



IUP History

Alumni Newsletter

2018

Department News

Greetings from the History Department. Another busy academic year has now come and gone. The new CHSS building is finally feeling like home after so many years of the department being located in Keith. Our weekly History Happy Hour meetings in the department are going well and provide a great opportunity for our majors, prospective majors, and faculty to gather in an informal setting and get to know each other.

We are very excited that in addition to our existing scholarships, the Eric Slebodnik Memorial Scholarship and the John F. Kadlubowski Memorial Scholarship, the department has begun awarding two new scholarships, the Yosie Scholarship and the Cashdollar Scholarship, to both incoming and current students. In addition, the Irwin Marcus Go and Do Fund also began disbursing funds this year to assist students with a wide range of professional development projects, such as internships, research projects, study abroad, language acquisition, etc. Our goal in the coming year is to work to increase the funds for all of these scholarships so that we can help a greater number of students.

In faculty news, it has been another productive year for our faculty in all areas (teaching, service, and research). Each year I think that I cannot be more impressed with the History faculty, and each year they continue to exceed expectations. Dr. Wayne Bodle retired last August and while we miss him, we certainly wish him an enjoyable retirement. Knowing Dr. Bodle though, retirement will not be an excuse to slow down and take it easy, but an opportunity to devote even more time to his research.

Finally, as we plan for the next few years, the department is hoping to establish stronger relationships with our alumni. 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.



Department Chair
R. Scott Moore

Alumni Interview

Meet some of our alumni and learn what they do and how you can follow in their footsteps.

What is your current job (title) and responsibilities?

Systems & Data Manager – I oversee most systems on site and their back-end support. That includes database management, point of sale systems, member record management, online sales and website help for the museum. I also handle and liaise with many vendors for our network, such as; our IT company, phones, security company, and various database account managers. I troubleshoot many pieces of our network and perform general maintenance. I handle most everything for back-end support to keep our PCs, phones and databases running smoothly both for employees and customer facing.

What do you find most rewarding and challenging about your job?

What I enjoy most about my job is working with and interpreting data. I design from scratch many reports we use on a daily basis. It really helps us understand the health and viability of our organization; what we are doing well and what we could be doing better. I find it the most valuable part of my job. The most challenging is understanding the most technical part of how networks are configured.

What was most valuable about your academic experience at IUP?

The most valuable part of my experience at IUP was understanding how all my skills from my undergrad and graduate education could transfer to many types of work. I learned a lot about archives, databases, preservation and how to write and all of those skills are transferable to what I do now, even though I don't study history every day.



Lynn Rice MA '11

**The Frick Art and Historical Center
Pittsburgh**

If there is some advice you could give yourself when staring your degree what would it be?

I really liked how my experience concluded at IUP. I ended up graduating in 18 months; I should have told myself that was the plan all along instead of deciding to do that mid-way thru my time. Otherwise, just work hard, harder than you think you have to.

What advice would you give undergraduate students looking to go to graduate school? What do you think they should accomplish before completing their B.A.?

I'd say if you want to go, go early. The longer you wait the more life gets in the way. You may get a job, maybe a relationship, family obligations and school/education go on the back burner. It's hard to get motivated again to go back to the school environment. In the long run the higher a degree you have the more likely it is to impress employers and give you an argument to make more money.

Alumni Interview

Meet some of our alumni and learn what they do and how you can follow in their footsteps.

What is your current job (title) and responsibilities?

I'm the department head of the Community Education and Information Services department and I'm also the Library's Archivist. The combination of having to wear multiple hats and being the supervisor of a very wordy department leads to the mouthful title of Information and Community Education Services Supervisor / Library Archivist. In short, I'm a librarian. So that's usually what I tell people if they ask me.

My responsibilities consist of managing my department, which means making the schedule, dealing with personnel issues, organizing volunteers, collection development for reference and our database subscriptions, and creating programming for the public. As the library archivist, I manage that collection and help people with accessing the materials.

What do you find most rewarding about your job? Most challenging?

What I find most rewarding is when I have an impact on someone's life. Whether it's helping them with a resume and they come back to tell me they got the job, or helping someone learn a new skill in one of my educational programs. That's when I have to stand back and think this is why I went to school.

What I find most challenging is dealing with individuals who have next to no knowledge of how to work computers, but for one reason or another need to use one. This is a frustrating experience for everyone involved. It's hard to convince people that have made their minds up about technology, they need to learn how to work a computer.



Joshua McConnell MA '13

Altoona Public Library

What was most valuable about your academic experience at IUP?

I think that learning to become a professional is an underrated aspect of graduate school. I can't put my finger on one specific thing, but the ability to act, speak, write, and behave like a professional is key to success.

What advice would you give undergraduate students looking to go to graduate school?

I would probably say you don't need to rush into graduate school right after you graduate. At least not anymore. I think the economy has recovered sufficiently enough where you can look for employment after graduation and think about graduate school afterwards. A lot of employers might even provide some funding for you to go back to school. It will take longer, but this could save you a lot in the long run.

What do you think they should accomplish before completing their B.A.

I don't know if there was one specific thing I would recommend they accomplish, but I would say they should understand how to use a library—more than just checking out a book. If you're going to go to graduate school, you're going to need to do research. You're going to do most of that research at a library. If you have questions about how things work, ask one of the nice people behind the desk.

Alumni leading students

The History Department is actively seeking to introduce current majors to successful alumni and to highlight the diverse career paths an IUP history major can take after graduation (both in and outside the history field). To this end, we have started hosting an alumni panel as part of our annual spring semester History Department Conference (typically held in February).

This year we had an excellent panel of guests who opted for careers outside the field of history. Carole Popchock (Class of 1976) recently retired from a long career with Federated Investors, Inc. where she last served as Vice-President. Marc Taiani ('96) is the owner and founder of the law firm of AAAL - Allegheny Attorneys at Law. Kevin Casella ('14) works as a Project Administrator with PNC Bank. And RJ Smith ('14) is currently a graduate student at the University of Pittsburgh in the Public and International Affairs program. The panelists discussed a variety of topics ranging from general life tips to career advice for college students and soon-to-be graduates. Using their personal experiences they discussed how secure a job and develop a career.



Carole Popchock, Marc Taiani, Kevin Casella and RJ Smith Photo by Victor Smith

Hearing from successful IUP history majors is of paramount importance for our current students. It encourages them to actively think about life after graduation, and it opens their eyes to career possibilities they may not have previously considered. We are always looking for people eager to talk about how their history major prepared them for a thriving professional career.

If you are interested in participating on a future alumni panel (in person or virtually), please contact Erin Conlin, Assistant Professor of History, at elconlin@iup.edu.

Scholarship winners for AY 2017-18

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.

Kathleen (Nikki) Gardner

Michael Jones

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.

Roy Lynn

The Irwin Marcus "Go and Do" Award

The Irwin Marcus "Go and Do" award is given each year to students seeking to develop their professional and academic skills through activities such as archival research, conference presentations, and internships. The award is given in honor of Dr. Irwin Marcus, who taught labor and working-class history at IUP for 37 years, from 1965 until his retirement in 2002.

Joe Cacese

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

Michael Crimaldi

Richard Napotnik

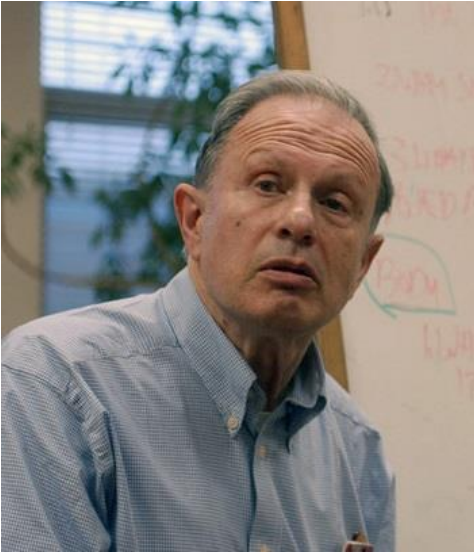
Judith McDonough Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Social Studies Education Program

Anastasia Clayton

Outstanding Graduate Student Award for Exceptional Achievement in the M.A. Program in History

Cori Woods BA '16 MA '18

All of our scholarships 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.



Dr. Irwin Marcus

Dr. Irwin Marcus (1935-2016) received his BA from Penn State University and his PhD from Lehigh University. He taught in the History Department at IUP for thirty-seven years, from 1965-2002, and was instrumental in the growth of the department. He was the first in the department to teach labor history, African-American history, urban history, and social history, which complemented his primary teaching areas of modern American history, working-class history, the history of social movements, and the history of economic thought. His mentoring of students and junior faculty, and his generosity of time and spirit and was legendary.

Dr. Marcus organized numerous conferences and workshops and brought over two hundred speakers to campus, ranging from David Montgomery, one of the founders of “new labor history” and author of *Fall of the House of Labor* to Abbie Hoffman, counterculture radical and author of *Steal This Book*. Dr. Marcus served on the Pennsylvania State Historical Marker Committee for many years,

and took a special interest in local history and in the historical societies and libraries of the small communities throughout the area.

Following his retirement, Dr. Marcus continued his commitment to education, mentoring history students and giving many popular lectures at the Indiana Free Library. In 2015, the Irwin Marcus Public History Lab was established in the new College of Humanities and Social Studies building to provide public history students with advanced technology and hands-on training and to honor Irwin Marcus’ dedication and contributions to history, to IUP, and to the community. Following his death, the Irwin Marcus “Go and Do Fund” was established to provide support for IUP history students in their pursuit of scholarly development. An award has also been established in Dr. Marcus’ memory by the Pennsylvania Historical Association for the best senior paper on a topic in Pennsylvania History submitted each year to the state History Day competition. Dr. Marcus is remembered as a generous, kind colleague and citizen, and for his famous parting line at the close of any gathering: “continue your good work.”

News from our alumni

Alyssa Barrett (nee Funk) '12.

Since graduating from IUP with my bachelors in Social Studies Education I got married (we will be celebrating 6 years in June 2018) and moved to Columbus Ohio. I have been a middle school social studies teacher at a charter school on our east side of town called Columbus Arts and Technology Academy for almost five years now. Working with an inner city demographic was never my intended career path, but I have found a great satisfaction in knowing I am working in an area that my job makes an impact. I visited campus a few years ago to see our beloved Keith Hall torn down and again this past November to see the beautiful new buildings built all around campus. IUP will always hold a special place in my heart and I am proud to be a Crimson Hawk for life!

Michael Bezilla '72

I retired in 2014 as director of research communications at Penn State University. My most recent book (November 2017) is *Branch Line Empires*, a story of the rivalry between the Pennsylvania and the New York Central railroads, from Indiana University Press (Bloomington).

Alicia Britton '16

I'm currently in the MLIS program at the University of Pittsburgh. My concentration is archives. I have an internship in the preservation department of the University of Pittsburgh library.

Andrew J. Colberg '72

After my graduation from IUP, I worked for a couple of years as a caseworker for a Children & Family Services organization and earned a Master of Education from Slippery Rock University and then worked for Butler Public Schools and the Armstrong School District in such capacities as Home & School Visitor, Supervisor of Attendance, Supervisor of Transportation and Guidance Counselor (I was employed by BASD for 7 years and retired after 27 more years with the Armstrong School District). I always felt confident that the educational preparation from the 2 universities mentioned above gave me the skills required of the various positions that I held respectively.

Douglas R. Cubbison '80

I have been the Curator of the Wyoming Veterans Memorial Museum in Casper, Wyoming since July 2013. I have previously served on the Board of the Wyoming State Historical Society; and beginning in September 2017 I have been serving as the President of the Wyoming State Historical Society. I have been working with the Anthropology Department of IUP this summer and fall, preparing a Historic Structures Report for Fort Necessity National Battlefield, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. I am also the Sheriff of the Casper Posse of Westerners International, and am on the Boards for the American Heritage Center, University of Wyoming and the Fort Caspar Museum Association. I am currently performing research on the role of Civilian Army Scouts during the Indian Wars period, 1854-1890. This summer I performed research at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania under a grant from the

AHEC Foundation; and this all I performed research at the Kansas State Archives, Topeka, Kansas under a grant from the Kansas Historical Society.

Paul Davis MA '13

I am a museum educator at Frank Lloyd Wright's Fallingwater, although I admit its a fancy way of saying tour guide. I lead groups of people through the house and explain what makes the house so special architecturally and historically. It is a joy to do what I do. People come from all over the world to see Fallingwater and seeing their reaction to such a wonderful building is amazing. I love learning about the history of everything surrounding Fallingwater and I learn new things from almost every group as well. Plus, I work at a National Historic Landmark hanging over a waterfall, what's not to love about that. In addition, I work at the Uniontown Public Library. In the library's Pennsylvania room I do a variety of work, from research to assisting researchers with what they're looking throughout Fayette County PA's history. I'm in a good place write now, I love what I do and strive for more at the same time.

Jason Fairman '03

I am a US history teacher in Northern Virginia and always interested in what is happening in the world of history education.

Nate Galiyas '05

I have taught social studies and business at the middle school and high school levels for 12 years now. In addition to teaching, I have coached football and basketball for 8 of those years. I am currently teaching 9th grade American history at Montour High School just outside of Pittsburgh, while also serving as a social studies instructor after-school in the Montour Hybrid Learning Institute.

Ernest F Kemper III '70

I earned an MBA at Youngstown State University and is currently retired. I was formerly National sales manager for the Republic Conduit division, Tenaris Corporation.

Larry Kleitches '04

I earned my first BA in History (Prelaw Track) in 2004-my advisor was Dr. Gary Bailey. I earned a Ph.D. in Geographic Education from Texas State University in 2013. I am currently teaching at Georgia State University

Ed Martin '73

I am a recently retired elementary school guidance counselor. I wrote a children's book about selective mutism (*Joseph, Froggy & Mrs. Slattery* AuthorHouse 2014) I am currently working on an elementary school guidance curriculum for publication, along with numerous other children's books. I was as Penna. School Counselors Association support group chairperson for a time. I am currently coaching girls jv basketball at Honesdale High School, my Alma Mater.

Richard Popchak '84

I moved to the west coast shortly after graduation. I absolutely love my job as the Communications and Development Director for the Ventana Wilderness Alliance a small grassroots conservation nonprofit. We work to protect some of the most beautiful public lands on the planet.

Western Pennsylvania is connected to these wildlands through the legacy of folks like Robinson Jeffers, Ed Abbey, Rachel Carson, John P. Saylor and Howard Zahniser.

Samuel J. Richards '04

My IUP education has helped me a lot along the way, especially opening the world of travel. I'm happy to say I have worked alongside people and dealt with parents with expensive, "name brand" university degrees and held my own. I took a job in rural Wicomico County on the Eastern Shore of Maryland after graduation. I have moved around a bit including Brasilia, Brazil, and western Maryland before my current position as a Humanities Teacher at Zurich International School. I also have additional responsibilities here related to curriculum development in Grades 6 through 8 as English Department Chair in the Middle School. Since leaving IUP, I completed master's degrees at Salisbury University (history) in Maryland and the University of Scranton (curriculum and instruction). I also continue to do some historical research on the side. I wrote a local church history last year and currently have my first ever journal article submission in peer review. I also stay in touch with a few History Faculty, mainly Drs. Walters and Arpaia and to a lesser extent Drs. Lu and Cashdollar.

Mike Rieg '81

I taught Social Studies in the Indiana Area School District for 35 years. I have recently retired (2016), and am living in Indiana with my wife Dr. Sue Rieg. Although retired, I continue to associate with Indiana High School as Field Experience Coordinator with the IUP-ILEP program, (International Leaders in Education Program) and Assistant track coach at Indiana High School I am proud to call myself an IUP alum and owe much to the great education I received from IUP, especially the History Department!

Cameron Smith '17

I am an alumnus of the Public History program. Since January when I had an internship with the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, I have lived in Harrisburg, PA. I was fortunate enough to gain employment with the Senate of Pennsylvania as a Journal Clerk starting in June of 2017- not bad for a "history major!" Since then, I have been enjoying the relative calm of non-academic life, and supporting my girlfriend, who is an IUP alumna herself, as she stresses her way through graduate school at Penn State Harrisburg.

I am not sure where I would be in life without the IUP History Department. Not only would I not have had the excellent tutelage of Drs. Mazak-Kahne, Mannard, Conlin, and others, but also I would have never made it out to Harrisburg, or met the love of my life (okay, maybe the History Department had less to do with that last one). I wish the very best to the faculty I do not annoy any more, and hope all is well!

Winston Tucker '89

After graduating I moved to St. Paul, Minnesota and began teaching social studies in the St. Paul Public School District. I then was promoted to Assistant Principal of a middle school and was later promoted to Middle School Principal. I am now a Senior High School principal at Highland Park Senior High School in the Saint Paul Public School District. In 1995 I earned my Masters from the University of Minnesota and in 1999 I earned my doctorate from the University of Minnesota. In addition, I teach a social studies methods course each spring semester at Metropolitan State University in the Twin Cities.

Denise Weber BS '67 MA 69

From 1969 to 1983, I taught Old World History at the Indiana Area Junior High School, and from 1983-1999, I was the instructor of Post-WWI US History and Advanced Placement European History. From 1991-2007, I was a reader for the Advanced Placement European History test. When Pennsylvania offered a "30 and out" in 1999, I had just enough time to retire at age 52 and haven't looked back since. I self-published a history of my hometown of Vintondale called "Delano's Domain: A History of Warren Delano's Mining Towns of Vintondale, Wehrum, and Claghorn, Volume I, 1789-1930. Unfortunately, Volume II was never completed and an Arcadia Images of America: Vintondale was its substitute. Several years ago, I donated mining photos, UMWA records, Vinton Colliery Company documents and other items to the IUP archives so they are properly preserved and available for researchers. I have had a life outside of education and research. I married Thomas Weber in 1969, and we have three children and two granddaughters. Presently, I am researching the history of St. Thomas More University Parish and Student Center for its 50th anniversary this fall.

Cody Wells '14

After graduation in 2014 I served for two years with AmeriCorps, working with students in an English Language Arts tutoring program. In 2016 I was hired as a full-time social studies teacher in the Brookville Area School District. I currently teach 8th grade Civics and Government. I am also a co-advisor for our school's History Club.

Aside from teaching I am working towards a Master's Degree from Sam Houston State University. My degree will be in History and my focus is on Early American History.

I enjoy travelling and, thanks to some professional development opportunities, have recently been to New York City, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and Gettysburg.

Chris Zayachak '96

I graduated in the class of 1996 and have been teaching American History for the past 20 years at Penns Manor Area Junior/Senior High School.

Buy A Shirt!

Get yourself an IUP History T-shirt!
You too can be "Studying the Past,
Shaping the Future " in one of these
elegant red on gray shirts

Shirts can be ordered from Denise
Gryczuk, our Department Secretary.

Denise Gryczuk
<dgryczuk@iup.edu>

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



IUP
History

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We are glad to be publishing the IUP History Alumni Newsletter again. We plan to publish it at least once a year in the future, and we need your contributions. 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.

Denise Gryczuk <dgryczuk@iup.edu>

or

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