

SHARON FERRARO RECEIVES 2020 ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



Sharon Ferraro, who received her BA in History from WMU in 1992, is the City of Kalamazoo's Historic Preservation Coordinator, a part of the city's Office of Community Planning and Economic Development. She is also the director of Old House Network, an educational organization that teaches traditional skills and techniques for the maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of old houses.

"WMU has been omnipresent in my life growing up in Kalamazoo. We lived in the Vine neighborhood and sledded on East Campus, saw those handsome Classical Revival buildings above us when we walked to school and took field trips to East Campus and later West Campus for book fairs and to visit the computer center. My mother, Charlotte Grant Ferraro, was the first person in her family to attend and graduate from college. I always expected to go to WMU, and in fall 1971 I started as a pre-med student. That lasted through my second round of earning a "C" in chemistry and with the help of Western Civ 100, I fell in love with history. When my funds ran out, I went to work in my dad's studio for a few years, got married, had two sons and in 1990, I returned to WMU and to my love of history. Some of the same instructors I had in the early seventies were still there, like Peter Schmitt and I reveled in learning. Peter introduced me to the field of Historic Preservation – a field that combined my love of history and storytelling with a practical application – saving historic buildings for re-use!

"From WMU I headed to Eastern Michigan University for a masters in historic preservation. I planned to get the degree and come back to Kalamazoo and become the historic preservation coordinator. After graduating from EMU in 1994, it took seven years for the position to open up and I was hired to my dream job. Since then I have been involved in numerous projects from advising on historic buildings and projects that might affect them and helping to set up new historic districts to individual technical support for historic homeowners.

"In 2008, when Peter Schmitt retired, he asked me to speak at his retirement dinner to represent all his students over the decades, using what I had learned in his historical writing class to distill my experience and thousands of other students into a five-minute speech. When I was told in June this year that the College of Arts and Sciences considered me a distinguished alumna, I was humbled and honored that during an unprecedented pandemic, the university was continuing the traditions of recognizing former students. I have carried my learning from Western into the larger world, and I hope, I have made an impression and left the city a better place because history is now an integral part of decision making in Kalamazoo. Thank you, College of Arts and Sciences and the Department of History for this honor." Please feel free to view the awards ceremony at <https://wmich.edu/arts-sciences/2020-alumni-achievement>



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CHAIR'S WELCOME - DR. LINDA J. BORISH

Welcome to all to our annual Department of History Newsletter! This has been an unprecedented period in our history as we face the challenges of the Coronavirus pandemic. We hope all of you are keeping well during these difficult times. I started as the new Chair of the Department of History on July 1, 2020. I appreciate the knowledge of departmental matters shared with me by Dr. Wilson Warren, our former Chair. Our colleagues in the Department of History have continued to pursue various academic activities, as noted in this Newsletter, although there remain constraints to business as usual. We send our best wishes to our faculty colleagues who have recently retired in History; you can read some information about their academic careers in this Newsletter.

While there are several changes on campus due to Coronavirus I am proud of the colleagues in the Department of History for continuing their work in teaching, research, and service. The Western Essential Studies program, the new general education program, began this fall 2020 semester. Colleagues in the Department of History are contributing significantly to this with our various course offerings. Our Accelerated Graduate Degree Program in History continues to enroll some of our brightest undergraduate students pursuing an M.A degree in History.

I am pleased to welcome our new Administrative Assistant II, Amanda Willoughby, who joined the Department of History in August 2020. Amanda has been a valuable member of the Department of History and has been most helpful to me and colleagues in the work we pursue in the Department of History. Amanda has updated the History website so please access our webpage at <https://wmich.edu/history/>. I hope we will have brighter days ahead and we can welcome you personally to the Department of History and the WMU campus. On behalf of the Department of History, I wish you all a safe and peaceful holiday season!

Linda J. Borish

DR. BERKHOFER RECEIVES NEH GRANT

Dr. Robert Berkhofer (History) and Dr. Jana Schulman (English and director of the Medieval Institute) have been awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities grant through the Summer Seminar and Institutes for Higher Education Faculty program. Their institute, "Law and Culture in Medieval England," will center on law through legal, literary, and historical texts and include experts in various fields from the United States and Britain.

"I am thrilled about winning this grant, which will support a summer institute for 35 higher education faculty hosted by WMU. This institute will highlight the History Department and the Medieval Institute as centers for research in the humanities. I am looking forward to collaborating with our team of visiting scholars, who are international experts in medieval legal studies."



The Medieval Institute at Western Michigan University, established in 1962, ranks among the top ten of the 90 institutes, centers, and programs focusing on medieval studies in North America. More information is available at: wmich.edu/medieval.

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information is available at: www.neh.gov.

FACULTY RETIREMENTS

DR. HOWARD DOOLEY



Dr. Howard Dooley received his Ph.D. from Notre Dame in 1976, having already joined the WMU History Department in 1970. He co-authored *Hesburgh's Notre Dame: Triumph in Transition* (1972) and contributed numerous articles and chapters to journals and books, including *Suez 1956: The Crisis and its Consequences* (1989); *Cold War Shadows: The U.S. and the Middle East During the Eisenhower Years* (1998); and *A Revolutionary Year: The Middle East in 1958* (1998). His teaching profile was wide and broad, reflecting his many areas of expertise, ranging from modern Europe and America to the history of the Middle East to the relatively new field of World History.

Dr. Dooley will also be remembered as a fixture in WMU's campus leadership for decades. Perhaps most of all, Howard Dooley was singularly responsible for building up WMU's Global and International Studies, as well as WMU's links to international students. He helped expand WMU's partner programs throughout South Asia and Southeast Asia, and helped establish programs sponsored by WMU such as an MBA program in Singapore and a pre-MBA program in India. He visited 32 countries to help establish student and faculty exchange programs, many of which have provided History majors with life-changing experiences. As a result of his efforts to internationalize WMU, Western now has over 2000 international students representing 110 different countries, and led to Dr. Dooley being chosen by the US State Department to join a delegation of higher education administrators on an official visit to Middle Eastern nations, in 2002. In 2011, Dooley was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Achievement Award in Professional and Community Service, and in 2016 WMU bestowed on him the University Distinguished Service Award.

DR. MITCH KACHUN



Dr. Mitch Kachun received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1997 and began teaching at WMU in 2001, after teaching in Nebraska and at Grand Valley State University. His research and teaching have focused on African-American history and the history of commemoration and memory more generally. He is the author of two acclaimed monographs on African-American history: *Festivals of Freedom: Memory and Meaning in African American Emancipation Celebrations, 1808-1915* (University of Massachusetts Press, 2003), which was a semi-finalist for the Frederick Douglass Prize; and *First Martyr of Liberty: Crispus Attucks American Memory* (Oxford University Press, 2017). Kachun also edited and published *The Curse of Caste; or the Slave Bride* (Oxford University Press, 2006), containing

the self-written memoirs of a slave woman, an extremely rare and precious discovery which was reviewed in *The New York Times Review of Books* and named a *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title. Kachun continues to be an active scholar in his retirement, working on a sociocultural biography of African American Minister Charles Stewart. In addition, he has published numerous articles and has participated in several public exhibitions and presentations on the role of African Americans, specifically Crispus Attucks, in the American Revolution.

Mitch Kachun was a dedicated teacher and mentor in the History Department, training numerous graduate students in the field of memory and African American history, making an enormous contribution to the Department's Public History program. He led professional development seminars for graduate students, and in addition, he served as the Director of Graduate Studies from 2009-2014 and from 2017-2018. He was awarded the WMU Emerging Scholar Award in 2007. Kachun is a talented guitar player, and frequently plays in a blues duo called Barrelhouse locally. He also continues to teach in community education with the SHARE program.

DR. JAMES MURRAY

Jim Murray has led a distinguished career as a scholar of medieval Europe, specializing in the origins of capitalism and commerce. He spent the first 23 years of his career at the University of Cincinnati, before being hired at WMU in 2007 to become the Director of the Medieval Institute. As Director, he helped build upon the already internationally prestigious reputation of the Institute to make it one of the premier research institutions in the world devoted to the research of Medieval history and culture. Murray oversaw the world-famous Medieval Congress, which grew to 3000 participants from every corner of the globe, making it one of the most important events for Medieval scholars in the world. In addition to the Congress, Murray helped increase the scope and activity of the Institute by bringing the critically important work of the Cistercian Studies Institute – one of the leading research centers in the Cistercian religious order, an organization vital to any understanding of the history and culture of the Middle Ages – into the framework of the Medieval Institute.

Beyond the work of the Medieval Institute, Dr. Murray worked tirelessly to internationalize Medieval Studies – to broaden its scope beyond just Europe and Europeans, including doing crucial work in Taiwan to build bridges with scholars there. At the same time, he continued to build bridges with prestigious and leading scholarly institutions in Europe, including the Ecole Normale in Paris, where he taught as a guest professor in 2011. Murray co-authored, with Edwin Hunt, *A History of Business in Medieval Europe, 1200-1550* (Cambridge, 1999) and co-edited *Comparative Perspectives on History and Historians: Essays in Memory of Bryce Lyon (1920-2007)* (Medieval Institute Publications, Western Michigan University) with David Nicholas and Bernard Bachrach. Murray's monograph on the origins of capitalism in medieval Europe, *Bruges, Cradle of Capitalism, 1280-1390* (Cambridge, 2004) is a groundbreaking, influential work and continues to be of interest to scholars around the world. Murray joined the WMU History Department in 2016 full time.

DR. MICHAEL NASSANEY

Michael Nassaney received his Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst in 1992, that same year joining the WMU Department of Anthropology. Dr. Nassaney led a highly distinguished and productive academic career at WMU focused on the archaeology of the Eastern Woodlands, with a specialization on the interaction between Native Americans and early European settlers in North America, especially in the Great Lakes region. His scholarly interests were driven by the central question of power in societies and how it is mediated through material culture. His studies examine how relations between Native Americans and European settlers were structured and how our understanding of those relations have shifted over the past century. As a prolific scholar, archeologist, editor, and public historian, he has produced over 100 publications for academic and general audiences including six co-edited volumes, numerous peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, and a monograph, *The Archeology of the North American Fur Trade*, which appeared in 2015 with the University Press of Florida.

More than any of his voluminous publications, however, Dr. Nassaney will be remembered for his groundbreaking (literally and figuratively) work on Fort St. Joseph, an early French trading post dating to the late 17th century. Fort St. Joseph, located near what is today Niles in Berrien County, has been a crucial archeological find that has significantly shaped our understanding of the very first Europeans to arrive in southwest Michigan and the relationships they had with the Native American tribes who inhabited this land. Dr. Nassaney led WMU archaeologists in the discovery of the Fort on the ground, which had long been thought to have been located in the area, but which had been lost and uninvestigated. Since 1998, Nassaney oversaw the identification, investigation, and interpretation of the Fort along with countless

archeology, history, and anthropology undergraduate and graduate students, many of whom went on to their own distinguished careers in archeology, public history, and related fields based on their work with Dr. Nassaney. The discoveries Dr. Nassaney and his students made at the Fort have been presented internationally, including in Britain, Spain, France, Canada, and the Czech Republic, and have given rise to numerous acclaimed scholarly presentations, exhibits, and publications, many of which are the products of collaboration with his students. Dr. Nassaney joined the WMU History Dept. in 2019.

DR. LEWIS PYENSON



Lew Pyenson came to WMU as the Dean of the Graduate College in 2006 where he served until 2010, stepping down to become a full-time member of the History Department. Previously he had worked at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and the University of Montreal. He has had a long career as a scholar of intellectual history and the history of science. He is the author of a groundbreaking trilogy on the experience of scientists from France, the Netherlands, and Germany within the context of imperialism, acclaimed by the prestigious French journal *Annales: Histoire, Sciences Sociales*. This is just the tip of his prolific scholarly contributions, however. His *Servants of Nature: A History of Scientific Institutions, Enterprises, and Sensibilities*, coauthored with Susan Sheets-Pyenson (Norton, 1999) was reviewed in the *New Yorker* and described as “masterly.”

Among his other titles are *The Passion of George Sarton: A Modern Marriage and Its Discipline* (American Philosophical Society, 2007); *The Art of Teaching Physics: The Eighteenth Century Demonstration Apparatus of Jean Antoine Nollet*, edited with Jean-François Gauvin (Septentrion for the David M. Stewart Museum, 2002) and appearing also in a French edition (it received the Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research from the Canadian Museums Association); *The Young Einstein: The Advent of Relativity* (Adam Hilger, 1985); and *Neohumanism and the Persistence of Pure Mathematics in Wilhelminian Germany* (American Philosophical Society, 1983). He continues to work and publish. His *Shock of Recognition: Motifs of Modern Art and Science* will appear in print in 2021 with Brill (it is available now electronically), following closely after his *Three Bells: Thoughts at the End of Postmodernity* (Fair Oaks, 2020). Pyenson’s pen has contributed fiction, including a historical novel entitled *True Jacob* (Fair Oaks, 2009), published pseudonymously and favorably reviewed in the flagship history-of-science journal *Isis*. On the personal side, he was a master’s swimmer and has worked with metal sculpture. He has three children and three grandchildren.

AWARDS

DR. LINDA J. BORISH



Dr. Linda Borish, Chair of the Department of History, was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Recognition Award, 2019-2020, in her role as an associate professor. Dr. Carla Koretsky, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, had the following to say about Dr. Borish, “Linda’s scholarship, teaching and service have demonstrated a commitment to the importance of understanding the significance of race, ethnicity, social class, gender, religion, and culture in American society. Scholars consider her the foremost international expert on Jewish American women in sport, where she has written and edited nearly 60 books, book chapters, articles, and encyclopedia entries on this topic. In addition to her teachings and research, Linda held leadership positions with Seita Scholars and the Foster Youth and Higher Education Initiative. “

DR. JOSHUA KOENIG

Dr. Joshua Koenig, Instructor of History, was awarded the College of Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Advising Excellence Award, 2019-2020. While in his position as an Academic Advisor, he effortlessly coordinated advising for hundreds of students spread across the three programs of the department. He was also awarded the Doctoral Level Graduate Research and Creative Activities Award at both the department and university levels while working on his Ph.D. This is a tremendous accomplishment, given that the university only gives out 4 of these awards at the Ph.D. level.

RUTH AARDSMA-BENTON

Ruth Aardsma-Benton received funding for research in German archives from the Breisach fund, the Peter Schmitt endowment, the Nora Faires fund, as well as the Graduate College travel fund. Ruth also presented a paper at the (virtual) German Studies Association in fall 2020 and was awarded the department Ph.D. level Cordier Teaching Effectiveness Award.

HANNAH KELLER

Hannah Keller was awarded the Master's Level Graduate Research and Creative Activities Award at both the department and university levels. The university only gives out 3 of these M.A. level awards, so this is an amazing accomplishment for a first year M.A. student to win. "I am grateful to the Graduate College for selecting me for this award and I am grateful to the History Department for providing me with the resources to continue my research and to participate in professional development activities."

CLAIRE HERHOLD

Claire Herhold was chosen to receive a Dissertation Completion Fellowship, which will allow her to finish her dissertation on public history. Her supervising professor is Dr. Mitch Kachun. "I'm so honored to have received the Dissertation Completion Fellowship, which will allow me to focus on my own work after years of service in TAU and GSA. It has been an added blessing amid the uncertainty of the pandemic to be guaranteed the time to write."

CHRISTOPHER MAIYTT

Christopher Maiytt received both the department M.A. Level Cordier Teaching Effectiveness Award and the Russel Writing Award.

MORGAN PELTIER

Morgan Peltier, a new student in the department, is a Thurgood Marshall Fellow and will be supported by that award during her MA program in History.

IMANI TINTER

Imani Tinter was awarded the department M.A. Level Cordier Teaching Effectiveness Award.

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

- Kayla Blauet – History Fellowship Award
- Dustin Cochran – Timothy Stoepker Completion Scholarship Award
- Christopher Foster – Alumni Travel Award
- Jacob Hurwitz – Phi Beta Kappa Award

- Madeline Lankford – History Fellowship Award
- Lauren Mathis – Bert Nash Award
- James Ross – Cheryl Lyon-Jenness Advanced Undergraduate Writing Award
- Daniel Yates – Margaret MacMillan Undergraduate Writing Award

PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLAR

JULIA HERMAN

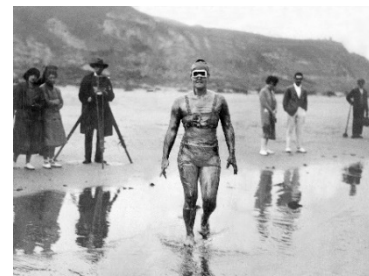
Julia Herman, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, was the 2020 recipient of the Presidential Scholar Award in History. This is the highest award an undergraduate student can receive from WMU and it is reserved for seniors. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Public History and a minor in Spanish, Julia is now working towards her master's degree in Museum Studies online from Johns Hopkins University. She has decided to follow her passion for collections work and make that the focus of her master's degree. In her free time, she volunteers at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farms in Rochester, MI, where she assists archival staff with research, completes inventory, and catalogs the artifacts in an 1848 One Room Schoolhouse that is a part of the museum.

"This has been a fantastic opportunity to work with artifacts I have not had exposure to before! Unfortunately, due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 Presidential Scholar Ceremony was cancelled. However, I would like to take the time to thank the amazing history professors at Western. In particular, Dr. Koenig and Dr. Benac, who helped me navigate my way through the Public History program and who also served as great mentors for me as a student and a young professional."

PROJECTS BY DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

DR. LINDA J. BORISH

Dr. Linda J. Borish was a contributing historian for *Unladylike2020: Unsung Women Who Changed America*, (www.Unladylike2020.com) an American Masters special on PBS, which showcased how women transformed society and became change makers in breaking barriers – part of women's quest for equality and opportunities in the United States. This series marked the 100th anniversary of suffrage, the right to vote for women in the United States.



Dr. Borish's contribution focused on "Gertrude Ederle (1905-2003), one of 26 amazing women featured in the documentary film series. Ederle was an American Olympic swimmer and the first woman to swim across the English Channel in 1926 at age 20, beating the men's time by more than 2 hours. Ederle challenged notions of women being "the weaker sex" and became a heroine of the 1920s "Golden Age of Sport" in the U.S. and globally. The film shows how the media covered Ederle and how she influenced American culture and sporting culture in the U.S. and internationally with her stardom." To view the documentary, please visit https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DCR_phH1_TE&feature=youtu.be.

DR. JOSHUA KOENIG



Dr. Joshua Koenig's latest project was released by the National Educational Telecommunications Association (NETA) and PBS. "The work centers on the Snelson-Brinker house located near Steelville, Missouri. Built in 1834, the house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. In 2017 the historic resource fell victim to arson, and the Missouri Humanities Council, along with the Cherokee Nation used this

event as an opportunity to excavate, study, and preserve the site. Thanks to a \$150,000 media grant, we created an historical account of the site and established a record of the preservation efforts." The project can be viewed at <https://www.pbs.org/video/digadohi-lands-cherokee-and-the-trail-of-tears-tsojy/>

DR. LARRY J. SIMON



One contribution to academia which faculty member Larry J. Simon has found absorbing is scholarly editing and publishing. He edited a festschrift for his UCLA mentor published by Brill in 1995, served a 5-year stint (1999-2003) as Executive Editor of their thrice-yearly journal *Medieval Encounters*, and was asked to join the editorial board, which then included Hugh Kennedy (London SOAS), David Abulafia (Cambridge), and three others, of the Brill book series *The Medieval Mediterranean*. "I started with vol. 26 in 2000 and now next month, in December 2020, we will publish our 126th volume," he informs us. "Kennedy, Abulafia, and others are retired or have stepped down, but I remain, and we've added Frances Andrews (St. Andrews) and Dan Smail (Harvard) to the board." In 2001 Simon was asked by Brill if he would take over and revamp the *Medieval Iberia* book series then edited by Rachel Arié (Sorbonne) and Angus MacKay (Edinburgh). "I brought to the editorial board Donna Rogers (Dalhousie), Isidro Rivera (Kansas), and later Mercedes García-Arenal (Madrid CSIC) and Montserrat Piera (Temple). And I rechristened the series *The Medieval and Early Modern Iberian World*, deliberately broadening the disciplinary focus of the series, and opening it up chronologically to represent the dynamic early modern Spanish and Portuguese worlds which stretched from Naples and Sicily to the Iberian Peninsula, the Low Countries, and North Africa, and to a large share of the Americas." Vol. 17 in the series was published in 2002, and vol. 80 will be published in early 2021. Brill was founded in 1683 as an academic publisher in the university city of Leiden in the Netherlands and grew in the late nineteenth century to become the world's premier publisher on Islam, China, and biblical studies; today it is a publicly traded company valued in excess of 35 million Euros, has added International Law to its portfolio, and publishes around 1200 volumes and 275 journals each year.

RECENT DOCTORAL GRADUATES

DR. JOHN BYCZYNSKI

Dissertation Title: "Beyond the Farm: Capitalism in North-Central Minnesota," 1880-1940. Supervising professor: Eli Rubin

Dr. Byczynski is an Adjunct Faculty member in the Social Sciences Department at Grand Rapids Community College.

DR. JOSHUA KOENIG

Dissertation Title: "Our Shared Vision: Public Depictions of the Trans-Mississippi American West." Supervising professor: Ed Martini

Dr. Koenig is an Instructor in the History Department at Western Michigan University. He is also completing the third documentary series for *History from the Ground Up* on PBS.

DR. PETER DOBEK

Dissertation Title: "Karczma/Taberna: Public Houses in Cracow During the Jagiellonian Dynasty." Supervising professor: James Palmitessa

Dr. Dobek currently holds a Visiting Assistant Professor appointment at Grand Valley State University.

RECENT MASTER'S GRADUATES

MICHELLE DEVRIES – DeVries is a teacher at Providence Christian School in Kalamazoo, MI.

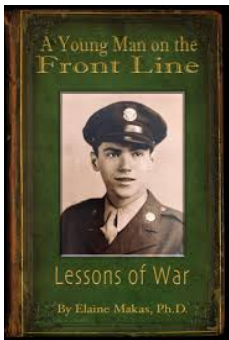
TRE GOODHUE – Goodhue works at Tri-Cities Historical Museum as the assistant to the education curator and volunteer manager.

MADISON PRALL

COLIN RENSCH – Rensch is a doctoral student in musicology at University of Illinois.

IMANI TINTER – Tinter is enrolled in the Masters in Information and Library Science at Simmons University.

HISTORY ALUMNA PUBLISHES BOOK



Dr. Elaine Makas, History Department Alumna, B.A. 1976, Ph.D. in Educational Leadership (Oakland University 2010), has recently published a historical book. *“A Young Man on the Front Line: Lessons of War”* is a true story of a young man on the front line of war. The story chronicles his experience of becoming a soldier, enduring his soldiering days, and reconciling his life in the aftermath of his war experiences. As a reader, you become a fellow traveler with Chris Makas on his journey of war, trauma, adaptation, and self-acceptance while contemplating “lessons of war” – all within the historic realities of World War II.” This is a true account of her father, Chris Makas’, experiences.

PHI ALPHA THETA

President – Alex Houseman

Secretary/WSA Representative – Melissa Paduk

Treasurer – Dustin Cochran

Historian/Webmaster – Ryan Hagel



Dr. David Benac,
Faculty Advisor

“While this year has been unlike any other, Phi Alpha Theta is still bringing students together over their interest in history. We have had multiple presentations from students, on topics ranging from Iroquois Mourning Wars to the Preservation of Pompeii, and plan to engage with professors in their field of study. As part of our mission, we are helping members improve their Public History skills through research and presentation of history with the Gibson Guitar Factory entry on Clio. As the year progresses, we plan to continue building our club membership and establishing ourselves as a History Honors Society here at WMU.”

MICHIGAN HISTORY DAY 2020, DISTRICT 6 COMPETITION

Western Michigan University’s Department of History hosted the southwest Michigan District 6 competition of the National History Day contest on March 7, 2020. This was the sixth year that the department has hosted the district competition. Our district was one of only three in the state that was able to hold an in-person contest; most state district contests had to move to virtual competitions in March. As in previous years, our district competition attracted the largest number of competitors of any district in the state of Michigan. About 200



**Dr. Wilson Warren,
Co-Director, District 6**

students from grades 4-12 competed. A total of about 500 students, family members, and teachers took part in the event. Students enter the contest as individuals or as part of groups of up to 5 students. They develop projects in one of five contest categories: exhibits (poster displays), websites, dramatic performances, documentaries, or papers. Students' projects also needed to address the annual theme, which in 2020 was "Breaking Barriers in History."

District 6's top place winners did very well at the state competition. An individual or group from District 6 won first place in all five categories in the youth age group (grades 4-5). A total of seven individuals or groups qualified for the national contest at the University of Maryland in the junior age group (grades 6-8). Another three individuals or groups qualified for the national contest from the senior age group (grades 9-12). At the national contest, Myles Daugherty and Nic Sheppard from South Haven High School finished seventh in the senior group exhibit category. This was the second year in a row that an individual or group from District 6 finished in the top 10 at the national contest.

Because of the on-going pandemic, the 2021 District 6 contest will be held virtually. Entries will be due on February 21 and results will be announced on March 6. This year's contest theme is "Communication in History."

SOCIAL MEDIA

For more regular updates from the Department of History, we invite you to follow us on social media. On all of these platforms you can connect with fellow students, faculty, and alumni, hear about the latest events and speakers at the Department, and follow a curated collection of major historical news and discoveries!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WMUHistory>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/wmuhistory1>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/wmuhistory/>



**Dr. Anise Strong,
Social Media Coordinator**

IN APPRECIATION: DONORS FROM NOV. 2019 TO NOV. 2020

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Your support is vitally important. Donations help us take advantage of ongoing and new opportunities to not only enhance the teaching and research of the department, but to assist students in achieving their educational and professional goals. To learn about funds that benefit the History Department and our students, please visit www.wmich.edu/history/giving. Thank you for supporting the Department of History!

Please direct donation questions to Dr. Linda J. Borish, Chair: linda.borish@wmich.edu or (269) 387-4649.



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Newsletter Team

Editors: Amanda Willoughby & Dr. Linda J. Borish

Contact: amanda.m.willoughby@wmich.edu, linda.borish@wmich.edu

Mailing List: WMU Alumni Relations

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