Millersville University of Pennsylvania

ISSUE #13

MU Philosophical Historian

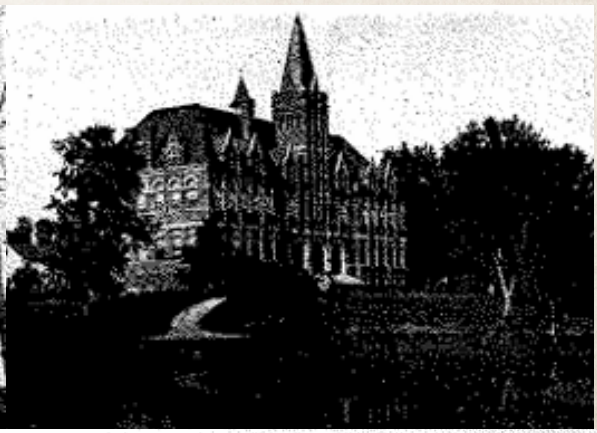
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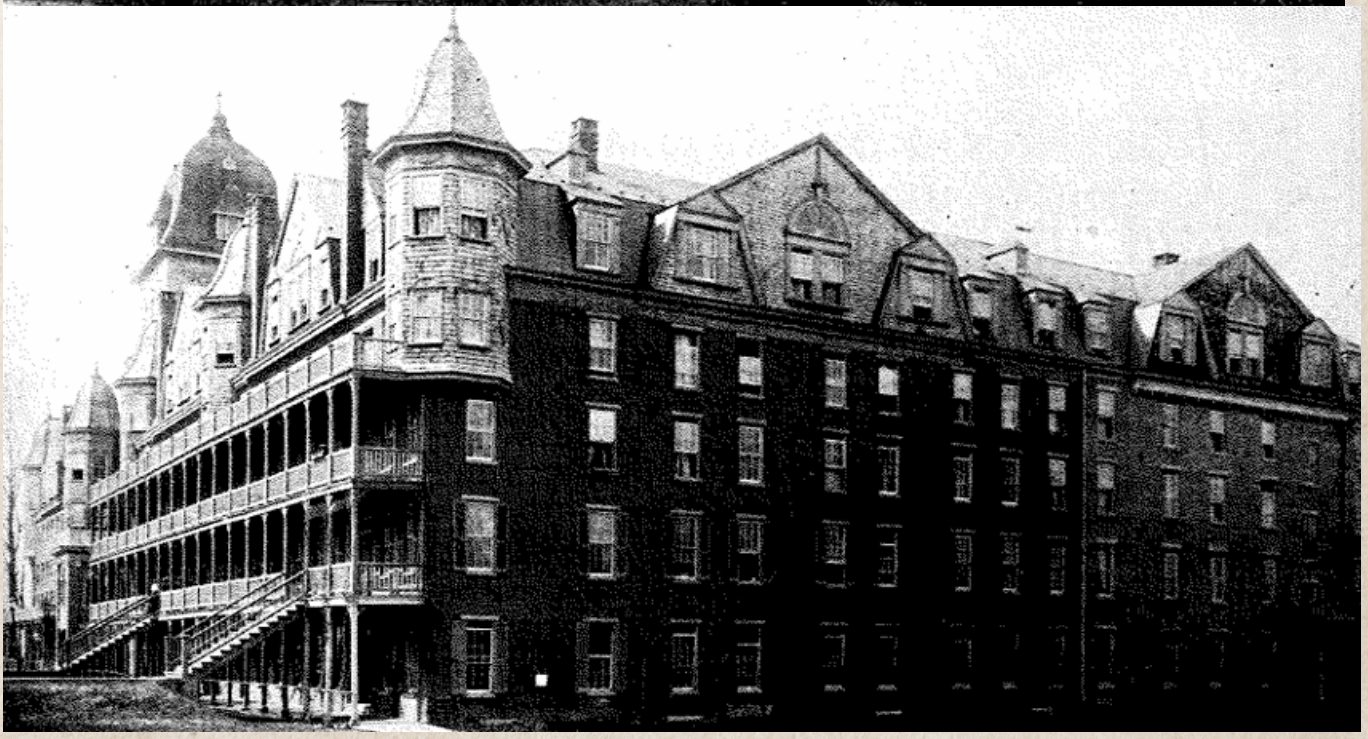
BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! BREAKING NEWS! BREA

History and Philosophy Department Newsletter

Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Victoria Khiterer, Professor of History
Managing Editor, Logan Lutz, Graduate Assistant







Top Left: Model School (Hash) built 1900 , Top Right: Science Hall built 1895.
Bottom: Normal Building known as "Old Main", construction began in 1854.

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Letter from the Chair
By Dr. Ron Frankum (Interim Chair)

The past academic year has been both exciting and challenging with a new General Education curriculum, major changes to both the BA History and BSE Social Science, and a new 4 + 1 pathway to a graduate degree. But, first, you will probably have noticed that Dr. Robyn Davis is not writing the introduction to the newsletter this year. Dr. Davis was awarded a full year sabbatical for the 2026-2027 academic year, and I agreed to serve as the interim chair of the department until her return in August 2027. In addition to the changes in curriculum, the department has had numerous faculty and student successes which you will get a chance to read about later in the newsletter.

Some of the highlights include thirteen new inductees into our chapter of Phi Alpha Theta as well as the group's active agenda that included professional development days, academically-focused events, social events, and an end-of-the-year pie your professor fund raiser that was both successful and a little messy (I will let the pictures tell the story). Phi Alpha Theta was also very successful at this year's regional conference at King's College in Wilkes-Barre where our group took three of the seven awards.

In terms of the curricular changes, the BA History major has a new look. It is now a thirty-credit major with three research skills courses, a choice of introductory courses in United States, Europe, or World history and fifteen elective credits. In addition, our BA History majors now have the opportunity to earn a concentration in selected fields, such as Honors in History and Public History. We are looking forward to the new major which we hope will provide some flexibility for our students to also explore a second major or a minor.

The BSE Social Studies degree now allows students to receive the GROW PA grant and has also been revised to complement the new General Education requirements. Finally, the department has developed a new 4 + 1 pathway for students to complete both a BA History and MA History degree in five years. Students accepted into the program can take a 500-level graduate class each semester, including the summer, after they have earned seventy-five credits. This will allow advanced students to complete twelve of the thirty credits towards the MA degree at the undergraduate level.

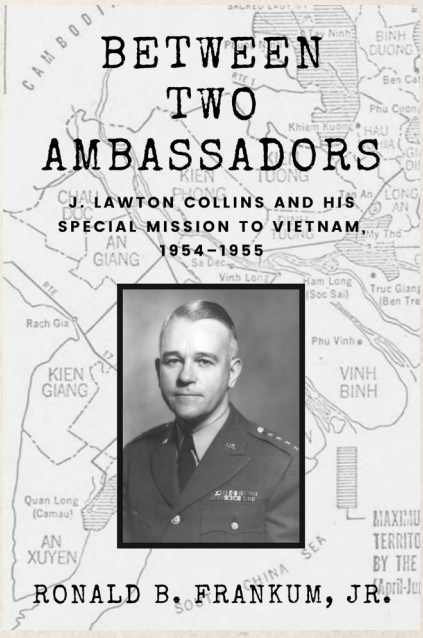
In terms of faculty accomplishments, I am happy to report that we are still heavily engaged in research as well as teaching. Some of the highlights you will see are Dr. Victoria Khiterer's continued work on Ukrainian Jewish history, including two articles under consideration, a book review, and several presentations. Dr. Erin Shelor attended the Reacting to the Past (RTTP) Summer Institute at Barnard College during which she focused on the Plague, An Ethics and Society Interdisciplinary Symposium hosted by our Philosophy faculty, Drs. Jennifer Miller and Chuck Ward in the spring 2026 semester was widely attended by both faculty and students.

If you have any news or updates that you would like to share with us, we would be excited to hear from you. Our community is ever growing, and your successes are why we continue to do as we do. I hope to hear from you all. Until then,

Ron Frankum

Faculty News

Dr. Ronald Frankum

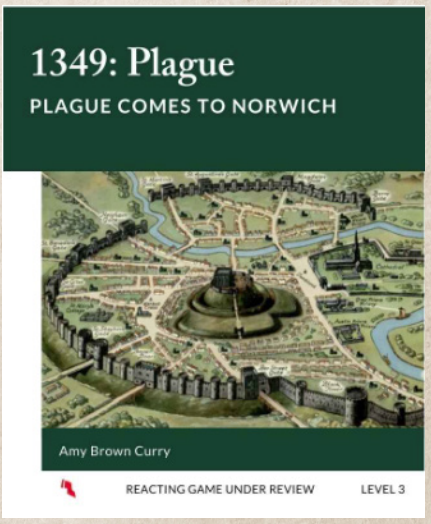


During the academic year 2025-2026 submitted for publication his book *Between Two Ambassadors*, which is due to be published in January 2027.

Dr. Ronald Frankum also wrote Peer Review of *I'm Alive: A Young Fighter Pilot's Diary of the US Navy Air War in Vietnam, 1964–1965*, North Texas Military Biography and Memoir Series, Volume 25, 2025.

Dr. Frankum presented "A Heart of Gold: Operation Passage to Freedom, 1954-1955," at the 2025 McMullen Naval History Symposium, Annapolis, MD, September 19, 2025.

Dr. Erin J. Shelor



Attended the Reacting to the Past (RTTP) Summer Institute at Barnard College in the first week of June. RTTP uses real events, people, and sources to simulate a moment in time. Participants are given a specific role in a specific faction and must use the sources and information on the event to make speeches, debate, and vote on important decisions. Ultimately, the decisions made may or may not "match" the actual events, but in a debrief after the game is complete, the Gamemaster discusses how participants diverged from the historical record and has participants reflect on why that happened. Dr. Shelor played the game "1349: The Plague comes to Norwich" as a physician. Her major speech advocated for closing the city gates before plague arrived. Dr. Shelor reported that this experience was absolutely amazing, and she will be using the game in her FYEX 100 course in the Fall 2026 Semester.

Faculty News

Dr. Tanya Kevorkian

During the 2025-26 academic year, Dr. Kevorkian was on a very rewarding sabbatical working on her book project, Environmental History of the Area of Lancaster County, PA Since 1300. Dr. Kevorkian gave several papers and lectures related to her sabbatical research. All of these are specific parts of the broader project. They have helped organize dives into various topics, engagement with the secondary literature, research in print and manuscript sources, have been valuable opportunities to present preliminary findings, and have generated good feedback. They have also provided starting points for writing. She also did research in Lancaster County land, deed, legal, and other records, newspapers and other publications, conducted oral history interviews, and attended thirty-four local history presentations, open houses, and other events on milling and residual mill sediment, Black history, early Lancaster Borough, the Susquehanna River, and other topics.

In late August and early September, Dr. Kevorkian spent two weeks in Switzerland and Germany. An invited presentation at the Night Muse conference at the University of Basel gave the impulse for the trip. Her paper, "Secular Nocturnal Music-Making in German Baroque Towns," was related to Dr. Kevorkian's previous book, *Music and Urban Life in Baroque Germany* (University of Virginia Press, 2022; paperback version now available). Before the conference, she did research on Swiss and German agrarian history at the libraries of the University of Basel and the Mennonite Community in Weierhof, near Worms, Germany. Farmers with origins in Switzerland and southwest Germany who migrated to the Lancaster area in the 1700s brought agrarian and milling techniques as well as their culture. The day before her return to the U.S., she attended the annual member meeting of the Schweizerischer Verein für Täufergeschichte (Swiss Society for Anabaptist History) in Zurich, which included a lecture and tour of Zurich Anabaptist sites on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the start of Swiss Anabaptism.

In July 2025, Dr. Kevorkian gave a paper on "Mennonites' Adjustment to Colonial Pennsylvania Through Family Stories" at the Early Anabaptism in Global Perspective conference at the Young Center for Pietist and Anabaptist Studies, Elizabethtown College. Also in July, she gave a paper on "Traces of Indigenous Presence in a Colonized Landscape: Lancaster County, PA from 1780 to 1815 Through the Journals of Henry Muhlenberg" at the annual meeting of SHEAR (Society for the History of the Early American Republic) in Providence, RI. In August, she presented an overview of the book to the Lancaster chapter of Questers International.

In February 2026, Dr. Kevorkian gave a paper on "18th-Century Named and Unnamed Indigenous Settlements in the Lancaster Area" at the Zimmerman Center for Heritage for the Susquehanna National Heritage Area outside Wrightsville, PA. In April, she presented on "Plant-Based Healing in the Area of Lancaster, PA from the 1500s to the 1900s" to the Historical Society of Salisbury Township, Lancaster County. In June, she gave a paper on "Lancaster County Islands in the Susquehanna, 1700s to the Present," Society for PA Archaeology, Ch. 28 (Blue Rock), Washington Boro.

Dr. Kevorkian also gave three versions of the lecture "Henry Muhlenberg (1753-1815), Renaissance Man in Lancaster: Botanist, Pastor, Farmer, Healer, and More:" at Historic Trappe in October 2025; Sons of the Revolution, Lancaster in November 2025; and at the Trinity Lutheran Church, Lancaster, First Friday Speaker Series in February 2026. Muhlenberg's botanical field notes and writings on farming and other topics in his unpublished and mostly unread, handwritten, German-language journals, which are held at the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia, give a range of invaluable insights into the Lancaster area's environment from the 1780s to the 1810s.

Faculty News

Dr. Victoria Khiterer



Submitted two articles for publication:

"Americans at Babyn Yar, Babyn Yar Commemoration in America," submitted for publication to *Eastern European Holocaust Studies*, the article is under peer review.
"The Queen and King of the Russian Underworld: Son'ka the Golden Hand and Mishka Iaponchik," accepted for publication in *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, will be published in November 2027.

Dr. Khiterer also published a book review: Shay A. Pilnik, *The Ravine of Memory: Babyn Yar Between the Holocaust and the Great Patriotic War* (Purdue University Press, 2025), Austrian History Yearbook (2025), 1-2, https://doi.org/10.1017/S0067237825100398

Dr. Khiterer participated in podcasts and gave an interview about her book:
Interview about her book *Bitter War of Memory: The Babyn Yar Massacre, Aftermath, and Commemoration* (Purdue University Press, 2025) with Dr. Petro Dolhanov, Ukraina Moderna, March 20, 2026, https://uamoderna.com/ (in Ukrainian).

Podcast about her book *Bitter War of Memory: The Babyn Yar Massacre, Aftermath, and Commemoration* (Purdue University Press, 2025) with Dr. Waitman Wade Beorn, The Holocaust History Podcast, "Episode 73 - Babi Yar History and Memory," https://thhp.buzzsprout.com/2291653/episodes/18774032-ep-73-babi-yar-history-and-memory-with-victoria-khiterer

She presented her book *Bitter War of Memory: The Babyn Yar Massacre, Aftermath, and Commemoration* (Purdue University Press, 2025) for the Channel Historical Expertise https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AfxDCi6DRqs (in Russian).

Dr. Khiterer co-organized and was co-director (with Professor Brian Horowitz, Tulane University) of the International Online Symposium on Modern Eastern European Jewish Historiography in Spring 2026.

Dr. Khiterer presented five papers at national and international conferences:
Presented "Laughing to Tears: Jewish Humor in Mel Brooks' Film *The Twelve Chairs"* to the 31st Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, Denver, CO, March 22-23, 2026.

Presented "Americans at Babyn Yar, Babyn Yar Commemoration in America" to the 57th Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), Washington, DC, December 14-16, 2025.

Presented "Echo of the Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee Affair in Kyiv" to the 57th Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), Washington, DC, November 20-23, 2025, and to the 2026 ASN World Convention, Columbia University, May 28-30, 2026.
Presented "The Babyn Yar Massacre, Aftermath, and Commemoration" at the roundtable "Comparative Approaches to Holocaust Geographies" organized by the Virtual Speakers Bureau of the Holocaust Educational Foundation, Northwestern University, October 29, 2025.
Presented "Let My People Go: The Struggle of Kyivan Jews for Immigration to Israel" to the World Congress of Jewish Studies, Jerusalem, August 4-8, 2025.
Dr. Khiterer also served as a respondent on her book panel *Bitter War of Memory: The Babyn Yar Massacre, Aftermath, and Commemoration* (Purdue University Press, 2025) at the 2026 ASN World Convention, Columbia University, May 28-30, 2026.

Professor Emeritus Dr. Francis Bremer Continues Academic Work Well After Retiring



Professor Emeritus of History Dr. Francis J. Bremer, who retired from Millersville University's Department of History in 2011, has remained active in his research and teaching on 17th century religion.

This year (2026), he accomplished several noteworthy academic achievements, and in November, his career will be recognized with a one-day symposium in Boston sponsored by the Partnership of Historic Boston, Massachusetts Historical Society, Colonial Society of Massachusetts, American Ancestors and the Congregational Library and Archives.

Bremer's first book, "The Puritan Experiment: New England Society from Bradford to Edwards," has been revised and updated in honor of the 50th anniversary of its publication in 1976. Widely used in classrooms over the years, it is a classic text on the early puritans described by Amazon as "an accessible, authoritative account of early New England, one with an enduring appeal for students and general readers."
This revised and updated edition explains puritanism while incorporating fresh insights from current scholarship, including new information about lay empowerment, the role of women, Native society, and the enslavement of Native Americans and Africans. "As our society changes, we ask new questions about the past, prompting the exploration of neglected sources and reevaluation of earlier perspectives," says Bremer.

Bremer was also invited to teach two classes in July that were part of an online course on the Plymouth colony titled "Beyond the Mayflower: History, Culture, and Encounter in Plimoth Colony." The course was offered by American Ancestors, a national nonprofit center for family history, heritage and culture based in Boston that serves more than 400,000 members and online subscribers through AmericanAncestors.org. More than 300 signed up for the series.

Bremer has published 18 books on the puritans, five of them since his retirement. In addition, he also has "a few other books coming out," he says. They include the "Oxford Handbook of Puritanism" and an edition of the writings of Plymouth's colonial governor William Bradford, both of which he co-edited. He is also working on a biography of Bradford.

Asked what compels him to continue with this academic work after retiring 15 years ago, he responded that he has never lost his enthusiasm for exploring the complexities of the past and looking for how the lives and ideas of past Americans can help us to understand how today's society evolved. "The puritan Oliver Cromwell insisted that his portrait be painted 'warts and all,' " says Bremer. "Too often the puritan story has been distorted by those who focus only on the warts, of which there were many, or photoshop out the warts. At a time when the past is distorted in both ways for political purposes, it is more important than ever to tell the story in all its complexity."

Special Events

The MU Spring Ethics & Society Interdisciplinary Symposium

The Spring Ethics & Society Interdisciplinary Symposium hosted by Millersville's History and Philosophy department just concluded its annual conference in March 2026 where students gathered from all fields of study, diverse backgrounds, and departments to present, discuss, and debate complex moral and social real-world problems encountered in today's global community. This year we had 11 student presentations from History, Economics, Business, Biology, Philosophy, Art and Government speaking on an array of moral-social issues that not only included traditional ethical problems of Abortion, Capital Punishment, and Euthanasia, but many provocative and developing questions and issues we face today, for instance, concerning A.I. and technology. Some of our keynote speakers have included: Dr. Shane Epting from Missouri University of Science and Technology who spoke on "Creating Future Cities," Dr. Barbara Stengle from Vanderbilt University gave a talk on *"Responsibility as an Anchor Concept for Ethics (and Morality) in the World(s) We Inhabit,"* and Dr. David Bradnick from our own MU presented a paper, "*The Abandonment of Ethics in Technology.*" This year our keynote speaker was Dr. Charles Ward from our own MU History and Philosophy department who kicked off the afternoon session focusing on A.I. and technology with a talk entitled, "*We are already living in a simulation (on purpose)*" followed by a series of student presentations among which were: "*The Unspoken Truth About AI Usage" and "The Ethical Dilemmas of Evolving Warfare."*

The Millersville Interdisciplinary Symposium in ethics and society seeks to foster critical reflection on the intersection of human values, technology, and social institutions. Its vision is to bring together leaders of the future, our students, to navigate intricate and impactful ethical dilemmas through a forum encouraging empathy, rigorous analysis, and practical, actionable ethical decisions across fields like AI, law, business, and medicine. The symposium enables students to express, share and calibrate their moral sensibilities by integrating ethical reasoning into their existing major, and applying ethical frameworks to contemporary issues like AI, climate change, and racial justice. Coming from multi perspectives this forum encourages students to be responsible decision-makers in their careers and as engaged citizens, equipped with the ability to voice concerns, listen actively, and respect diverse viewpoints.



Student News and Achievements

2025-2026 History Department Award Recipients

Bolton-Beck Award	**Kathryn Felix**
Lyman R. Brenner '71 History Scholarship	**John McCarthy**
Dr. Abram Foster Scholarship for Excellence in History	**Matthew Weidman**
Todd History Endowment	**Sarah Casler** **Sarah Dutton**



Award Ceremony. Student award winners

Student News and Achievements

2024-2025 History Department Award Recipients

John W. Loose History Research Award	**Ryan Bailey** **Logan Lutz** **Kaela Thompson**
C. Maxwell & Edna H Myers History Award	**Brandon Carl**
Dr. Robert D. & Roma J. Sayre Excellence in American History Scholarship	**Archie Beears**
Joseph E. Walker American History Scholarship	**Hamida Abdelhalim**
Williams Family Scholarship (Robert F., Louise G., and Joan M. Williams)	**Emily Czyzyk**



Award Ceremony. Student award winners with Professor Maxwell

Student News and Achievements

Other Awards

Bryanna Nase is the University's Breidenstine Outstanding Undergraduate Thesis winner

Sidney Bernhardt and Bryanna Nase: 2026 APSCUF Scholarship Award



Ron Frankum with senior BSE Social Studies major Sidney Bernhardt during the APSCUF scholarship award ceremony.



University Archivist Frank Vitale hands graduating senior BA History major Bryanna Nase her APSCUF scholarship award and certificate.

Student News and Achievements

Student Research

Eric Schubert's (May 2026 History MA graduate) genealogy work earns national recognition.

He won the Jack Loose Sons of the American Revolution Research Award for his work on Lancaster County Mennonites in the American Revolution. The project has already been featured in local media. Schubert also worked as a research assistant for Dr. Tanya Kevorkian, professor of history, on her forthcoming book, "People and the Environment in the Area of Lancaster County, since 1300."



Student News and Achievements

Phi Alpha Theta

Millersville University's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honors Society, welcomed many new members this year. During the 2025-26 year, PAT held bi-weekly meetings, went on club trips to Gettysburg and Philadelphia, and fund-raised by pieing the professors!

PAT Inductees:

- Archie E. Beears
- Torey J. Lenker
- Eric J. Schubert
- Nathan C. Nolan
- David L Wertz
- Christopher R. Terrazas
- Lena S. Smith
- Sarah deMackiewicz
- Hamida Abdelhalim
- Hannah R. Karpf
- Sienna M Light
- Kaela M. Thompson
- Matthew L Schouten









Student Research

Sarah Casler, BSE '26 has had her paper "Benedict Arnold: The Military and Governmental Malefactions that Paved the Path to Treachery" accepted to the Lycoming Undergraduate Humanities Research Conference [April 2026].

Students presented papers/posters at the 2026 Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference

The following students presented papers/posters at the 2026 Regional Phi Alpha Theta Conference on April 25, 2026:

- Hamida Abdelhalim, "Tracing Systemic Racism: American History in The Underground Railroad and A Raisin in the Sun"
- Archie Beears, "Reclaiming Conestoga: Revisiting the Historical Record and Modern Repercussions of the Conestoga Massacre of 1763" [**Best Paper Award**]
- Emily Czyzyk, "Failure Turned American Martyr: How Nathan Hale's Spy Mission Contributed to 18th-Century American Mythology"
- Sarah Casler, "A Historiography of Disease and Infection in the American Civil War"
- Logan Lutz, "The Election of 1916: Woodrow Wilson and Military Preparedness" [**Best Graduate Poster**]
- Morgan Pickle, "The 1926 Pennsylvania Primary and Prohibition" [**Best Undergraduate Poster**]



Our Phi Alpha Theta students at the 2026 Regional Conference at King's College, April 26, 2026 [Left to Right: Sarah Casler, Logan Lutz, Morgan Pickle, Archie Beears, Emily Czyzyk, and Hamida Abdelhalim]

Student Research

Students participated in the 2025 Made in Millersville Conference:

Ali Mahmood, *The Ku Klux Klan: A Calculated Fraud*

Christopher Terrazas, *A Highbrow Way of Thinking: The Highbrow Movement of 1920s America*

Nathan Nolan, *The Stock Market Crash of 1929: A Week at a Glance*

Emily Czyzyk, *"One Life to Lose" for American Nationalism*

Archie Beears, *Black Student Life at Millersville in the 1920*

Brandon Carl, *Gilford Pichot and Prohibition in Pennsylvania*

Lindsey Simon, *How Did Lancaster County Participate in Bootlegging*

Jordan Shearer, *The Mass Hysteria of the First Red Scare*

Morgan Pickle, *The 1928 Pennsylvania Presidential Primary through Advertisements*

Benjamin Dillow, *Student Life at Millersville – 100 Years in the Past*

Ryan Brackett, *The Out of State Experience at Millersville in the 1920s*

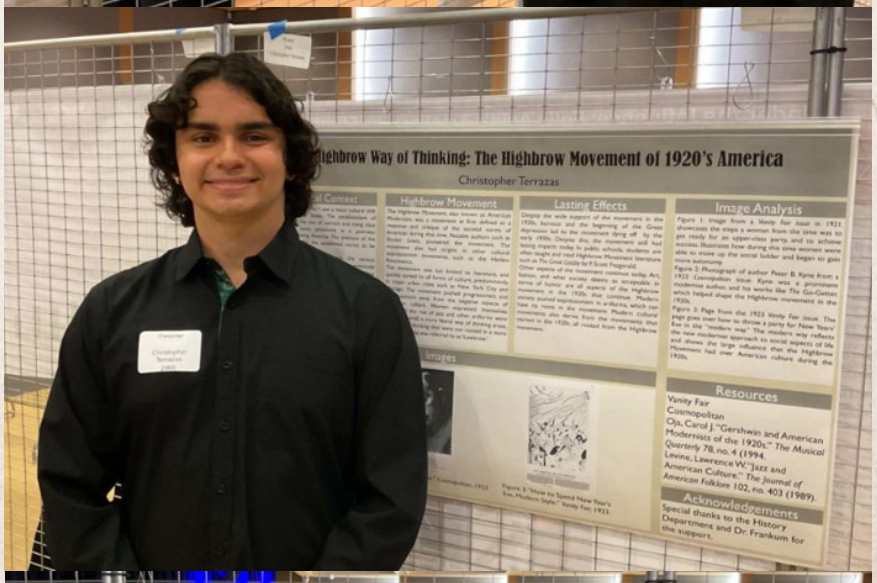
Gabriel Musser, *The Influence of Prohibition on the 1928 Presidential Election*

Lena Smith, *Malt Syrup "Hops" the Prohibition Obstacle*

Students participated in the 2025 Made in Millersville Conference:



Ali Mahmood presented *The Ku Klux Klan: A Calculated Fraud*

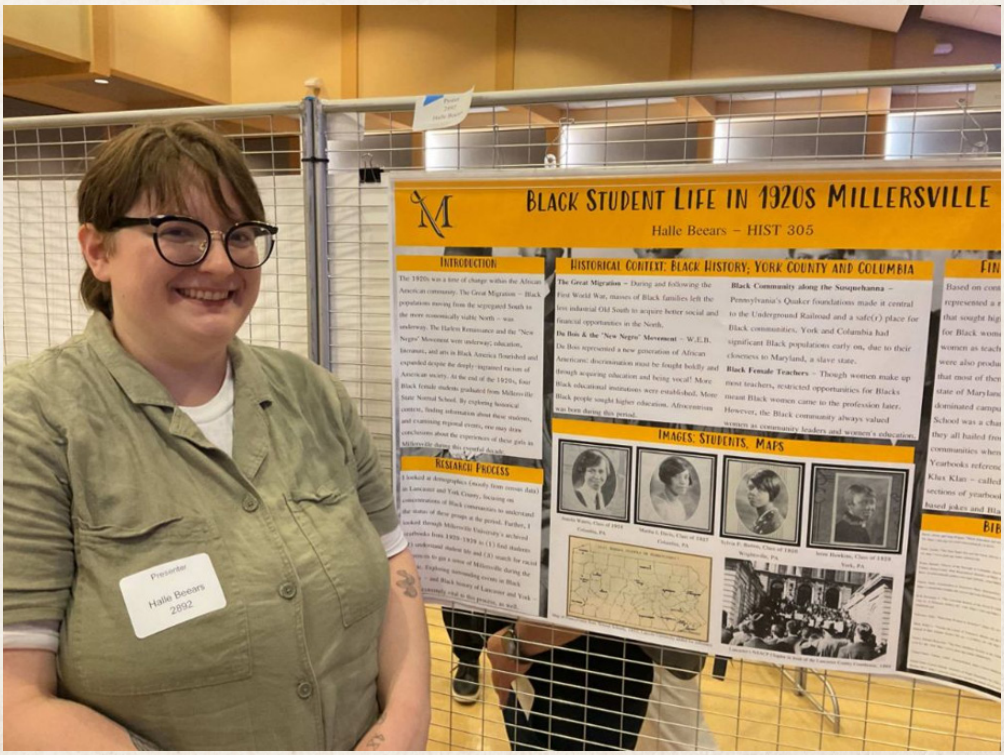


Christopher Terrazas presented *A Highbrow Way of Thinking: The Highbrow Movement of 1920s America*

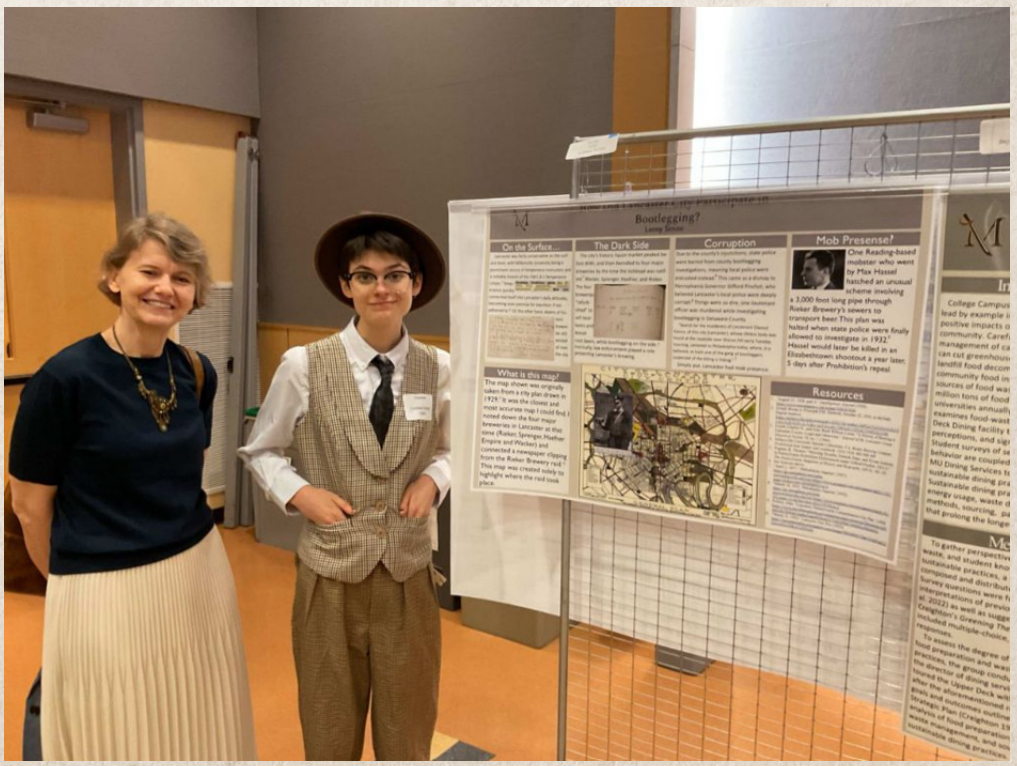


Emily Czyzyk presented *"One Life to Lose" for American Nationalism*

Students participated in the 2025 Made in Millersville Conference:



Archie Beears presented *Black Student Life at Millersville in the 1920*



Lindsey Simon with Dean Ieva Zake in front of the poster *How Did Lancaster County Participate in Bootlegging*

Alumni News

Ross Channing Reed received the position as Assistant Teaching Professor of arts, languages and philosophy at Missouri University of Science and Technology. He has taught classes as a part-time instructor at S&T for the past 10 years. His teaching and research interests include philosophy, ethics and philosophical psychology of addiction, psychopathy and relationships. Reed earned a Ph.D. in philosophy from Loyola University Chicago, a master's degree in philosophy from Baylor University, a master's degree in music from the University of Memphis and a bachelor's degree in philosophy from Millersville University.

North Carolina State University. Ph.D. recipient **Dr. Alexander Goodrich** defended his dissertation, *Heritage Tourism and the Politics of Public Memory in Bermuda*. His research reflects NC State's global reach and its commitment to scholarship that engages communities beyond the university.

Dr. Goodrich's work focuses on Bermuda, a small island in the middle of the Atlantic with a remarkably complex history. While often grouped with Caribbean destinations, Bermuda occupies a distinct geographic and historical position shaped by British colonialism, African diaspora communities and long-standing connections to the United States. "Bermuda is not Caribbean," Goodrich explains. "Its location and shared history with the United States give it a unique role in Atlantic history." His academic interest in Bermuda began during his graduate studies at Millersville University under the guidance of Bermudian Historian Dr. Clarence Maxwell. Specializing in Atlantic History, which emphasizes the movement of people, goods and ideas beyond national borders, helped Goodrich frame Bermuda as a central meeting point rather than a peripheral location.

Alumni News

Alumna earns national award for best article by an undergraduate student

The national honor was presented to **Claire DeVinney**, a May 2024 graduate who is currently a student in the history doctoral program at the University of Rochester. An article by a Millersville University graduate was chosen as the winner of the 2025 Raymond J. Cunningham Prize by the American Historical Association.

DeVinney's senior thesis, "'This Popular & Malcontent Temper:' Pennsylvania Currency and Transatlantic Commerce, 1720–1723," appeared in the Spring 2025 issue of Pennsylvania History: A Journal of Mid-Atlantic Studies, published by The Pennsylvania Historical Association.



Alumni Share Their Stories

Benjamin J Mitchell, MA HIST, Hempfield S.D., Social Studies Teacher

Advice for Current MU Students: It's challenging, but very worthwhile! The program will make you a better historian, reader, writer, and a better person overall. Stick with it and enjoy!

Special Memory to Shared: I had an amazing cohort of peers whom I still keep in touch with regularly. I even met my wife through the program! The professors were also top notch. Of the three post-graduate programs I have completed, the History MA was my favorite!

Jess Berkheimer, BA HIST, 2024, Fox Plumbing Business Operations Manager

Advice for Current MU Students: Pursue your dreams early so you aren't stuck in a field because of your need for a higher salary.

Special Memory to Shared: As a non-traditional student, I wasn't on campus very much to gain specific memories, but Dr. Davis was pivotal in my senior year. She is the memory I will hold onto forever!

Justin Zellman, BSED SOSE, 2019 Solanco School District, 7th grade social studies teacher Advice for Current MU Students: Take the time to talk to your professors when you may be struggling with assignments or just need assistance in a class. I was hesitant to do this when I first started, but I found that all of my professors were welcoming and helpful when I took the time to individually get help.

Special Memory to Shared: Dr. Frankum and Dr. Kevorkian challenged me tremendously in their courses, but they taught me to pay attention to detail through their assignments. They taught me that my overall understanding of concepts and content will be tremendously improved when I put in time and effort into my studies.

Tyland E Mitchem Jr, BSED SOSE, 2023, Secondary High School Social Studies Teacher

Advice for Current MU Students: Keep your head up, especially for other education majors, there will be times when everything will get difficult and feel impossible, but you have to persevere.

Special Memory to Shared: Dr. Erin Shelor is a positive force, always pushing me to be successful and providing a realistic pathway toward that success.

Alumni Share Their Stories

Christopher J Varallo, BSED SOSE, 2025 Bucks County school district long-term substitute teacher

Advice for Current MU Students: Set yourself up for success

Special Memory to Shared: Dr. Khiterer was my favorite professor I have ever had, she has great courses and delivers the necessary information perfectly.

Luann K. Cartwright, BA HIST, 2022 Central Dauphin School District, 6th grade ELA Teacher

Advice for Current MU Students: Embrace college and campus life. Also, education is never a waste.

Special Memory to Shared: My memories include remarkable professors who exuded passion about their subject material. In turn, I became just as excited to learn!

Cole A Mellinger, BA / MA Hist, 2024, Historic Rock Ford Event Representative, House Manager, Gallery/Lecture Manager. Various management and educational positions that advance historical understanding at Historic Rock Ford.

Advice for Current MU Students: Get connected with the broader history community beyond academia, even if that is the route you decide to take.

Special Memory to Shared: I remember the Craft of History in 2017 and Dr. Frankum's advantageous boot camp.

Chris M McCumber, BA HIST, 2024. I work at Voce Paralegal with legal documents to assist attorneys in dependency court. I draft motions and proposed court orders, interact with legal parties, and assist the county with any necessary legal work for dependency court.

Advice for Current MU Students: To talk through your intentions in life with loved ones and trusted academic colleagues. Oftentimes, students become confused and distressed at not having the "right" answer right away. Sometimes it takes some exploring, so don't be afraid to explore your options and know when it may be good to change programs or weigh your options with your educational path.

Special Memory to Shared: I don't know if I have a specific memory, but I remember enjoying my Senior Seminar class with Dr. Shelor. I think back fondly on our meetings, and I believe my work there was some of the best work I have done.

Alumni Share Their Stories

Mark A Shell, BA HIST, 2026, Searching for work

Advice for Current MU Students: Times are changing and we must adapt by using the skills taught to us in school. Don't treat what you learn in school as worthless, own it and make it work for you and everyone around you instead.

Special Memory to Shared: My favorite memory was building close connections with my professors who deserved more respect and aid from the university than they got. I don't believe it was right to merge the History and Philosophy departments as they are two separate disciplines. It was disappointing to see Millersville not refill the history department roles once several beloved and longtime history professors retired, and it hurt to see the extra responsibility and stress that fell on the shoulders of the remaining professors as a result. I love and respect my professors for the genuine passion for their subjects that they brought to class each day and for always going the extra mile for their students both in and outside of the classroom. Drs. Maxwell, Davis, Adyanga, Frankum, Kevorkian, Khiterer, Shelor, Sommar, Miller, Ward, and everyone else in the department deserved better.

Abigail S Gruber, BSED SOSE MA History, Temple University Education Abroad and Overseas Campuses Senior Program Manager, Rome Campus Programs. I develop and deliver pre-departure education for outgoing study abroad students who participate on Temple's study abroad programs. Our team also provides student support for health and wellbeing.

Advice for Current MU Students: A Millersville education offers you a great opportunity, but your full experience there is what YOU make of it. If you go the extra mile to seek out and apply to scholarships and grants and participate in extracurricular programming, you will stand out on future applications for graduate school and in the workforce. The faculty in the department can be your fiercest advocates, and they truly find joy in helping students - asking them about how to reach your goals is a great first step. I fondly remember Phi Alpha Theta trips to Washington Crossing and Washington D.C. and the research I was able to conduct at the Bermuda National Archives.

Special Memory to Shared: Robyn Davis teaching me how to conduct archival research at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and American Philosophical Society is something I think about daily. Meeting my partner, Alex Goodrich (BA '14, MA '17) in that same class is a particular highlight, too. :)

Alumni Share Their Stories

Lawrance M Jeter, BSED SOSE, 2022, School district of Lancaster Social studies teacher.

Advice for Current MU Students: If you have student teaching experience, get to know the faculty and staff and get involved in community.

Special Memory to Shared: History teachers like Dr. Adyanga made learning more immersive, and he was very detailed oriented. Dr. Sommar really challenged my historical thinking, which made me a better historian.

Colton L Himmel, BSED SOSE, 2025, Humanities teacher at Eagle View Middle School in the Cumberland Valley School District.

Advice for Current MU Students: As someone who dropped out of college (Shippensburg) when I was 19, then came back to school at 27, I would say to always put school first. You will have time for socializing and fun, but they are not as important as your schoolwork. It's really hard at first, but once you build a routine, it gets easier. If you feel lost, or unsure of what you're doing, think about taking a short break, maybe a semester or a year off (don't wait as long as I did). Regroup, and get back to work.

Special Memory to Shared: I think my best resource at Millersville was the professors. Especially in the History and Education department, they are amazing! Use office hours! They will go above and beyond to help you! I wouldn't have made it through without them!



Alumni Share Their Stories

Alumni,

If you have information that you would like to share with us, please use our alumni update form. Once submitted, your form will arrive in the History and Philosophy Department email account. The faculty are interested in hearing how you are doing, and this is a great way of sharing information with them.

Please follow the link below to access the Alumni Information Update Form!!!
https://www.millersville.edu/history/alum-info-update.php

Please make sure to keep in touch with us so you can be featured in the next newsletter! Thank you for your attention and see you next time!