



Johannes Moreelse *Clio-Muse of History*

# Indiana University of Pennsylvania History Department

## Alumni Newsletter

2023

Greetings from the History Department!

We are fortunate to wrap up another successful year. We continued to host our Wednesday “History Happy Hour” gatherings, which provide students and faculty an opportunity to eat snacks, chat, and build community. The news is filled with stories about the importance of personal connections; we are actively fostering an inclusive department where students feel they belong and have the opportunity to cultivate true friendships both in and out of the classroom.

Once again, our students and faculty have managed to achieve amazing things. Dr. Lynn Botelho was awarded the University Senate Distinguished Faculty Award for Service, and Dr. Soo Lu secured the departmental service award for her unflagging commitment to departmental endeavors including coordinating History Happy Hour and advising the History Club. Dr. Moore is back in Cyprus this summer, and Dr. Mazak-Kahne and Dr. Conlin working on grant-funded local history projects. Several faculty are maintaining active research agendas on sabbatical. You can read about all of these in this newsletter, along with profiles of students and alumni. As always, we are very pleased that our departmental scholarships provide invaluable financial assistance to our deserving majors. We are always looking for assistance in growing these funds and appreciate your support.

Finally, we hope that you will keep us updated on how things are going for you. We certainly appreciate any insight you can provide our current students about the professional world that awaits them after graduation, and any suggestions for us on how we can better prepare them. Feel free to send me an email or give me a telephone call. We look forward to hearing from you.

R. Scott Moore, Department Chair

### Dr. Lynn Botelho, Distinguished Faculty Award for Service

Dr. Botelho has been at IUP for nearly 30 years and is committed to community building and generating positive change. She co-chaired the President's Commission on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the 2022-23 academic year and is actively helping shape IUP's adoption and implementation of policies and practices that will truly make the university an inclusive place that welcomes and values all students, faculty, and staff. She adds this most recent accolade to her many accomplishments including receiving a grant (over \$200,000) from the Teagle Foundation-National Endowment for the Humanities for the Big Ideas: Transformative Culture and the Professions and earning the prestigious Distinguished University Professor Award for 2011-12.



### Dr. Scott Moore continues his work on Cyprus. You can read about his research at [Ancient History Ramblings](#)

Dr. Moore continues his work on Cyprus this summer. In case you missed last year's newsletter, in addition to taste-testing potato chips (see blog link above), Dr. Moore's research focuses on trade and commerce in the Late Roman Period (300-700 AD) in the eastern Mediterranean. Due to the limited number of texts from the period Dr. Moore studies, he uses ceramic pieces, known as sherds, as evidence in his scholarship.

### Dr. Alan Baumler's Spring Sabbatical in Taiwan

Dr. Baumler conducted most of his research at the Center for Chinese Studies and Academia Sinica. He mainly continued work on his project on Chinese aviation. He reported the trip was productive, both in terms of finding good sources and meeting lots of Taiwanese scholars. He noted that although lots of things are available online now, "there is no substitute for meeting someone who can save you months of research by explaining something to you." He particularly enjoyed seeing how Taiwan has changed in the 30 years since he last studied there. He concluded "The food is still great, but now all the busses are air conditioned!"



**“Sabbatical leave” is when faculty temporarily leave the university for the purpose of engaging in research or other activities that will advance their career and, upon return, enhance their teaching and research.**

### Dr. Tamara Whited’s Spring Sabbatical--France and Rapa Nui

Dr. Whited traveled to France to pursue her latest project, “French Connections to Rapa Nui.” You might be more familiar with Rapa Nui’s colonial name “Easter Island.” It was one of the remotest inhabited islands on earth and one whose people managed to avoid European contact until 1722. Following a 2019 trip to Rapa Nui, she read about the precocious French presence on the island (both travelers and permanent residents) and their critical impact on it in the 1860s and 1870s. In order to follow up on a few key individuals and read primary sources about the diplomatic history surrounding the French presence, she spent two weeks in Aix-en-Provence reading documents in the *Archives Nationales d’Outre-Mer* (ANOM), the portion of the national archives devoted to France’s former colonial empire. Although Rapa Nui never became a French colony, it almost did, as one of its early French residents certainly desired. She reported that although she did not find a treasure trove of primary sources, she did deepen her knowledge of the activities of several key individuals. In addition, she had the pleasure of discovering the lovely, renovated-medieval city of Aix-en-Provence. She faced a few small challenges, including catching Covid on the way over (though fortunately it was a light case), and facing two days of closure at the archives due to the protests over President Macron’s proposed reform (now law) of the retirement system. Those days off did give her more time to explore Aix, so no loss. And she notes, no, the French are not lazy and yes, their reasons for protesting the retirement reform are more complicated than you may think and she’s more than happy to discuss! You may email her at [twhted@iup.edu](mailto:twhted@iup.edu).



### Dr. Lippert’s National Security-focused Sabbatical Project

Dr. Lippert’s project examines energy security and energy dependencies in a national security framework—an expansion of his 20-year research in economic diplomacy and the focus of his first book and numerous articles. His current project explores how the Carter administration handled the increased need for energy imports after the oil crisis of the early 1970s in the framework of NATO and assesses how the United States responded to Western Europe’s plans to help develop Soviet oil and gas fields and construct a pipeline in gas-for-pipeline deals that made Europeans dependent on Soviet energy for decades. The debate over where we source our energy, in what form, at what cost, and how secure the supply can be, will become more nuanced and is sure to gather global interest. Dr. Lippert notes one of the challenges of doing contemporary history is the politicization of your findings. If you conclude that President Carter was justified in trying to block the pipeline projects because they created a rift in NATO, you will have German historians argue how wonderful these projects were – or vice versa. After his presentation on Putin weaponizing energy trade several years back, a British historian complained that Americans always come up with unfounded threats to make Europeans fall in line. Since then, recent events over the war in the Ukraine have vindicated his findings and demonstrated that Putin did pursue aggressive policies and that Western Europe does have a problematic dependency on Soviet energy. While his topic is quite relevant to the current political debates, it brings with it a trove of conflicting opinions.



## Dr. Mazak Kahne and Dr. Conlin, co-principal investigators for two grant funded projects

IUP's two public historians, Dr. Jeanine Mazak Kahne and Dr. Erin Conlin, are currently working on two grant-funded projects. The first project, "Indiana County History and Memory," is centered on creating partnerships with heritage institutions in Indiana County. They are surveying these institutions to find out more about their collections, programming, and interests. They will use this data to create a digital repository that highlights their offerings and helps current and potential patrons more easily access the information. Additionally, based on their interests and our areas of expertise, they will host workshops to support the staff and patrons in their public history-oriented initiatives. Dr. Mazak Kahne specializes in archives, museums, local history research and genealogy. Dr. Conlin specializes in oral and digital history.

The second project, "Untold Stories," is in partnership with faculty from Anthropology, Geography, the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. It seeks to tell the untold stories of the state's parklands. Their current project focuses on a former African American settlement outside Johnstown in what is now Laurel Ridge State Park. They are currently working with one undergraduate history major, Reagan Gordon, and several graduate students in anthropology and geography to collect primary source material and map the site. Dr. Conlin also hopes to conduct oral history interviews with descendants and community members who remember this site. (Please contact her if you are familiar with the site's history and would like to share your memories! [elconlin@iup.edu](mailto:elconlin@iup.edu))



Jeanine Mazak Kahne (above); Erin Conlin (below)



## Student Achievements: Sam Bigham



Junior Sam Bigham won two honors this year, including the History Department's Slobodnick Memorial Scholarship and the Outstanding Oral Presentation Award for the IUP Undergraduate Research Forum. At the forum he presented his paper, "The Frustrated Revolutionary: Wang Jingwei, the Keys to Power in Republican China, and the Limits of Revolution" from Dr. Baumler's Modern China class. Sam's paper argued the 1911 Revolution in China promised to replace imperial rule with a Western-style democracy, but the country has remained authoritarian to this day partly due to the nature of Chinese politics following the revolution. He contends instability lessened the importance of formal institutions and law, making military power more important and the country ripe for authoritarian rule. Chiang Kai-Shek became the supreme leader of China and the Guomindang Party because of his ruthlessness. Leaders who support a move towards democracy, such as Wang Jingwei, are much less likely to come to power in these kinds of environments because they are usually uninterested in taking authoritarian measures.

## Scholarship and award winners for AY 2022-23

### The Kadlubowski Memorial Scholarship

The Kadlubowski Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year to a student who plans to pursue a career in teaching. The scholarship is given in honor of Dr. Jack Kadlubowski, who taught the history of Russia and Eastern Europe at IUP for 36 years, from 1967 until his death in 1999.

**Alexandra Dubites**

### The Eric Slebodnik Memorial Scholarship

The Eric Slebodnik Memorial Scholarship is awarded each year to a student who demonstrates a commitment to civic engagement at the local, national, or global level. The scholarship is given in honor of Sergeant Eric Slebodnik, a history major who was called to active duty during his junior year and was killed in action in Ramadi, Iraq on September 29, 2005.

**Sam Bigham, Sydnee Miller, and Abigail Vinson**

**Alice Schuster Award** for Outstanding Achievement in the B.A. Program in History.

**Jonathan Ashton Eckert**

**Judith McDonough Award** for Outstanding Achievement in the Social Studies Education Program.

**Spencer Coy and Nicholas Skwarko**

### Charles D. Cashdollar History Scholarship

The Charles D. Cashdollar History Scholarship is given each year given in honor of Charles Cashdollar who taught history at IUP from 1969 to 2005.

**Mason Tarabori**

### Joseph M. Mastro Memorial Scholarship

The Joseph M. Mastro Memorial Scholarship is awarded to student(s) enrolled full time pursuing a Social Studies, BSEd degree. It is awarded in honor of Joe Mastro who taught history at both the high school level and as a professor at IUP from 1969 to 1989.

**Spencer Coy and Nicholas Skwarko**

### Topics paper award

Each year an award is given to the student whose paper is selected as the best paper in the topics courses for the academic year. The winning paper is selected on the basis of the strengths of the paper's thesis and research, as well as the quality of writing, arguments and documentation.

**Lorilie Blöse**

**"The Effects of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act"**

**College of Fine Arts and Humanities Dean's Merit Scholarships**

**Kaylee Becker-George and Megan Gent**



All of our scholarships and awards are supported by donations from alumni and friends of the History Department. To make a donation please contact the department or contact the Office of Annual Giving at 724-357-5555 or email [iup-giving@iup.edu](mailto:iup-giving@iup.edu).

Awardees in attendance at the spring graduation gathering (from left to right): Sam Bigham, Sydnee Miller, Jonathan Ashton Eckert, Nicholas Skwarko, and Spencer Coy.

## Alumni Interview

**Barry Rudel has worked for various non-profits and is now the Executive Director of the Jewish Cemetery and Burial Association.**

### What do you do for a living?

I spent my entire career in fundraising—mostly major gift development and funding priorities—for Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank, the American Cancer Society, Heinz History Center, with the bulk of my early career spent in Jewish causes, including the Weitzman Institute of Science both in Palm Beach County and in Canada. The last four years, I've been working for the Jewish Cemetery and Burial Association.

I'm involved with the development of the largest Jewish cemetery association between New York and Chicago. Western PA is unique with the number of Jewish cemeteries: 85 in western PA. Cleveland has 15 Jewish cemeteries Pittsburgh has 45. The Hill District and many of the towns with natural resources are unique. Even though they were considered small towns, they had rather large Jewish communities. So, Western PA is unique and the leadership of the Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh has taken the lead in cemetery work. As the chairmen and committee members began aging out in these communities and in these associations in Pittsburgh, the Jewish community knew that it would fall on their plate. So, the enhanced Cemetery Association has been real priority. You can learn more about this project and watch "[Road Trip: The Jewish Cemeteries of Western Pennsylvania.](#)"

### How did you get from IUP to the career you have now?

I applied to a number of nonprofits and my first job was with United Jewish Appeal. It's basically been bigger campaigns and bigger cities since then. I always wanted to come back to Western PA.

### Looking back, what do you find most rewarding about your time at IUP?

I would say the outstanding close friendships with so many people from around the region, a great learning environment, and a beautiful campus. A number of us lived in what was called the Peeler Building; it was most rewarding.

### How has your background in history helped you?

It has helped me immensely and immeasurably. The background in history affords one an ability to work in development as social history. It is more fascinating than fiction. The best fundraisers are good listeners and often donors like to speak about their own experiences. So, a background in history affords a lifelong passion and pursuit in touring, and in reading about American history, Pennsylvania History, and the Jewish American experience. It's so richly intertwined with the development of Western PA.



**Barry Rudel, class of 1981**

### Are there things you wish you had known or done differently before you started your career?

I thought I was well prepared by IUP and the professors. I was involved with a number of organizations on campus, so the first job was like an extension of that. I was involved with the History Club, then the visiting theologian series, and also with the Young Democrats. The professors were great, and I want to mention doctors Cashdollar and Marcus, and Wayne Smith.

### What advice would you give to IUP history students who want to pursue a career like yours, or IUP history students in general?

Thirty or forty years ago, if somebody said that their child wanted to be a fundraiser, it would be almost like a joke. But I think it's so important to provide development experience and fundraising experience for important initiatives, nonprofits, and educational institutions. It's an outstanding career. It is sales with a mission, and one meets wonderful people. It really makes a difference. It's not for everybody. One does need to have thick skin when working with a pool of prospects, but it's great work.

### Have you read any good books lately?

One is Charles Cashdollar's book on IUP which is wonderfully written and really captures the history of the institution. I also like Ron Chernow and recently read his book on Ulysses S. Grant.



## Alumni Interview

**Camille Kaszubowski will join the faculty at Seton Hill University in Fall 2023, as an Assistant Professor of History.**

### What do you do?

I completed a Ph.D. in History in 2022, and I am currently the 2022-2023 Program in Early American Economy and Society Postdoctoral fellow at the Library Company of Philadelphia, where I am conducting research in order to turn my doctoral dissertation into my first book. From 2016-2022, I worked as an adjunct instructor at the University of Delaware, designing and teaching courses for the History Department.

### What do you find most rewarding or challenging about your career?

Research and teaching are both central to my career. My research centers on the lives of "ordinary" Pennsylvania women who lived through the American Revolution. They did not leave large collections of personal papers behind, so I have to reconstruct their lives through more fragmented sources. This research is quite time consuming, but it is also the most rewarding part of my research. Teaching presents a variety of challenges from designing new courses to ensuring I present complex ideas clearly to students. I find it especially rewarding when I can show students how even the smallest pieces of historical evidence matter a great deal or that "ordinary" individuals' daily lives are just as crucial to understanding the past as the biographies of more famous historical examples.

### How did you get from IUP to the career you have now?

I graduated from IUP in 2013 with a B.A. in History, minored in Women's Studies, and was a student in the Cook Honors College. Early on as an undergraduate, I knew that I wanted to attend graduate school for history. In addition to coursework, I also completed independent studies and an Honors Thesis, all of which helped strengthen my applications to graduate programs. I began my studies at the University of Delaware in Fall 2013, and I earned my M.A. (2015) and Ph.D. (2022) in History at UD. During graduate school, I also worked as a teaching assistant and adjunct instructor and held several research fellowships. These jobs prepared me well for the academic job market.

### Looking back, what do you find most rewarding about your time at IUP and how has your background in history helped you in your career?

IUP's History curriculum and faculty provided me with a strong set of research and writing skills and the opportunity to take a breadth of courses that prepared me well for graduate study. My Honors Thesis enabled me to conduct independent research and work closely with a faculty advisor over the course of several semesters. Dr. Wayne Bodle advised my thesis, taught me how to locate and interpret sources from a wide range of archives, and guided my first substantial piece of historical writing. With support from the Honors College, I spent a summer researching in southeastern Pennsylvania,



**Camille Kaszubowski, class of 2013**

and while I was there, I met archivists, librarians, and other scholars of early American history. The connections I made during that research trip have continued to be important to my professional development and scholarship. I also presented part of the research I completed for my thesis at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania Historical Association. I remained involved with that organization and am now a current member of the PHA's Council. The thesis project gave me my first glimpse at what being an academic historian would be like, and solidified my intention to pursue graduate study. This experience was crucial to my successful graduate school applications, and it formed a strong foundation for my continued research and writing in the field of early American history.

### What advice would you give to IUP history students who want to pursue a career like yours, or IUP history students in general?

For those thinking about graduate school or a career in academic history, a thesis is a good way to see if you like doing research. Talk to current or recent graduate students about their experiences. Graduate study is a significant time commitment (I spent 9 years working on my M.A. and Ph.D.), so learning as much as possible about the experiences of students and expectations in a potential program is important.

Consider taking other kinds of classes or pursue interests that are important to you. I played flute as a member of the IUP Concert Band and am grateful I continued playing music. I met a lot of other students as well as the faculty in the Music Department, and I enjoyed performing in concerts.

Finally, the IUP History faculty were and have remained supportive and wonderful mentors. Take the time to talk to faculty both in the History department and across IUP.

## Alumni Interview

**Alicia Britton, Document Management Associate at the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (PWSA)**

### What do you do?

I assist with day-to-day records management of current and new records, management of our archival collection, and I also perform records requests for employees seeking historical information about a particular piece of water or sewer infrastructure. One of my main duties is assisting in the upkeep of our digital document management system, which means I am constantly finding records that need to be digitized and indexed so that employees can have access to them. This also entails teaching people how to use our archival collection and how to utilize the records that we have digitized thus far. On a daily basis, I do any number of varied tasks, which helps to keep my job interesting as I am never quite sure what I will be working on during the course of a work day.

### What do you find most rewarding or challenging about your career?

Until a few years ago when my colleague and I were brought on, there was no organized records management program at PWSA. It was a huge undertaking to identify and organize records that had never been catalogued in any way. Some of them had been boxed up for 30 or 40 years and were never touched! After several years of sifting through old boxes and closets, we have found and identified the majority of PWSA's records. We can now successfully help employees locate pertinent information needed to complete their daily work and respond to water and sewer emergencies. It's really rewarding to know that the work I do on a daily basis helps not only my colleagues, but it also has an impact on the customers that PWSA serves.

### How did you get from IUP to the career you have now?

I took an introductory course to public history at IUP where we explored various types of career opportunities within the field. The field of archives really appealed to me and I decided I wanted a career in the field but wasn't quite sure how to go about it. I decided to take a year off after I graduated, and I eventually decided to pursue a Master's in Library and Information Science at the University of Pittsburgh (2018). While I was there, I interned in the Preservation Department within the University of Pittsburgh Archives. I learned how to perform basic book repairs and archival preservation treatments. When that internship was done, I was hired temporarily to complete the work I had started. I still continue to do book repair and archival preservation work through my Etsy shop ([ArchivistAlicia](#)), where I make custom archival enclosures for books, photographs, and family mementos or heirlooms.

While I was in school for my Master's degree, I concentrated in archival studies and did an internship that gave me experience working in an archive. After that, I knew



**Alicia Britton, class of 2016**

that being an archivist was the right choice for me. The job I have now combines historical archives with current records management, so I am able to see the whole lifecycle of a record as it is created and archived in real time. Although this job may not be considered a "traditional" archivist job, I couldn't pass it up, as it allowed me the opportunity to help develop a records management program and to process an archival collection that had never been organized or catalogued before.

### What was most rewarding about your time at IUP?

The most rewarding thing about my time at IUP was a connection I made with one of my professors, Dr. Mazak Kahne. If it weren't for her, I may not have considered archives as a career path. The advice and guidance I received from her, especially towards the end of my time at IUP, was truly valuable to me as I was considering what to do after graduation.

### What is my advice to IUP History students?

My biggest piece of advice is to look outside of the traditional information pathways and job boards, because you never know where you may find a job that suits your interests or skills. Looking in places that are a little bit outside of your normal searches may also mean that there isn't as much competition for a particular job. If I hadn't widened my search parameters, I never would have found my current job.

### Have I read any good books recently?

One book I read recently that I can't stop thinking about is *The Radium Girls* by Kate Moore. It tells the story of women who worked in factories that used radium paint to produce items, like clocks, that would glow in the dark. It touches on many themes including women's history, labor history and factory work, and the legal system in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. If the story catches your attention there's also a stage play, a documentary, and a movie.

*Congratulations to Alicia who married Joseph Sawchak this month!*



## Networking: Alumni/Student Connections

### Alicia Britton hired current IUP undergraduate Olivia Wanat as an archival intern for the PWSA

This spring alumna Alicia Britton contacted IUP's two public historians, Dr. Mazak Kahne and Dr. Conlin letting them know the Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority was posting a (PAID!) internship position with hybrid working flexibility and encouraged IUP history majors with an interest in archives and records management to apply. Olivia applied and was accepted for the position. Olivia is a History BA and a student in the Cook Honors College.

When asked about her internship experience, she responded that the internship is going very well and is a great learning experience both in terms of the work and informative about the kind of career she would like to pursue someday. As part of the archival team, she labels and transfers files for digital storage, scans documents, organizes materials for archival storage, and preserves historic documents. She found that "The experience definitely prepares me for life working in an office and for the typical issues that archivists come across,



**Olivia Wanat, projected graduation date: Spring 2024**

like organizing messy documents and making things easily accessible to people. But I've realized I'm interested in more hands-on public history for my career. Doing research, writing exhibits, and a more anthropological angle. I enjoy doing research about communities and people, so I hope to pursue that."

### Are you interested in helping our current IUP students network and pursue potential career opportunities? If so, please contact Dr. Erin Conlin ([elconlin@iup.edu](mailto:elconlin@iup.edu)), our departmental internship coordinator.

We are always looking for internship opportunities for our students in Pennsylvania and outside the state. In particular, we are looking to expand our relationships with non-public history alumni, institutions, organizations, government agencies, and companies so that students interested in studying history, but pursuing careers outside the field, can get some hands-on work experience through internships.

## News from Our Alumni

### Gilbert Gott '70

(picture right: center left, blue shirt) After 22 years as Executive Director of the Plant City Photo Archives & History Center, I retired as of March 31, 2022. I had earlier taught history at Hillsborough Community College. I have recently started the Writers in Residence Program at the History Center where we continue to provide historical research and writing for the organization. On September 27, 2021, upon the announcement of my retirement, the City of Plant City honored me with a Proclamation for my years of community service.



### Carolyn (McGlew) Klawitter '76

Since March 1, 2015, I have been working part-time as a guide at Hagley Museum, here in Wilmington, DE. It's where E.I. du Pont started his black powder factory along the Brandywine Creek, in 1802, which later evolved into the giant chemical company, DuPont.

### Chis Conrath '76

I left my job and started teaching in 2003 (Brandywine Heights Area School District). I mostly taught in 5th grade. What I enjoyed most was actually being the 5th grade Social Studies and History teacher for several years. I taught students early American history up to the end of the Revolutionary War. I retired in 2021.

### Edward Shephard '96

I was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor of Education at Bethany College in 2022. I have also taught several U.S. History courses in addition to Education courses at Bethany.

**Rea Redd '76**

Director of Eberly Library and Director of Paul R. Stewart Museum, Waynesburg University. Books: *Altars to Amputations: Gettysburg Churches Become Battlefield Hospitals*, Publication date June 2023.



Dr. Whited at Ahu Tongariki, Rapa Nui (Easter Island).

Send us a picture of you at a historic site or rocking your IUP t-shirt in an interesting location!

IUP Department of History  
304 Jane E. Leonard Hall  
981 Grant Street  
Indiana, PA 15705

Are you willing to be interviewed for our Alumni Interview feature? Want to come talk to our students about your career at our Spring conference? Let us know. We welcome any information about what you are up to. Information or queries can be sent to.

Alan Baumler <baumler@iup.edu>