

History Happenings

A newsletter published by the Department of History at the University of Memphis

Vol. 18, No. 1

October 2021



Is the Department of History getting **KINKY???**
Check out the article by Stephen Stein on page 6!

Letter from the Chair

*Department chair **Dan Unowsky** reflects on the state of the department, the challenges ahead, and the accomplishments of his colleagues and students.*

When we began planning the schedule of history classes and events for this fall, we hoped we were preparing for a full return to campus with the pandemic behind us. This has of course not been the case. As I write these lines in late October, COVID rates finally seem to be declining in our region. Still, many of our students and teachers have had to miss in-person class sessions due to infection or quarantine protocols. Our thoughts go out to those who have been seriously ill and who have family members and friends who were hospitalized or succumbed to this terrible disease.

I remain hopeful that as students, faculty, and staff follow basic common-sense evidence-based health guidelines—masking, distancing, switching venues for in-person events to larger rooms and outdoor (when the weather allows!) spaces, urging our friends, colleagues, and students to get the vaccines that are extraordinarily successful in preventing serious disease—we will find campus life returning to the kind of campus feel that we all want. In the meantime, we are committed to offering the high-quality courses and stimulating events our department has long produced in our efforts to create meaningful experiences for our majors and for the entire university community.

In the Department of History, we are saying goodbye to one staff member, and we are welcoming another. Our thanks to Karen Jackett for her two decades of service to our department as a member of our office staff. Ms. Jackett completed her nursing degree and now works for the Baptist Hospital system. We wish her well and know she will bring her dedication and expertise to all of her patients. Dr. Erika Feleg, who received her PhD in Ancient Egyptian History in 2020, has now officially joined our staff. Dr. Feleg is already working closely with Karen Bradley, our wonderful office manager. Welcome Dr. Feleg!

My thanks to Aram Goudsouzian and Tyler Kynn for putting together this latest edition of our newsletter. Perhaps more than ever, it is important to focus on the accomplishments and scholarly activities of our faculty, current students, and successful alumni.

This semester's newsletter features reflect the breadth of our faculty's research interests. Beverly Bond, who was named the 2021 recipient of the Willard R. Sparks Eminent Faculty Award, the highest honor the University of Memphis bestows on a faculty member, spoke with Aram Goudsouzian about her career. Professor Bond has witnessed and been involved in so many changes in the department and our campus since she herself



was a student in our graduate program.

Stephen Stein, already a prominent scholar of naval and maritime history and a pioneer of online education, recently published *Sadomasochism and the BDSM Community in the United States: Kinky People Unite*. His book examines the historical development of the BDSM community from the end of World War II to the present.

Beverly Tsacoyianis discusses her exciting new book, *Disturbing Spirits: Mental Illness, Trauma, and Treatment in Modern Syria and Lebanon*. As one reviewer wrote, this book “is a groundbreaking study written with remarkable clarity and empathy.” The book, based on documents culled from archives and libraries in the Middle East, explores questions of public health, psychiatry, and traditions of spiritual healing in the context of social, economic, and political disruption in the twentieth century.

Other features in this newsletter examine the ongoing research of our historians. Suzanne Onstine updates our community on her ongoing project in Egypt. The recent recipient of an impressive grant from the National Science Foundation, she directs an international team in excavating and preserving an ancient tomb. Tyler Kynn, who joined our faculty as an instructor of Global History in Fall 2020, tells the fascinating story of his discovery of a stolen manuscript.

Current Ph.D. student Damarius Harris profiles the latest efforts of the History Educational Resource Center (HERC). The HERC plays a central role in our efforts to cultivate a rich academic

culture for our students. Along with Kelsie Carper, Damarius serves as a HERC tutor. They help undergraduate students improve their historical writing. Paola Cavallari, another current Ph.D. student, writes about two exhibitions that she curated at the University of Memphis-Lambuth Library. Many current and former MA and PhD students in our program have worked in museums and libraries, bringing their research skills and knowledge to audiences beyond the university.

Finally, two features highlight our alumni. We are always proud to promote their achievements. Daryl Carter received his PhD in African American History in our department in 2011. He is now Professor, Associate Dean, and Director of

Black American Studies at East Tennessee State University. Trygve Has-Ellison defended his dissertation in German and European History in 2004. Like many of our graduates, Dr. Has-Ellison has forged a rewarding career outside of academia. He passed the Foreign Service Exam and was hired by the US State Department. He has since held a series of positions at embassies and consulates in several countries. Dr. Has-Ellison is currently based in Juarez, Mexico.

This newsletter confirms what we all know: History matters and the work that historians do matters.

Best wishes for an excellent and productive 2021-2022!



Check out Beverly Bond in her teaching days at Teaneck High School in New Jersey (upper left) and at Germantown High School (lower right). She is with the legendary singer Smokey Robinson (upper right), our former chair Janann Sherman (middle left), and our own Brian Kwoba (middle right). And she has earned some degrees! She graduated from Hamilton High School (lower left). When she received her BA from Memphis State (middle), her mother got her MA in Education. She is with her parents while obtaining her MA in History (top middle), and with her adviser Peggy Caffrey as she earns her Ph.D. (middle bottom). On the next page, read more about Beverly, in her own words.

A Bond with a Department

Beverly Bond is the winner of the 2021 Willard R. Sparks Eminent Faculty Award, the highest honor that a professor can attain at the University of Memphis. Before becoming a celebrated professor in the department, though, she was a student here — first for her B.A., then her M.A., and then her Ph. D. (she also has an M.Ed. From Columbia University). In this interview with Aram Goudsouzian, she reflects on her personal experiences and her scholarship.



AG: How did you decide to become a historian? What is the appeal of history, from your perspective?

BB: I was part of the Sputnik generation of American students who were encouraged to focus on science and math classes in high school, but I don't think I ever really liked STEM (as we call it now). I loved history because of the stories, not the atoms, cells, or embryos. One of my first classes at Memphis State University was a World Civilizations course with Professor Marcus Orr. He was brilliant, focused, and a great storyteller; I was hooked on history from that point on. My undergraduate field was actually European History, but when I came back to the university for my M.A., I switched to American History and sharpened my area of concentration to African American History. The appeal was still the stories, but these were the stories of people like those who lived in my south Memphis neighborhood.

AG: You have a long history with what is now the University of Memphis — you began as an undergraduate student at Memphis State in 1963. What are your reflections on those college years?

BB: It was a tough environment because it was the early 1960s, the university had only been desegregated for four years, and I was a very young (and relatively sheltered) seventeen-year-old. I graduated from one of the best of the Memphis City Schools (Hamilton High School) and my teachers had prepared us for post-secondary education at any institution in the country — and I knew that. I never felt that my educational background was inferior to white students. I knew most of the Black students but (and I know you will find this hard to believe) I was very shy. Was there racism at Memphis State in the 1960s? Of course there was. Did I want to be at Memphis State? No, it wasn't even my "backup school" as a high school senior. It was really my family's idea. I was one of five siblings whose parents were determined that we would each get a bachelor's degree, and Memphis State was the least expensive alternative.

My reflections on those college years? I remember how African American students carved out safe social spaces where they could just be college students enjoying college life. There was a lot of card-playing in the Tiger Den and sorority and fraternity life off campus (at LeMoyne or even Tennessee State) before Black sororities and fraternities came on the MSU campus. I remember subtle and not-so-subtle acts on the part of some less enlightened students and faculty. But I also remember the great support from some students and some of the legends in this department: Marcus Orr, Bob Brown, Bob Frankle, Abe Kriegel, and Anne Trotter. David Tucker was my first African American History professor and Dal Coger made me determined to see East Africa. I was Bob Brown's first advisee and I think even he will admit that I knew the system better than he did. But that was because I had to graduate in four years.

AG: You have mentioned in the past that you grew up within a strong African American community here in Memphis. How has your personal history shaped your research and writing?

BB: I knew my community was a source of rich stories that fit into the fabric of the history of this city, the state, the region, and the nation. I'm an Ancestry.com fan and, over the past few years, I've learned how true this really is. I've included some of these ancestors in a few of my essays.

I can trace the ancestors on that side of my family back to early 1800s North Carolina and Virginia. Their movement into Tennessee is the story of the migration of enslaved people in the Early National period. My paternal grandparents left Haywood County for Tipton County after the Civil War and left Tipton County (Brighton) for Shelby County (Millington) in the mid-1890s. They may have been in Brighton/Millington at the time of the Big Creek lynching in 1894. My maternal grandparents and great-grandparents migrated from Mississippi and Louisiana to Memphis in the early 1900s – probably as a part of the early Great Migration. My maternal grandfather was a Pullman porter who worked the West Coast routes. I can still remember going to meet him at the old Union or Central stations.



Beverly's great-grandparents, Richard and Susan Walker Boyd, were born into slavery in the 1850s in west Tennessee.

I grew up in a Memphis neighborhood that includes the family of A. Maceo Walker (Universal Life Insurance and Tri-State Bank), down the street from Jesse Turner and his family, and around the corner from teachers, principals, lawyers, doctors, and businesspeople. My piano teacher was the opera singer Florence Talbot McCleave. My father was a postman, and my mother was a schoolteacher. But it was also a neighborhood of working-class people and we had a great deal of respect for the sanitation workers, barbers, beauticians, laundresses, and domestic workers who also lived down the street and around the corner.

When I was searching for a dissertation topic, I didn't have to look beyond my community, but I knew I wanted to research and write about African Americans in the 19th century. I wanted to research Black women but was told this would be difficult if not impossible because of the paucity of primary sources. Yet, these were my foremothers – the two grandmothers (Effie Gary Franklin and Laura Boyd Greene) I knew

personally, their mothers (one of whom – Ora Blanche Gary - I also knew), their great grandmothers, and even further-back female kin. The women I knew had a lot of the "stuff" that history is written from, so I knew the sources were there.

AG: How has the Department of History changed since you began teaching full-time at the University of Memphis in 1996? What progress do you see? What challenges?

BB: Our department is younger (or maybe I'm just older), more focused on the field of African American History, and more female. But we still have a lot to do in becoming more racially diverse in the makeup of our faculty. That is a real challenge as the national demand for African American faculty increases. I think every African American PhD we have turned out since 1996 has a job in academia or some related field – but our own program has problems recruiting and keeping African American scholars in tenure-track or instructor positions.

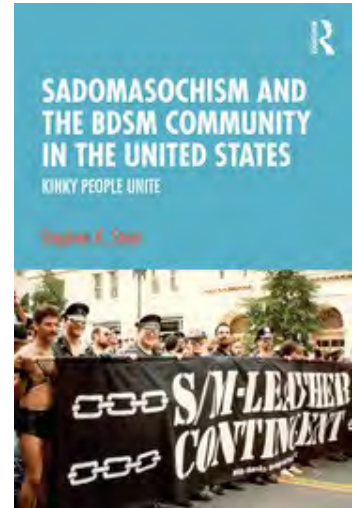
AG: As one perk of winning the Eminent Faculty Award, you delivered the speech at the 2021 summer commencement, dispensing wisdom and advice. To get more specific, what advice do you have for today's young scholars of Memphis?

BB: I relied on the wisdom and advice that Theodore Geisel (Dr. Seuss) gave in his book *Oh the Places You'll Go!* My sister-in-law gave my daughter a copy of this book when Julie graduated from Smith College. I thought it was a strange choice for a graduation gift, but in her sometimes-quirky way, her aunt was a very wise woman. Geisel didn't advise graduates to eat the "green eggs and ham" offered by the Cat in the Hat. He told them that they should expect challenges, disappointments, loneliness, fear, everything imaginable and unimaginable in their post-graduate lives. That's why the advice that I would give to young people is somewhat "Seussian." If they are lucky, their lives will be long. They will stay put or they will travel; they will set and reset their goals. Life is about perseverance and confronting those inevitable challenges, disappointments, loneliness, and the fears with their "head full of brains." They will have to make some difficult choices, but they should remember that "Life's a Great Balancing Act." So, as they head off to those places they will go, they should be confident that, even with a few setbacks, they will succeed. It's great to remember, on your Commencement Day, that it's not the end of anything, it's actually a beginning. Geisel ends the book with "Today is your day! Your mountain is waiting. So . . . *get on your way!*"



Working Out the Kinks

Stephen Stein on his new book about the history of the BDSM community in modern America.



Published earlier this year, *Sadomasochism and the BDSM Community in the United States: Kinky People Unite* is the first comprehensive history of the BDSM (Bondage and Discipline, Dominance and Submission, and Sadism and Masochism) community. The *New York Times* praised the book, and a reporter from *Sports Illustrated* recently interviewed me about BDSM and its relation to the Trevor Bauer "rough sex" case. These highlight how much public perceptions of BDSM have changed over the past fifty years. Once a reviled set of sexual activities whose practitioners faced public approbation and even criminal prosecution, today BDSM activities are commonly and openly discussed and regularly appear in primetime television shows.

How the BDSM community restructured its sexual practices and presented them to the wider public in ways that normalized them is the central issue I explore in *Kinky People Unite*. The book builds on my earlier work on the National Leather Association (NLA), once the largest and most politically active BDSM organization in the United States. Both books, of course, are a significant divergence from my work on military and maritime history. The BDSM community, though, offers many opportunities for researchers. It is a complex, intersectional community rife with tensions over sexual orientation, gender, race, and social class. Despite these differences, its leaders articulated clear standards of sexual behavior embodied in its oft-repeated credo of "safe, sane, consensual," and have successfully enforced them within the community.



Jim Richards, founder of the Disciples de Sade, at the 1987 March on Washington

The BDSM community remains woefully understudied. Social scientists have just scratched the surface of its complexities. Historians have mostly ignored it.

Apart from the general stigma toward research-

ing sexual subjects, I suspect this is due to the difficulties involved in researching BDSM history. Despite recent efforts by the Leather Archives and Museum to preserve the community's records, much has been lost. Even more was never written down in the first place. This requires historians to rely on interviews and oral histories, which are themselves problematic. When I interviewed members of the community, I discovered many of them had excellent recollection of their sexual experiences, particularly those involving the community's celebrities. With only a few exceptions, memories of political events and important organizational decisions were much less clear.

Further complicating research is that most of those involved in organizing the BDSM community in the 1970s and 1980s left behind relatively few records when they died. Parties and orgies are much better documented than key organizational and political decisions, which receive scant mention in the community's many newsletters and magazines. Even the formation of the SM/Leather Contingent for the 1987 March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights, a central event in the BDSM community's development, is poorly documented.

I suspect the same is true of other small sexual communities, such as swingers. Nonetheless, I think these communities are worth studying, both in their own right, and for what studying them can show us about society as a whole. These communities offer a microcosm of larger disputes and tensions. The efforts of BDSM organizations to win acceptance and recognition by LGBTQ organizations mirrors the efforts of LGBTQ organizations to win mainstream acceptance themselves. The efforts of women within the BDSM community to win recognition and equal representation in its main organizations reflects the political and social struggles of women in mainstream society. There is much to be learned from studying sexual communities.



Cynthia Slater, founder of the Society of Janus

Trauma and Healing

*Over the past 120 years, the lands of modern-day Syria and Lebanon have survived upheaval and strife, including the struggles of World War I, French colonial occupation, political coups, and more recent civil wars. In her new book *Disturbing Spirits: Mental Illness, Trauma, and Treatment in Modern Syria and Lebanon*, **Beverly Tsacoyianis** not only explores the politics of mental health in this region of the Middle East, but also considers the psychological traumas inflicted upon its people. Here she reflects on her own journeys.*



In July 2006, the Israelis bombed the airport (and other places) in Beirut. I remember shuttling back and forth from my dorm to the lobby to ask the night guard about the explosions – was that a bomb landing nearby? No, that one targeted the coast. That one, was that nearby? Yes, that bomb was closer. I didn't get much sleep that night.

My summer language program temporarily relocated out of Beirut to another campus in Jbeil, a UNESCO world heritage site that staff rightly guessed would not get bombed. A week or two into the war, I boarded a bus heading back into Beirut and watched as smoke rose from the city. That was unnerving, but the US embassy had asked citizens interested in evacuation that day to make their way to the port as soon as possible. Many of us (faculty and graduate students mostly, from schools all over the United States) packed a small carry-on bag, as we were told to leave everything else behind. As the bus pulled away, my elderly Greek Orthodox Lebanese teacher—who had lived through the Lebanese Civil War—shouted up to my window as loud as her frail voice could carry: *Remember us, Beverly*. I never heard from her again.



The main gate at Ibn Sina Mental Hospital. It is currently under regime control. Two of the doctors who worked there in 2010 are now practicing psychiatrists and refugees in Turkey and Germany.

When I left Syria in summer 2010, the civil war had not yet begun. A brutal dictatorship was there, but most international humanitarian groups did not focus on it. As a Fulbright-Hays DDRA recipient my academic life included visits to archives, libraries, and hospitals, but my social life included spending time with Syrians, expats, and embassy folks, as well as Fulbright-IIE recipients. I don't think any of us expected the catastrophe that befell so many. Some people I befriended made it eventually to Lebanon or points further west. Some are confirmed casualties.

People escape wars with scars seen and unseen, but for me in Lebanon, my escape was boarding a Norwegian cargo ship that had been told to wait for the Americans, even while Lebanese families sat hungry for hours. A trip that should have taken under an hour took eight. As relieved survivors, we struggled with what and who we were leaving behind. In Larnaca, we scrambled for a place where a handful of us could stay in the same overbooked hotels. We eventually made our way onto flights. Our US dollars worked quickly.

Healing comes in many forms. I wish no one had war wounds. Mine pale in comparison to those of survivors of torture, or orphaned children, or of parents who dug their dead children out of the rubble in Beirut in 2006 or in Aleppo in 2015 and screamed in anguish, praying for a miracle to bring them back. But vicarious trauma (secondary traumatic stress) is a light burden to carry to draw attention to the tragedies of Syria and Lebanon in the hopes that healing will come, somehow.

Empathy is a good start. While my book began with roots in my doctoral dissertation as a medical history of the conflict between psychiatric healing and supernatural disease etiologies in 19th and 20th century Syria and Lebanon, it blossomed into a study that turned interdisciplinary: trauma and disability studies, religious studies, literature. All help uncover what it means to cope, struggle, and one day thrive. There is a prayer that wishes: *May we see the day when war and bloodshed cease*. Amen.



Searching for the Eternal Nile

Suzanne Onstine is starting a project that seeks to trace the many courses of the Nile River, dating back to ancient times. As the recipient of a recent grant from the National Science Foundation, it promises to not only further historical knowledge, but also foster historical preservation.

"The one who drinks from the Nile must return to it." This relatively modern Arabic saying has a lot of truth in it for me. Recently, I became part of a team that was awarded a National Science Foundation grant for investigating the history of the course of the river Nile in Egypt. This team is composed of me, remote sensing scientist Eman Ghoneim of the University of North Carolina-Wilmington, and Tim Ralph, a geomorphology scientist at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. Through our collaboration we hope to identify extinct Nile waterways that were active during the pharaonic period between about 3000 BCE and 32 BCE and to correlate those ancient riverbeds with ancient human activity. For much of human history people lived along the Nile's banks, whether in ancient farming communities or massive urban centers like Cairo. The history of the river is the history of Egypt. To quote Herodotus, Egypt is the gift of the Nile.

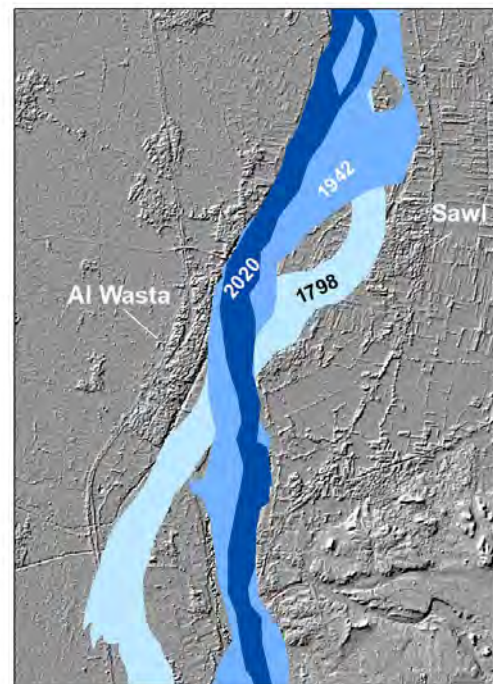
Over time, rivers change course and branches form and die. These older features are usually not discernable at ground level. But they can be seen from space using methods such as multi-sensor remote sensing, and they can be mapped with geographical information system (GIS) modeling. Targeted geophysical and archaeological surveys can then "ground truth" with what is seen from space to determine if the features we observed from space are in fact riverbeds and archaeological sites. Using this multi-disciplinary approach, we hope to locate extinct riverbeds and any sites of human activity associated with them.

Understanding the locations of these extinct waterways ultimately helps us understand many things about the Nile River valley related to hydrology, geomorphology, geography, and geology. The part I am concerned with relates to using this knowledge to locate and better understand archaeological remains left by ancient Egyptians. Since the Nile provides us with a good predictor of the presence of human beings, looking for their ruins should follow the river – not where it is now, but where it was during pharaonic times. Developing this geochronological framework will help Egyptologists better understand where ancient Egyptians lived and how their relationship with the river affected their decisions.

Urbanism in pharaonic Egypt is poorly understood partly because urban environments have either been washed away in centuries of annual Nile flooding or they have not been located because we do not know where to look with any precision.

Many smaller studies have looked at narrowly defined areas of the river around known sites as part of ongoing archaeological work. By positioning this project on a larger scale without ties to any specific archaeological zone, we hope to expand the possibilities for how scholars conceive of the river valley as a whole. By locating and testing possible extinct riverbeds in a larger section of the river valley, we are creating a valuable tool for anyone wishing to understand settlement patterns or locate potential sites within a specific landscape.

Another important goal is to improve cultural heritage management efforts by locating previously unknown sites to help protect them from looting and human encroachment through farming or urban sprawl. Ultimately, we also hope that this methodology can be adapted and used by anyone working in river valley contexts to create landscape histories that not only inform us about historical developments, but also give us additional tools to protect the past.



Shifts in the course of the Nile River based on maps from 1798, 1942, and 2020

The Stolen Manuscript

In this tale of archival sleuthing, Tyler Kynn deciphers the plunder of an important manuscript of Early Modern India



Usually when you are conducting archival research you have no idea what you are going to find. However, when I began my search for early modern manuscripts in Indian archives, I had no clue that I was going to connect the dots on a stolen manuscript to a famous collection in the United Kingdom.

Several years ago, I was in India looking for editions of a seventeenth-century manuscript titled the *Anis al-Hujjaj*, or *The Guide for Pilgrims*. The *Anis al-Hujjaj* had been the focus for one of my dissertation chapters because the manuscript contained rare miniature paintings of the early modern pilgrimage to Mecca. I had seen one edition of *Anis al-Hujjaj*'s paintings [online housed with the Khalili Collection in London](#) and had gathered that each edition of the *Anis al-Hujjaj* was a little bit different. My goal while in India was to track down other manuscript versions of the *Anis al-Hujjaj* to compare them to this famous version at the Khalili Collection.

I started with an old nineteenth-century hand copy of the *Anis al-Hujjaj* housed at the British Library. This edition of the text was copied in nineteenth-century Lucknow by a British orientalist and only contained a copy of the text without the images from the original manuscript. However, this copy stated that the transcription was based on a copy of the *Anis al-Hujjaj* in the Palace Library in Lucknow in North India. Thus, the search was on, and I was determined to track down where this old Lucknow version of the manuscript ended up.

When I made it to India, I first went to the National Archives of India in Delhi. It was here that I asked some of the older scholars if they had heard of the *Anis al-Hujjaj* manuscript and knew where I might find it. I learned that this Lucknow Manuscript had made its way during the twentieth century to Azamgarh and the Shibli Academy, some 165 miles southeast of Lucknow. The scholars at the National Archives told me that there were photographs of the manuscript and a new transcription which they had seen nearby at the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) History Department Library. So my next stop was the small university town of Aligarh, a few hours train ride from Delhi.

When I arrived in Aligarh, North India was experiencing a smog

crisis and there was a thick haze in the air, making it hard to see the campus of the university in the distance. When I found my way to AMU's History Department, I met the famous Mughal Historian Dr. Irfan Habib in his office. He was in his nineties at the time and had a wealth of stories to share. We chatted over tea, and he told me he had not seen the manuscript in question, but that I was free to look through the card catalogue of the department library to find it.

Eventually, we found their copy of it, which was hand-transcribed in the 1960s. However, unlike the old transcription in the British Library, this version also contained old black and white photographs of some of the images in the original manuscript. To my surprise, the old photos matched exactly, down to the stray lines on the page, with the famous version held at the Khalili Collection in London. I was at first confused what this meant, and I then worked with some contacts to call the Director of the Shibli Academy in Azamgarh, Dr. Zilli Sahib. He then told me that the manuscript was stolen at some point in the 1970s during the chaotic Emergency Period of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. He added, unconcerned about its current location, that he recalled the manuscript "had pretty pictures" and that was why it was probably stolen from his collection.

My search for other comparable editions of the *Anis al-Hujjaj* to look at in tandem with the copy at the Khalili Collection had led me right back to that same edition in London. When I had contacted the Khalili Collection some months before, I had asked about the provenance of their edition. The Khalili Collection curator for the manuscript, Nahla Nasser, informed me that they believe the manuscript had been in Iran during the late 1970s, which is when they obtained the images. They did not know where the original owners had purchased it. However, the curator of the manuscript notes that a "typical Indian '7' in the later foliation" indicates that it perhaps spent some time in India before it arrived in Iran. I now believe that this copy in the Khalili Collection, which goes on tour with their Hajj Exhibition, to be the paintings from the original Lucknow edition of the text, which had only its text copied in 1834 in Lucknow and later at AMU.

It seems that whoever stole the manuscript ripped out the pages with the paintings and the original written text of that edition has been lost. This means that the original text of that edition of the manuscript only exists in two transcription copies – one in the British Library copied in 1834, and one in AMU's library copied in the 1960s. In an odd twist of fate, the paintings, which were ripped from their adjoining text, now only reside miles from the transcription at the British Library in London.

In the end, the director of the Shibli Institute did not seem to care that I had found their stolen manuscript. For him it was

something from decades ago. It was just one more chapter in a long history of stolen cultural heritage from the Global South. However, the fact that this edition was ripped apart when it was stolen and the original text is missing, with only those transcriptions surviving, means that the other early modern version of the text, held in the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya (CSMVS) Museum in Mumbai, is the only complete version of the manuscript with original images and text. If anything came of all this, it was that I was able to tell the curators at the CSMVS Museum about the uniqueness of the full manuscript they had in their collection.



The image on the left is a painting from the Khalili Collection's version of the Anis al-Hujjaj. The image on the right is the photograph from the AMU transcription, which demonstrates that they are from the same manuscript.

The Work at the HERC

Graduate assistant **Damarius Harris** spotlights the new social media initiatives at the History Educational Resource Center (HERC), which include the new world of TikTok.

While the History Educational Resource Center (HERC) continues to provide tutoring to students for their history assignments, this term we are expanding our social media presence and starting to work on a new mentoring program for students in our general education courses. Our hope is that by drawing students in with entertaining and educational content on our social media and providing more opportunities for non-majors to engage one-on-one with our tutors, we'll see increased traffic in the HERC, more success in our courses, and more new students declaring their major in history! Along with my fellow HERC tutor Kelsie Carper, we work alongside the HERC Director, Dr. Chrystal Goudsouzian.

The HERC has long had accounts on Facebook and Instagram geared to history majors. We use those accounts to highlight majors, minors, faculty, and departmental events. This semester, we branched out into the TikTok world and are available on TikTok @uofmherc. The HERC GAs have created TikTok series that help students get to know the space, show what we offer in the center, and push them to improve their writing skills. There will also be videos that highlight our majors, graduate students, faculty, and the study of history itself. The HERC TikTok is a promising way to share promotional and informative content on the latest popular social media platform.

One of our TikTok series is on methods for improving students' written assignments, geared both to majors and non-majors. The goal of these videos is to share ideas with students to improve their

papers and time management, with tips on setting up paragraphs, making outlines, reading sources, and including proper citations. These videos are intended to help students reduce stress and improve the quality of their assignments. Our informational TikToks are located under "HERC Resources," "Essay Writing," and "Mona Lisa Wisdom."

We have other series showing off the HERC's unique space and available resources to entice students to visit!

These videos highlight our study lounge, reading and writing guides, computer stations, and creative artwork. While we show one of the favorable aspects in the building, we also have videos that show the, ummm, quirkiest side of Mitchell Hall. These segments show the building's random furniture, broken items, outdated equipment – all familiar sights for students who spend time in our building! For these videos on the HERC and Mitchell Hall, check out our "Did You See That?" Series.

If you enjoy these funnier pieces, you can also follow the Student History Society's TikTok @uofm_historysociety for similar content. We also have videos meant to draw in new students by addressing general misconceptions about history, allowing students to ask questions about history, and for professors to share non-academic mediums to consume history. You can find these current and upcoming TikToks under "History Myth Busters," "Sidewalk History Questions," and "Faculty Favorites."

Another new project that we are developing this semester is a mentoring program for undergraduate students taking our general education courses. This opt-in program will allow students in our Spring 2022 auditorium section of African American History to work one-on-one with a HERC tutor for all their writing assignments over the course of the class. Students in the program will also have more opportunities to meet with their class GAs and to attend helpful info sessions in the HERC. Recently we have given sessions on time management and general essay writing – we hope to adapt these for this cohort group. We hope that this program will help students succeed in general education courses and build their writing confidence.

This is an exciting year for the HERC. We have a lot of new social media content and new programs that will hopefully gain more attention for our department and help our students. Keep up with us on our social media accounts for updates! We are available on Facebook @memphisherc, Instagram @uofm_history, and now on TikTok @uofmherc. Thanks!



HERC tutor Kelsie Carper



Taking History to the People

Ph.D. student Paola Cavallari curated two exhibits at the Lambuth campus of the University of Memphis, displaying the virtues of public history.

Since graduate assistants are only paid from September to April, I was looking for income this summer, after my first year in the Ph.D. program. I obtained a job at the Lambuth campus of the University of Memphis. What started as a circulation desk assistant position turned into a way to put my background in public history to great use. Over eight weeks, I created and installed two public history exhibits that are currently on display in the library Treasure Room and on its main floor.

The first exhibit displays a close replica of former Tennessee Lt. Gov. John Shelton Wilder's senate office. After serving as senator and lieutenant governor for the Tennessee General Assembly for roughly forty years, Wilder donated his office furniture, papers, memorabilia, and other items to what was then Lambuth University. To replicate what his office would have looked like, I conducted extensive archival research, compiled information, collaborated and brainstormed with my boss, Lambuth Librarian Lisa Reilly, and staged the close replica in the Lambuth Library Treasure Room. I also wrote the signage posted on the outer windows and walls, highlighting some of Wilder's personal and political accomplishments, interests, and recognitions.

The second exhibit I worked on focuses on the history of Lambuth campus, from its founding in 1843 as the Memphis Conference Female Institute, to its evolution into Lambuth College and Lambuth University, to its acquisition by the University of Memphis in 2011, when it became UofM Lambuth. The idea for a campus history exhibit originated as part of the Bicentennial celebration of Jackson, Tennessee, and Madison County. The celebration takes place from August 2021 to August 2022; every month, it features a different theme through different events and activities in Jackson.

The exhibit is located in two places within the library: the Treasure Room and the main floor. While installing the exhibit in the Treasure Room, I had two purposes: recreate as closely as possible the content of the bookshelves from when they were built in the Room, and create a museum-like display of items significant to Lambuth history. This represents what I call the "permanent" Lambuth history exhibit, since its content will not change in the coming months. As with the Wilder exhibit, I researched the history of Lambuth using archival and secondary sources. I created signage using the information I gathered, as well as a numbered list of items on display with annexed descriptions.

For the Lambuth history exhibit located on the library main floor, Lisa and I decided to create tri-monthly displays following the same themes of the Bicentennial celebration. Thus, I designed what I call the "rotating" exhibit, which consists of a display case containing items important to Lambuth history and a trifold board displaying pictures and newspaper articles, all inspired by four sets of themes.

Finally, like any good public historian, I tried finding a way to engage the general public. Thus, I developed a series of questions inspired by a Lambuth history timeline. Lisa collaborated with the Lambuth marketing department to generate a QR Code that connects to a find-

ing aid that lists important dates and events in the college's history.

I would invite all who can to go visit the Lambuth history and Wilder exhibits. It is an entertaining and unique way of learning more about the history of Tennessee, as well as what public history is about. Enjoy!



The replica of the office of Lt. Governor John Shelton Wilder

Success Stories

Catching up with Daryl Carter, who earned his Ph.D. from the Department of History and is now is Associate Dean for Equity and Inclusion, Director of the Black American Studies Program, and Professor of History at East Tennessee State University.



I came to the University of Memphis in August 2006. Earlier that month I had been awarded an M.A. in History from East Tennessee State University. From the first day on campus I was awed by the rigor of the History Ph.D. program, as well as the brilliance of the faculty. Over the course of the next two years I worked closely with Aram Goudsouzian, Arwin Smallwood, Jannann Sherman, Charles Crawford, Beverly Bond, and Daniel Unowsky. We went beyond the basic contours of American and European History, learning about fields, writing, teaching, and the profession as a whole. It was the most exciting and rewarding period in my academic journey.

In August 2008, I successfully completed my comprehensive exams and went back to my alma mater, East Tennessee State University. I had accepted a position as a tenure-track assistant professor of history. During the next three years I researched and wrote my dissertation. Under the direction of Aram Goudsouzian, I examined President Bill Clinton's relationship with Black Americans through the lens of class and major events

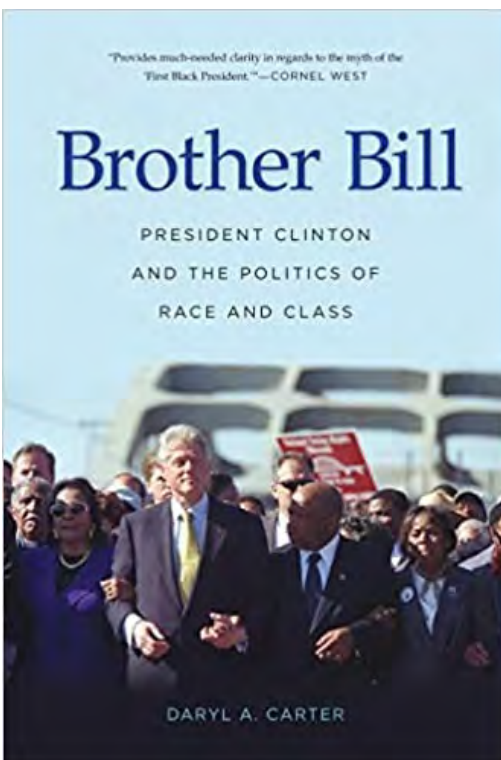
such as the passage of the crime and welfare reform bills, the failed nomination of Lani Guinier, the President's Initiative on Race, and the influence of the Democratic Leadership Council. My research took me to Little Rock and Fayetteville, Arkansas. I interviewed, formally and informally, three dozen people. I spent a lot of time at Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock. And I spent a lot of time in

front of my computer at ETSU and my laptop at home in Johnson City, Tennessee.

With the support of Dr. Goudsouzian, Dr. Sherman, and several others, I successfully defended my dissertation in March 2011. I was finally Dr. Carter! It is hard to believe now but just three years later I was tenured and promoted to associate professor of history. The University of Arkansas Press published a revised version of my dissertation in June 2016, entitled *Brother Bill: The Politics of Race and Class*, to excellent reviews.

At ETSU, I took on administrative positions. I was selected to serve as graduate coordinator (2013-2016) and interim director in the Office of eLearning (2013-2014), where I expanded the institution's online offerings. In addition, I was selected as a Maxine Smith Fellow for the Tennessee Board of Regents. By 2015, I was named a Presidential Fellow at ETSU. Equally important, I was named an Emerging Leader by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). After years of preparation, I was promoted to full professor in 2020. Additionally, the university provost appointed me director of what was then known as Africana Studies. The appointment was made permanent in December 2020 after a search was concluded. I have since renamed it Black American Studies. Finally, after years of working on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), I was promoted to associate dean for equity and inclusion for the College of Arts & Sciences at East Tennessee State University, a new position reflective of the institution's growing awareness of and commitment to equality for all.

My five years at the University of Memphis made my career possible. The care and attention I was given by the faculty there prepared me to be a professional historian. I learned through trial and error, through patience and frustration, through screwing up and finally getting it right. My professors taught me about the importance of evidence and the judicious use of sources. It must be said I also learned a lot about the importance editing one's own work and how precious constructive and vigorous criticism is to making my work the best it can be. Today, I carry those lessons with me in teaching, researching/writing, and my administrative work. None of my success would have been possible without my time at the U of M.





One Man's Magic Mountain

Trygve Has-Ellison muses on his career in foreign service and the impact of his education at the University of Memphis.

When I reflect on the path that led me from studying German history at the University of Memphis to my current position as Fraud Chief at the US Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, the only

thing that is obvious was that the path wasn't pre-planned – it just happened. What links the two however, is that both institutions, the University of Memphis History Department and the U.S. Foreign Service, were willing to take a gamble on an outsider who didn't fit the usual demographic.

Writing a Ph.D. dissertation on nobles in Imperial Germany specifically at the U of M made no particular sense. I credit Don Ellis and Walter Brown for giving me permission to pursue my lunatic notions, then William Murnane, Lung-kee Sun and Chris Forth for helping me refine my ideas. Bill and Chris were instrumental in convincing other individuals and institutions, such as Georg Iggers and the Fulbright Foundation, to support the research. Finally, Dan Unowsky had the unenviable task of honing the research into a readable contribution to the field. He made me a much better writer and historian, which has paid dividends ever since. Thanks Dan!

My time in the department was, with apologies to Thomas Mann, the Magic Mountain that molded me into a cultivated citizen of the world and reinforced qualities that have served me in good stead in my current career: demonstrating perseverance, never letting anyone define who you are and what you want to accomplish, and practicing Mao's dictum of outward compliance with inward disobedience (very useful with Walter Brown)!

I entered the Foreign Service in much the same way as I entered the University of Memphis. The year before I arrived in the History Department, I was playing a showcase in San Francisco with the band I had played in for four years, thinking we were about to be signed by a major label; one year later I was in Memphis, sitting in Don Ellis's office while he stared at me as if I was a Martian. During a research trip to UT-Austin, I made a courtesy call with Ambassador-in-residence Bill Eaton to talk about the Office of the Historian at Main State (our slang for DOS headquarters). One hour later I walked out of his office having signed up for the Foreign Service Officer's exam. Fast forward a year and I was in Washington D.C. going through orientation and not knowing where I was headed next. It's been twelve years since and I'm still flying by the seat of my pants. I still don't know where I am headed, and I'm totally comfortable with that reality. It's my new normal.

How does a German historian make a career as a diplomat in Latin America? That's a good question and the short answer is the needs of the service. As much as it pains me, Europe just isn't that significant for our foreign policy, present or future. East Asia and Latin America are the focus – not only of our demographic transformation, but also of our geopolitical, economic, agricultural, and cultural future. I've loved nearly every minute of my work in the trenches from Sao Paulo to Santo Domingo, Monterrey to Mexico City, Curacao to Miami, and now Ciudad Juarez; our largest immigrant visa post in the world and by extension, the largest fraud investigations unit in the world, of which I am the current boss. Denying members of transnational criminal organizations access to the United States and preventing large scale visa fraud have very little to do with German nobles and artistic Modernism, but the discipline and work ethic of a Ph.D. program have direct application to a career in the international realm.

It's important for history students to understand that their degrees have value beyond an academic career. The Department of State and Department of Defense, among other agencies, eagerly recruit historians to work for them in various fora. Re-inventing yourself is not a setback – it's just the universe's way of encouraging creativity and lifelong learning.

I'll leave you with an anecdote that made a lasting impression on me. During a research trip to Germany, I arranged a meeting with Dr. Wolfgang Count Vitzthum v. Eckstaedt, a specialist in the law of the sea at the University of Tübingen and spokesperson for the ancient Saxon family of Vitzthum. He was a formidable man who did not suffer fools. I was summoned into his office – clothed in black with long hair, as was my normal practice then. The look on his face indicated that he thought this was going to be an unpromising use of his time. One hour later he remarked, and I paraphrase, "you didn't appear serious to me when you walked in, but after conversing together, I've decided to support and open my connections to you because I can tell that you are a person of quality." That conversation has stayed with me because it taught me a person of quality isn't determined by background, gender, pigmentation, accent, or any other human-constructed distinction, but by the seriousness, conviction, and humanity of one's intentions. I practice this idea to this day, because in 1995 the University of Memphis Department of History took a risk on an unknown Californian. I've been grateful for that opportunity ever since and I believe I've made something out of it, as I pay forward the faith that the department demonstrated in me.