Representative Joan Bauer Receives Alumni Achievement Award

Joan Bauer is currently State Representative for the 68th House district of Michigan which includes Lansing, the area in which she has spent most of her life. Her father grew up in Kalamazoo and her grandmother, who passed away at 107 years of age, also lived here.

Representative Bauer began her university studies at Western Michigan University in 1968 and graduated in 1971 with a major in history. Western clearly prepared her for later life. In addition to her degree, she participated in student government, was president of her dorm—Draper Hall—and worked with many other campus groups. Attending WMU at a time of much social change she recalled “anti-war marches, peace rallies, and civil rights demonstrations on campus. These events and my classes,” she notes, “changed me forever and helped mold my political philosophy and values.”

Because of her deep interest in public service, she ran for office in Lansing. From 1995 to 2006 she was repeatedly elected to the Lansing City Council where she served as President and Vice-President of the council and chaired its numerous committees. In 2006 she was elected to the state legislature. She is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, where she has advocated for public universities.

She also serves as Vice Chair of the Higher Education Appropriations Sub-Committee, Vice Chair of the Department of Education Appropriations Sub-Committee, and is a member of the Community Health Appropriations Subcommittee. Joan is also Vice Chair of the Capitol Committee, Co-Chair of the Bi-Partisan Women’s Legislative Caucus, and Vice Chair of the Democratic Caucus.

The Department honored Bauer at a reception on October 4, timed to coincide with WMU Homecoming weekend, a meeting of the Department’s New Advisory Board, and the 2012 Hamner Lecture.
Dear Friends,

History, as we all know, is the study of change over time and the Department of History continues to be a site of on-going change. Among the good changes are the new accomplishments of our students, faculty, and Alumni Achievement Award recipient which are happily featured in the following pages. More ambivalent is the departure of Dr. Ed Martini to take up the position of Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. While his departure marks recognition of his accomplishments, it is a loss for us. Dr. Wilson Warren has agreed to serve as associate chair and has the department’s thanks for taking on this service obligation.

In the sad change category is the retirement of Dr. Barbara Havira after almost 44 years at WMU. A story about her, featuring her reflections about her life at WMU can be found on page 3. Please mark your calendars for the afternoon of January 20, 2013 and join us for a reception to honor Dr. Havira’s contributions to the department and WMU. As details of the event are finalized they will be posted to our web page.

Sadder still, was the passing of Dr. Dale Pattison, emeritus professor of history and generous supporter of department efforts to encourage and recognize student scholarly achievement. An endowment (story on page 10) created by family and friends ensures his legacy of support to the department. There you will find other news about development matters including a listing of all of who have contributed to the department’s work over the years.

Lastly, you’ll find a new feature that I hope will endure—Alumni Story. As I have come to meet more and more of you, I have been struck by the range of life experiences you have had and career paths taken. I have encouraged you to share them with your fellow alumni and, via our newsletter, with our current students. It is good for today’s students to know that they are not the first to face uncertainty while here or upon graduation. Your stories exemplify the values of perseverance and using the skills learned in university. I thank Bill Bailey for letting me share his story and encourage you to contact me with yours for a future edition of the newsletter.

Sincerely,

José António (Joe) Brandão
Professor and Chair

Faculty Research Series Named for Dr. Ernst Breisach

Last spring, the Department voted to name its ongoing faculty research series in honor of Dr. Ernst Breisach, Professor Emeritus of History, longtime Department Chair, and internationally recognized scholar. The series, now in its third year, features current department faculty, affiliated faculty and other historians at WMU presenting their current and ongoing research projects. In searching for an appropriate namesake for the series, the department wanted to honor someone who had made both important contributions to the department and to the discipline of history. Breisach clearly fit these criteria. He is the author of a number of important books, including Historiography; Ancient, Medieval, and Modern (University of Chicago Press).

The series, now officially known as the Breisach Faculty Research Colloquium Series, features one or two presentations per month, and normally take place at noon on Mondays. Undergraduate and graduate students regularly attend, as do colleagues in other departments. For a full schedule of the 2012-13 presentations, visit us on the web at http://www.wmich.edu/history/events/index.html.
Burnham-Macmillan Speaker Series

Dr. Brigette Bedos-Rezak, Professor of History, New York University, "Toward a History of Material Agency in the Middle Ages: Documentary Technology and the Word-Made-Flesh" (12 November 2012)

Co-sponsored by the Visiting Scholars and Artists Program, The Medieval Institute and the Department of History

David Schimmelpennick van der Oye, Associate Professor of History, Brock University, "Reflections on Russian Orientalism," (7 February 2013)


Funding for all three lectures is provided by the Burnham-Macmillan Endowment Fund. This fund was opened by a gift from the estate of Dr. Margaret Macmillan in 1979 and it continues to bring scholars and speakers to campus each year.

The H. Nicholas Hamner Lecture

Dr. Samuel Edgerton, Professor Emeritus of History Williams College

"Sacred Violence: When Even Artists Celebrated the Death Penalty" (4 October 2012)

The Department of History at Western Michigan University annually invites an esteemed scholar to give a public lecture, named for, and generously endowed by, Professor Emeritus H. Nicholas Hamner. The event is an opportunity to make visible the discipline of history within the campus and the larger community by having a distinguished scholar address a theme of broad interest.

This year’s lecture coincided with the meeting of the Department Advisory Board and WMU’s homecoming celebration.

Transitions

Dr. Barbara Havira to Retire after 43+ Years of Service to WMU

After 43½ years of service to Western Michigan University, Barbara Speas Havira will retire from the History Department in December 2012. From 1969 to 1989, Dr. Havira taught interdisciplinary social science courses in the College of General Studies. When that college was disbanded, she took a position in the History Department. Over her long and productive career, she has made major contributions in several areas, especially in the fields of women’s issues, faculty rights, labor history, and WMU’s history. In 1990, she received WMU’s Commission on the Status of Women’s “Woman of the Year” Award. In 2002, the university further acknowledged her long record of contributions by awarding her the Distinguished Service Award.

Most notable in terms of her service, teaching, and scholarship has been Dr. Havira’s focus on women. From 1981-1983, she was president of the WMU Commission on the Status of Women, and remained a member of the commission until 1993. She was also a founder of the Women’s Studies program as well as its director from 1987-1989. Between 1989 and 1991, she edited three series of articles on the History of Women in Education in Greater Kalamazoo distributed in the Western Herald. After joining the History Department, Dr. Havira taught a wide variety of courses but specialized in women’s history. Her scholarship also reflects her focus on women as well as WMU’s history. In 1994 and 1995, she published two articles on women’s early contributions to Western’s evolution as a normal school and teacher’s college. In addition, Dr. Havira was a member of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Women’s Studies Association from 1996-1999, and also served as a member of the Program Planning Committee for the Conference on the History of Women Religious in 1998.

As one of the early active members of the WMU chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), Dr. Havira made promotion of faculty rights a central part of her service record. She helped to draft the first contract for WMU-AAUP in 1975 that was then ratified in 1976. She served as the History Department’s Association Council representative from 1994-2001 and chaired several AAUP committees, including the Ad Hoc Committee on Evaluation of Administrators, Personnel Committee (1994-1999), and Mediation Pool (1998-2001). She served on WMU’s Faculty Senate from 2007-2010.

Dr. Havira’s scholarly efforts also included two significant works on labor history in southwest Michigan. Her Ph.D. dissertation from Michigan State University, titled “Factories and Workers in Three Michigan Towns: 1880-1920,” illuminated the central role of manufacturing in rural areas of the region. She later elaborated on parts of her dissertation in an article titled “Dwindling into Failure: The International Ladies’ Garment Workers’ Union Strike in Kalamazoo, 1912,” published in Michigan Academician in 1988. This was one of the first scholarly articles to highlight the role of women in Michigan’s early twentieth century labor union movement.

Notable too has been Dr. Havira’s devotion to undergraduate education. She has been a champion of and central contributor to significant improvements in the undergraduate curriculum during her many years in the History Department. Her colleagues in the History Department congratulate Barbara Speas Havira on her retirement. We will miss her enthusiasm and passion for her many interests. Her retirement party will take place Sunday, January 20, 2013 at the Fetzer Center from 2-5pm. Visit wmic.edu/history for more information.
Martini Accepts Associate Dean Position in the College

Congratulations to Dr. Ed Martini, associate professor and associate chair of the History Department, who was named associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, effective August 1. In his new position as associate dean, Ed will oversee undergraduate and graduate student enrollment management, curriculum assessment and development, and academic program review, among other duties. Ed joined the History Department in 2005, and had been associate chair of the History Department since 2009. Dr. Martini was the department’s newsletter editor—among many other things. Luckily he will continue to work with our students and we get to count his publications among our department achievements. His most recent book is featured in this newsletter on page 5.

History Advisory Council Takes Shape

The History Department Advisory Council met on October 4, 2012 in the Center for the Humanities in Knauss Hall, for its semi-annual meeting. Established in April 2012, the Advisory Council currently consists of fourteen members: Charles E. Binder ’71, Dr. Ernest Breisach, Richard M. Cahow ’70, Dr. Sherwood Cordier, Michael J. Evans ’78, David Gernant ’65, Dr. H. Nicholas Hamner, Dr. John T. Houdek, Donna Perry Keller ’90, Gary Kent-Bracken ’72, Jack Klarr ’75, Bill Parsons ’67, Laura A. Pernice ’02, and Tom Vance ’78 as well as History Department Chair Joe Brandão and Associate Chair Wilson Warren. Dr. Brandão recently accepted resignations from two council members from last spring: Alan M. Holck ’68 and Dr. George Beech.

The primary purpose of the October 4th meeting was to review the draft of the Advisory Council By-Laws. Several structural clarifications were approved, including defining the terms of membership and executive committee’s duties. New subcommittees were established as well. The outreach subcommittee will promote the department among potential students and families, and help with recruitment and retention efforts. The development committee will assist in fostering connections with alumni, and coordinating and hosting various events. The mentoring committee will develop and support professional development opportunities for current students and recent graduates.

In addition to action on the council’s by-laws, council members were videotaped during the day to create short videos for recruiting new students. Dr. James Cousins, the History Department’s Director of Undergraduate Studies, made a presentation on the structure of the department’s programs that highlighted recruitment and retention efforts that have been aided, in part, by new scholarships.

The Advisory Council’s next meeting will take place in late April of 2013 in the Center for the Humanities. The tentative agenda includes a presentation on the graduate curriculum and setting agendas for the subcommittees. If you would like to be considered for the Advisory Council, or would like to nominate someone, please contact Dr. Brandão.
New Department Publications

Agent Orange: History, Science, and the Politics of Uncertainty

Associate Professor of History Ed Martini recently published a new book entitled Agent Orange: History, Science, and the Politics of Uncertainty (University of Massachusetts Press). Taking on what one former U.S. ambassador called “the last ghost of the Vietnam War,” this book examines the far-reaching impact of Agent Orange, the most infamous of the dioxin-contaminated herbicides used by American forces in Southeast Asia. The goal of the book is not simply to reconstruct the history of the “chemical war” but to investigate the ongoing controversy over the short- and long-term effects of weaponized defoliants on the environment of Vietnam, on the civilian population, and on the troops who fought on both sides. Martini, who is currently serving as Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, draws on military records, government reports, scientific research, visits to contaminated sites, and interviews to disentangle conflicting claims and evaluate often ambiguous evidence. He shows that the impact of Agent Orange has been global in its reach. Yet for all the answers it provides, this book also reveals how much uncertainty—scientific, medical, legal, and political—continues to surround the legacy of Agent Orange.

Research for the book, which took Martini to multiple archives as well as to Vietnam, Canada, and New Zealand, was supported by awards from the Faculty Research and Creative Activities Award Support Fund and by the Department of History Burnham-Macmillan Endowment. For more about the book, please visit the University of Massachusetts Press website: http://www.umass.edu/umpress/title/agent-orange

Professor Emeritus George Beech Publishes New Book


Dr. Beech’s book examines historical problems encountered on topics from eleventh-century France, England, and the Crusader East, and to a lesser degree from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Steven Cartwright Publishes English Translation of Abelard’s Commentary

Steven R. Cartwright, Ph.D. from the History Department and Monographic Acquisitions Assistant in the Technical Services Department of WMU’s Libraries, recently published the first complete English translation of Peter Abelard’s Commentary on the Epistle to the Romans for the Catholic University of America Press’ series on The Fathers of the Church: Mediaeval Continuation. This volume includes an extensive introduction and fills an enormous gap for English-speaking scholars. Written in the mid-1130s, Abelard’s commentary has been very important to medieval scholars but never available in its entirety in English. Steve has previously co-edited one book, contributed to another, and is now editing The Brill Companion to St. Paul in the Middle Ages. He also regularly teaches in the History Department.

Professor Emeritus Albert Castel Publishes New Book

WMU History Professor Emeritus Albert Castel recently published a new book, Victors in Blue: How Union Generals Fought the Confederates, Battled Each Other, and Won the Civil War is an important new assessment of how Union generalship, despite the many rivalries among the various leaders, contributed to the North’s victory in the Civil War. Castel’s book provides fresh analysis that addresses many of the key questions about the Union’s generals: How did they win? Was it through superior skill, strength of arms, enemy blunders, or sheer chance? What were their objectives and how did they realize them? Did they accomplish more or less than could be expected under the circumstances? Castel also sheds new light on the issue of rivalries in the upper ranks of the Union Army. A product of ten years of research, Victors in Blue is an important new contribution to the University Press of Kansas’ Modern War Studies series.

New Polish Translation of Dr. Maier’s A Skeleton in God’s Closet

The Department of History is pleased to announce the publication of a new Polish translation of Professor Emeritus Paul Maier’s A Skeleton in God’s Closet.

Dr. Maier’s books have been translated into nearly twenty languages over the past several years. Maier, who retired from the Department in 2010 after fifty years at WMU, continues to travel and deliver presentations on the history of Christianity.

John Beck Publishes Article

John Beck, an M.A. student in the History Department, and history and social studies teacher at Heritage Christian Academy in Kalamazoo, recently published an article in the June 2012 issue of International Journal of Maritime History. Titled “History and Memory of Commemorations for S.S. Edmund Fitzgerald,” John’s article examines the fascination that the American public has had with the wreck as well as the various ways that it has been commemorated in recent history. As a result of his research, John has also developed extensive curriculum guides that can be used with both elementary and secondary students.
The History Department extends its congratulations to Howard J. Dooley for earning the 2011-2012 College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Achievement Award in Professional and Community Service.

Professor Dooley has been a member of WMU’s faculty since 1970 and is a professor of history. During his tenure at WMU, Howard has taught in the Humanities Program as well as the Department of History. Among his many service roles at WMU, Howard was Director of Forensics from the early 1970s until 1981, when budget cuts shut down the program. From 1983 to 2004, he was the Fulbright Program Advisor. He has also served as a project evaluator for the National Endowment for the Humanities. During his forty-one-year career at WMU, he has served on the College of General Studies Dean’s Executive Committee, the Academic Integrity Committee, Diversity and Multicultural Action Plan Task Force, History Department Executive Committee, as well as numerous other departmental committees. He is currently serving his second full term on WMU’s Faculty Senate.

Howard’s greatest contributions at WMU have been in developing the university’s internationalization efforts. From 1991 to 2004, he served as Executive Director of International Affairs. During that period, in addition to his ongoing work as Fulbright Program Advisor, he expanded WMU’s links to many international institutions which helped to enhance student and faculty exchange programs. Notably, he expanded WMU’s twinning programs, based on the Malaysia model, to Hong Kong, India, Pakistan, Bolivia, and Kenya. He also initiated a M.B.A. program in Singapore and pre-M.B.A. program in India. While Executive Director of International Affairs, international student enrollment at WMU doubled to over two thousand students representing over 110 countries. In 2002, Howard was selected by AMIDEAST, an organization dedicated to encouraging constructive dialogue between Americans and the people of the Middle East, to a team of U.S. higher education administrators who visited Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia with the U.S. Department of State.

In the area of community service, Howard held a variety of positions with the Michigan Humanities Council from 1974 to 1985. Before that, he served as chairperson of the History Section of the Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters. He was a co-founder of the Kalamazoo Area Council for the Humanities. He chairs the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Committee of the Kalamazoo Rotary Club.

From William Bailey ’70 B.A. History
I definitely did not take advantage of my time at WMU ... it was really a maturity issue for me. As the first one in my family to have a chance to attend college, there was minimal guidance from home and high school...remember this was the mid-1960’s. I had absolutely no idea what to study or what to do after college. Majoring in History seemed logical to me because I always enjoyed the topic in high school. How naive! I also picked up a major in Political Science, again because I found it interesting. During my time at Western, I never stepped into the Career Counseling Center or thought about what to do with a degree in History and Political Science.

After graduation in 1970, the economy in Michigan was terrible. I applied for a few state and local government jobs and a few business positions. Finally I landed a job with Allstate Insurance and then with IBM Corp a few years later as the economy began to improve. It turns out I had a very good career with IBM and retired after 38 years. It was never dull, as they moved me/us around the eastern U.S. and even several years in Tokyo.

The time at WMU provided me with the critical thinking and analytical reasoning skills that I have used my entire life. I’ve always attributed it to studying history but it could be the totality of the liberal arts education WMU offered. After spending time in marketing and finance, IBM sent me to get an MBA in the early 80’s. Then I was able to spend the majority of my remaining IBM career in aspects of marketing intelligence / analysis...projecting market trends and competitor products. This required all the analytical and communication skills I could command ... thank you WMU! It was a wonderful area and I found it very rewarding.

Now, I’m retired, work on my genealogy and my wife’s (history, again!), and have built about a 200+ (hardcover) volume history library (mostly colonial U.S. through the U.S. Civil War) and another 100+ volumes of classic literature. So you can see I’ve never lost my love of history in its many formats ... nurtured by Western. That’s why I donate specifically to the History Department. I hope the WMU History Department continues to prosper and shine, especially in these tough economic times and shrinking budgets.

All my best,
Bill Bailey
Stephanie Jass Wins $147,570 on Jeopardy!
Stephanie Jass, an associate professor of history at Adrian College, and 2004 Ph.D. recipient from WMU’s Department of History, recently won $147,570 over seven days on Jeopardy! Her total earnings placed her in the top 15 all-time winners on the show. Professor Jass has taught at Adrian College since 2005, where her specialties include American cultural studies, women’s history, and the history of foodways. Jass is shown here with Jeopardy! host Alex Trebek.

Graduate Students in the News
The Department’s Graduate Students continue to set the bar for excellence in teaching and research at WMU. Continuing a string of unprecedented success, M.A. and Ph.D. students last year received all-University awards for teaching, multiple dissertation completion fellowships, and a remarkable two Fulbright Research Fellowships.

Ph.D. Candidates Harris, Terry awarded Fulbright Fellows to Spain
Ph.D. Candidates Patrick Harris and David Terry have both been awarded Fulbright Fellowships to work on their dissertations next year in Spain; David will go to Barcelona and Patrick to Toledo and Madrid for 2012-2013. Both students are working under the direction of Dr. Larry Simon. “It is rare when a university is awarded more than one Fulbright to the same country in any given year, and rarer still for the candidates to be in the same field,” Simon notes. “This is a tribute to David’s and Patrick’s talent and hard work and mutual cooperation.” Terry and Harris are the sixth and seventh history graduate students to receive Fulbrights in the last five years, joining Travis Bruce, Brian Becker, Irene Geisler, Steven Staggs, and Jack Goodman.

David Terry

Patrick Harris

Harris will be working primarily at the Cathedral Archives in Toledo. His work focuses on the Mozarabs, Christians who had adopted Arabic language and culture while under Islamic rule, during the High Middles Ages. He is particularly interested in the use of economic coercion in the process of Mozarabic assimilation into Latin culture during the two centuries after the Christian conquest of Toledo in 1085.

Ph.D. candidate John Bollweg also received the Gwen Frostic Dissertation Fellowship in the fall semester to work on his dissertation “The Genesis of an Eschatologist: The Early Religious Writings of Arnau de Vilanova (ca. 1240 - 1311)”.

Finally, current Ph.D. student Skylar Bre’z was awarded the All-University award for Teaching Excellence at the M.A. level.

Katherine Ellison and Stephen Staggs Win Dissertation Completion Fellowships
Two of the History Department’s Ph.D. candidates, Katherine Ellison and Steve Staggs, won Dissertation Completion Fellowships for 2012-2013. Katherine’s dissertation advisor is Ed Martini. Steve’s dissertation advisors are J.A. Brandão and James Palmitessa.

Katherine’s dissertation, titled, “Building a House of Peace: The Origins of the Imperial Presidency and the Framework for Executive Power, 1933-1960,” is a critical and interdisciplinary reevaluation of the foundation of the imperial presidency which focuses on the creation of “continuous warfare” and the interplay of the three branches of government. Her work will explain how continuous warfare created a delicate balance between peace and war that surfaced after World War II and allowed for greater political malleability by governmental players in the United States. This, in turn, created a shift in the checks and balances of modern American government. For the President, this meant expanded powers under his role as Commander in Chief, allowing executive power to grow unrestrained.

In support of her research, Katherine has received the Gwen Frostic Dissertation Fellowship, two WMU Graduate College Research Fund Grants, the Department’s A. Edythe Mange Distinguished Scholarship in History, and a Harry S. Truman Library Institute Research Grant. In addition to her dissertation research, Katherine has had three publications in 2012, presented a paper in November, and is also teaching a course in Michigan History at Saginaw Valley State University.

Steve’s dissertation, titled “‘Gentiles by Nature’: Indian-Dutch Relations in New Netherland/New York during the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Century,” explores the cross-cultural encounters between Indian and Dutch inhabitants of New Netherland and New York during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Previous scholarship on Indian-Dutch relations in the New World portrayed the Dutch as a people who, generally speaking, lacked curiosity about Indians, who made no serious attempt to convert Indians, who maintained a social distance from Indians, and who were only interested in a commercial relationship with Indians. In contrast, his research suggests that the relationships between the Indians and colonists in and around New Netherland were interdependent and, at times, intimate.

From September 2010 to March 2011 Steve completed research in the Netherlands supported by a prestigious Fulbright research award. He recently presented two papers highlighting portions of his dissertation research.
Graduate Award Winners for 2011-12

Skylar Bre’z
All-University Award and
Departmental Award for Teaching
Effectiveness at the Master’s Level

Sara Bijani
Departmental Award for Research and
Creative Activity at the Master’s Level

Adam Wolfe
Departmental Award for Teaching
Effectiveness at the Doctoral Level

Katherine Ellis
Departmental Award for Research and
Creative Activity at the Doctoral Level

Samuel Stee
Departmental Award for Outstanding
Research Assistant

Rachel Juen
Departmental Award for Outstanding
Teaching Assistant

Adam Matthews
The Robert Russel Writing Award

Stephen Staggs and Katherine
Ellison
2012-13 WMU Dissertation
Completion Fellowships

Caitlyn Perry Dial
Upton Fellowship

Undergraduates Excelling In and Out of the Classroom

2012 Undergraduate Awards

Presidential Scholar
Tara Bell

Margaret Macmillan Writing Award: Gregory Koziuk

Cheryl Lyon-Jenness
Writing Award:
Maxwell Koopsen

Honors in History:
Erin Frame Graduated Fall 2012
Cody Mejeur Graduated June 2012
Andrew Archey Graduated Spring 2012
Maxwell Koopsen Graduated Spring 2012
Tara Bell Graduated Spring 2012

History Undergraduate Fellows:
April Bryan
Rebecca Switala
Maxwell Koopsen

Smith-Burnham Outstanding Intern Award
Hana Wolters

Phi Alpha Theta, National History Honorary Society Inductees:
Seth Allard
Hilary Andersen
Bruce Boyer
Christopher Caloia
Devin Erlandson
James Furrmann
Duane Hausch
Emily Kelley
Caroline Martin
Aaron Miller
Mason Monroe

Particia Ollila
Zachary Pirozne
Katherina Poweska
Jon Adrian Schotlen
Kelly Sisung
Emilie Solomon
Megan Sydor
Tara Warren
Tyler Wilson
Jonathan Witt

In 2007, Western Michigan University’s History Department and the Social Studies Department at Portage Central High School signed an agreement to collaborate in the placement of one outstanding intern teacher from WMU’s History Department each fall and spring semester with one or more of the teachers at PCHS. WMU’s College of Education’s Office of Field Placements works with the History Department in this placement. All history and social studies education majors must complete a one-semester internship in a middle or high school at the end of their undergraduate program.

The student selected for this placement wins the Smith Burnham Outstanding Intern Award, honoring the History Department’s first chairperson, Smith Burnham, who was also an important leader in history and social studies teacher education during the 1920s and 1930s. The History Department awards $250 to the student chosen for the award.

The purpose of the outstanding intern award is to encourage an environment in which a future secondary school teacher is given close, expert supervision. The intern participates in a variety of authentic teaching experiences with at least one, and often several, outstanding teachers at PCHS. The intern teacher also receives letters of recommendation from his/her supervising teachers at PCHS, a member of WMU’s History Department, and the PCHS school principal following the completion of the internship.

The following list indicates the award recipients and the semester in which they did their internship at PCHS since the award began in 2007.

Fall 2007: Chad Williams
Spring 2008: Jesse Harrington
Fall 2008: Scott Van Kampen
Spring 2009: Matthew Clark
Fall 2009: Bridget Bush
Spring 2010: Rachel Kotecki
Fall 2010: Sara Carroll
Spring 2011: Adam Shockley
Fall 2011: No award recipient
Spring 2012: Hana Wolter
Fall 2012: Erin Frame
Spring 2013: Sarah Bartley

This academic year’s Smith Burnham Outstanding Intern Award recipients are Erin Frame and Sarah Bartley. Erin is from Mason, Michigan, and will receive her degree this December with a major in Secondary Social Studies Education and minors in both History and French. Sarah is originally from Hermiston, Oregon, but moved to Sturgis, Michigan, during college. She will receive her degree in April 2013 with a major in Secondary Social Studies Education and a minor in History.

Phi Alpha Theta Update

Phi Alpha Theta continued its program of fun history enrichment activities this fall with a History Bowl Trivia Night and a Movie Night, featuring Monty Python’s The Life of Brian. Planned activities for next semester include a field trip to the Kelsey Museum of Anthropology and Archaeology in Ann Arbor and to the Lascaux Cave Paintings Exhibit at the Chicago Field Museum in April. This fall PAT is working on welcoming all history majors to our activities, not just existing PAT members (who are often seniors.) For more information about Phi Alpha Theta, contact advisor, Dr. Anise Strong at anise.strong@wmich.edu.
New Department Funds and Endowments

In the face of declining state support for WMU, the Department has continued to grow and develop funds and endowments that support students at every level of our program. Two new funds, created by former members of the Department, are the latest in these initiatives.

Bert Nash Scholarship

The History Department is very pleased to announce that Michele C. McLaughlin and her mother, Kathryn N. VanDis, have generously endowed a legacy gift that will support a new undergraduate scholarship for the department as well as an English Department scholarship and a WMU Medallion Scholarship. Michele’s gift to the department will finance a new scholarship named after her maternal grandfather, Bert Nash, which would support one of the History Department’s deserving undergraduate Social Studies majors. The Bert Nash Scholarship will provide a student deemed to be a promising teacher with $1,000.

Byron Burton “Bert” Nash (1879-1959), Michele McLaughlin’s grandfather, was “a tremendous teacher and the wisest person” she ever knew. Although he worked as a stationary engineer in Chicago, at the Kalamazoo state hospital’s steam plant, and as a caretaker for the Bloomingdale cemetery after his retirement, Michele describes Bert as a teacher at heart, someone from whom she learned a great deal. Naming the scholarship after her grandfather will recognize his influence on her life. Bert Nash imparted a love of learning to both Kay and Michele. Kay graduated from Western Michigan College of Education, as WMU was then known, in 1945 with a degree in History. She later worked as an assistant to the president of Kalamazoo College from 1962 to 1988. Her mother’s love of history was also influential in Michele’s decision to dedicate the Bert Nash Scholarship to the History Department. Michele’s decision to fund a new Social Studies scholarship as well as an English Education scholarship that has been in place since 2003 is also partly due to her maternal grandmother’s side of the family. Michele noted that she has many teachers in her family.

Michele has been an employee of WMU since 1973, and is also a 1982 graduate of WMU with a B.A. in Biomedical Sciences and a B.B.A. in Business. Since starting at WMU, Michele has worked in Accounts Payable, the Medieval Institute, the Chemistry and English Departments, and as Associate Registrar, from which she retired in 2011. Since then, however, she has been working part-time for both Lee Honors College and WMUK. Perhaps most remarkable about her affiliation with WMU is the fact that Michele has averaged taking at least one course per year since 1982.

One of Michele’s favorite professors at WMU was Howard Mowen, a faculty member in the History Department from 1949 to 1982. As she recalled, Professor Mowen was not only a scholar but was someone who could make the historical subject matter interesting and engaging. Michele hopes that the Bert Nash Scholarship will provide financial support to a promising young Social Studies major who might someday similarly engage and excite young people about the value of history. The first scholarship will be awarded in Spring 2013.

Dr. James Ferreira Fund

Dr. James Ferreira, specialist in contemporary American History and Culture, came to WMU to teach in the College of General Studies in 1971 and in 1989 joined the Department of History. An important contributor to both scholarly and popular press journals, he edited the Humanities Journal in the late 1970s and served as interim Area Chairman in the College of General Studies. After joining the Department of History, Ferreira taught a variety of courses dealing with contemporary America. Known for, among other things, his acerbic wit and provocative commentary on contemporary society, he was a very popular instructor. Students commented on the wide array of ink “stamps” he used when grading assignments. The “Titanic” stamp—for obvious reason—was not one students wanted to see! Dr. Ferreira let us know about a bequest in his estate plan that will create a $100,000 trust to help History students at WMU. The annual returns from the trust will be used to recognize and support undergraduate majors or graduate students studying contemporary American history and culture in the Department of History. Returns from the trust will be given to the Department of History for the Dr. James Ferreira Fund. Awards from the fund shall be available for tuition, fees, room and board, and to reimburse costs related to travel for research and professional development for students with interest in contemporary American history and culture. The Department wants to recognize Dr. Ferreira for this generous gift, and his years of dedicated service to our students. Anyone may contribute to this new fund in his honor at any time.
Dr. Dale Pattison Endowment

Dr. Dale Pattison passed away on April 16, 2012, after a lengthy battle with illness. Dr. Pattison came to Western Michigan University in 1963 as an assistant professor of history while continuing to work on his doctorate, which he received from the University of Chicago. During his long career at Western, Pattison taught a wide range of classes, including courses in historical methods and Latin American history.

Pattison retired from the University in December 1995, but remained active in the community, regularly coming to Department and University functions, and generously supporting undergraduate history students through the History Emeriti Fellowship Program. The program funds undergraduate history majors and minors who engage in scholarly activities outside the classroom and/or who pursue opportunities that advance their professional goals as historians. Grants are awarded to further research, encourage internship or volunteer experiences, defray the cost of travel to a scholarly conference, or in support of other scholarly or professional activities in history.

To honor his passion for WMU, especially for the Department of History and its students, Mrs. Kelley Pattison, along with family and friends of Dr. Pattison, have established the Dr. Dale P. Pattison Endowment, which will continue to support this initiative. When funds permit, the endowment will also be used to offer annual scholarships to undergraduate students in history. The scholarships will be known as the Dr. Dale Pattison Scholarship. Such awards can be used to attract students to the department or to recognize the scholarly accomplishments of current students in the department. The department mourns Dale’s passing but is deeply grateful to his family and friends for their commitment to maintaining his support for the department he called home for so long.

Renewable History Fellowships

Thanks to generous donations from alumni, the department has awarded the first renewable $1,000 fellowship for 2012-13 to a newly admitted, full-time freshman student with declared major in History (LEC), Public History, Secondary Education, History, or Social Studies (with History minor option). A minimum 3.5 high school GPA is required at the time of application. The scholarships are renewable for up to four years provided that the student’s cumulative GPA does not drop below 3.5 and they maintain full-time status as majors in the Department of History. As more donations are received, more recipients will be chosen for these renewable scholarships.

This year’s recipient of the History Fellowship Award is Ms. Delandra Brokaw from Virginia Beach, Virginia. Delandra excelled as a student at Princess Anne High School and demonstrates an advanced capacity for historical research. Her interests in history were developed at a young age and came from a variety of sources. Trips with her father to local museums and a particularly insightful high school history teacher inspired a deep appreciation of history across a number of eras and contexts. Delandra is particularly interested in military history “the causes and course” of warfare and the history of Russia. The department is proud of Delandra’s past accomplishments and excited to have her join the fall 2012 freshman history cohort.

To find out about these and our other funds that benefit the Department and its students, visit

www.wmich.edu/history/giving

or contact Department Chair Dr. Joe Brandão
Thanks to your generous donations, our endowments have grown quite dramatically this last year. The Catherine Julien Fund to support graduate or undergraduate students interested in Latin American History and culture, valued at $7,975, is well on its way to becoming an active endowment. The Nora Faires Endowment to support graduate student travel for research and professional development was started with a gift from Dr. Linda Pritchard, good friend of Dr. Faires. It has reached $38,550 in value. The Peter Schmitt Endowment, is now at $17,105. The rapid growth of these efforts to recognize departed colleagues, teachers, friends and mentors is a result of your contributions. Thank you for your vital support.

### Making a Bequest

Many people do not realize how easy it is to make a bequest to a nonprofit that they currently support with annual cash gifts. The Department of History can help you through the steps of creating a bequest in your estate plans that will benefit the area of your choice while filling funding gaps in the work of the department.

When creating or revising your will and trust, let your estate planner know that you want to make a bequest to the WMU Department of History. You can state a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. Please call us to discuss the bequest so we can match your area of interest to the needs of the department. We can help you with sample wording to add to your estate plans. We will hold the information in our files so when the gift arrives, we know how you want the donation used. Equally important, we can thank you (publicly or privately) for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of the department, let me ask that you consider a bequest. If you have already created a bequest in your estate plans, we thank you and ask that you let us know so we can have a conversation about your area of interest and ensure that your gift will support what you intend.

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**Stay in Touch with Us!**

There are a number of ways to stay current on Department of History news and events:

Visit the Department Website:  [www.wmich.edu/history](http://www.wmich.edu/history)

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Do you have a story you’d like to share about your History Education? Send it to the editor of our newsletter, Associate Chair Dr. Wilson Warren at wilson.warren@wmich.edu

Or call or email the department anytime, to find out about upcoming events, or to share your news! We would love to hear from you. If you are interested in being featured or know someone whom you would like to see in the spotlight, drop us a line through email, the web, or Facebook.

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**Funds vs. Endowments**

At WMU, a fund is the equivalent of an account to which money is deposited and withdrawn to be used for the purposes designated by its creator. A fund can be depleted and closed, much like a bank account.

An Endowment is created with a minimum of a $10,000 gift. The money is invested and the return on the investment can be used for the purposes designated by its creator. An endowment exists as long as does WMU.

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**Department Endowments Continue to Grow, Support Award Winning Students**

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