Teaching à la History

The History Department’s faculty uses a variety of techniques in their classes to accomplish what in essence is the same goal, the enhancement of student learning. Dr. Katrina Yeaw uses social media in her civilization class and focuses it around the Silk Road; Dr. Charles Romney has traditionally gone "old school" without technology but utilized primary source excerpts and questioning techniques. This semester, however, he is incorporating eight-minute video lectures into his suite of online offerings.

Dr. Brian Mitchell uses innovative class projects, including the research on each of the defendants associated with the Elaine Massacre, which has resulted in markers being placed and their gravesites. Drs. Barclay Key and Brian Mitchell have both used census records as part of student research projects connecting local and national history.

Dr. Nate Marvin attended the Active Teaching Institute held by Mark Bailie in the STEM Center over the summer. In her current US History to 1877 course, Dr. Marta Cieslak helps students understand the importance of perspective in history. Every week, she focuses on one theme that students discuss from a variety of perspectives. In the first class of the week, students examine general historical context of an event or historical process to lay foundations for their work with primary sources. In the second part of the week, students work with a set of primary sources that present the same historical theme from different perspectives, for example slavery from the perspective of an enslaved woman and a white woman from a slave-holding family. In her upper-level classes, Dr. Cieslak always tries to include elements on public history to help...
students understand the importance of community engagement. She has her students design posters that are presented in a mini-exhibit, write articles published on a website created specifically to showcase students’ research, or use local archival sources to integrate Arkansas history into world history.

Dr. Kristin Mann has implemented a variety of different teaching techniques throughout her time at UA Little Rock, and she evaluates her different approaches to determine what seems to work best with each class. In general, however, she does not lecture often. Instead, she tries to focus on discussion and analysis of primary and secondary sources, and class projects involving locating and evaluating sources. Her History 1312 (History of Civilizations II) classes are "flipped," meaning that students watch brief narrated slide shows prior to class, along with their reading. Then, in class there are brief quizzes to check for understanding, followed by group activities built around primary sources, and sometimes locating and evaluating primary and secondary sources. Most of her classes involve a project, whether service learning, contributing to Wikipedia, designing a museum exhibit, or comparing current events to similar topics in history. Her online classes involve reading, writing, online discussion, and evaluation of video content and primary and secondary sources. She tries to assign a variety of types of work, so that students have a chance to demonstrate their strengths and work on writing and critical thinking skills. She uses paper rewrites and revisions. They are real-world tasks for historians, since our work is constantly revised according to peer feedback.

Kristin comments, “I love the challenge of teaching, and I think it is the most important part of my work at UA Little Rock.”

Department geographers, Dr. David Baylis and Dr. Jess Porter make extensive use of hand-on cutting-edge technologies in their courses. Dr. Porter’s GEOG 3333 Introduction to Geospatial Technologies course is mapping campus features with global positioning system receivers for spatial analysis in the lab. For example, his students recently mapped the locations of emergency call boxes on campus to assess coverage and identify potential sites for additional call boxes.

Dr. Edward Anson attempts to achieve the same basic goals. In his History 1311 (History of Civilizations I) classes, he emphasizes reading, listening, and especially writing and critical thinking skills. To accomplish these
goals in association with other faculty he wrote a textbook for his 1311 classes, *A Brief History of Civilization to 1600*, which emphasizes primary source reading and critical thinking. Initially the text was published by McGraw Hill, but Anson has recovered the copyright and now edits the text every semester to fit the needs of UA Little Rock students. The text is given free to all his enrolled students. The text includes significant portions of primary sources about which students write papers based on the material. In these papers students must develop a title that clearly reflects the question that the student is answering, a thesis succinctly answering the question, and within the paper every statement of fact must include an in-text reference to the assigned material. In all his classes the thought is that the ability to listen carefully, read critically, form arguments, and express these arguments clearly and forcefully in writing are skills that are easily transferable to any profession. As can be seen, the History Department is continually experimenting and sharing with colleagues their insights into teaching.

**New Mentorship Program: Lifelong Learning**

In fall 2019, the History Department initiated a new mentorship program, Lifelong Learning. The program connects current history majors with retired professionals who every semester return to history classes as auditing students. History has been very fortunate to have a strong and dedicated community of non-traditional students who pursue knowledge for the personal reasons of continuous intellectual and personal growth. We have asked these lifelong learners to serve as mentors and provide academic, professional, and general life skills support to currently enrolled history majors. Each interested major is matched with a mentor who is there to help with both small daily challenges and understanding the importance of lifelong learning. Are you a history major who needs someone to read their paper before submitting it or help you with a job application? Are you a retired lifelong learner and would like to share their experience with UA Little Rock history majors? Contact Dr. Marta Cieslak at mxcieslak@ualr.edu for more information.
Next Spring the History Department will offer courses ranging from Alexander the Great, taught by Dr. Edward Anson to the Holocaust, taught by Dr. Marta Cieslak. Alexander the Great traces the career of one of those very rare individuals whose actions alter the course of human history and Dr. Cieslak’s deals with genocide committed by the Nazis in before and during World War II. Dr. Yeaw’s Women in the Middle East will cover the modern history of femininity, masculinity and sexuality in the Middle East, as well as the role of women in social change and political movements from the 18th century to the Arab Spring. Dr. Jim Ross will examine the Cold War that emerged after World War II between the then Soviet Union and the United States. A long period of hostility in the respective parties never actually came directly to blows and ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union. Dr. Mann’s Pre-Columbian Latin America course examines the question, who lived in the Americas prior to the arrival of Europeans? Her course will examine the history and culture of civilizations like the Olmec, Moche, Nazca, Inca, Maya and Aztec. Dr. Porter’s Geospatial Technologies course markets his course as one that provides students with marketable, applied skills such as geodata collection, spatial analysis, and mapmaking.
History Institute News

The University History Institute, a nonprofit Arkansas corporation, is an organization of private citizens interested in history and in community support for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The officers and board of directors of the Institute represent a cross section of the Central Arkansas community. At present they are: Frederick Ursery, President, Dr. Joe Bates, Vice President, Lee Johnson, Treasurer, Delia Prather, Secretary, Craig Berry, Bob McKuin, Judge Ellen Brantley, James Metzger, Dr. Joe Crow, Terry Rasco, Kathryn Fitzhugh, Elaine Scott, Dr. Betty Hathaway, Dr. David Stricklin, and Patrick Goss. Funds collected by the University History Institute are used to further historical research at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The Institute sponsors The Evenings with History series which features presentations by UA Little Rock faculty members sharing their current research and teaching interests. This fall the Institute has already presented Assistant Professor Katrina Yeaw’s Beyond Benghazi: A Brief History of Modern Libya and Special Guest Speaker, Kelly Houston Jones’ (Arkansas Tech) Absentee Plantations in the Mississippi Valley. Yet to come are talks by Assistant Professor Andrew Amstutz, A (Publishing) House Divided: The End of Empire and the Partition of India and Pakistan (12/3/19); Donaghey Distinguished Professor John Kirk, What is the Civil Rights Movement (2/4/20); Assistant Professor David Baylis, Where the Sidewalk Never Begins: Race, Class, Accessibility, and Wellness in Little Rock, AR (3/3/20); and Assistant Professor Nathan Marvin, Rethinking the Legend of Petit Jean: History and Memory of French Colonization in Arkansas (4/7/20).

M.A. in Public History

The Master of Arts in Public History provides training in the research methods and practical skills needed for work in archives, museums, historic preservation, and other areas of public history. The graduate program in the UA Little Rock Department of History is the only program of its kind in the state of Arkansas. The program stresses preparation in digital skills in each part of the curriculum. The MA degree has three components: a core segment with internship and thesis, a traditional history segment, and an applied segment. Professionals in the field teach the applied courses. In each segment students combine theoretical knowledge and historical analysis with practical projects. Current students are working as Graduate Dr. Yeaw explains modern Libya to an Evenings with History audience at the Historic Arkansas Museum. Neal Grumbine defended his MA Thesis project, "An Illustration of International Relations vis-a-vis Japan’s Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere Using a Tabletop Game."
Assistants at the Clinton Presidential Library, the Center for Arkansas History and Culture (CAHC), the Historic Arkansas Museum, the Butler Center for Arkansas History and Culture (part of the Central Arkansas Library System), and the Historic Preservation Program of the Department of Arkansas Heritage. We currently have 25 students in the program. The program increasingly attracts outstanding students outside central Arkansas. Of the program’s six new students, four come to us after completing degrees from other universities. Our students continue to perform well as graduate assistants and interns. We have placed an emphasis on securing paid internships over the past year, and students have responded by securing paid positions at the MacArthur Museum of Military History, the Arkansas State Archives, and Hot Springs National Park, where student Laura Fuentes won a position in a national search. Other students have recently completed internships with interesting projects at the Clinton Presidential Library, where student Kathryn Thompson processed the White House Christmas Ornament Collection, and Harding University, where student Rachel Walters processed the Tim Hutchinson Congressional Papers. Acadia Roher, one of our GAs with the CAHC, warrants special mention. Her thesis project was awarded grant money by the Arkansas Humanities Council, and she recently published two essays about her research on the American Historical Association blog. We anticipate 10-12 students completing the program during the current academic year, and our graduates continue finding jobs in their fields and advancing their careers. One notable example is 2019 graduate Crystal Shurley, who recently became an archivist with the National Archives facility in Seattle, Washington. Ms. Shurley was as an undergraduate at UA Little Rock the recipient of the Edward Madden and Lucy Dorothy Anson III Award given to the outstanding History graduate of 2012.
Many thanks to Stone's Throw Brewing for hosting our Trivia Night! The competition was fierce, and the baby pictures were hilarious. (A few may soon appear on our social media feeds.) The winning team was captained by Ian Beard, co-owner of Stones Throw Brewing. We also want to thank History and Geography Trivia CEO, Dr. Marta Cieslak, for her tireless efforts to make the event a big success!

History Department Film Festival

In fall 2019, Dr. Andrew Amstutz taught an upper-level seminar, Introduction to India and Pakistan, in which students explored politics, religion, and film in South Asia. As part of this course, students watched a number of popular Bollywood films from India. Building on this Bollywood theme, the Department of History screened a number of important Indian films including Amar Akbar Anthony, Earth, and Moghl-e-Azam [The Great Mughal] this semester as a part of the annual film series. The film Earth told the story of the Partition of India and Pakistan in 1947 from the perspective of a young child in Lahore and Mughal-e-Azam depicts a tragic love story in the Mughal Empire in India. Students are enjoying the popular comedy Amar Akbar Anthony from the 1970s at the end of the semester. Dr. Amstutz hopes to show more Bollywood films in his future courses. The Department of History Spring Film Festival will run in conjunction with Dr. Jim Ross’ Cold War course.
“New” History Club Emerging

The department hosted a History and Geography Meet & Greet at the History Department (601 Stabler Hall) on October 29. This event provided an opportunity for students to talk history and geography with their professors and peers in an informal environment, with a wide variety of international snacks on hand for everyone’s enjoyment. Another purpose for this gathering was to collect student input on what a History/Geography student group will look like. Dr. Nathan Marvin is the advisor for the new History Club (which also includes the department’s Phi Alpha Theta chapter). The first meeting took place on November 20, when students discussed organizational structure, future activities, and venues for meeting. Keep your eye on the department’s social media platforms for more information.

History Graduates

Congratulations to History BA graduates for the 2019 calendar year! They include Lauren Anderson, Jordan Berberian, Caroline Cortinez, Candace Kirkpatrick, Rosa Johnson, Ian Gaebel, Lisa Garrett, Steven Gipson, Ian Hennelly, Kevin Hill, Sydney Holland, Robyn Johnson, Morgan Love, Alex Martin, Ashley Merriman, Koria Robinson, Kelsey Rowland, Gene Thompson, Christopher Townsend, Nicole Ursin, Breanna Walter, Nic Weaver, Robert Webre, and Aaron Whitt. Our Public History MA graduates include Cody Bessett, Randall Crawford, Crystal Shurley, Kyna Stys, Jessica Chavez, David Collins, Neal Grumbine, Nancy Tell-Hall, and Devin Sorrows.

Alumni News

Jeffery Stewart published his third article, “The Integration of the Pulaski County Special School District, 1954-1965,” Arkansas Historical Quarterly 78 (Summer 2019): 111-139. Congratulations to History/Social Studies Education alumna Doah Strojek, who was named an "Inspiring Educator” by Little Rock Family magazine. Doah teaches all history subjects at the Arkansas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Congratulations to History/Social Studies Education alumna Alexa Grant, who was named "Rookie Teacher of the Year" by the Peoria Public School Foundation. Alexa teaches 7th & 8th grade social studies at Sterling Middle School in Peoria, IL. Jorden Berberian and Aaron Whitt, both graduates of the Social Studies Education program in 2019, continued Dr. Mann’s 100% placement record, and started their new positions at North Little Rock. Please send your updates and news to jcpporter@ualr.edu.
Please follow us on social media. Find us at /ualrhISTORY on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Our social media czar, Dr. Barclay Key provides daily news and information. Here’s a small sample of what you’re missing!
Andrew Amstutz, Assistant Professor of History, conducted research in India in summer 2019 on his book project, *Between Science and Art: Urdu and the Remaking of Muslim Knowledge in South Asia*. Dr. Amstutz presented a paper at the Annual Conference on South Asia in Madison, Wisconsin, on this research in October 2019. For April 2020, Dr. Amstutz has co-organized a conference, “Before and Beyond Typography,” at Stanford University that will explore histories of alternative print technologies around the world. He also will present his research at the Association of Asian Studies in March 2020. Dr. Amstutz continues to teach History of Civilization II and in fall 2019, an upper-level seminar *Introduction to India and Pakistan*, in which students have watched a number of Bollywood films in conjunction with the Department’s film series. In spring 2020, Dr. Amstutz is excited to teach *Museum Interpretation* in the Public History Program with a thematic focus on “Small Museums, Big Histories.” He continues to work with Collections Management at the Ottenheimer Library to incorporate the generous collection of Urdu books that were donated to UA Little Rock from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

the Senate’s Executive Committee: He also serves on the following: the University Governance Committee, the Chancellor’s Policy Advisory Council, and the University Planning and Finance Committee.

**David Baylis, Assistant Professor and Coordinator of Geography**, has been busy building new courses and starting several new research projects. In the summer, he offered two new pilot courses that are now going through the approval process to be incorporated into the course catalog: Map Design and Web-Mapping and The Queer South. In terms of research, Dr. Baylis was awarded a College of Arts, Letters, and Sciences summer research grant which he used to visit the Sanborn Map Company’s original printing office in Pelham, New York. He is now working on an article based on the Sanborn Survey, an in-house magazine published by the company in the 1920s. Dr. Baylis is also working with several students on various sidewalk mapping projects in and around Little Rock. Most recently, he has become a member of the Zion Community Group in Memphis, TN where he lives. This non-profit organization, which includes CME pastors, FedEx executives, and Rhodes College affiliates, has been working to restore Zion Christian Cemetery on South Parkway in Memphis. Zion is the oldest African American cemetery in Memphis and was abandoned for several decades, despite being the final resting place of some 30,000 Memphians. Dr. Baylis has begun designing a mapping project for the cemetery.

**Marta Cieslak, Visiting Assistant Professor of History**, completed an article titled “Between State and Empire: Progressive Nationalism, Whiteness, and the Polish Nation” that is currently under revisions. In January 2020, she will present her work on Polish rural women migrants in the United States at the turn of the twentieth century at the annual meeting of the American Historical Association in New York City. She is also co-editing, together with Dr. Anna Muller from the University of Michigan-Dearborn, a special issue of the *Polish American Studies* that focuses on gender and sexuality. This semester, Dr. Cieslak is teaching two sections of US History to 1877 and an online historical methods class Historian’s Craft. She also continues to serve as an undergraduate internship coordinator as well as coordinates two mentorship programs offered to UA Little Rock history students, Peer Tutoring and Lifelong Learning. The former offers tutoring services to all students enrolled in history survey courses while the latter connects current history majors with retired professionals who provide mentorship, focusing on the importance of both attaining small daily goals and lifelong learning.

**Michael Heil, Assistant Professor of History**, is the 2019-2020 Mellon Junior Faculty Fellow in Medieval Studies at the University of Notre Dame, where he is working on a book manuscript, *Clerics, Courts, and Legal Culture in Early Medieval Italy*. He recently gave papers at the International Congress of Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo and at a conference on “Books of Law in the Long Tenth Century” in Vienna. In March he will give a paper at the annual meeting of the Medieval Academy of America in Berkeley.

**Barclay Key, Associate Professor of History**, continued coordinating the M.A. program in public history, teaching the thesis seminar and class on historical methods, and overseeing all activities relating to the program. He looks forward to the publication of his first book, *Race and Restoration: Churches of Christ and the Black Freedom Struggle*, by Louisiana State University Press in February. With Jim Ross, he completed an essay about Herbert Monts, a black man who was wrongly convicted for the 1960 bombing of the home of Carlotta Walls, one of the Little Rock Nine. They are still searching for a publisher.
John A. Kirk, Donaghey Distinguished Professor of History, was delighted to see the continued success of his students past and present. Jeffery Stewart, who Kirk mentored for his successful undergraduate honors thesis on school desegregation in 2014, published the third article based on his work, “The Integration of the Pulaski County Special School District, 1954-1965,” *Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 78 (Summer 2019): 111-139. This follows his F. Hampton Roy award-winning article, “Public School Desegregation and Private Schools: A Case Study of Central Arkansas Christian School,” *Pulaski County Historical Review* 62 (Spring 2014): 2-15, and, “The Private School Movement in Pulaski County, 1969-1979,” *Pulaski County Historical Review* 64 (Winter 2016): 122-137. One more articles, and Jeffrey will meet the History Department’s current publications quota for tenure! Kirk has mentored Nancy Tell-Hall for a number of years and on a number of different classes, as both an undergraduate and graduate student in the History Department. In fall 2019 he chaired Nancy’s successful Public History M.A. project, “Little Rock Urban Renewal PROJECT ARK-4: The Demise of West Rock, Arkansas, 1884-1960.” This follows Nancy’s earlier award-winning article based on her independent study class with Kirk, “An ODD Story: The Desegregation of Fisher’s Bar-B-Q in Little Rock, Arkansas,” *Pulaski County Historical Review* 66 (Spring 2018): 19-26. Nancy was also a graduate assistant at the Anderson Institute on Race and Ethnicity. This semester, Kirk taught two online classes, HIST 4358 Civil Rights Movement since 1954, and HIST 4356 History of Race and Ethnicity in the United States, the latter a core class on the History Department’s Race and Ethnicity minor program. He served as chair of the Executive Committee in the History Department and on the Research and Professional Development Committee in the College of Arts, Letters and Sciences. He copyedited the manuscript for his latest and ninth book that will be published next semester, *The Civil Rights Movement: A Documentary Reader* (Wiley, 2020), and continued writing his biography of Arkansas governor Winthrop Rockefeller. He published two pieces, “Winthrop Rockefeller’s vision for public education started with Morrilton model school,” *Arkansas Times*, https://arktimes.com/history/2019/10/31/winthrop-rockefellers-vision-for-public-education-started-with-morrilton-model-school-and, “March Against Fear (1969),” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*, https://encyclopediaofarkansas.net/entries/march-against-fear-1969-9013/ He gave two academic presentations, one on, “What is the Civil Rights Movement?” at the Association of Arkansas College History Teachers annual conference, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, and the other on, “Sweet Willie Wine’s Walk Against Fear: Black Power in East Arkansas Fifty Years After the Elaine Massacre,” at the “Elaine at 100: Race, Labor, and Violence in the Lower Mississippi Valley,” two-day conference to mark the one-hundredth anniversary of the Elaine Massacre, at the Mosaic Templars Museum and Cultural Center. The latter presentation is slated to appear as an essay in the conference collection. He also, for the eighth year, chose the theme and oversaw the installation of markers for the Anderson Institute’s award-winning Arkansas Civil Rights Heritage Trail. This year, the Trail honored The Elaine Twelve, the twelve men charged and eventually freed for their alleged role in the Elaine Massacre. In addition, Kirk gave three community talks, “History of Race in Arkansas,” to Bridge Builders Reading Group, Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas, and to the first year Master of Public Service practicum class, Clinton School of Public Service, and, “How demographic changes influence social movements,” to an Indian delegation on the International Visitor Leadership Program, U.S. Department of State, at the Bobby L. Roberts Library. He also presented on, “After the Schools Reopened: The Civil Rights Movement in Arkansas during the 1960s,” at the National Parks Service Central High School Museum and Visitor Center Educators’ Institute on Civil Rights. Kirk was interviewed for a number of features including, Tina Matherson, “Up From the Grave,” https://www.cnn.com/interactive/2019/06/us/up-from-the-grave/ a series of five CNN podcasts on the 1959 fire at Wrightsville’s Arkansas Negro Boys’ Industrial School narrated by Don Lemon; Laura Dunnagan, “Back to Little Rock,” backtolittlerock.com a series of five podcasts on race
Kristin Dutcher Mann, Professor of History, is teaching History of the American West online, Teaching Applications face to face, and U.S. History to 1877. She has enjoyed delving into U.S. History for this semester's courses, but she will be back to world and Latin American history in the spring. In September, Dr. Mann gave a presentation on Arkansas and Mexico's Connections in the 19th century for the Old State House's brown bag lunch series. Dr. Mann traveled to Tallahassee, Florida, in October to give a lecture as part of Mission San Luis's series Colonial Sounds. Her talk was entitled "Soundscapes of a Spanish Mission: Music, Dance & Bells in the Borderlands of the Ibero-American World." She presented a paper on bells in Spanish and Mexican California at the Western History Association meeting. Dr. Mann represented Arkansas at the Primary Source Summit for state social studies leaders in the Midwest region of the U.S. over the summer, and she will present information about her Library of Congress grant, Arkansas Primary Source Sets, at the upcoming National Council of the Social Studies meeting. She is spending time working on the university retention committee and is the current president of the College of Arts, Letters & Sciences assembly.

Nathan Marvin, Assistant Professor of History, continues work on his book project, Bourbon Island Creoles: Race and Revolution in the French Indian Ocean World. In the fall 2019 semester, he shared research from that project at the Symposium on Genders, Families, and Generations in Africa and its Diasporas at Bucknell University as well as at the Missouri Regional Seminar in Early American History, sponsored by Mizzou’s Kinder Institute. In the spring semester, Dr. Marvin will also give papers at the Forum on European Expansion and Global Interaction (FEEGI) and the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ASECS), both in St. Louis, Missouri. He will also attend a manuscript review workshop at the Center for Comparative Studies in Race and Ethnicity (CCSRE) at Stanford University, where he has been invited to comment on the book project of a colleague and fellow at the Center. Dr. Marvin continues to teach History of Civilization II and in fall 2019, an upper-level seminar on Modern France, in which students used a mix of film, memoir, and archival documents to explore the global dimensions of the history of France, from the country's 1789 Revolution to its 2018 World Cup victory.

Brian Mitchell, Assistant Professor of History, has kept a busy schedule of academic presentations which included "When the Depths Don’t Give Up Their Dead: A Discussion of New Primary Sources and How They are Reshaping Debate on the Elaine Massacre," The Southern Historical association (November 8, 2019). The presentation was also recorded and broadcast on C-SPAN. He additionally presented "The Elaine Massacre: The Nadir of Race Relations in Phillips County" to African American Studies Society and University of Central Arkansas History Department, (November 5, 2019), "Black Arkansans Transplanted: Finding Arkansas’ Expelled Free Blacks" and, "Migrations, Massacres, and Mass Exodus: What Implications Does the Elaine Massacre Hold for Genealogical Studies?" for the Arkansas Genealogical Society (October 18, 2019), "Revisiting the Elaine Massacre," for the David and Barbara Pryor Center for Arkansas Oral and Visual History (September 27, 2019), Civil Rights Educator's Institute, "Teaching Difficult Histories: The Elaine Massacre," CALS Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, Butler Center for Arkansas Studies (July 15, 2019), Tools for Teaching and Learning Difficult History: Racial Violence in Arkansas, “the 1919 Elaine Massacre and a Century of Lynching, 1836-1936” (June 27, 2019), "West River / West Rock Walking Tour," Save Hillcrest,
Riverdale/ Allsop Park, Little Rock, AR. (June 22, 2019), The Elaine Massacre: One Hundred Years Later, "Putting Names to it: Discussing the membership of the Progressive Farmers and Household Union of America," Arkansas Black History Commission; Arkansas State Archives; The Department of Arkansas Heritage (June 1, 2019). Research conducted by Dr. Mitchell was highlighted in an article done by the University of Arkansas, CNN, the Associated Press, Arkansas Times, the Arkansas Democratic Gazette, the Washington Post, The Guardian, Facing South (Institute of Southern Studies), Arkansas Life, Arkansas Business, and National Public Radio and several other news sources. Mitchell’s research on the military service of Pvt. Leroy Johnson, a Harlem Hellfighter killed in the Elaine Massacre, was the catalyst for H.R. 2249, the World War I Valor Medals Review Act, a bipartisan bill that would review the military records of minority service members of the Armed Forces during World War I to determine if they should be awarded the Medal of Honor introduced by Congressmen Representative French Hill (AR-02), Representative Emanuel Cleaver (MO-05), and Representative Sam Graves (MO-06) which was signed into law in late spring of 1919. Additionally, Mitchell is participating on four thesis and capstone committees besides his service on the Chancellor’s Diversity Council.

Jess Porter, Chair of History, Associate Professor of Geography, is teaching Introduction to Geospatial Technologies for the first time in a few years as he and Dr. David Baylis work to reconfigure, expand, and sequence the suite of GIS and related courses in cooperation with the Department of Earth Sciences. He is also offering Cultural Geography, a UA Little Rock core course in the social sciences. He contributed two essays to a new Center for Arkansas History and Culture web exhibit on the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas. Jess received a UA Little Rock Student Advocate Award in May.

Charles Romney, Associate Professor of History, continues to be the Principal Investigator on a grant from the National Archives Trust Fund that pays the stipends for two graduate assistants at the Clinton Presidential Library. Since 2011 the grant has given $109,650 to public history MA students. In September his article on fundamental rights appeared in a special issue (on Hawaiʻi) of the journal American Nineteenth Century History. In January he will take part in the “History as a Data Science” workshop at Columbia University.

James Ross, Associate Professor of History, Jim Ross taught a new class this fall called The History of Hollywood and is preparing a new class for the spring called The Global Cold War. He and Barclay Key also finished an article on the 1960 bombing of Carlotta Wall's house. He continues to do research on a book that covers the Little Rock School District's history from 1958 to 2015.

Katrina Yeaw, Assistant Professor of History, is continuing to work on her book project entitled Women, Resistance and the Creation of New Gendered Frontiers in the Making of Modern Libya, 1890-1980. In addition to this project, she has a forthcoming book entitled Women in the Modern History of Libya: Exploring Transnational Trajectories to be published by Routledge in February 2020. She also submitted an article entitled "Between Empires: Women’s Resistance and Domestic Slavery in the Libyan Territories in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," to an edited volume on "Slavery in the Middle East and North Africa in the 19th and 20th Centuries," to be published by I.B. Tauris as part of its series on Sex, Marriage, and the Family in the Middle East. This fall she attended the Middle Eastern Studies Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, where she presented a paper, entitled “Colonialism Remembered: Libyan History in Women’s Imagination,” which analyzes the role of women in constructing Libyan nationalism. This fall she also gave a talk entitled “Beyond Benghazi: A Brief History of Modern Libya” for the Evenings with History series. At UA
Little Rock, she is a faculty member with the Middle Eastern Studies Program along with the history department. She teaches classes on the modern Middle East, World Civilization until 1600, historical methods, and historiography. Currently, she is organizing a study abroad course to the cities of Samarkand and Bukhara in Central Asia for spring break 2021 with Professor David Baylis. She is also a member of the Feminist Research Collective and is currently organizing a feminist reading group on speculative fiction for UA Little Rock faculty called F@#k the Patriarchy.

EMERITUS FACULTY NEWS


From the UA Press: “During the antebellum years, over 750,000 enslaved people were taken to the Lower Mississippi Valley, where two-thirds of them were sold in the slave markets of New Orleans, Natchez, and Memphis. Those who ended up in Louisiana found themselves in an environment of swamplands, sugar plantations, French-speaking creoles, and the exotic metropolis of New Orleans. Those sold to planters in the newly-opened Mississippi Delta cleared land and cultivated cotton for owners who had moved west to get rich as quickly as possible, driving this labor force to harsh extremes.

Like enslaved people all over the South, those in the Lower Mississippi Valley left home at night for clandestine parties or religious meetings, sometimes “laying out” nearby for a few days or weeks. Some of them fled to New Orleans and other southern cities where they could find refuge in the subculture of slaves and free blacks living there, and a few attempted to live permanently free in the swamps and forests of the surrounding area. Fugitives also tried to return to eastern slave states to rejoin families from whom they had been separated. Some sought freedom on the northern side of the Ohio River; others fled to Mexico for the same purpose.

Fugitivism provides a wealth of new information taken from advertisements, newspaper accounts, and court records. It explains how escapees made use of steamboat transportation, how urban runaways differed from their rural counterparts, how enslaved people were victimized by slave stealers, how conflicts between black fugitives and the white people who tried to capture them encouraged a culture of violence in the South, and how runaway slaves from the Lower Mississippi Valley influenced the abolitionist movement in the North.

Readers will discover that along with an end to oppression, freedom-seeking slaves wanted the same opportunities afforded to most Americans.”

Congratulations to Dr. Bolton!

UA LITTLE ROCK HISTORY DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

The UA Little Rock History Department each spring semester awards a number of student scholarships provided by the generosity of donors. The department welcomes additions to these endowments that will allow us to make more
awards and to help more of our students. We also welcome and encourage new endowed named scholarships. All contributions are tax deductible.

**The Ruby M. Duke Ancient History Award.** Awarded to a student "majoring in History with a demonstrated interest in Ancient History."

**Booker Worthen Scholarship.** Awarded to a full-time or part-time UA Little Rock History major with a minimum of 80 credit hours. Academic accomplishment and financial need are considered. Booker Worthen founded Worthen National Bank, which became the largest bank holding company in the state. The scholarship was created by his family to honor his memory.

**Craig Powell Memorial Scholarship.** Awarded to a History major with a minimum of 54 credit hours, the last 15 or more having been taken at UA Little Rock. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. The applicant must demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning. Craig Powell was a promising UA Little Rock student who was killed in a tragic accident. The scholarship was created in his name by his parents.

**David O. Demuth Scholarship.** Awarded to a History major with a minimum of 54 credit hours, the last 15 hours or more having been taken at UA Little Rock. A minimum GPA of 3.5 is required. The applicant's potential for further study in History is considered. David Demuth was a history major and a graduate of UA Little Rock, a prominent businessman, and civic leader.

**Richard B. Dixon Scholarship.** Awarded to a History major with a minimum of 54 credit hours, the last 15 or more having been taken at UA Little Rock. A minimum GPA of 3.0 is required. The applicant must demonstrate a positive attitude toward learning. A professor in the History Department at UA Little Rock for twenty-three years, the scholarship was established in his name by his former students.

**Jack Freshour Scholarship.** Awarded to a Public History M.A. student with a grade point average of 3.0 undergraduate or 3.25 graduate, taking a minimum of 9 hours per semester. Jack Freshour was a longtime supporter of UA Little Rock and the History Department.

**Little Rock Nine Endowed Scholarship.** Awarded to a Public History M.A. student working in the area of race relations and community development. Academic accomplishment and financial need are considered.

**Mabel W. Formica and Santo D. Formica History Endowment.** Awarded to History students for scholarships and special projects. A portion of the fund also sponsors visiting external speakers in History. Mabel and Santo Formica were a married couple who in their “golden years” returned to college and became both students in the History program and ardent supporters of the department.

**C. Fred Williams Endowed Scholarship in Public History.** Named in memory of C. Fred Williams a former chair and professor of History.

**Dr. Edward Madden and Lucy Dorothy Anson III Award.** Awarded to the outstanding graduating History major as selected by the faculty of the History Department. This award was established to honor the parents of a current history faculty member.

**Lee and Paula Johnson Travel Scholarship.** Awarded to assist students in the History Department to pursue a study abroad program at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

Please make checks out to UA Little Rock History Department followed by the relevant scholarship in brackets and mail to c/o Dr. Jess Porter, History Department Chair, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, 2801 South University Avenue, Little Rock, AR 72204-1099.