

History Department Newsletter

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**Stetson
University
History
Department**

Volume 5, Issue 6

Spring 2020– Spring 2022

History Department Faculty & Staff

Paul Croce, Professor

Mayhill Fowler, Associate Professor

Eric Kurlander, Professor

Emily Mieras, Associate Professor

Nicole Mottier, Associate Professor

Kimberly Reiter, Associate Professor

*Leander Seah, Associate Professor &
Department Chair*

Margaret Venzke, Associate Professor

Caitlyn Bishop, Administrative Specialist

Work Study Student Assistants

Madison Goff, Senior, Office Assistant

Catherine Kraft, Junior, Office Assistant

Devin Hernandez, Office Assistant

Mary Brandt, Office Assistant

Diana Rodriguez, Junior, Media Specialist

Honorable mentions:

Isaac Ebury, Senior, Assisted 11/21-2/22

Trenten Ward, Senior, Assisted 5/21-9/21



Letter from the Chair

Dear Friends of History,

We are pleased to revive the publication of the History Department newsletter, which had lapsed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I am also grateful for the opportunity to write my first chair's letter to you since taking over as the History Department Chair from Dr. Emily Mieras in August 2019. The period between the publication of the previous newsletter in Spring 2019 and this one has been an eventful one. Firstly, two colleagues have resigned from the History Department for greener pastures. Mary Bernard, our departmental administrative support specialist for over 7 years (since April 2014) resigned in May 2021 to focus on her Master of Science in Clinical Mental Health Counseling degree at Stetson, which she completed in December 2021. Also, Dr. Candace Cunningham, our Brown Teacher Scholar Fellow in Public History, resigned from her visiting position in May 2020 for a better job elsewhere, a tenure-track assistant professorship at Florida Atlantic University. We are very grateful for their contributions, congratulate them on moving on to better career opportunities, and wish them well in their future endeavors! Secondly, we are thrilled to warmly welcome Mary's replacement, Caitlyn Bishop, who joined us in May 2021! Like Mary, Caitlyn is a Stetson alumna, and our newsletter includes a short introductory profile about Caitlyn.

History students have continued to do very well. Congratulations to the History majors who graduated from May 2019 to December 2021, and who will graduate in May 2022! Multiple pages in this newsletter highlight the achievements of our students, particularly in terms of awards and undergraduate research. Undergraduate research has consistently been a major strength of the History Department and the broader Stetson community. Therefore, in this newsletter, we continue to mention presentations by History majors on their research at conferences such as the regional and national conferences of Phi Alpha Theta (the national History Honor Society) and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR). We also feature History majors who have won research grants. Indeed, from 2019 to 2022, at least one History major won a prestigious university-wide Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) grant every year, with two winners in 2019, one winner in 2020, four winners in 2021, and two winners in 2022. Similarly, since 2019, multiple History majors have won the History Department's Evans Johnson Research Fund to support their research, particularly in relation to their senior thesis projects. Furthermore, this newsletter highlights the topics of all senior research projects (senior theses) completed from 2019 to December 2021, and also students who have won academic prizes, especially History seniors who have majored in History.

History as a discipline places emphasis on exploring diverse human experiences and perspectives. One of the major developments since 2019 has been an increase in the number of senior thesis topics dealing with transnational issues and events, particularly in terms of connections between Western and non-Western societies and cultures. For example, recent senior thesis topics have included those analyzing US foreign relations with other countries such as Japan, South Vietnam (during the Vietnam War) and Taiwan. Students have also continued to work on a significant number of research projects that focus on underrepresented groups and engage topics related to race relations, gender identity, and socioeconomic class. In addition to these activities, other recent departmental diversity and inclusion initiatives featured in this newsletter include departmental support for a new university-level research grant on the histories of diversity and inclusion initiatives at Stetson, and the creation of three departmental-level diversity and inclusion funds to provide academic support and fund student research.

Letter from the Chair, cont.

Just as importantly, this newsletter highlights the activities and achievements of History faculty from 2019 to December 2021. History Department professors have continued to do excellent work, including presenting research at conferences despite the ongoing global COVID pandemic, and publishing various books, book chapters, and journal articles. We also feature in this newsletter recent research grants and awards won by faculty, including prestigious Fulbright awards (Dr. Eric Kurlander for academic year 2021-2022, and Dr. Mayhill Fowler for academic year 2019-2020), as well as faculty teaching awards and new courses developed by faculty. Since 2019, several History faculty have also been appointed to lead interdisciplinary programs: Dr. Mayhill Fowler was reappointed as the Director of Stetson's Program in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (SPREES) in Fall 2020 following her return from sabbatical leave, Dr. Nicole Mottier was appointed as the Director of the Latin American and Latino Studies Program in Spring 2020, and Dr. Eric Kurlander was appointed as the founding Director of the Jewish Studies Program in Fall 2019.

Finally, the History Department underwent an external review in academic year 2020-2021 (Fall 2020 and Spring 2021). This was a major project that took up a lot of time and effort because external reviews do not occur often. In fact, the last external review was conducted over a decade ago in academic year 2008-2009. Our recent external review was originally scheduled to occur in Fall 2019 and Spring 2020, but was postponed due to the COVID pandemic. As part of the external review, a departmental self-study was completed in December 2020. This was a massive undertaking, comprising 47 pages of data (a 179-page document if one includes a copy of the Spring 2019 newsletter and faculty CVs) despite focusing only on events and changes from 2015 to 2020. Following the completion of the departmental self-study, in Spring 2021, the external reviewer, Dr. Lisa Trivedi, Professor of History and Chair of the History Department at Hamilton College, conducted a virtual visit (due to COVID) of the Stetson campus, during which she held numerous virtual meetings, including with History faculty, staff, and students. We are happy to report that the History Department did exceptionally well during this external review, and are very thankful to all who contributed, especially History majors who met with the external reviewer and History alumni who contributed updates to the self-study.

Many thanks to Caitlyn Bishop for putting together this newsletter!

Sincerely,



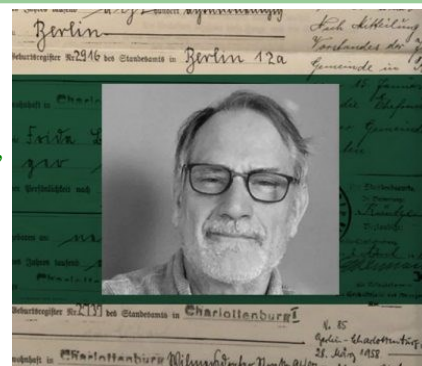
Leander Seah
Chair, Department of History



Events and Initiatives

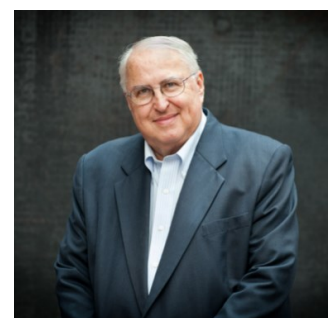
Holocaust Lecture 2021

Dr. Nathan Stoltzfus, Dorothy and Jonathan Rintels Professor of Holocaust Studies at FSU, starred as guest lecturer for the Annual Holocaust Lecture of 2021. He presented virtually and in-person on April 7, 2021. The lecture was titled, "History as Reproach? The Nonconformity and Protest of 'Mixed-Race' Couples in Nazi Germany." Our very own Dr. Eric Kurlander introduced Stoltzfus by noting, "He is one of the world's leading scholars of resistance to the Nazi dictatorship. Dr. Stoltzfus has helped redefine the field and initiate new debates and establish fruitful lines of inquiry." The Holocaust Memorial Lecture, held in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day on April 8, was sponsored by Stetson Hillel, Stetson's Jewish Studies Program, and Stetson's Program in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. For more information visit [Stetson Today](#).



Holocaust Lecture 2022

Steven T. Katz is the Slater Professor in Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Boston University. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge. He serves on the academic committee of the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and is a member of the United States delegation to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). From 2011-2017 he served as the academic advisor for IHRA, during which time he was involved in negotiations with many governments regarding Holocaust education. He writes on the Holocaust, Jewish history, Jewish philosophy, and comparative mysticism and edits the award-winning journal *Modern Judaism*. He has lectured around the world and published numerous prize-winning books and articles. His most recent works, published in 2019, are a 2-volume comparison between the Holocaust and black slavery (*The Holocaust and New World Slavery*) and a book of Holocaust essays (*Holocaust Studies: Critical Reflections*). He presented on [Jewish Resistance during the Holocaust](#), April 7th, 2022, 6-9pm in the Carlton Union Building: Stetson Room, a virtual and in-person hybrid event with over 100 attendees!



Events and Initiatives, cont.

James A. Stewart Lecture 2022

Marcia Chatelain, PhD, a professor of History and African American Studies at Georgetown University, presented on “Fighting for Food Justice with History: Fast Food, Black Struggle and Strong Communities,” February 17th, 2022. In her keynote address, Dr. Chatelain discussed her Pulitzer Prize winning book, “Franchise: The Golden Arches in Black America to make a case for history as a key tool in organizing for food justice. This lecture was sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences James A. Stewart Lecture Series, Sustainable Food Systems, History Department, Office of Diversity and Inclusion and the Multicultural Student Council.



Meet the Admin:



Caitlyn Bishop is a '19 Stetson Alumna, she majored in Psychology and Social Sciences, with a minor in Asian Studies. After working as a Registered Behavioral Technician (RBT) supporting children with autism, she returned to Stetson University to work as an Administrative specialist. Caitlyn will be continuing at Stetson as a Graduate Student in the Counseling Department, studying Mental Health counseling with advanced studies in Marriage and Family. She is anticipated to graduate in 2025.

Recent History Department Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

The History Department was pleased to support a new research grant on the histories of diversity and inclusion initiatives at Stetson. The grant was created and funded by Stetson University Trustee Luis Maldonado '01. Dr. Emily Mieras supervised grant work in Summer 2021. The first recipient was Connor Darby '23, a member of the University Honors Program with a major in World Languages/Translation. Connor's experience in several previous History and Public History courses served him well in this project. These courses included Dr. Peggy Macdonald's HIST 292S Introduction to Public History and HIST 251H African American History, as well as ARTH 366 Museology (co-taught in Spring 2020 by then-History Brown Center Fellow Dr. Candace Cunningham and Hand Art Center Director James Pearson).

History Department seniors once again turned in a slate of well-researched, fascinating papers on topics that spanned centuries and reached across the globe. Many of their projects reflect the discipline's attention to dynamics of race and power, struggles for equity and justice, and the experiences of subaltern groups whose stories have been less visible in mainstream historical narratives. For example, senior thesis topics since 2019 have included the following:

"From Archenemies to Allies: Reassessing the Birth of the United States-Japan Alliance, 1945-1960"

"Jim Crow Slides Home. Central Florida's Race Relations through Jackie Robinson's Reception to Spring Training in DeLand and Sanford, Florida 1946"

"Juneteenth, Civil Rights, and the Fight for Freedom. A Comparative Study, 1920-1960"

"Playing Politics. Louis Armstrong's Evolution as a Civil Rights Activist, 1945-1965"

"Reassessing the Rise and Fall of the Winston Churchill of Southeast Asia: Ngo Dinh Diem of Vietnam and the United States, 1949-1963"

“Rethinking United States Foreign Relations: The Birth of the Taiwan Relations Act and Reflections at 40”

“Sensationalizing Violence. Race, Class, and Gender in the Media’s Portrayal Serial Killers, 1970-1990”

“The Paradoxical Nostalgia for the “American Indian”: How the Heroic Image of Native Americans Emerged After a Century of Relocation, Warfare, and Extermination”

Diversity and Inclusion Funds

Please support our students by gifting to the below funds!

- o **The Inclusive Fund for Academic Support** is for students of color who are collecting research and/or presenting a paper, and who are experiencing financial hardship.
- o **The Academic Support Fund** prioritizes students of color, though it is open to all students regardless of race and ethnicity, who are taking History classes that require them to purchase materials and who are experiencing financial hardship.
- o **The Inclusive Research Fund** is open to all History Majors, regardless of race and ethnicity, who are researching or presenting their papers about peoples of color or non-Western cultures, or topics relating to the histories of race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, or class conflict; with priority being given to students who are also experiencing financial hardship.

Gifting to these funds is easy:

Designate them as “Diversity and Inclusion- History Department”.

See this weblink for more details:

<https://www.stetson.edu/administration/development/make-a-gift-online.php>

And contact Caitlyn Bishop with any questions: cbishop@stetson.edu.

Faculty Professional Highlights

Dr. Mayhill Fowler



Dr. Mayhill Fowler teaching a guest lecture on American Culture.

Dr. Fowler had an extremely productive sabbatical year on Fulbright in Ukraine from August 2019: three international conferences! Thousands of obscure archival documents located in the mysterious Ministry of Defense archive in the middle of a forest outside Kyiv! Teaching theater history to undergraduates, MA students, and faculty at the university! But it all screeched to a halt with lockdown and quarantine in March 2020. She finally made it back to the US in summer--and has a new appreciation of

the reality and fluidity of borders. Despite the challenges, she was able to bring lots of materials, including digital projects, translated oral histories, and images, from the Center for Urban History in Lviv, Ukraine (one of her host institutions) to enrich her courses at Stetson. This year Dr. Fowler taught her first-ever survey of Eastern European history, exposing her students to cossacks, hassids, and Greek Catholics—as well as all the events from

“Russian” history from an entirely different perspective. Oral histories from the Center’s collection appeared in her “Money and the Muse” course, which produced research papers on topics ranging from cult writer Bulgakov to the cult of athletics. She is creating an online version of this course with the Center in summer 2021 and hopes to share it with Stetson students. She is working on the Ukrainian translation of her first book, and plugging away at two book projects, one on Soviet actresses (Comrade Actress: Soviet Ukrainian Women on the



Students in Dr. Mayhill Fowler's "New Approaches to Theater History" right before COVID struck.

Stage and Behind the Scenes) and one on Soviet military theater (War Stories: Theater on the Frontlines of Socialism). She can't wait to get back into the classroom.



The Ivan Franko University in Lviv, Ukraine—which is the former Habsburg-era parliament building.



Dr. Mayhill Fowler giving a serious talk at the Center for Urban History in Lviv, Ukraine.

Dr. Nicole Mottier

In 2019, Dr. Nicole Mottier earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Since then she has added several new courses to her rotation, among them Approaches to History and Food Histories in the Americas, and has revised her other courses. She has continued to enjoy mentoring her students and keeping up with alumni. She published “The Origins of Mexico’s Banco Nacional de Crédito Ejidal in Thought and Practice”, an article on rural credit in twentieth-century Mexico which won the Vernon Carstensen Award from the Agricultural History Society. During her sabbatical she began her new research projects, one historicizing culinary tourism in Mexico and the other historicizing the intersection of war, eating practices, and food systems. She has enjoyed overseeing programming of the Latin American and Latino Studies Program as its Director, and she has brought new internships to the History Department, both for pay and for college credit, as the department's Internship Coordinator.

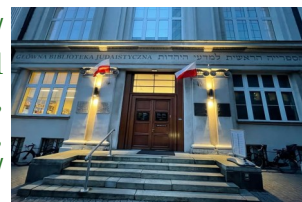
Faculty Professional Highlights, cont.

Dr. Eric Kurlander

Since the last newsletter update, Dr. Eric Kurlander, Professor of History, has been appointed as Stetson University's William R. Kenan Jr. Chair Professor (September 2019-present) and as the founding Director of Stetson's Jewish Studies Program (Fall 2019-present). His key publications have included four books and five refereed articles or book chapters. The four books are: the Czech edition (2021) of his 2006 monograph, *The Price of Exclusion*; the Czech edition (2021) of his 2017 monograph, *Hitler's Monsters*; the Czech edition (2020) of his 2009 monograph, *Living with Hitler*; and the paperback edition (2019) of his 2015 edited volume, *Revisiting the Nazi Occult*. As for noteworthy awards and honors, these have included: a Fulbright Global Scholar Award (Israel, Poland, France) 2021-2022, Stetson's inaugural First Year Seminar Excellence in Teaching Award 2019, a Stetson WORLD Travel Award (Jerusalem) 2019, a Stetson Summer Research Grant (Shanghai) 2019, appointment to the Graduate Student Essay Committee for the German Studies Association (Fall 2020-present), and appointment to the Modern European History Section of the American Historical Association (Fall 2019-present). In addition to being interviewed multiple times (including by The New York Times: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/13/science/space/nasa-arrokoth-kuiper-belt.html>), Dr. Kurlander has served as a featured expert on the History Channel (*The Book of Secrets*, "Nazi Occult," 2021), the Science Channel (*Forbidden History*, Episode Seven of Season Five, "Hitler's Occult Conspiracy," 17 May 2020, <https://www.sciencechannel.com/tv-shows/forbidden-history/full-episodes/hitlers-occult-conspiracy>), and the Travel Channel (*UFOs: The Lost Evidence*, Episode Six of Season Two, "Nazi UFO Secrets," 26 June 2019, www.travelchannel.com).



Warsaw's Central Archive of New Records (Archiwum Akt Nowych), created by Pilsudski only a few weeks after the foundation of modern Poland.



Warsaw's Jewish Historical Institute.

Dr. Kimberly Reiter

Dr. Kimberly Reiter is happy to report that before the shutdown in March 2020, she took three students to San Antonio to present at the biennial Phi Alpha Theta conference. While the Stetson chapter went dark for much of the following year, it has been revitalized with a large entering class of initiates, who are planning two exciting events. March Stetson will host the state Phi Alpha Theta Conference. In September, Phi Alpha Theta will raffle off chances to place an item and a message in the 50-year Time Capsule to be buried in the garden of the Brown Center for Health and Innovation. Watch for the announcements! Dr. Reiter will also direct the field course to Scotland and England, scheduled for May 13-30, 2022. Alumni are most warmly welcomed on the trip, and she is happy to provide the itinerary on request. Professionally, Dr. Reiter contributed a chapter, "Historical Human-Induced Impacts on the Watershed" in Cho, H. and M. A. Reiter eds. *The Halifax River Urban Watershed Project*. This chapter in local environmental history is part of the Halifax River Urban Watershed Sustainability Initiative. Reiter examines the five hundred years of Halifax watershed usage, especially between 1821-1968, with an examination of environmental impact touchpoints in the harvesting of sugar, live oak, citrus and market vegetables, as well as the impacts of the increasing use of the river and shoreline for transportation. Finally, Dr. Reiter once again directed the annual Stetson Showcase, this time held both virtually and on campus. Links to the recorded sessions are available on request. She is co-chairing the national Undergraduate Research Program Special Conference "Centering Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity" this June for the Council on Undergraduate Research, for which she serves as a national Councilor.

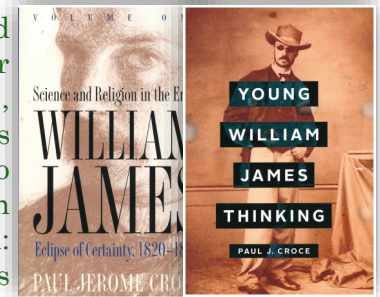
Faculty Professional Highlights, cont.

Dr. Leander Seah

Dr. Leander Seah was appointed as the Chair of the History Department in Fall 2019 and served as the Director of the Asian Studies Program till Summer 2020. He also presented a paper at the virtual Social Science Research Council Workshop on “Chinese Diasporas and the Transnational Public Sphere in the Long Twentieth Century” (organized by Johns Hopkins University in June 2020), and continued to work on his two book projects. Furthermore, he served as a referee for the Cornell East Asia Series at Cornell University, and three peer-reviewed journals. His new courses since the last newsletter update comprise “China and America: From the Opium Wars to General Tso’s Chicken” (upper-level seminar first taught in Spring 2021), “World War II in Asia: The Second Sino-Japanese War” (research-intensive seminar first taught in Fall 2019), and a Fall 2021 upper-level seminar on “Biography as History: People and Life Stories.”

Dr. Paul Croce

Paul Croce published two peer-reviewed articles, “William James and the Sustainable Transformation of Values, with a Case Study for Rethinking the American Dream” (Human Arenas, March 11, 2021), and “The American Dream after COVID-19” (Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective vol. 13, issue 11, August 2020). He also published a co-authored book chapter, “Historical Developments in Public Health,” in Novick and Morrow’s *Public Health Administration: Principles for Population-Based Management*, Lei Yu Shi, and James Johnson, eds. (Burlington, MA: Jones and Bartlett, 2021).



Dr. Emily Mieras

Dr. Emily Mieras continues her research project on historical memory, southern identity, and community development and is currently working on an article exploring Georgia Power’s contributions to community redevelopment initiatives in the post -World War II era. Dr. Mieras is looking forward to getting back into the archives.



Why Major in History?

Our very own Dr. Nicole Mottier organized two great panel events for History students about using their degrees to get into law schools/graduate programs and getting jobs after graduation. These well-attended events focused on tips, tricks, and real-life experiences of some of our History Department alumni. For “Using your History Degree to Get into Law/Grad School” we had two recent History alumni tell students how they did it. The panel was hosted through Zoom on November 2, 5-6:30 pm. Alumni Cameron Black '16 and Christina Canalizo Decker '16 spoke with our students for an hour and a half about their own journeys after graduating from Stetson. For “Using your History Degree to Get a Job,” we had three alumni return as panelists via Zoom on October 26, 5-6:30 pm: Justin Corriass '18, Zachary Ewing '19, and Madeline Odent '14.



History is an interdisciplinary major that fits well with many other majors, minors, and programs at Stetson. These include Africana Studies, American Studies, Asian Studies, Gender Studies, International Studies, Jewish Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Pre-Law, Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (SPREES), and Social Science. History Department faculty have also served as former and current directors of many of these programs. For American Studies, Dr. Paul Croce is the current program director and Dr. Emily Mieras is a former program director. For Asian Studies, Dr. Leander Seah was the founding program director. For Jewish Studies, Dr. Eric Kurlander is the current founding program director. For Latin American and Latino Studies, Dr. Nicole Mottier is the current program director. For SPREES, Dr. Mayhill Fowler is the current program director.

Students who major in History often find History complementary with their interests in different parts of the world and in diverse cultures and societies. Hear what some of them have to say on the next page!

Hear what our students have to say!



Christopher Holland '21 (December) (far left in photo)

Major: History; Minor: Asian Studies

"Asia is a wonderful place to learn about, especially its history; so, as a History major, an Asian Studies minor fits perfectly." Chris's Fall 2021 senior thesis topic was "Military History from Below: Personal Narratives, the Holland Family, and the Pacific War."

G. Mitchell Donahou '21 (December)

Major: History; Minor: Asian Studies

"My History major complements my Asian Studies minor in helping me to develop a better understanding of different Asian cultures, giving me baseline tools in Mandarin, and aiding me in better understanding important geopolitical areas throughout the world and the understanding of history as a whole." Mitchell's Fall 2021 senior thesis topic was "Rethinking United States Foreign Relations: The Birth of the Taiwan Relations Act and Reflections at 40."



Jonah Helwig '22

Majors: History and SPREES; Minor: Russian

"My History major has taught me how to analyze complex sources and arguments, which has allowed me to thrive in all aspects of the interdisciplinary SPREES Program." Jonah's Fall 2021 senior thesis topic was "Crafting the Perfect Image: How Cultural Diplomacy Framed Cold War Space Accomplishments."

Kelli Kline '22

Majors: History, American Studies, English, and Global Development;
Minor: Business Law

"History and American Studies go hand in hand: American Studies are an integral part of historical exploration regardless of region in part due to the influence that Americans have had in the world but also because of the way in which global history has shaped American Studies." Kelli's Fall 2021 senior thesis topic was "Trade Restriction Effect on COVID-19 and 1918 Spanish Flu Vaccination and Transmission Rates: A Comparative Study of the United States and India."





Raul Rosales '22

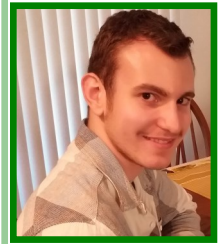
Major: History; Minors: Africana Studies and Education

"Being a History major means looking at numerous cultures and histories, and having an Africana Studies minor enriches my knowledge and respect for cultures outside my own." Raul's Fall 2021 senior thesis topic was "Florida: Blind to Brown v. Board."

Trenten Ward '22

Majors: History and Political Science; Minors: Latin American & Latino Studies and Psychology

"Understanding the historical political, economic, and cultural development of Latin America allows me to understand the contemporary socio-political climate in the region." Trenten's Fall 2021 senior thesis topic was "Guns or Democracy: Demilitarization and the Decline of Lethal State Repression in Costa Rica from 1900-2018."



Catherine (Katie) Kraft '23

Major: History; Minor: SPREES

"History allows me to explore SPREES content using the tools of historical analysis while contextualizing it with other regions."

Carlye Mahler '24

Majors: History and Communication & Media Studies; Minor: American Studies

"My History major equips me with great understandings of research and analysis that help me make the most of my American Studies minor."



Wyatt Sise '24

Major: History; Minor: Latin American & Latino Studies

"Being a History Major allows me to delve into the political, social, and economic environments of the past, to fully understand the ever-evolving role of Latin America on the global stage."

For further information, please e-mail Dr. Leander Seah (lseah@stetson.edu) or Caitlyn Bishop (cbishop@stetson.edu), who will redirect you to the relevant History faculty.

Undergraduate Research in History



HIST499 Group 2 & AMST 499: Raul Rosales, Thomas Malone, Mitchell Donahou, Kelli Kline, David Wrenn, Trenten Ward (Not Pictured: Ethan Ostrom)

Undergraduate research is a major strength of the History Department and the broader Stetson community. A cornerstone of the History Major is the senior thesis project, HIST 499 Senior Research. A list of History senior thesis topics from 2019 to 2021 has been included in the following pages.



HIST499 group 1: Ryan Estes, Alyssa Louk, Abigail Arient, Madison Goff (not pictured: Chris Holland, Mac)

Students who major in History also regularly present their research at conferences. Most of these conferences have revolved around undergraduate research, but some have also encompassed graduate research. Stetson History majors have delivered presentations at conferences such as the regional and national conferences of Phi Alpha Theta (the national History Honor Society), the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR), and the Florida Conference of Historians. Some have even won awards, including for best paper and best world history paper. In 2021, Sarah Payne and Kennedy Ryder delivered papers at the Phi Alpha Theta Georgia Regional Conference, with Kennedy's paper receiving Honorable Mention for Best Paper. Also in 2021, Abigail Arient and Kennedy Ryder delivered papers at the NCUR. In 2022, Alyssa Louk, Dylan Brown, Mary Caputa, Ryan Estes, and Trenten Ward delivered papers at the Phi Alpha Theta Florida Regional Conference, which was hosted here at Stetson University, during which Alyssa won the award for best paper in US history. Furthermore, every year, a good number of History majors are inducted into Phi Alpha Theta based on their academic qualifications, and History students are often inducted into Phi Beta Kappa.



Class of 2021 Graduation

SURE Grant and Evans Johnson Research Grant Winners

Additionally, History students frequently win research grants, including the prestigious university-wide Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) grant and the History Department's Evans Johnson Research Fund. The Evans Johnson Research Fund is a privately-endowed restricted fund designated to support students who wish to conduct primary source research in national and international archives, libraries, or research institutes, and/or need to obtain research not otherwise accessible locally, online, or via the Stetson Library. History majors have won SURE grants and Evans Johnson grants every year from 2019 to 2022. Recent SURE grant winners comprise: Dakota Figueroa and James Parman (both in 2019); Julia Bassett (in 2020); Abigail Arient, Mary Caputa, Ryan Estes, and Trenten Ward (all in 2021); and Catherine (Katie) Kraft and Osmara Rodriguez (both in 2022). As for recent Evans Johnson grant winners, they are: Dakota Figueroa, Jordan Toth, and Shaylen Vitale (all in 2019); Dylan Thomas, Grant Hodges, and Peter (Thuan) Tran (all in 2020); Abigail Arient, Gregory Mitchell Donahou, Ryan Estes, Jonah Helwig, and Trenten Ward (all in 2021); and Catherine (Katie) Kraft, Mary Caputa, and Osmara Rodriguez (all in 2022).

History Student Awards



In 2020, Dylan James Croup was the recipient of the Colonel John Taylor Rhett History Manuscript Award for the best History senior thesis and also a co-winner of the Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Senior. A History major and an American Studies minor who graduated in December 2019, his prize-winning senior thesis was entitled, "William Claiborne of Virginia as British Colonist, Merchant-Administrator, and American Liberal: A Case Study of the Ideological Foundation of Colonial America, 1600-1677." In Dylan's own eloquent words, his thesis aimed to "examine to what extent the American colonial experiment was a continuation of English values and principles as opposed to a revolutionary ideological shift brought about by the unique challenges and opportunities of the American experience." He used as his case study William Claiborne of Virginia, an influential historical figure in colonial American history who was one of the earlier Jamestown settlers and who then went on to serve in important positions such as Secretary of State of Virginia and Treasurer of Virginia. Dylan presented his senior thesis research at the prestigious national conference of Phi Alpha Theta, the undergraduate History honor society. His membership in academic organizations includes Phi Alpha Theta and Phi Eta Sigma (the national honor society for first-year college and university students).



In 2020, Dakota John Figueroa was a co-winner of the Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Senior. He graduated in May 2020 as a History major, an American Studies minor, and a member of the Stetson Honors Program. His other academic accolades included a Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Grant and a History Department Evans Johnson Research Grant, both of which he used to conduct research in 2019 for his senior thesis, "From Archenemies to Allies: Reassessing the Birth of the United States-Japan Alliance, 1945-1960." Based on primary sources from the Library of Congress and the National Archives of the United States, including US Department of State files, this thesis reexamined the birth and initial decades of the US-Japan alliance. Both countries have had a unique relationship, being involved on opposite sides of a world war that resulted in the dropping of two atomic bombs. Through this thesis, Dakota analyzed the factors that transformed the US and Japan from archenemies into staunch allies. He then shared his findings at the prestigious national conference of Phi Alpha Theta, the undergraduate History honor society. He has held membership in academic organizations such as Phi Alpha Theta (Vice President of Stetson's Alpha-Zeta Chapter) and Phi Alpha Delta (Pre-Law Chapter).



History Student Awards, Cont.



Julia Bassett

In 2021, Julia (Jules) Bassett was a co-winner of the Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Senior. She had been the recipient of the 2020 Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Junior. A History major and Latin American and Latino Studies minor, she was also a member of Tri Delta, Phi Eta Sigma (National Honor Society), Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society), Rho Lambda, and Omicron Delta Kappa. Furthermore, Julia received a Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience (SURE) Grant to conduct research for her senior thesis, "Victimized and Privatized: How Medical Interests Weaponized and Racialized Cocaine (1880s-1920s)." Her thesis focused on cocaine's legal demise in the United States from the late nineteenth century. She argued that medical and pharmaceutical interests, though not always aligned, had significant roles in racializing anti-cocaine sentiments. Medical professionals sought to remain the sole gatekeepers and profiteers of the substance and formed powerful alliances with media outlets and local authorities to facilitate restrictive legislation that led to the permanent legal demise of cocaine by the end of the 1920s.



Hannah Zeller

In 2021, Hannah Zeller was a co-winner of the Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Senior. She had been the 2019 recipient of the Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Junior. She graduated Summa Cum Laude in December 2020, with majors in History and Communication and Media Studies and distinction from the Honors Program. A member of Phi Eta Sigma (National Honor Society), Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society), and Lambda Pi Eta (Communication Studies Honor Society), Hannah's senior thesis was entitled, "The House and the Mouse: The Influence of the Walt Disney Company on Twentieth Century Copyright Term Extension Legislation and the Public Domain, 1976-2003." This thesis unpacked the implications of the Walt Disney Company's role in the establishment of copyright term extension legislation in the late twentieth century, and the political, legal, and socioeconomic impact of these terms. Furthermore, she worked at Hatter Network on The Reporter, eventually serving as the publication's Executive Editor after being a writer, video journalist, columnist, social media correspondent, and section editor. She was also a clerical and technical services assistant for the DuPont Ball Library, and that, combined with her journalistic work, fostered a passion for research.



Kennedy Ryder

In 2021, Kennedy Ryder was a co-winner of the Colonel John Taylor Rhett History Manuscript Award for the best History senior thesis, and the winner of a university-level award, the Etter McTeer Turner Award (named in honor of Stetson's first woman dean of students), for "outstanding academic performance, leadership and community service." A double major in History and Political Science, she was also an American Studies minor. Furthermore, she was a member of the Stetson University Student Government Association, Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society), and Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society). Kennedy's senior thesis, "The Early Federal Republic's Forgotten Crisis: How Konrad Adenauer Stabilized West Germany Through Solving the Refugee Question (1945-1953)," focused on Konrad Adenauer's efforts to solve the refugee question in West Germany and how that ultimately contributed to Adenauer's ability to solve West Germany's post-World War II challenges. She argued that it was not the economic miracle or the American occupation that led to Germany's ascension as a major world power. Instead, Adenauer's thoughtful political maneuvering solved the refugee crisis leading up to the election of 1953, which in turn enabled him to lead Germany through its post-war challenges. Her extensive primary sources included United States Congressional reports, firsthand accounts from surviving refugees, public opinion data, newspaper articles, and electoral results.

History Student Awards, Cont.

In 2021, Peter (Thuan) Tran was a co-winner of the Colonel John Taylor Rhett History Manuscript Award for the best History senior thesis. A History major, he was also an Asian Studies minor who graduated with a Certificate of Community Engagement through volunteer work in the Bonner Program. Furthermore, he was awarded a History Department Evans Johnson Research Grant to conduct research for his senior thesis, "Reassessing the Rise and Fall of the Winston Churchill of Southeast Asia: Ngo Dinh Diem of Vietnam and the United States, 1949-1963." This thesis analyzed the career of President Ngo Dinh Diem of the Republic of Vietnam (South Vietnam), the "Winston Churchill of Southeast Asia" according to then United States Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson. Assassinated in a military coup during 1963, Diem has been criticized for political incompetence and dependence on American military support. However, Peter's thesis argued otherwise, suggesting instead that Diem was an effective leader whose downfall was caused by communal identity politics and disastrous religious policies. This thesis used primary sources such as the President John F. Kennedy papers, Department of Defense and Central Intelligence Agency documents, Department of State records, and selected Vietnamese-language sources.



Sarah Payne with Dr. Paul Croce and Dr. Emily Mieras

In 2021, Sarah Payne, a History major, won the Jacqueline Hogue Gentry Award in the Gender Studies Program. The award recognizes "a graduating senior who has demonstrated a commitment to the advancement of women's issues, evidenced but not limited to, work within the classroom, a senior research project or outreach efforts either within Stetson or the community." Sarah was chosen for her thorough and important senior research on the history of Jane, a Chicago women's abortion collective (1965-73), her stellar work as a teaching apprentice in HIST 252 H (Gender in American History), and her dedicated work as the lead tutor for History and the Social Sciences in the Student Success Center. Sarah was recognized at the recent Gender Studies reception, held outside at the President's home.

(Sarah at left, and, center, pictured with her professors, Dr. Paul Croce and Dr. Emily Mieras).

In 2021, students in Dr. Paul Croce's First Year Seminar, USA, The Natural Experiment: Environmental Debates, won prizes offered by the Stetson Library for research papers written by First Year students. They were: Emma Weis, for her paper, "The Environmental Impacts of the Pulp and Paper Industry," the 2021 R. Neil Scott Prize; and Mira Monroe, for her paper "The Environmental & Health Effects of the US Nuclear-Arsenal-Network," the 2021 Evans C. Johnson Prize.



Emma Weis, Dr. Paul Croce, and Mira Monroe

In 2021, Alyssa Louk and Trenten Ward were co-winners of the Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Junior. Alyssa is a double major in History and English, and Trenten is a double major in History and Political Science who also minors in Latin American & Latino Studies and Psychology. This year (2022), Catherine (Katie) Kraft and Osmara Rodriguez were co-winners of the Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Junior. Catherine is a History major with a SPREES minor, and Osmara is a History major.

History Student Awards, Cont.

This year (2022), Alyssa Louk is a co-winner of two History awards: the Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Senior and the Colonel John Taylor Rhett History Manuscript Award for the best History senior thesis. She was also a co-winner of last year's Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Junior. A double major in History and English, she holds membership in Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) and Sigma Tau Delta (English Honor Society). Alyssa received a Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience Grant in 2020, and received the Best Undergraduate Paper in US History award at the Phi Alpha Theta 2022 Florida Regional Conference. Her senior thesis, "Literature and Ecology: The Intersection of Dune and the Environmental Movement," explored the connection between Frank Herbert's science fiction novel, *Dune*, and the environmental movement that emerged in the 1960s. This novel covers many themes, including religion, politics, and imperialism. Furthermore, Alyssa argued in her senior thesis that *Dune* has a prevailing ecological theme which highlights the importance of the environment and how humans are capable of changing it. Herbert's ideas, such as resource scarcity and exploitation, correlate with the ideas that were prevalent in the environmental movement.



This year (2022), Abigail Arient is a co-winner of the Colonel John Taylor Rhett History Manuscript Award for best History senior thesis. She is a double major in History and Health Science, and a member of Phi Eta Sigma (National Honor Society), Alpha Epsilon Delta (Health Pre-Professional Honor Society), and Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society). In addition, she earned a place at the National Council for Undergraduate Research National Conference in 2021, and played trombone in the University Concert Band, Hatter Band, and Pep Band. Abigail's senior thesis, "Ritual Dance in the Caribbean: From Suppression to the Stage," received research funding through both a 2021 Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience Grant and a 2021 History Department Evans Johnson Research Grant. Her thesis focused on the period of simultaneous suppression and encouragement that both Santería dance in Cuba and Vodou dance in Haiti faced prior to the legalization of each through means of tourism. Through the periodization of each religion in their home country, this highlights the similarities and differences in the historical experience of each. Abigail has always been interested in physical or occupational therapy and during her gap year, she plans to explore opportunities to pursue a career in these fields. Additionally, she continues to work as a pharmacy technician, a job she picked up as an essential worker throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



This year (2022), Trenten T. Ward is a co-winner of the Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Senior, and was also a co-winner of last year's Gilbert L. Lycan History Award for Outstanding Junior. A double major in History and Political Science, he has minors in Latin American and Latino Studies, and Psychology. He is a member of Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society), Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society), Phi Beta Kappa, and Young Americans for Freedom. In 2021, he was awarded both a Stetson Undergraduate Research Experience Grant and a History Department Evans Johnson Research Grant. His senior thesis, "Guns or Democracy: Demilitarization and Decreasing Lethal State Repression in Costa Rica after 1949," focused on how abolishing the military and reforming the police, in 1949, affected the severity of state repression in Costa Rica from 1900 to 2018. Many of the sources for his thesis comprised Spanish-language primary documents. Trenten's post-graduation plans are to take a gap year to apply for scholarships and admission to graduate programs before attending graduate school, with the eventual goal of finding a job related to his field.



HISTORY STUDENT SENIOR RESEARCH 2019

Alex Bajayo

Armored March: A History of American Tank Development, From the 1920s-1940s

Cooper Bone

The Titanic in American Historical Memory: A Vessel for Interpreting Trauma and Myth

Dakota Figueroa

From Archenemies to Allies: Reassessing the Birth of the United States-Japan Alliance, 1945-1960

Dylan Croup

William Claiborne of Virginia as British Colonist, Merchant-Administrator, and American Liberal: A Case Study of the Ideological Origins of Colonial America, 1600-1677

Dylan Thomas

When the Irish Became 'White': Ethnicity, Assimilation, and Gilded Age Politics

Grant Hodges

From Spectacle to Science: The Making of the Modern American Zoo in the Gilded Age

Jordan Toth

Mainstreet Renaissance: The Dual Role of Public and Private Sector in Deland's Rebirth

James Parman

The Paradoxical Nostalgia for the "American Indian": How the Heroic Image of Native Americans Emerged After a Century of Relocation, Warfare, and Extermination

Kelly Jenks,

Evolution of the American Work Force: Red, White, and Black in the 17th and 18th Century

HISTORY STUDENT SENIOR RESEARCH 2020

Bradley Alexander

The War on Disease. WWI as a Catalyst for Preventative Medicine, 1919-1941

Evan Jylha

A Friendly Winter: The Rise of Finlandization and the Foreign Relations Between Finland and The Soviet Union, 1945-1991

Freya Roskamp

The Rocky Road to Dublin. The Violent Troubles Examined through a Local Lens, 1960-1990

Haley Farman

Sensationalizing Violence. Race, Class, and Gender in the Media's Portrayal Serial Killers, 1970-1990

Hannah Zeller

The House and the Mouse. The Influence of the Walt Disney Company on Twentieth Century Copyright Term Extension Legislation and the Public Domain, 1976-2003

Jacob Mitchell

Fatal Misinterpretation or Intentional Obstruction? The Weimar Constitution and Legal Crisis, 1918-1933

Jacob Zimmermann

Descent into Bondage. A Transnational Interpretation of Bacon's Rebellion and the Origins of Chattel Slavery in Colonial Virginia, 1640-1676.

Jasmaine Tinsley

Juneteenth, Civil Rights, and the Fight for Freedom. A Comparative Study, 1920-1960

Jason Slade Brown

Jim Crow Slides Home. Central Florida's Race Relations through Jackie Robinson's Reception to Spring Training in DeLand and Sanford, Florida 1946

Julia Bassett

Victimized and Privatized. How Medical Interests Weaponized and Racialized Cocaine's Legal Demise, 1880-1920

Kennedy Ryder

The Early Federal Republic's Forgotten Crisis. How Konrad Adenauer Stabilized West Germany Through Solving the Refugee Question, 1945-1953

Nicola Mingolelli

Workers of America Unite? Race, Politics, and the Efforts to Create an American Labor Party, 1920-1950

Peter (Thuan) Tran

Reassessing the Rise and Fall of Vietnam's "Winston Churchill". Ngo Dinh Diem and the United States, 1949-1963

Sarah Payne

Revisiting Jane's Legacy. Women's Reproductive Rights, Women's Activism, and Second Wave Feminism, 1960-1973

Stephen Mingolelli

America Calling. Effects of Competition Between AT&T and the Independent Companies, 1890-1920

Thomas Bryant

Playing Politics. Louis Armstrong's Evolution as a Civil Rights Activist, 1945-1965

HISTORY STUDENT SENIOR RESEARCH 2021

Abigail Arient

Ritual Dance in the Caribbean: From Suppression to the Stage

Alyssa Louk

The Intersection of Frank Herbert's Dune and the Environmental Movement

Christopher Holland

Military History From Below: Personal Narratives, The Holland Family, and the Pacific War

David Wrenn

The Cold War through Soviet and American Athletics Art

Gregory Mitchell Donahou

Rethinking United States Foreign Relations: The Birth of the Taiwan Relations Act and Reflections at 40

Jonah Helwig

Crafting the Perfect Image: How Cultural Diplomacy Framed Cold War Space Accomplishments

Kelli Kline

Trade Restriction Effect on COVID-19 and 1918 Spanish Flu Vaccination and Transmission Rates: A Comparative Study of the United States and India

Mackenzie Miller

Video Games: Play & The Quest

Madison Goff

Reassessing the Past: Epperson v. Arkansas and its Lack of Historical Remembrance

Raul Rosales

Florida: Blind to Brown v. Board

Ryan Estes

A Holy War for Occitania: The Albigensian Crusade 1209-1213

Trenten Ward

Guns or Democracy: Demilitarization and the Decline of Lethal State Repression in Costa Rica from 1900-2018

Watch on all of the 2021 and 2022 Senior Research panels on our YouTube channel in the very near future: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLdHMD1eQivOUH3NSba_cOnqSuJyPwv6vt

Alumni Updates

Dear alumni, we would love to hear from you! Please e-mail Caitlyn Bishop (cbishop@stetson.edu) to keep the History Department updated of your achievements!

Earlier graduates

Madeline Odent, Class of 2014, completed an M.Phil. in British History at Oxford University, after which she worked in curation and collections management at assorted museums for several years. She is now in the process of qualifying as a Royal Chartered Surveyor, where she inspects and analyzes historic buildings in the interest of conservation and regeneration.

Cameron Black, Class of 2016, is currently a graduate student instructor at the University of California-Berkeley. He teaches and mentors undergraduates, and his dissertation focuses on black student-athlete protest in the 1960s and how universities disciplined student-athletes similarly to how employers disciplined labor throughout the 19th and 20th centuries

Christina Canalizo Decker, Class of 2016, went to law school in Washington, DC, at American University Washington College of Law. During law school, she pursued her interests in women's rights and worker's rights by interning at the National Women's Law Center and the United Food and Commercial Workers. After law school she completed a two-year fellowship at the nation's largest teacher's union, the National Education Association. She is now a labor lawyer for a federal employee union, the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists. She advises on organizing campaigns, collective bargaining, workplace safety, and unfair labor practices.

Justin Corriss, Class of 2018, fell in love with wine sideways through a love of cooking and history. Upon graduation from Stetson, he worked wine sales at Attrezzi in Portsmouth, NH, before becoming the tasting room manager at Point Lookout Vineyards in Hendersonville, NC, where he helped develop the tasting program and blended wines for the newly-opened vineyard. Justin brings his love of food and wine pairing, education, and historical context of wine to full bear at his current position at Raleigh Wine Bar in Portsmouth, NH. In his downtime, Justin works on self-publishing fantasy novels, fishes in mountain streams, and tries out new recipes whenever he can. His personal motto is the Latin "Nunc Est Bibendum!" Now is the time to drink!"

Patrick Sheridan, Class of 2019, earned his M.A. in History from the Graduate School of the College of Charleston in May 2021 and entered the Ph. D. Program in History at the University of Georgia in Fall 2021. Patrick's M.A. thesis was titled, "Jim Crow Un-Covered: The Hotel Industry in South Carolina, 1880-1930," and it examined the racial and economic dynamics of the South Carolina tourism industry from the perspective of hotel laborers and tourists. At UGA, Patrick continues his work on the history of southern tourism and its role in shaping the region's economy and race relations.

Zachary Ewing, Class of 2019, analyzes port petitions and reviews trade-copyright applications for the Intellectual Property Enforcement branch at his job. When he is not doing those tasks, he assists in assigning taskings to branches that come from senior staff members within the Department of Homeland Security.

Dakota Figueroa, Class of 2020, was recently admitted with a scholarship to law school at the University of Nebraska College of Law in Lincoln. He is likely to join the Cyber Law Program or Space Law Program there. He looks forward to eventually going into politics and policy writing upon graduation from law school.

Dylan Thomas, Class of 2020, completed his M.B.A. at Stetson University in December 2021.

Alumni Updates, cont.

Hannah Zeller, Class of 2020, relocated to the New York area and is pursuing a career in television and media production.

Jacob Zimmerman, Class of 2020, moved to Vermont, and will eventually pursue a degree in education.

Jason Slade Brown, Class of 2020, was admitted to several law schools on full-tuition scholarships. He completed his first semester at Stetson's College of Law in Fall 2021, during which he made the Dean's List and was ranked in the top 5% of the class. Due to his academic achievements, he was also appointed as an associate member of the *Stetson Law Review*, whose members "demonstrate high academic performance and exacting legal research and writing skills" and "collaborate in a firm-like environment to publish legal scholarship that addresses contemporary topics that are relevant both nationally and to Florida practitioners" (*Stetson Law Review* website).

Jordan Toth, Class of 2020, is working in insurance services.

Class of 2021

Bradley Alexander is pursuing a Master's in Medical Sciences at NOVA Southeastern before beginning an MD.

Christopher Holland is looking for internships in Asia and eventually intends to complete a Master's in International Relations.

Freya Roskamp has accepted a position at EAB, a Washington, DC-based company that does research and consulting for educational best practices, as a partner development representative and began working there in March 2022.

Gregory Mitchell Donahou is working as a testing administrator at Seminole State College. His plan is to move out of Florida in July 2022 when his lease ends to work as an intelligence analyst in Southeast Asia or Texas.

Haley Farman has moved to Orlando and is working as a recruitment consultant for Spencer Ogden. She hopes to one day continue her knowledge and experience in the field of History.

Jacob Mitchell is studying for the LSAT, and hopes to attend law school thereafter.

Jasmaine Tinsley is taking a gap year, and plans to work either within a field related to history or within the legal field.

Julia Bassett is deferring acceptance into law school in order to pursue a paralegal certificate online while traveling with her partner.

Kennedy Ryder was recently accepted to the Florida State University Master of Social Work Program.

Peter (Thuan) Tran has been accepted into the accelerated second baccalaureate nursing program at Ball State University in Indiana and will start his studies in Fall 2022. He hopes to graduate with a Master's degree in Nursing and become a nurse practitioner.

Sarah Payne has been working at EAB, an educational consulting firm in Washington, DC, since Fall 2021.

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The History Major at Stetson:

<http://catalog.stetson.edu/undergraduate/arts-sciences/history/>

History lies at the heart of the liberal arts education. By combining the methods of the social sciences with those of the humanities, our major seeks to reconstruct the past in order to better understand the present. Courses study diverse peoples and societies from global and interdisciplinary perspectives, visiting times and places both distant and familiar. Accompany Mohammed on his journey from Mecca to Medina. Follow Harriet Jacobs as she escapes from slavery. Read the German Kaiser's letters to his cousin, the Russian Czar. Why did Rome fall? Why did World War II begin in Asia with the Japanese invasion of China? Did King Arthur really exist? Who planned the Holocaust? Why are there so many violent drug cartels in Mexico? History students attempt to answer these questions by analyzing a diverse array of primary and secondary sources drawn from politics, economics, and sociology; art, literature, and film; religion, philosophy, and psychology; and the natural sciences and environmental studies. Indeed, our students apply an interdisciplinary lens drawn from the Department's commitment to Africana Studies, American Studies, Asian Studies, Gender Studies, International Studies, Jewish Studies, Latin American and Latino Studies, Pre-Law, Social Science, and Stetson's Program in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies (SPREES). Given this rigorous, interdisciplinary preparation, it is hardly surprising that many American presidents, Supreme Court justices, business leaders, educators, and journalists have been majors in History. Students who major in History continue to perform near the top of all majors nationally on admissions exams to law and business schools.

Support the History Department!

If you would like to support the History Department and our ongoing mission to support academic achievement at Stetson, please consider contributing to the History Department Fund:

Gifts can be made online at www.stetson.edu/give by specifying the History Department as recipient or can be sent to:

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Questions? Contact [Caitlyn Bishop](mailto:cbishop@stetson.edu) at cbishop@stetson.edu.