



Today & Yesterday

Newsletter of the Department of History

Volume 44, 2020

History and African-American Studies

By Touré Reed



Adolph Reed



Touré Reed

History is proud to be the home department of the African-American Studies (AAS) program, formally established in spring 2018. While the African-American Studies minor has existed since 2003, the minor became a program two years ago, with funds provided by the College of Arts and Sciences. AAS is co-directed by Dr. Brea Banks, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, and Dr. Touré Reed, professor of History. Dr. Ron Gifford, the Department of History's assistant chair, is AAS's dedicated advisor.

Since spring 2018, AAS has sponsored lectures and panels by noted

scholars and public figures on topics such as racial bias in criminal justice and public education, the influence of identity politics over contemporary electoral politics, and a black woman's journey from the cotton fields to chair of an academic department at ISU. AAS has also co-sponsored events with two student RSOs— Black Student Union and Black Girl Code.

As an interdisciplinary program, our overarching goal is to enrich the campus community by promoting scholarly inquiry about black life, cultural expression, politics, and history. To this end, African-American Studies currently sponsors three programs

intended to help nurture scholastic and scholarly excellence. The Merit Scholarship awards competitive grants to two deserving African-American Studies minors each year. AAS' summer research initiative is a competitive annual stipend awarded to one tenure track faculty member who is engaged in a current research project centered on African-Americans. And through its Interdisciplinary Fund, African-American Studies co-sponsors lectures and events with other units/departments across scholarly disciplines.



Letter from the chair, Ross A. Kennedy

With the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis engulfing the nation in March 2020, the second half of spring semester this past academic year proved to be an unusual and demanding time for ISU and the Department of History. I am happy to report that our students, faculty, and staff rose to the challenge. With only two weeks to prepare, we moved all of courses to a remote learning format. That was no easy task given that many faculty members had not taught online before and very few were familiar with Zoom, the now-famous online meeting application. Our staff and academic advisors, meanwhile, guided students through the intricacies of new grading options, set up novel procedures to facilitate registration for fall 2020, and managed from home the various front office tasks necessary to keep the department functioning. Of course, nothing can replace the multilayered experience of the face-to-face instruction and extra-curricular activities we normally provide to our students, but I am confident that we delivered a high-quality education for them under conditions few of us imagined we'd ever confront.

Indeed, the regular academic year included many noteworthy accomplishments for the department. You may have noticed we have new design to our website, which will make it easier for current and prospective students to learn about our points of pride and the opportunities we offer. Our enrollment numbers are strong, while our student retention rate is one of the highest in

the college. We remain the largest History-Social Sciences Education program in the state of Illinois and are the eighth largest in the United States. Our faculty also won no less than four major college and university awards this year: College Nominee for Research Initiative (Keith Pluymers), Outstanding College Research-Social Sciences (Linda Clemmons), Outstanding College Teacher-Social Sciences (Katie Jasper), and Outstanding University Researcher (Andrew Hartman).

Our community engagement continued as well. To deliver the prestigious Bone Distinguished Lecture in November, we invited Professor W. Fitzhugh Brundage of the University of North Carolina, and in February we welcomed Adolph L. Reed, Jr., professor emeritus of political science from the University of Pennsylvania, to deliver the keynote talk for Black History Month. For the third year in a row, faculty from the department organized the International Seminar Series, which brings weekly speakers to campus for public talks related to international affairs. This year's theme was "local and global environments in conversation." Fittingly, it was ISU's first-ever zero waste event.

I'm proud of our record this year and am excited about what we can achieve in fall 2021. Thank you to all our friends and supporters who help to make our success possible.

History symposium: Hindsight is 2020

By Sara Piotrowski

On February 7 we hosted our annual history symposium for teachers, students, and community educators with the theme "Hindsight is 2020." Each



From left, Richard Hughes, Sara Piotrowski, Monica Noraian

year we sponsor this event in conjunction with our partners at the McLean County Museum of History and the Regional Office of Education No. 17.

"We are proud of how the event has grown over the years" shared Dr. Monica Noraian. "It is an event many attended for the first time while students at Illinois State University in the History-Social Sciences Education program, and it is now considered a highlight event for teachers, alumni, and friends."

It is a great way to reconnect with campus, faculty, and colleagues. Over 300 participants were able to select from a schedule of 40 different sessions. Keeping current with topics and

approach the conference varies slightly from year to year however quality sessions with opportunities for participant engagement are signatures of this long-standing event.

We were particularly proud of our keynote speaker, author and activist Robin Stevenson. She is the award-

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winning author of more than 25 books for kids and teens. Her nonfiction book, *Pride: Celebrating Diversity and Community*, was a 2017 Stonewall Honor Book. A second edition of *Pride: The Celebration and the Struggle* was released this spring. The title of her keynote speech was “The history and future of LGBTQ+ Pride,” which was fitting since the State of Illinois passed a new law that goes into effect on July 1. This amendment to Illinois School Code requires public schools to include teaching the roles and contributions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in their history classes. Stevenson’s talk really resonated with the audience. Her use of historical photographs and stories of contemporary kids and teens during the presentation explained the history of the LGBTQ rights movement and offered a glimpse at the important work done by student activists to carry Pride forward into the future. As the leader in the field of history-social sciences teacher preparation, we felt it was important to showcase Stevenson’s work so teachers could

take her ideas back to their classrooms. Our goals are to educate, equip, and inspire teachers as they strive to remain current with scholarship, pedagogy, best practices, and State standards and mandates.

“This year I am proud to report we had over 20 alumni presenters which is a testament to the power of the conference, the excellence of our teacher candidates, and their strong desire to pay it forward and give back professionally,” Noraian said.

The sessions were grouped into seven different categories to help attendees map out their day. Some of the popular categories were Classroom Conversations, Seeing the Future, Women’s History, Material Cultures, Civics and Inquiry, LGBTQ, and Inclusive Classroom. Using the overarching theme of “Hindsight is 2020” the sessions allowed for a plethora of options to gain professional growth. Attendees were able to Skype with Mduzuzi Ntuli from the Holocaust and Genocide Center in Johannesburg, South Africa, thanks to our very own Dr. Katrin

Paehler. Mary Ellen Daneels from the R.R. McCormick Foundation with Tracy Freeman from Normal Community West High School hosted two sessions about the new Civics requirement. Alum Patrick Cain ’15 and his colleague, Katie Snyder, from the Museum of the Grand Prairie, presented about women’s rights and suffrage, just to mention a few. Consider being an alumni presenter for next year’s conference. We would love to have you share your experience, perspectives, and scholarship with future teachers and veterans alike. We’re still working on a date and theme for the spring 2021 History Symposium, but we anticipate it being Friday, February 5, 2021. Due to ongoing construction at the McLean County Museum of History, the event will be again held on ISU’s campus. Contact Noraian (mcnora2@Illinois-State.edu) for information or if you would like to be added to our alumni email list to receive information about this and other department events. Remember to like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram.

2019–2020 Student Awards

HELEN M. CAVANAGH AWARD FOR BEST MASTER'S DEGREE STUDENT

Elizabeth Harkert
Phillip Torchia

HELEN M. CAVANAGH AWARD FOR BEST MASTER'S THESIS

Jake Engelman (U.S. History)
Murat Iplikci (Non-U.S. History)

LUCY LUCILE TASHER SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP

Daniel Hixson
Erin Jessup
Kevin Ortiz

GLEYNafa T. RAY AWARD

Fall 2019
Ryan Cinotte
Spring 2020
Sean Kennedy
Jennifer Wrzala

MARK WYMAN-STEPHANE BOOTH SCHOLARSHIP

JAMES TODD WILBORN SCHOLARSHIP

Anna Tulley

SESSIONS HONORS SCHOLARSHIP

Jake Breit

WILLIAM AND JEANNE HOWARD SCHOLARSHIP

Sara Koziol

HARMON RECRUITMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Nina Menchaca
Sophia Zoltek

DARREL A. SUTTER SCHOLARSHIP

Sara Koziol
Therese Rapp

DARREL A. SUTTER TEXTBOOK AWARD

Alana Born

DARREL A. SUTTER WRITING AWARDS

Brooke Melvin
Anna Tulley
Aleksandra Ratkovic
Wayne "Trey" Meyer

DARREL A. SUTTER STUDENT TEACHER AWARD

Spring 2019
Joshua Bell
Fall 2019
Elaine "Laney" Metzger

LAWRENCE W. MCBRIDE AWARD

Spring 2019
Hunter Watts
Fall 2019
Alex Vlastnik

HOWARD ROMANEK HISTORY SCHOLARSHIP

Spring 2019
Hannah Biermann
Fall 2019
Brian Baltowski

In memoriam—Ira Cohen (1938–2020)



The Department of History mourns our former colleague, Ira Cohan. Cohan, who taught history at Illinois State from 1965 until he retired in 1998. He specialized in the Jacksonian period, urban history, and the history of medicine. Cohen served as director of honors for 17 years and was chair and Parliamentarian of the Faculty Senate for several years.

Cohen graduated with a Ph.D. in history from New York University in 1966. He was born in Manhattan, New York, and was residing in Austin, Texas, at the time of his death. He left behind his wife, daughter, two sons, a stepson, eight grandchildren, and two brothers. He will be missed.

Redbirds keep teaching and learning

Over spring break, ISU students and faculty received some unfortunate news. Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and the governor of Illinois, we would be making an unprecedented transition to online teaching and learning as part of efforts to fight the spread of COVID-19. ISU quickly adopted its motto of

Redbirds keep teaching and Redbirds keep learning. In the Department of History, our faculty have taken several different approaches, from learning how to use Zoom for lectures and discussions to podcasting to developing lessons around electronic textbooks and media. We've worked hard to make sure that our history education majors,

and student teachers can continue to gain essential skills in high school classroom, even as those classrooms have moved online. Keep reading below to see how history faculty have worked to keep teaching so our Redbirds can keep learning.



"I may have quit shaving in quarantine, but I haven't quit teaching—and gladly!"

—Andrew Hartman



"While I missed working with our students in Schroeder, I am proud of how they adapted reasonably well! The pandemic also meant that I got the chance to integrate my wife, two sons, and a corgi named Winston into my teaching day!"

—Richard Hughes



"I miss seeing my students in person, but have two silver linings: Recording podcast lectures for my classes has given me the opportunity to perfect my 'radio voice' and I got to receive the fun student feedback: 'Your lectures are perfectly timed for walks with my dog.'"

—Keith Pluymer



"COVID-19 can keep me out of the classroom, but it cannot keep me from my passion for teaching history. In this time of remote teaching I learned new ways of delivering information that enhanced student's knowledge of American history. This experience has been a growth opportunity for all of us. I love teaching and my students and am proud of all of them for rising to this challenge."

—Mary Hollywood



"I have the pleasure of sheltering-in-place with my husband, two kids, and dog. Nothing says family bonding like listening to recorder concerts!"

—Sara Piotrowski



"I've discovered a benefit to holding grad seminars on Zoom: I can invite the authors whom I know to join the class for a little bit. I can do that otherwise, but it's just a lot easier to set up and more natural when we're all on Zoom. I just got through with my grad seminar, and the historian who wrote this week's text—a friend—joined us for about 30 minutes, and next week, another friend whose book we're reading will be joining us. That's fun."

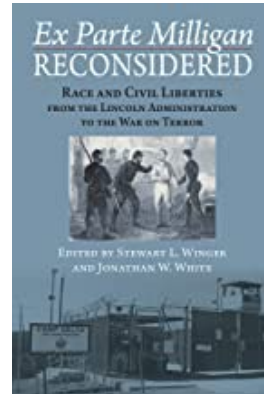
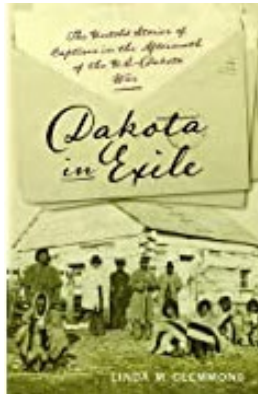
—Amy Wood

Books published

The Department of History is pleased to announce the following faculty book publications: **Kyle Ciani**, *Choosing to Care: A Century of Childcare and Social Reform in San Diego, 1850-1950* (University of Nebraska Press, 2019), **Linda Clemmons**, *Dakota in Exile: The*

Untold Stories of Captives in the Aftermath of the U.S.-Dakota War (University of Iowa Press, 2019), **Touré Reed**, *Toward Freedom: The Case Against Race Reductionism* (Verso Books, 2020), **Stewart Winger**, *Ex Parte Milligan Reconsidered: Race and Civil Liberties*

from the Lincoln Administration to the War on Terror (University Press of Kansas, 2020), **Lou Perez**, *Tokyo: Geography, History, and Culture* (ABC-CLIO, 2019).



Graduate student spotlight: Race Fisher

By Matthew Nalefski

For Race Fisher, now a first-year history master's student at ISU, his love of the subject started with music, specifically Scandinavian heavy metal.

Fisher began listening to this music as a teenager growing up in Sherrard. Despite having no ancestral ties to the region, it instantly piqued his curiosity. His fascination with contemporary



Scandinavian music would be his gateway to studying the region's past.

When he graduated from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, with a double major in history and Nordic studies, Fisher was already an active professional in the field. His undergraduate thesis explored U.S. propaganda's role in Scandinavia during World War I, based on his research in Norway and in the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. He has also co-authored a published article and presented two conference papers on the subject.

Fisher plans to expand on his prior research for his thesis at ISU. He hopes to work with Dr. Ross Kennedy.

"I think that surviving my first semester was quite the accomplishment," he said lightheartedly. "I came out of last semester with an entire new set of tools which have already proven useful."

Fisher repeatedly noted his peers' important role in his ISU experience. But those colleagues in turn know him always to be a humble peer, eager to listen, and whose remarks are filled with collegial respect.

ISU has been an intellectually stimulating environment for Fisher. "I have already learned a lot from my time at ISU," Fisher said. "And we're just getting started."

You make history too!

We'd love to hear from you. Please send us your news for inclusion in future newsletters:

History@IllinoisState.edu

Faculty accomplishments

Kyle Ciani published *Choosing to Care: Childcare and Social Reform in San Diego, 1850-1950* (University of Nebraska Press, 2019). She was invited to offer the keynote presentation for the Centennial Celebration of the Merrill Palma Institute for Early Childhood Education in Detroit in May 2020. That same month, she participated in a roundtable discussion, “Canyons, mountains, and valleys: Women’s activism during the 20th century,” at the Berkshire Conference on the History of Women in Baltimore, Maryland. She served as the advisor to the newly formed ISU Women’s History Club and took eight students to the International Women’s Day breakfast in March. In October 2019, she was invited to train K-8 teachers in Illinois on how to include the experiences of women and girls in social studies lessons.

Linda Clemmons published *Dakota in Exile: The Untold Stories of Captives in the Aftermath of the U.S. - Dakota War* (University of Iowa Press, 2019). The State Historical Society of Iowa’s Board of Trustees selected the book for the 2020 Benjamin F. Shambaugh Award for the most significant work on Iowa history in the past year. She also published the invited article “‘A people of persistence’: The evolving historiography of the Indigenous Midwests,” in the *Middle West Review* (Spring 2019). Her article “Substitute in this Army of the Lord: Missionary parents, their children, and the conflicted nature of missionary work” has been accepted at *South Dakota History*. She has also worked as part of a team to revise and publish a new edition of the textbook *U.S. History I & II: A Top Hat Interactive Text*. In 2019, she presented “Dakota in Exile: Stories of Trauma and Survival in Davenport, Iowa” in the Iowa History Center Speaker Series and “Dakota Uses of Christianity Following the U.S. - Dakota War of 1862” at the fifth-annual Midwestern History Conference. Her article, “‘The young folks [want] to go in and see the Indians’: Davenport citizens, Protestant Missionaries, and Dakota prisoners of war, 1863-1866,” in *The Annals of Iowa* was the honorable-mention winner for the 2019 Mildred Throne-Charles Aldrich Award. ISU recognized her as Outstanding College Researcher in the Social Sciences for 2020-2021. She has begun work on a new project, a biography of a Métis-Dakota woman named Angelique Renville.

Anthony Crubaugh organized and was a presenter on a panel entitled “Property, modernity, and the French Revolution: A roundtable discussion of Rafe Blaufarb’s *The Great Demarcation*” at the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era Conference in Atlanta.

Douglas Cutter gave a presentation to a presentation on the Mexican Revolution at Normal Community High School for its AP Spanish class in March 2019.

Andrew Hartman won ISU’s Outstanding University Research Award. He presented his paper “The dialectic is coming for you” at the Society for U.S. Intellectual History’s annual meeting in November 2019, in New York City. The University of California, Santa Barbara, invited him to speak at the Colloquium on Work, Labor, and Political Economy in January 2020, where he presented “Rethinking Karl Marx: American Liberalism from the New Deal to the Cold War.”

Richard Hughes published “Why teach history?” in the National Council for History Education’s *History Matters* (February 2020). He was also published in *Teaching History* (fall 2019) for his article “New guidelines for SoTL in history: A discipline considers the SoTL turn?” and, with Natalie Mendoza, “Assessment in the history classroom.” He presented “Images, collective memory, and forging historical narratives: A study of teaching and learning the African-American Civil Rights Movement” at the History Educators International Research Network’s annual conference in Vienna, Austria, and “From Epistemological architecture to clinical experiences: Teaching history across settings” at the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning’s annual conference in Atlanta. At the annual conference of the National Council for the Social Studies in Austin, Texas, he presented “Propaganda and the 1936 Olympics: History, news literacy, and selling Nazi Germany to American tourists,” along with Trevor Shields. Together, with Judith Bee and Amy Wilkinson, he presented “Navigating historical maps: Teaching geographic and historical thinking.” In *The Journal of American History*, he reviewed Sarah Case’s 2017 book *Leaders of Their Race: Educating Black and White Women in the New South*.

Kathryn Jasper was selected as the Outstanding College Teacher (social sciences) for the 2020-2021 academic year. In November, she created and delivered a four-part lecture series to the ISU Senior Professionals. She delivered talks on the Virgin Mary, the Normans in Sicily, the Global Middle Ages, and the Black Death. She organized a panel called “Teaching the Middle Ages in an age of Medievalisms,” with students for the ISU Culturally Responsive Campus Community conference and gave a paper at ISU’s Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology conference in 2020 titled “What’s new in digital research and pedagogy at ISU?”. She published “I can navigate the world: Student reflections of study abroad—Evidence from one university campus” in *The Journal for Research and Practice in College Teaching 4:1* with co-authors Erin Mikulec and Lea Kline. She presented a paper, “Mapping the miraculous: Saints and travel during the Age of Reform” at the American Historical Association’s national conference in January 2020.

Continued on page 8

Ross Kennedy published “Wilson’s wartime diplomacy: The United States and the First World War, 1914-1918,” in *A Companion to U.S. Foreign Relations, Colonial Era to the Present* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2020). He reviewed Patricia O’Toole’s *The Moralists: Woodrow Wilson and the World He Made* (Simon & Schuster, 2018) for *H-Diplo, H-Net Reviews* (June 2019) and Benjamin Allen Coates, *Legalist Empire: International Law and American Foreign Relations in the Early Twentieth Century* (Oxford University Press, 2016) for the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era* 18:2 (April 2019). He was invited to join the editorial board of *1914-1918-online. International Encyclopedia of the First World War* as the section editor for “USA”. In September 2019, he presented a paper entitled “A commitment to judge: Woodrow Wilson’s conception of collective security under the League of Nations” at the conference *A Century of Internationalisms: the Promise and Legacies of the League of Nations*, sponsored by the Diplomatic Institute of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Lisbon, Portugal. His paper, “Liberal internationalism and U.S. national security debates in the 1920s,” has been accepted for the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations 2020 Conference, scheduled for June 2020 in New Orleans.

Larissa Kennedy co-organized the fall 2019 ISU International Seminar Series, “Fostering World Religious Literacy,” with Stewart Winger (History) and Daniel Breyer (Philosophy) and gave an invited talk for the series called “Reflections from an American classroom: Demystifying Chinese history.” She also organized with Keith Pluymers (History) and Eric Godoy (Philosophy) the Spring 2020 International Seminar Series, “Local and global environments in conversation.”

Alan Lessoff published his article “James Bryce, William T. Stead, and the Trans-Atlantic meaning of the American city” in the *International Journal of Regional and Local History* (November 2019). In September 2019, he was invited to speak at the centennial commemoration of the 1919 hurricane that struck Corpus Christi, Texas, at the Art Museum of South Texas. His talk was entitled “The Hurricane of 1919 in history and memory.” A version of his November 2019 presentation to the École des hautes études en sciences sociales (EHESS), in Paris, entitled “Urban history and the limits of transnationalism,” is forthcoming in the *Yearbook of Transnational History* in 2020.

Monica Noraian co-organized the 2020 annual spring symposium on teaching history and the social sciences at ISU and presented “Teaching LGBTQ+ history: An inclusive approach,” with Sara Piotrowski and Richard Hughes.

Issam Nassar gave a talk “Photographs and photo archives as sources for the study of history,” at the con-

ference entitled “The Arab historian and his/her sources,” in April 2019 in Doha, Qatar. In June, he presented “Colonization by imagination: Jerusalem in photography,” at the conference “Jerusalem: reality and change,” held at the Jordanian University in Amman, Jordan. One month later, he gave a talk titled “Dividing Jerusalem: The fate of the Jerusalemites in 1948,” at the conference “The Contested city: Jerusalem 1917-2017,” held at The Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore. In October 2019, he presented “Bearers of memory: Photo albums as sources of historical study in Palestine” at Leiden University in Holland; gave a public presentation entitled “Representing Palestine in early photography” at University of Siena (Universta de Stranieri di Siena) in Italy; and participated in the conference *Photo Archives VII: The Majority World* at NYU in Florence, Italy, for which he served on the organizing committee and as a panel discussant. The British newspaper *The Guardian* listed the memoirs of Wasif Jawhariyyeh, which he co-edited, as one of the top 10 eyewitness accounts of 20th-century history. He published an article “Partitioned Jerusalem: The fate of the Palestinians Who remained in West Jerusalem,” in *Middle East Insight* No. 226 (February 2020).

Katrin Paehler published her chapter “Ideologie und Illusion. Das Amt VI des Reichssicherheitshauptamtes” in *Das Reichssicherheitshauptamt. NS-Terror-Zentrale im Zweiten Weltkrieg*, a multi-authored work on the offices within the Third Reich’s main security office. In June 2019, she was invited to attend Judith Gerson and Robin Judd’s lecture, entitled “Displacement, migration, and the Holocaust,” for the Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar for Faculty at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Later that month, she researched at the Yale University Archives to supplement the materials that she already gathered for her current book project *Spying While Female: The Curious Case of Hildegard Beetz* (under consideration at Toronto University Press). During the fall semester, she presented on World War II photographer Gerda Taro to ISU’s newly formed Women’s History Club. She was an invited speaker at Purdue University in September 2019, where she delivered her talk entitled “Espionage and gender: The fluid loyalties of Hildegard Beetz, Spy.” That same month, she presented “From democracy to dictatorship: Germany 1930-1936 or ‘I can’t eat as much as I want to puke!’ (Max Liebermann)” at ISU’s Academy of Seniors. In October 2019, she traveled to Pretoria, South Africa, where she presented “The District Six Museum in Cape Town, South Africa: A three-dimensional Yizkor Book?” at the African Chapter of the Memory Studies Association. There, she also visited the Apartheid Museum (Johannesburg), the Hector Pieterse Museum (Soweto), and the Johannesburg Holocaust & Genocide Center as part of her

ongoing work with museums. She served as an invited commentator and moderator for several panels for the German Studies Association and at the Memory Studies Association's Pretoria, South Africa, conference. With Mdu Ntuli, she presented "Little hindsight and much future: Holocaust and genocide studies" at the ISU history symposium in February 2020.

Lou Perez's *Tokyo: Geography, History, and Culture* was published as part of a series on contemporary world cities by ABC-Clio Press.

Sara Piotrowski co-organized the 2020 annual spring symposium on teaching history and the social sciences at ISU and presented "Teaching LGBTQ+ history: An inclusive approach," with Monica Noraian and Richard Hughes, outlining advice and best practices for teachers in response to Illinois's new law requiring LGBTQ history to be included in history classrooms.

Keith Pluymers published "Cow trials, climate change, and the causes of violence" in *Environmental History* 25, No. 2 (April 1, 2020). His chapter, "Environmental knowledge, expertise, and the development of slavery in Bermuda," was published in *Atlantic Environments and the American South* (University of Georgia Press, 2020). In October 2019, he presented "Indicted weirs and absolutist political ecology in early modern Ireland" at the Northeast Conference on British Studies and in November 2019 presented "Wood conservation, Atlantic trade, and the landscapes of early English Barbados," at the North American Conference on British Studies. He participated in the roundtable discussion "Why is environmental history a U.S. Western and modern field? Thoughts on region, time, and institutional authority" and presented the paper "Water, steam, and the 18th-century Anthropocene," at the Western Society for 18th-Century Studies Conference in February 2020. In January 2020, he presented "Mud, ice, and steam: Energy transitions and municipal water in 18th-century London and Philadelphia" to the Newberry Library's British History Seminar. In fall 2019, he contributed to the Milner Library's *Pressing Plants* exhibition, participating in a roundtable discussion with the other contributors and presenting a public lecture, "Plant explorers and paper voyages" to accompany the exhibit and as a part of the ISU Horticultural Center's 2019 program. Along with Larissa Kennedy (History) and Eric Godoy (Philosophy), he organized the spring 2020 International Seminar Series, "Local and global environments in conversation" and delivered the inaugural lecture in it with Eric Godoy.

John Reda's *From Furs to Farms: The Transformation of the Mississippi Valley: 1762-1825* (2016) is under contract with Cornell University Press and Redwood Audiobooks

to be released in 2020 as an audiobook. He was an invited speaker at Wichita State University in fall 2019, where he gave a lecture entitled "Imperial illusions: de Bourgmont and the French in 18th-century America."

Touré Reed published "Granger's 'challenge to the youth,' Stein's challenge to historians: Industrial Democracy and the complexities of black politics," on nonsite.org issue No. 29 in a festschrift for Judith Stein. His new book *Toward Freedom: The Case Against Race Reductionism* (Verso Books) came out in February 2020. He's done several interviews on the book, including with the Chicago-based radio show *This is Hell!* and "The pitfalls of liberal antiracism and noke Neoliberalism" as a part *Jacobin* magazine's "Stay at home" lecture series. He delivered the University of Arkansas' Donovan Lecture, titled "Woke neoliberalism: The conservative implications of liberal race reductionism," in March 2020.

Sudipa Topdar published "The historian beneath the skin: Embodiment as methodology in colonial India," in *History Compass*, Volume 17, Issue 8 (August 2019). She delivered the invited lecture "The historian beneath the skin: Reading the body in Colonial India" at Lady Shri Ram College.

Georgia Tsouvala's textbook, *A Brief History of Ancient Greece: Politics, Society, and Culture* (co-authored with Sarah B. Pomeroy et al.), came out in its fourth edition with Oxford University Press in 2020. The textbook was selected as one of "the best history books of 2018" by Amazon Book Review editor, Chris Schlupe. In June 2019, she presented "How to 'read' a site: The sanctuary of Artemis at Brauron," at the American School of Classical Studies at Athens. She was invited to give a talk at the DuPage County Social Studies Conference, "Before Title IX: ancient athletics and women's participation," in February 2020 and was invited to Bowling Green State University in March 2020 to present "Before Title IX: Female athletes in the Greco-Roman world." She gave a talk to the ISU History Club, "Spartan women and Greek sexuality," in October 2019 and was one of the first faculty to present to the new ISU Women's History Club with "Methodology and women's athletics," in February 2020.

Christine Varga-Harris contributed a chapter, "Decorating in moderation, moderating character: Domestic space and the Soviet person in the era of mass housing," to *Flying Panels: How Concrete Panels Changed the World* (Stockholm: The Swedish National Center for Architecture and Design, 2019). She also published "Between national tradition and western modernization: Soviet Woman and representations of socialist gender equality as a 'third way' for developing countries, 1956-1964," in *Slavic Review* 78, No. 3 (fall 2019). In November 2019, she presented "Believing in peace and freedom: Soviet

Continued on page 10

Alumni accomplishments

A baseball dream come true

By Keith Pluymers

Nicholas DiGrispino '18 has dreamed of working in Cooperstown, New York, since he was 7 years old. Soon, that dream will become a reality. DiGrispino was selected in March 2020 to participate in the Frank and Peggy Steele



DiGrispino supporting the Cubs while attending a game at Cleveland's Progressive Field.

Internship Program at the National Baseball Hall of Fame for the summer of 2020 as a research library intern.

While working as an intern, he will gain unparalleled experience working with baseball's rich history. "Baseball," the lifelong Cubs fan writes, "is so interwoven into the history of America the way that no other sport is or has been." Telling the story of baseball's past also narrates U.S. history, and now he will have the chance to do so. For DiGrispino, one of the highlights of the program is the opportunity to research an artifact from the collections and to create a public presentation for visitors from across the US and around the world.

At ISU, DiGrispino worked closely with Dr. Patrice Olsen, serving as her undergraduate teaching assistant and as a research assistant. He is currently enrolled in the Master of Science in Library and Information Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Unfortunately, closures due to COVID-19 mean he will not be on-site in Cooperstown this summer, but we look forward to hearing about his experiences when he completes his internship in summer 2021. We are incredibly proud and

sure that his work linking baseball and history will be a home run.

History gives the tools to help others

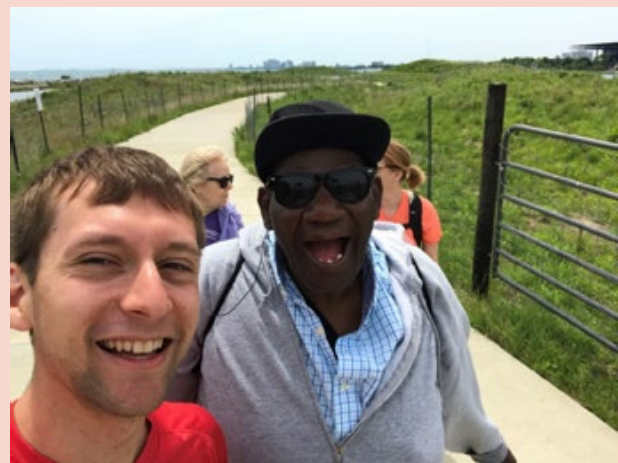
By Mark Adams, M.A. '16

My name is **Mark Adams**, and I earned a Master of Arts in history from Illinois State University in June 2016. After I graduated from Illinois State, I enrolled at the University of Illinois at Chicago for a master's degree in urban planning and policy, which allowed me to bridge the gap between policy and historical theory with community development practices. After graduating from the UIC, I began my career in community development with Mercy Housing Lakefront in May 2018 and have worked there since, as of June 2019. My position title is data and program analyst for resident services, and my office is

Continued on page 12



Adams, left, at work for Mercy Housing Lakefront.



Adams, left, enjoying a day out of the office.



Adams, second from right, celebrating Mercy Housing Lakefront.

located at the South Loop Apartments in downtown Chicago. Mercy Housing Lakefront (MHL) operates over 60 affordable housing properties for senior, veteran, family, and permanent supportive residents, most of whom have experienced some level of housing or financial instability during their lives. The Resident Services department provides case management and service coordination to help residents achieve greater housing and financial stability.

As the program and data analyst, my position is centered on three areas: Plan and design Mercy's grant-funded resident service programs, such as the Community Health Worker Program and the Austin Strategy Program, and ensure that our program plans include evaluation components to track and analyze the program's impacts; collect resident stories that provide reflection for MHL residents and feedback for internal continuous improvement; and collaborate with MHL staff to ensure data oversight and present analysis reports to communicate progress reports.

I have seen from a wide, high-level perspective of the progress and impacts of MHL's resident services programs. I have seen these changes across 20-plus properties in Milwaukee as well as the South Side, West Side and Near North Side of Chicago. I have met over 70 residents and interviewed at least 30 for resident stories, and heard stories of addiction, pain, homelessness, isolation, despair, mental illness, hopelessness, struggle, but also stories of resilience, empowerment, self-acceptance, and triumph.

When I reflect on the skills that I use every day during my job, I often realize that I use my skills that I developed as history major more than my community development major as an urban planning student. For example, all three areas of my work require knowing how to write concise accurate reports using researched data and evidence-based approaches, which is a skill that I learned as a graduate student at ISU. Another example is that my current supervisor requires that I always cite my sources, regardless of the length of the project or the type of source. Due to my history background, I learned how to properly cite my sources using Chicago-style formatting,

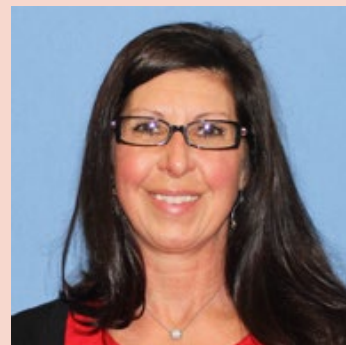
and to ensure that my sources are valid and credible. My history degree also helped me to see the big picture regarding the historical context and socio-economic policies that have directly impacted Mercy residents, many of whom have lived in poverty at some point in their lives. It taught me to always provide context for my analytical reports. Overall, my history degree provided me with the foundational skills I need for my current position, and I know that I will continue using these skills in my community development career.

An exceptional educator

By L. Spencer

"I believe that education is all about being excited about something. Seeing passion and enthusiasm helps push an educational message."—Steve Irwin

The job that pays her bills is not in the field of history, but her passion certainly is. **Christina Lea Smith, M.S. '15** is a passionate historian with an intense interest in the 19th century. In addition to her full-time job, she researches, designs and facilitates a variety of 19th-century American history seminar classes with a focus on the 19th-century American history, the American Civil War, and Reconstruction Era. She teaches community education history classes at Heartland Community College, Kankakee Community College, Joliet Community College, and ICC, and OLLI classes at Bradley University.



The list of topics is lengthy including:

- Allan Pinkerton and the Pinkerton Detective Agency
- Animals and their important roles in the American Civil War
- The assassination of Abraham Lincoln
- Christmas during the American Civil War
- Coming home: Mustering troops out of service after the war
- Elizabeth Packard and the Cult of True Womanhood
- Food culture in the 19th-century North and South
- The battle of Gettysburg
- Rural cemetery movement of the 19th century
- Sherman's March to the Sea
- The songs of the Civil War

She has two favorite classes. One is 19th-Century Presidential Elections where she focuses on the interesting stories going on during the election and not the actual election itself to show how politics impacts our

society and culture. Her other favorite class is On the Road to War, where she discusses a dozen or so pivotal events that are critical to the lead up to the Civil War.

Teaching history in the community education classroom presents some interesting challenges. She works to offer the real story in a narrative format rather than just facts, names and dates.

“My first-hand experience supports her success at this. I went to a class at HCC with my husband, because he also has a degree (and interest) in history with the understanding if I lost interest, I would be able to leave. Smith kept me totally involved for three hours! We have taken several more classes since.”—L. Spencer

Smith grew up in Fulton County, the oldest of four, and the first to go to college. She received her B.S in political science at ISU—with a minor in history—by taking classes at night while she worked full time. While she was interested in history even as a child, she didn't pursue a master's in history until she was an adult and realized she needed more. She believes non-traditional students have a bigger challenge managing life and the budget, but they appreciate it more. After taking just one master's level class she almost gave up; then she took a class from Dr. Wood who reignited her passion for history. She also speaks with affection about her collegial relationships with Dr. Winger, Dr. Olsen and Dr. Clemmons. Her advice to students and graduates is to find a way to use your degree, a niche. Community colleges are a great source for this.

Smith is an OLLI instructor at Bradley University and serves on the Library Board for the Danvers Township Library where she leads a monthly history reading group.

She is also a member of the Society of Civil War Historians and past participant in the Lincoln Forum in Gettysburg.

Her passion extends to her vacations by visiting historical sites and major Civil War battlefields and taking her niece along often enough to turn her into a history major at ISU this fall. Every year, Smith attends the Civil War Institute at Gettysburg College where she loves to listen to and learn from her favorite authors. The 2020 lineup of over 35 distinguished speakers and tour guides includes Harold Holzer, Catherine Clinton, Brian Wills, Jeffrey Wert, Carol Reardon, and Scott Hartwig. Some of her other favorite sites are the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield, Harper's Ferry, Appomattox, Valley Forge, Antietam battlefield, and the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia. Gettysburg, to which she returns every year, is her favorite.

She aspires to be a licensed Gettysburg field guide, calling it her ideal job. When there are openings the competition is steep. It is common for more than 350 people to apply and go through seven levels of testing for four positions. She is already studying. She would also like to write a book, which would be a narrative about her family ties to the Civil War. She has family who fought on both sides. Her father's paternal side of the family fought for the union and her father's maternal side of the family fought for the Confederacy. While she says she would love to pursue a Ph.D. in history, that just isn't possible. Instead she is working toward a second master's degree in information and library science at the University of Illinois. We wish her great success in all these endeavors!



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A photograph of a university campus during autumn. The scene is dominated by large, mature trees with vibrant yellow and orange foliage. A paved walkway leads from the foreground towards a large, multi-story brick building in the background. Several people are seen walking along the path. The lighting is bright, suggesting a sunny day.

COVID-19 Redbirds Response Fund

The **COVID-19 Redbirds Response Fund** will allow Illinois State University to help students experiencing job loss, homelessness, food insecurities, and financial hardship associated with COVID-19. These funds will allow our students to continue their studies by lifting the stress of providing for their basic needs. In addition, the fund will support students who find themselves in emergency situations with no other options for help.

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