



# 2021 NEWSLETTER



History

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO BOULDER

# Joyce Chapman Lebra

1925—2021

*Joyce Lebra was the first woman in the United States to get a PhD in Japanese history and the first female history professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. (Cover photo courtesy of University of Colorado Libraries)*

# Notes from the chair



**G**reetings to the history community—I am pleased to be able to share with you our 2021 department newsletter. I took over as chair this past summer, succeeding the omniscient and ever-unruffled Paul Sutter, who for four years guided the department surehandedly, even and especially through the enormous upheavals caused by the pandemic and remote instruction. We all owe him many, many thanks and wish him the best as he spends the academic year on a fellowship at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina.

As I look back on 2021, I am struck by the disorienting quality of pandemic time—things pass in an instant and yet seem to drag on indefinitely, and situations change rapidly while they also seem to remain frustratingly, stubbornly the same. The spring of 2021, when I returned to teaching after a fellowship and sabbatical leave, was what people now refer to as the “weird” semester of mostly remote and hybrid instruction, when faculty and students alike proceeded cautiously and hoped for the best. This fall, though COVID concerns were still front of mind, we headed back into classrooms for in-person instruction with far greater confidence, we found rooms full of students excited to be there and eager to participate, and we were reminded of the joys of engaging with real people in real time. As time passed, though, we also realized that the pandemic and its associated traumas continue to do damage to people’s lives in ways we are only beginning to grasp.

If there is one reason I remain optimistic, it is because of the energy and support of the people in this community—our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and others. I am deeply grateful for the commitment and hard work on the part of our instructional faculty, who have spent countless hours going out of their way to make it possible for our students to learn in spite of often challenging circumstances. Faculty have organized teaching workshops (two this semester and counting), shared advice, and created networks of support. As articles in this newsletter attest, our faculty members

also continue to do research and publish, and to win internal and external grants and fellowships in impressive numbers. Our alumni are doing us proud, winning honors, writing books and articles, and succeeding in and outside of academe. And our hard-working staff—Ted Lytle, Kellie Matthews, and Abi Peters—keep everything running smoothly and make all of our working lives that much easier. Please read on for details about the achievements of many of these remarkable people!

This was a year of arriving and leave-taking, as we welcomed Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders, a scholar of African American and U.S. history, to the department this fall as an assistant professor. A profile of Ashleigh—which reveals her secret superpower—appears elsewhere in the newsletter. We also welcomed Julia Ogden, a recent PhD from the University of Texas at Austin who received her BA in our department, as a lecturer in Latin American history. Julia is teaching courses usually taught by Bob Ferry, who, along with Virginia Anderson, Martha Hanna, Susan Kent, and Mark Pittenger, is one of no fewer than five long-serving faculty members who retired in 2021. Articles on Virginia, Bob, Martha, and Susan appear in this newsletter—Mark was profiled in the 2020 issue. Each of them contributed so much to the department in terms of their scholarship, their teaching and mentoring, their service, and just by being excellent human beings. I cannot quite fathom what life in the department will look like without them. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude and we will miss all of them enormously.

In October of this year we lost Professor Emerita Joyce Lebra (1925–2021), an accomplished historian of Japan and India and the first American woman to earn a PhD in Japanese history, who taught in the department from 1961 to 1990. A tribute to Joyce, written by Mithi Mukherjee, appears in this newsletter. And as we proceed with a search for a scholar to fill the Louis P. Singer Endowed Chair in Jewish History, we remember our beloved late colleague David Shneer, the inaugural holder of the Singer chair, who passed away in 2020. Our undergraduate scholarship funds are up and running, thanks to the generosity of many donors: they include the Robert G. Rogers Scholarship, the Fred and Virginia Anderson Endowed History Scholarship, and the Ehlers Scholarships in European History. We also are working to endow the Colton G. Erickson Memorial Scholarship (see the Giving section for more details). These scholarships open doors for our current and future students and give them opportunities and resources they might not otherwise have.

Please do send us updates on what you are doing—we would love to share your news on our website and in the next edition of the newsletter. And please do have a healthy, safe, and happy 2022!

—Marcia Yonemoto, chair

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

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## Alumni react to our 2020 newsletter

*"I'd like to thank Paul (Sutter) and the rest of the staff for resuming the History Department newsletter! What a pleasant surprise—it has been a long time since I've read one of those.*

*I feel even more fortunate, because after retiring I became a civil servant and am now a historian for the Department of the Air Force. Twenty five years later and those skills I learned in Hellems with Professors Pois, Zeiler, Wei and Limerick are still paying off! On a professional note, if any students (undergrad and graduate) are interested in the field of public history, I'd be happy to answer questions. The historian career field is a small one within the Air Force, but there are plenty more throughout the federal government. I currently work at United States Strategic Command at Offutt AFB in Omaha. We have 2 historians in the office (supposed to have 4), and write yearly histories for our organization, in addition to topical studies as required. We also hold the classified nuclear histories for the National Archives (some fascinating documents going back to the Manhattan Project!). Although COVID has impacted our ability to do so, we do participate in conferences with the local colleges. Strategic Command has an academic alliance (<https://www.stratcom.mil/Academic-Alliance/>) that the department may be interested in. Should you have questions, I can be reached at this email, or my work email: peter.r.fey2.civ@mail.mil."*

**—Peter Fey (Class of '95)**

*"I'd never seen this newsletter, and I welcome it. Please keep it coming!!"*

**—Margaret Howe-Soper  
(Graduated as Margaret Howe, '61)**

*"I much appreciated receiving the department's newsletter. Give my advanced age, I didn't expect to know any of the faculty, and I fervently hope some of those now retired are still with us. It's just about letting someone out there know what happened to an old graduate. I'm duly retired (as senior research associate at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia) as of this writing. Be well."*

**—Ken Jensen**

**Read more in alumni news . . .**

# Remembering Joyce Chapman Lebra 1925—2021

The history department lost one of our most eminent historians and beloved friend Joyce Chapman Lebra this year. She died Oct. 10 at the age of 95.

Joyce joined the department in 1962 to teach Japanese and Indian history. She was the first female Japanese historian in the United States,

having received a PhD in Japanese history from Harvard University in 1958. She was also the department's first and, for 15 years, only, female faculty member. Joyce retired from the department in 1991 after 29 years of teaching but continued to research and write prolifically for another three decades.

A month before she died, Joyce received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, the third-highest award conferred by the Japanese government, for her outstanding contributions toward "promoting academic exchange and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States." This recognition crowned Joyce's career as one of the most distinguished American historians of Asia. A pioneer in the field of transnational history and women's history, Joyce was author or editor of 15 books, including three historical novels. Her path-breaking historical works on Japan and India in World War II published in the 1960s opened up whole new historiographical horizons, the significance of which is being increasingly recognized by historians in India and the U.S. today.

Joyce's book *Jungle Alliance: Japan and the Indian National Army*, published more than 40 years ago, remains one of the finest studies of Asia in World War II. Her other books on Asia included *Okuma Shigenobu: statesman of Meiji Japan*, *The Indian National Army and Japan* and *Japanese-trained Armies in Southeast Asia*. In the field of women's history, her books include *Women Against the Raj* and *Women in Changing Japan*. Joyce's own favorite was *The Rani of Jhansi; a Study in Female Heroism in India* on

Queen Lakshmibai, one of the leaders of the 1857 rebellion against the British Empire. She also wrote a novel, *Durga's Sword*, on the queen in 1995. Beyond her scholarship, Joyce was a remarkable human being and humanitarian whose life touched many countries, cultures and people. She lived an exemplary life pursuing diverse interests beyond the academy that included flying planes, playing the harp, photography and travel. We will miss her tremendously along with her friends all over the world.

—Mithi Mukherjee

*"I think of John Donne's famous line about the funeral bells tolling for us all. In ways that could not have been evident at the time, and at no small cost to herself, Joyce pioneered changes that made CU Boulder History a different, and much better, place.*

*Long before we were colleagues, she was my professor (ca. 1968). She's unforgettable."*

—Bob Ferry



*Joyce Lebra received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon in September at a celebration hosted by Frasier Meadows. (Photo with friend and fellow professor of Asian history, Mithi Mukherjee).*

# What's in a name? By Phoebe S.K. Young

Historians collaborate with city of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department on naming



In summer 2020, the city of Boulder's Parks and Recreation Department approached the history department about a possible collaboration to research the naming history of the city's many parks. Alison Rhodes, a CU

Boulder alumna (BA in history *cum laude* and Spanish, 2001, and MPA, CU Denver, 2016) who had become the director of Boulder Parks and Rec earlier that year, had been thinking about park names for some time. She wanted to take a fresh look at their history through an equity lens to ensure that the profile of park names reflected the community's commitment to inclusion. When she asked if we could assist with this research and assessment, Paul Sutter, then department chair, Phoebe Young, then director of undergraduate studies, and PhD candidate Kim Jackson jumped on board to help design and lead this multisemester joint project. The goals included: evaluating existing park names to identify those that might not align with contemporary community standards; compiling detailed histories of the namesakes themselves; sharing those histories with the public through a digital platform; and providing recommendations for future naming strategies that deliberately further the city's equity goals. Sutter and Young incorporated this project into two undergraduate courses and one graduate course in 2020–21, and the department brought several undergraduate interns on board to provide additional support.

More than 75 students contributed to this project, which gave them unique opportunities to apply historical research to contemporary local issues and to approach landscapes as products of history. Especially during the challenges of college-during-COVID, students found this project rewarding. Undergraduates in fall 2020 had the chance to present their findings directly to Rhodes and other city staff, and as one reflected on this experience: "Doing something that had real world implications was really cool; when I talk about this class with other people, I tell them about the parks project." Research continued under Jackson's lead-

ership during summer 2021, including a June presentation to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, whose members endorsed the next phases of the project: pursuing community engagement and sharing the results. As Rhodes reflected: "Through this project, we have both learned more about our parks and connected with college students—a demographic we don't typically hear from. We are so grateful for the partnership and scholarship of the History Department so we can ensure that Boulder's public spaces—and their names—represent the community as a whole and the current values of Boulder. As a proud alum, it was a privilege and delight to work with the talented and brilliant scholars in History at CU Boulder."

Several parks will be considered for renaming as a result of this research (to occur as capacity allows and concurrent with future capital investments and community engagement), with several more identified for additional consideration and possible interpretation. Two undergraduate interns are helping city staff create an online StoryMap that will include historic photographs and a brief synopsis of each park and its namesake when published in spring 2022. With gratitude to Alison Rhodes, Boulder Parks and Rec, and all the staff at the city, we are thrilled to have had the chance to pursue this special project—integrating education, academic research and public policy—and we hope to find other avenues for such valuable collaborations in the future.



Alison Rhodes, director of Boulder Parks and Rec  
CU Boulder alumna (BA in history *cum laude* and Spanish, 2001, and MPA, CU Denver, 2016)

# Faculty retiring

It is difficult to express in this limited space how different the department will be without Virginia Anderson, Bob Ferry, Martha Hanna, and Susan Kent, all of whom retired in 2021. Each contributed enormously to our research, teaching, and service mission in ways that cannot be easily quantified, and certainly not replaced. When asked what they would miss most after retirement, they all mentioned their colleagues and their students; when asked what they would miss least, almost all said “grading.” Here, some brief notes.

## Virginia Anderson



Virginia Anderson is a scholar of early American history who has taught at CU since 1985. Her major publications include *New England's Generation: The Great Migration and the Formation of Society and Culture in the Seventeenth Century*; *Creatures of Empire: How Domestic Animals Transformed Early America*; and *The Martyr and the Traitor: Nathan Hale, Moses Dunbar, and the American Revolution*. Over the course of her 36 years on the history faculty, Virginia taught legions of undergraduates and served as primary adviser to many. As departmental Honors director for several years running, she had considerable influence on many Honors graduates, a number of whom have gone on to successful careers in higher education, law, medicine, and other fields. She also was primary adviser to three PhD students and seven MA students, many of whom are teaching history at the college level. Her plans for retirement include continuing research on a book tentatively titled *Daniel Gookin's Atlantic World: Voluntary and Forced Migration in the 17th-Century*, in which she hopes to tell the intertwined stories of Gookin, who traveled around Ireland, England, the Chesapeake, and New England, and the indentured servants and enslaved Native Americans and Africans compelled to migrate along with him. She also resolves to keep up with her gardening and to harvest her zucchini before they attain the size of Volkswagens.



*"Colleagues, students, and friends all know that CU Boulder and the historical community are all better off because Virginia Anderson taught us, wrote for us, and conversed with us. We are all beyond grateful, and we all remain hopeful that even though her name placard is no longer on the office door in Hellems, she will still be willing to take drop-ins or call-ins every now and again. We all tend to carry a little bit of our advisors with us throughout our careers. I hope every day that I carry more than a little bit of Virginia's style, attitude, and intellect with me into classrooms, offices, and conference rooms."*

—Department of History Lecturer, Andrew Detch (PhDHist'18)



*"I can still remember where I sat in Virginia's Honors Seminar: my back to a wall with windows, at a large table, with a student on my right who was interested in the history of Italian maternalism and one on my left who always carried carabiners. I remember it so clearly because of how much I loved the feeling in that room, of being part of a tiny community concerned with something big. In the months and years that followed, in office hour meetings and long-distance emails, Virginia spent time I know she didn't have patiently talking with me about fellowships and grad school applications, sharing lessons from her own research experiences and insights on being a woman in the academy. I've thought about those conversations a lot since then, more than I imagine Virginia realizes. I am so grateful to her for giving me a sense of what work as a historian could be like, and for providing a model of teaching and mentoring I still try to live up to."*

—Kate Moran (Hist'98), associate professor and graduate coordinator,  
Department of American Studies, Saint Louis University

# Faculty retiring

## Bob Ferry



**B**ob Ferry, a specialist in colonial Latin American history, joined the Department of History as a faculty member in 1982, but his association with the department goes back much further—he received his BA in history from CU Boulder in 1969, making him one of the very few faculty members in the department who was a student of his future colleagues. He is the author of *The Colonial Elite of Early Caracas: Formation & Crisis, 1567-1767* and, most recently, “The Inquisitor and the Virgin: A Study in Personality and Circumstance” (*Colonial Latin American Review*, 2020). The latter explains the context within which Mexico’s famous Virgin of Guadalupe first became widely popular in the late 17th century. Bob served as director of graduate studies in the department for several years and also taught the required Historical Methods graduate seminar. He mentored several grad students in Latin American history who later went on to teaching positions at major universities and, in one case, to a career in academic publishing. In recent years, Bob was a driving force in the Boulder Faculty Assembly, heading numerous standing committees within the BFA and serving as its chair. The aspects of his job he will miss most are “the challenges and rewards of teaching history as a way of thinking.” In coming years, Bob plans to complete several ongoing research projects on colonial Spanish America.



*“Bob encouraged me to apply for an undergraduate research grant in my junior year, and this allowed me to take a stab at archival work in Guadalajara, Mexico. Needless to say, I got hooked, and over the years I kept moving south, always taking the skills in reading old documents I’d learned from Bob along with his skeptic’s voice in the back of my head saying: “Not yet, Lane, but you’re getting there. Keep searching.” Thanks to Bob’s belief in a local bumpkin, I’m still doing that 35 years on. I went to grad school at the University of Minnesota, as he did, when it was still a PhD mill, and I was lucky enough to get a superb job, then another. We’ve stayed in touch and read each other’s work, but I always learn more from Bob than he ever would from me. Thanks for planting that seed of doubt, Bob! If there’s anything historians can be certain of, it’s uncertainty.”*

—Kris Lane (Hist’90), Frances Vinton Scholes Chair of Colonial Latin American History and William Arceneaux Professor in Latin American History, Tulane University



*“As my undergraduate honors thesis adviser, Bob responded patiently to myriad emails about crazy topics, full of too many exclamation points; he advised tactfully on my overwritten text, gently pointing out the tangential research I had crammed in to ensure no drop of time and energy was spent in vain; and most important, he chatted with me a length about all of the interesting stuff I was discovering. Our talks about inquisition, crypto-Jews, power, and abuse were my first foray into truly discussing history, exploring ideas, and expanding my critical thinking abilities. Bob treated me like a scholar and an adult, and he gave me the precious gift of his time and attention, which made me believe that my abilities and ideas were worthy of respect and consideration.”*

Department of History lecturer, Julia Ogden (Hist’07), PhD

# Faculty retiring

## Martha Hanna



**Martha Hanna's** research centers on modern France and the World War I. Her major publications include *Your Death Would Be Mine: Paul and Marie Pireaud in the Great War* (winner of numerous prizes, including the 2007 J. Russell Major Prize for best book on French history from the American Historical Association), and her article "A Republic of Letters: The Epistolary Tradition in World War I France," published in 2003 in the flagship journal of the American historical profession, *The American Historical Review*. Martha's most recent book, *Anxious Days and Tearful Nights*, focuses on wives on the home front in her native Canada during World War I. She joined the history department faculty in 1988 and was an inspirational and award-winning teacher who motivated countless students to study European history, especially the French Revolution and World War I. She also counts advising Honors students (at least one a year since "the dawn of time," as she puts it) as one of her major teaching accomplishments. Her Honors advisees now hold prominent positions in higher education, law, the military, and the nonprofit sector. In addition to serving tirelessly in numerous leadership positions within the department, in recent years Martha emerged as a campus leader in faculty development, serving as director of the university's LEAP (Leadership Education for Advancement and Promotion) Program that helps tenure-line faculty succeed at all stages of their careers. In the near future she will continue working on a study of how marital desertion, attributed to the disruptive effects of the Great War, emerged in the interwar years as a source of cultural and social anxiety, and a subject of widespread (albeit ineffective) legal reform in Western Europe and North America.



*"I was, perhaps, not the customary sort of applicant for a PhD, and certainly Martha took a risk when she agreed to advise me. I, however, totally lucked out. Her courteous supervision and ruthless eye for detail were just the inspiration I needed to finish well. Martha helped me achieve a lifelong dream. Her willingness to engage with me in an academic exploration of my interests and to train me in the ways of doctoral research and writing have opened many doors of opportunity and given me a platform that has changed my life in multiple ways."*

—Kathleen Mulhern (PhDHist'06), associate faculty, Denver Seminary



*"I would not be the historian I am without Martha's guidance. In her kind and thoughtful way, she showed what was and wasn't good enough. My words, not hers. She pushed me to pose questions I had not thought of before, and, as a result, my approach to researching, thinking about, and writing on the past is stronger. She taught me to ground my cultural approach with the social reality of people's lived experiences. She is also the perfect blend of being encouraging and skeptical. Martha was also one of the first to remind me that my work is about France. She has a keen eye for historiographical interventions and she saw my work as somehow contributing to what has been written about France, even if the actors in my work were not your typical "French citizens." She would always ask me if I had read this or that, all in an attempt to guide me toward the conversation into which she thought I should interject. She helped me find a home in French studies and French history, and I am forever grateful. I will hope to continue our relationship into*

*her retirement as friends and colleagues."*

—Nick Underwood (PhDHist '16), assistant professor of history and Berger-Neilsen Chair of Judaic Studies, The College of Idaho

# Faculty retiring

## Susan Kent



**Susan Kent** is a historian of modern Britain and the British empire, with a focus on gender. She joined the department in 1993, and in 2015 she was awarded the title of Arts & Sciences Professor of Distinction. An enormously energetic researcher and a prolific writer, she is author of more than a dozen books, two of which were co-written with former CU history graduate student Marc Matera (MA 2002, now associate professor of history at the University of California Santa Cruz): *Gender and Violence in Colonial Nigeria* (2011) and *The Global 1930s* (2017). Susan also co-wrote *Africans and Britons in the Age of Empire, 1660-1980* (2015) with colleague Myles Osborne, a book that grew out of an undergraduate class the two co-taught on the British empire in Africa. Her most recent publications are *A New History of Britain since 1688: Four Nations and an Empire*, and *Gender: A World History*. In addition to mentoring graduate students and teaching and advising undergraduates, Susan was instrumental in building the Department of History into a major presence on campus, serving several terms as department chair and holding major college, university, and professional leadership positions. Susan's commitment to service is exemplified by the fact that she spent her final (nonteaching) semester serving as interim chair of the Department of Religious Studies. Her next research project (certainly only the first of many to come) is a book titled *British Settler Colonialism since 1530: Indigeneity in an Imperial World*.



*"It has been an honor and a blessing to work with Susan Kent over these past few years. Her guidance and encouragement have helped me thrive and grow in confidence. She has always gone to bat for me and been my biggest champion, from writing countless letters of recommendation to helping me get research assistantships over the summers. She worked tirelessly to make sure I've had every opportunity to succeed, and her direct, no-nonsense approach has modeled how I want to mentor my own students."*

—Department of History PhD candidate, Tiffany Beebe



*"Few people have influenced the course of my life more than Professor Susan Kingsley Kent. I could write a dissertation outlining how I have benefited from her sharp intellect, mentorship, encouragement, and friendship over the last 20 years. Susan has amassed a prodigious publishing record while often balancing her research agenda with significant service and administrative commitments. Her scholarship has transformed our understanding of the British suffrage movement and the traumas and traumatic afterlife of the First World War, and helped to force considerations of gender and empire into the mainstream of a resistant and largely conservative field. Susan has also had a major impact on how we teach British history, European history, and world history, producing multiple innovative textbooks and other works designed for use in the classroom with undergraduate history students. I cannot imagine writing a book with anyone else, and I hope that we continue to find opportunities to collaborate in the future, if only to ensure that I continue to get to see her regularly. And I cannot wait to see what new turns—as a scholar, writer, and roadtripper—that she will take from here."*

—Marc Matera (MHist'02), associate professor of history, University of California, Santa Cruz, and co-author with Susan Kent and Misty Bastian of *The Women's War of 1929: Gender and Violence in Colonial Nigeria* (2011), and co-author with Susan Kent of *The Global 1930s* (2017)

# Faculty news



## Four CHA fellowships awarded to history faculty

(L–R) **David Ciarlo**, **Céline Dauverd**, **Mithi Mukherjee** and **Honor Sachs** all won The Center for Humanities & the Arts faculty fellowships for next year. History faculty received four out of a total of nine fellowships offered by CHA this year.

**Thomas Andrews** (*professor, environmental history, American west*) won a three-year grant for scholarly work in biomedicine and health from the U.S. National Library of Medicine (part of the NIH), to support his current project on the Great Horse Flu of 1872–73 in the northern Americas (i.e., U.S., Canada, Cuba, Mexico, and Indigenous Nations). This will support summer research for Andrews and will also support graduate research assistance.

**Céline Dauverd** (*associate professor, early modern Mediterranean*), in addition to her CHA fellowship, has won an A&S Fund for Excellence award to support a conference she has organized for next April 21 on “The Premodern Spanish Empire: New Directions.” Participants include invited scholars from CU Boulder and from other universities, as well as our own graduate students.

**Matthew Gerber** (*associate professor, modern France*) recently had an article published in *Revue d'histoire moderne et contemporaine*. The article is titled “Race, empiètement de propriété et compétence juridictionnelle dans le monde atlantique française du XVIIIe siècle: l’Affaire de la Veuve Ogé” (“Race, Proprietary Encroachment and Jurisdiction in the Eighteenth-Century French Atlantic World: The Case of Widow Ogé”). Gerber was also one of only 20 scholars selected to participate in one of the four roundtables constituting this year’s first ever remote version of the annual conference of the Western Society for French History. The panel, on the history of “whiteness,” was attended by 117 people from around the world. His presentation, “How to Be Both ‘Black’ and ‘White’: the Curious Case of Hiteau du Cabrol (1781),” examined public legal controversy over the racial status of a French officer who volunteered for service in the American War of Independence.

**Vilja Hulden** (*associate teaching professor, modern U.S., digital history*) is a co-PI on a project that won a [\\$300,000 grant from NSF Division of Undergraduate Education](#) to “radically rethink undergraduate data science education”

with an eye to integrating technology, computing, and the humanities.

**Hilary Falb Kalisman** (*assistant professor of Israel and Palestine*) published an article, “World of Tomorrow: Diaspora Intellectuals and Liberal Thought in the 1950s,” in the *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 50:2, 2021.

This article focuses on three Palestinian intellectuals in the diaspora, arguing that without a Palestinian nation-state, their participation in the imagined futures of Pan-Arabism and decolonization meant avoiding radical leftist political movements. Instead, they advanced literature and history, surviving in the diaspora as liberals during Pan-Arabism’s transition from a revolutionary goal to a state ideology.

She also organized “The Promised Lands? A Film Series on Israel/Palestine and the United States.”

**Henry Lovejoy** (*assistant professor, modern Africa, African diaspora*) The [Andrew W. Mellon Foundation](#) honored CU Boulder history professor [Henry Lovejoy](#) with the New Directions Fellowship for his work on spatial statistical modeling of African diaspora history. (Read more in [Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine](#)).

**Natalie Mendoza** (*assistant professor/Mexican American, modern U.S.*) published her first article, “[Good Neighbor in the American Historical Imagination: Mexican American Intellectual Thought in the Fight for Civil Rights, 1930s-1940s](#)” in *The Western Historical Quarterly* 52 (Winter 2021): 393-413.

**Mithi Mukherjee** (*associate professor, modern India*), in addition to her CHA fellowship award, was honored by the Arts and Sciences Consortium of Committees on Climate, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity (ASCEND). Mukherjee joined 12 other faculty, staff and students, selected for their work to promote diversity and inclusion in the college of Arts and Sciences. 2021 was the inaugural year for the

award. (Read more in [Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine](#)).

**David Paradis** (*teaching professor, medieval England, early modern Europe*) received the [2021 ASSETT Excellence in Teaching with Technology Award](#). Paradis also is a member of the Student Success Innovation Incubator Team that

won a [grant from the President's Fund for the Humanities](#) to foster system-wide discussion of teaching and learning in the humanities.

**Honor Sachs** (*associate professor, early America*), in addition to her CHA fellowship award, was among four (*Honor Sachs, Cont.*) recipients of Provost's Faculty Achievement Awards. "Sachs . . . focuses on slavery, gender and law, was cited for her book [Home Rule: Households, Manhood and National Expansion on the Eighteenth-Century Kentucky Frontier](#)." (read more in [Colorado Arts and Sciences Magazine](#)).

**Hanna Rose Shell** (*associate professor in the Department of Art and Art History*) was awarded the David McCord Prize for General Writing Excellence for her article, "[The Poco of Pocos: Brief Life of a Harvard Character 1831-1918](#)," published in the September-October 2021 issue of

*Harvard Magazine*.

**Paul Sutter** (*professor, environmental history, modern U.S.*) is spending the 2021–22 academic year as a fellow at the National Humanities Center in North Carolina, where he is working on an environmental and medical history of the construction of the Panama Canal.

**John Willis**, (associate professor, modern middle east) won a College Scholar Award for 2022-23. Competition was fierce and very few were offered this year.

**Peter H. Wood** (*adjunct professor, early modern U.S.*) contributed chapters to two new essay collections. "Beyond Birchbark: How Lahontan's Images of Unfamiliar Canoes Confirm His Remarkable Western Expedition of 1688," appears in *The Politics of the Canoe* (Bruce Erickson and Sarah Wylie Krotz, eds., Winnipeg: U. of Manitoba Press, 2021), 155-176. Wood's tribute to a former Duke University colleague, titled "Nell's Kitchen, Larry's War Room," is included in *People Power: History, Organizing, and Larry Goodwyn's Democratic Vision in the Twenty-First Century* (Wesley C. Hogan and Paul Ortiz, eds., Gainesville: U. Press of Florida, 2021), 79-87.

## Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders competes on Jeopardy!



In early December, Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders appeared on the popular game show *Jeopardy!* as part of its first-ever Professors' Tournament. Competition to gain a place on the show was very keen, and as she told a campus news site, "It's kinda the coolest, nerdiest thing you could do. . . . It's this sort of quintessential American show that translates across generations and backgrounds." Although she did not advance to the semifinals of the tournament, she greatly enjoyed participating in the show and getting a chance to meet and talk with colleagues from colleges and universities all over the country. (To read more, see [CU Boulder Today](#).)

Images courtesy of *Jeopardy!*

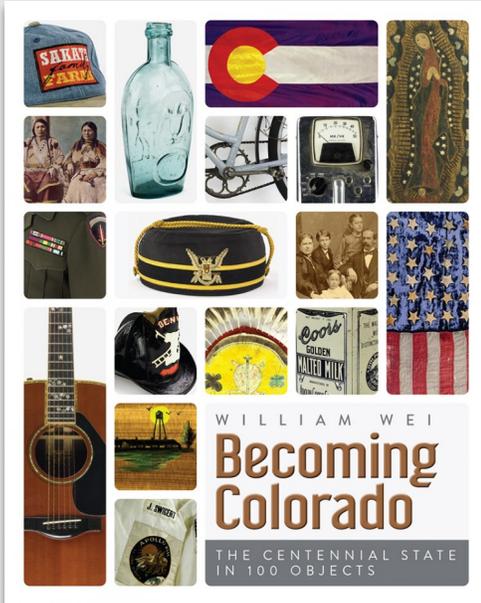


*"It's kinda the coolest, nerdiest thing you could do... It's this sort of quintessential American show that translates across generations and backgrounds."*

—Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders

# Faculty new books

William Wei



## ***Becoming Colorado: The Centennial State in 100 Objects***

(University Press of Colorado—2021) William Wei

Copublished with [History Colorado](#)



In *Becoming Colorado*, historian William Wei paints a vivid portrait of Colorado history using 100 of the most compelling artifacts from Colorado's history. These objects reveal how Colorado has evolved over time, allowing readers to draw multiple connections among periods, places, and people. Collectively, the essays offer a treasure trove of historical insight and unforgettable detail.

Read more from the [University Press of Colorado](#)

Phoebe S.K. Young

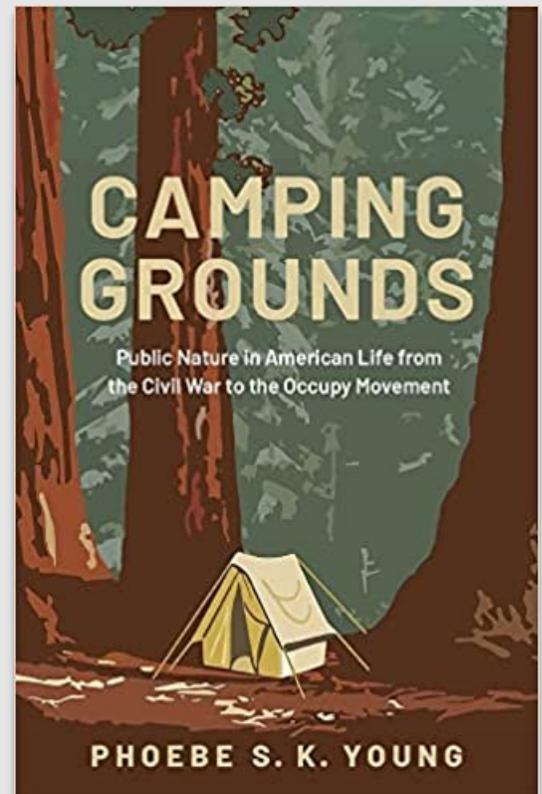
## ***Camping Grounds: Public Nature in American Life from the Civil War to the Occupy Movement***

(Oxford University Press—2021) Phoebe S.K. Young



*Camping Grounds* rediscovers unexpected and interwoven histories of sleeping outside. It uses extensive research to trace surprising links between veterans, tramps, John Muir, African American freedpeople, Indian communities, and early leisure campers in the nineteenth century; tin-can tourists, federal campground designers, Depression-era transients, family campers, backpacking enthusiasts, and political activists in the twentieth century; and the crisis of the unsheltered and

the tent-based Occupy Movement in the twenty-first. These entwined stories show how Americans camp to claim a place in the American republic and why the outdoors is critical to how we relate to nature, the nation, and each other. Read more from [Oxford University Press](#)



# Faculty welcome

## Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders



The Department of History welcomes **Ashleigh Lawrence-Sanders**, who joined us as an assistant professor in fall 2021. Professor Lawrence-Sanders specializes in and teaches courses on African American history, U.S. history, and Civil War memory. She received her PhD from Rutgers University and taught for several years at the University of Dayton before coming to CU Boulder. Her current book project is *They Knew What the War Was About: African Americans and the Memory of the Civil War*, which examines American Civil War memory by centering the construction and meaning of Black memory and countermemory of the war from 1865 through the mid-20th century. As a complement to her scholarly research and publications, Lawrence-Sanders also writes frequently for a broader public audience via media outlets such as *The Washington Post*, *Dayton Daily News*, and *Black Perspectives*. A “born and raised” South Carolinian from the Lowcountry, Lawrence-Sanders now lives in the Denver metro area with her husband, an attorney, and their young daughter. We are delighted to have her join our community.

## Julia Ogden

We also welcomed Julia Ogden, a recent PhD from the University of Texas at Austin who received her BA in our department, as a lecturer in Latin American history. Julia is teaching courses usually taught by Bob Ferry, now retired. She has mothered full time and taught part time at Front Range Community College for the last seven years. She is published in the *Law and History Review* and is working on a manuscript that examines the intersections of sexual abuse, modern ideas of childhood, and the codification of criminal law in Argentina in the late nineteenth century.



# Graduate program news



By John Willis, associate professor and director of graduate studies

In spite of the exceptional challenges of running a graduate program in the midst of a pandemic, the graduate students of the CU Department of History continued to demonstrate great fortitude, ingenuity, patience, and extraordinary academic

ability in their teaching, research, and service. As in the previous summer, a number of students joined faculty members to work on research projects as part of our Graduate Research Mentorship program. PhD students Anna Kramer and Kim Jackson were awarded Roaring Forks Public Engagement and Professional Development Internships to work with the University of Washington Press and the Boulder Parks and Recreation Department. In the fall, graduate students once again organized the highly successful Rocky Mountain Interdisciplinary History Conference, which, even online, created a lively and intellectually stimulating environment for the presentation of original student research.

Several of our graduate students distinguished themselves with awards, fellowships, and publications in 2021. Tiffany Beebe received a Graduate Excellence Award in Teaching and a Center for Humanities and the Arts fellowship to support the completion of her dissertation. Sherri Sheu was the recipient of a Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship and the author of a short essay, “Big Mouth Billy Bass,” for the AHA publication *Perspectives on History*. Finally, Greg LeDonne won the Montana Historical Society’s Emerging Scholar Award for his article, “Rebranding Neoliberalism: Idaho’s Owyhee Ranchers Confront Rangeland Reform,” published this year in the society’s magazine. We congratulate these students on their marvelous accomplishments.

The department was also excited to see a number of our students graduate from the department in the spring and fall semesters with master’s and doctoral degrees. Five students graduated with master’s degrees having successfully defended portfolios or theses: Thomas Bartovics (thesis: “Vulgariter Regelschwester: The Proliferation and Success of Lay Religious Women in Southwestern Germany, 1200-1450”); David Harris (portfolio); Jamie Sarafan (thesis: “The Women and the Word: Serpent Handling and the Women of the Church of God, 1914-1935”); Victoria Sharp (thesis: “Ni Royaliste ni Ligueuse: La République de Saint-Malo”); and Sierra Stewart (thesis: “Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?: Analyzing Societal Anxieties Towards Artificial Intelligence Through Popular Media”). Four students were awarded PhDs after defending dissertations: Jillian Bjerke (dissertation: “Both Count and King: Composite Lordship in Thirteenth-Century Champagne and Navarre”); Kerri

Clement (dissertation: “Wonderland’s Festering Wound: Indigenous Sovereignty, Animals, and Brucellosis at Twentieth-Century Yellowstone and Montana Borders”); Sarah Luginbill (dissertation: “Portable Altars, Devotion, and Memory in German Lands, 1050-1190 CE”); and Travis May (dissertation: “Temple of Janus: Atrocity, Colonial Trusteeship, and the Anglo-German Colonial Propaganda War of 1916-1919”). It is with a great deal of pride and satisfaction that I recognize the scholarly commitment and perseverance of these graduate students, and I look forward to following their careers in the years to come.

Finally, the graduate program welcomed a new cohort of students in fall 2021. Mathew Greenlee and Sophia Teed entered the master’s program as students of modern German and U.S. environmental history, respectively. The doctoral program welcomed Jeanne Cho and Jue Hou in modern Asian history; Greg LeDonne, Trevor Egerton, and Maggie McNulty in U.S. environmental history; and Alicia Moreno in U.S. cultural history.

As we approach the end of 2021, I continue to marvel at our students’ ability to commit to rigorous intellectual engagement in research and coursework, while remaining deeply engaged in undergraduate pedagogy and service to the department and their peers. They represent the best of the discipline of history inside the university and beyond, and I wish them and our graduate faculty the very best for the new year.



## RELATED

PhD candidate and at-large member of the AHA council, Sherri Sheu shared the history behind the iconic Big Mouth Billy Bass for *Perspectives in History*.

# Undergraduate program news



By Lucy Chester, associate professor  
and director of undergraduate studies

**T**he undergraduate program graduated 118 new historians in 2021, including 75 majors and 43 minors. Eleven of these graduated with honors and an additional eight with distinction.

Having overcome a second year of pandemic-era challenges, our students are ready to apply their skills to new jobs, education, and other adventures.

Benjamin Daniel Deitsch won the prestigious Chancellor's Recognition Award for achieving all A's during his CU career. Natania Marie Bloch won a Jacob Van Ek Scholarship, awarded to only twenty students college-wide, for excellence in academics and meaningful contributions to CU Boulder and the community. Manuel Antonio Menocal-David earned the Katherine J. Lamont Scholarship, awarded to a continuing student for academic performance and dedication. Shannon Lynn Thompson and Sofia Garnett Grant, the editors of the department's undergraduate journal, *The Colorado Historian*, each won a James Field Willard service award for their stellar editorial work. And five students earned election to Phi Beta Kappa: Hannah Elizabeth Hagens, Benjamin Harold Humphries, Alexandra Lanzetta, Jack Michael Metivier, and Berkeley Newhouse-Velie.

This year, we selected two winners of the Philip Mitterling Paper Prize, which recognizes the best paper submitted by a history major or minor in a history course: William Edward Bangs, for his "Antislavery Sentiment's Effect on Elites of Color in Jamaica and Saint-Domingue," and Emily Margaret Volk Ray, for her "Bridging the Gap Between Science and Craft: Dye Recipes in the Books of Secrets of Early Modern England." The History Honors Thesis Prize went to Cayden Stice for a particularly impressive piece of local history: "Welcome to Lesbian-Homoville: Queer Politics of Boulder, Colorado in the Late-Twentieth Century."

This year's Fred Anderson Scholarship went to Alexandria Keyes. This scholarship is a recent addition to our offerings and honors Professor Emeritus Fred Anderson. It focuses on a group that Fred supported throughout his career: students who are the first in their family to attend

college. Another new scholarship, the Carol J. Ehlers Scholarship, went to first-year student Abigail Horton. This multi-year award supports an incoming history major with a strong interest in European history. Congratulations to all our award winners!

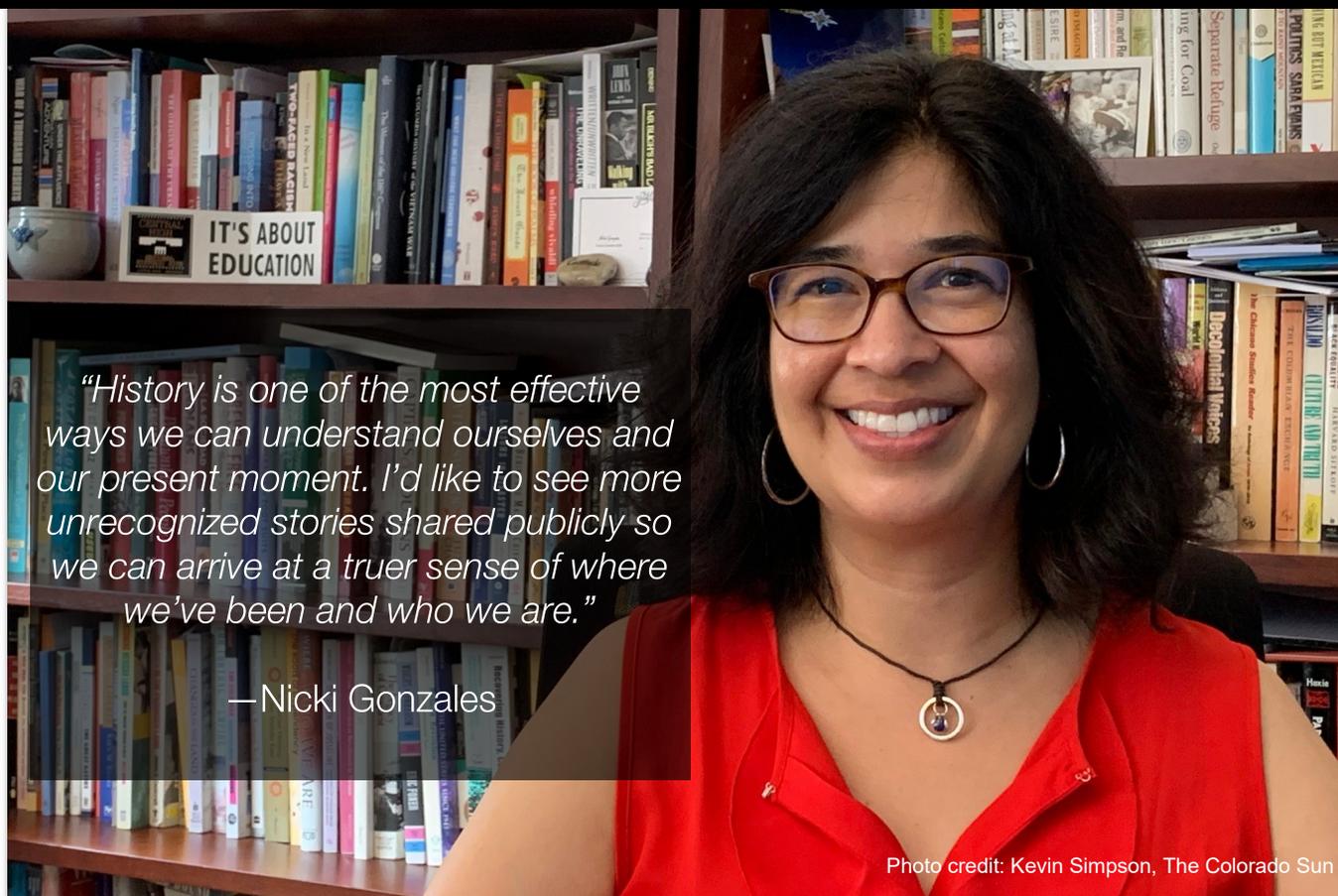
We also welcomed 47 first-year majors, who join a vibrant department where a range of opportunities await. Our internship program is thriving, with interns working remotely and on-site in several institutions during this past year: CU Library's Special Collections and Archives, the city of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department, the Museum of Boulder, the Beyond Better Project, and the National Archives and Records Administration in Denver. In 2022, we plan to expand our internship offerings to include additional sites, including the Carnegie Library for Local History, the Boulder County Latino History Project, the Digital Slavery Research Lab, the CU Heritage Center, and the Black American West Museum in Denver. All of these experiences allow history majors and minors the opportunity to explore different aspects of history and put their historical skills to work outside the classroom while earning credit toward their degrees. One spring 2021 intern appreciated the chance to apply "research and skills that help feed into public service" and "to better appreciate past events that circulate into our world today." You can learn more about our internships at [colorado.edu/history/undergraduate/internships](https://colorado.edu/history/undergraduate/internships). If you'd like to support these student opportunities, please consider supervising an intern, talking to students about life after graduation, or donating. Information about giving is available at [colorado.edu/history/giving](https://colorado.edu/history/giving).

In closing, we are tremendously proud of all our students. Their hard work, insight, and sense of community has carried them—and their teachers—through difficult times. As Lamont-winner Manuel Menocal-David writes, his experience as a history major "helped me to better my understanding of the world we live in and better myself as a whole." Through history classes, he adds, "I have made amazing and lovely friends that I hope to have for life."



**Commencement 2021**

# Alumni news



*“History is one of the most effective ways we can understand ourselves and our present moment. I’d like to see more unrecognized stories shared publicly so we can arrive at a truer sense of where we’ve been and who we are.”*

—Nicki Gonzales

Photo credit: Kevin Simpson, The Colorado Sun

## CU Boulder history alumna Nicki Gonzales (PhDHist’07) is Colorado’s new state historian, first Latina to hold the role

**D**r. Nicki Gonzales (PhDHist’07), professor of history and vice provost for diversity and inclusion at Regis University, began her one-year term as the official Colorado state historian on Colorado Day, Sunday, Aug. 1. Gonzales assumes the role from noted historian and author Duane Vandebusch. Previously, CU Boulder historian and author William Wei held the position for the 2019—2020 term.

The first Latino person to be Colorado’s state historian, which is a position established in 1924, Gonzales’ historical expertise focuses on Chicano history and Southwest social and political movements. She plans to incorporate youth in the exploration of Colorado’s past during her term as state historian, and to support more inclusive practices of historical inquiry. In doing so, Gonzales is eager to raise more awareness about historical events with significant contemporary legacies, such as the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864, about which History Colorado is collaborating with tribal partners to present a long-term exhibition.

Gonzales is a member of History Colorado’s State Historians Council and in July 2020 was named by Gov. Jared Polis to the Colorado Geographic Naming Advisory Board, where she began serving as vice chair beginning in August. She is a native of Denver and her family has deep roots in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. Gonzales’ research interests include the land grant movements of southern Colorado and the experiences of Chicano Vietnam veterans. She is also a mom to sons Danny and Teddy.

Gonzales gave the plenary address at the [“Los Seis de Boulder, Race and Memory” virtual symposium](#). The November 2021 symposium, which was co-sponsored by the Department of History, filled to capacity with over 300 registered attendees. It aimed to foster dialogue about the legacy of the Los Seis de Boulder bombings of May 1974 that killed six Chicax students and activists affiliated with CU. Video recordings of Gonzales’ address and all the other symposium panels are now available in the [CU Chicax and Latinx History Collection](#) in the University Libraries.



**Susan M. Cogan** (PhDHist'12) is an assistant professor of history at Utah State University in Logan. Her first book, [Catholic Social Networks in Early Modern England: Kinship, Gender, and Coexistence](#) (Amsterdam University Press, 2021), was released last summer.



**Kerri Clement** (PhDHist'21) has won the Montana Historical Society's Paladin award for the best article published by *Montana: The Magazine of Western History* ("What is a country without horses? Robert Yellowtail and Horse Herd Restoration on the Crow Reservation, 1934–1944") for which she also won the 2020 Emerging Scholar Award. Clement is a postdoctoral fellow specializing in history of the American west at the University of Idaho.



**Caroline Grego** (PhDHist'19) is teaching at Queens University of Charlotte. She submitted her revised dissertation to the UNC Press. Her book on the 1893 hurricane that devastated her home state of

South Carolina will appear next fall. She has uncovered previously unseen material, on both the local and national level, regarding the economic and political context within which that environmental disaster took place. Using the papers of Ben Tillman, Clara Barton and others, her work reveals the intense racial politicking that swirled in the aftermath of this prodigious storm.

Additionally, Grego's latest article has just appeared in the fall 2021 issue of the [American Historical Review](#). "The Search for the *Kayendo*: Recovering the Lowcountry Rice Toolkit" makes an exciting contribution, revealing an unfamiliar tool in the rice-growing process, and even adding a new word, *kayendo*, to our vocabularies. Her convincing 18-page essay in the *AHR*'s "History Unclassified" section makes creative use of archival photos. Experts on Black history, plantation slavery, rice cultivation, Atlantic history, and Southern material culture will be citing this original piece of scholarship.



**Sara Porterfield** (PhDHist'18) is an environmental historian and a water policy associate at Trout Unlimited, and she recently testified before Congress about two bills addressing solutions to Western water issues. You can [see her testimony here](#)—Porterfield appears starting at

about the 1:22:30 mark. Congratulations to Porterfield—she is a great example of history PhDs using their expertise to work outside the academy.



**Katie Randall** (PhDHist'21) has been offered a tenure-track assistant professor position in the Libraries at Purdue University, where she'll be liaison to the Departments of Humanities and Social Science.



**Duke Richey** (PhDHist'06), a teacher at McCallie School, Chattanooga, has been named the 2021 [Tennessee History Teacher of the Year](#).



**Anna Marie Roos** (PhDHist'97) is an early modern European historian. Roos presented the inaugural lecture as professor of the history of science and medicine at the University of Lincoln, U.K., in December. The talk, "Tales of a Manuscript

Lover," was a series of three short tales of the hidden histories of manuscripts in scientific and medical archives. Roos shared her rediscoveries of the works of some of the first women to use microscopes, some unpublished letters of John Ruskin on clouds, and a unique memorial created by one of the first governors of Thomas Coram's Foundling Hospital in London.



**Sarah Scaturro** (Hist'99) is the Eric and Jane Nord Chief Conservator at the [Cleveland Museum of Art](#) and a PhD candidate in design history and material culture studies at [Bard Graduate Center](#). Previously, she was the head of the fashion conservation laboratory at the [Costume Institute, Metropolitan Museum of Art](#) and the textile conservator and assistant curator of fashion at the [Cooper-Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum](#). She's also a fellow in the [International Institute for Conservation](#) and a professional associate in the [American Institute for Conservation](#). ([Bio: sarahscaturro.com](http://Bio:sarahscaturro.com))



**David A. Varel** (PhDHist'15) is teaching at Metropolitan State University in Denver. Recently, *Choice* (which usually offers only short thumbnail reviews) published a much longer appraisal of ***The Scholar and the Struggle: Lawrence Reddick's Crusade for Black History and Black Power***, Varel's second book on modern African American intellectual history.

This highly positive featured review, by Professor Mark Christian of CUNY, appeared in November 2021 as part of *Choice*'s current [racial justice series](#). Also, Varel has contributed an assessment of the Black sociologist Allison Davis (1902–83) to a symposium on outstanding African American scholars that appeared in *Spectrum: A Journal on Black Men*. The essay, titled "Allison Davis: Social Scientist for Social Justice," offers a brisk 17-page overview of Varel's first book (based on his CU doctoral dissertation): *The Lost Black Scholar: Resurrecting Allison Davis in American Social Thought* (U. of Chicago Press, 2018).

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

# 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 in 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 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 Robert C. Rogers Scholarship, established in memory of Robert C. Rogers, 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 & 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 History Department Chair [Marcia Yonemoto](#), or CU Boulder's [Office of Advancement](#).



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