

New in Spring 2019: The History of Baltimore



This semester, each Wednesday, students gather in Baltimore for **Dr. Melissa Blair's** History of Baltimore class. The course is held in UMBC's downtown Baltimore classroom in the historic Lion Brothers Building (near MLK Blvd. and W. Lombard St.). Dr. Blair takes full advantage of the class's unique location,

leading students through the streets of Baltimore to various historic and cultural sites. Using the city itself as a source, Dr. Blair connects students' readings and papers with historic buildings, parks, and roads.

Between visiting historic sites, students also visit public history institutions, meet with professionals in the field, and learn about the process of making history accessible.

Students are now well into their semester long projects, producing practical research documents instead of traditional papers. Although the city was a unifying theme in the paper's projects, students had selected a variety of topics ranging from tattoo parlors to civil war riots.

Without a doubt, this class is popular with both the students and the instructor. The students appreciate the unique experiences the city provides. Further, they feel they are learning a lot from meeting with public historians who practice history in a practical setting. By bringing their classroom into the city, students feel their studies come to life.

New Faculty Spotlight: Prof. Noor Zaidi



UMBC's newest professor **Dr. Noorzehra Zaidi** is a scholar of Middle Eastern History with a specialization in Iraq, Syria, and Pakistan. Her current research focuses on the construction of sacred space in Shia Islam.

After completing her dissertation on the development of sacredness in Syria and Pakistan, she has shifted her studies to Iraq. After the collapse of the Saddam regime, Iraq worked to create a new identity, positioning itself at the center of the Shia world. Dr. Zaidi's research covers this transformation, working to understand the effects of these changes on faith

and culture. At present, she is working on a series of oral histories from Iraqi political prisoners for her upcoming book. Inside the classroom, Dr. Zaidi strives to build relationships with her students. She has tailored her teaching to accommodate the diverse backgrounds of UMBC students. She works hard to encourage and positively reinforce engagement from all of her students, particularly those who might be less encouraged to participate in other classes. She explained that, as a woman and professor of color, she hopes to serve as a positive role model for other students and as an example of inclusive excellence.

Undoubtedly, Dr. Zaidi's research and teaching will contribute to the globalization of UMBC's History department. Dr. Zaidi's commitment to encouraging and empowering students will have a positive effect on the department as a whole, and her academic inquiry is answering questions about issues of clear significance today.

Faculty and Staff Highlights



Prof. Michelle Scott participated on a Congressional Black Caucus panel on music, criminal justice and racial equality alongside rapper Meek Mill, CNN host Van Jones, professor Dr. Michael Eric Dyson, Universal Music general counsel Jeffrey Harleston. Hakeem Jeffries, Van Jones, Meek Mill, and Michael Eric Dyson.



Congratulations to **Prof. Denise Meringlo** on receiving the “Public Engagement Fellowship” with the Whiting Project. Her fellowship will expand on her work with the Maryland Historical Society, “Preserve the Baltimore Uprising” project. Under the fellowship, Prof. Meringlo will continue include community voices to preserve the “public” in public history documenting events after the death of Freddie Gray.

Prof. Marjoleine Kars recently recited fellowships from The National Humanities Center in Research Triangle Park in North Carolina, the Newberry Library in Chicago, and the Huntington Library in San Marino, California. Prof. Kars has chosen to be an NEH Huntington Fellow in 2018-2019, where she will finish her book, *Slaves Remastered: An Untold Story of Rebellion, Revolution, and Restoration in the Atlantic World* (under contract with The New Press).

History Professor and Director of Asian Studies, **Prof. Meredith Oyen**, served on the panel on U.S.-China relations in 2018, sponsored by the Wilson Center.



Prof. Derek Musgrove, professor and co-author of “Chocolate City,” served as panelist for the ASALH: Association for the Study of African American Life and History 93rd Annual Black History Luncheon.

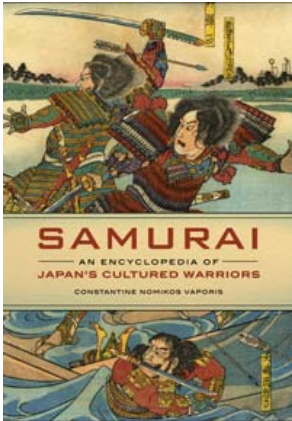


Congratulations to **Prof. Nianshen Song**, who Amazon.cn has named as one of its “New Writers of the Year”. Prof. Song’s book, *Discovering Asia*, was one of Amazon China’s top sellers for 2018! Here is Prof. Song receiving his award in Beijing earlier this week.



Prof. Anne Rubin presented “Slave Streets/Free Streets: Visualizing Landscape in Early Baltimore” on February 6, 2019 at a sold out event at Johns Hopkins University. Using interactive digital maps from the Visualizing Early Baltimore project, Rubin highlights the landscape in which approximately 4,300 enslaved and 10,300 free African Americans lived and worked.

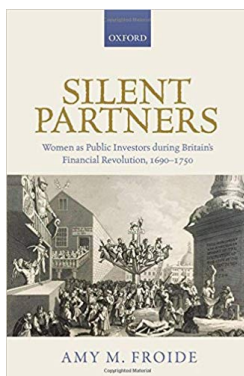
New Books



Professor Constantine Vapris published *Samurai: An Encyclopedia of Japan's Cultured Warriors* (ABC-CLIO, 2019).

Prof. Nianshen Song published his new book, *Making Borders in Modern East Asia: The Tumen River Demarcation, 1881–1919* (Cambridge University Press, 2018). Based on Chinese, Korean and Japanese sources, the book focuses on a multilateral and multiethnic border between China and Korea during the fraught period that witnessed the Sino-Japanese War, the Russo-Japanese War, and the First World War.

Congratulations to Prof. Amy Froide for Best Book Award



Professor Amy Froide on received the Best Book award from the Society for the Study of Early Modern Women for her book, *Silent Partners: Women as Public Investors during Britain's Financial Revolution, 1690-1750* (Oxford University Press, 2017).

History Faculty Fellowships, Prizes and Awards 2018-2019

Rebecca Boehling – Dresher Center for the Humanities, Faculty Residential Fellowship

Denise Meringolo – Whiting Foundation, Public Engagement Fellowship

Michelle Scott – Dresher Center for the Humanities

Anne Rubin – Strategic Award for Research Transitions Fellowship, UMBC

Organization of American Historians Distinguished Lectureship (2018-2021)

Constantine Vapris – CAHSS Research Fellowship; Selected for ASIANetwork's Speakers Bureau, 2017-2019



Prof. Susan McDonough wins prestigious NEH Fellowship

Congratulations to **Professor Susan McDonough** who has won a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship!

Her project "Migration and Prostitution in the Medieval Mediterranean World" is a book-length study on the legal and economic history of prostitutes and their migration patterns in major port cities of the medieval Mediterranean basin, such as Barcelona, Marseille, and Genoa.

Turning Boardgames into History Lessons: Monopoly becomes Blockbusitng in Baltimore



Article by Andrew Arvizu
Graduate Student of History

On an early Wednesday morning in Sondheim Hall passing students were met with a peculiar sight. Congregating outside of **Dr. Kate Brown's** Global History of Commodities was a collection of students with monopoly boards in hand. A jovial atmosphere filled the hallway before class as students discussed their finished products. As students filed into the classroom, they began arranging desks into groups of six. This was no ordinary lecture.

When Dr. Brown arrived, students began unpacking their monopoly boards. With students unboxing their games, Dr. Brown laid out her plan for class. After having played traditional monopoly on the first day of class, Dr. Brown had instructed the students to create their own boards and rulesets. These new games were to highlight the discriminatory housing practices of 20th century Baltimore. With the game pieces in place, it became clear how unorthodox these boards were. Not only were the traditional properties replaced with Baltimore namesakes, but custom chance cards and specially marked playing pieces adorned the board. Students quickly rolled to determine their character's race and starting income, two factors which would prove determinant in their experience. Custom rule sets and student-researched chance cards emulated racial discrimination as players competed to buy and sell property.



Photo: Dr. Brown and students discussing their customized monopoly boards.

Already well into their games, Dr. Brown roamed the room, stopping in at tables to check in on her students. She explained that monopoly was the ideal game to capture the discriminatory housing practices of Baltimore. The original game's creators were themselves politically motivated, hoping to promote antitrust laws. Drawing from this legacy, Dr. Brown hoped to retrofit the message of monopoly. These new games captured the harsh realities facing the minority populations of Baltimore. Legal, social, and fiscal discrimination threatened the livelihoods and properties of whole populations in the city. The effects of redlining and blockbusting are still seen in Baltimore's highly segregated blocks today.

Still, as Dr. Brown listened in on the students, it was clear that they were enjoying themselves. Students roared in laughter when a chance card entitle "White Flight" ruined the value of the leading player's properties, effectively taking them out of the game. But beyond all of the fun, Dr. Brown is confident that these games had a positive effect on her students. The games, although fun, forced students to look critically at the history of injustice and discrimination which is still felt today.

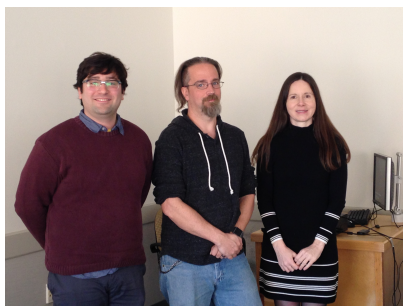
Student Highlights

Bill Thompson, a current M.A. student, has published an essay in the Fall/Winter 2016 edition of the *Maryland Historical Magazine* entitled “Theodore McKeldin and the 1952 Republican Convention.”

Prof. Michelle Scott and three History M.A. students -**Susan Philpott, Kevin Muhitch, and Zachariah Tucker** (pictured right)-have presented at this year’s Association for the Study of African American Life and History. Congrats to our historians!



Graduate Experience Achievements & Research Symposium



Pictured: Kevin Muhitch, David Cunningham, Ana Ilic-Hein

Congratulations to the Graduate History students that presented their academic research and achievements at this year’s GEARS, which was held on March 27th, 2019.

David Cunningham gave a presentation on “Vox Clamantis in Deserto: Spiritual Authority and the Language of the Desert in the Early Monastic Movement.” His talk examines how the principals of his study, St. Jerome and St. John Cassian, used their experiences in the deserts of Egypt and Syria to lend spiritual authority to their rival arguments about monastic lifestyle.

Deborah Farthing gave a Gritty Talk on “A 360° view of history” which is a thesis proposal for creating an online exhibit of antique and vintage garments. Each garment will put into context describing the influences (for example: technical, economic, political, etc.) in creating the garment and any influences it has going forward. I am working with the IRC to possibly create 360-degree photographs that will allow viewers to turn the photographs and zoom in to see details.

Alan Gibson presented “Reciprocity Mattered: Canadian Transportation and the Union Supply Line.” Histories related to the economics of the US Civil War have long focused solely on domestic sources of industrial and agricultural production. This presentation will explain the transportation system and raw materials provided by Canadian companies and producers to the Union’s industries during the Civil War.



Ana Ilic-Hein (pictured above) presented on “The Question of Illyrian Origins in Kosovar, Serb, and Albanian Heritage Debate. Her research examines the competing claims made by Serbs and Albanians in the last century to be the original inhabitants of the region. Albanian belief in their Illyrian origins rests on linguistic analysis and archeological evidence in Albania and Kosovo. The Serb claim is based on evidence of Serb monasteries and churches built during Medieval times in Kosovo, and more recent suggestions that Slavic residence in the area may date back to Roman times. Involving historians and public figures, this debate has contributed to continuing ethnic hostilities over Kosovo.

Student Internship Experiences



Kayla Piechowiak

I am a second-year graduate student, pursuing a Masters in History with a concentration in public history. Over the summer, I obtained an internship at the National Museum of American History (NMAH) in curatorial affairs. I was also able to gain a federal trust position as a public programs facilitator in the Office of Audience Engagement at the NMAH.



Camilla Sandoval

I am a first-generation college student and second-year graduate student on the Public History track. This summer, I had an opportunity to apply my public history skills at Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) where I assisted in Latinx outreach. My experience included researching outreach programs with Latinx communities and developing a community outreach and engagement toolkit including steps on diversity and inclusivity. The steps range from researching new histories of interest to visitors' diverse perspectives, to making sure an organization's policies and practices do not reinforce prejudice and discrimination.



Photo by Jeanette Richardson

Jeanette Richardson, an undergraduate History major with a Public History minor is conducting her Spring 2019 internship at the UMBC's Special Collections/Archives. In her position she is creating tutorials for students faculty and public to understand the collection. Jeanette is learning how to use Past Perfect to search UMBC's collections. She is also using Panpto software to create online tutorials which will be posted on the UMBC Library YouTube channel on archival searches.

Morgan Miller is participating in her graduate student internship the Maryland State Archives in the Special Collections Department. During her internship she focused on identifying the best ways to make collections accessible to the public. In efforts to improve accessibility of photos, Morgan created a template to input information for photos in the catalog.



My name is **Erik Castro** and I am a senior attending UMBC Shady Grove. My internship is with the city of Gaithersburg Museum. My career goal is to be a teacher and this internship is a great opportunity since its helping me put historical research together for general audience as well as preparing educational information. In the internship my main task is to improve some of the museum existing exhibitions such as the Gaithersburg observatory exhibit.



Photo by Erik Castro (History Internship Blog)

Recent Graduates

Congratulations to our recent M.A. Graduates

FALL 2018

Crandall, Heather, Astronomy's Great Debate Over the Size of the Universe: Scientists' and Historians' Changing Assessments

Advisor: Professor Joseph Tatarewicz

Gibson, Alan, Reciprocity Matters During the Civil War: Canadian Raw Goods and the Union Supply

Advisor: Professor Anne S. Rubin

Golden, Marshal, The Life and Times of John Graham Chambers: Sports and Commercialization of Leisure in Victorian Britain

Advisor: Professor Daniel Ritschel

Parker, Samantha, The First Sexual Revolution: A Comparative Study of Premarital Pregnancy Rates in Maryland and Massachusetts, 1700-1810

Advisor: Professor Terry Bouton

SUMMER 2018

Laina Miller, Singing Songs and Carrying Candles: The Development of Ashkenazi Jewish Marriage Customs and Rituals from Talmudic and Christian Sources, C. 850-1300 CE

Advisor: Professor Susan McDonough

Utz, Zachary, Re-Thinking "The American Dream of Integration" in Suburbia: Race, Class and Resegregation in Randallstown, 1956-2003

Advisor: Professor G. Derek Musgrove



Congratulations to our Recent B.A. Graduates

Fall 2018

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Rebecca Isabelle Altendorf | Timothy A. Regan |
| Hanaa Ashraf | Nathaniel Braxton |
| Matthew A. Caltrider | Smith |
| Alexander Gary Cole | Mishel Solovveva |
| Daniel Curtis | Julian Tash |
| Elfia Shani Edmondson | Zachariah Davis Toker |
| Sohrob M. Ganjbaksh | Luis E. Vaca-Soto |
| Hunter Gordon, B.A. | Dimitri Peter Vassiliou |
| Thomas Carroll Gragan | Kyle A. Walter |
| Steven Guerrero, B.A. | Austin Richard White |
| Nicholas James Herrmann | Donny Ross Wiggins |
| Noah Jaques, B.A. | |
| Alexander Lateulere, B.A. | |
| Brandon Paul Legate | |
| Timothy R. Merton | |
| James Thomas Mitchell | |
| Linda Park | |
| Benjamin Edward patton | |

Alumni News



Photo: Cushwa Center

Congratulations to **Conor Donnan, (History MA, 2016)** who is currently pursuing a PhD in History at the University of Pennsylvania, for winning a Hibernian Research award for his project: “An ‘Empire for Liberty?’ Irish Immigrants, Native Americans, and American Imperialism in the trans-Mississippi West between 1841 and 1924.”



Photo: Harriman Institute

Congratulations to **Prof. Rhiannon Dowling, '09 M.A.**, Historical Studies (Advisor: Kate Brown) who earned her PhD in History from the University of California, Berkeley in 2017. She is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Harriman Institute, Columbia University. Her dissertation entitled “Brezhnev's War on Crime: The Criminal in Soviet Society, 1963-1982” just was awarded the Robert C. Tucker/Stephen F. Cohen Dissertation Prize.

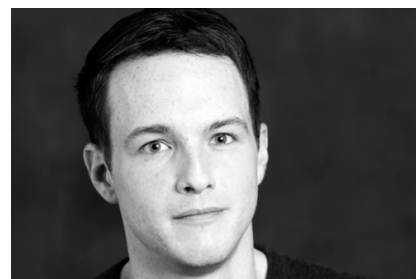
Alums win Rubys — Baltimore Arts Awards

We are delighted to announce that two alums from the History program, **Kristina Gaddy (B.A., 2009)** and **Andrew Holter (B.A., 2012, M.A., 2017)** have each won a Ruby!

Rubys are awarded by The Robert W. Deutsch Foundation to fund innovative people, projects, and ideas based in Baltimore.



Kristina Gaddy will use her award to support, *Well of Souls*, a literary exploration of the little known history of the banjo in the Americas, it's role as a spiritual device in the hands of enslaved Africans, and the instrument's legacy in today's culture and society.



Andrew Holter will use his award to support, *Hello, Fellow Worker*, the first biography of Baltimore-bred, Pulitzer Prize winning reporter Murray Kempton, whose professional life spans from H.L. Mencken to Tupac Shakur and which will give new insight to 20th century American history and politics.

Alumni Mailbox



Have exciting news you want to share with faculty, staff, current students, and alumni? Send YOUR news to history@umbc.edu so we may include you in future newsletters!

Kim Ashby While I am not working in the History field, I use my research and critical analysis skills everyday in my position in the IT Department at the Baltimore Life Insurance Company. I was recently (February 2019) promoted to Assistant Vice President, Business Analysis and Quality Assurance.

Aiden Faust Since graduating from UMBC in 12/2015, I continue to serve as the head of Special Collections & Archives at the University of Baltimore. As library faculty, I earned tenure (aka permanent status) in 2017 and just received notification that I've been promoted to Librarian III. This summer, I have a new essay on local archival history coming out in *Baltimore Revisited, Stories of Inequality and Resistance in a U.S. City* (Rutgers University Press), edited by UMBC's Nicole King and Kate Drabinski: <https://www.rutgersuniversitypress.org/baltimore-revisited/9780813594019>

Sean Barnum Boy a lot has happened since my graduation from the UMBC History department in 2006. I spent 12 years teaching middle school history in Queen Anne's County, had a deployment to Kuwait in 2014, and started this year as an assistant principal at Centreville Middle School. On top of that I have 3 amazing children - Lillian 11; Grady 9; Dempsey 8. I have very fond memories of my time at UMBC and often talk with students about my time there. In fact several of my students will participate in the National History Day competition that takes place on campus in April. Hope all is well in the UMBC history world.

Melissa Boyce I have been with the National Park Service since 2001 and am currently a Law Enforcement Ranger at Harpers Ferry NHP in West Virginia. I have had a very rewarding career that has led me to live and work in eight states from California to North Carolina. The skills and knowledge that I developed at UMBC have been critical to my success. I was recently selected to participate in a highly competitive leadership course through the NPS called the GOAL Academy. We are a group of 50 up and coming leaders within our agency that is tasked with changing culture and encouraging leadership at all levels. Harpers Ferry is always looking for interns. From interpretation to cultural and natural resources to social media, the need is great. Please see our main webpage for more information: www.nps.gov/hafe

Marissa Dalgetty Wood I graduated in 2013 with a BA in History and BS in Geography. I work in Ellicott City for a small, private cartography firm called International Mapping doing boundary research and GIS work. I am happy to say that I put both my degrees to work every day and have Turabian sitting proudly on my shelf. If you know of any History students with an interest in graphic design, cartography, or GIS, I'd be interested to meet them and could likely develop an internship for them.

Aurelia Fedenisn Greetings from RTI International in Research Triangle Park, NC! I'm Aurelia (Keller) Fedenisn, both a BA and MA alumna - BA 1984 and MA 1993 from UMBC. I'm currently on my third career, working for a non-profit as their VP for Global Security. In fact, I leave next week for Kenya, Tanzania, Philippines and Nepal, so I still do quite a lot of international travel in support of our company's health, education, governance type projects.