
GRAD UPDATE

NEWS FROM THE MA PROGRAM IN HISTORY AT EIU



Greetings from the Coordinator

The last two years have been very eventful for the program. The budget crisis presented us with undeniable challenges, but we met them with creativity and energy. Last summer we launched a new online option for teachers that makes our program more accessible to that population of working professionals. Students in our traditional face-to-face option have continued to excel with their conference presentations, publications, competitive grants, and awards. And our grads are taking their training into a wide range of professions.

The program can boast that it has once again been named a “First Choice Program” by the Graduate School and the university’s Council on Graduate Studies. Programs are evaluated on a range of criteria, such as recruitment and matriculation, research profiles of students and faculty, and curriculum development. The designation brings with it graduate assistantships and other support for our students. History has been a First Choice program since 2008.

While the top quality of the program remains the same, there are big changes taking place in Coleman Hall. The Graduate Committee has been revising the curriculum and adding new courses that we think reflect the direction of the discipline, the interests of our students, and the strengths of our faculty. Some changes have been bittersweet. The department has said farewell to several faculty who have moved into retirement: Dr. Roger Beck, Dr. Nora Pat Small, Dr. Debra Reid, and Dr. Terry Barnhart. With the departure of Drs. Reid, Small, and Barnhart, the MA in History’s applied option, the MA in Historical Administration, is no longer accepting students. Undaunted, the MA program is looking to the future to find ways to provide public history training for interested students.

Along with these departures we have also had changes in departmental leadership. As of this month, I am stepping down as coordinator of the program to begin a term as interim chair. Dr. Lee Patterson will be taking the reigns of the program. Coordinating the History MA has been one of the most rewarding things I have done in my time at Eastern, and I am glad to leave the program in such capable hands.

A New Option for Teachers

Last July, history and social science teachers (and even one English teacher!) converged on EIU's campus to participate in the inaugural HIS 5001: Summer Institute in Graduate History. During the week, students met with EIU history faculty and discussed what makes history a distinct discipline, the methods and resources of historical research, and the various fields of history.

This year, the Institute hosted another nine teachers. Among the activities this year was a visit to the Charleston Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum, where the students discussed with Dr. Terry Barnhart the role of historians in the politics of history and public commemoration. The students reported finding the week challenging and rewarding.

The students will be taking the rest of their coursework online, including Historiography, proseminars in US and world history, and special topics seminars. They may encounter students in the face-to-face option in summer online seminars, but otherwise they will be working through the program with other teachers. The new option thus provides teachers the same rigorous academic training of our face-to-face program, but with the accessibility of the virtual classroom space.

We could not be more pleased with our online graduate students, and we look forward to working with them in the coming semesters.



Summer 2018 Online Option students at the Lincoln-Douglas Debate Museum: (back row, l to r) James Kowalski, Kevin Klemm, Jess Miller, Robert Meagher, Zach Crawford, Patrick Smith, (front row, l to r) Samantha Pennington, Marsha Kirby, and Nicole Bridges. Last year's cohort included Josh Bill, Kara Whiteley, Jason Musgrave, and Katherine Flugge.

Outstanding Research

For the past two years, History graduate students have been selected for the Master's Thesis Award of Excellence in the College of Arts and Humanities. **Alyssa Peterson's** "We live in the midst of death': Medical Theory, Public Health, and the 1793 Yellow Fever Epidemic" was selected for that honor in 2017. Her thesis demonstrates the influence of transatlantic connections among medical experts in their responses to the epidemic in Philadelphia. Alyssa has just completed her first year of the doctoral program in History at University of Texas at Austin.

Michael Bradley, was awarded the Master's Thesis Award of Excellence for his thesis, "Incarcerated, Transported, and Bound: Constructing Community among Transported Convicts from London to the Chesapeake, 1739-1776." Based on aggregate data of over 3000 transported convicts and qualitative data on more than 200, Michael's thesis retraces the movements and settlement patterns of these involuntary migrants. He demonstrates that they built the communal connections that helped them at times resist and at time accommodate themselves to their condition of servitude.



Erin Harrington's paper "Constructing Identity in Turkish Terms: Islam in Massachusetts Bay, 1628-1686" was awarded the Graduate School's King-Mertz Research/Creative Activity Award of Excellence in the College of Arts and Humanities. Erin's paper explores the ways in which Puritans defined themselves politically and religiously in relationship to Islam.

All three of these award-winning works were written under the direction of **Dr. Charles Foy**.

Photo above: (l to r): Erin Harrington, Dr. Charles Foy, Michael Bradley, and Alyssa Peterson

The EIU-UIS-ISU Symposium

The graduate student mini-conference founded by Dr. Edmund Wehrle continues to bring students from the three campuses together to share their research. Last year **Moses Awinsong** and **Kyle Cody** presented at Indiana State University. This year **Nicholas Waller**, **Myrtle Castro**, and **Nima Lane** presented their research in Springfield.



Hamand Scholars

Michael Bradley and **Monica Burney** were named to the 2017 and 2018 class of the Hamand Society of Scholars. Students named to this esteemed group have demonstrated remarkable achievements in scholarship and service that have made an impact on their discipline and in their communities. Michael is looking forward to seeing the appearance of an article he and Dr. Foy co-



authored for the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*. The article focuses on the African American community in 19th-century Coles County. Monica has been co-authoring with Dr. Elder a Reacting to the Past roleplaying game about the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The game will be played by students in world history, human rights history, and international relations courses. Monica was also a member of the Making Excellence Inclusive committee and worked with the “I Am First Generation” project for new students

Photo above: Symposium presenters (l to r) Myrtle Castro, Nima Lane, and Nick Waller; photo below: Monica Burney accepting Hamand medalion from Provost Jay Gatrell and President David Glassman.

2018 Williams Travel Awards

Monica Burney, “Gertrude Baer: A Case Study in Internationalism in the 20th Century.” Presented at the International Graduate Historical Studies Conference in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. Dr. Sace Elder, mentor.

Kyle Cody, “Impact of German Medical Exchange on Japan’s Racialized National Discourse.” Presented at the Midwest Conference on Asian Studies in South Bend, Indiana (2018). Dr. Jinhee Lee, mentor.

Brittany Dixon, “Gender, Race, and Class in American Mission School Policies in the Japanese Empire.” Presented at the Midwest Conference on Asian Studies in South Bend, Indiana (2018). Dr. Jinhee Lee, mentor. Brittany’s research was also supported by the Interdisciplinary Center for Global Diversity.

Nima Lane, “Anti-Fascist Committees in Occupied Germany.” Presented at the Illinois Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois (2018). Dr. Sace Elder, mentor.

Nicholas Waller, “A Strong Achaemenid Empire.” Presented at the Brian Bertoti Innovative Perspectives in History Conference in Blacksburg, Virginia (2018). Dr. Lee Patterson, mentor.



Moses Allor Awinsong Named 2017 Annie Weller Graduate Scholar

Moses (“Win”) Awinsong arrived on Eastern’s campus in Fall 2016 from University of Cape Coast in Ghana, where he had studied history and pedagogy. Moses also had significant classroom experience and an impressive publishing record. With a research topic already in mind, he quickly got to work with Dr. Wehrle and Dr. Beck to craft his thesis on US-Ghanaian relations during the Cold War. While completing his coursework, Moses also gave several presentations, including a well-received paper on the Haymarket Riot and the emergence of the modern security state in industrializing America, written for Dr. Curry’s seminar on US history from 1880-1930. The Annie

Weller Graduate Scholarship provides financial support for a full-time graduate or undergraduate student in social sciences, history, or physical sciences. A well-deserved honor, indeed.

Photo above: Dr. Jinhee Lee (far r) with presenters Kyle Cody and Brittany Dixon. Fellow presenter Seonghwan Kim (far l) hopes to begin the MA program next Spring. The group is standing with the president of the Midwest Association of Asian Studies (center). Photo below: Moses Awinsong (r) with Dr. Elder.

A Summer in Greece

Nicholas Waller (MA '18) spent last summer studying at the American School of Classical Studies in Athens, Greece. Nick joined some of the best classics students in the United States to do research and learn from the top scholars in the field. In going, Nick followed the footsteps of his mentor Dr. Lee Patterson, who also studied at the ASCSA. While he was there, Nick gave presentations on the Haghia Tiada, a Minoan archaeological site near Crete, and the Greek War of Independence.



Congratulations to our recent graduates...

Moses “Win” Awinsong (2018) wrote his MA thesis “The Power of the Periphery: Aid, Mutuality and Cold War U.S.-Ghana Relations, 1957-1966,” with Drs. Wehrle. Moses is now applying to doctoral programs. (For more on Moses, see page 5.)

Monica Burney (2018) received her BA in History from EIU. Monica wrote her thesis titled “The Meaning of Women’s Work: Refugees, Statelessness, Nationality, and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, 1918-1931.” with Dr. Elder. Monica’s research was supported by a Graduate School Research and Creative Activity Grant. Monica will be starting the Masters in Library Science program at University of Illinois. (For more on Monica, see page 4.)

Michael Bradley (2017) completed his BA at EIU and wrote his master’s thesis on transported convicts in the Chesapeake colonies under the direction of Dr. Foy. Michael was awarded a Williams Travel Grant to present his thesis research at the Society for 18th-Century Studies in Minneapolis, MN. (For more on Michael and his thesis, see page 5 and 6.)

Tyler Calvert (2017) hailed from Indiana State University. At EIU, he concentrated in modern world history under the mentorship of Professor Mann. Tyler presented his research at the Midwest Asian Studies Association Conference in October 2016. He is interested in a teaching history at a community college.

Kyle Cody (2018) earned his BA in History from Illinois College. He concentrated in modern world history with Dr. Lee, with a special interest in East Asian History. Having studied abroad in Japan and possessing a good command of the language, Kyle hopes to return to Japan to teach English or further pursue his studies.

Brittany Dixon (2018) earned her BA in History from Roanoke College. Like Kyle, she concentrated in modern world history and fostered her interest in East Asian history as well as East Asian languages.

Erin Harrington (2017) earned her undergraduate degree from Harvard University. A teacher by training, Erin worked on her MA in US history full time under the mentorship of Dr. Laughlin-Schultz. (For more on Erin, see page 3.)

Daniel Alexander Hays (2017) earned his BA in History from Judson University. He wrote his thesis, “A Babe in the Wood?”: Billy Graham, the Presidency, and Vietnam,” under the direction of Dr. Edmund Wehrle. His thesis research was supported by a Graduate School Research and Creative Activity Grant. Alex now works as management and program analyst at the Naval History and Heritage Command in Washington, D.C.

Lanita Johnson (2018) earned her BA in History from Quincy College. She pursued her coursework in US history under the guidance of Drs. Ed Wehrle and Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz. Lanita is applying to doctoral programs to pursue her particular interest in African diasporic community and politics in the 1920s.

Jill Monroe (2018) earned her BA in English at EIU and then decided to try her hand at History. Jill concentrated in US history under the mentorship of Dr. Curry. She earned her degree while working as editorial assistant at Mayhaven Publishing near Decatur, Illinois.

Andrea Morgan (2016) completed her BA in History with Teacher Licensure at EIU and then turned her energies to advanced study. Andy concentrated in US history under the mentorship of Dr. Laughlin-Schultz. She now teaches history at Westville High School.

Nathaniel Rees (2017) also earned his BA in History at EIU. He completed his degree in US history with the guidance of Dr. Foy. Nathan is particularly interested in community college teaching.

Nicholas Waller (2018) earned his undergraduate degree in history at EIU. An avid fan of all things ancient, he worked with Dr. Patterson and concentrated in European history. Nick was a representative on the Graduate Student Advisory Council. He is also interested in community college teaching. (For more on Nick, see page 6).

Stephen Szigethy (2016) studied five long years to earn his degree while working full time on the EIU campus police force. Stephen earned his BA in History at EIU as well. Stephen recently presented a generous donation on behalf of the Eastern Illinois University Fraternal Order of Policy to the Sarah Bush Lincoln Regional Cancer Center for breast cancer awareness.

Meet the New Coordinator

Dr. Lee Patterson takes over coordinating the MA Program this month. Dr. Patterson is an historian of ancient Greece and Rome whose most recent book project is a history of ancient Armenia. His grad seminar on ancient Persia is a student favorite. Dr. Patterson has been serving on the Graduate Committee for a number of years and is looking forward to steering the MA program for the next few years.



Class Notes...

Crystal Abbey (MA '12) is now litigation attorney for the Menn Law Firm in Appleton WI. Crystal earned her law degree from Vermont School of Law after finishing her MA at EIU.

John Goldsworthy (MA '11) completed his Masters of Library and Information Science at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 2016. He now works as records management specialist at ARCS Federal.

Congratulations to **Patrick Harris** (MA '08), who completed his doctorate in History at Western Michigan University at Kalamazoo. His dissertation is titled "Primatus Hispaniae: Identity and Assimilation in Medieval Toledo."

David Littlefield (MA '13) has been working as chief of staff for Illinois State Representative Tom Bennett.

Philip Mohr (MA '13) was named Executive Director of the Des Plaines History Center in Des Plaines, IL. Philip earned his MA in Historical Administration at EIU before completing his MA in History.

After graduating from EIU, **Christopher Strangeman** (MA '97) earned his PhD in historical studies from SIU-Carbondale and is now Associate Professor of History at MacMurray College in Jacksonville, IL. Last year Dr. Strangeman volunteered time to mentor first-year graduate student Logan Braddock.

Now in Print!

Essays on Race, Gender, and Politics in World History is now available from Common Ground Networks. This collection of graduate student essays, edited by EIU MA graduate students Michael Bradley, Daniel Alexander Hays, Alyssa Peterson, and Sean Van Buskirk, with some help from Dr. Elder.

We want to hear from you!

We are always delighted to hear from our graduates! Please send us an update that we can share with our colleagues and alumni. You can send your news to Dr. Lee Patterson (new graduate coordinator) at lepatterson2@eiu.edu

You can also follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/eiuhistory/>

Mentor a graduate student

Interested in mentoring a graduate student toward his or her professional goals? Let us know! The Graduate School has a formal (but low-commitment) mentoring program through which students learn from alumni's experiences and start building professional networks. Email lepatterson2@eiu.edu to learn more!

