



HISTORY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

From the Department Chair's Desk...

A big thank you and shout out to our amazing Departmental Assistant Laurie Peary: among the many things Laurie does for us is create this Newsletter, which gives us a chance to highlight some of the awesome things our students, faculty, and alumni have been doing. Read on to see what we've been up to!

Welcome President Smith: As this Newsletter goes to press, Dr. Suzanne Smith joins SUNY Potsdam as our new President. We are excited to have her on campus and look forward to working with her!

Congratulations to Dr. McIntyre: We look forward to having Dr. Sheila McIntyre back after a productive sabbatical: she has completed her new book *Reading Roger Williams* and sent it to the publisher – congratulations Dr. McIntyre!

Social studies teachers in northern New York: Dr. Clark has been organizing our 2nd Annual Social Studies Professional Development Day, scheduled for November 9th, 2023, so keep an eye out for announcements by early Fall.

Funding Departmental Scholarships: we are no longer receiving funds for the F. Roger Dunn Memorial Essay Award that would be presented to a student who submitted an outstanding senior seminar paper (HIST 480). As such, we are seeking a new benefactor so we may carry on with this award, or even create one with a new name for the same purpose to recognize our amazing students. -- Dr. Libbie Freed, Interim Department Chair

Thank you so much to the following donors for their contributions during the Fall 2022 and Spring 2023 semesters:

- Elizabeth C. Utzig
- Thaddeus J. Holynski
- Thomas Baker

Your generosity and support of our program is greatly appreciated.

Awards & Scholarships

Please join the Department of History in congratulating the following recipients of the Spring 2023 History awards and scholarships:

Departmental Scholars

Phillip Kramer
Holly O'Hern

Robert and Katherine Briggs Scholarship

Luke Allen
Levi Armes
Annabelle Kahle
Renewal Recipient: Karen King

F. Roger Dunn Memorial Essay Award

Rowan Kingsbury

Ilse J. Shaw History Award

Luka Delara

Father James Pennock Scholarship

SharonMarie Bartz
Jocelyn Smith

Roger L. Briggs Award John

Alexandra Sveshnikova

Schwaller Award

Shannon Doyle

Walter Wakefield Award

Annabelle Kahle

PHI ALPHA THETA SPRING 2023 NEW INDUCTEES

FOUNDED IN 1921 NATIONALLY, PHI ALPHA THETA IS THE INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN HISTORY. WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING INDUCTEES INTO SUNY POTSDAM'S LOCAL CHAPTER, ALPHA BETA THETA:

KIRSTEN ARQUIETT
BRENDA FURCHAK
JAMES GELLMAN
ISAAC MARTIN
C.J. MCGINNIS
HAILEY MOREY
EMILY PESCATORE
ALEXANDREA QUINN
JULIANNE WILLIAMS

THE NEW PHI ALPHA THETA INDUCTEES AND ALL HISTORY AWARD AND SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS WERE HONORED AT A DINNER HELD AT THE TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH ON FALL ISLAND IN POTSDAM ON MARCH 31ST AT 5:30 PM. THE GUEST SPEAKER WAS SUNY POTSDAM ALUMNI, JACOB ORCUTT.

We thank our donors for their generous support for these awards and scholarships.

The Annual History Honors Dinner was held this spring on March 31st at 5:30pm at the Trinity Episcopal Church on Fall Island.

The pictures below are from that event.



2023 Departmental Scholars
Holly O'Hern and Phillip Kramer



2023 Robert & Katherine Briggs
Scholarship
Renewal: Karen King, NEW: Annabelle
Kahle, Levi Armes, and Luke Allen



2023 F. Roger Dunn
Memorial Essay Award
Rowan Kingsbury



2023 Phi Alpha Theta New Inductees
Brenda Furchak, James Gellman, Isaac
Martin, CJ McGinnis, Emily Pescatore and
Julianne Williams
Absent: Kristin Arquiett, Hailey Morey,
and Alexandra Quinn



2023 Fr. James Pennock Scholarship
SharonMarie Bartz and Jocelyn Smith



2023 Ilse J. Shaw History
Award
Luka Delara



2023 John Schwaller
Award
Shannon Doyle



2023 Walter Wakefield
Award
Annabelle Kahle



2023 R.L. Briggs Award
Alexandra Sveshnikova

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The Presidential Scholar's Program provides recognition and additional financial resources to students who have achieved academic excellence and who demonstrate a commitment to their own academic progress. Students selected for the program are required to draft an educational plan and complete a project that will lead to fulfillment of their academic goals. Presidential Scholars are supported in the design and implementation of their project by individual faculty mentors.

The Department of History is happy to showcase two history majors that are involved in the Presidential Scholars Program..



SharonMarie Bartz

Working with: Dr. Axel Fair-Schulz (History) Title: Manipulating the Masses; How Media Feeds Public Thought
My project, 'Manipulating the Masses,' will consist of a display, a presentation, and a podcast. Its purpose is to educate the public about the history of propaganda during the World Wars (Mostly WWII, with some WWI artwork), how to spot propaganda techniques, why and how it's used, and how it relates to the modern world.

AJ Gillies

Working with: Dr. Morgan Perkins (Anthropology) and Dr. Libbie Freed (History) Title: Web of Stories: Oral History

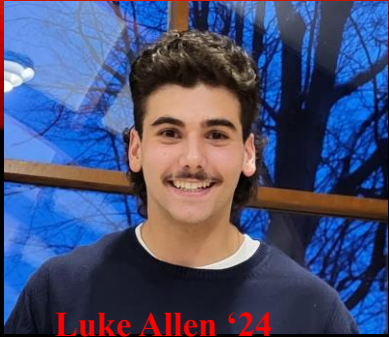
The basis of this project is the oral histories of the descendants of Jamaican maroons. To summarize history, enslaved Africans would frequently escape enslavement, these people are called maroons. As I have learned from previous coursework and outside knowledge, the myths these people would pass down from generation to generation show clear indications that some aspects of the stories have changed from their African origins. In addition, I hope to compile multiple oral family histories as enslaved Africans were taken from varying ethnic groups and regions.

The stories that families pass down are an important part of identity, especially for descendants of oppressed groups who may have parts of their identity stripped from them. I am Jamaican myself and due to the nature of the slave trade in Jamaica, my main source of knowledge of where my ancestors were from is the oral history told to me by my mother. Many of my Caribbean peers tell me a similar story, that even though mainstream historical sources cannot produce many letters, travel forms, and other documents from our ancestors, our oral histories align with newer historical research.

I find the fact that these stories correlate with research like DNA testing fascinating as it demonstrates the importance of passing these histories down. I have a personal connection with this project, and I hope to share this investment with the campus community in a way that even those not as familiar with the history could understand. Art is frequently used as a medium to grab people's attention and help them to understand a concept so I think that dispersing the information through an art exhibition would be perfect.

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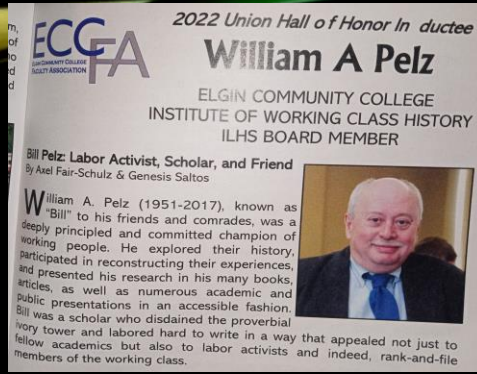


Luke Allen '24

Luke is a History Major and Middle/Secondary Social Studies Education Major. For the past 2 summers, he has been working at Massena Central School as a mentor for summer school with middle and high school Native American students. The students use a program called Edmentum, where they must answer questions and get a certain grade to pass. The mentor's job is to help these students better understand the information and help them pass their tests. Once they pass their tests, they can proceed to enjoy their summer!



Dr. Axel Fair-Schulz



Genesis Saltos '22

Dr. Axel Fair-Schulz was invited to commemorate his colleague William Pelz, who was posthumously inducted in the Illinois Labor Union Society of Honor, together with Karen Lewis, the leader of the Chicago Teacher's Union during the legendary strike in 2011 that revitalized the labor movement across America. Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of Teachers, delivered the keynote address. Genesis Saltos '22 read several of William Pelz's books in various classes of Dr. Axel Fair-Schulz and was able to contribute the perspective of a student to his piece, as they both reflect on looking at history through the prism of working people, the oppressed, and the exploited.



Jacob Orcutt '12 was the Distinguished Speaker at this year's Phi Alpha Theta Honors Dinner on 3/31. He is the Director of Operations at the Connecticut Old State House (Connecticut Democracy Center). Jacob's research focuses on Indigenous history of early America.



Dr. Sheila McIntyre

Dr. Sheila McIntyre is out on sabbatical working on 3 separate projects:

- a new upper-division course focusing on Metacom's/King Philip's War (1675-1678) that will address a woeful gap in indigenous history courses at Potsdam;
- a new WAYS 103 course on religious pluralism/diversity in America; and
- She is finishing an edited and annotated documentary collection on Roger Williams (1603-1683), the first since 1953, that focuses on his ideas on religious liberty and Indigenous relations.

We cannot wait to see the finished products!

Stay Connected.

Please email Dr. Libbie Freed, Dept. Chair, at freedlj@potdam.edu or Laurie Peary, Dept. Secretary, pearyll@potdam.edu with any information that you would like to see in a future newsletter. Please note the content you send may be edited, but we would love to know what you are doing, how things are going, etc.

Also, please scan the following QR code to find out more about us.



Give to the History Department

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@potdam.edu.

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

*The Faculty, Staff, and Students of
The Department of History*