

HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

VOLUME 3 | SPRING 2023

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR - DR. MICHAEL HUNER

The echoes of pandemic-era university History education are still with us. But much life has returned to our classrooms. This life takes varied forms. To name a few: the classic Socratic lecture, the deep-dive discussion of a common historical text, the trip to the archive, the presentation of Social Studies lesson plans, collaborative podcast creations, and Reacting to the Past games—lots of them. In the History Department during the 2022-23 year, we relearned that learning and doing history in all its forms—especially that learning as done embodied in the physical classroom—are loads of fun.

That said, the pandemic left us with a much larger online learning footprint than in years past, and that footprint, happily, remains intact as well. We reach a broader student audience and cater to a wider range of learning preferences as a result. We are well practiced at this medium to boot, and the engaged, substantive learning and doing history that take shape in our online classrooms also inspire.

Meanwhile, our faculty continue to manifest the epitome of the teacher-scholar ideal. Over the past 18 months, they published and/or edited five new book-length works, authored several research articles in peer reviewed journals and edited volumes, and made scores of media contributions and public talks associated with their areas of expertise.

Our students in turn keep inspiring the faculty to get up in the morning and come to work each day. Dozens received degrees in History, History Education, and Group Social Studies this past April and December. Jobs in teaching, management, finance—among other fields—and places in graduate schools and law schools await. Many recent graduates and current students also leave behind an impressive collection of high-quality independent and collective research projects.

We welcomed a new faculty member, Dr. Annie Whitlock, this year and could not be happier. Please see her profile in this newsletter. Dr. Whitlock only enhances what is the best K-12 Social Studies education program in the state.

Finally, we could also not do any of what we did this year without the pillars of support provided by our office administration staff Elizabeth Kovacs and Char Worthem. Elizabeth has done wonders in her first year as the department's Academic Coordinator. Char—after years of dedicated service to the university, two with History—is moving on to retirement. We celebrate her.

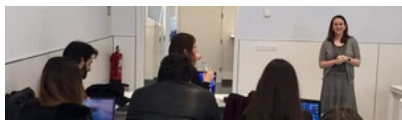
Michael Huner

Associate Professor and Chair



THREE MINUTES WITH DR. ANNIE WHITLOCK

Associate Professor of History/Social Studies



Annie Whitlock is a former middle school social studies teacher who teaches elementary and secondary social studies methods courses. Her research is centered on teaching elementary social studies through civic engagement, place-based inquiry, and curriculum integration.

Do you have any pets? One dog—Barkley

Do you have any kids? Two girls—Maggie, 8 and McKenzie, 5

What's the best concert you've ever been to? The Foo Fighters, but I can't pick just one. I've seen them at least 8

times.

Star Wars or Star Trek? STAR WARS. May the force be with you.

TV series you rewatch the most? The Simpsons

Favorite book you've read in the last year? Jane Against the

World: Roe v. Wade and the Fight for Reproductive Rights

Weirdest food you've ever tried? Buddha's Hand fruit.

Most interesting place you've visited? Papa, Hungary

Job you had in high school or college? Pac Sun employee at the Woodland Mall

Favorite tabletop game? Scattergories, although lately I've been playing a lot of Candyland

Favorite sport/athletic activity: Running

Favorite song for when you need to psych yourself up? Ready or Not- The Fugees

Do you like scary movies? Not even a little bit.

2023 AWARD WINNERS

I Am Grand Valley Award

Hannah Krebs, Coltrane Bodbyl-Mast, Callie Dzurisin, Kaitlin Greer

Quirinus Breen Prize

Ben Joseph

Frances Ann Kelleher Memorial Scholarship

Hannah Krebs

Glenn A. and Betty J. Niemeyer History Scholarship

Coltrane Bodbyl-Mast, Nathan Wietrzykowski

Jo Ellyn Clarey Women's History Scholarship

Caitlyn Cooling

Outstanding Major in History

Madison Olson

Outstanding Major in Social Studies

Alexis Alleman

High Merit Awards

Coltrane Bodbyl-Mast, Tess Dornan, Lora Ellen Hillborn, Ben Joseph

2023 PHI ALPHA THETA INDUCTEES

Jazlyn Bailey

Max Banek

Adnan Beslagic

Jacobus Gayle

Emma Hanson

Hannah Krebs

Saga McPherson

Connor Madden

Alexis Oleson

Madison Olsen

Clara Sund

Sabrina White

GREAT LAKES HISTORY CONFERENCE

Grand Valley State University recently hosted the Great Lakes History Conference (Sep 23-24, 2022), held in conjunction with the twelfth annual conference of the Midwest World History Association (MWWHA). This year's conference theme – Difficult Histories – was focused on how historians should engage with the most challenging aspects of the discipline. How does one teach history in an environment where books focusing on histories of the oppressed are banned from school libraries and where curriculums are being narrowed so as to avoid controversial (and some not so controversial) topics? Keynotes by Dr. Ana Lucia Araujo and Jodi Elowitz spoke to this theme by looking at the ways the slave trade and Holocaust are both remembered and, at times, instrumentalized by those with a stake in these extremely significant pasts. Sessions engaged with the challenges faced by researchers and instructors in engaging with controversial subjects, and the conference ended with a reception at New Holland Brewing Company. Attendees are looking forward to both the next GLHC as well as the MWWHA Annual Meeting in Chicago in September 2023!!

HISTORY DAY

We had a small History Day contest this year, but the judging remained the best in the state thanks to the support of the History Department faculty. Three strong entries from our District 4 are advancing to the national contest at the University of Maryland in June. Although the number of schools participating was down this year because of various challenges in the schools, we expect to draw a significant number of interested teachers into the History Day program next year.



FACULTY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

David Zwart published a chapter in a book: "The 1918-1919 Flu Pandemic: Remembering Trauma among Dutch Americans," in Dutch Immigrant Stories, Donald J. Bruggink, Dennis N. Voskuil, and William Katerberg, eds. Holland, Mich. Van Ralte Press, 2022.

Chad Lingwood published an article titled "Kamal al-Din Bana'i's Bahram va Bihruz: A Persian Romance qua Mirror for Princes in Light of Aq Qoyunlu History," in Middle Eastern Literatures 24, no. 3 (2023): 209-27.

Annie Whitlock published a co-authored article with K.A. Brugar titled "Historical fiction and its commonplace in classrooms," in The History Teacher, 56(1), 2022, 77-102.

Peter Dobek published an article titled "The Public House and Conflict: Violence in the Inns, Taverns and Alehouses of Kraków in the Jagiellonian Era," in Slavonic & East European Review 100, Number 2, (April 2022): 295-322.

James Smither edited, annotated, and published Joseph P. Olexa's memoir from World War II. The book is titled Death and Life in the Big Red One: A Soldier's World War II Journey from North African to Germany and is published by North Texas University Press.

Grace Coolidge published a book titled Sex, Gender, and Illegitimacy in the Castilian Noble Family, University of Nebraska Press, 2022.

Students present at the Grand Rapids Public Museum:

Dr. Shapiro-Shapin, Dr. Daley and Dr. Gautreau served as faculty mentors for a project at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, which is part of GR Stories Series titled Public Health History. Three students presented their research on March 29, 2023:

- (1). Callie Dzurisin, Biomedical Sciences major and History minor, "The Evolution of the Cough Plate Medium: How Pearl Kendrick and Grace Eldering's Work in Grand Rapids Contributed to the Standardization of this Diagnostic Technique."
- (2). Hannah Krebs, History Major, "Quite a Courageous Thing to Do": Grand Rapids, Women Scientists, and the Development of a Whooping Cough Vaccine, 1932-1942."
- (3). Coltrane Bodbyl-Mast, History major with twin minors in Arabic and Middle East Studies, "The Temperance Movement in Grand Rapids as Interdenominational and Public Health-Oriented."

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www.gvsu.edu/history




STUDENT REFLECTION - HANNAH KREBS

History has always been a subject that came naturally to me and something that I enjoyed. However, I hadn't considered history to be a viable career path before coming to Grand Valley. I grew up in a family of engineers who understood things like calculus and made spreadsheets for fun. While I'm sure calculus and spreadsheets interest some people, I just couldn't stand it. Switching from a STEM major to history was the best decision of my academic career.

Not only did I find a new major that I was genuinely interested in and ready to learn about, but I also had the wonderful opportunity to talk to my professors in and outside of class through my work at the history department. Over the past year and a half, I have had the opportunity to see the many different ways people approach studying and working in history (most of which do not involve calculus, thank goodness!).

Through the history department and the Grand Rapids Public Museum, I was able to study history outside of the classroom in a research internship. Over approximately six months, I researched, wrote a paper, and gave a presentation on the process of developing a whooping cough vaccine in Grand Rapids. Undertaking my first large-scale historical research project was illuminating. Because of my experiences with history at Grand Valley, I am now planning on pursuing a career in public history, something I didn't even know existed back when I started here in 2021! Thanks to all of the opportunities I have been given at Grand Valley, I have developed a passion for history and enthusiasm for learning that will follow me throughout my life.

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