

Department of History, SUNY Potsdam

Fall 2022

Greetings from the Chair:

It's been a busy semester! First off, congratulations to Dr. Imai, our previous Chair, who is now serving as Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. This semester several History faculty participated in Potsdam's first Social Sciences Professional Development Workshop for social studies teachers, organized by Dean Imai and student interns. We hope to make this an annual event so if you teach social studies - or know a social studies teacher - in the region, keep an eye out for announcements. History students continue to be very active on campus, supporting History Student Association, helping organize Constitution Day and Orange Shirt Day, working on Presidential Scholars research projects, and much more. Our faculty have also been busy - not just teaching familiar courses but also developing new courses and online versions of courses, researching and publishing, and supporting campus and community in myriad ways. You'll find a QR code leading to our History program brochure; we're also including a link for Giving Day. If you are able, any contribution will be very much appreciated and will help support student learning experiences, student awards (including a new award for students in WAYS courses taught by History faculty), and more. Thank you to all of you who've kept in touch -- it really is wonderful to hear what you're up to. Please send us your news, we love hearing and sharing what alumni are doing! -- Libbie Freed

Our new Interim Chair, Dr. Libbie Freed, was voted as a Favorite Professor for the School of Arts and Sciences during Potsdam Appreciate Week, which is sponsored by the Emerging Leaders.

Pictured is Ayisha Khalid '24 who presented Dr. Freed with her certificate and crown.

~ Congratulations Dr. Freed!



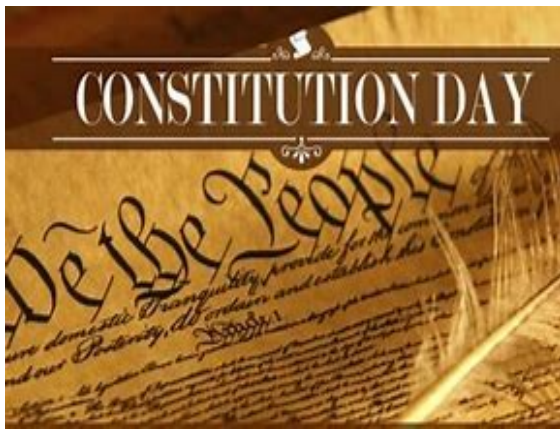
Stay Connected

Please email Dr. Libbie Freed at freedlj@potsdam.edu or Laura Peary at pearyll@potsdam.edu with any information that you would like to add to our homepage or newsletter. Tell us what you think. We love to hear from you!

Scan this QR Code to check out what the Department of History is all about and has to offer.



Student News



Constitution Day, is an American federal observance that recognizes the adoption of the United States Constitution and those who have become U.S. citizens. It is normally observed on September 17, the day in 1787 that delegates to the Constitutional Convention signed the document in Philadelphia.

This year, the celebration of Constitution Day was sponsored by the Student History Association and the Lougheed Learning Commons. Since September 17th fell on a Saturday this year, the celebration was held on Friday, September 16th, in Lougheed Learning Commons from 11:00 am until 2:00 pm.

Pamphlets were available that explained fascinating facts about the United States Constitution. Students could also vote on the favorite amendment and win a chance for a \$25 PACES gift certificate.

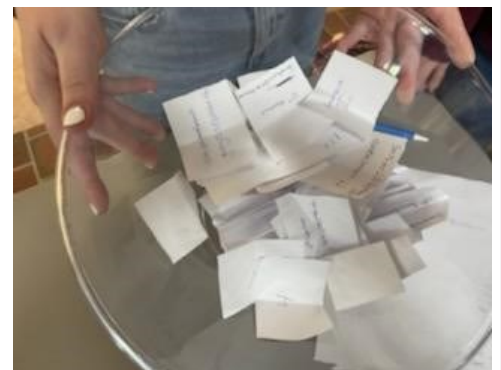
Eve voted for the 19th amendment, which says:

“The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the United States and its states from denying the right to vote to citizens of the United States on the basis of sex, in effect recognizing the right of women to a vote. The amendment was the culmination of a decades-long movement for women’s suffrage in the United States, at both the state and national levels, and was part of the worldwide movement towards women’s suffrage and part of the wider women’s rights movement. The first women’s suffrage amendment was introduced in Congress in 1878. However, a suffrage amendment did not pass the House of Representatives until May 21, 1919, which was quickly followed by the Senate, on June 4, 1919. It was then submitted to the states for ratification, achieving the requisite 36 ratifications to secure adoption, and thereby go into effect, on August 18, 1920.”

Pictured is Eve Borelli, winner of the \$25 PACES gift certificate.



Pictures from Constitution Day





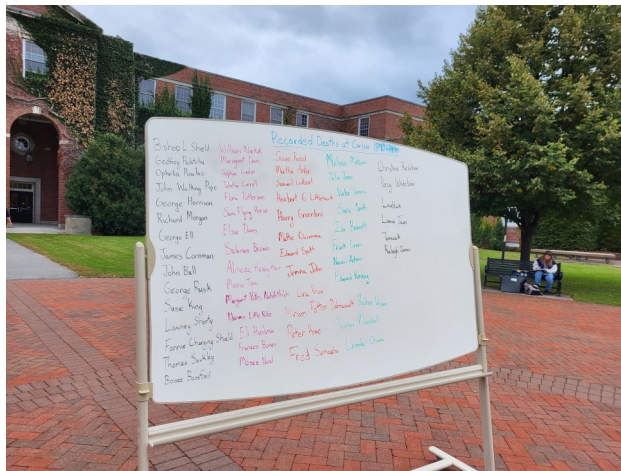
Orange Shirt Day (September 30th) is the National Day for truth and Reconciliation to honor the thousands of indigenous children who were forcefully removed from their families and communities to attend residential schools in North America. The orange shirts reference the real orange shirt taken from **Phyllis Webstad**, the Founder and Ambassador of the Orange Shirt Society, on her first day at a church-run residential school in 1973.

The SUNY Potsdam Student History Association assisted in the event to commemorate **Orange Shirt Day** on September 30, 2022. The event started on Wednesday, 9/28/22, as the students, faculty, and staff placed 10,000 orange flags—one for each indigenous student at the Carlisle School in Pennsylvania, 1879-1918 in the academic quad. This was an extremely emotional event for students, faculty, and staff.

The students who volunteered to help oversee this event received an orange T-shirt that was designed by Taylor Francis, a SUNY Potsdam Art Education alumna who is a Mohawk from Mohawk Territory of Akwesasne, which is located on the international border between Canada and the United States.



Pictures of the set-up for and from Orange Shirt Day



More can be found out about Phyllis and **Orange Shirt Day** at the following website:
www.orangeshirtday.org

Alumni News

Grace Locklin '22, who is teaching Social Studies at a local school, reached out to let us know that she was able to pass on some information that she learned from one of Dr. Freed's classes. Grace, who likes to share fun facts to keep her students interested, was able to incorporate some of the history of cocoa used as a drink and spiced with peppers when she was discussing the Spanish colonization of the Americas and the Colombian Exchange with her 7th grade students. She borrowed Dr. Freed's idea and brought in chocolate bars with chili peppers. Her students thought the concept was "cool", but were even more excited when she showed them the chocolate bars! Grace stated that her students wanted to make sure she thanked Dr. Freed, for contributing to a fun day in class!



Deb Rawdon '20 was elected by the Alumni Association to serve a 3-year term as a Trustee with the SUNY Potsdam Alumni Association Board during this past summer's reunion. Deb says that this was "truly a thrill and an honor" as she looks forward to working with the Alumni Board, and especially her fellow History Department alumni.

~ Congratulations Deb!

Naj McCarthy '13, has been accepted into the Latin Greek Institute at the CUNY Graduate Center in Brooklyn College, and awarded a scholarship that will greatly reduce the cost of the program.



Naj is excited for the upcoming Basic Greek summer program as it promises to be an intensive and rewarding experience. The ten-week full immersion Greek language course includes mandatory readings of unadapted writing by Plato, Aristotle, Lysias, Augustus, Homer, Euripides, and Sophocles. He hopes to gain several years of experience in the short time (graduates who excel are projected to acquire up to three years of experience). Naj noted that he would not have been able to pursue this objective if not for the instruction, encouragement and the support provided to him by Dr. Steven Stannish.

~ Congratulations Naj, and all the best in your summer studies!

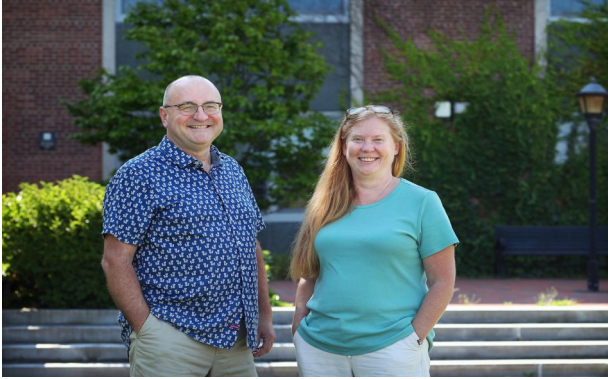


Liam Kingsley '17, a graduate student at Indiana U., has a Fulbright-Hays Grant to research the history of health administration in independent Namibia, tracing the effect of the burgeoning HIV/AIDS epidemic on the shape of the nascent, post-colonial state.

~ Congratulations, Liam!

Faculty News

SUNY Scholar Participates in Federal Grant to Revise History Curriculum



SUNY Potsdam faculty members

Dr. Thomas Baker and Dr. Gaylynn Welch recently joined 14 other SUNY scholars and two visiting scholars in the Adirondacks, as part of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant to reimagine the U.S. history curriculum across the SUNY system.

The weeklong workshop focused on the late 19th century period often described as the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. The project's goals include developing new courses within SUNY and revising existing courses to better reflect the current state of the field. The project will also produce a book and companion website designed to help teachers, community college instructors and college professors incorporate recent scholarship and best teaching practices into their courses.

In the second year of the grant, participating faculty will develop outreach efforts to local school districts across New York State. They will provide professional development opportunities for middle and high school social studies teachers. "It was great to be able to get together with fellow historians from SUNY campuses to brainstorm about course redesign," Baker said. "The Adirondack lake setting was lovely, too!" "This was a wonderful workshop! Both the conversations and atmosphere were rejuvenating. It was great to discuss and debate different approaches to teaching the Gilded and Progressive Era while staying at one of the historical Adirondack 'Great Camps,'" Welch said.



The History Department's own Dr. Axel Fair-Schulz has published "The Two Faces of East German Socialism" in the Fall 2022 issue of *LOGOS: A Journal of Modern History and Culture*, <http://logosjournal.com/2022/the-two-faces-of-east-german-socialism/>.

Please consider Giving to the Department of History

SUNY Potsdam's Department of History offers many programs and experiences for students that would not be possible without your support. Through scholarships, department programming and more, your generosity provides opportunities for students to excel as scholars and citizens.

Supporting the Department of History is easy through SUNY Potsdam's online giving form at www.potsdam.edu/giving.

To designate your gift, select "Other" in the designation field and type "Department of History."

For assistance as you make your gift, contact the College Advancement Office at (315) 267-3253 or invest@potsdam.edu.

Thank you for joining with other alumni and friends to ensure the continued growth of our students and department!

Happy Holidays

~The Faculty & Staff of the Department of History