Anne Wend Lipsey graduated from Western Michigan University in 1974 with a Bachelor’s degree in History and certification in secondary education. She then earned a Master’s degree in Urban Planning from the University of Michigan. Before embarking on her career with Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes, Ms. Lipsey served with Ministry with Community, the Center for City Housing, and the Eastside Neighborhood Association.

From 1984 to 1991, Anne was assistant director of Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes. She then served as Director of Allocations at Greater Kalamazoo United Way—now United Way of Battle Creek and Kalamazoo Region—and as a program officer for the Kalamazoo Community Foundation. From 1986 to 1990, she was a trustee on the Kalamazoo Public Schools’ Board of Education. Anne became executive director of Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes in 2003 and served in that leadership role until she retired in 2014.

Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes was organized in 1982 in response to several downtown churches’ efforts to address widespread concerns about community hunger. Today, Kalamazoo Loaves and Fishes operates as a food bank with a $1.7 million budget and offers multiple services such as a grocery pantry program, mobile food initiative, weekend food pack program that serves local children with breakfast and lunch, commodity supplemental food, and meal support program. The organization distributes food to 71 locations, offers direct service at 24 pantry sites, and manages 450 volunteers. Much of this growth occurred during Ms. Lipsey’s tenure. Before retiring, Anne led a $2 million capital campaign to build a new facility that began operations in January 2012.

During her long service career, Ms. Lipsey was also involved with several other community organizations, including Options for Community Living, the Anti-Racism Alliance, and the Kalamazoo Deacon’s Conference. In 2010, Anne was president of the Michigan Food Bank Council. In honor of her extensive contributions, the Kalamazoo YWCA awarded her with the 2014 YWCA Lifetime Woman of Achievement Award. The Department of History was very pleased to welcome Anne Wend Lipsey back to campus and recognize her as our Alumni Achievement awardee for 2016.
Welcome to our department’s annual newsletter. My tenure as chair is only a few months old and I’m learning something new every day. I’m fortunate to have good colleagues, nearly all of whom I’ve known since I started in the department in 2002. Together we’re embarking on several initiatives with our undergraduate and graduate programs that should position us to serve our students better as well as to help us remain one of the central departments in the College of Arts and Sciences.

As always, our newsletter focuses on the many successes over the past year of our students and faculty. There is much for our alums to feel good about, and we ask you to help us with your own stories for future newsletters as well as our department website. We are also saddened by the deaths of two colleagues, Fred Dobney and Ernst Breisach, this past year. The newsletter acknowledges both for their many contributions to the department and Western Michigan University.

This year’s newsletter highlights one of our new initiatives. We would like to provide our majors and minors with more financial support for internships. As many of you are no doubt aware, one of the most effective ways that higher education can support student success in gaining a foothold in the professional job market is through practical career experiences. We already help our public history majors find internship placements. Our education majors experience the same in their student teaching internships. We would like to assist our majors in the liberal education history major—now our largest track of students—to do the same. However, given that most internships are unpaid, students often cannot support themselves in such internships without financial support. We ask your help in starting a fund that would provide some assistance for students who demonstrate classroom success and financial need for internships.

On behalf of the History Department, I wish you a happy and healthy holiday season and new year of 2017.

Michael J. Merricks

Dr. Fredrick J. Dobney, professor of History and former WMU provost and vice president of academic affairs, died on August 19 at his home in Brighton, Michigan. He was 72.

Born on December 4, 1943, and raised by his mother in Waco, Texas, Fred had a long and productive career in academe. After receiving his B.A., cum laude, from Baylor University in 1966, he went on to earn a Ph.D. in History from Rice University in 1970. His dissertation focused on William L. Clayton, a prominent businessman who went on to become President Truman’s first Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs. It was published by The Johns Hopkins University Press in 1971. Beginning in 1970, Fred joined the History Department at St. Louis University, advancing from assistant to full professor before he joined the History Department at Loyola University in New Orleans in 1981. In 1978, Fred published River Engineers on the Middle Mississippi: A History of the St. Louis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He pursued various administrative positions at both St. Louis and Loyola. He left Loyola in 1986 to become vice provost for extended university services at Washington State University in 1987. Starting in 1993, Fred served as executive vice president and provost at Michigan Technological University. Fred then became provost and vice president of academic affairs at Western Michigan University in 2000 before returning to the classroom as a member of the Department of History in 2002. Over the past decade and a half, Fred was one of the Department of History’s most popular instructors.

In addition to his academic pursuits, Fred was dedicated to his family and friends. He was a sports enthusiast, playing tennis, handball, and golf as well as enjoying a good poker game with friends. He claimed that his greatest accomplishment was completing a marathon when he lived in New Orleans. Fred had a Texas-sized personality with a wit, humor, and charm that made others feel comfortable. The Department of History misses his good teaching and collegiality.
Dr. Ernst A. Breisach, long-time professor of History and chair of the department from 1967 to 1989, passed away in Kalamazoo on November 25 at the age of 93. Ernst was instrumental in establishing the modern foundations of WMU’s Department of History with its current focus on multiple undergraduate and graduate programs. His scholarship in the field of historiography was internationally recognized.

Born in Schwanberg, Styria, Austria in 1923, Ernst came of age during Adolf Hitler’s rise to power. He served in the German Army on the Eastern Front, and was seriously wounded while fighting against the Soviet Army. He convalesced in Austria for months. He earned a Ph.D. in History at the University of Vienna in 1946 as well a Dr.rer.oec (Ph.D. in Economics) from the Wirtschaftsuniversität (University of Economics and Business) in Vienna, in 1950. From 1946 to 1952, he taught history and geography at a Realschule (secondary school) in Vienna.

Ernst first came to the United States in 1951-1952 on a Fulbright Fellowship to study the American higher education system. He then was hired by Olivet College in 1953 and achieved the rank of associate professor of History. In 1957, Ernst accepted a position as an associate professor with Western Michigan College of Education’s Department of History. (Western was known as Western Michigan College of Education from 1942 until 1957 when it became Western Michigan University.) He was also offered a position with Michigan State University’s Department of History in that year, but chose Western instead. Ernst became a full professor of History in 1963. During the decade from 1957 to 1967, when Ernst became chair of the department, Western’s enrollment roughly tripled from around 5,000 to 16,000 students. The department’s faculty increased from 12 to 35 members.

During Ernst’s tenure as chair of the Department of History, which was two years longer than Smith Burnham’s from 1919-1939, the department initiated nearly all of the programs that currently exist, with the exception of the Ph.D. program. In addition to the long-standing support for teacher training—in 1966, WMU ranked second among all colleges and universities in the nation in the total number of certifications for teaching—the department added a major and minor in Public History in 1981, making it one of the very few colleges and universities with an undergraduate focus in that field of history. In addition, the M.A. program primarily served the area’s teachers during an era when Master’s degrees were still required for secondary school employment.

In addition to his teaching and chair responsibilities, Ernst was a prolific and highly acclaimed scholar. He authored or edited seven books—three of which were published during the period he was chair—as well as more than a dozen articles, and numerous book reviews and encyclopedia entries. Although he began his career as a scholar of the Italian Renaissance, his most well-known work focused on the field of historiography. Historiography: Ancient, Medieval, and Modern, first published by the University of Chicago Press in 1983, has been reissued in three editions and multiple translations. It is widely considered the standard book in the field of historiography. Indeed, many historians know it as a fundamental part of their graduate education. After he retired in 1996, Ernst wrote another highly regarded book in the field of historiography, On the Future of History: The Postmodernist Challenge and Its Aftermath (University of Chicago Press, 2003).

In addition to his Fulbright award, Ernst was a recipient of the Michigan Association of Governing Boards’ Academic Excellence Award in 1988 and a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1989-90. In 1983, Ernst was one of the first recipients of the WMU Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award, and for 28 years he took great pride in chairing the committee responsible for selecting the award winner. Indeed, he was serving on that committee at the time of his death. After stepping down as chair, Ernst served as president of Cistercian Publications. In 1998, he was one of six WMU faculty honored for their scholarly achievements as founding members of the WMU chapter of Phi Beta Kappa national honor society.

Among his many university-wide service commitments, Ernst took special pride in his thirty years of service on WMU’s Faculty Senate and, especially, his chairing of the former Organization of Chairs of All Academic Departments. He also chaired the WMU Assessment Committee and helped to establish a revised General Education curriculum. Ernst was truly a towering figure in the WMU community. He was consistently charming and witty even in his last years when health problems began to finally slow him down. The Department of History will miss him greatly.

Shirley Ort M.A.’78 and Tim Stoepker B.S. ’76 recently established the Ernst Breisach Endowment for European History to help support students’ research in European history. A 1:1 match has been offered for any donations up to $5000. If you would like to contribute in memory of Dr. Breisach, go to wmich.edu/history for the giving link.
Dr. Howard Dooley is one of two recipients of the 2016 WMU Distinguished Service Award. He was cited for the dedication and integrity he has brought to the many different roles he has filled at the University during his long tenure, which began in 1970.

Howard came to WMU while still completing his doctoral degree at the University of Notre Dame, serving as a history instructor from 1970-72. He rose through the ranks, becoming a full professor in 1985. He also has held important administrative positions, including assistant dean of international education and then executive director of International Affairs for 13 years. The latter position made him WMU’s chief international affairs officer. "I can say Dr. Dooley is founder of international education that is now named the Haenicke Institute for Global Education,” wrote one nominator.

Dooley has a long track record of service to his department, college, the WMU Faculty Senate, many University-wide committees and to students. At the beginning of his tenure, he served seven years as director of Intercollegiate Debate. Dooley recruited, trained and led teams of WMU students that competed in as many as 16 tournaments a year at campuses around the nation.

In 1985, Howard led WMU’s Oxford Seminar that took 25 students for a one-month residency at Oxford University in England, followed by a tour of the continent. He also led three study tours for students and the public to Egypt. He became an academic diplomat, representing WMU globally as founder of the Office of International Education and Programs. Dooley also served as Fulbright Program advisor for 21 years, assisting students, faculty, and administrators with applications for Fulbright Grants. "Dr. Dooley has made a positive contribution to furthering WMU’s focus upon, and development of, internationalization and humanistic studies,” wrote one nominator. "He has, further, helped foster those trends in the wider community of Kalamazoo and Michigan.”

In 2005, Dooley resumed his career as professor of History, teaching and advising hundreds of students. In 2012, the College of Arts and Sciences recognized him with the Achievement Award in Professional and Community Service. In addition to his teaching activities, he was lauded with that award for his distinguished service as a board member and chair of the Michigan Humanities Council, a state-based affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Howard's many accomplishments as a history scholar and grant recipient also were noted by nominators, who cited a number of NEH fellowships, Michigan Council for the Humanities conference grants, NEH Conference Matching Grants, Canadian Embassy Conference Grant, Atlantic Council Grant, and NATO Discussion Series in Brussels, Belgium, in 1993.

Dooley’s efforts in the international realm were especially noted by nominators. "For decades, Howard has exemplified a level of commitment to the University in ‘global engagement’ that can serve as a model for others,” wrote one nominator. "We at the Haworth College of Business were blessed to have Howard as the University’s ‘Chief International Officer.”

**An Interesting Coincidence:** Howard shared an interesting souvenir from his many years of service on behalf of global education at WMU. During the summer of 1985, Howard helped to coordinate a Summer Institute on the Mediterranean World that took students for three weeks to Italy, Sicily, Israel, Cyprus, and Greece. Students registered for a course on Ancient Mediterranean Civilizations, taught by Dr. Paul Maier from the History Department, or Medieval and Modern Mediterranean Civilizations, taught by Dr. Nick Hamner from the History Department.

After flying from New York to Rome, the students traveled around the Mediterranean on the cruise ship *Achille Lauro*. In fact, the institute’s brochure features a photo of the cruise ship on the cover. One of the premier cruise ships of its time, the *Achille Lauro* is probably best known for its hijacking by the Palestine Liberation Front (PLF) off the coast of Egypt in October 1985, just three months after WMU students flew home from their summer institute. The four PLF hijackers murdered a Jewish American, Leon Klinghoffer. This event was the subject of at least two TV movies and one opera.
Dr. Strong Publishes First Book

Dr. Anise Strong, assistant professor of History, recently published her first book, *Prostitutes and Matrons in the Roman World*, from Cambridge University Press. As described on the book cover: “Prostitutes and Matrons in the Roman World is the first substantial account of elite Roman concubines and courtesans. Exploring the blurred line between proper matron and wicked prostitute, it illuminates the lives of sexually promiscuous women like Messalina and Clodia, as well as prostitutes with hearts of gold who saved Rome and their lovers in times of crisis. It also offers insight into the multiple functions of erotic imagery and the circumstances in which prostitutes could play prominent roles in Roman Public and religious life. Tracing the evolution of social stereotypes and concepts of virtue and vice in ancient Rome, this volume reveals the range of life choices and sexual activity, beyond the traditional binary depiction of wives or prostitutes, that were available to Roman women.”

Congratulations to Dr. Strong on this significant milestone in her career.

Dr. Berto Publishes New Book

Dr. Andrea Berto published a new book titled *La Guerra, La Violenza, Gli Altri e la Frontiera Nella “Venetia” Altomedievale* with Pisa University Press.

The book examines war, violence, perceptions of the “other,” and the frontier in early medieval Venice from the 6th to 10th centuries. Instead of reconstructing events of the period, the book examines these topics through the lens of the history of the “mentalities.”

Congratulations Dr. Berto.

Dr. Borish Co-Edits History of American Sport

Dr. Linda Borish, associate professor of History and Gender and Women’s Studies, is one of three editors of *The Routledge History of American Sport*. As noted on the book’s back cover, “The Routledge History of American Sport provides the first comprehensive overview of historical research in American sport from the early Colonial period to the present day. Considering sport through innovative themes and topics such as the business of sport, material culture and sport, the political uses of sport, and gender and sport, this text offers an interdisciplinary analysis of American leisure. Rather than moving chronologically through American history or considering the historical origins of each sport, these topics are dealt with organically within thematic chapters, emphasizing the influence of sport on American society.”

Congratulations Dr. Borish on your contributions to this important work of history.

Dr. Cousins Publishes Biography

Dr. James Cousins, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the History Department, recently published his first work of history with the University Press of Kentucky. *Horace Holley: Transylvania University and the Making of Liberal Education in the Early American Republic* focuses on the life of one of the early Republic’s leading educators. As president of Transylvania University, Holley ushered in a period of sustained educational and cultural growth at Transylvania, which received national attention for its scientifically progressive and liberal curriculum. Cousins’ biography draws on a wealth of historical documents and letters to analyze the profound influence of westward expansion on social progress during Holley’s tenure as president of Transylvania from 1818 to 1827.

Congratulations to Dr. Cousins on this important publication.
Michigan History Day District 6 Competition

Michigan History Day (National History Day in Michigan) is a competition sponsored by the Historical Society of Michigan for students in grades 4 through 12 that offers an exciting means for students to learn history. Students, working as groups or as individuals, prepare exhibits, documentaries, websites, dramatic performances, or historical papers that explore a broad theme set each year by the National History Day contest.

Western Michigan University’s Department of History hosted the southwest Michigan District #6 competition of the National History Day Contest on March 6, 2016 in the Bernhard Center. There were 248 competitors and a total of 700 people came to campus for the event.

Michigan District #6 includes Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Branch, Calhoun, Cass, Hillsdale, Jackson, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren counties. Qualifying entries at the district level may compete at the state finals in late April. Qualifiers at that level are eligible to enter the National History Day contest in early June at the University of Maryland. For a list of 2016 award winners and photos of the day, visit the department web site. [wmich.edu/history](http://wmich.edu/history)
Phi Alpha Theta members at Bronco Bash: Alex Bicknell, Connor Wilson, Conor Eckler, Suzanne Grimmer.

Phi Alpha Theta is a honors society for history students and professors. This society offers a great opportunity to get to know other individuals interested in history. We meet weekly and alternate between business meetings and fun activities. Members are eligible to submit papers to the Society’s journal, The Historian, for publication. Additionally, we hold regular movie and game nights and participate in local cultural and historical events. We also take a field trip once a semester. Our last spring trip was to the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry, and our most recent trip will take place this December where we will be traveling to Charlton Park, a historic village and museum.

Phi Alpha Theta on its spring 2016 trip to the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry (Sarah Hughey, Aaron Coulter, Faculty Advisor Howard Dooley, Connor Eckler, Jeremy Killion, Connor Wilson, Kelsey Ennis, Nathan Williamson, Katie Lukens, Suzanne Grimmer, Kaitlin McGrath, and Alex Bicknell)

Left: Members of Phi Alpha Theta attend the 2016 H. Nicholas Hammer Lecture “Revolutionary Mosquitoes”

Right: A Phi Alpha Theta board game night in the spring 2016 semester.

Mission Statement
PAT is a professional society whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. We seek to bring students and teachers together for intellectual and social exchanges, which promote and assist historical research and publication by our members in a variety of ways.

Undergraduate students must complete at least 12 hours in History with an average grade above 3.1 and an overall average of 3.0. Graduate students should have completed at least one-third of residency requirement with an overall average of 3.75.
# 2015-16 Undergraduate Awards

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<tr>
<th>Award</th>
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<tr>
<td>History Fellowship Award</td>
<td>Kaitlin McGrath - 2014</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Alexandra Bicknell - 2015</td>
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<td>Veronica Martin - 2015</td>
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<td>Derek Phaneuf - 2016</td>
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<td>Jacob Wolf - 2016</td>
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<td>Dr. Barbara Havira Fellowship Award</td>
<td>Kelsey Ennis</td>
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<td>Undergraduate Emeriti Fellows Grant</td>
<td>Peter Cook</td>
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<td>Sarah Hughey</td>
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<td>Frederick Jordan</td>
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<td>Presidential Scholar Award</td>
<td>Kelsey Ennis</td>
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<td>The Margaret Macmillan Undergraduate Writing Award</td>
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<td>Peter J. Schmitt Experiential Learning Award</td>
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<td>Bert Nash Award</td>
<td>Sierra Varela</td>
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<td>James Ferreira Contemporary History Award</td>
<td>Peter Cook</td>
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<td>Suzanne Grimmer</td>
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<td>Kathleen Tarleton</td>
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<td>Smith Burnham Outstanding Intern Award</td>
<td>Sarah Pease - Spring 2016</td>
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<td>Mica Klipfer - Fall 2016</td>
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<td>Sara Forman - Spring 2017</td>
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<td>Cheryl Lyon-Jenness Undergraduate Writing Award</td>
<td>Sarah Hughey</td>
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<td>Phi Beta Kappa, National Honor Society In Arts and Science 2016 Inductees</td>
<td>Abbey Buckham</td>
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<td>Nicholas Boileau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors in History</td>
<td>Michael Beck</td>
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<td>Aaron Brzezinski</td>
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Ms. Kelsey Ennis is the recipient of the 2016 History Presidential Scholar Award. This award recognizes high achievement in and out of the classroom. This year, 50 scholars were chosen by WMU from a senior class of more than 6,500 students. The Presidential Scholar designation is the highest academic honor that WMU can bestow on its undergraduates. Selection is based on the students’ general academic excellence, academic and artistic excellence relative to their majors, and intellectual and artistic promise. Western does not have one valedictorian that represents the student body; these honors are shared by one representative from each department. Presidential scholars exemplify academic excellence but also have made important contributions to their program, their university, and their community. They are clear standouts, and in many ways, the best of an elite group.

Kelsey Ennis is a Public History major from Midland, Michigan. Kelsey has demonstrated excellence both before and throughout her time at Western. She was one of our 2013 History Fellowship Award winners, and has been a phenomenal ambassador for our program. She’s a member of Lee Honors College and Phi Alpha Theta. She interned for the Music House Museum in Traverse City in summer 2016 and is preparing for a study abroad internship in Bonn, Germany in spring 2017. In her letter of nomination, faculty in the department expressed their admiration of her and the superior level of her work. In one letter of recommendation in particular, a faculty member in our department wrote:

“Kelsey was fully and completely engaged in [my] class in a way that suggested she cared about history as a subject unto itself, rather than simply achieving a top grade…. In other words, it was not only that she came prepared for discussion every day, having clearly read the voluminous and difficult material often assigned; it was the fact that she had thought deeply about it and had strong opinions on the matter. That stood out in her writing, which was excellent, but also in her comments in class. Not only to me, but to her classmates—frequently, as I observed, in small reading discussion groups, it was Kelsey that was guiding the other students through the readings, correcting them or explaining aspects of the reading that they did not understand (or, perhaps did not read). She did so with magnanimity—because she likes explaining history to others, because she strikes those around her as kind-hearted, and because she [really loves] history.”

Congratulations to Department of History’s Presidential Scholar, Kelsey Ennis.
Many WMU History alumni recognize the name Smith Burnham, but likely few know much about him. Although called Dr. Burnham, Smith Burnham’s doctorate was an honorary degree that he received from his alma mater, Albion College, in 1933. Nevertheless, Smith Burnham was not only the founding chair of Western State Teacher College’s Department of History and Economics, he was a nationally known authority in the field of social studies education. He wrote six U.S. history textbooks, all published by John C. Winston Company, between 1918 and 1934, that were adopted in elementary and secondary schools throughout the United States. His obituary claimed that approximately one million of his textbooks had been used in classrooms around the country.

Smith Burnham’s family settled in Kalamazoo County in 1841. Born in 1866, he grew up on the family farm in Charleston Township, where he attended a country school as well as a rural school in Vicksburg before graduating from high school in 1883. He then qualified for a teacher’s license by passing an exam just after his 18th birthday in 1884. He taught for the next three years in rural schools in Vicksburg and Climax before he started his bachelor’s degree at Albion College in 1887. He was a busy undergraduate. In addition to his studies, he taught in the college prep school, edited the college paper, and was quarterback and captain in 1891 of Albion’s football team. That team defeated the University of Michigan by a score of 19-4. During the late nineteenth century, Albion also offered Master’s degrees. Burnham earned his there in 1896 with a thesis titled “The Economic Policy of Frederick the Great.” In addition to History, his Master’s degree fields included international and Roman law. He then served as an Albion College faculty member until 1898.

In 1898, Burnham accepted an appointment to teach at West Chester Normal School in West Chester, Pennsylvania. He taught there for twenty-one years before coming to Kalamazoo in 1919. He likely was offered the position at the newly named Western State Teachers College in part because of two reasons. First, Western’s president, Dwight Waldo, was a colleague of Burnham’s at Albion College during the 1896-1898 period. Second, Smith’s brother, Ernest Burnham was director of the rural education program at Western. During Smith Burnham’s tenure as chair at Western from 1919 to 1939, the faculty grew from three—Smith Burnham, Vera Lutje, and Floyd Moore—to eighteen members. At the time he retired, he chaired the Department of Social Sciences, which included historians.

Although he stepped down as chair in June 1939, Smith Burnham remained active, as he had been for his entire career, in a variety of civic organizations. At the time of his death in 1947, he had served as president of the Rotary, Torch, and Outlook clubs. His records in the WMU Zhang Archives include notices from dozens of talks that he gave in the Kalamazoo area over the course of his career.

Dr. Sally Hadden recently won the William Nelson Cromwell Foundation grant to support publication of her forthcoming book on the forebears, formation, and early years of the U.S. Supreme Court. The book is co-authored with Dr. Maeva Marcus, Research Professor of Law and Director of the Institute for Constitutional History, at George Washington University, and will be published by Cambridge University Press. The William Nelson Cromwell Foundation has long supported the publication of books on American legal history. Established in 1930, the Foundation was established by William Nelson Cromwell, a distinguished corporate lawyer, who wanted to support research in American legal history. Hadden and Marcus’ grant totals $35,000. Their book will explain the English and colonial American background out of which the first constitutions and first American supreme courts developed; the processes and intellectual developments that allowed the U.S. Supreme Court to come into existence; and the important cases that the court heard during its early years.

Congratulations Dr. Hadden on this prestigious and important grant.
From Tom Coyne, B.A. ‘55:
“For The Times They Are a-Changin’”

That thundering sound you hear is the collective bodies of the Social Sciences faculty of Western Michigan College of Education rolling in their graves in reaction to the modern day practices of the WMU History Department. Well, not all of them I guess. During the early 1950s, to my memory, there were no History Department faculty/student gatherings at Western. And, as far as I knew, even the faculty social get-togethers were rooted in the mores of the early 1900s. As for the beverages being served, any punch was pretty punchless. When Sam Clark suggested at some point in the mid-60s that “perhaps” sherry could be served at Faculty Senate functions one would have thought from the reaction that he was proposing a bacchanal. And that was faculty meeting faculty. But then, Sam was always a progressive. Now, a History Department reception with a bit of wine and cheese (plus other tasty food) is a meeting place for faculty, alumni and students old enough to be carded and to be treated as the adults they are. Students as colleagues……….what a great educational concept.

From Cory Salyer, B.A. ‘14:
I wanted to reach out and say "hello". This is my 3rd year here at South Haven Public Schools and I could not be happier. This is my 2nd year with a full social studies load. I teach five sections of World History again, so I feel like I am making progress with regards to developing my curriculum, including assessments. We have a new software data warehouse called 'Illuminate” and I can offer assessments online or on a pre-populated scan sheet and waive it in front of a document camera and the information is instantly uploaded. Then the district administrators can view our information as well and track our progress.

Dr. Mitch Kachun, Professor of History, and the department’s specialist in African-American history, spent an alternate academic year assignment in Spring 2016 in India.

Mitch received letters of invitation from Gauhati University and B. Borooah College in Guwahati, Assam, India, to participate in several aspects of these institutions’ campus activities. Mitch lived in Guwahati from January 5 to March 11. At Gauhati University, he gave several presentations to English Department students in graduate-level courses on American Literature. He also delivered a plenary address at an international literature conference on the topic of “Violence and Memory in World History: The Case of American Slavery.” From March 11 to April 13, Mitch lived in Hyderabad, where he was based at Hyderabad Central University. After a week living with the U.S. State Department Counsel for Public Affairs in Delhi, he returned to Guwahati in late April and, once again, was able to participate in various activities associated with the English Department at Gauhati University.

In addition to these experiences, Mitch noted that he was deeply appreciative of the opportunity to experience both academic and personal life in a very different environment. His participation in these academic settings also enhanced Western Michigan University’s visibility in the Indian scholarly community.
All WMU Public History majors pursue internships as part of their degree program. Two students, Peter Cook and Kelsey Ennis, were fortunate to receive internships at the Music House Museum in Traverse City this past summer. Their stories were described in the museum’s Fall newsletter with the headline: “The Music House was so fortunate this summer to have two interns, both from WMU. Not only were they a great help, but were hardworking and a lot of fun. We hated to see them go but wish them great success in their future endeavors.” The Music House Museum showcases automated musical instruments. The museum is open from May to October, and has approximately 450,000 visitors each year.

In the article on their activities, Peter notes that in addition to providing interpretive tours, he “spent a decent amount of time in the library cataloging old cylinders, records and piano rolls and working with Past Perfect software.” Kelsey explains that her family’s interests in antiques and local history as well her background in singing in choirs at WMU made her Music House internship a “truly one-of-a-kind educational and practical experience.”

As a recent graduate from Western Michigan University with a B.A. in Public History, I am appreciative of the opportunities I gained throughout my time at Western. Courses such as Museum Studies, Historic Preservation, and Archives Administration gave me the proper tools, resources and knowledge I use daily as a museum professional. The coursework was great, but I found the internship program as the most effective part of my training for museum work. Professors and courses can prepare you in the best ways to have a museum career but you really do not know what you are getting yourself into until you step into those shoes. I did my internships at The North Berrien Historical Museum and The Michigan Maritime Museum, the requirement of doing my internship at two locations proved invaluable. Dr. David Benac, public history coordinator and internship supervisor, and Dr. James Cousins, associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences, helped me find internships that fit my needs. With the knowledge I gained from my courses, some encouragement from faculty, and awesome internships, I earned my diploma and found a job right out of college. I am now the executive director at The North Berrien Historical Museum and happy to say that I would not be where I am without my experiences in the Public History Program at Western Michigan University.

WE NEED YOUR HELP AND INVOLVEMENT
The History Department is starting a new program intended to help our majors and minors better prepare for the wide range of careers that await them after receiving their degree. Internships and mentorships are crucial elements in helping students towards success after college, yet oftentimes, students lack the vital personal connections to find internships and also the financial support to allow them to work without pay for a period of time.

The History Department is therefore asking all its alumni if they would be willing to help our current and future students both by offering internships and/or mentorships, or by donating to the History Department so that we can support students financially during their internships. If you are interested either in providing an internship or mentorship, OR donating to this cause, please contact Chair Bill Warren: wilson.warren@wmich.edu.

As part of this initiative we are also asking alumni to respond to a survey which will help us better prepare our current and future students for their careers post graduation. The link to the survey can be found on the alumni section of our web page: wmic.edu/history/alumni It should only take a few minutes to fill out!
Thank you for helping your alma mater~
Caitlyn Perry Dial
Dissertation: “Only the River Remains: History and Memory of the Eastland Disaster in the Great Lakes Region, 1915 – Present”
Advisor: Dr. Mitch Kachun
Current Position: Executive Director, Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame

Thomas Mackie
Dissertation title: "A Shrine for President Lincoln: An Analysis of 100 years of Lincoln Interpretation in Public History, 1909-2009"
Advisor: Dr. Mitch Kachun
Current Position: Director, Abraham Lincoln Library & Museum at Lincoln Memorial University

Chelsea Stevens Cupp
Area of focus: Modern Europe
Advisor: Dr. Eli Rubin

Alexander Milnikel
Area of focus: Early American History and Public History
Advisor: Dr. Sally Hadden

Rachel Hekman
Area of focus: Modern American History
Advisor: Dr. Janet Coryell

Benjamin Page
Area of focus: Public History
Advisor: Dr. Takashi Yoshida

Joseph Helzer
Area of focus: Public History
Advisor: Dr. David Benac

Lindsey Schmidt
Area of focus: Early American History
Advisor: Dr. Sally Hadden

Spencer Hunt
Area of focus: Medieval Spain; Pilgrimage
Advisor: Dr. Larry Simon

J. Savannah Shipman
Area of focus: Medieval History
Current Position: High School History Teacher, Boca Raton, FL
Advisor: Dr. Robert Berkhofer, III

Michael Kuethe
Area of focus: Medieval Europe
Advisor: Dr. Robert Berkhofer, III

The Department’s Graduate Students continue to set the bar for excellence in teaching and research at WMU.
Dissertation Completion Fellowship

Randy Janes received a fellowship to complete his dissertation on “Between the Ingenio and the Ingeniero: The Spanish Sugar Master and the Development of the Ibero-American Sugar Industry.” According to Randy: “My work engages the emergence of empirical science in the Ibero-American world between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries and its influence on the professionalization of skilled and technical labor. The dissertation examines the Ibero-American sugar industry, and in particular, the maestros de azúcar whose expertise in the complex processes of refining sugar was central to the manufacture of this quintessential colonial commodity. This focus on the development of practical knowledge and expertise highlights the recursive nature of the advent of empirical science in the Ibero-American world and the expansion and maintenance of the Spanish empire.” Randy’s advisor is Dr. Lewis Pyenson.

Public History AASLH Conference

From Claire Herald, M.A. ’13, PhD Candidate:

This September, I had the pleasure of attending the annual conferences of the Michigan Museums Association and the American Association for State and Local History, jointly held in Detroit this year. The theme of the conference was "The Spirit of Rebirth," and the sessions were filled with stimulating conversations of the roles that museums and public history institutions can play in the revitalization of communities. Conference participants attended from all over the country and were able to visit many local museums including the Detroit Institute of Arts, the Detroit Historical Museum, and the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History. I was proud to see such a strong representation of the innovative programming happening at Michigan’s museums.

The conference also offered an opportunity to catch up with friends and colleagues from my previous museum positions, college, and even high school. Above all, I was thrilled to see so many alumni and current students from the Western Michigan University Department of History attending as volunteers, presenters, and organizers. Many of us commented on the many accomplishments of our Bronco colleagues and the opportunities afforded to us by our time at Western Michigan University.

Also attending from WMU were Thomas Mackie, PhD 2016, and Patrick Hargis, B.A. 2014, M.A. Candidate.

Pictured are (L to R): Shannon Ritzer Pinkster, B.A. 2009, Programming and Education Facilitator at Historic Charlton Park in Hastings
Claire Herhold M.A. 2013 and PhD Frederick S. Upton Fellow
Caitlyn Perry Dial, PhD 2016, Executive Director of the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame in Lansing.
Samantha Steele Engel, M.A. 2011, Executive Director at the Whaley Historic House Museum in Flint.

History Advisory Council Update

The Advisory Council met twice in 2016. In April, the council’s discussion focused on the History Day competition that had been held in March, and which many advisory council members had helped with. Council members discussed ways in which the department might reach out to History Day competitors to encourage them to attend WMU and consider the History Department for their major or minor. Dorilee Schieble provided a report on department scholarships given in 2015-16. A list of scholarship funds and amounts awarded was shared with the council. To conclude, the College of Education Dean’s staff provided a tour of Sangren Hall as well as information about the building’s many uses.

In October, the council reviewed the new department website and talked about ways that it might be improved to attract new students. Council members suggested that a 12-month calendar of department events be included in the website. In addition, members discussed the proposed graduate certificates in History, and how these new certificates might appeal to various constituencies. The consensus among council members was that online programs could enhance the department’s recruiting efforts.

In Appreciation

The Department of History gratefully acknowledges the support of its donors. This list includes donations since the 2015 newsletter up to press time this year in the donors lifetime giving level. Please join these individuals and show your support.

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Donations Make a Difference

We are thankful for your generosity and hope that you’ll be able to continue to support our work with a new generation of historians.

This past year, we put your donations to work again. The Department of History assisted graduate students by helping with research travel costs, awards and monetary assistance totaling $14,910. The department also supported them by awarding funds to help cover fees each semester. Undergraduate history majors received $12,626 for awards and scholarships.

This assistance helps reduce education costs for our students, many of whom have student loans. Awards from the department make it easier for many to finish their degree. Because of your donations, this vital student support was possible.

There is so much more that can be done for our students. A contribution at whatever level you feel comfortable, is deeply appreciated. If you have any questions about giving to the department, how your gift will be used, or to discuss giving options, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Warren.

Your support is vitally important. Donations help us take advantage of ongoing and new opportunities to enhance the teaching and research of the department, and to assist students in achieving their educational and professional goals.

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WMU History - By the Numbers

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