

From the Chair

by Dr. Erin Shelor



It's hard to believe it's time for another newsletter! The past academic year began with uncertainty, as we returned to in-person classes and hoped we would be able to stay. I have to admit I was not particularly optimistic, but I was glad to be wrong. As I write, we look forward to welcoming students back to campus in another step closer to "the way things used to be."

One thing that the pandemic brought me this year is the experience of teaching about pandemics in the midst of living through one. I was privileged to lead a graduate readings seminar in the spring with seven amazing students. We read, thought, discussed, wrote about, and argued about the social and biological experiences of epidemics from the Black Death through the early AIDS epidemic. I had taught this course before, but it never felt more relevant than other courses I teach. This time, every question, every example seemed fraught with meaning, with potential lessons and cautionary tales. While I am quite tired of "living in interesting times," this teaching experience will stay with me for the rest of my career.

Another major event this past year is the completion of a many-year-long discussion about revising the BA History curriculum. Having come to significant agreement on what we want the major to look like in the future, we now face the task of guiding the revisions through a lengthy curriculum revision process across multiple university committees. Our hope is that the process will be complete in time for the new curriculum to be launched with the incoming freshmen class in the fall of 2023. The bare-bones version of changes we are making include a revamping of the skills courses along with revised electives categories. Replacing the two-course skills sequence will be a four-course sequence. HIST 105 will focus more on the basic skills of thinking, reading, and researching as a historian along with general college survival skills. HIST 205 will include the experience of writing a major research paper—thus these two courses will do what we were cramming into HIST 105 alone. HIST 305 will be a topics course—focusing the practice of research skills onto a shared, narrower topic like, for example, the Civil Rights movement.

Letter from the Chair
Page... 1-2

Faculty News

In the past year our Faculty published and prepared for publication a book, articles and book reviews, and hosted the conference/teachers' workshop on the Holocaust and Genocide.

Page ... 3-5

Students' News

Some of our students presented their papers, won **History Department Awards** and other **Honors and Awards**.

Page... 6

Alumni News

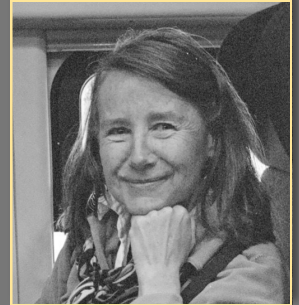
Our alumni tell us about their experiences and give advice for current students.

Page... 7

And last, HIST 405 will be the new course number for the Senior Seminar. By revisiting and expanding skills through this four-course sequence, we believe students will be better prepared for each new research task. As for electives, the current system of three courses each in European, American, and Asian/African/Latin American history will be replaced with a chronological category in which students complete at least two courses before 1815 and at least two courses after 1815 as well as a geographical category in which students complete at least one U.S. course, one European course, one Asian/African/Latin American course, and one Transnational course. Students will take a total of seven of these electives, resulting in no change to the overall number of required credits. We are excited about these revisions and look forward to finalizing the plans this year.

We have also had major changes over the past few years in personnel. This past year we welcomed Marty Devlin as our new administrative assistant, a position that is now shared with the Philosophy Department. While Marty had big shoes to fill with the retirement of the amazing Maggie Eichler, she more than met this challenge. We are so happy she chose to work with us! On the other hand, the retirement of Dr. Tracey Weis is bittersweet. I know she is excited about her next steps, but we will deeply miss her wisdom, her leadership on all things teaching, and her habit of losing her keys. Dr. Weis leaves a huge gap, as she has been teaching in women and gender studies, African-American history, immigration history, and was our one remaining 19th-century U.S. historian. Personally, I would like to thank her for her example as a professional, a mother, and a teacher. I couldn't have asked for a better role model.

To close, we are hoping to hear from you, our alumni! We would love to know what you've been up to, where you wound up, how your Millersville degree has served you in "real" life. We are working on setting up a link on the department web page that would allow you to get in touch with us to answer some of these questions. In the meantime, you can certainly email me at erin.shelor@millersville.edu or Marty at martha.devlin@millersville.edu.



Dr. Tracey Weis retired after 30 years at Millersville University

Editor's Note: Dr. Tracey Weis taught 19th century women's history, history of immigration, and African-American History here at Millersville for 30 years. Her presence will be greatly missed from both a professional and personal standpoint.

Few, if any, people have the life experience, perspective, and empathy on these subjects as Dr. Weis and every single person in this department has greatly benefitted from Tracey's contributions, guidance, and wisdom.

Faculty News

Dr. Ronald Frankum published a book review on Luke A. Nichter, *The Last Brahmin: Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. and the Making of the Cold War* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020), *Journal of American History*, 108, no. 3: 639.

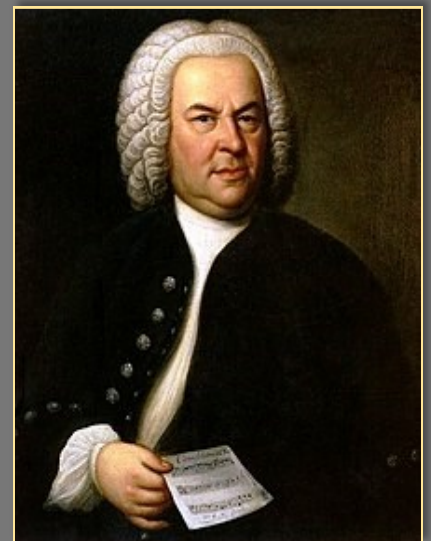
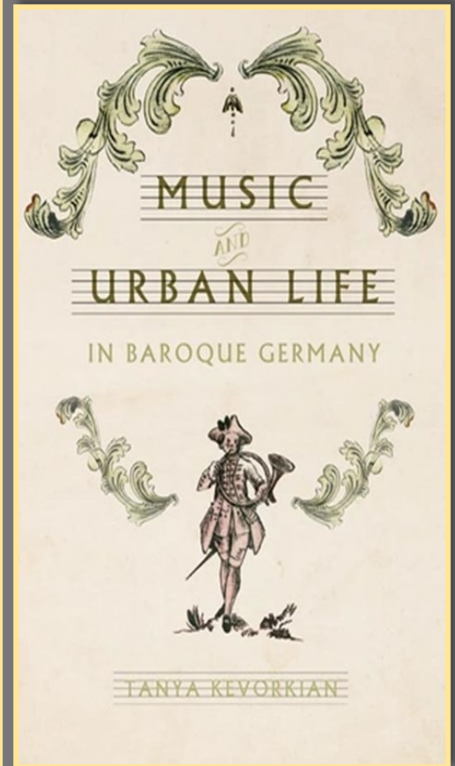
Dr. Tanya Kevorkian completed work on the proofs and index of her book *Music and Urban Life in Baroque Germany* in June. Many thanks to all of the students who read chapter drafts and listened to stories drawn from the book. The book was published in September 2022. <https://www.upress.virginia.edu/title/5057>

Dr. Tanya Kevorkian gave a podcast interview about her forthcoming book https://directory.libsyn.com/episode/index/id/23919672?_ga=2.191349481.2104865380.1659353640-1965468399.1659353640

This episode is sponsored by the American Bach Society, which supports the study and performance of the music of J.S. Bach in the U.S. and Canada.

In October 2021 Dr. Kevorkian gave a talk on “Lancaster County in the Middle Ages: The Shenks Ferry People from the 1300s to the 1500s” as part of Lancaster’s Quest for Learning lecture series, via Zoom. This February she gave the Millersville University Distinguished Scholar lecture, “Music Meets History” – a welcome chance to talk in person with students, faculty, and others about her research path. In March she gave a book talk, “Music and Urban Life in Baroque Germany,” to the Oxford & Oxford Brookes Universities Early Modern German Culture Seminar via Zoom. Her review of Jeffrey Sposato’s *Leipzig After Bach: Church and Concert Life in a German City* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018) was published in the May 2021 issue of *Early Music* (which appeared with a delay, like many things during the pandemic).

Dr. Tanya Kevorkian was Director of the 36th Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide.



The American Bach Society sponsors scholarship about Bach in the United States

Dr. Victoria Khiterer wrote three peer-reviewed articles, one popular article, and one book review:

“Unwelcome Return Home: Jews, anti-Semitism and the Housing Problem in Post-war Kyiv,” *Eastern European Holocaust Studies*, will be published in 2023.

“In the Shadow of Babyn Yar: Anatoly Kuznetsov's Eyewitness Account of the Betrayal and Rescue of Jews during the Holocaust in Kyiv,” *Eastern European Holocaust Studies*, will be published in 2023.

“Jewish Education in the Ukrainian People’s Republic,” *Harvard Ukrainian Studies*, Volume 38 (Number 3–4), 2021.

“Kyiv’s Jews, persecuted under Polish-Lithuanian, Russian, Nazi and Soviet regimes, now face the onslaught of Putin’s forces,” *The Conversation*, March 22, 2022, <https://theconversation.com/kyivs-jews-persecuted-under-polish-lithuanian-russian-nazi-and-soviet-regimes-now-face-the-onslaught-of-putins-forces-179274>

Book review on Crispin Brook and Kiril Feferman, ed., *Beyond the Pale: The Holocaust in the North Caucasus* (Rochester: University of Rochester Press, 2020), will be published in *Central European History* in December 2022.

Dr. Khiterer presented papers at Millersville University, national and international conferences and chaired conference sessions:

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.

Presented “Is Seeing Believing? The Babyn Yar Massacre and its Commemoration in Publications of Soviet and American Correspondents” to the 2022 Virtual Annual Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) World Convention, May 4-7, 2022.

Presented “The Russian War Against Ukraine” and “The 80th Anniversary of the Babi Yar Massacre and Creation of the Babi Yar Holocaust Memorial Museum in Kiev, Ukraine” to the 26th Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, March 27-28, 2022, Norman, Oklahoma.

Chair of the session “Ukrainian Jewish History under the Soviets and the Germans” at the 26th Western Jewish Studies Association Conference, March 27-28, 2022, Norman, Oklahoma.



Dr. Victoria Khiterer



Presented “For Fear of Babi Yar: Why did it Take so Long for a Monument to be Built in the Largest Holocaust Site in the Soviet Union?” to the 53rd Annual Conference of the Association for Jewish Studies (AJS), December 19-21, 2021.

Presented “The Soviet Secret Police Versus Jewish Scholars: The Fate of the Members of the Department of Jewish Culture of the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences” to the 53rd Virtual Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), December 1-3, 2021.

Presented “Memorialization of a National Hero: Bogdan Khmelnytsky and Jews” to the Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations (University of Southampton) and the Birkbeck Institute for the Study of Antisemitism (Birkbeck, University of London), November 2, 2021.

Presented “Kiev as a Center of Soviet Jewish Culture in the 1920s-1930s” to the 33rd Annual Symposium on Jewish Civilization “Jews and Urban Life,” Creighton University and University of Nebraska at Omaha, Omaha, NE, October 24-25, 2021.

Dr. Khiterer presented public lectures:

“Seekers of Happiness: Jews and Jazz in the Soviet Union” to the Quest for Learning Program, Lancaster, PA, October 21, 2021.

“The Russian Invasion of Ukraine” to Millersville University Panel “Understanding Events Unfolding Between Russia and Ukraine” on March 3 and March 24 and to Mercer Holocaust, Genocide & Human Rights Education Center, Mercer Community College, April 2022.

MU Special Events

The 36th Millersville University Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide

The 36th Millersville Conference on the Holocaust and Genocide was held October 17-19, 2021. For the first time, the conference focused on teaching. We were honored to work with two premier institutions, Yad Vashem (Jerusalem) and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, as well as local educators. Sessions on topics such as teaching the Holocaust were complemented by others on, for example, the road to genocide in Burma/Myanmar and the experiences of refugees in Pennsylvania today. This was a hybrid conference with some socially distanced in-person attendees at the Ware Center; most sessions were livestreamed. Teachers from around PA and beyond and senior social studies teacher candidates from MU were among the attendees. The conference was among the first with an in-person component to be offered by MU since early 2020.

PEARS INSTITUTE
FOR THE STUDY OF
ANTISEMITISM



Quest

CONFERENCE ON THE
HOLOCAUST
& GENOCIDE

Student Achievements

Jillian Bergin, BA '23, presented her honors' thesis research, "The Effects of European Colonization on Gender Relations in Native American Culture" at the 13th Annual McNeil Center Undergraduate Research Workshop in April.

Abigail Gruber, MA '17, BSE '14 has been hired by the Museum of the American Revolution while completing her doctoral dissertation at Temple University.

Joseph A. Murse, BA '18, has been teaching in China and will begin pursuing graduate training in Chinese Philosophy (a.k.a. ancient Chinese history) at East China Normal University in Fall 2022.

Katrina Ponti, MA '15, earned her Ph.D. from Rochester and will begin a post-doc as an Ernest May Fellow in History and Policy at Harvard University's Belfer Center in the Fall.

Elizabeth Root, MA '18, begins her doctoral studies in History of Science and Medicine at the University of Minnesota in Fall 2022.

Student Honor Theses

Students earned Department Honors and defended University Honors College Theses

Benjamin J. Perlis, BA '22, "The Kings of the Visigoths: Developments in Kingship and Government Between the Fourth and Seventh Centuries."

Maggie Ross, BA '22, "Transformative First Ladies: How Dolley Madison, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Hillary Clinton established, modernized, and changed the institution of First Lady."

Students successfully earned Departmental Honors

Brian Malkin, BSE '23, "Louisiana Native Guard: Civil Rights Advocates, Union and Confederate Propaganda, and the Neo-Confederate Memory of Mythical Black Loyalty."

Collin Moore, BA '22, "Women Confront the Hollywood Studio System, 1895-Present."

Student Award Winners

Guy K. Bard Award
Christopher Newton

Lyman R. Brenner '71 History Scholarship
Sarah Davis

Dr. Abram Foster Scholarship for Excellence in History
Jessica Berkheimer

Dr. Richard C. Keller Award in American History
Jillian Bergin

John W. Loose History Research Award
Melissa Bryson

C. Maxwell & Edna H. Myers History Award
Niamh Lotty

Dr. Robert D. & Roma J. Sayre Excellence in American History Scholarship
Gracie Mummau

Joseph E. Walker American History Scholarship
Nicoletta Beltrante

Joan M. Williams Scholarship
Garrett Kilgore

Students successfully defended their MA thesis:

Jordan Ames, MA '22, "Shaping Operations: How Special Operations Provided an Opportunity for Washington's Surprise Attack on Trenton."

Evelyn LeCato, MA '21, "A Comparison of the Personalities of John F. Kennedy, Fidel Castro, and Nikita Khrushchev and the Impact of these Personalities on the Cuban Missile Crisis."

Meagan Schulman, MA '21, "A Tale of Two Policies: A Comparative Study of Piracy and Privateering in Bermuda and Providence Island, 1612-1641."

Alumni Share Their Stories

Dana Rankin, BSE in Social Studies Education with a concentration in Special Education, 2021

Current position: I currently work as a Learning Support Teacher at Ephrata Area School District. I work with 9 - 12th grade students in both the special education and general education classes at Ephrata High School. The main classes that I teach include Life Skills: Basic Occupation Skills, Study Support, Transition to Work Program, and Co-Taught Algebra and English.

Ephrata was one of my student teaching placements and I was hired by the district during my final semester at Millersville. I had started working at Ephrata High School one week after graduating in December 2021. I had started out as a substitute the first month I was there until late January when my teaching certificate became official by the state. I was fortunate to have found a job that relates to my desired field of interest. I'm grateful for the opportunities and connections Millersville has given me to help in my job search.

Advice to Students: My advice for current MU students is that your hard work will pay off in the end. Even if you don't feel like it would now, your experiences at Millersville will definitely come in handy down the road.

Jess De Palma, BA History, 2020

Current position: Development Associate. In short, I conduct prospect research, assist with donor relations, and manage donor records for the nation's largest public art program.

After graduating from Millersville, I went straight to grad school. I got my current job which is in my desired field about 2 weeks after graduating this past May with my master's degree.

The research, writing, and critical thinking skills I gained through the history courses I've taken at MU have been invaluable in my career path. Aside from hard skills, my time at Millersville provided me with connections and the ability to network with other graduates. I also would not be where I am now without the History Department faculty and advisors!

Advice to Students: Network as much as you can! Be open-minded when it comes to different opportunities. Take advantage of all that Millersville has to offer. Always keep your eyes on the prize. College can be incredibly tough and demanding but trust that you're building the blocks of your future career! Hard work absolutely pays off.

We are very pleased to congratulate Sarah Brucksch, MA'18 and Ben Mitchell, MA'19 on their engagement.





Millersville University

Mission

Millersville University provides diverse, dynamic, meaningful experiences to inspire learners to grow both intellectually and personally to enable them to contribute positively to local and global communities.

Vision

We will transform each learner's unique potential into the capacity for successful engagement in career and life opportunities.

The Marauding MU
Historian
The History Department
Newsletter

Editors: Dr. Victoria
Khiterer & Joe Blauberg

Millersville University
History Department
McComsey Hall
P.O. Box 1002
Millersville, PA 17551

Phone: (717) 871-7212
Martha Devlin –
martha.devlin@millersville.edu