

Selected Spring 2018 **Faculty Achievements**

- Dr. Ute Chamberlin was awarded the 2018 WIU College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching
- Dr. Tim Roberts released This Infernal War: The Civil War Letters of William and Jane Standard (Civil War in the North series) with Kent State University Press
- Dr. Lee Brice continues his fellowship in Greece
- Dr. Jennifer McNabb was named Chief Reader for the College Board's Advanced Placement (AP) European History Program

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Profile: Larry Balsamo



Volume II, Issue II

Spring 2018

From the Chair's Desk



Dr. Jen McNabb, **Professor and Chair** of WIU History

Welcome to the close of another academic year and to another issue of the Department of History Newsletter. It continues

to be a pleasure to offer you news and

notes about the department's students, faculty, and alumni.

As I prepared this issue, I was struck by the amazing impact of WIU History—on the Macomb campus and community, in Illinois and across the country, and throughout the world. The WIU History program makes meaningful contributions to the enrichment of

the lives of so many people, inside and far beyond the walls of the classroom. As I surveyed the accomplishments of our many talented WIU History alumni and students, I felt an incredible sense of pride that I know you feel as well.

I will leave the subsequent pages to announce the many awards and accolades of our students and graduates, but I would like to use this space to single out the accomplishments of three outstanding faculty members. This spring, the department had the privilege of welcoming National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship winner Dr. Febe Pamonag back to campus, following a one-year absence in support of her NEHfunded project on disease and imperial policy in the Philippines. Dr. Pamonag's students are already benefitting from the research completed during her prestigious fellowship, and it is an honor to have a scholar of her caliber in the department. This spring, Dr. Tim Roberts published a collection of Civil War letters with Kent State University Press. This accomplished study offers a new perspective on the war in the North by exploring the lives and attitudes of Illinois residents during the conflict and makes important contributions to the preservation of our regional and national past. The end of the spring semester also brought recognition to Dr. Ute Chamberlin, whose exemplary record at WIU earned her the CAS Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Teaching Award. You will find students talking about her throughout this newsletter, a clear sign of her exceptional success as a teacher. I close by offering all of my colleagues my heartiest congratulations on their many professional successes this year.

WIU History: Display with Pride

WIU History has launched a new promotional campaign that allows current and prospective students as well as friends and alumni to display their WIU History pride in style. These stickers, perfect for a cell phone case, a laptop, a skateboard, and more, are transferable and leave no adhesive residue.

Current majors: you can claim your stickers at the History Fall Kick-Off event at the start of the semester. Prospective students will receive a sticker during Discover Western programs and campus visits. Friends and alumni: if you know a high school student interested in WIU History, please contact the department for a sticker to share.



You may also contact the department if you can't resist having one of these for yourself! Send in photos of the many places you take WIU History with



you during the summer holidays. and the best pictures will be featured in the next issue of the newsletter! Send pictures to L-

Mcnabb@wiu.edu

Featured Spring 2018 Student Teacher Scholarship Recipient: Adam Kerns

The Department of History awarded three Student Teacher Scholarships to start the spring 2018 semester. Awardees Aaron Deneckere, Adam Kerns, and Benton Winscott all completed their History-Teacher Education student teaching experiences this spring and graduated in May. Adam consented to be interviewed for the newsletter in January.

Q: Why did you decide to major in History, and what led you to select Teacher Education as your chosen career preparation?

AK: I chose Social Studies education because I want to create a strong learning community for students to grow as readers, writers, and citizens. I believe that the field of social studies is an important field because it allows for skills to be developed while learning about the conditions and factors that have shaped our world.

Q: Have you been involved in any student organizations, and have you held any leadership positions? Have you completed any undergraduate research projects/activities?

AK: I was inducted into the Golden Apple organization in 2014. The mission of Golden Apple is to provide educational seminars, in the classroom experiences, and a community of teachers throughout the state of Illinois to help my growth as a teacher in the future. The organization has also provided me summer internships that allowed me real classroom experience to teach students. I also recently finished my Senior Thesis on the Latter-Day Saints and their history in the state of Illinois.

Q: Recent accomplishments/achievements?

AK: After my first block placement I was offered a teaching position; however, due to another year of school, I was forced to decline. This experience was an extremely humbling one that has truly fueled my passion for a high quality of teaching. I am currently student teaching and enjoying the freedom of creating engaging lessons for Civics, U.S. History, and a Documentaries course.

Q: Do you have any History memories you would like to share (particular classes, activities, etc.)?

"I chose Social Studies education because I want to create a strong learning community for students to grow as readers, writers, and citizens I believe that the field of social studies is an important field because it allows for skills to be developed while learning about the conditions and factors that have shaped our world."

AK: This summer (2017) I was privileged to spend two weeks with Dr. Chamberlin and a small group of WIU students in Bavaria, Germany. This will be one of the most memorable experiences of my college career studying Nazi Germany, castles, Martin Luther, the Munich Olympics, and so much more. This was my first trip out of the country, and it allowed me to live in a new culture for 2 weeks - truly remarkable. The most amazing part was being at the Zugspitze, the highest point in the Alps in Germany.

Q: Is there a WIU History professor who has served as a mentor you would like to recognize?

AK: I've taken multiple courses with Dr. Brice, Dr. Boynton, and Dr. Chamberlin. I appreciate all of my experiences with each of these professors, and they've helped mold me into an Historian while at WIU.

Q: What are your upcoming plans?

AK: I've already started the process of applying for a few high school history positions. I plan on teaching for a couple of years at the secondary level, and then possibly pursuing a master's in administration or curriculum instruction. I plan on staying in the field of education as long as possible; however, I could see a future in teaching young college students how to be effective teachers.

UPDATE: Adam has already accepted a teaching position at Sciota High School in the West Prairie School District. Congratulations, Adam!



Adam on the Zugspitze, the highest peak in Germany, during his Study Abroad course. His future students will benefit from his international experiences!

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WIU History Teacher Ed Graduates: Making a Difference in and out of the Classroom



Above, WIU History Alum and PORTA School District teacher Jacob Woolridge at spring's 8th Grade Graduation. He noted, "The large stick I'm holding is PORTA's 'Top 8th Grade Social Studies Student' award. It's literally a big stick, on which I write the name of the winner each year, that I also use as a prop when discussing Teddy Roosevelt's 'Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick' philosophy."

Spring 2018 Department Scholar: Mikayla Kitchen

The Department of History is proud to announce the selection of History major Mikayla Kitchen as the Spring 2018 Department Scholar. Mikayla, a department scholarship winner, had a successful undergraduate career as a History major and a member of the Centennial Honors College. Mikayla completed an Honors thesis under the supervision of Dr. Rich Filipink and graduated Magna Cum Laude, receiving multiple medallions at May's Honors Convocation.

Mikayla, who hails from Canton, says that majoring in History was a natural fit for her: "I decided to major in History because I had always had an interest in it, but it was really the courses and faculty at WIU that made me realize how passionate I was about it. History should not just be something that is reserved for a TV channel or a blockbuster film once in a while. Instead, it is a field that demands attention and discussion because it is all around us. We interact with and create history every day! The skills that come with my History education are easily transferrable to any field or practical application—critical reading, writing, and the ability to present ideas in a clear and concise manner are skills that can be used for almost anything. These are the reasons I decided to major in history. So the next time someone asks me, 'What are you going to do with a history degree?' I can reply with, 'What can I not do?"

Mikayla was an excellent advocate of History and academic excellence during her undergraduate program. She served as Vice President and President of Phi Alpha Theta and represented History on the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council, on which she served as chair. She also participated in numerous History recruitment and Discover Western events as a History Student Ambassador, sacrificing a number of Saturday and Monday

mornings to provide a student point of view for prospective WIU students and their parents.

Mikayla had many memories of her time in the WIU History program to share. She recalled her completion of several undergraduate projects, culminating with her Honors Thesis, a comprehensive historiography of the Vietnam War, completed this spring. Mikayla was particularly appreciative of the support and encouragement of her faculty mentor, Dr. Filipink, who, "helped me in every step of my academic career as a student and historian." She continued, "At WIU, I had the privilege of taking many great classes, but among my favorites included classes on Watergate, Great Power Diplomacy, the Vietnam War, and the Crusades. I will forever be grateful for the course selections in the department because it allowed me to meet some wonderful people and friends, including fellow history major, Adam Kerns, and I am extremely grateful that I was able to take this journey with him and experience everything the department has to offer among such wonderful peers."

The future is purple and gold for Mikayla: "After graduation, I am ecstatic to announce that I will be returning to WIU in the fall to pursue a Master's in U.S. History. I will be serving as a full time teaching support assistant and will have the opportunity to assist fellow students and professors while furthering my own education and passion for history."

Congratulations on your many achievements, Mikayla, and welcome back for your History MA!



Spring 2018 History Department Scholar Mikayla Kitchen at the Arts and Sciences Awards Reception, receiving the outstanding student organization award on behalf of Student Council

"[History] is a field that demands attention and discussion because it is all around us.

We interact with and create history every day!"



Mikayla during a visit to the Kennedy Presidential Library

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WIU History: News and Notes

The Department of History is proud to announce the following student winners of departmental awards and scholarships:

- M.A. student Nancy Dixon has been awarded the graduate William & Doris Burton Writing Award in History for 2017-2018 for her essay, "In the Crosshairs: Colorado Springs as an American Western City with a Modern Twist" (Dr. Greg Hall, faculty mentor). Nancy was also inducted into Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society this spring.
- B.A. student Harrison Schulte has been awarded the undergraduate William & Doris Burton Writing Award in History for 2017-2018 for his essay, "Marxist Ideologies: A Transnational Analysis" (Dr.
- Ute Chamberlin, faculty mentor).

 B.A. student Luke Josey has been awarded the Judy Ellen Thompson Prize in History for 2017-2018 for his essay, "Jehovah's Witnesses under the Third Reich: Assessing the Real Threat of Jehovah's Witnesses toward the Nazi Party" (Dr. Ute Chamberlin, faculty mentor).
- Madison Sphar and Allissa Knuffman have been awarded a Susan F. and Clifford H. Haka History Opportunity Award for the Fall 2018 semester.

History M.A. student Frank Kalisik presented "Sanctuary Chicago: Efforts of the Chicago Abolitionist Movement to Ensure the Safety of Fugitive Slaves, 1840-1860," at WIU's 5th Annual Graduate Research Conference, and his paper was accepted for the California State University History Graduate Conference in Fresno, CA.



Pi Gamma Mu is back! This spring, 28 students demonstrating excellence in disciplines connected to the social sciences, including history, re-chartered the Illinois Lambda chapter of Pi Gamma Mu, the International Honor Society in Social Sciences. WIU's chapter originally formed in 1955 but closed 15 years later. Drs. Jen McNabb and Keith Boeckelman (Political Science chair) serve as coadvisors of the re-established chapter. Another invitation cycle and an induction ceremony, the first held on campus in nearly 50 years, will happen this fall.



Lindsay Hiltunen (History M.A.) has been accepted into Michigan Technological University's Ph.D. program in Rhetoric, Theory, and Culture and continues to serve as University Archivist at the University Archives and Copper Country Historical Collections at Van Pelt and Opie Library. Her work as archivist earned her the prestigious 2018 Charles Follo Award from the Historical Society of Michigan.

Kirsten Belisle (History B.A., Museum Studies M.A.) began her duties as the

Collections Manager at the Dubois Museum in Wyoming following the completion of her WIU Museum Studies M.A.

David Heusel (History B.A.) has been accepted into Boston's Simmons College's combined MA in History/MLIS in Archival Management program, starting in Fall 2018.

Eric Willey (History M.A.) will begin serving as the Interim Head of the CAP (Cataloging, Acquisitions, and Processing) Department of Milner Library at Illinois State University for one year on July I. Eric commented that he is grateful to everyone who has supported him and "been so generous with their time and knowledge and to everyone at Milner Library for this opportunity."

Lt. Col. John Nawoichyk (History M.A.) will be retiring from the U.S. Army at West Point this spring, after more than 25 years of service.

Kevin Barnai (History B.A.) graduated with his J.D. from Drake University Law School this semester.

Ben Rees (History M.A., Ed Leadership M.A.) finished his twentieth year as an educator -- seventeen years in the classroom and the last three as principal at West Central High School in Biggsville. Ben noted that "getting a Master's Degree in history at WIU made me a much better teacher. Then getting a second Master's Degree at WIU in Educational Leadership allowed me to become a principal."

Christian Kennedy (History B.A.) accepted the position of History/Social studies teacher for the 2018-19 school year at Abingdon-Avon High School.

History alumni: Do you have exciting news to share? Submit professional updates to JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu to be featured in a future edition of the newsletter!

Associated Students of History Update: President Harrison Schulte



The Associated Students of History at WIU remained active as ever during the Spring 2018 semester. During the month of February, the ASH e-board organized a film viewing led by Dr. Boynton in observance of Black History Month; the assembly viewed selected scenes from the film Hidden Figures, a film which highlights both the contributions of African American women working for NASA throughout the 1960s and the struggles they faced in terms of racism and sexism within the workplace and within their private lives. A discussion followed the viewing, and Dr. Boynton offered commentary in order to properly historicize the events portrayed within the film. In March, ASH attendees reflected on the achievements of women throughout history in observance of Women's History Month; after sharing some quotes and contributions by notable women, ASH copresident Rachel Eaton led the group in her own homemade version of Pictionary, with the overlying themes and topics being women throughout history. ASH members also volunteered at the Western Illinois Museum here in Macomb, assisting with a wide variety of tasks including technical assembly, cataloguing artifacts, organizing postcard displays, stitching artifact ID numbers into military uniforms, and general cleaning around the display room.

In April, ASH members enjoyed an opportunity to share their ongoing re-

search projects via ASH's mock undergraduate research day; both e-board members and general assembly members alike were eager to share their projects, and the opportunity for those presenting their research formally was a great success. For our final regular general assembly meeting, ASH members observed Holocaust Remembrance Month and reflected upon and discussed the use of monuments to memorialize certain events or groups of people throughout history. ASH e-board members Mia Blankenship and Harrison Schulte led a discussion focused on the use of German Holocaust monuments, pulling on their experience during their study abroad trip in Bavaria to supplement the dialogue; Dr. Chamberlin also assisted in the discussion, providing background to specific monuments and explaining their symbolic meanings and various interpretations by the public as well as by the creators of the monu-

ASH members also had the opportunity to travel to Quincy in April to attend a lecture about the bicentennial celebration of Illinois's statehood at the Quincy History Museum, led by the curator of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum as well as a professor emeritus of Quincy University. ASH's executive board was also due for re-election at the end of the semester; former ASH secretary Elizabeth Swan was elected as ASH's new president; Allison Anderson was elected as ASH's new vice president; Koyo Masore was elected as ASH's new secretary; and Harrison Schulte was elected as ASH's new treasurer. The Associated Students of History had quite an eventful 2017-2018 term, and the organization looks forward to increasing its activity within WIU and Macomb, as well as abroad, in the years to come.



Members of the Associated Students of History on their spring field trip to the Quincy History Museum to celebrate Illinois State Day.

Refer a student! Do you know any high school students ready for the next step of their education? Encourage them to Think WIU History! Email JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu with contact information to help with History's recruitment efforts.

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History at Work: WIU History Alumni Talk about Career Success



HISTORY AT WORK

WIU History Alumni Talk about Career Success

April 11, 2018 at 7:00 pm Morgan Hall 101A

Join the Associated Students of History and Phi Alpha Theta for this professional development session on the value of a History degree on the job market and in the workplace.

PANELISTS (from left): NICK ATWOOD, Staff Attorney for the Office of the Illinois State Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor; ADAM BEDNAR, Assistant Director of Content Marketing at TMP Worldwide: KIRSTEN BELISLE. Collections Manager, Dubois Museum & Wind River Historical Center (WY); ANDY O'CONNOR, K-12 Account Executive, Northern Illinois, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; SAMANTHA ROCKNOWSKI, Teacher, Kankakee High School (IL)



Learn more about WIU History at http://wiu.edu/cas/history/ and follow us on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/wiuhistory/

The Associated Students of History and Phi Alpha Theta hosted their second annual alumni professional development session on the value of a WIU History degree on the job market and in the workplace. Panelists included Nick Atwood, Staff Attorney for the Office of the Illinois State Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor; Adam Bednar, Assistant Director of Content Marketing at TMP Worldwide; Kirsten Belisle, Collections Manager, Dubois Museum & Wind River Historical Center (in Dubois, WY); Andy O'Connor, K-12 Account Executive for Northern Illinois, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt; and Samantha Rocknowski Teacher, Kankakee High School (IL). This year's event is available for viewing at https://www.facebook.com/ wiuhistory/ (and Like our Page for History updates!).



Spring 2018 B.A. History Graduates

Valdemar Ayala (Oak Forest, IL) Christopher Criddell Jr. (Chicago, IL) Aaron Kyle Deneckere (Rock Island, IL) Nicholas Andrew Ebelhack (Plainfield, IL) Tori Nicolle Fulton (Ipava, IL)

Adam C. Kerns (Colchester, IL) Mikayla Alexandra Kitchen (Canton, IL) Brandon Douglas Nelson (Bettendorf, IA) Benton Winscott (Clarks Green, IL)

Adam D. Patchik (Oswego, IL) Harrison Schulte (Macomb, IL)

Chance Bogener Waddell (Kahoka, IL) Daniel Josef Williams (Chicago, IL)

> CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

From left to right, Dr. McNabb with many of this year's History graduates; WIU History major Lt. Benton Winscott, who was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army during Commencement weekend.



WIU Historians Making History



From left: Dr. Ute Chamberlin won the College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Faculty Achievement in Teaching Award; the department hosted its sixth annual Women's History Month Panel, featuring Drs. Febe Pamonag, Ute Chamberlin, Ginny Boynton, and Peter Cole; Dr. Tim Roberts published a collection of civil war letters (Kent State UP) and spoke about the project at New Copperfield's and on the "Author's Voice": http://authorsvoice.net/event/a-house-divided-timothy-masonroberts-this-infernal-war/



From left: Dr. Rich Filipink presented a talk on the election of 1968 in the Department of History Faculty Colloquium Series this spring; Dr. McNabb completed her Great Courses series, "Renaissance: The Transformation of the West" (released in July), and will begin her appointment as Chief Reader of the AP European History Program on July 1. Volume II, Issue II Page 9

WIU History Students in Action



Clockwise from top: History major Rachel Eaton, one of the featured speakers at the WIU College of Arts & Sciences' inaugural "Student Speakers" program in February. Rachel presented, "Forever Responsible: Anti-Semitic Propaganda and Those Who Created It" and is pictured here with faculty mentor Dr. Ute Chamberlin. Right, History #WIUinLondon Study Abroad students outside the Tower of London (below) and presenting their Study Abroad experiences at the final WIU Food and Culture Club event of the academic year (above). Listen to some of them talk about Study Abroad with faculty leader Dr. McNabb: https://youtu.be/IllpjK0bUKQ; History students Becky Shaw and Allison Anderson joined Dr. Ginny Boynton, Senator Dick Durbin, and other members of the University community to discuss the use of open access resources in higher education.





Above, from left: WIU History major Nick Ebelhack, who received the Gordy Taylor Award for Outstanding Student Leadership at the OSA Awards Banquet and was named Western's 2017 Fraternity Man of the Year for his contributions to Greek Life and Pi Kappa Phi at this year's Greek Awards Banquet (Nick will now work as a traveling leadership consultant for PKP); WIU History major Elizabeth Swan won the Student Government Association's award as Outstanding New Senator for 2017-18 and was elected President of ASH for the 2018-2019 academic year; WIU History major Allison Anderson, ASH's new Vice President, was selected as a recipient of the Jack and Dorothy Bates Jessee Scholarship in recognition of her academic success and dedication to the Humanities. Allison also participated in this year's Undergraduate Research Day, along with History majors Aaron Adams (working with Dr. Tim Roberts), Luke Josey (working with Dr. Ute Chamberlin), and Becky Shaw (working with Dr. Jen McNabb).

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Department of History

Donor Profile: Larry T. Balsamo (by Dr. Jen McNabb)



Despite retiring a decade ago after 40 years of service to Western, Larry Balsamo may just be the most recognizable, and recog-

nized, figure on the Macomb campus. He is still a regular resident of the fourth floor of Morgan Hall, and I continue to be grateful for his memories and advice as I begin my third year as chair of WIU History. Larry's contributions to the department and to the WIU and Macomb communities are almost beyond measure. Larry and wife Charlene Callison are leaders in every sense of the word, and I am privileged to share some of Larry's reflections on his career and the importance of supporting History and WIU.

Larry grew up in Columbia, Missouri, and earned all three of his degrees from the University of Missouri, with his Ph.D. awarded in 1967. That fall, he joined the newlyestablished Department of History at WIU. During his four decades at Western, his tasks beyond the department included nine years as a campus admissions counselor. Faculty peers recognized Larry's excellence by naming him Distinguished Faculty Lecturer in 1996, and he spent the last eight years of his career as chair of the Department of History.

When asked about the scholarship he established to assist and reward a highly qualified History-Teacher Education major, Larry said, "When I was in graduate school my original plan was to earn a Master's Degree and a Teaching Certificate to qualify me to teach history at the high school level. My eventual plans changed, but I did achieve that teaching certificate. I actually did student teach at the high school from which I had graduated. Since I had not earned a reputation for scholarly achievement or significant future potential in my high school career, the looks on my former teachers' faces when I showed up for student teaching duties on that first day were priceless."

He continued, "During my time in the Department I became increasingly aware of the important influence that good secondary school teachers have on their students, not

just while students are in their classes, but in college and beyond. Like most of those in my profession, I am convinced that history in particular and social studies in general represent a vital centrality in higher education and beyond. It made sense to me, as a consequence, to try to assist those in our major who wanted to teach. I am happy to report that two recipients of the Larry T. Balsamo Scholarship have completed their studies here with high honors and are now teaching high school history."

If you know Larry (and I know many of you do!), you know that he is always ready with an anecdote about former colleagues and students; he often interrupts himself with bursts of laughter as he talks about what he refers to as his "large family" in the department: "This family laughed and mourned, grew to middle age together. This larger family welcomed my immediate family - my wife, Charlene; my daughter, Angie; and our two grandsons. It should be noted that Charlene did not much like history in school, but she sure liked my colleagues in the department and their families too." Larry speaks warmly of his time outside the classroom with friends and faculty in conjunction with WIU History Conference and the Teaching American History Grant, and he also singled out the faculty softball league of the 1970s and 1980s ("Somehow we played through the heat and pulled muscles. We even won some, but mostly just had a great time.").

He concluded his interview by saying, "Times have become hard in the department and at Western. We have been in this condition before, and all of us pulling together can help good times come again. I urge you, friends of the Department of History, to contribute to Department Scholarships and other initiatives when you can and to support our department and its efforts in as generous a manner as is possible."

On behalf of the department and the many students who have benefitted from Larry's passion for History and from his generosity to the department, I offer Larry my deepest appreciation!

