



Department of History

## Spring 2022 Newsletter

Volume 1 / Issue 2

### Letter from the Chair

#### Dr. Leilah Danielson

It was a very busy spring for the department of history. We successfully hired a fantastic new director and Assistant Professor of History Education, Dr. Lauren Lefty. Her research and experience in the history of education, Latinx history, culturally relevant and antiracist pedagogies, and teacher education makes her a perfect fit for our history education program. We are also thrilled to announce that Dr. Marcus Macktima will join us in the fall as a postdoctoral fellow in Native American History. He has a wealth of knowledge and teaching experience in Native American history and the history of Apache peoples that will help to fill a crucial gap in our programming and will have wide appeal to students across campus.

In the following pages, you will learn more about our faculty, student, and alumni achievements and programming highlights from the spring. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr. Eric Meeks and Dr. Tom Finger for their promotions to full professor and associate professor, respectively. I would like to extend a special thank you to Ms. Christi Carlson for completing the history education assessment report for CAEP accreditation, a major accomplishment that took an incredible amount of time and dedication. A very big thank you to Dr. Josh Hodil for his leadership and mentorship of the revived History Club, and for his initiative and enthusiasm in organizing our final History in the Headlines event of the year, a roundtable discussion on the Ukraine crisis. I would also like to thank Mr. Eric May for the outstanding job he did as a one-year Lecturer of History Education.

Most of all, I would like to extend congratulations to our exceptional class of 2022! I am impressed by your perseverance and achievements during a very difficult time. It has been a privilege to have you in our classes and to watch you excel in the face of unprecedented challenges. I wish you the very best and encourage you to stay in touch. Happy summer to all!



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**Let Us Know How  
We're Doing**



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## Department Updates

### New Academic Program Coordinator: Jordan Ramirez

The NAU History Department is pleased to welcome Jordan Ramirez to the team as the new Academic Program Coordinator, effective December 6, 2021. Ramirez works behind the scenes and is tasked with faculty searches, supervising student workers, taking minutes at faculty meetings, and scheduling classes for upcoming semesters. Ramirez said the best part of her job is knowing that she's helping people and serving as a resource for them. She looks forward to offering more support to the faculty she works with. When asked about the future Ramirez said, "I'm looking forward to the end of the semester... seeing students graduate, the scholarship awards... I like seeing that sort of stuff happen." Ramirez is working towards her Master's in Educational Leadership with emphasis on community college and higher education. "It's really cool to get this experience because I'm learning a lot... about higher education while working with this department," Ramirez said. We are excited to have Ramirez on the job and can't wait to see all she accomplishes with the history department.



## Give

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History Department

## Contributors

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Layout and Design: Hava Herzog

## Department Updates

### Faculty Learn About Digital Pedagogy

On January 21, 2022, history faculty participated in a digital history pedagogy workshop with historian William Thomas of the University of Nebraska. Dr. Thomas is an award-winning historian whose books include *A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War* (2021), *The Iron Way: Railroads, The Civil War and the Making of Modern America* (2011) and *Lawyering for the Railroad: Business Law and Power in the New South* (1999). He has also been an important and pioneering leader in the field of digital history, serving as co-founder and director of the Virginia Center for Digital History and as a co-editor of the award-winning digital project "Valley of the Shadow: Two Communities in the American Civil War," among other projects.

Dr. Thomas began his presentation by defining digital history as 1) the use of the digital medium to further the scholarly conversation 2) using digital tools and methods to ask new questions about the past and advance disciplinary knowledge and 3) using the digital medium to create new forms of historical scholarship. With that foundation, Dr. Thomas explained that integrating the digital medium into history pedagogy is important for teaching our students digital literacy and historical interpretation skills. Rather than hoping our students will stumble upon good sources as they search the world wide web, digital history involves setting the agenda for research by identifying certain kinds of sources and directing the analysis with historical questions.

At the lower-division level, this might involve analyzing newspaper coverage of a major event using only the Proquest Historical Newspaper database. At the upper-division level, this might involve creating a digital archive of artifacts and stories of their communities, such as the collections stored at the University of Nebraska's The History Harvest [historyharvest.unl.edu/](http://historyharvest.unl.edu/).

Toward the end of his talk, Dr. Thomas shared exemplar digital history projects for teaching, including the American Indian Digital History Project [www.aidhp.com/](http://www.aidhp.com/) and Vietnamese in the Diaspora Archive [vietdiasporastories.omeka.net/](http://vietdiasporastories.omeka.net/). The workshop was an illuminating experience, showing how digital history can help our teaching and provide new mediums for sharing our scholarship.



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### History Education Update By Christi Carlson

The History and Social Studies Secondary Education program is excited to announce that Dr. Lauren Lefty will be joining us this fall as an assistant professor and director of the program. Dr. Lefty holds a PhD in the History of Education from New York University. Currently, she is serving as a Mellon/ACLS Postdoctoral Fellow with the Children's Defense Fund's Freedom Schools program, where she is spearheading teacher education programming. Before beginning academic work, Dr. Lefty served as a middle and high school teacher and policymaker for the NYC Department of Education. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Lefty to NAU!



As this year draws to a close, we are grateful to all of our secondary school partners who have welcomed our practicum students and student teachers despite trying circumstances and challenges in the classroom. This practical experience is invaluable for our teacher candidates and we are fortunate to have such wonderful collaborators!

## Department Updates

### Undergraduate Scholarship Winners

**Avery Scholarship:** Tanner Hammarstrom and Isaias Chacon

**Barber Scholarship:** Ezabelle Alvarez and Sarah Beattie

**Rourke Scholarship:** Heaven Gomez

**Tinsley Scholarship:** Annika Grancorvitz and Parker Weber

**Roosen Scholarship:** Melissa Valenzuela

### Welcoming Back History Club

At the beginning of the Spring semester, NAU welcomed back the History Club for the first time since 2020. The club meets in Liberal Arts Room 201 every Tuesday (occasionally Thursdays too) at 7 pm, and is overseen by Dr. Earl Hodil. Every week is something new all centered around various historical topics. So far, the club has done mini-lectures with topics chosen by students, Jeopardy, and discussions. "I enjoy the History Club for different topics and interactions with other historians," said club president Rory Treptow. "I believe it will benefit me [by] learning about a variety of topics from different historians' perspectives," he said.

Although the club is getting back on its feet after a two year hiatus, the board has big plans for the future. The club hopes to go on trips to museums, historical sites, and invite more speakers to have discussions with the membership. Recently the club invited Dr. Jelesijevic and Dr. Akiyama from the Department of Global Languages and Cultures for discussion after showing the 1988 animated Japanese film *Grave of the Fireflies*.

Not only is the club fun, but it connects those majoring and interested in history with each other. These connections go beyond the classroom, and members communicate with each other through Discord.



### History Club Discord

<https://discord.gg/6vaF5jquD7>

### History Club Instagram

@nauhistryclub

### Thank You Student Workers!

We appreciate all your hard work and dedication.



Priscilla Imperial  
Rylee Miller  
Samantha Bramel  
Serena Wilkinson



## Department Updates

### Congratulations Spring 2022 Graduates!

#### Undergraduate Program

Isaac Antflick	Savannah Jones	Kehaulani Nallira	Laneasa Spivey
Charles Archuleta	Sydney Jones	Aubrey Nelson	Ryan Stronks
Payton Bambling	Cian Logue	Marley Oakes	Austin Thomas
Travis Burnham	Katherine Maneely	Joseph Parker	SarahTietjen
Cameron Cox	Andrew Manzur	Caitlyn Peed	MorganTorres
Samantha Dominguez	Hannah Marshall	Lily Peters	James Wallis
Trey Gasset	Isaiah Martin	Kyle Quintal	Lindsey Webb
Alec Gastony	Justin Mejia-Wood-	Gavin Roman	Alexandria Wells
Massai Gonzalez	ward	Braden Schrader	Isabel Young
Aidan Gutierrez	Emily Moore	Alyssa Sergent	Zimiao Yu
Laurn Hudson	Maxwell Moseley	Blake Smith	Xukang Zhang

### Graduate Program Update By Michael Amundson

The History Graduate Program congratulates our five graduating students in Spring 2022 including Amy Megowan, Sam Frank, Billy Knapp, Nova Tahvildaran-Jesswein, and Robin Stratmann and their advisors Eric Meeks, Tom Finger, Michael Amundson, and Leilah Danielson, respectively.

We pay special tribute to Amy Megowan, who not only successfully defended her thesis on gender and environment in Arizona's Verde Valley copper towns but also has been accepted into the PhD Program in History at Montana State University in Bozeman, where she begins in fall 2023.

We'd also like to highlight Billy Knapp, whose groundbreaking Public History Project examined the history of servants at Riordan Mansion that will bring a whole new way of interpreting our closest State Park.

After a record number of applicants for the Fall 2022 semester, we look forward to welcoming ten new faces to the M.A. program, including international students from India and Ghana.

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### Public History Program Update By Michael Amundson

The Public History program congratulates its three graduates in Spring 2022 including Billy Knapp and Nova Tahvildaran-Jesswein, who completed Public History Projects, and Amy Megowan, who wrote a thesis.

Billy Knapp's project focused on the history of servants at Riordan Mansion State Park while Nova Tahvildaran-Jesswein's examined the wives of early Wupatki superintendents who aided their husbands, without pay, at the Monument. Michael Amundson and Leilah Danielson advised these two projects.

Both projects grew from internships the students completed last summer at the sites and we thank Nikki Lober, Riordan Park Manager and Gwenn Gallenstein, Flagstaff Area National Monuments Museum Curator, for their assistance! Although Amy Megowan's thesis followed a different path, she completed an internship this semester at Lowell Observatory Archives, and we thank Lowell Archivist Lauren Amundson too.

Returning public history students Shane Baltes, Jennifer John, and Megan Salinas, will be interning this summer at the Richard M. Nixon Presidential Library, The Sharlot Hall Museum, and Walnut Canyon National Monument, respectively. Thanks much to all of our Public History Partners!

## Department Updates

### Congratulations Spring 2022 Graduates!

Graduate Program

Amy Megowan

Sam Frank

Billy Knapp

Nova Tahvildaran-Jesswein

Robin Stratmann

### Fall 2022 Courses

HIS 100- World History I

HIS 102- World History II

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HIS 230- History of Islamic World I

HIS 249 Pre-modern India

HIS 250- Pre-modern East Asia

HIS 280- Colonial Latin America

HIS 291- United States History to 1865

HIS 292- United States History since 1865

HIS 293- Native American History

HIS 295- Survey of U.S. Women and Gender

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HIS 300W- Queer America

HIS 300W - Cuban Revolution

HIS 300W - The Nineteenth Century World

HIS 312- Gandhi's India

HIS 333- The Hellenistic World from Alexander to Cleopatra

HIS 343- Nations, Empires, Industry: Europe 1815-1914

HIS 368- Making of the United States West

HIS 397- Survey of American Environmental History

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HIS 420- Public History

HIS 460- Modern Middle East 1829-Present

His 460- Religion & Power in Modernity

HIS 470- Ancient Slavery

HIS 480- History of the Amazon

HIS 484- Pride in the Time of HIV/AIDS

HIS 498C- Maritime Asia 10-14th Century C.E.

HIS 498C- War Ideologies Europe 1914-1947

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HIS 502- Public History

HIS 560- Readings in Colonialism and Nationalism

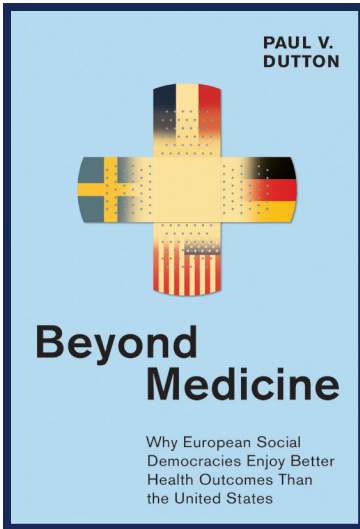
HIS 592- Readings in the American West

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HIS 600- Historiography and Methodologies

**Online Course Catalog**  
[catalog.nau.edu/Courses/](https://catalog.nau.edu/Courses/)

## Faculty Highlights



### ***Beyond Medicine* By Paul Dutton**

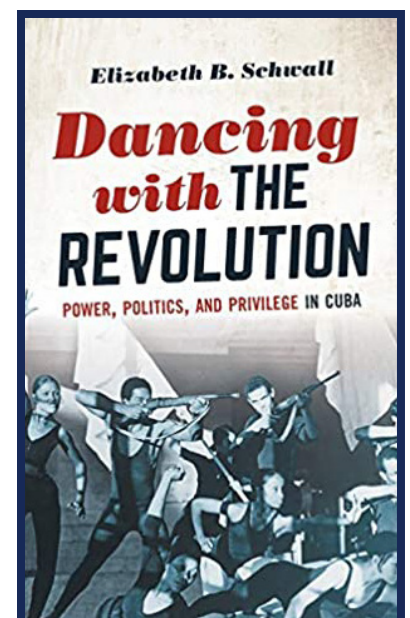
NAU history professor Paul Dutton recently published *Beyond Medicine* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2021), which provides a historical answer to the question: Why are Europeans who live in social democracies like France, Germany, and Sweden healthier than Americans? Health indicators, such as life expectancy, infant mortality, and the prevalence of chronic disease show that European social democratic nations are pulling further ahead of the U.S. every year. Moreover, the relative U.S. decline is occurring across population subgroups. Poor, disadvantaged Europeans are healthier than poor, disadvantaged Americans and wealthy, privileged Europeans are healthier than wealthy, privileged Americans. Social scientists have long sought to explain the growing health divide between the U.S. and other wealthy nations but few apply a sustained historical analysis. In contrast, *Beyond Medicine* shows that beginning in the late nineteenth century, France, Germany, and Sweden began construction of health systems that focused not only on medical care but the broad social determinants of health: where and how we live, work, play, and age. Europeans consistently invested in public health infrastructure, universal access to preventive maternal and infant care, affordable child care, paid parental leave, universal health care, dedicated sick leave, worker co-determination programs, pensions, and quality elder care services. Meanwhile, U.S. investments in maternal, child, worker, and elderly health since the late nineteenth century have been episodic and relatively ineffective due to poor coordination between state and federal governments, persistent racial discrimination, and their capture by private interests.

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### ***Dancing with The Revolution* By Dr. Elizabeth Schwall**

New NAU history professor Elizabeth Schwall recently published *Dancing with The Revolution: Power, Politics, and Privilege in Cuba* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2021), which examines how professional dancers navigated their relationship with several Cuban governments from 1930 to 1990. Dancers honed their artistic priorities and tactics for securing resources from the government in the decades before the 1959 Cuban Revolution. Then, after 1959, they used their experiences to capitalize on new opportunities coming out of the regime change and to promote long standing dance causes. They succeeded with flying colors. Cuba has a world-renowned dance establishment; so in some ways, this book explains a success story.

By the same token, this book is equally a story about pain, struggle, failure, and frustration. Hagglng with governments for money and toeing political lines were not always easy or pleasant endeavors. Choreographers had to deal with censorship and self-censorship. The revolutionary government ended up controlling the press and suspending elections after 1959, and artists had to keep political mandates in mind. Black dancers had to deal with racial and class prejudices within the cultural bureaucracy, and homosexual dancers faced police harassment and professional roadblocks due to their sexual orientation. The book recently won the Rocky Mountains Council for Latin American Studies Thomas McGann Prize. Congratulations Dr. Schwall!



## Faculty Highlights

### Dr. Sanjam Ahluwalia and AIIHS Fellowship

Every year for the past 60 years, the American Institute of Indian Studies awards approximately 35 fellowships to pre- and postdoctoral scholars and artists in pursuit of knowledge about India. Among those awarded for 2022-23 is NAU's Dr. Sanjam Ahluwalia, member of the history department and director of the Women and Gender Studies program. Her project is titled "Films Division of India's Messaging on Population Control, Family Planning, and Happiness, 1940s-2000s." Dr. Ahluwalia will explore the Film Division of India's (FDI) films' messaging on population control, family planning, and on small families' abilities to ensure and bestow bourgeois familial happiness through an examination of their English and Hindi language films. Family planning was an organizing idea for filmic production from the very inauguration of the FDI. With the film Planned Parenthood produced as early as 1949, family planning was normalized as a central organizing principle for management of heteropatriarchal middle class families and as a tool for ensuring the happiness of the individual, family, and, by extension, the nation. Congratulations on the fellowship Dr. Ahluwalia, we can't wait to hear more about your research.

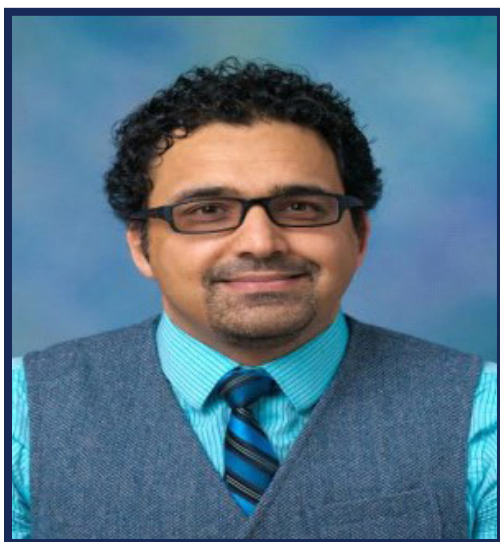


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### Teaching Spotlight: Dr. Hakeem Naim and HIS 460

Dr. Hakeem Naim is Assistant Teaching Professor in Global History and Islamic World in the Department of History. He grew up in Afghanistan and lived in multiple countries as a refugee/immigrant. In his research, Dr. Naim focuses on the late 19th century Islamic nationalism, colonialism, post-colonial theories, and comparative intellectual history of the Ottoman Empire, Afghanistan, and Central Asia. He has a command of various languages, including Persian (Dari), Turkish (Modern and Ottoman Turkish), Arabic, Pashto, Uzbek, German, and English. Before moving to NAU, Dr. Naim was a lecturer of modern Middle East History at UC Berkeley.

One of the courses he teaches is HIS 460: Modern Middle East, which explores the history of the modern Middle East (Southwest Asia and North Africa) from 1839 to the present. Rather than narrate the history of the modern Middle East as a series of wars and conflicts, this course focuses on the major intellectual, social, political, and cultural transformations of the region, while taking into account both regional and global contexts of interaction and change in a comparative format. Themes include: the late Ottoman Empire, World War I and colonial state formation, anti-colonial nationalism, Islam and universal religions of the Middle East, and the Palestine-Israel conundrum. This course also provides students with a historical understanding of the impact of European colonialism, the discovery of petroleum and its consequences, and the role played by the United States in the region. The course will highlight certain countries with the purpose of critically addressing the dominant themes in both the scholarly and non-scholarly literature on the region.





## Undergraduate Highlights

### Outstanding Senior James Wallis

The history department has an annual tradition of recognizing an outstanding senior who exemplifies academic excellence and integrity. This spring, the Department of History is proud to congratulate Outstanding Senior James Wallis! Wallis is a double major in history and theater, with a minor in Asian Studies. They were also recognized as Outstanding Senior for the Theater Department and the College of Arts and Letters.

During the fall semester Wallis was a teacher assistant for Dr. Naim, and is assisting for the same class this semester with Dr. Heng. They view history as a tool to serve the present, and enjoy working with students in lower years than themselves. "I really like to work with students who are...in lower years than me...with the goal that they can learn some of the things that I learned, but earlier," Wallis said. They gave a shout out to Dr. Dutton for teaching them how to examine bias in historical record and for applying philosophy to history.

As for future plans, Wallis doesn't know where their endeavors will lead them, but they are sure that they will know when they've found the career that best suits them. They hope to combine their love for theater and history and move to Chicago, where they want to continue with theater and improv, while potentially being a substitute teacher as well. For the future in general, Wallis is most looking forward to seeing the way that our society will change in the coming years, considering the rapid rate that history is unfolding. "We live in times that are faster than anybody in the past millennia have lived, and it's only getting faster," they said.



### Samantha Dominguez Accepted to Marshall Teacher Residency Program

Starting June 27th, graduating Senior Samantha Dominguez will be participating in the Marshall Teacher Residency Program, a fellowship that prepares future educators for the classroom setting and earning their teaching credentials in California. She will get hands-on experience in the classroom, and by January 2023 will teach students herself. She is to be placed in a high school social studies class and will be certified to teach social studies by the end of the school year. "I want to offer a classroom environment that emphasizes mental health...[because]...it can be very easy to forget to care for yourself as a high school student," Dominguez said. Dominguez strives to be a teacher that students can feel safe with, and talk with them about their struggles so they can pass their classes and learn to be kind to themselves. Congratulations, Ms. Dominguez, you will be a positive role model for your future students.

## Undergraduate Highlights

### Ashley Holstetler

Secondary history education major Ashley Hostetler focused her capstone project on the development of human trafficking in the Southwestern Borderlands. "One of my main research questions was: "How has the issue of human trafficking in the Southwestern Borderlands been able to flourish since the emergence of globalization?," Hostetler said. Inspired by an essay she read in one of Dr. Meeks' classes, Hostetler wanted to dive deeper into the context of the Mexico-US border to examine the history/emergence of human trafficking. "One of the biggest takeaways from my capstone was the dire call from Borderland experts for binational cooperation in order to create unilateral legislation that would successfully address the issue of human trafficking," Hostetler said.

After she graduates in December 2022, Hostetler hopes to stay in Arizona to teach high school history classes." Hostetler said that this research project had allowed her to work with primary sources, and explore the role of historian, which she hopes to include in her future classroom. Hostetler thanked Dr. Meeks and her peers in her senior seminar for helping her through the process of completing her capstone.



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### Zachary Larger

History major Zachary Larger was awarded the prestigious Hooper Undergraduate Research Award for his project "Rephotographing Phoenix's Built Environment." With the support of his mentor, Professor Michael Amundson, Zachary will use the method of rephotography to trace urbanization and suburbanization from 1881 to 2022. The process involves extensive archival research to locate images of the historical district in its various stages of development, field work to determine vantage points and take photos, and analysis. Congratulations to Zachary! We look forward to seeing the final product.

### More about the Hooper Undergraduate Research Award

[nau.edu/hura](http://nau.edu/hura)



## Graduate Highlights

### Nova Jesswein

Nova Jesswein is a second year graduate student in the history department studying Public History. As part of her graduate studies, Jesswein participated in a ten-week internship over the summer of 2021, serving as an interpreter at Wupatki National Monument. Her primary role was to monitor and assist visitors on the trails, but she also spent a lot of time working on a secondary project: researching the historical Stone House. The Stone House is ranger housing built in the late 1930s by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the Pueblo Revival style. The house was designed to blend in with the surrounding Moenkopi sandstone, and was constructed almost exclusively from stone. The rest of Jesswein's research can be found on the National Park Service's website.

The offer of a degree in Public History greatly influenced Jesswein's educational path. She noted that, because the study of Public History is "more accessible" than traditional history, "it connects people to the past as well as the future." Studying Public History allows students to move beyond the constraints of more standard history classes and degrees. Jesswein stated that, as a Public Historian, her passion is historical museums. Before coming to NAU, she was the Education Assistant at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum in California. All of these experiences in museum curatorship, research, and education, Jesswein credits to a love for Public History.

For students interested in Public History, Jesswein suggests taking the undergraduate class and volunteering at a museum or with the National Parks Service to get started.



### Billy Knapp

For his public history project, Billy Knapp contributed to Riordan Mansion State Historical Park's commitment to tell the stories of the diverse peoples who lived and worked in Flagstaff in the early twentieth century. Under the direction of Park Manager Nikki Lober and Professor and Public History Director Michael Amundson, Knapp focused on telling the history of domestic service at the mansion. This entailed creating a permanent physical exhibit about the servants in the kitchen of the west house; edits to the existing tour guide handbook to include more information on the servants; and three binders with fascinating supplementary information including letters, photographs, newspaper articles, and obituaries.

This project is meant to function as a foundation upon which future projects can be conducted on other working-class individuals in early Flagstaff. We encourage you to pay a visit to Riordan Mansion to check it out!

## Featured Speakers



### Dr. Geraldine Heng

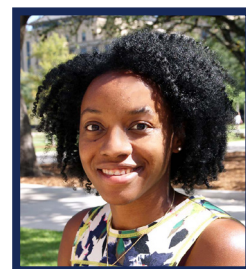
On February 17th, we welcomed Geraldine Heng, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at UT-Austin, as a guest speaker for our annual World History speaker series. She is a pioneering scholar of medieval studies who has helped spearhead the Global Middle Ages Project. Her most important work is *The Invention of Race in the European Middle Ages* (Cambridge University Press, 2018) which argues that race as a structure of power predated and sometimes prefigured modern racial systems.

Dr. Heng first led a pedagogy workshop where she discussed with faculty the opportunities and challenges of teaching a global curriculum when covering pre modern periods of history. She highlighted important ways in which such early histories, which tend to be viewed as less important for the present, serve as vital background for understanding key developments in modern history, such as climate change, colonialism, and race. She followed up this workshop with a public talk titled, "Teaching and Learning from Early Global Literatures and Cultures." Dr. Heng used her experiences teaching innovative courses on medieval travel literature from all over the globe to highlight the valuable insights that come from this kind of study. Her examples included Scandinavian sagas describing their encounters with Indigenous peoples in Canada, which in many ways seem to prefigure the exploitative aims and racist views of later European migrants to the Americas. Yet Central Asians looked with equal scorn upon the inhabitants of India, raising the question of whether even non-Europeans were capable of Orientalism. This is only a sampling of the numerous insights and possibilities raised by her exciting and eye-opening talk!

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### Dr. Takkara Brunson

In February, the history department and Latin American Studies co-sponsored Dr. Takkara Brunson who gave a virtual presentation on her recent book, *Black Women, Citizenship, and the Making of Modern Cuba* (University of Florida Press, 2021). In her talk, she discussed how women of African descent battled exclusion on multiple fronts and played an important role in forging a modern democracy. Using archival and published sources previously examined, as well as unique photographic material, Brunson found Black women everywhere, though they had been overlooked or sidelined in many existing discussions of race, citizenship, and politics in Cuba. With this fresh perspective, Brunson demonstrated how Black women helped to build a Black public sphere and entered national women's organizations, labor unions, and political parties to bring about legal reforms. She focused particularly on three women from different generations of activists: (María) Cristina Ayala (1856-1936), María Dámasa Jova (1890-1940), and Esperanza Sánchez Mas-trapa (1901-58). By following their representative stories, Brunson showed how racism and sexism persisted even as legal definitions of Cuban citizenship evolved.



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### No More Miss America: The Pageant Turns 100

For Women's History Month, the history department sponsored a talk entitled "No More Miss America: The Pageant Turns 100" by Professor Micki McElya of the University of Connecticut. There were around 75 audience members for this virtual event that used the Miss America Pageant as a lens for exploring the culture and politics of gender and identity since 1921. With a plethora of images showing the evolution of Miss America over time, including those who have protested it, the talk generated a lively discussion about gender and nationalism, race and beauty standards, the globalization of beauty pageants, among other topics.



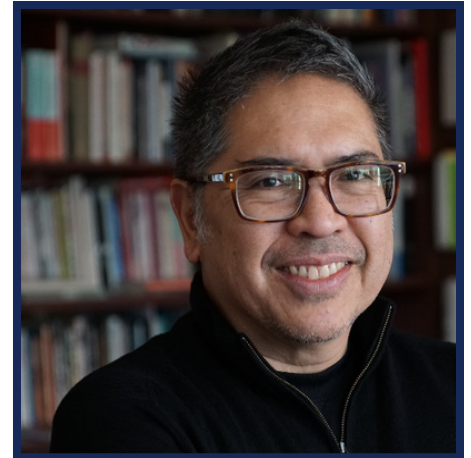
## History in the Headlines

### Dr. Vincente Rafael on President Duterte

Our third “History in the Headlines” event for AY 2021-2022 featured the preeminent scholar of language, nationalism, and colonialism in the Philippines, Professor Vicente Rafael of the University of Washington. Dr. Rafael’s talk focused on President Rodrigo Duterte of the Philippines, offering an insightful analysis of how and why Duterte remains a popular leader even as he violates the norms of polite society and wages an undeclared war on drug dealers and addicts. Dr. Rafael suggested that Duterte is a trickster figure who instills terror through his use of vulgarity, humor, playing the victim, misogyny, and boasting. In many ways, his rise to power reflects the specificity of the Philippines, with its history of Spanish and then American colonialism, the corruption and collusion of elites that continued into the postcolonial era, the history of electoral violence, and ongoing insurgencies by Muslims and Communists.

Yet Duterte’s rise also reflects a global trend of rising right-wing authoritarianism and nationalism. As audience members pointed out, it’s hard to avoid making comparisons to figures like former President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India who have undermined democratic norms using similar methods. According to Dr. Rafael, the appeal of these leaders is largely rooted in neoliberal policies that reject collective solutions to social ills and incentivize entrepreneurial behavior. As extremes of wealth and poverty grow even greater, civil society is plunged into a state of anxiety and war, which leads to longing for a father figure to take control.

Dr. Rafael’s brilliant analysis of the “age of Duterte” goes a long way in helping us to understand the complex reasons for the global rise in populism, nationalism, and authoritarianism. We heartily recommend his new book, *The Sovereign Trickster: Dean and Laughter in the Age of Duterte* (Duke University Press, 2022).



### Ukraine: Democracy and Authoritarianism in Eastern Europe

Our fourth “History in the Headlines” event for AY 2021-22 was a roundtable discussion of the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine. It featured NAU professors Dr. Josh Hodil and Dr. Hakeem Naim (History), Dr. Bjorn Krondorfer (Comparative Cultural Studies and the Martin-Springer Institute), and Dr. Gretchen Gee (Politics and International Affairs). Dr. Hodil’s comments focused on the history of Ukrainian nationhood and refuting claims made by Russian President Vladimir Putin that it is part of Russia. Dr. Gee discussed the internal cultural divisions within Ukraine and the ways these

have played out during the war. Dr. Krondorfer offered a fascinating analysis of the role of the Orthodox Church in the conflict, highlighting the close connections between the Russian Patriarch and President Putin and divides within Eastern Orthodoxy. Dr. Naim offered a postcolonial perspective on the war, suggesting that the global south views it within the historical context of western imperialism and fears that it will spread into Central Asia. With approximately 45 attending in person and 62 attending on zoom, a lively and extended discussion followed. Thank you to the faculty organizers and participants for an enlightening and multi-perspectival event.

## Alumni Features

### Danielle Bongfig Awarded 2021 Economics Teacher of the Year

Flagstaff High School's Danielle Bongfig was named Arizona Economics Teacher of the Year in November 2021. Bongfig has taught at Flagstaff High for seven years in government, economics, and world history. When informed she had won the award, Bongfig said she cried. "I take a lot of pride in being acknowledged," she said. On top of that, she said, "It was an acknowledgment of a lot of things that Flag High has been trying to do, and I'm just glad I could be part of the process." When her students found out, Bongfig said they had a "No duh!" reaction.

Bongfig offered insight as to why her job in the classroom is important, especially today. "Society needs to have teachers...someone who is willing to take the time and the patience to make things applicable and relevant to students," Bongfig said.

As a teacher, Bongfig noted that making connections between students and the content they are learning is crucial. "As human beings, we need to have a connection to content, a connection to one another, and then a connection to someone who's able to instruct...to facilitate the learning."

Aside from her classes, Bongfig also takes part in a series called Adulting 101 that has develop over the past two years. Community members come into the classroom to teach students life skills and allow them to ask real world questions. "What is Auto Servicing as an Adult?" was one of the recent lessons. The program featured three mechanics for the in-person discussion. The administration intended the series to set students up for success going into adulthood.

While studying at NAU, Bongfig was a student teacher at Flagstaff High. This experience jump-started her networking with other educators at the school. Bongfig said it is important to "get out there" in the field and make the right moves to create foundational relationships. "It's the networking that's going to pay off," Bongfig said. "I had colleagues that were willing to work with me on certain projects like Adulting101...it all comes down from making those relationships. It's kind of beautiful in that sense I suppose," she said.

Bongfig recalled having great teachers in the College of Arts and Letters and was enthusiastic to give shoutouts. Lecturer Christi Carlson is "just an absolute inspiration." Dr. Scott Reese had "always stuck in her mind," and Dr. Leilah Danielson was "really great to work with as well," she said. "Honestly, CAL [College of Arts and Letters] has a lot of great instructors that really strive to make a relationship with their students," she said. "CAL did such a great job of having us make connections and networks, both in academia and then in the schools," she said.

The NAU History Department is proud of Danielle Bongfig and her accomplishments in and out of the classroom. Congratulations Ms. Bongfig, we can't wait to see what else you accomplish!





## Alumni Features

### Samuel Rosenberg Celebrates One Year Anniversary Working for the AZ State Senate

NAU Alumni Samuel Rosenberg celebrated his one-year anniversary working for the Arizona State Senate this February. Rosenberg started as a research intern for the State House his sophomore year of college and he is now Administrative Assistant for Senate Research. His job includes answering phone calls and emails and proofreading Senate fact sheets. The research department's job is to translate legislation. "Legislation is a very strange language. So, they write fact sheets, which can be found online for the public or for senators to be able to read and understand what the bill actually does," Rosenberg said. "I just dig working in public service because... there's no profit motives or anything like that. It's just... straight up what you're doing is for the state and the people... I know that I'm making changes actively on the state level, or helping to," he said. Rosenberg described the Legislative Internship as a great opportunity for History majors, especially those trying to figure out what they want to do with their degree. "That's why I'm where I'm currently at... because I got that position, and then got the experience and connections," he said. Rosenberg said his time at NAU helped him grow and develop as a writer which is important for the research required of his job. He recalled having Dr. Eric Meeks as a professor for three different classes, two of which were within his final semester. "He helped shape... how I write and especially how I take notes... writing is a very large part of my job," he said. Taking HIS 381 United States-Mexico Borderlands with Dr. Meeks developed Rosenberg's personal philosophies because "they were very introspective into the American experience." It was Dr. Scott Reese who got Rosenberg interested in history after taking one of his classes. That class led him to decide on majoring in history.

"Honorable mentions to Jeremy LaBuff, whose class made me realize how much fun obscure objects were when I found myself excited to learn about the unification of the German states. Also, Heather Martel who helped me see the high value in learning the objective history of subjective things," Rosenberg said.



### Interested in the Arizona Legislative Internship Program?

Visit [in.nau.edu/career/arizona-legislative-internships/](https://in.nau.edu/career/arizona-legislative-internships/)

## Alumni Features

### Lindsey Cillis' Capstone on Mexico's 1938 Oil Expropriation

Lindsey Cillis graduated last fall from NAU with a major in History, and a double minor in Italian and International Studies. For her capstone project, Cillis originally wanted to incorporate her Italian minor, or do a topic related to the Great Depression in Britain. However, she ended up changing her topic entirely. "I wrote a research paper that focused on Mexico's 1938 oil expropriation and its significance to Mexican people as a continuation of revolutionary activity," she said. "Further, it was significant to some Europeans and Americans, who expressed anxiety over the event's possible influence...as the Second World War approached," she said.

Cillis said that the research process was extensive. It involved researching the various perspectives on the event and using her time management skills and creativity skills when structuring her essay. Cillis credited Dr. Dutton and ENG 405 mentor Emma Winn for encouraging her to explore topics outside of her "historical comfort zone" and refine her topic. As for her academic career, she says professors, family, and the First Scholars Program were a source of support and guidance.

Cillis is planning on returning to NAU in the fall to start her journey through graduate school. "I hope to work in an archive or a museum with the goal of increasing history's accessibility, and I look forward to learning more about the field when I start in August," Cillis said. The NAU History Department is excited to welcome back Lindsey Cillis, and look forward to all she will accomplish in her graduate studies. See you soon Lindsey!

## Alumni Features

**Mrs. Florence Young**, graduate of NAU class of '69, is an avid supporter of Cline Library and is pleased to see the History Department being represented in the newsletter.

**Dr. Jimmy Miller** received his Ph.D. from NAU in 1986. Although he has retired from full-time teaching, he now teaches Encore classes for senior learners at San Juan College, including courses on the Civil War, Reconstruction, and America's First Ladies.

**Mr. Kevin Carroll** received his MA in 1974. McFarland Publishing just released his book *Buck Shaw: The Life and Sportsmanship of the Legendary Football Coach*. Lawrence "Buck" Shaw was an all-American college football player in the early 1920s. After graduating from Notre Dame, he went on to serve the San Francisco 49ers, the U.S. Air Force Academy, and coached the Philadelphia Eagles to an astonishing win against the Green Bay Packers in 1960. Carroll's biography tells the story of Shaw's college and pro years and brings justice to Shaw's overlooked achievements.

**Mr. Gabriel Nava**, MA class of 2021, has recently been hired as an Assistant Professor & History Program Coordinator for the Department of History & Political Science at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. Oakwood University is an Adventist Christian Historically Black College & University (HBCU).

**Dr. Michael Conrad**, graduate of class of '08 received his Ph.D. in Environmental and Urban history in 2019 from Stony Brook University. Since 2017, he has worked as the operations manager for Clarkson University's Beacon Institute ([bire.org](http://bire.org)) and recently created an oral history archive called the Indian Point Heritage Project ([ipheritage.org](http://ipheritage.org)).

**Dr. Jack Reid** received his Ph.D. from NAU in 2016. In June 2022, he will speak about Bob Dylan, Jack Kerouac, the Beats, and "the road" at a symposium hosted by the University of Tulsa's Institute for Bob Dylan Studies. Reid's book *Roadside Americans: The Rise and Fall of Hitchhiking in a Changing Nation* (Chapel Hill, 2020) has received extensive publicity and accolades.

### Have a Story?

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