, [as she told the \*New York Times\* in 2001](#), "fun until I ran out of firewood.")

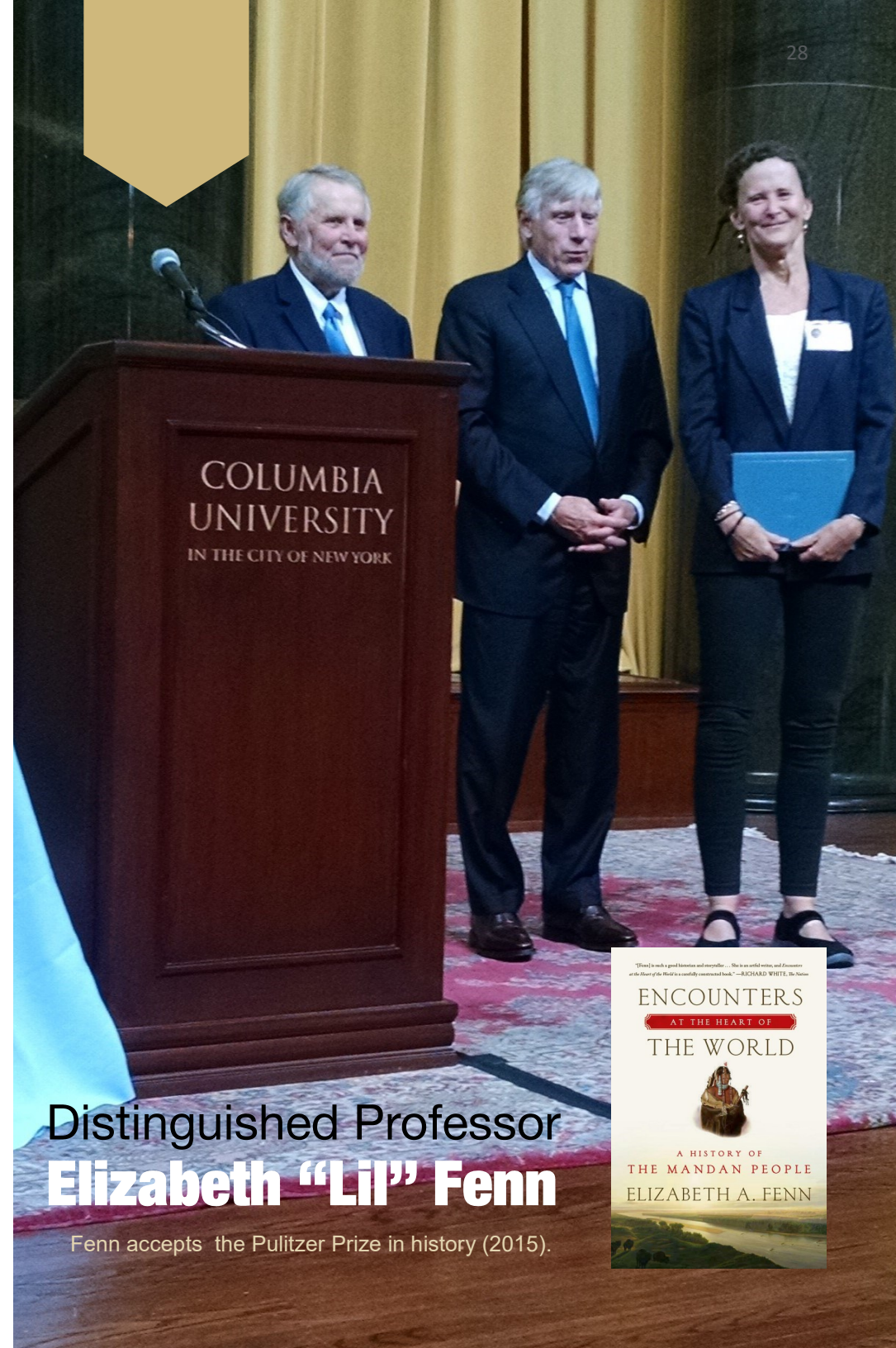
Fenn's path through academia was famously indirect: after graduating from Duke, she started a graduate degree in History at Yale, but quit when she found herself unenthusiastic about her research on Native American millenarian movements. She instead went to Durham Technical Community College to study automotive repair, and subsequently worked full-time as an auto mechanic in Durham for eight years. (Durham Technical Community College recently honored Fenn by asking her to be their commencement speaker in May 2023—she was, its leaders reasoned, the college's most famous graduate—and bestowed on her an honorary Associate of Arts degree to add to her BA, MA, and PhD).

**A**lthough she seriously considered the idea that she might remain a mechanic for the rest of her life, in 1995 a new idea about re-searching the effects of epidemic disease on early American history seized her attention and took her back to Yale's graduate program, where she finished the dissertation that became the basis for *Pox Americana*. She subsequently got a job at George Washington University, where she taught for four years, all the while keeping her auto repair tools stored in Durham in case tenure didn't pan out.

Of course, Fenn did get tenure, and at Duke and CU, she worked steadily on the project that became *Encounters at the Heart of the World*. [As she once described it](#), "the book is a history of a remarkable Plains Indian tribe known as the Mandan people, who had villages in what is today North Dakota ... They had to deal with a whole series of environmental challenges—drought, infectious disease from Europe including whooping cough, smallpox and measles, and they also had to deal with Norway rats, a new species from China arriving via Europe," which decimated their food supply.

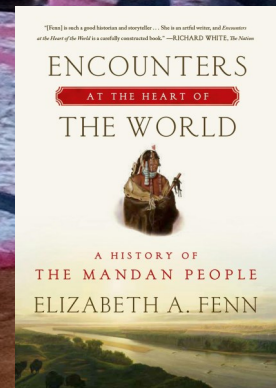
Although their numbers were greatly reduced over generations, Mandan people still live in their North Dakota homelands, and Fenn worked closely with tribal leaders, who became her mentors and friends, while researching her book. *Encounters* was published by Hill & Wang in 2014 to considerable academic acclaim, but none of this prepared Fenn for the day in April 2015, when she walked into her office in Hellems and picked up a phone message from a reporter asking to interview her about "your prize."

Puzzled, she turned on her computer and Googled her own name and "prize" and was so astounded by what she read that she walked over to colleague Martha Hanna's office to have her confirm that she was not hallucinating or the victim of a prank. [The Pulitzer Prize committee noted in its official announcement](#) how *Encounters* was a "pathbreaking account of centuries of Mandan prosperity and productivity gives us a new perspective on early American history, a new interpretation of the American past. ... Fenn's remarkable study of Mandan history, landscapes, and people is enriched and enlivened not only by her scientific and historical research but also by her own encounters at the heart of the world."



## Distinguished Professor Elizabeth "Lil" Fenn

Fenn accepts the Pulitzer Prize in history (2015).



(Durham Technical Community College recently honored Fenn by asking her to be their commencement speaker in May 2023—she was, its leaders reasoned, the college’s most famous graduate—and bestowed on her an honorary Associate of Arts degree to add to her BA, MA, and PhD).



## Lil's Legacy

As colleague Paul Sutter said at the time, “Lil skillfully opened up Native American worlds not easily found in the conventional primary source archives with which historians usually work. ... She has built a career as a historian whose work mixes academic rigor with beautiful and accessible writing.” Fenn’s work also bespeaks extraordinary breadth: few academic historians can boast a curriculum vitae that contains publications ranging from the above-mentioned books to a much-cited article on the Jonkonnu Ceremony and slave society in the American South (published in *The North Carolina Historical Review* in 1988 while she was still a graduate student) to “A Mechanic’s Confessions: Why We Do What We Do to You and Your Car” (*Independent Weekly*, 1991).

Since her retirement, Fenn has been as busy as ever. She is working primarily on a biography entitled *Sacagawea’s World*, which seeks to use the Shoshone woman’s life story to discuss a broader history of the northern plains and Rockies. She also is making good use of the pop-up camper tent on top of her SUV, which she bought in anticipation of retirement, and which she is driving all over the western U.S., for conferences, talks, meetings, and family visits.

She always returns to the Longmont home she shares with spouse, Peter H. Wood, also an acclaimed historian of the early U.S., who surreptitiously provided some of the sources for this article. As he noted, “Though she played the French horn in her high school marching band, Lil has been super-reluctant to toot her own horn.”



“During my studies and my time teaching at CU, Lil was always an invaluable guide. To this day, when I find myself stuck designing a syllabus, writing an essay, or advising a student, I often ask myself a question: “what would Lil do?” I hope I am able to approach my scholarship and teaching with even a fraction of the empathy, passion, strength, and ability that Lil did.”

--Andrew Detch (PhDHist'18)

*Fenn, an avid cyclist, competes in a triathlon (2004)*



05/09/2004



“Lil’s retirement leaves one big set of shoes to fill in the History Department. Her humility about the strength of her scholarship was disarming, which made her a consistently approachable teacher and advisor. Additionally, she recognized that while students might not always be susceptible to her passion for the history of disease in early America, she could at least nourish a culture that stimulated their development as researchers, writers, and critical thinkers.”

**--Katie King, PhD candidate**

“Lil, more than any other mentor, taught me about diction. Her edits of my work made clear to me that good word choice wasn’t just about producing artful prose. At their best, words opened up worlds to readers; at their worst, they revealed the biases and misconceptions of the author. One seminar stands out vividly in this regard: Lil chastised us grad students (rightly so!) for our uncritical use of the term “American,” when what we really meant were Euro Americans. Indeed, we’d left out the majority population of the region we were discussing (I forget which one it was at the moment) and had conflated Americanness with the white population. We approached our work without the necessary care; the words we choose made that clear.



Lil made me a better historian, to be sure. She was always keen to consider an unconventional approach to the work at hand, and her fastidious nature made her students an especially detail-oriented bunch. And yet, her biggest impression on me had to be her way of being in the world. As a young graduate student anxious about her abilities and her future in the profession, I stood in awe of Lil’s calm presence and self-assuredness. Lil always seemed to have a clear-eyed sense of why she was doing what she was doing, even if she found herself bucking academic norms or working across several disciplines at once. Lil knows deeply what it is she cares for, and if you are lucky enough to be in her orbit you see first hand her generosity of spirit.”

**--Alessandra La Rocca Link (PhDHist’18)**

## Saying goodbye to Hellems as we remember it.



Hellems 244—The view from Lil Fenn's office  
in May 2023, Credit: Ted Lytle

Overlooking Mary Rippon Theater

"Lil Fenn has been a towering influence on my development as a historian. At the risk of incurring her wrath for using hackneyed phrases, she is the cat's pajamas, the bee's knees, and an honorary damn good dawg. I became a better writer because of Lil's unfailingly accurate BS detector and unwavering commitment to clarity. Thank you Lil, for showing me how to embrace vulnerability and doubt, and for your model of empathic curiosity about both the living and the dead."

--Sherri Sheu, PhD candidate



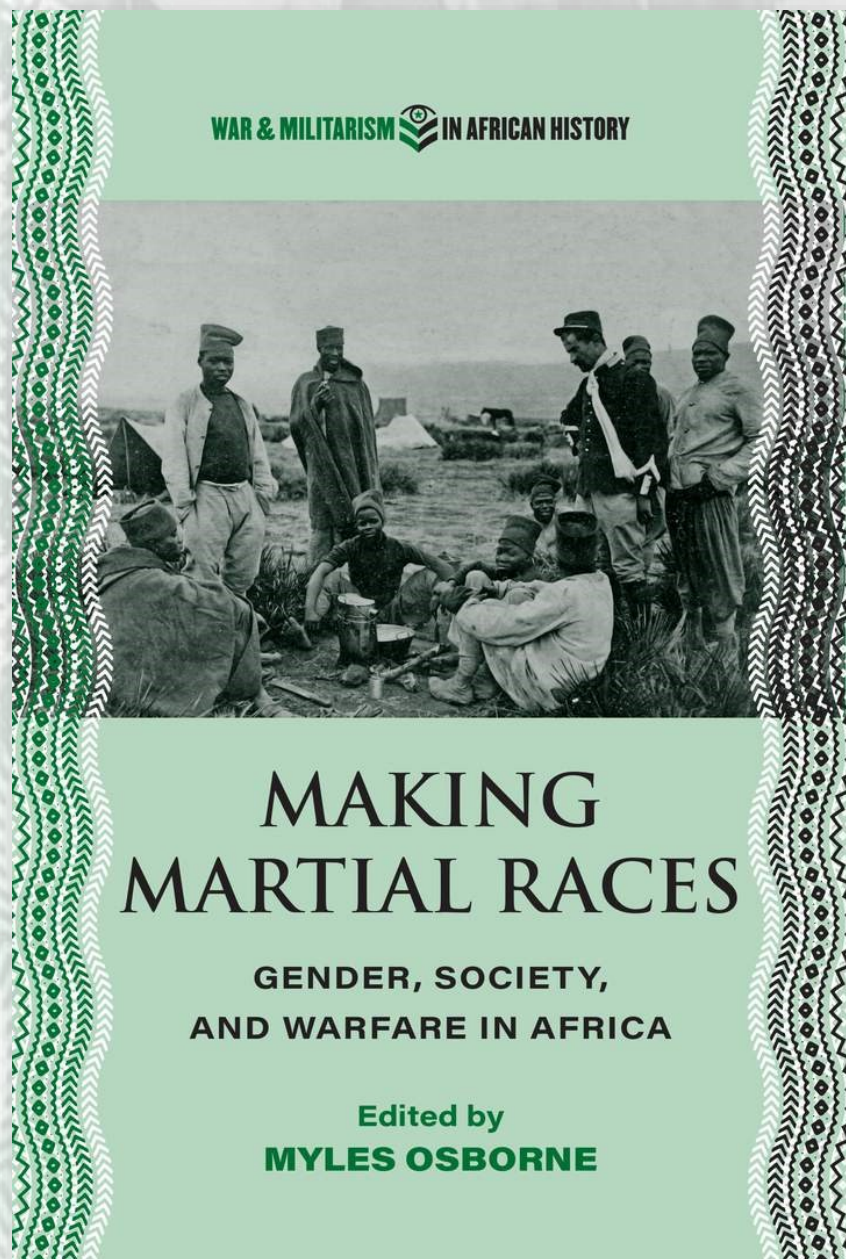
"I first heard of Lil when I was reading a book about Washington's decision to inoculate his troops during the war. I chased down the footnote, as someone down the history rabbit hole is prone to do, and found a book called *Pox Americana*. When I got to George Washington University for my Master's work, I was pleasantly surprised to find that my mentor and academic advisor, Tom Long, was a former student of Lil's and

Ron Spector's. I never expected to ever meet her.

I was thrilled when Lil arrived at the University of Colorado and even more pleased when she agreed to join my dissertation committee. Lil's detailed reading of my dissertation only made it better. Lil and I became friends—we meet for lunch on occasion and catch up. As a non-traditional student, it is near impossible not to like someone who, in addition to being a world class historian, likes to work on automobiles. I don't know what Lil is going to do in her retirement but I'm sure it will be weird and glorious."

--Pete Veru (PhDHist'18)

# Faculty new books



## ***Making Martial Races: Gender, Society, and Warfare in Africa***

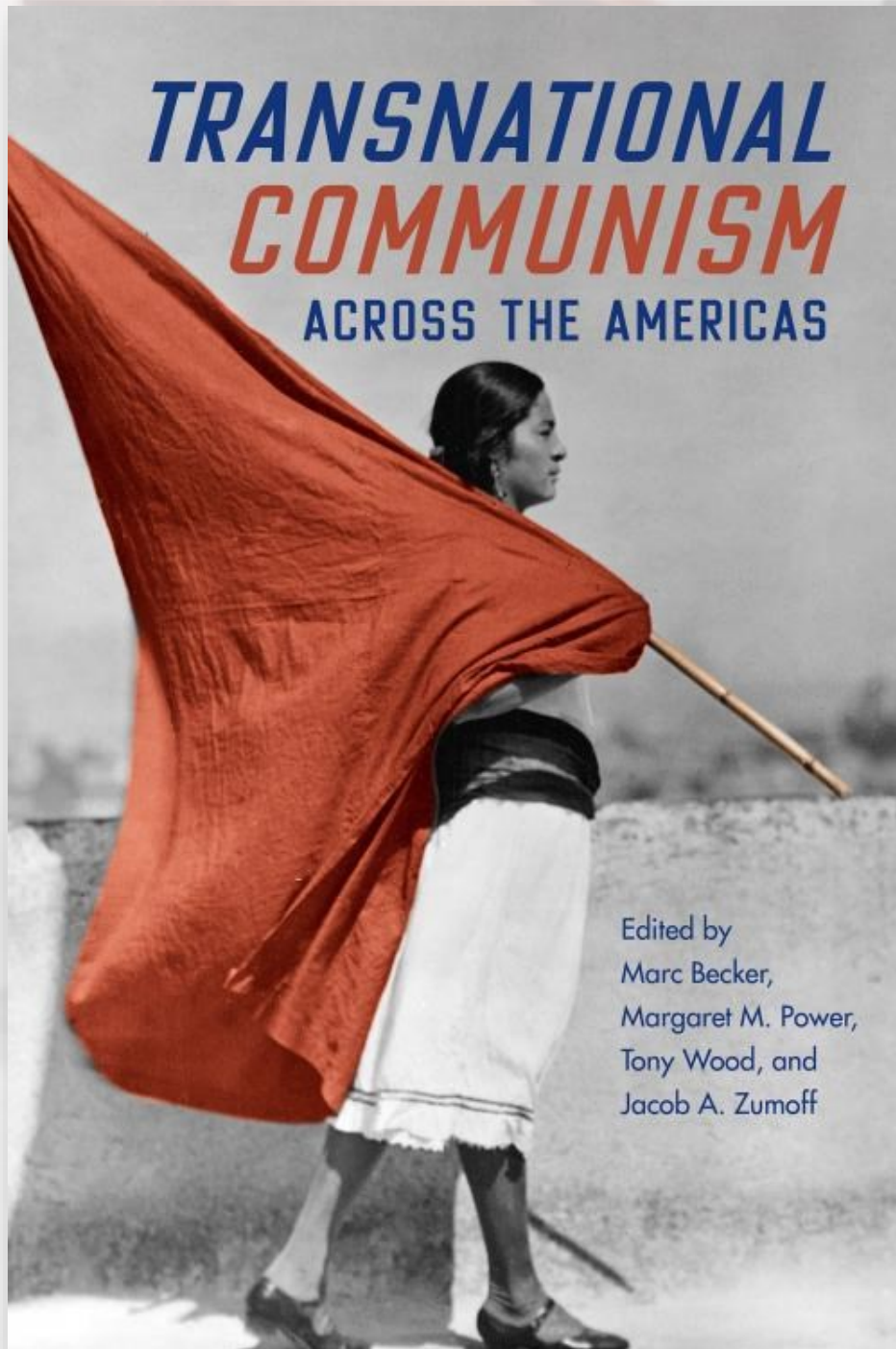
(Ohio University Press — 2023)

[Myles Osborne](#), editor

European colonizers in Africa required the service of local soldiers and military auxiliaries to uphold their power. These African men were initially engaged by the expeditions of European surveyors and explorers during the late nineteenth century, then quickly pressed into service in the notorious campaigns of pacification. Two world wars further expanded both the numbers of African soldiers in European employ and the roles they played; many of these men would continue their jobs into the era of decolonization in the 1960s and 1970s. [READ MORE](#)







## ***Transnational Communism Across the Americas***

([University of Illinois Press](#)) — 2023)

[Tony Wood](#), co-editor



**T***ransnational Communism across the Americas* offers an innovative approach to the study of Latin American communism. It convincingly illustrates that communist parties were both deeply rooted in their own local realities and maintained significant relationships with other communists across the region and around the world. The essays in this collection use a transnational lens to examine the relationships of the region's communist parties with each other, their international counterparts, and non-communist groups dedicated to anti-imperialism, women's rights, and other causes. Topics include the shifting relationship between Mexican communists and the Comintern, Black migrant workers in the Caribbean, race relations in Cuba, Latin American communists in the USSR, Luís Carlos Prestes in Brazil, the U.S. and Puerto Rican communist and Nationalist parties, peace activist networks in Latin America, communist women in Guatemala, transnational student groups, and guerrillas in El Salvador. [READ MORE](#)

# Faculty book award

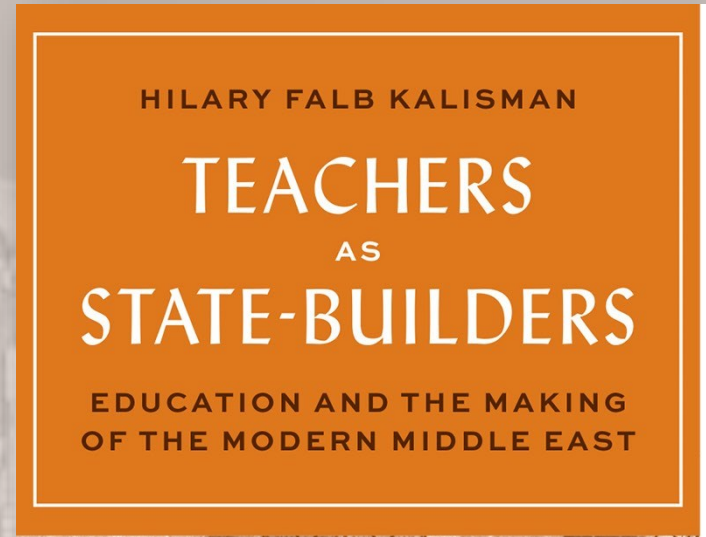
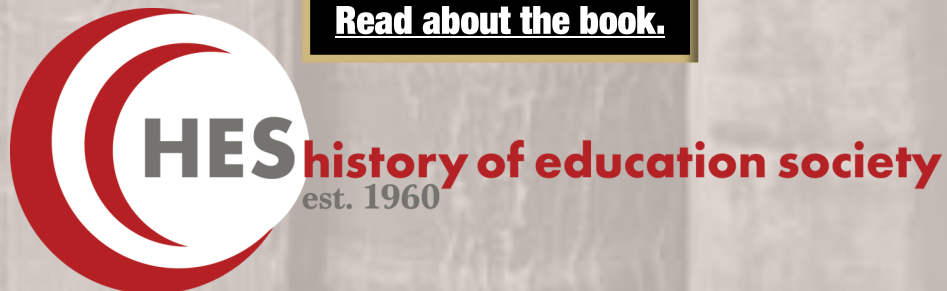
***Teachers as Builders:  
Education and the Making of the Modern Middle  
East***

(Princeton University Press — 2022)

[Hilary Falb Kalisman](#)



**Read about the book.**



**Winner: 2023 Outstanding Book  
Award**

This award recognizes the book that is judged to be the most outstanding book on the history of education published during the previous year.

# Alumni update books



## The Cold War in the Himalayas

Multinational Perspectives on the  
Sino-Indian Border Conflict, 1950-1970

Amsterdam  
University  
Press

## Reed Chervin

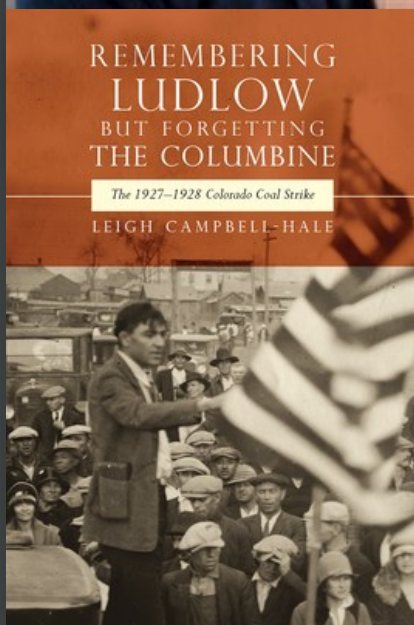
**Reed Chervin** (MAHist'14) received his PhD in international history from the University of Hong Kong in 2019. His book, [\*The Cold War in the Himalayas: Multinational Perspectives on the Sino-Indian Border Conflict, 1950-1970\*](#) (Amsterdam University Press), will publish in December 2023.

### *The Cold War in the Himalayas* *Multinational Perspectives on the Sino-Indian* *Border Conflict, 1950-1970*

(Amsterdam University Press — 2023)

## About the book.

Extensive in scope and drawing on newly available evidence from multinational archives, this book reconsiders Sino-Indian border issues during the middle Cold War using multiple established analytical frameworks. It demonstrates how key countries perceived and engaged with the border conflict by aiding the two main participants morally and materially. Before, during, and after the 1962 Sino-Indian border war, multinational political actors pursued their foreign policy goals (e.g., trade, security, and prestige) concerning the frontier, and often tried to destabilize spheres of influence and bolster alliances. Therefore, this contest signified a variation of the Anglo-Russian Great Game in Asia during the nineteenth century, and the theater of operations encompassed not only the border itself, but also the Himalayan kingdoms, Tibet, and Burma. A reevaluation of the border conflict between India and China is necessary given current, ongoing clashes at their still unresolved border as well as the fact that these two countries now possess enhanced technology and weapons.



Leigh  
Campbell-Hale

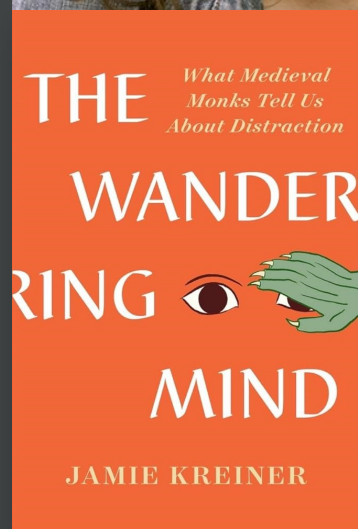
**Leigh Campbell-Hale** (PhDHist'13) Published her book, [Remembering Ludlow but Forgetting the Columbine: The 1927-1928 Colorado Coal Strike](#) (University Press of Colorado), based on her dissertation. Leigh is now a lecturer at CU Denver, a retired teacher with BVSD, and the President of the Lafayette Historical Society.

***Remembering Ludlow  
but Forgetting the Columbine  
The 1927-1928 Colorado Coal Strike***  
(University Press of Colorado — 2023)

**About the book.**

*Remembering Ludlow but Forgetting the Columbine* examines the causes, context, and legacies of the 1927 Columbine Massacre in relation to the history of labor organizing and coal mining in both Colorado and the United States. While historians have written prolifically about the 1914 Ludlow Massacre, there has been a lack of attention to the violent event remembered now as the Columbine Massacre in which police shot and killed six striking coal miners and wounded sixty more protestors during the 1927-1928 Colorado Coal Strike, even though its aftermath exerted far more influence upon subsequent national labor policies.

This volume is a comparative biography of three key participants before, during, and after the strike: A. S. Embree, the IWW strike leader; Josephine Roche, the owner of the coal mine property where the Columbine Massacre took place; and Powers Haggood, who came to work for Roche four months after she signed the 1928 United Mine Worker's contract. Campbell-Hale demonstrates the significance of this event to national debates about labor during the period, as well as changes and continuities in labor history starting in the progressive era and continuing with 1930s New Deal labor policies and through the 1980s. [READ MORE](#)



Jamie Kreiner

**Jamie Kreiner** (Hist/Mus'04) Published her book, [The Wandering Mind: What Medieval Monks Tell Us About Distraction](#) (W.W. Norton). Kreiner is a professor of history of the early Middle Ages, at the University of Georgia. [Read more](#)

### ***The Wandering Mind What Medieval Monks Tell Us About Distraction***

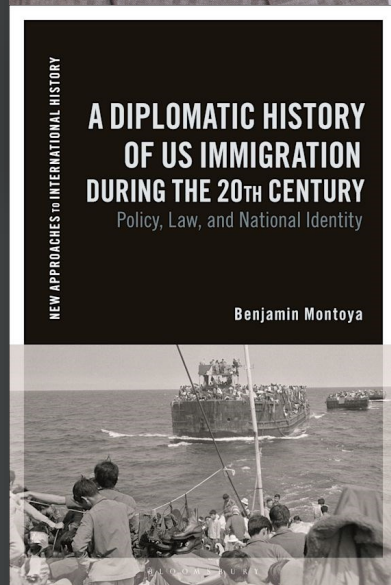
(W.W. Norton — 2023)

## **About the book.**

A revelatory account of how Christian monks identified distraction as a fundamental challenge—and how their efforts to defeat it can inform ours, more than a millennium later.

The digital era is beset by distraction, and it feels like things are only getting worse. At times like these, the distant past beckons as a golden age of attention. We fantasize about escaping our screens. We dream of recapturing the quiet of a world with less noise. We imagine retreating into solitude and singlemindedness, almost like latter-day monks.

[READ MORE](#)



Benjamin  
Montoya

**Benjamin Montoya** (PhDHist'15) now Associate Professor at Schreiner University in Texas, has published his second book in three years, [\*A Diplomatic History of US Immigration during the 20th Century\*](#) (Bloomsbury Academic, January 2024).

***A Diplomatic History of US Immigration  
During the 20th Century***  
***Policy, Law, and National Identity***  
(Bloomsbury Academic— January 2024)

**About the book.**

This timely book explores immigration into the United States and the effect it has had on national identity, domestic politics and foreign relations from the 1920s to 2006.

Comparing the immigration experiences of Chinese, Japanese, Mexicans, Cubans, Central Americans and Vietnamese, this book highlights how the US viewed each group throughout the American century, the various factors that have shaped US immigration, and the ways in which these debates influenced relations with the wider world. Using a comparative approach, Montoya offers an insight into the themes that have surrounded immigration, its role in forming a national identity and the ways in which changing historical contexts have shaped and re-shaped conversations about immigrants in the United States.

This account helps us better understand the implications and importance of immigration throughout the American century, and informs present-day debates surrounding the issue.—Bloomsbury Academic.

# Alumni updates



## Jesús Solís

**Jesús Solís** (MAHist'12), presently a PhD candidate in Japanese history at Harvard University, spent the 2022-23 academic year on a Fulbright Fellowship in Japan completing pandemic-delayed research on his dissertation, "Black Market Empire: U.S. Military Goods, Drugs, and Borders in Japan and the American Lake, 1945-1975." While awaiting approval to travel to Japan, he worked as a research assistant and consultant for the Apple TV+ series "[Pachinko](#)," a dramatization of Min Jin Lee's award-winning novel of the same name. (A good portion of the series takes place in and around the black market in wartime and post-WWII Osaka, one subject of Solís's research). In the past year, Solís also [translated several proposed draft revisions to the Japanese Constitution](#) for the [Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies' Constitutional Revision Project](#). He plans to complete his dissertation at Harvard in the spring of 2024.

**David Varel** (PhDHist'15) published an article, "The John Abraham Davis Saga: An Intimate History of Racism and Resilience in the US Civil Service, 1862-1928," in *The Journal of African American History* 107:3 (2022). The article tells the story of John Abraham Davis, the father of pioneering anthropologist Allison Davis. Davis is the subject of Varel's 2018 book (based on his dissertation), *The Lost Black Scholar: Resurrecting Allison Davis in American Social Thought* (University of Chicago Press, 2018). Varel's second book, *The Scholar and the Struggle: Lawrence Reddick's Crusade for Black History and Black Power* (University of North Carolina Press, 2020), recently won praise in the *American Historical Review*: "Well-written and meticulously researched.... Varel's work will stand as the definitive biography of Lawrence D. Reddick while also making a valuable contribution to our understanding of the civil rights struggle."



## David Varel



Pete Veru

**Pete Veru** (PhDHist'18) recently published two articles: "The French Bonds: the Little-Known Bidding War for France's Holdings in American Debt, 1786-1790," *Financial History Review* 28:2 (2021): 259-280, and "Pieter Stadnitski Sharpens the Axe: Revolutionary Research Report on American Sovereign Finance, 1787," *Research in Economic History* 37 (2021): 169-199. He also has finished the first draft of his book, *Bonds of Independence: John Adams, Alexander Hamilton and the Dutch Connection, 1780-1803*.

Send alumni updates to:  
[history@colorado.edu](mailto:history@colorado.edu)

**Katie Wataha** (Hist'10) recently graduated from Michigan with her MD/PhD (or as she put it, finished 29<sup>th</sup> grade!). She is staying at Michigan for a psychiatry residency. Quote: "I'm very proud of my alma mater and - as you know well - my undergraduate education in the CU History Dept. was a very formative experience for me."



Katie Wataha



# Giving funds

*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. Please consider making a gift to the History Department to one of the following areas:*

## Undergraduate Studies

One of our current priorities is to increase 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 **Colton G. Erickson** Scholarship was established by the History Department with the support of Colton's family, in memory of former student [Colton G. Erickson \(1994 – 2018\)](#), who graduated in 2017 while living with brain cancer. The fund will provide undergraduate scholarship awards for students enrolled in the Department of History within the College of Arts & Sciences at CU Boulder. Recipients will have faced unusual adversity in their lives, while achieving excellence as determined by the scholarship application process. Scholarship recipients will also demonstrate financial need. Scholarships will be awarded for one academic year and previous recipients are encouraged to reapply.

### [Virginia and Fred Anderson Endowed History Scholarship Fund](#)

The **Virginia & Fred Anderson Scholarship in History** is given in honor of Emeritus faculty [Virginia DeJohn Anderson](#) and [Fred Anderson](#). The fund shall be used to provide undergraduate scholarship awards for students based on financial need and academic merit who are enrolled in the Department of History. This year we encourage applications from students with a strong interest in studying American History.

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

The **Robert C. Rogers** Scholarship, established in memory of [Robert C. Rogers](#), is awarded to an incoming transfer or current first-year transfer student with a declared major in History. The scholarship is awarded for one academic year and past recipients are encouraged to reapply.

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 & 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 History Department, we will be happy to talk to you about your plans in detail. Please contact the History Department Chair, [Marcia Yonemoto](#), or CU Boulder's [Office of Advancement](#).



*Helms Arts and Sciences, shown here in the 1930s, was the first building on campus built using the trademark Tuscan Vernacular style [A.A. Paddock Collection: University of Colorado, Boulder](#)*