



Johannes Moreelse *Clio-Muse of History*

Indiana University of Pennsylvania History Department

Alumni Newsletter

2021

Greetings from the History Department. Another very unusual academic year has now come and gone.

The fall and spring semester was again a very different time for the department as faculty members had to offer their traditional face-to-face classes in an online format. We were very pleased how successfully the history faculty handled this change, and how well our students responded to these new challenges. Dr. Lippert was able to offer History Day as a virtual event, and Dr. Baker created another graduation video that we watched together during a Zoom get-together to celebrate our graduates. We are keeping our fingers crossed as the department plans for a more traditional fall semester with in-person classes. While our classes will hopefully be more normal, the department is facing some very significant changes next year as IUP undergoes its restructuring which will impact personnel, facilities, and curriculum. For more details on these changes be sure to check out the sections on NextGen and Jane Leonard.

As always, we are very pleased that our existing scholarships (the Eric Slebodnik Memorial Scholarship, the John F. Kadlubowski Memorial Scholarship, the Frank and Jean Yosie Scholarship, the Charles Cashdollar Scholarship, and the Irwin Marcus Go and Do Fund) provide invaluable financial assistance to our deserving majors – particularly during these very trying times. 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

IUP NextGen

IUP's NextGen restructuring plan will lead to several changes for the History Department and our programs. One is that the College of Humanities and Social Sciences has been restructured, and we will be joining a new college - the College of Arts and Humanities which will consist of the departments of Art and Design, English, Foreign Languages, History, Music, Philosophy & Religious Studies, Political Science, and Theatre, Dance & Performance. The CHSS building is also being renamed as Jane E. Leonard Hall. Jane Leonard worked at IUP for forty-six years, serving as preceptress (Dean of Women) and taught History, Geography, and English literature (See "A New Home for History" below). Perhaps most unfortunately, we are losing a number of faculty and staff. Three faculty members have retired (Drs. Arpaia, Franklin-Rahkonen, and Schroeder), and one is resigning (Dr. Baker). With the restructuring, department secretary positions were eliminated, so we will be losing Denise Gryczuk, the long-time face of our department for students, who is moving to the Business College.



Denise Gryczuk

Denise Gryczuk has worked at IUP since 1987 and in the History Department since 2006. She worked for many years at the Admissions Transfer Services Office, with some time spent in International Studies, Career Services, Vocational Personnel, Scheduling, and other offices during her more than 33 years of service at the university.

Denise loved her department faculty and students. They all became extended family to her. Having to leave the department broke her heart. Other than working with the faculty and students on a daily basis, one of her favorite parts of her job was working graduation and seeing her "kids" move on with their lives. It was her hope to retire from the department. Each of the faculty are very special to her in their unique way. She will greatly miss the History Department very much and hopes that the students and faculty will keep in touch. Denise has been reassigned to the Center for Leadership and Academic Student Success (CLASS) in the Eberly College of Business.



Dr Paul Arpaia earned his Ph.D. from Georgetown University and was the department's specialist on Italy and Central Europe

Dr. Arpaia will fondly remember teaching Italian and German history as well as European history surveys at IUP. He will also happily recall his interactions with the History Club and Phi Alpha Theta. He enjoyed bringing in speakers, in particular Holocaust survivors, to participate in Holocaust Awareness Day. He remains involved in a Jewish-Christian dialog in an effort to break down stereotypes regarding Jews and keeps informed of ongoing research pertaining to Jewish history.

He remains an officer of the Society of Fellows of the American Academy in Rome and continues to contribute to its endeavors, which are currently focusing on increasing the membership's inclusivity in terms of race and gender.

Dr. Arpaia is focusing on improving his health as he moves into retirement. He hopes to move to a warmer climate once the opportunity presents itself. He welcomes communication and would love to hear what alumni are up to. Readers may contact him at paularpaia@mac.com.



Dr Christine Baker earned her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin and was the department's specialist on the Middle East.

When I think about what I achieved at IUP, a lot of it is about helping to create a more tightly-knit history department community. A lot of the work I did (History Happy Hour, the nascent mentor program, History Ambassadors, social media, club advising) really focused on trying to create a clear 'History department community' where students could feel a part of something and have a safe place to go when they had questions, concerns, or just wanted company. I loved how so many people in the department got involved in that -- the ongoing presence of puzzles, coloring books, and craft projects is one of the things I miss most about being 'in person' on campus. Part of my goals were about student retention, of course, but a lot of it was just about making a nice place where students and faculty would want to be.

From the perspective of my work on topics related to the Middle East, I was really happy at how I was able to teach so many classes related to the modern Middle East. Although not my specific specialty, it was gratifying to get so many students who were going into politics, history, government work, and criminal justice who wanted to actually learn more about the Muslim world and Islam. Although Dr. Baker is relocating to Vancouver, Canada, she will be teaching classes on-line for the department in Fall 2021.



Dr. Sharon Franklin-Rahkonen earned her Ph.D from the University of Indiana at Bloomington and was the department's specialist on Scandinavia and Eastern Europe.

Asked about her fondest memories in her 31-year stint in the History Department at IUP, Dr. Franklin-Rahkonen immediately replied, "The people!" She has thoroughly enjoyed working with all of her colleagues, those already retired and those still working. She finds it difficult to choose just a few fond memories. One was the surprise baby shower for her second daughter, Elisabeth, in 1996. A more recent experience is the trip to China, organized by Dr. Wang Xi, to present a paper at a conference. Seven of the faculty attended, half of the department. Not only was she able to attend this inspiring conference, spend time sightseeing with colleagues, and see the Great Wall of

China, but she also was carefully and kindly taken care of by them when she got sick. Dr. Erin Conlin graciously stayed with her in the hospital and accompanied her, escorted by Dr. Alan Baumler, to the airport the next day to fly home. The many trips to the Pennsylvania Council for the Social Studies with Dr. Soo Lu and the social studies majors were always fun.

Dr. Franklin-Rahkonen has many interests to occupy her time in retirement. She is on the board of three scholarly (or semi-scholarly) organizations, so they will all benefit from her having more time to donate. She and her husband are very involved with church work, and they both expect to put more effort into that. And, of course, once the pandemic recedes enough, they plan to start travelling again. She has a number of trips planned in her head; she just needs the free time to be able to do them.



Dr. Steven Schroeder earned his Ph.D from the University of Pittsburgh and was the department's specialist on Military history and Medieval Europe.

Dr. Schroeder has taught at IUP since 1989, and over those years has taught a wide range of history classes. His training was unique in that it included American history and medieval history, allowing him to teach many different classes as needed by the department. As the department liaison to the branch campus at Punxsutawney, Dr. Schroeder taught history classes to a numerous students at Punxsutawney and was their introduction to college history. On main campus, while he also taught introductory history classes for non-majors, he also taught Western Civilization, Roman History, Medieval History, Military History, the History of Baseball, and World War II. In addition, Dr.

Schroeder, served as the departmental liaison with IUP's ROTC. To properly prepare himself for this role, he spent a number of weeks at West Point receiving training on the teaching of military history which allowed him to create the military course required of IUP ROTC cadets, and which proved to be extremely popular with both cadets and non-majors.

A new home for History

The building that the History Department now calls home has a new name—and a very welcome and appropriate one. After five years known only generically as the Humanities and Social Sciences Building, it will now be Jane E. Leonard Hall. This makes it the third campus building to bear her name. The first, built in 1903, was totally destroyed by fire in April 1952. Its replacement opened in 1954 and was recently torn down to make way for a new science building.

Jane Leonard was Indiana's guiding star—"the soul of the school"—from its opening in 1875 until her retirement in 1920. People attributed to her an identifiable "Indiana Spirit and Culture," an unyielding commitment to excellence. An 1883 alumnus, making connections that many history graduates will be able to identify, wrote, "Every school of note owes its prestige to some great personality. Rugby had its Arnold, Harvard its Eliot, Princeton its McCosh, and Cornell its White. It is in this way that I think of Miss Leonard." A 1915 graduate used an even more familiar analogy: Miss Leonard was to Indiana as George Washington was to America. Known affectionately as "Aunt Jane," she continued to live in her apartment in Sutton Hall until her death in 1924.

Placing her name on our building is certainly appropriate for the entire university, but it has special meaning for us historians—Jane Leonard was IUP's first history teacher. She was hired to teach history and geography and to be the preceptress, which meant she was responsible for mentoring the students' lives outside the classroom as well as within. After a year or so, English literature replaced geography as her second field but considering that she titled her literature course "The History of English Literature," we can be sure she was always a historian first. She published very little—a history of Indiana Normal School in 1888, an article on Queen Elizabeth and the Earl of Leicester, and another on the education of children orphaned by the Civil War. Instead, her energy went into her administrative work and her teaching. She was, by all accounts, a magnetic teacher. One alumna recalled, "When she left the textbook and told us, in that entertaining way of hers, tales of people, history lived before us."

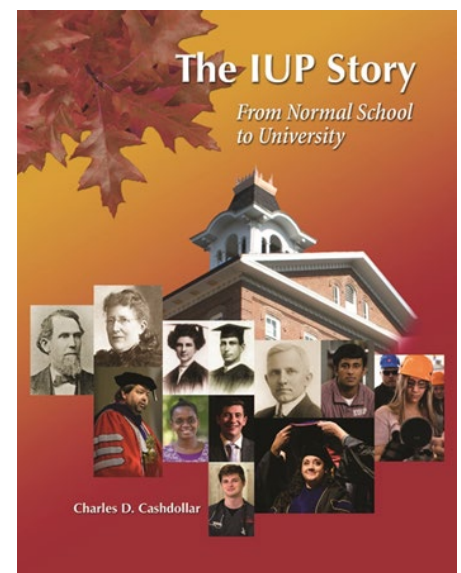
The building's new name has a second connection to the history department. The impetus for the renaming was Emeritus Professor of History Charles Cashdollar's soon-to-be-published IUP history, which makes a compelling case for Leonard's significance. In recognition of that, the trustees decided to place her name on the building.



The IUP Story - now available

Charles Cashdollar's *The IUP Story: From Normal School to University* is now available for pre-order! Nobody loves history books as much as history students, and this is an interesting topic from an interesting writer. More information at the link.

<http://www.tinyurl.com/7uebjc8z>



Alumni Interview

Michael Dean Berkheimer graduated from IUP in 2006 and earned a J.D. from Penn State in 2009.

He is currently a trial attorney for the National Labor Relations Board

What do you do?

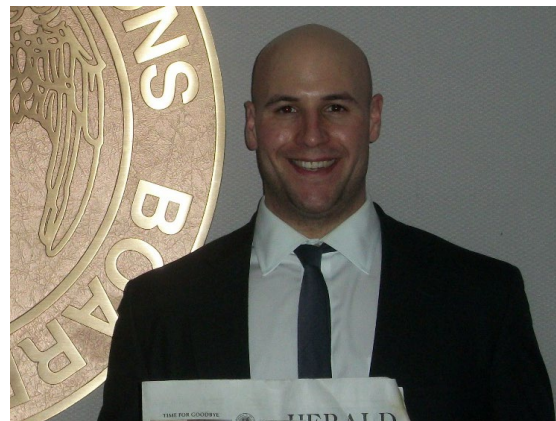
Since graduating from Penn State Law in 2009, I have worked in the Headquarters of the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, D.C. I was hired at the NLRB as an Honors Attorney and rotated through each of the General Counsel offices in that capacity. In 2011, I accepted a position as a trial attorney in the Contempt, Compliance and Special Litigation Branch of the NLRB and continue that work to the present.

What do I do? The simple answer is: I ensure that parties – unions, businesses or individuals – comply with judgments issued by Circuit Courts of Appeal enforcing decisions and orders of the NLRB. This is most often accomplished by the filing of a contempt petition alleging that a party failed to take certain actions and is therefore in contempt of a judgment. If the failure to comply with a judgment concerns the failure to pay backpay, benefits or fines, I search for and execute upon assets. Lastly, I do a small amount of work protecting the NLRB's money judgments against discharge in bankruptcy. I've litigated cases in the Court of Appeals for the First, Third, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, Eleventh and DC Circuits and approximately two dozen federal district courts.

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

I entered IUP with the intention of being a high school history teacher, but my plans quickly changed when I discovered that, while I loved history – and still do – I did not love the classroom. I considered both graduate school and law school and settled on law school because I would have more choice over geographic location. I grew up in southern Blair County and wanted to work at a small firm somewhere in central or western Pennsylvania.

After my first year at Penn State Law, I asked my professor of civil procedure for a letter of recommendation to apply for a judicial clerkship. During this conversation, my professor – who, unbeknownst to me, also taught Labor Law and Employment Law – learned that I had worked in a paper factory during my undergraduate summers. She thought that this work experience would provide me a firm foundation for understanding the realities of workplace law and offered me a job as a research assistant. That job led to a fellowship with the United Steel Workers during my 2L summer. And from there to the NLRB. Although I've been in the DC area for almost 12 years, I will always be a proud central Pennsylvanian.



**Michael Dean Berkheimer BA '06
Trial Attorney, National Labor Relations Board**

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

Much legal work attempts to convince a court to issue a judgment in a particular party's favor. But a judgment, in itself, does nothing if the offending party refuses to voluntarily comply. My work, however, is wholly concerned about ensuring that the remedies in a judgment are achieved. When that happens, it is very rewarding.

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

I am eternally indebted to both the professors of the IUP History Department and the Robert E. Cooke Honors College for introducing me to the vast and wonderful intellectual heritage of which we are the heirs. I was a good student in high school, but my horizons were very small. I didn't know much about and cared even less for the world of ideas. But I had the good fortune of having Dr. Cashdollar and Dr. Botelho my freshman year. They challenged me, demanded that I be precise in what I said and wrote and be able to defend it with reasoned arguments. Through Dr. Ricketts and Dr. Marcus I became conscious of labor history. Dr. Bailey ably guided me through the writing of my history honors thesis. The critical thinking and argument building skills learned in the Honors College served me well in both law school and my legal career. But my greatest debt is to Dr. Mannard, who saw something in a kid interested in his hometown "lieutenant of history" and provided mentorship and friendship.

To all these people I say thank you. My life is much richer because of you.

Interview by Isaac Evans

Alumni Interview

Shannon LaPoint graduated from IUP in 2017. She earned a Masters in Public History from Central Connecticut State University, and is currently Guest Services Manager at the Cincinnati Museum Center

What do you do?

I currently serve as the Guest Services Manager at the Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC), located in Cincinnati, Ohio. CMC is a one-of-a-kind, multi-museum complex comprised of the Cincinnati History Museum, Museum of Natural History & Science, The Children's Museum, Robert D. Lindner OMNIMAX Theater, and Cincinnati History Library and Archives, all housed in Union Terminal, a historic Art Deco train station and National Historic Landmark. As the Guest Services Manager I oversee the operations of the call center and am responsible for advanced ticket sales, membership sales, group and program reservations, hospitality, service and sales training, systems administration and hiring. I coordinate with several departments on a regular basis to deliver top-notch service to museum guests and members all before they step foot in Union Terminal.

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

One of the most rewarding things about my career is getting to work with like minded individuals. CMC is a large institution with a huge staff all various backgrounds working towards the same goals. As part of my role, I get to serve on many committees, my favorite being the exhibits review committee. We meet once a month to review current and upcoming exhibits and after every meeting I leave feeling listened to and accomplished. If you find yourself surrounded by a staff that cares, every day on the job will be rewarding.

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

After graduating from IUP with my bachelor's in history, I moved to Hartford, Connecticut and earned a master's degree in public history from Central Connecticut State University. While completing my secondary degree, I worked for several small and large museums including, Wethersfield Historical Society, New England Air Museum, Mystic Seaport Museum, and Thames River Heritage Park Foundation. A combination of these roles plus the addition of my formal education, gave me the skills I needed to land my position at the CMC.



Shannon LaPoint B.A. '17

Guest Services Manager at the Cincinnati Museum Center

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

IUP taught me that history is more than just memorizing names and dates. I learned that through IUP's diversity of topics that there are many careers available to someone with a history degree that isn't just teacher education based.

What advice would you give to IUP history students who want to have your career or just IUP history students in general?

There are so many careers available to you if you have a history degree. Before landing in museums, I considered historic preservation, archives, exhibit design, and academic research. You name it, I thought about pursuing it. Museums are a combination of everything I wanted, and it wouldn't have been something I considered if I didn't pursue my history degree at IUP. Don't let preconceived notions of a degree keep you from exploring different avenues of your own interests.

Read any good books lately?

I recently finished reading *The Ghosts of Eden Park: The Bootleg King, the Women Who Pursued Him, and the Murder That Shocked Jazz-Age America* by Karen Abbott. *The Ghosts of Eden Park* is a historical true-crime book that tells the real story of the most successful bootlegger in American history. Abbott does a phenomenal job of including primary sources while telling the mysterious and engaging tale of Remus's bootleg empire in prohibition era Cincinnati. I love history and true crime, so this book was perfect for me since I am pretty new to Cincinnati.

Alumni Interview

Dennis Trout graduated from IUP in 1975 and earned a Ph.D. from Duke University in 1989. He is now a professor at the University of Missouri.

What do you do?

I am an ancient historian (Professor of Ancient Mediterranean Studies at the University of Missouri) but really more of a cultural historian. My research is primarily aimed at answering questions about “what happened” to the classical world of Greece and Rome. We know the Roman empire “fell”—but it was a much more complicated and protracted transformation than the term implies, and many people assume. We know too that part of the “fall” involved the “triumph of Christianity”—but that is a difficult concept to unpack. You can spend a career (and more) researching and teaching about these simple facts and I feel fortunate that I get paid to do that and to work with students and colleagues who are interested in the same and related problems and questions..

What advice would you give to IUP history students who want to have your career?

Anyone who wants a university history position now faces the reality of a challenging market and I feel obligated to say that to any student who is thinking about grad school in Classics or History. But then I always add, if you love it you have to do it. It’s really impossible to know where it may lead but it will surely be a good journey. History teaches you to think deeply and to “solve” complex problems. If you can do those things you will have the flexibility to survive psychically as well as financially.

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

I had to grow up a lot in those four years (nothing new). I made good friends that I still have and try to see as often as possible though we are scattered around the country. I had three professors who changed my life (or helped me change it) at IUP because they showed me possibilities I could not otherwise have seen. Steven Kline and Dale Landon, the ancient and medieval historians in the History Department, and Virginia Gerald in Anthropology. I’m sure they have no idea what a difference they made but I have never forgotten them and in fact think of them often. Too late, I tried to track them down to say so and was not able.



Dennis Trout B.A. '75

Professor of Professor of Ancient Mediterranean Studies at the University of Missouri

How has your background in history helped you in life? Since I am a “professional” historian myself I guess the answer to that is self-evident in large degree but that may miss the bigger point. “History” is so important to our identities and to our future and the future of the planet that I think everyone should have a second major in some form of historical study. It risks being trite to say so but every issue we face has a history and I believe we should never face those issues without understanding something about their origin and the approaches of past generations to them. Some issues have more recent histories others are as old a humankind. Why would we not want to know something about the past’s engagements on those fronts? How much duller would life be without historical memory?

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

It took a while. From IUP (1971-75) I moved on to do an MA in History at Penn State, which also required learning languages (Latin and Ancient Greek) I did not acquire at IUP. I then taught at a private High School for five (wonderful) years before going to Duke to earn a PhD (1989). My first job was at Tufts University in the Boston area (1989-2000). I have been at Mizzou (Columbia, MO) since 2000.

Read any good books lately?

Like every historian I read all the time in my field, but I also read widely in other areas. I recently read Michael Pollan’s *How to Change Your Mind* (2018) which sent me back to both Aldous Huxley’s *Doors of Perception* (1954), which I finished this morning, and E.R. Dodds’ classic, *The Greek and the Irrational* (1951). I love the way that one book leads to another and they all end up somehow in your teaching if not your publications. I also read a good bit of Bob Dylan literature and await the arrival of Clinton Heylin’s forthcoming *The Double Life of Bob Dylan*. A few months ago, I read Emma Johns’ recent *Wayfaring Stranger*, which I recommend to anyone interested in mountain music, bluegrass, and being a stranger in a strange land.

Alumni Interview

Matthew Gresick is a teacher at Reservoir High School in Elliot City Maryland. He was named the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History 2020 History Teacher of the Year for the State of Maryland.



Matthew Gresick BSED 2002

Teacher, Reservoir High School Elliot City Maryland

Could you describe your career up to this point ?

I am a 12th grade High School teacher at Reservoir High School, Maryland, teaching courses in US History, World History, AP Human Geography, Ancient History, American Government, Sociology, Leadership, and World Religions. I student-taught at Westinghouse High School in Pittsburgh and Bishop Perowne High School in Worcester, England. Recently, I received the Gilder Lehrman Institute Teacher of the Year Award, which is given annually to the educator who demonstrates a commitment to teaching American history, shows creativity and imagination in the classroom, and effectively uses documents, artifacts, historic sites, oral histories, and other primary sources to engage students.

What is so special about teaching that you stood out to receive such a prestigious reward?

Teaching is a career that requires a lot of passion. Some of my fondest moments in this field comes from students' experiential learning through projects that connect them with history on a deeper level. Such activities demonstrate how students will always remember how you made them feel. My timeline project, for instance, asks students assemble their life events into a timeline and also make predictions for their futures. One student discovered that they wanted to pursue dance, others come back and relate how my class changed them. That is highly motivating to me. To that end, I use student-centered podcasts concerning current events, Socratic seminars, and student-conducted interviews with their relatives. These activities help the students bridge the connection between history and their own lives, piquing their interests and aiding them in discussing important modern issues and events. Debates and seminars allow for a comfortable setting of controversial topics, all highly effective teaching strategies.

What do you remember of IUP's Teacher Education Program?

I remember IUP as having some of my most cherished and effective experiences preparing me for his career in Social Studies Education. My professors gave me the best and most diverse experiences, specifically being able to teach in inner city schools, middle schools, and even in England. IUP allowed me exposure to a wide range of students and methods and it is one of the best options I could have chosen for my career as a Social Studies Educator. I think back of my time there rather fondly.

What is the most rewarding experience you have in teaching?

As part of my World Religions class, I take my students on fieldtrips to a place of worship of all 8 major world religions, making them part of the 0.2% of the population that has experienced such variety of different religious places of worship, including local churches, mosques, and synagogues. Even during the pandemic, we were able to recruit people of many different faiths to speak to his students virtually. This immersive experience allows for students to be exposed to diversity on a topic that remains crucial to our social and cultural well-being, making it one of the most impactful ways I can teach the importance of religious tolerance.

What advice would you give to our upcoming teachers?

As Social Studies teachers, we have a responsibility for the greater good of society and public education. One aspect that I have been very passionate about, as a Social Studies educator, is limiting the time and priority placed on testing in public schools. Projects and activities, such as I mentioned earlier, make for the most enriching and productive forms of learning when it comes to Social Studies. History provides answers that don't fit into the little boxes of standardized testing and a lot of my passion goes into improving public education in that regard. It is this belief that drives my writings and speeches, as well as my candidacy for public office. In order for this reevaluation of public education institutions to occur, I want our posterity of Social Studies teachers to recognize and value their passion for the profession. I hope our future educators use this drive to make the next generation of the career so competitive that our students will find the most successful futures filled with tolerance and a diversified, rich view of the past.

Interview by Kaylee Long

Scholarship and award winners for AY 2020-21

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 here at IUP for 36 years, from 1967 until his death in 1999.

Kyle Canterbury

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.

Jacob Wilt

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

Claire Rodgers

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

Alexander Caldwell

Topics paper award

Each year an award is given to the student whose topics 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.

Logan Schmoyer

The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924: A Gifted or Undesired Status?

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.

News from our alumni

Jamie Bogol '10



I currently work at the IU1 central office in coal center, PA as the Secretary to the director of behavioral mental health and social work and the director of operations. With the pandemic working hybrid mode.

In my spare time I also write grants and find funds for the Brownsville Historical society. I just secured another \$30,000 to finish a Masonary project, and saving Nemaocolin castle located in Brownsville Pennsylvania. I'm also leading on a project to open another house museum and archives- hoping to open in 2023.

Eric Bonner '02

I own my own landscaping firm in Keaau, Hawaii.

Joseph Dell '15

After graduating with my Master's Degree, I went back into banking for 4 years. Now I'm working as a real estate appraiser in Ridgway, PA. The research skills I learned while a grad student at IUP have been a great help in my new profession!

Tracie Drake '97

Earned her Masters of Library and Information Science in 2011 and now works in Children's and Youth Services for the Cleveland Public Library.

Douglas Edwards

I have been working for the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the Charlotte Field Office for the past 5 years.

I serve in an operational support role, getting to do a little bit of everything. My focuses have been on legal processes, transcription and managing our records - to include answering Freedom of Information Act inquiries and helping with employment background checks.

Personally - I have been married now for 6 years and am happily residing in Charlotte, NC.



Raymond Elliot

Professionally I am currently the Special Education Compliance Monitor and Special Education Teacher at Benjamin Franklin Elementary School in Philadelphia. Personally I am currently engaged to my lovely fiancé Patrice Gaymon, also an alum of IUP.

Micayla Felicion '09

Is Chapter Relations Manager for the International Association Of Business Communicators

Thomas Fleischmann

Is Vice President of Rehab and Employment at Jewish Community Services of South Florida.

Nikki Gardner '18



Professionally, I'm teaching English Composition and ESL at Seton Hill University. I graduated with my Master in English (TESOL) from IUP in December 2020. I'm starting my PhD journey in Linguistics (sociolinguistics) at the University of Pittsburgh in August 2021! Personally, I'm remodeling a house I purchased in New Kensington, PA and I adopted a beagle this past year!

Mary Elizabeth Gasper '07

Is a Library Technician at the US Army Heritage and Education Center

Joann Grosik '00

Looking for a job!!! I have been unemployed since the pandemic. Searching for anything right now but would like to find something dealing with history.

Dale Hall '69

Is retired from a career with the U.S. Government, most recently as a Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Specialist with the Office of Professional Responsibility at the U.S. Department of Justice. Married to Linda Colaianne Hall for over 50 years. Father to son Timothy John Hall and grandfather to Lilly and Rose Hall.

Ian Heath

Teaching African / AA studies and coaching basketball in Livonia Georgia and serving as a US Naval Officer (Pilot)

Shannon LaPoint '17

Currently employed as the Guest Services Manager at the Cincinnati Museum Center, a multi-museum complex housed in Union Terminal, a historic Art Deco train station and National Historic Landmark in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mikael Lawrence '13

About to finish my 5th year of teaching in Osceola County, Florida! My wife and I who met at IUP were married in 2018 and hope to add to our family sometime in the next year or so.

Kellie (Brown) Makar '06

Still teaching history to seniors at North Catholic High School in Pittsburgh

Edward Martin '73

I am retired from my job as an elementary school counselor. Am enjoying my time with my grandkids, golfing, coaching girls basketball & am continuing to write childrens books & searching for an agent or publisher.

Joshua McConnell '13

Earned a MSLS from Clarion University in 2016. Currently an Information & Community Education Services Supervisor at Altoona Area Public Library

David A. Onorato Jr. '13

After I completed my studies in History at Indiana University of

Pennsylvania, I went on to begin a career in social work. I have done several different things. But I have been with my current company (Penn Residential Inc.) for almost 5 years where I am a manager. While I was at IUP my studies were very much focused on European history as well as Greco-Roman history. I look back at my time in college fondly as years that shaped who I became today. I often reflect back on the time I spent with Dr. Moore, Dr. Finnegan, Dr. Whited and Dr. Arpaia. I spend my time away from work with my 1 year old Siberian Husky Ted. I enjoy music, films and working out. I had began my masters program in clinical counseling but took a break due to the pandemic. I wish everyone in the History department well and thank them for instilling into me the knowledge of ethics and hard work that I have today.

Carole (Korenich) Popchok '73

Is currently living in Pittsburgh.

Katrina (Jesick) Quinn

Chair, Dept. of Strategic Communication and Media, Slippery Rock University

Brett Reigh '97

Is an archivist at the Pennsylvania State Archives.

William Ritter '72

After 34 years working in mostly minority majority schools in Prince George's County Maryland, I retired 11 years ago and moved home to Pennsylvania. I am living now in Bucks County, in an area that has a historical connection to my own family history. This is an area rich in history, particularly colonial history. Just over the hill from me is the small community of Erwinna. Arthur Erwin, from the family for whom this community was named, was the local

commander of the Bucks County militia during the Revolution. He is the one that helped General Washington acquire the Durham Boats used to cross the Delaware and attack the Hessian mercenaries in Trenton. Arthur Erwin also sent his son, Joseph, to Pennsylvania's frontier to recruit frontier riflemen for the Continental Army. One such recruit was my own 3X great grandfather, William Waddell, from nearby Saltsburg, Indiana County. My ancestor served in Erwin's Company of Pennsylvania Rifles from the Battle of Long Island, to Trenton, Brandywine and Valley Forge before returning home to Indiana County. So you can see, much of what I learned from Dr. Cashdollar has really been put to good use by me. And since I have mentioned one of my most admired instructors, I should also note Dr. Marcus. from whom I acquired my deep sense of social justice. Since my retirement I have become actively involved with the Bucks County Democratic Committee and am the Chair of a local Assembly District group of Democrats and was elected to the Pennsylvania State Democratic Committee. For several years, I served as the Deputy Chair of the Bucks County Democrats. I have never forgotten the lessons I learned from Dr. Marcus, especially regarding Labor History, the Populists and the Progressive Movement. He has continued to inspire me in my organizing to this very day. I am so grateful for the superior education I received in history from IUP.

Barry Rudel '81

Executive Director of the Jewish Cemetery and Burial Association of Greater Pittsburgh

Tyler Secosky '16

I was recently promoted at a great job at AAA Insurance and plan to buy a home with my soon-to-be wife.

William Shepherd '84



Is University Archivist and Head of Special Collection at The Catholic University of America. His recent publications include 'Lawrence Flick (1856–1938): Medical Crusader and Catholic Historian,' *American Catholic Studies* (131:3), Fall 2020, pp. 117-124. 'Hallowed Ground: Fort Ticonderoga, New York,' *Military History* (37:3), September 2020, pp 76-77.

Larry Skillin '02

I was recently promoted to Full Professor here at Saint Ambrose University. I remain the Chair of our small History Department, but I have chosen to step down as a Co-Director of the University Honors program after 6 years in that position. My hope now is to focus on revitalizing my research agenda in the years to come.

Jennifer Soliday '07



Up until October of 2020, I was a Librarian in Salt Lake County, Utah. I have recently returned to Pennsylvania and am now the Director of the Punxsutawney Memorial Library.

Sonya Stewart '96

Much of my time these days is taken up in excavating my parents' home and discovering historical treasures which I often digitally archive to Find A Grave and the Historical Society before returning the document or item to the family. My partner, Doug, and I do limited traveling in PA where we can socially distance and look forward to our next trip to Nanticoke, PA to see Concrete City.



Jed Weisberger '73

Writing as a correspondent for MLB Advanced Media and Staff Writer for New Jersey Jewish News after writing baseball for the Trenton Times for over two decades.

Send us a picture of you at a historic site and we will post it to Facebook.



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

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Want 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>