Back at the Ville

What has our department been up to this year?

Editor-in-Chief
Dr. Victoria Khiterer, Professor of History

Managing Editor
Amanda Hardin, Graduate Assistant
On the Cover

You may or may not have recognized the image on the cover of this issue of the *Marauding MU Historian*. This beautiful structure, believe it or not, was once the science building on Millersville University’s campus. An article in the *Normal Journal* (available in MU’s digital archives) from November of 1892 mentions anticipation of the completion of the “building for the physical sciences and mechanical arts.” Today we can only imagine how it would be to have the privilege to study in such a beautiful example of Romanesque architecture, as the building was, sadly, demolished in 1962. While we may not have this piece of our campus’ past remaining, we do still have Dutcher, Biemsderfer, Hash, and Luek Halls, which each represent a piece of Millersville’s history to be treasured.
In other personnel news, Dr. Frankum is serving as Faculty Advisor for Phi Alpha Theta – which has a splendid group of students serving as officers this year. Last year, PAT led field trips to the Museum of the American Revolution in Philadelphia and the Smithsonian Institute’s National Museum of the American Indian and LancasterHistory (formerly Lancaster County's Historical Society, a History Museum and Research Center). Dr. Tanya Kevorkian took her classes to the Hans Herr House. COVID-19 of course interfered with all our plans in every dimension, but in the before times we toured Valley Forge and Mount Vernon, the National Archives in both Maryland and Washington, D.C., several archives in the Philadelphia consortium (American Philosophical Society, Library Company, Historical Society of Pennsylvania), among other informative and fun venues. If you’re at a public facing history site – museum, library, archive, historic house – and can host a field trip of budding historians, please be in touch and we’ll make a plan!

Dr. Kevorkian (who was promoted to Full Professor this summer, the highest distinction in the academy, and a well-deserved honor for such an accomplished scholar!) continues her important outreach to alumni (have you given her your deets? If not, send her an update of your current situation and future plans at Tanya.Kevorkian@millersville.edu). Perhaps you be willing to be on a panel during our Career Night for Historians next spring? Let her know.

And Dr. Sommar has been developing an online journal to feature our strong student work. If you have an original research paper you’re particularly pleased with and would like to have it considered for publication, please email her at Mary.Sommar@millersville.edu.

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Finally, Dr. Maxwell has stepped back into the role of graduate coordinator. Have you been considering returning for your M.A. in History? Have we got a refreshed curriculum for you! Hot on the heels of the BSE Social Studies and BA History curricular changes that Dr. Shelor wrote you about last year, we have updated our MA program to bring it in line with national standards. Fewer credits to graduate, vastly more choice in the courses offered, and fewer requirements mean you can study the history that is most interesting to you while strengthening your skills in research, analysis, and writing – and do it all in less time. Recent seminars include Dr. Adyanga’s British Imperialism, Dr. Maxwell’s Atlantic World, Dr. Khiterer’s topical history of Ukraine-Russia relations, and a course on Indians and Empires that I develop at the request of the grad cohort. Dr. Kevorkian will offer a class on mid-Atlantic environmental history next spring and Dr. Maxwell is planning a course on pirates. If you’re interested in learning more about the MA program, please write to Dr. Maxwell at Clarence.Maxwell@millersville.edu.

If you have any questions, if you have recommendations for how we can improve the student experience in the History department, or if you just want to say “hello” and let me know how you’re doing (one of my former advisees popped up on Facebook [I know I’m a dinosaur] last week married and with a baby! A baby I tell you!). Write to me and let me know how you’re doing. I’ll go first. I got married in June. :)

Wishing you as always a rewarding and fulfilling year and sending you my warmest regards, Dr. Davis. Who can be reached at Robyn.Davis@millersville.edu.

Dr. Ronald Frankum during the academic year 2022-2023 worked on two manuscripts. The first examined the seven-month period that General J. Lawton Collins served as the United States Special Representative to Vietnam (November 1954-May 1955) and the second explores the ambassadorship of Frederick Reinhardt who served in that position from May 1955 - March 1957. He also reviewed Luke Nichter’s The Last Brahmin: Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. and the Making of the Cold War (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2021) for the Journal of American History. In addition, he served as a consultant for a children’s book on the Vietnam War and reviewed additional manuscripts for publication (all of which related to the Vietnam War). He also created a new course in early American Foreign Relations that he hopes to teach in the Spring 2024.

Dr. Tanya Kevorkian gave four presentations related to her book Music and Urban Life in Baroque Germany, which was published by the University of Virginia Press in October 2022. In October, she gave a paper titled “J. S. Bach: In a Web of Authority Relations” at the American Bach Society biennial meeting in Philadelphia. Also in October, she gave introductory comments for Episode 17 of the online Tiny Bach Concerts, on the wedding cantata “O holder Tag, erwünschte Zeit,” BWV 210. In March 2023, she gave a paper on “Urban Baroque Musicians Sharing Spaces” at Frühe Neuzeit Interdisziplinär, an interdisciplinary early modern German conference, at the University of Arizona. And in July, she gave a paper on “Munich’s Catholic Baroque Town Musicians” at the biennial International Conference on Baroque Music in Geneva.

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Dr. Tanya Kevorkian (continued)

Related to her current book project, an environmental history of the Lancaster area from about 1300 to 1850, she gave a talk on “The Susquehannocks: Land, Identity, and Regional History” for the Manada Conservancy at the Hershey Conservatory in Hershey, PA in February 2023.

Dr. Victoria Khiterer published three peer-reviewed articles and one book review:

Peer-reviewed articles:


“Jewish Education in the Ukrainian People’s Republic,” Harvard Ukrainian Studies, Volume 38, no. 3–4 (2021): 271-295 (The publication of the journal was delayed until Spring 2023).

Book review:


She also submitted one peer-reviewed article and one book chapter for publication:

“For Fear of Babyn Yar: Why did it Take so Long for a Monument to be Built in the Largest Holocaust Site in the Soviet Union?” accepted for publication in Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies, will be published in 2025.


Dr. Khiterer also gave five scholarly presentations and two public talks:

Scholarly Presentations:

- Presented “We did not Have a Childhood’: Jewish Children-Holocaust Survivors’ Memories” to the 27th Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, Las Vegas, NV, March 12-13, 2023.
- Presented “Echo of Babyn Yar: Commemoration and Memorialization of the Holocaust in Kyiv” to the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, November 30, 2022.

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**Dr. Victoria Khiterer (continued)**
- Presented “Commemoration of the Babyn Yar Massacre during World War II and in the First Post-War Years” to the 18th World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, Israel, August 8-12, 2022.

Public presentations:
- Presented “The Russian War Against Ukraine” to the Quest for Learning Program, Lancaster, PA, October 13, 2022.

Dr. Khiterer was also the Committee Chair of the 38th Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide. As the Committee Chair, she was responsible for planning, scheduling and organization of five conference events during 2022-2023 academic year. Dr. Khiterer co-organized four conference events with other MU faculty members and solely organized the conference P. Alan and Linda Loss Keynote Lecture “Atrocity Crimes in Ukraine: Lessons of the Holocaust and the History of Genocide” by Dr. Norman Naimark.

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These images are from the 1966 edition of the Millersville University yearbook, “Touchstone,” and feature faculty from the Social Studies Department. You may recognize some names as we now have awards and scholarships named and given in their honor.

Photos courtesy of Archives & Special Collections, Millersville University Library, Millersville University.
Careers for History Majors Alumni Panel:

On March 27, the history department sponsored the 4th Careers for History Majors alumni panel, preceded by a reception. The alums shared their professional, academic, and life advice with current students. Many thanks to all the alums who participated!

Mary Nolt, MA ’16, history teacher and department chair at Manheim Central High School, moderated the panel.

Panelists were Sarah Alberico, BA ’12, the curator at Historic Rock Ford; Geoffrey Beers, BSE ’96, the CEO of MU Student Services and Student Lodging, Inc.; Jennifer Craighead Carey, BA ‘90, a partner at the Lancaster law firm Barley Snyder LLP; Justin Neideigh, BSE ’12, MA ’19 a social studies teacher and the department chair at Donegal High School; Brian Pearson, BSE ’16, a social studies teacher at Warwick High School; Meagan Schulman, BS ’20 (Atlantic World Studies), MA ’22, collections coordinator and research librarian at the Lancaster Medical Heritage Museum from 2022 to 2023 and currently entering the Ph.D. program at Fordham University; and Greg Szczyrbak, BA ’95 an MU learning technologies librarian.

The 38th Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide:

This year’s conference theme was “Never Again? Genocide in the 21st Century.” The conference was centered around the question of how and what we have learned and understood about the Holocaust can help in appropriately addressing outbreaks of genocide in the contemporary world. The conference addressed the relevance of the horrifying history of the Holocaust to the current political situations in many parts of the world. One area where the questions of genocide are becoming increasingly dire is the war in the Ukraine.

Dr. Norman Naimark presented P. Alan and Linda Loss Keynote Lecture “Atrocity Crimes in Ukraine: Lessons of the Holocaust and the History of Genocide” on April 20, 2023. Dr. Naimark, is one of the most internationally well-known scholars on genocide, Professor of East European Studies at Stanford University and senior fellow at the Hoover Institution. He is an author of such widely recognized books as Fires of Hatred: A History of Ethnic Cleansing and Stalin’s Genocides. He also gave a master class for MU students.
Atlantic World Studies major Claire DeVinney and BA in History major Grace Celley gave undergraduate Lightning Round presentations at the American Historical Association conference in Philadelphia in January. Grace Celley presented her paper Two Quaker Women in Philadelphia, 1777 and Claire DeVinney presented her paper “To Apply Thy Best Endeavors”: The Political Influence of Hannah Penn. Their starting point was Fall 2022 projects in History 453: Indians and Colonists in PA. Dr. Robyn Davis and Dr. Tanya Kevorkian were mentors for the AHA presentations. Additionally, Claire presented a paper, “To Apply Thy Best Endeavors”: The Political Influence of Hannah Penn, at the Made in Millersville student research showcase in April and published the paper in the 2023 MiM Journal. Her mentor was Dr. Tanya Kevorkian.

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2022-2023 History Department Award Recipients

Lyman R. Brenner ’71 History Scholarship
Reilly Parker

Dr. Abram Foster Scholarship for Excellence in History
Dane Leong

Dr. Richard C. Keller Award in American History
Allison Cook

John W. Loose History Research Award
Joseph Blauberg

C. Maxwell & Edna H. Myers History Award
Jillian Bergin

Dr. Robert D. & Roma J. Sayre Excellence in American History Scholarship
Avery Frankel

Joseph E. Walker American History Scholarship
Mackenzie Ricketts

Joan M. Williams Scholarship
Alexandriya Lebo
Some of the students and Dr. Kevorkian are shown with Dr. Wubah, who delivered the keynote address at the conference.

Students in Dr. Tanya Kevorkian’s History 218: People and the Environment class designed and presented posters on Pennsylvania environmental themes to members of the public at the Lancaster Earth Day Climate Summit on April 22. The posters were based on papers they wrote for the class.

Grace Celley received an internship at the LancasterHistory, formerly Lancaster County’s Historical Society, a History Museum and Research Center. During her internship in the Library, Grace worked under the guidance of Aimee Caya, the Director of Library & Research Services. Grace has been spending much of her time going through family files and updating the Library’s database to help patrons find the names of ancestors through LancasterHistory’s online databases. In the process, Grace has also been examining primary and secondary sources and learning about the history of central Pennsylvania.

About Grace:
Grace is a rising senior at Millersville University studying history with a minor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. She’s specifically interested in the intersection of gender and class in the history of the Atlantic. Grace is also involved with Phi Alpha Theta, honors society for history, where she will serve as their secretary for this upcoming academic year. She’s also a fellow with the Center for Civic Responsibility and Engagement at Millersville University. After she graduates, Grace hopes to become a certified genealogist before pursuing a Master’s degree in History and Information & Library Science.

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Bermuda Internship Summer 2023

On July 1, 2023, six Millersville students—Jill Bergin, Jack Feinberg, Amanda Hardin, Zachary Kelly, Kaleb Swartz, Ty Tempalski—undertook a research consultancy at the National Museum of Bermuda and on behalf of the Millersville University Atlantic World Center. The Center is engaged in research on pirate communities in Bermuda, specifically the actions of Red Sea pirates who lived in North America in the late 1600s. For that research, they examined primary and secondary sources at the Bermuda National Archives: activities that included collection, transcription, and cataloguing of data. At the National Museum of Bermuda, they provided support for its activities, which familiarized them with the work of a typical mid-sized museum. They also met and had lunch with Karen Grissette, US Consul General in Bermuda and were able to discuss their work and activities with her. They left as a group on July 31, 2023.

Students’ Honors Theses

The following undergraduate students successfully earned Departmental Honors:


The following students defended MA theses:


Samantha Borry, Fa’22: “From Sitting Rooms to Street Corners: Pittsburgh’s Suffragists and the Transformation of Pennsylvania’s Suffrage Movement into a Publicly-Centered, Political Movement, 1869-1915”

Melissa Bryson, Fa’22: “The Battle after the War: How the Men of Virginia and Massachusetts Went from Allies to Political Adversaries While Forging a New Republic”


Kyle Thomas, Sp’23: “Dueling Hydrarchies: Inter-Imperial Competition and the Rise of the British Maritime State”
ALUMNI NEWS

Keep in touch and be featured in our newsletter! Contact Dr. Tanya Kevorkian at Tanya.Kevorkian@millersville.edu and let us know what you’ve been up to!

ALUMNI NEWS

Jake McCorkle, BA’23 in his official Colonial Williamsburg portrait, on the streets as Apprentice Coachman.

Shane Moran, MA’23 accepted a position as a Project Archivists for the Lamar Alexander Papers at Vanderbilt University.

Meagan Schulman, MA’22 was accepted to Fordham University for her Ph.D. in History.

Alumni share their stories:

Donna M Molloy, BA History, 2019
Current position: Representative of Turning Point USA. I received my position before graduation. I civically engage communities to promote freedom, personal responsibility and small government. All the MU professors were amazing and truly great people.

Hannah K Davis, BA History 2021
Current position: Customer Service Representative at the Eurofins Lancaster Laboratories. I received my position within six months after graduation. I coordinate the overall operation as a client liaison and project manager within the laboratory by communicating client’s requirements to the technical staff.

Ashley M Jumbelick, BA History 2020
Current position: Receptionist at the Carty Eye Associates. I check in at an eye doctor’s office. I do contract archaeological work but that is not my primary position.

Jordan Ames, MA’22 – is now the Executive Director for Veteran’s Outreach of Pennsylvania.

Jill Bergin BA’23 was accepted by Rutgers, American, and Maryland Universities for their Public History programs. She accepted the offer from the graduate program at The University of Maryland.

Melissa Bryson MA’22 - Director, 1881 Courthouse Museum in Custer, South Dakota.

Abigail Gruber, MA’17 has been promoted to Program Manager in the Education Abroad and Overseas Campuses at Temple University.

Advice to students: Do tons of internships and presentations. Interact with your local history as much as you can so that you can get your foot in the door. Work in the field now.

保持联系并成为我们通讯的特色! 联系 Dr. Tanya Kevorkian 与 Tanya.Kevorkian@millersville.edu，并告诉我们你最近的动向！