



Southern Connecticut
State University

History Department Newsletter

Spring 2023

Reflections



Congratulations to our graduating seniors and master's degree students! Thank you for all your efforts and your perseverance during some very challenging times! I hope you can maintain that tenacity as you continue as champions for the study of history and attention to historical knowledge. For our students continuing with the program, I would like to be uplifting amid some challenging culture wars, so let me simply say I hope that you find a sense of safety in the Southern community. When you are in the history department, I hope you feel seen and heard, that you are safe from the pockets of toxicity 'out there', and that even when we press you to be critical thinkers and responsible for your own education you understand that we are preparing you to be defenders of complexity, to recognize context, and to think historically.

-Dr. Christine M. Petto

Week of Welcome January 18th



We are in 'a groove' with Political Science as the two departments took over the 2nd Floor C-wing to welcome students back to campus for the spring semester. Our breakfast of Neil's Donuts to start the day is a big hit with the students and faculty and staff that happen on by, and Modern APizza brings them back for the

afternoon rush. Students stopped by to chat with faculty and secretaries **Amanda Ward** and Karyn Watts. We offered a free raffle for back-to-school supplies, a gift certificate to the bookstore, and a gift certificate to Dunkin Donuts. Our raffle prize winners were:

Andreina Barajas Novoa of Political Science, and **Chris Rynich** and **Ken Eskandari** of History.

Seven Lenses Art Opening February 16th

We began the year supporting (with several other offices) the Africana Studies Program Event, *Seven Lenses: Documenting Black Culture* at the John Lyman Center for the Performing Arts. (January 30th – March 4th). Program co-

directors, **Siobhan Carter-David** (HIS) and Brandon Hutchinson (ENG), guided the Steering Committee that helped create and bring this exhibition to campus. Shaunda Holloway curated the exhibit which included works by Robert Cooper, Lydia Douglas, Katrina Goldburn, Koren Martin, Ebony Mckelvey, P.W. Ng'ang'a, Jamel Shabazz, and Linda Mickens. In early March, I had the pleasure to attend a tour of the exhibit with students from Elm City Montessori School and Siobhan as our guide. Babz Rawls Ivy hosted the Opening Reception on Thursday, February 16th, and Siobhan praised the work of her fellow collaborators. She noted, "The diaspora is here on campus, and so we are trying to really curate all of our talent and our knowledge and our resources to provide an amazing program and curricula for Africana studies . . . we're not just creating a minor. We're trying to build community." See [Lucy Gellman's article](#) from the Greater New Haven Arts Council. In early April, WTNH came to campus to speak with Siobhan and Brandon and some of their students about the importance of the Africana Studies Program. Brandon reflected, "when you know who you are, it really impacts how you arrive, the kind of choices you make, the way you step into your own power, so I think the history is very important." See the [news report](#) by Keith Kountz.



See [Lucy Gellman's article](#) from the Greater New Haven Arts Council. In early April, WTNH came to campus to speak with Siobhan and Brandon and some of their students about the importance of the Africana Studies Program. Brandon reflected, "when you know who you are, it really impacts how you arrive, the kind of choices you make, the way you step into your own power, so I think the history is very important." See the [news report](#) by Keith Kountz.



My Body, My Choice: Reproductive Rights and COVID Vaccines

February 1st

The history department was grateful to have the reproductive rights conversation begun by History and Women's and Gender Studies in the fall semester continued by RC-VEST under **Sarah Roe's** directorship. Tina Rulli, Associate Professor of Philosophy at UC Davis, met with graduate students the evening before to discuss the challenges faced by underrepresented academics as well as the issue of reproductive rights. On Wednesday, she gave a presentation that covered some of the history of reproductive rights, the social challenges, and the recent co-opting of "My Body, My Choice" by anti-vaxxers.



Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry Project

March 21-April 3

Just after Spring Break, Alex Girard (ART), **Christine Petto** (HIS), Cort Sierpinski (ART), and **Amanda Ward** (HIS) waited for the arrival of Reverend Mark Koyama with the quilts from the Sacred Ally Quilt Ministry, to prepare the pop-up exhibition in the Buley Art Gallery of ten quilts that memorialize the last words spoken by George Floyd in the last 8 minutes of his life. The eleventh quilt and most recent is a stunning cross that was positioned directly opposite the gallery's doorway. The project is a collaborative effort begun during the pandemic by members of the congregations of nine United Church of Christ churches across New Hampshire.



Accompanying the exhibition was the documentary film, *Stitch Breathe, Speak: The George Floyd Quilts* by Chris Owen and Jan Sutcliffe, that chronicles the creation of the quilts. We appreciated the welcoming comments by Provost Prezant and the moving comments by Rev. Koyama.



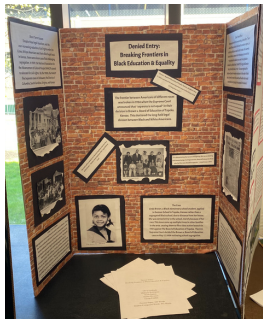
The exhibit was accompanied by a virtual panel, Anti-Racism and Public History, on Tuesday, March 28th moderated by **Daisha Brabham** ('17) who joined in conversation with the documentary filmmakers and Jenny Heikkila Díaz, CT Council for the Social Studies Professional Learning Coordinator. Daisha asked about allyship, the role of film, art, and material culture in the discussion of race and history, and the responsibility of public and educational institutions to use a variety of sources to preserve our collective memory.

On Thursday, March 30th, Diane Ariza, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, moderated an interdisciplinary discussion, Antiracist Teaching Panel, with Patty Bode (ART), **Siobhan Carter-David** (HIS), Steven Hoffler (SWK), Nicole Madu (CULA), and Jessica Powell (CULA). The panelists and several members of the audience noted the significance of the quilt exhibition as a vehicle for quiet contemplation but also empathetic conversation. Many addressed not only the importance of having those 'difficult' conversations in the university classroom but also training new teachers to structure lessons that allow for representation, for 'being heard', and for 'being seen'. 'Real' history does not exist in neat packages and neither does 'real' life so whether we are mentoring new teachers, social workers, artists, or historians first words need to be ones of empathy.

We express our appreciation to Cort Sierpinski, director of the Art Gallery, who opened the gallery on Saturday, March 25th for the students and parents on campus for the New Haven Regional Contest for CT History Day, on Saturday, April 1st for the students and families arriving on campus for Accepted Students Day, and kept the exhibition open through Monday, April 3rd so that **Kelly Falvey** could bring thirty high school students from CT River Academy at Goodwin University (CTRA) on a tour of campus and to view the exhibition. After a comprehensive tour and campus lunch, the group had the opportunity to observe, process, and reflect on the Sacred Ally Quilt exhibit. The exhibit's intent and Southern's mission align with the high school's guiding standards of awareness, diversity, and action. Additionally, please share a warm welcome to CTRA's five seniors who selected Southern as their new home for the fall of 2023.

Many thanks to the support, organizational skills, and talents of Tracy Tyree, Vice President of Student Affairs and Diane Ariza, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Alex Girard, Art Department, all of whom made it possible to bring this exhibition to campus and great appreciation to the support of the Provost Robert Prezant, Dean Bruce Kalk, and Dean Stephen Hegedus who also helped with the funding. Southern is proud to be the first institution of higher education to exhibit these quilts that so appropriately reflect its social justice mission.





CT History Day March 25th

In late March we welcomed participants in the 2023 New Haven Regional Contest for Connecticut History Day back to campus with this year's theme, *Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas*. Nearly 200 middle school and high school students roamed the halls of the Adanti Student Center, displayed their exhibits, performed their speeches, and presented their papers, documentaries, and websites. At the end of the day, President Joe Bertolino and Representative Rosa DeLauro presented the awards to a most enthusiastic group of students and their friends and families who

packed themselves into the Adanti Theater to hear the results and reacted with thunderous applause for all the award winners. Many thanks to history faculty who participated as judges and/or cheering squad, **Steve Amerman, Siobhan Carter-David, Marie McDaniel, Virginia Metaxas, Troy Paddock, Christine Petto, and Troy Rondinone**. At the State Contest (May 6th), a senior group exhibit team, Keila Santos, Makayla Rodriguez, and Olivia Andrade, from Torrington High School received Southern's Social Justice Prize sponsored by the Department of History. Guided by their teacher, Patricia Conroy, their project, "Denied Entry: Breaking Frontiers in Black Education & Equality," presented the landmark civil rights case of *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* (May 17, 1954) that outlawed school segregation. They were inspired by the efforts of Linda Brown, a Black elementary school student, to attend summer school at Monroe Elementary School and presented both the short-term and long-term causes and effects.

Celebration of Philanthropy March 25th

Doing double duty on the 25th, President Joe and **Christine Petto** attended this scholarship celebration in the morning before joining the CT History Day festivities on campus in the afternoon. Scholarship founders or their representatives as well as several faculty, staff, and administrators gather every spring to honor the student awardees. This year history was proud to recognize the AY 22/23 scholarships awardees: **Kyle Mashia-Thaxton, Julien Sanchez Levallois, Jeremy Deluca, and Shaoshi Huang**.

Reproductive Rights: Student Panel & Discussion HEAR ME Art Installation March 1st / March 30th – May 11th

History and Women's and Gender Studies supported RC-VEST in its development of a panel discussion led by students and attended only by students. **Sarah Roe** (HIS) and Alex Girard (ART) helped to facilitate and to create a safe environment for students sharing their experiences and questions. What grew out of that event was the HEAR ME art installation designed by Alex Girard. Posters were hung up in the restrooms with magic markers, asking students to write down their thoughts about the recent challenges to reproductive rights. These posters with student comments spelled out HEAR ME and were later installed on the wall opposite the entrance to the D-wing with illustrative banners extending from the Women's and Gender Studies office in the B-wing to the History Department and Political Science Department Offices in the C-wing.



A&S Admitted Students Day – March 1st Accepted Students Day – April 1st



Byron Nakamura and **Troy Rondinone** welcomed admitted students to join their classes on Wednesday, March 1st. Byron's visitors enjoyed a junior-level course on Alexander the Great and the Hellenic Age and Troy's visitors enjoyed a first-year lecture on U.S. History. We look forward to welcoming new and prospective students to our classes in the future. In April, **Christine Petto** attended the College of Arts and Sciences Academic Session with our new owls and gave the incoming history majors and their families a tour of the department offices showing off the hallway artwork designed by our secretary **Amanda Ward**, and our conversation starter, the John Harmon Family Tree, 1635 – 2022. It was a pleasure to discuss the history program with our new owls, and we look forward to welcoming these first-year students to campus and the Engleman C-wing in late August.

Juan González, Keynote Lecture

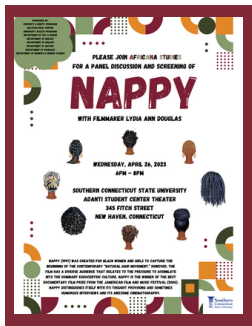
April 11th

History was honored to support (along with several other departments and offices) and to join in several of the events that occurred on campus from a dinner on April 10th to breakfast on April 11th and attendance at the keynote by Juan González. At each event, students from a wide range of majors (including history) participated in a conversation with the author about historical events, his days as a young activist and founding the Young Lords, his work as a journalist, and his continued efforts in the fight for social justice and for a historical understanding of the immigration crisis. González's text, *Harvest of Empire*, "makes use of family portraits of real-life immigrant Latin@ pioneers, as well as accounts of the events and conditions that compelled them to leave the nations of their birth.



González's book highlights the complex history of an important and growing segment of the U.S.-American population that is often discussed but frequently misrepresented." **Carmen Coury**, Director of the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program, was instrumental in bringing this award-winning journalist to campus to discuss the long history of U.S.-Latin American relations and Latin American immigration to our country. We appreciate her tireless efforts to build the LAC program here at Southern and to present to the wider Southern community events that enrich the social justice conversation and push it forward.

Screening of *Nappy* April 26th



History joined with other departments to support **Siobhan Carter-David** and Brandon Hutchinson, co-directors of the Africana Studies Program, for the screening of the film *Nappy* (1997) on the "natural hair movement" and the panel discussion with Africana Studies scholars and the filmmaker, Lydia Ann Douglas. She studied photography at the University of Bridgeport earning her BFA degree later her MFA in film from Howard University. *Nappy* was her thesis film and is considered a "groundbreaking and pioneering documentary film that directly addresses the 'politics' of black women's hair."

Phi Alpha Theta Induction Ceremony with Guest Speaker Dr. Aaron Johnson April 27th

We inducted 12 students into Phi Alpha Theta (PAT) at our April honor society ceremony! PAT Faculty Coordinators, **Steve Amerman** and **Carmen Coury**, invited **Aaron Johnson (BA '04)** to speak to our students this year. Aaron, a committed social studies teacher, advocate for equity, social justice, and cultural pluralism, is just finishing his second year as an Assistant Principal at Freeport High School. His presentation on his path to Southern, the faculty that impacted him here, including **Michele Thompson** with whom he keeps in contact, his struggles and successes, the influence of his mother's tenacity and love, and his path to social studies education and the role as assistant principal left everyone in the room with a sense of profound respect and awe. We are still talking about Aaron's visit! It is no wonder that he was asked to serve on the Alumni Board of Directors. We ended our event with a recognition of our 29 graduating seniors, some of whom attended the event and then everyone enjoyed pizza and conversation well after the induction ceremony ended.



Graduate Open House April 27th

Siobhan Carter-David attended the Open House on the third floor of the Adanti Center while we inducted our new crop of PAT students in the Adanti Theater on the first floor. Our paths crossed as we exited the building around 7PM. When I checked in at 6PM, Siobhan was describing our graduate program to a prospective candidate who was currently enrolled in one of Siobhan's spring courses, a great recruiting tool. We are looking forward to a healthy dose of new students to our graduate program who will come from our undergraduate population but also from our sister institutions, nearby private institutions, and far afield institutions including in Florida and Texas.

Undergraduate Research & Creativity Conference April 29th



The history department was well represented at the UG Research Conference with **Siobhan Carter-David** mentoring her students from the Senior Seminar (HIS 485) to present their work at two Roundtable Sessions – Social and Political Histories: **Jaimi Anderson; Stephanie Sorrentino; Samuel Daher; Ashley Fernandes; Luis Calderon; Marie Connors**, and Cultural and Intellectual History: **Taylor Jones; William Young; Clayton Simses; Mary Pelkey; Riley Johnson; Jonathan Santillo; Coty Maher; Josh Weizel**, and **Ashley Nandkumar**. Joining them were **Michele Thompson's** students, **Yvonne Hinds** and **Mary Pelkey**, presenting their research in Buley's Special Collection on the

Stephen Collins Papers, and **Daniella Occhineri** presenting her research on the Green Book. **Ryan Woods**, mentored by **Troy Paddock** presented on William Joseph "Wild Bill" Donovan, the creator of the American Intelligence institution. And **Carmen Coury** mentored Kayla Cummings (IDS) in her piece of creative writing, *Red*.

HIS 200 Poster Event May 2nd

Tom Radice returned the 'end of the semester' student poster presentation event to Engleman's Second Floor C-wing hallway. His students from HIS 200: The Historian's Craft, showed off their paper proposals in poster format and presented them to members of the department, friends who dropped by, and anyone who happened to saunter down the hallway. Under the main theme of the era of Mao Zedong, students prepared posters on such topics as Nixon's visit to China, The Great Leap Forward, The Cultural Revolution, and the status of women during the Mao era. We capped off the event with pizza and sweet treats!



Wiffle Ball: History vs. Political Science May 5th



We capped off the spring semester with the annual wiffle ball grudge match between History and Political Science. This year boasted an impressive turnout on a gorgeous day, with equal numbers playing for each team. The history department had ample support from students as well as faculty, while Poli-Sci depended on their faculty, staff, and one student to bravely accept their fate. **Troy Paddock**, CSU Professor, was the pitcher of record for the 13-1 trouncing. **Amanda** (HIS secretary) and Karyn (PSC secretary) not only played in the game but also organized the pizza party with a Foxon Park soda tasting. History continued its winning streak and looks forward to another 'walk in the park' in 2024.

Faculty Shoutouts!

The History Department faculty are back in 'full swing' with conference attendance, too numerous to detail here, but only to say that they are travelling from coast to coast and around the world!



Many thanks to **Steve Amerman** for his efforts to keep the History Department and Southern in the state conversation concerning Indigenous History and the Social Studies Curriculum. By state mandate, the fall 2022 social studies curriculum was to include Native American Studies. At the fall 2023 ASCH (Association for the Study of Connecticut History) conference, Steve will contribute to the conversation brought about by this state mandate and present on the theme, Teaching Native American History in the Classroom and Beyond.

The CCSS (CT Council for the Social Studies) awarded **Daisha Brabham** (BS '17) the 2023 Excellence in Social Studies Education (9-12) Award on May 25th. Daisha is also a new nominee to the CCSS Board of Directors joining three other members of our certification team, **Kelly Falvey** (Certification Coordinator), **Federico Fiordella**, and **Mary Skelly** on the Board. In January, Daisha shared her views on a CCSS [podcast](#) "about engaging students and teachers in the conversation of race, community-building, and student-centered learning . . . [and] the hope for teachers to focus more on what students can bring to the table and how they can guide students to use their strengths for local activism and civic engagement." At the beginning of the spring semester, Daisha, a member of the Anti-Racist Teaching and Learning Collective, participated in a Teach-In with other educators at Luce Hall in New Haven, CT "about the role of anti-racist education and Critical Race Theory in building a just and democratic future where everyone can flourish." In August Daisha will take on a new position, Education and Outreach Manager, at the Gilder Lehrman Center. This position will lead efforts to develop programming and outreach in African American history and the history of slavery and its legacies in New Haven, Connecticut, and beyond. Don't worry, Daisha will continue to be a valued member of our certification team and teach U.S. History for us as well!



In addition to all her other activities this spring semester, **Siobhan Carter-David** screened three of Spike Lee's films throughout the month of February and hosted a post-screening conversation with the audience in preparation for Lee's campus lecture (May 6th). On the evening of the Mary and Louis Fusco Distinguished Lecture by Spike Lee, Siobhan moderated a Q&A session that followed his presentation. And more . . . Siobhan was just elected to the position of vice president of the New England Historical Association and is the program chair for the upcoming NEHA conference to be hosted at Southern in October.

We congratulate **Nikos Chrissidis** on his Franklin Research Grant (\$6000) from the American Philosophical Society for his sabbatical research.

Carmen Coury was featured in the March issue of *Perspectives on History* for an "AHA Member Spotlight." The [interview](#) included information on her current research project: "I have been working for the past three years on an oral history project to record the voices of Costa Ricans through the pandemic. I am currently working on preparing an article on my last set of interviews, which I recorded in May 2022." Carmen also serves on the AHA's Friedrich Katz Book Prize Committee to award the 2022 work making the greatest contribution to the field of Latin American history.



Steve Judd joined with his colleague, Robert Haug, to publish (February 2023) a collected work, *Islam on the Margins: Studies in Memory of Michael Bonner*, which not only highlighted the work of numerous scholars in Middle East History but also the importance of thesis advisors and mentors in developing young scholars.

We congratulate **Darcy Kern** on her RCART award (Dean's release time) to work on her project, "Singing in the Spanish Southwest: Transcribing *Horae divinae breviarii romani* in SCSU's Special Collections."

We congratulate **Marie McDaniel** on her sabbatical (spring 2024) and her CSU Research Grant for her project, "Grievous Sin: Limits of Toleration in the Middle Colonies, Part II of Sex in the Belfry." Marie was featured in the January edition of The Scan (the provost's newsletter) which highlighted her role as the editor of the journal, *Connecticut History Review*, the only peer-reviewed journal on Connecticut history. In February, as the Director of the Writing Program at Southern, Marie gave a presentation to the faculty on ChatGPT and was subsequently [interviewed](#) by the *New Haven Register* on the impact of ChatGPT to higher education. Marie noted: "I am in favor of trying to understand it, recognizing how and when people will use it and also being very clear on its pitfalls, including its very strong biases that are available through its generated text and the falsehoods that it can generate, as well."



Byron Nakamura continues his community outreach giving another lecture, “Alexander’s Spearpoint: The History of the Macedonian Phalanx,” at New Haven’s Jewish Community Center for The Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) in late March. This lecture follows a [podcast](#), “Early Origins of Boxing,” featuring Byron as the guest contributor.

We congratulate **Troy Paddock** on being accepted to a Summer NEH Institute at Columbia University, *An Institute for Advanced Topics in the Digital Humanities for Archivists and Historians* (May 22 – June 2). He will bring back more wisdom for his work in digital humanities and his hoped-for NEH funded grant for a Digital Town Square (co-writers on the grant include **Carmen Coury** and **Jason W. Smith**).



We congratulate **Tom Radice** on his promotion to Full Professor and his RCART award (Dean’s release time) to work on his manuscript, *Ritual Performance in Early Chinese Thought: A Dramaturgical Perspective*, to be published by Bloomsbury Academic.

Congratulations to **Sarah Roe** for being named Southern’s nominee for the BOR Teaching Award. We also congratulate Sarah on her numerous grant awards: CSU Research Grant, “Remembering Abandoned Places: Belonging through Informal Commemoration and the Human-Land-scape Connection;” her Curriculum Related Activities Grant (\$5000) with Julia Irwin to support a project titled “Science and Technology Studies: A master’s program for the next generation of scientists,” and her Faculty Development Grant (\$4500), “RC-VEST Annual Speaker Series: Science, Race, and Medicine.”

Troy Rondinone’s latest [blog post](#), *The Asylum at Psychology Today*, warns “about ignoring women’s voices.” He tells the story of the movie, “The Snake Pit,” about a mental case and a mental hospital whose film script was based on the novel by Mary Jane Ward only her voice is “marginalized and bulldozed, much as women everywhere found themselves belittled, ignored, and silenced in Cold War American. This is the message we need to learn from this Hollywood ‘classic’.”



Michele Thompson is a recipient of a GSGA award for her continuing research in SE Asia, and she has chosen **Elias Papadimitriou** to continue as her research assistant. Michele continues to mentor students (along with Patrick Crowley) in the Stephen Collins Papers in the Special Collection at Buley Library. Michele is one of the history faculty currently travelling abroad for conferences and research in Singapore.

Student Shoutouts!

Jack Abbot (BA HIS) has been awarded (AY 23/24) the Dr. Hilton C. Buley Scholarship.

Cody Altieri (BA '23) earned top honors with the Excellence in History Award for his 4.0 grade point average and graduated summa cum laude.

Jaimi Anderson (BA '23) earned the Distinction in History Award for her 3.75 grade point average and graduated magna cum laude.

Joseph Auger (BA '23) graduated cum laude.

Kevin Cathey (BS '25) is the first winner (\$5000) of the History Student Experience Fund for Summer Study Abroad. Many thanks to Marie E. Coll for creating this fund for history students seeking experiential learning opportunities.



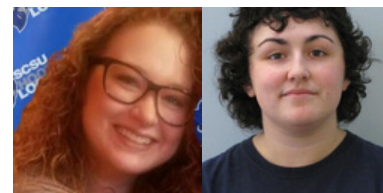
Marie Connors (BA '23) earned the Distinction in History Award for her 3.75 grade point average and graduated magna cum laude.

Jeremy Deluca (BS '23) earned the Outstanding Achievement in History Award for his 3.87 grade point average, graduated magna cum laude, and enjoyed the Myrtle Leonard Annual Scholarship in his final undergraduate semester. He will be completing the BS/MA Accelerated program next year earning his master’s degree in history in 2024.



Ashley Fernandes (BA '23) graduated cum laude.

Katelyn Fillion (BA '22) completed her program in December and graduated cum laude.



Ryan Fritz (MA '23) completed his master's degree with the thesis capstone, "Superheroes: Reflecting and Influencing America: 1930-2022," under the direction of **Steve Amerman**.

Zehra Hidimoglu (BA HIS) has been awarded (AY 23/24) the Mary E. and Albert J. Petto – Endowed Scholarship.



Shaoshi Huang (BS '23) earned the Outstanding Achievement in History Award for his 3.95 grade point average, graduated magna cum laude, and has enjoyed the Mary E. and Albert J. Petto Endowed Scholarship for several semesters. He will be completing the BS/MA Accelerated program next year earning his master's degree in history in 2024.

Andrew Khairallah (BS/MA HIS) is a first-year student awarded (AY 23/24) the Louis and Mary Fusco Distinguished Lecture Series Scholarship.

Jared Lansford (BS '24) received a \$500 travel grant to present his research, On Teaching High School Students about Native American Boarding Schools, that he conducted with Steve Amerman at the Phi Alpha Theta Biennial Conference (January 2023) in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

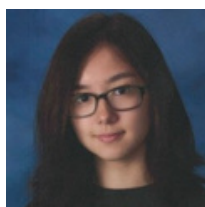
Miles Lourenco (BA '22) graduated with departmental honors having completed an honors thesis, "*Egil's Saga and The Saga of Gunnlaug Serpent Tongue in the Formation of Icelandic Identity*," under the direction of Darcy Kern. As a graduating senior, Miles also earned the Outstanding Achievement in History Award for his 3.97 grade point average and graduated summa cum laude. Miles is headed to the University of Aberdeen for their master's program in Viking and Medieval Nordic Studies.



Richard Marquette (MA '23) completed his master's degree with the thesis capstone, "The Reverend Jonathan Edwards: An American Radical," under the direction of **Troy Rondinone**.

Joseph McDonald (BS '24) was awarded (AY 23/24) the Jean Z., Otto A., and Andrea Z. Kruger Endowed Scholarship.

Stephen Pansa (MA '23) completed his master's degree with the thesis capstone, "Labor War at Winchester Firearms in New Haven," under the direction of **Troy Rondinone**.



Daniella Occhineri (BA/BS '23) completed a double baccalaureate in history and anthropology and was award winning in both programs. In history, she earned the Outstanding Achievement in History Award for her 3.96 grade point average and the Robert Phipps, Sr. Award for the outstanding senior paper in History. Daniella was awarded a \$3000 Undergraduate Research Grant for her project, "The New London County Courthouse: Slavery, Dispossession, and Settler Colonialism in 18th Century Connecticut," under the mentorship of **Marie McDaniel**. Daniella will begin a Master of Arts in Archives and Public History at NYU in the fall.

John Pascale (MA '23) completed his master's degree with a special project capstone, "Three Civil Wars in Comparative Perspective: USA, China, and Russia," under the direction of **Troy Rondinone**.

Mary Pelkey (BA '24) was awarded (AY 23/24) the Rocco Colatrella Memorial Endowed Scholarship, the Crescent Players Endowed Scholarship, and SGA-Cristina Cortese Leadership Endowed Scholarship.

Adam Pelz (MA '23) completed his master's degree with the thesis capstone, "Furman & Its Legacy: An Analysis of Racial Disparities in America's Death Penalty Post-1976," under the direction of **Troy Rondinone**. Adam is the first graduate from our BS/MA Accelerated Program!



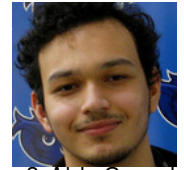
Nicholas Pisano (MA '23) completed his master's degree with the thesis capstone, "Tabula Sacra: Roman Catholic Christianity & the Representation of Water in Medieval Mappaemundi, c. 1250 to c. 1550."



Anthony Pollack (MA '23) completed his master's degree with a special project capstone, "Internment Camps Through Time and Conflict," under the direction of **Siobhan Carter-David**.

John Saksa (MA '22) completed his master's degree with the thesis capstone, "A Critical Analysis of the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986 through the Historical Context of Institutionalized White Supremacy," under the direction of **Troy Rondinone**.

Julien Sanchez Levallois (BA HIS) has been awarded (AY 23/24) the Emma and Henry Christmann Memorial Scholarship.



Maclean Sarr (BA HIS) has been awarded (AY 23/24) the Dr. William L. Philie Memorial Scholarship and the Marco & Alda Samela Scholarship.

Joshua Schumacher (BA HIS) was awarded (AY 23/24) the Anthony V. Pinciario Memorial Endowed Scholarship.

Clayton Simses (BA '23) graduated cum laude.

Nicholas Vitale (BS '23) was honored with 2023 CT Council for the Social Studies Pre-Service Excellence in Social Studies Education Award. [Note: Prior year winners include Megan Ferreira (2022) and Brenda Fernandes (2020).]



Tyler Wetmore (BS '25) was awarded (AY 23/24) the Jean Z., Otto A., and Andrea Z. Kruger Endowed Scholarship.

William Young (BA '23) an undergraduate double major in history and philosophy has been accepted to our graduate program in history for fall 2023.

Robert Ziaks (BS '24) has been awarded (AY 23/24) the Myrtle Leonard Annual Scholarship and the Maureen L. Bornstein Class of 1957 Scholarship.

Alumni News



Megan Baker (BA '19, MA '21) is a Commission Analyst and "serves as a liaison between the community and CT General Assembly to best inform and shape policy decisions impacting Asian American Pacific Islander constituents throughout the state."

Isabella Connally (MA '21) is headed to Simmons College for their master's program in Library and Information Science.

Shane Emery (BA '13, MS '19) is a social studies teacher at The Sound School in New Haven, and with his colleague, Peter Solomon, they facilitate Sound School's Sexuality and Gender Alliance (SAGA), a group for "students who identify as being part of the LGBTQ+ community a safe place to express themselves, have questions answered, and to find a place where they feel a sense of belonging." Great work Shane and Peter!

Sarah Gardocki (BA '17) is the Assistant Director of Faculty Affairs in the Office of the A&S Dean at Yale University.



Emily Gebhardt (MA '18) is a doctoral candidate at Duke University writing her dissertation on textual constructions of 15th-century kingship.

Martin Lippai (BS '20) is pursuing a doctorate in English with a Rhetoric/Composition specialization at Florida State University where he also serves as a Technical Support Analyst.



Irene Machia (BS in Poli Sci '21) helped represent SCSU at the Connecticut Council for the Social Studies award ceremony as an employee at the Old State House in Hartford.



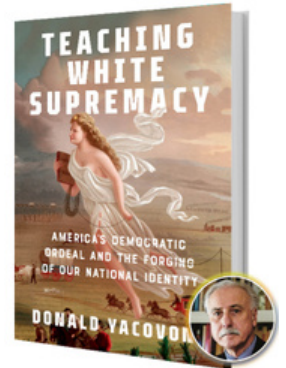
Tammy Michel (BS '22) coordinated the 2023 Connecticut Council for the Social Studies Award Ceremony, which celebrated the 60th year of organization.

Emma Norden (BA '20) is completing her master's degree in Library and Information Science through IUPUI-Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

Phil Sarrazin (BA '19, HIS minor) continues his studies at York University in Geography.



Yiorgo (George) Topalidis (BS '01, MA '12) is a postdoctoral researcher at the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, University of Florida, where he recently completed his doctoral program in Sociology. In late April at the European Studies Council of the Yale MacMillan Center he presented his research, "Whiteness, Not White Supremacy: Lessons Learned from the Whitening Process of Ottoman Greek Migrants."



Donald Yacovone (BS '74) had his book, *Teaching White Supremacy: America's Democratic Ordeal and the Forging of our National Identity*, nominated for the 2023 *L.A. Times* Book award. His work is 'striking a cord' in the midst of a 'banned books' craze as Henry Louis Gates Jr. cites Yacovone's work in his *NY Times* Opinion Essay (February 17, 2023), "Who's Afraid of Black History," and Jamelle Bouie in his *NY Times* Opinion Essay (May 20, 2023), "There is a reason why Ron DeSantis wants History Taught a certain Way."



We will see you in August!

