



## Fall 2016 Faculty Achievements

- Dr. Edward Woell delivered the 14th Annual College of Arts and Sciences John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture
- Dr. Febe Pamonag received the Provost's Award of Excellence in Multicultural Teaching
- Dr. Ute Chamberlin delivered the Fall 2016 "Last Lecture," sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences Student Council
- Drs. Lee Brice and Greg Hall have been awarded Summer Stipends for 2017

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Volume I, Issue I

Fall 2016

## From the Chair's Desk

Welcome to this inaugural installment of the WIU Department of History newsletter. This fall marks my twelfth year as a member of the History faculty and signals a new opportunity for me to serve as an advocate for the students, faculty, and friends of the department as interim chair. When I began my administrative appointment, I thought my dozen years at WIU had endowed me with a rather full understanding of the department's role in the educational mission of the University, but I learn something new and exciting every day about our students, my colleagues, and the many wonderful donors whose vital and generous support helps History continue to be a program of opportunity.

The department continues to attract fantastic students, passionate about future careers in the law, in business, in the classroom, and beyond. They recognize the value of History as a

training ground not just for academic success in college but for professional and personal success beyond Western. History students are leaders, scholarship winners, and successful graduates, and this newsletter allows me to highlight a sample of their accomplishments.

From my new vantage point in the Chair's office, I also have an opportunity to learn more about the fantastic work of History faculty. We have had an active semester, sharing our research with the campus and broader communities, and I am delighted to note some of my colleagues' achievements here.

As the fall Annual Fund Drive comes to a close, I would also like to take this opportunity to offer my deep thanks to the alumni, friends, and former faculty who have graciously given back to the department's many scholarships and initiatives. This newsletter recognizes two individuals in particular—Dr. Virgin-



**Dr. Jennifer McNabb,**  
Professor and Interim Chair of  
the WIU Department of  
History

ia Boynton and Dr. Gordon Kirk—but there are many others for whose gifts I am most grateful.

History at WIU remains vital—thank you for being part of our story!

## History Program Updates

\*History has a brand-new minor. Fall 2016 marks the first opportunity for WIU students to select a Minor in Military History, a field of study that has long been both a departmental strength and a source of keen interest for our students. See details [here](#).  
\*The History M.A. Program has welcomed six new students this fall: Ronald Boyd,

Tim Bradish, Cassandra Denny, Nancy Dixon, Regine Ekoh, and Robert Kett.

\*The 2016-2017 departmental Teaching Support Assistants and staff of the History Achievement Center are Cassandra Denny, Nancy Dixon, Gabrielle Filipink, Adam Moss, and Ryan Rosenbrock. They offer study skills programming and individualized assistance to

students in History courses.

\*Congratulations to History M.A. student Jillien Zudell for her selection as a recipient of a Fall 2016 School of Graduate Studies Graduate Research & Professional Development Award to support her thesis research at the Framingham History Center in Massachusetts.



***“I feel WIU has prepared me to take on and overcome the many challenges that come with student teaching and a teaching career.”***

## Featured History Major: Grace Griffin

History -Teacher Education major Grace Griffin is our Fall 2016 featured student. Grace, who will be graduating in December 2016, is the recipient of the first Department of History Student Teacher scholarship, a \$100 award given to all History -Teacher Education majors when they begin their student teaching field experience to help defray the costs associated with completion of the Teacher Education program.

Grace is currently completing her student teaching placement at Wheaton Warrenville South High School in Wheaton, Illinois. When asked why she decided to major in History-Teacher Education, Grace responded, “I have always wanted to be a teacher. My educational career has been filled with many inspiring and motivational teachers. I enjoy working with others and want to bring that same inspiration I received to my students. History has always been an interest of mine that I have grown to be very passionate about. I believe that having a passionate teacher can make all the difference in the classroom.” Of her experience at Wheaton Warrenville South, Grace stated, “It has been truly amazing to be able to put all that I have learned into action. I feel WIU has prepared me to take on and overcome the many challenges that come with student teaching

and a teaching career.”

Grace credits her history professors for providing many valuable learning experiences during her undergraduate program, noting, “I have had great experiences with all of my history professors at WIU.” Grace is particularly enthusiastic about her participation in Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Day in 2015: “I presented my research from Dr. McNabb’s special topics history course on witchcraft in early modern Europe. The focus of my research was to examine the language used in witchcraft pamphlets from Europe during the years 1600-1640. I wanted to understand how the topic was written about and examine the purpose/role pamphlets played in society. I am proud of my hard work, and being able share that with others was rewarding.”

When notified of her receipt of the first History Student Teacher scholarship given by the department, Grace expressed her excitement and her gratitude for the many generous donors whose support makes this new award possible. She is looking forward to graduation in December: “I am excited to see where the next chapter in my life takes me.”

Good luck, Grace!



WIU History major Grace Griffin and President Jack Thomas at Undergraduate Research Day, 2015



Grace with her Warren Wheatonville South mentor teachers, Chuck Williams (left) and Jim Brennan (right)



## Featured History Alum: Jessica Toops (in her own words)



The graduate: above, Jessica in 2013 at WIU Commencement; below, Jessica at Queen's University Belfast



**“My time at WIU set me up well for a career as an entrepreneur and genealogist. From day one at WIU, we were constantly having discussions about the different career opportunities for historians.”**

After graduating from WIU with my BA in History in 2013, I applied to grad programs across the US and the UK and ultimately decided to accept an offer to complete an MA in Irish Studies at Queen's University Belfast. In the six months between my degrees, I worked as a substitute teacher and in the records office at the Mercer County Courthouse, which served as a pretty good glimpse into my potential career paths as an historian.

I studied at Queen's during the 2014-2015 academic year. I switched research methodologies from history to anthropology in order to complete my research, which was focused on understanding and defining "Irishness" within the context of Irish-American return migrants - and so began many discussions with Irish-Americans completing family history research.

I completed two internships while I was at QUB. In one role, I did historical research for a film company that was working on a television documentary that focused on the restoration of an Irish Big

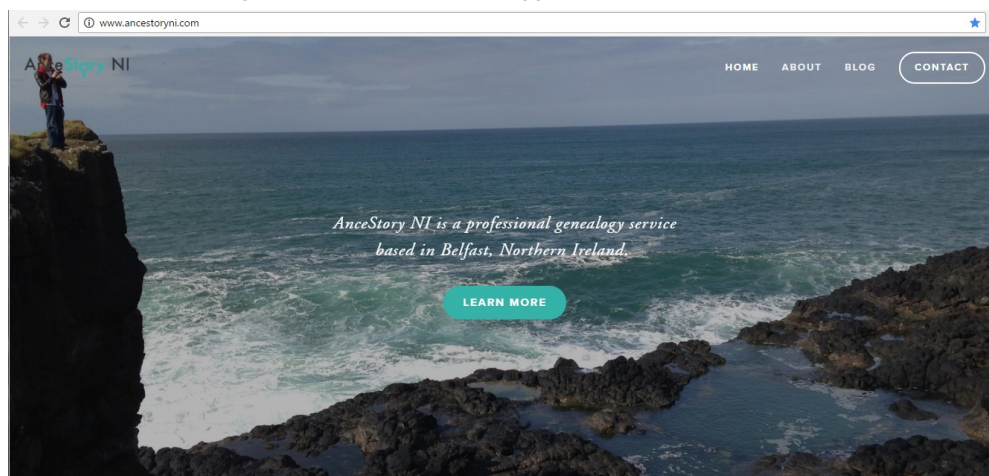
House called Mount Stewart near Belfast (see the project [here](#)). This internship required a great deal of research on the Stewart family in the Public Records Office of Northern Ireland, and I ultimately ended up staying on in PRONI to help catalogue many of the documents in the collection.

The six months after my graduation from QUB required a bit of soul searching. I was struggling to find a career that fit my expertise, so after trying a few different things that didn't quite fit, including a short stint in Dublin, I wrote up my business plan for a genealogy and tourism company in Belfast and applied for the Tier 1 (Graduate Entrepreneur) Visa program through QUB. Now that I have successfully received a sponsorship from QUB, I'm back in Belfast running my own genealogy company, AnceStory NI (click on the picture at bottom to visit the site).

My time at WIU set me up well for a career as an entrepreneur and genealogist. From day one at WIU, we were constantly having discussions about the different career opportunities

for historians. I was regularly being taught how to present my skills in the job market. The support and encouragement I received at WIU, specifically from the faculty in the Department of History, taught me to take risks and bolstered my confidence. And, of course, signing up for the WIU in Belfast Study Abroad program is the most obvious turning point in my time at WIU. Without that program, I would never have considered grad school or a career in a foreign country. The study abroad program drastically broadened my outlook. Looking back, it's really easy to follow the line in my career from WIU, to QUB, to starting AnceStory NI, although it never felt quite so organized or obvious while I was actually living it!

I will always feel nostalgic when I think about my time at WIU with ASH and the Department of History. From going on ASH field trips all over Western Illinois, to studying the history of witchcraft, to studying the history of flight culture, to travelling to Belfast with fellow historians, it really was a blast!



## Associated Students of History Update (by President Dan Kellogg)



The Associated Students of History, with newly elected President Daniel Kellogg, who replaced the three-year president Kirsten Belisle, is ending another productive semester by hosting a final winter break party on December 7 at 5pm in Morgan Hall 302.

The semester began with two successful events. The first capitalized on the hype of Pokémon Go, a popular GPS based mobile game created this summer, in the creation of a fun social activity early this semester. The second involved an effective promotion at the Student Activities Fair in August. The events continued with the bi-annual ASH-hosted professional development series. This presentation was led by Amy Yang, a graduate assistant in the WIU Career Development Center, and focused on interview skills for future employment.

Other notable ASH activities include: a Second Place finish in the annual Big Pink Volleyball competition; another successful Trick the Town operation, which supplies Macomb with donated goods; volunteering with Sue Scott at the Western Illinois Museum to archive and organize the museum's storage facilities; and a presentation on the life and experiences of William Shakespeare by Dr. McNabb, which included delicious "theater hand-pies" substituted as Hot Pockets. A generous donation provided by Dr. Gordon Kirk provided transportation during our field trip to the Herbert Hoover Museum in West Branch, Iowa. As the Associated Students of History wraps up the fall semester, plans are underway with the Kappa Pi Honor Society for screen printing t-shirts for sale next semester.



The 2016-2017 ASH Executive Board (l-r): Dan Kellogg, Taryn Wehling, Maddie Olejnik, Gwen Hanford, Adam Patchik, and Nick Ebelhack



Members of the Associated Students of History (with faculty advisors Drs. Ginny Boynton and Ute Chamberlin) on their fall field trip to the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site and Museum in West Branch, IA

**Refer a student! Do you know a high school student considering the next step of his or her education? Encourage him or her to Think Purple! Email [JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu](mailto:JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu) with names and contact information to help with History's recruitment efforts.**



## Is This a Film Which I See Before Me?

This year marks the 400th anniversary of William Shakespeare's death, an anniversary that has sparked worldwide celebration and commemoration of the Bard's life and works. The WIU Department of History, in conjunction with the Department of English and Veterans' Resource Center, has joined those global tributes by bringing Shakespeare to the WIU campus and Macomb community during Fall 2016 with WIU #Shakespeare400 Film Series.

The series features four film adaptations of Shakespeare's plays: *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Henry V*, *Macbeth*, and *Hamlet*. Its goal is to introduce new audiences to Shakespeare, to give established Shakespeare fans access to new performances and imaginings of familiar texts, and to create a public space to enjoy and discuss Shakespeare's work and the continuing relevance of its themes. Each film concludes with an interdisciplinary

"Talk Back" panel, with guests from Film Studies, Theatre and Dance, and the Veterans Club. The series has been featured on Tri States Public Radio and *The Western Courier*, and ASH has participated in the celebration by hosting its own "Shakespeareance" - themed meeting.

History is proud to be able to sponsor this event and to offer valuable programming to students and community members.

WIU's  
#SHAKESPEARE400  
Film Series

Wednesday nights in the University Union Sandburg Theatre, beginning at 6:30 p.m.  
Sponsored by the WIU Departments of English and History and the Veterans Resource Center

Sept. 7:  
Much Ado About Nothing  
(BBC Shakespeare-Todd, 2005)

Oct. 5:  
Henry V  
(Hollow Crown, Season 1, Episode 4, 2013)

Nov. 9:  
Macbeth  
(See-Saw Films, 2015)

Dec. 7:  
Hamlet  
(Royal Shakespeare Company, 2009)

Each film will conclude with a brief interdisciplinary panel discussion featuring speakers from English, history, theatre, the Veterans Club and more!

For additional information, contact Ingrid ANTON (i.anton@wiu.edu) or Christopher MASON (c.mason@wiu.edu).

## Fall 2016 List of History Graduates

Thurgood M.A. Brooks (Rock Island, IL)

Riley J. Gober (Polo, IL)

Jose E. Granado (Chicago, IL)

Grace Griffin (Palatine, IL)

Mickenze Preston Hoffeditz (Taylor Ridge, IL)

Nicholas Lee Jarnell (North Aurora, IL)

Philip Wayne Johnson (Macomb, IL)

Dominic Earl Kleffman (Davenport, IA)

Kyle Auston Zimmerman (Mapleton, IL)



History majors at Spring 2016 Commencement

## History Professor Gives Back...More

Dr. Ginny Boynton established the Richard D. and Janet L. Boynton History Honors Thesis Award in 2011 to honor the memory of her parents by recognizing outstanding achievement of History majors completing an Honors thesis as members of the Centennial Honors College. As created, the award recognized the most accomplished undergraduate Honors thesis in the department with a \$500 prize.

While that award will continue, Dr. Boynton has recently revised the criteria to offer an additional award of up to \$250 in History Honors Thesis Research Grant funds to defray expenses related to a student's Honors thesis research and completion (see [here](#) for the new criteria).

Thanks, Dr. Boynton, for your generosity!



Dr. Ginny Boynton (left) with a few of the many History students, faculty, and friends in attendance at the Annual College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship Dinner, Fall 2016

### Historians in Action



Dr. Ed Woell presented the John Hallwas Liberal Arts Lecture in September. His talk was entitled “The Public Sphere of Past and Present, and the Place of the Liberal Arts.”



Dr. Febe Pamonag is introduced as the recipient of this year’s Provost’s Award for Academic Excellence in Multicultural Education



Dr. Ute Chamberlin presents her Last Lecture, sponsored by the CAS Student Council: “Where is Your Heimat? How I found my intellectual home and you can too”



Dr. Greg Hall presents a public lecture in a WIU series celebrating the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service: “America’s National Parks: History and Legacy”



## New History Essay Prize: The Constitution and the Bill of Rights Sponsored by Dr. Tim Roberts

The Department of History is proud to announce a new paper prize on the subject of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, sponsored by Dr. Tim Roberts. This prize competition will focus on an annual theme, announced each year on Constitution Day; this year's theme is "Should the Bill of Rights apply to illegal immigrants?" The deadline for submissions for consideration of the prize will be December 15, the date on which Vir-

ginia became the last state to ratify the Bill of the Rights.

The competition is open to all WIU History majors and minors. The author of the prize-winning essay will receive \$100, and the essay will be published in the forthcoming volume of the *Western Illinois Historical Review*, the department's online student journal.

### HISTORY ESSAY PRIZE ON THE CONSTITUTION AND THE BILL OF RIGHTS

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE**  
December 15, 2016  
The anniversary of Virginia's ratification of the Bill of Rights

**SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**  
Essays must be original work, 10-12 pages in length. Citations should follow the *Chicago Manual*.

**THE 2016 THEME**  
Should the Bill of Rights apply to Illegal Immigrants?

FOR QUESTIONS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT DR. TIM ROBERTS, TM-ROBERTS@WIU.EDU

**OPEN TO ALL HISTORY MAJORS AND MINORS**


**PRIZE DETAILS**

- \$100 prize
- Publication in *Western Illinois Historical Review*, the History Department's online student publication

**EVALUATION**

Essays will be judged by history faculty on:

- Thoughtfulness and clarity of argument
- Usage of sources cited
- Effective interpretation and applicability of the Constitution and Bill of Rights to the 2016 theme





*Congratulations to History Teacher-Education majors Rachel Eaton (l) and Kyle Sealey (r), winners of the 2016-2017 Western Illinois University Libraries Graham Scholarship in recognition of their exemplary performance as library student workers!*

**Attention History students and alumni:**  
**Do you have exciting news to share about recent awards, scholarships, or employment success stories? Submit professional updates to [JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu](mailto:JL-Mcnabb@wiu.edu) to be featured in a future edition of the newsletter!**

## Phi Alpha Theta Update

WIU's Omicron Omicron Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the History Honor Society, has had a busy 2016. Following the hosting of the regional conference last spring, the chapter was awarded Honorable Mention for the Society's Best Chapter Award. Omicron Omicron, under the leadership of President Jillien Zudell, has hosted and co-

hosted a number of events this fall. This fall's programming has ranged from professional development activities—a "Resume and Cover Letter Workshop" in September—to several election-themed public events, including an Election 2016 faculty forum (see photo, right) and the Election Night Party at the Multicultural Center.



History professor and Phi Alpha Theta faculty advisor Tim Roberts (left), joined by History professor Peter Cole and Political Science professors Janna Deitz and Greg Baldi

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## Department of History

### Promises Fulfilled: Dr. Gordon Kirk

On July 15, 2016, my first day in the chair's office, Dr. Gordon Kirk fully endowed the scholarship bearing his name, fulfilling the pledge he made in 2012 in establishing the award. I had the honor of working with Dr. Kirk in fall 2012 in conjunction with both the public awarding of his scholarship to its inaugural recipient (now-senior Matthew Nelson, pictured with Gordon, right) and the 30th Anniversary celebration of the Centennial Honors College. Perhaps because our geographical and educational backgrounds are similar (we both hail from Michigan and attended liberal arts colleges in that state, and, as we recently discovered, we both received our M.A. degrees from Bowling Green State University in Ohio), Dr. Kirk has always treated me as a colleague and friend, despite the fact that he retired before I began my appointment at WIU. I suspect, though, that Dr. Kirk is just as collegial and generous with everyone associated with Western as he is with me. I know Dr. Kirk is deeply proud of this university and of the educational and personal opportunities it offers its students. I am delighted to have the chance to recognize his ongoing assistance to the department and its students and to thank him and all of the other History donors for their support History's educational mission and the department's stellar students.

It is not an exaggeration to say that Dr. Gordon Kirk's exceptional leadership and educational initiatives still shape the educational experience of Western students. In addition to an appointment as Assistant Provost from 1986 to 1989, he served as the chair of the Department of History from 1984 to 1986 and again from 1989 to 1999. Dr. Kirk was also instrumental in the creation of the University Honors Program and served as its first director. His scholarship, the Gordon W. Kirk Honors History Scholarship, reflects that combined commitment to Honors and to History. His award is designed "to encourage students who are Honors History majors to see the importance of working hard to achieve an education and then putting those skills and knowledge to the good of humanity."

Educational opportunity and social advancement are proven partners, something Dr. Kirk's own historical research and writing has explored (see *The Promise of American Life*, published by the American Philosophical Society, 1978). His desire to celebrate academic excellence, to support History, and to demonstrate his belief in the educational mission of WIU inspires me, and I hope it inspires you as well. Thank you, Dr. Kirk!



From top, President Jack Thomas and Professor Kirk; Dr. Kirk and the first recipient of his scholarship, History Honors student Matthew Nelson, fall 2012; Dr. Kirk at home in Chicago, fall 2016



Happy holidays!

