

History

DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

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Letter from the Chair

Susan Branson

Last summer I became chair of the History department, taking over from Norman Kutcher who concluded his three-year stint. By July, we had weathered a spring semester in which teaching went online and most student activities were cancelled. Fall plans for instruction alternatives were already in place. In person classes continued, albeit with masking and social distancing. But many students and faculty elected to participate in remote learning - courses taught on Zoom. Some courses were taught in hybrid



format: some students were present in the classroom, while others participated remotely. The year was a challenging one for all of us. By May, we had learned much about teaching and about learning under challenging circumstances.

Above all, we realized just how resilient and actively engaged our students could be. They all rose to the challenge to continue their studies regardless of the obstacles thrown in their way.

Much credit is due to my colleagues who took on new roles in the department this year. George Kallander became our Director of Graduate Studies, and Albrecht Diem became Director of Undergraduate Studies. Both George and Albrecht helped our students navigate the new terrain. And my sincere thanks go to our colleagues without whom the department could not function: Faye Morse, our administrative specialist, and Christina Cleason, our office coordinator.

“ABOVE ALL, WE REALIZED JUST HOW RESILIENT AND ACTIVELY ENGAGED OUR STUDENTS COULD BE. THEY ALL ROSE TO THE CHALLENGE TO CONTINUE THEIR STUDIES REGARDLESS OF THE OBSTACLES THROWN IN THEIR WAY.”

Letter from the Undergraduate Director

Albrecht Diem

I had the pleasure to serve as Undergraduate Director during the last academic year. Since I will be on a research leave this academic year Prof. Mark Schmeller will take over my position.



By far the most rewarding experience of this year were the many zoom conversations I had with our students, both majors and minors. As Undergraduate Director I talk to every student who declares a major or minor in history. All majors have a faculty advising session with me or with a member of the Undergraduate Committee at least once every to make plans about course choices, to talk about problems and to ensure that they are all on track.

It would have been much nicer to meet all of them personally, but our half-hour conversations gave me an opportunity to get to know them - not just to talk about courses but to hear how they are coping with the difficult circumstances of studying during the pandemic, about their fears and anxieties, about their plans for the future and what motivates them to study history at Syracuse University. I heard what it means for them to study confined to their rooms and how it is to take courses remotely in a different time zone. Some have lost loved ones to covid or got sick themselves. But I also heard a lot of success stories: students who were thriving despite the difficult circumstances, who were excited about the classes they had taken and the courses they want to take. I talked to many students had enrolled in one or two history courses just to fulfill their Liberal Arts Core requirements and then decided that a major or minor in history is

the right thing for them. A lot of students were deeply grateful for the dedication of their teachers and their willingness to walk the extra mile to help them to succeed: stories about resilience and hope.

In our conversations I pointed them to opportunities

beyond just choosing courses that fulfilled their requirements. Many of them had to postpone study abroad trips; few gave up on the perspective to spend a semester in Europe or Latin America. I talked to students about the breadth of courses we offer and how they might relate to their other majors and minors, their own history and identity or to their personal interests. Many students were excited to learn how “global” the history department is and how many courses we offer in the history of Africa, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America.

Another joyful task of the Undergraduate Director is talking to perspective and incoming students who show an interest in studying history. There is a lot of good energy in the upcoming cohort. The experience of the last year - the pandemic but also the elections and the attacks on our democracy, the scourge of misinformation and conspiracy narratives, the experience of structural racism and the awareness of climate change and its disastrous effects shapes students who are mature in their

choices, eager to be informed, vocal, constructively angry, and astutely aware that historical consciousness is a necessary condition to incite change.

Many undergraduate student activities had to be stalled this year but will be resumed in the future. Chronos. The Undergraduate History Journal produced the 2020 issue with six outstanding articles on topics ranging from constructions of the female body in medieval medical texts, ideas of democracy and tolerance in the works of Nicolas of Cusa, crime and punishment in early medieval England, to political violence in and military coups in Guatemala and Turkey. The editorial team hopes to resume the tradition of Chronos Undergraduate Conferences

“MANY STUDENTS WERE EXCITED TO LEARN HOW “GLOBAL” THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT IS AND HOW MANY COURSES WE OFFER IN THE HISTORY OF AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA.”

next year. The local chapter of ΦΑΘ, the history honors society, sent no less than six undergraduate students to the annual ΦΑΘ conference that was hosted by SUNI Geneseo.

One of them, Kate Bajorek, received an award for the best presented paper. We all hope that next year the Snow Conference Room will be open again for the writing workshops. All in all we are proud of our history students who faced this difficult year with passion, resilience and intellectual curiosity.

I would like to thank the members of the Undergraduate Committee (Amy Kallander, Junko Takeda, Robert Terrell and Tessa Murphy) for their collaboration, support and dedication to advising our students.

Letter from the Graduate Director

George Kallander

I was delighted to take over as new Director of Graduate Studies beginning summer 2020. Of course, the pandemic transformed the nature of graduate studies last year, including the role of director. Instead of interacting with the administration, faculty, and grad students in person, I adapted to my new role from a distance via Zoom. But my inconveniences were slight. For all of our graduate students, the year was much more challenging. The pandemic interfered with research and writing plans, dissertation defenses and job searches, graduate seminar readings and papers, TA responsibilities, and the overall lives of our students. Graduate study is about community, whether that means building a network of cohorts across departments in the college and university, or simply meeting one or two likeminded peers to study and hang out with, and building lifelong friendships. Finding that community was hard over the past year, especially for new graduate students who came into the program without knowing anyone. Yet, our students found ways to cope. Some examples include the History Graduate Student Organization holding frequent Zoom gatherings and trivia nights to bring people together informally. On the other end of the social spectrum, the Future Professoriate Program organized the twelfth annual history graduate conference. Titled *Belief and Identity*, this virtual conference offered “graduate students of all levels an opportunity to present on their research and to receive feedback from professors and peers.”



Fifteen grad students from around the region, including **Tianyu Cheng** (late Imperial and modern China) and **Emily Hunter** (modern US) from the History Department presented. All of the graduate students in the department deserve to be congratulated

for adapting to the realities of the pandemic.

One of the most striking aspects of the past year was the resilience of the program. While everyone found ways to thrive, we should take special note of individual milestones: **Mohammad Ebad Athar** (US and the world; US and the Middle East) for completing the oral Ph.D.

comprehensive exams, **John Barruzza** (modern Europe/Italy) for successfully defending his dissertation, **Erqi Cheng** (modern China) for receiving a one-year teaching position

at Dartmouth College and for winning the Hotchkiss graduate student award, **Ian Glazman-Schillinger** (modern American studies) for being named a Research Associate in the Campbell Institute, **Yifan Jiang** (modern US) for winning the Nelson Blake award to support her research, **Nick Mason** (US history) for publishing an article in *The Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*, **Gabe Roth** (modern China) for completing the oral Ph.D.

comprehensive exams, and **Grant Topjon** (twentieth century Europe/Italy) for successfully defending his M.A. thesis.

In this pandemic year, the graduate program thrived in other ways. Unlike some programs around the country, the History Department (and Syracuse University) did not pause graduate admissions. Instead, we continued the program without any cuts to our funding. We are particularly excited about our incoming graduate students who were selected from a very strong pool of candidates applying from top universities in North America and around the world. Our incoming graduate students are:

Cherish

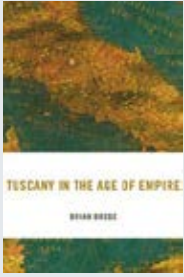
Blackman (early modern China) who won a McNair Fellowship, **Tianyu Cheng** (early modern China), **Kazi Farzana** (modern South Asia), **Jessica Hogbin** (early modern Europe/

“GRADUATE STUDY IS ABOUT COMMUNITY, WHETHER THAT MEANS BUILDING A NETWORK OF COHORTS ACROSS DEPARTMENTS IN THE COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY, OR SIMPLY MEETING ONE OR TWO LIKEMINDED PEERS”

Italy) who won the Dobie-Kampel Fellowship, **Sam Merrill** (twentieth century US) who won a Hotchkiss Fellowship, **Hector Sanchez** (early modern Korea) who won a University Fellowship, and **Kevin Wang** (early modern Korea and Northeast Asia).

We are happy to welcome our incoming graduate students and wish them the best of luck in their studies. I look forward to working with them and all our graduate students in the coming year.

Forthcoming and Recent Faculty Books

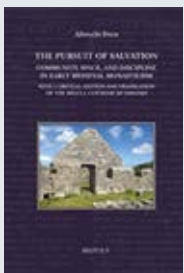


**Brian Brege, *Tuscany in the Age of Empire*
I Tatti Studies in Italian Renaissance
History series (Cambridge, MA: Harvard
University Press, 2021)**

The Grand Duchy of Tuscany was not an imperial power, but it did harbor global ambitions. After abortive attempts at overseas colonization and direct commercial expansion, as Brian Brege shows, Tuscany followed a different path, one that allowed it to participate in Europe's new age of empire without establishing an empire of its own. The first history of its kind, *Tuscany in the Age of Empire* offers a fresh appraisal of one of the foremost cities of the Italian Renaissance, as it sought knowledge, fortune, and power throughout Asia, the Americas, and beyond.

How did Tuscany, which could not compete directly with the growing empires of other European states, establish a global presence? First, Brege shows, Tuscany partnered with larger European powers. The duchy sought to obtain trade rights within their empires and even manage portions of other states' overseas territories. Second, Tuscans invested in cultural, intellectual, and commercial institutions at home, which attracted the knowledge and wealth generated by Europe's imperial expansions. Finally, Tuscans built effective coalitions with other regional powers in the Mediterranean and the Islamic world, which secured the duchy's access to global products and empowered the Tuscan monarchy in foreign affairs.

These strategies allowed Tuscany to punch well above its weight in a world where power was equated with the sort of imperial possessions it lacked. By finding areas of common interest with stronger neighbors and forming alliances with other marginal polities, a small state was able to protect its own security while carving out a space as a diplomatic and intellectual hub in a globalizing Europe.

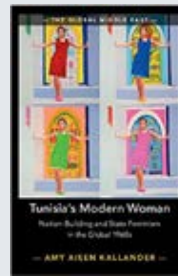


Albrecht Diem, *The Pursuit of Salvation. Community, Space, and Discipline in Early Medieval Monasticism* (Turnhout: Brepols 2021 (*Disciplina Monastica*, vol. 13))

Diem's book provides a new history of the emergence of monastic life in the early medieval Latin West that focusses on the interplay between theological ramifications, regular observance, and the textual representation of everyday life in a monastery. It historicizes aspects of monastic life that, so far, have hardly formed part of the established narrative, such as love, confession, liturgical discipline, silence, sleep, work, the care for objects, exclusion, or the education of children. Differently from traditional studies of medieval monasticism, the book largely revolves around texts written for female monastic communities. It contains a critical edition and translation of an

understudied key text of early medieval monastic history, the *Regula cuiusdam ad uirgines*. Diem ascribes this monastic rule to the eminent seventh-century hagiographer Jonas of Bobbio (d. after 650 AD). The discovery of the text's author does, in itself, profoundly challenge the established narrative of early medieval Western monasticism.

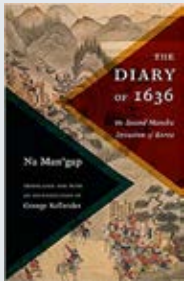
The book is published in the series *Disciplina Monastica* at Brepols Publishers, the most important academic publishing house in Patristic and Medieval Studies. Thanks to the support of the Department of History and the Dean's Office of Maxwell, the book appeared in Open Access (<https://www.brepolonline.net/action/showBook?doi=10.1484%2FM.DM-EB.5.120300&>) which ensures its broad reception. Since it contains an extensively annotated critical edition and English translation of an important medieval source on female monasticism it will hopefully also be used for undergraduate and graduate teaching.



Amy Kallander, *Tunisia's Modern Woman: Nation-Building and State Feminism in the Global 1960s* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press 2021)

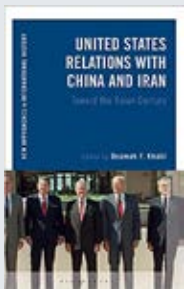
Kallander's book centers on Tunisian women's experiences with the political project of crafting modern womanhood from independence in 1956 into the 1970s. It is the first full-length study in English of women and gender in these decades. During this era of global radicalism, Kallander situates Tunisian stories within broader contexts of transnational political movements, global politics, and women's rights activism. Through the lens of Tunisia, this is a work about the Middle East, and a contribution to global history. By looking at state-building and Cold War alliances, family planning, feminist academics, fashion, and love, Kallander explains how Tunisian state feminism informed domestic and international politics, economic development, intellectual conversations, cultural expressions, and social change. She argues that nation-building and state feminism were shaped by Tunisian women in supra-national contexts, namely regional and international feminist organizations, global youth culture, and the radical political movements of the day. From the 1956 legislation on marriage and divorce known as the personal status code, until at least 2011, women maintained an important place in narratives of Tunisian exceptionalism that reduces women to symbols of the nation, either silently submissive or in rebellious protest. In fact, Tunisian experiences share commonalities with women's activism in Algeria, Egypt, and Iraq in the same decades. Kallander's book considers regional and transnational contexts to go beyond exceptionalism placing women's voices at the center of an inquiry into the social, political, and cultural transformations of the 1960s. It offers historical depth and a comparative framework

for understanding Tunisia and the place of the Middle East in the modern world. Published by Cambridge University Press, a leading press in Middle East Studies, the book is part of the Global Middle East Series edited by Arshin Adib-Moghaddam (SOAS, University of London) and Ali Mirsepassi (NYU).



George Kallander, *The Diary of 1636: The Second Manchu Invasion of Korea* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 2020)

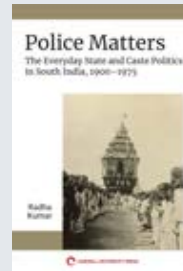
Early in the seventeenth century, Northeast Asian politics hung in a delicate balance among the Chosŏn dynasty in Korea, the Ming in China, and the Manchu. When a Chosŏn faction realigned Korea with the Ming, the Manchu attacked in 1627 and again a decade later, shattering the Chosŏn-Ming alliance and forcing Korea to support the newly founded Qing dynasty. The Korean scholar-official Na Man'gap (1592-1642) recorded the second Manchu invasion in his *Diary of 1636*, the only first-person account chronicling the dramatic Korean resistance to the attack. Partly composed as a narrative of quotidian events during the siege of Namhan Mountain Fortress, where Na sought refuge with the king and other officials, the diary recounts Korean opposition to Manchu and Mongol forces and the eventual surrender. Na describes military campaigns along the northern and western regions of the country, the capture of the royal family, and the Manchu treatment of prisoners, offering insights into debates about Confucian loyalty and the conduct of women that took place in the war's aftermath. His work sheds light on such issues as Confucian statecraft, military decision making, and ethnic interpretations of identity in the seventeenth century. Translated from literary Chinese into English for the first time, the diary illuminates a traumatic moment for early modern Korean politics and society. George Kallander's critical introduction and extensive annotations place *The Diary of 1636* in its historical, political, and military context, highlighting the importance of this text for students and scholars of Chinese and East Asian as well as Korean history.



Osamah Khalil, ed. *United States Relations with China and Iran: Toward the Asian Century* (Bloomsbury Academic, December 2020), Paperback version with revisions and updates.

This interdisciplinary volume examines U.S. foreign relations toward China and Iran over six decades. The chapters focus on several major themes: interaction, normalization, and confrontation. It explores how and why Washington developed and implemented policies toward Beijing and Tehran. The volume also analyzes the policies adopted by

China and Iran toward the United States and each other. Drawing on the insights of leading scholars it discusses how the future of relations between these countries will shape the twenty-first century.



Radha Kumar, *Police Matters: The Everyday State and Caste Politics in South India, 1900-1975* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2021)

While the conventional understanding of the colonial police is that they were barely present in rural spaces, except on occasion to brutally suppress protest, *Police Matters* draws on previously unexplored archives across police stations to argue that the police also exercised an everyday presence in the Tamil countryside. State coercion was therefore continuous, woven into the warp and weft of everyday life. Moreover, policemen drew on knowledge that objectified Indian subjects based on their caste. The police thus brought epistemic and legal violence into the Tamil country, transforming its way of life. Tracking routine police procedures like walking the beat and recording a crime, *Police Matters* shows that far from being the dregs of a premodern past, modern caste politics have been shaped in conjunction with state policing. The book appeared in Open Access (<https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9781501760877/police-matters/#bookTabs=1>)



Tessa Murphy, *The Creole Archipelago: Race and Borders in the Colonial Caribbean* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2021)

Murphy's book argues that the physical geography of the eastern Caribbean—a 225-mile chain in which each volcanic landmass can be seen from the next—fostered the development of inter-island economic, social, and informal political realities that did not align with the imagined boundaries of empire. Drawing on archives in the Caribbean, England, France, and the United States, Murphy reconstructs the features of a multiracial, multilingual society first forged beyond the sphere of European sovereignty and trace the contested process by which the British and French Crowns tried to assimilate and remake this society after the Seven Years' War (1756-1763). By placing the eastern Caribbean at the center of broader contests over Indigenous dominion, racial belonging, economic development, and colonial subjecthood, *The Creole Archipelago* draws attention to a lesser-known region of the Atlantic World, while also interrogating the archival and disciplinary paradigms that have led such regions to be omitted from mainstream studies of the early Americas.

Faculty news

Selected recent accomplishments by our professors . . .



Brian Brege

After returning to Syracuse from Italy in June 2020, Professor Brege's academic year focused on two primary strands. First and foremost, Brege navigated his monograph, *Tuscany in the Age of Empire*, through to publication in July 2021 in Harvard University Press's series I Tatti Studies in Italian Renaissance History. On campus, he taught two hybrid in-person classes, on Renaissance Italy and Portugal's global empire, in the fall and two entirely in-person seminars, on historical methods and on the Renaissance, in the spring. While challenging for all, it was wonderful to be in the classroom.



Albrecht Diem

Albrecht Diem has served as Undergraduate Director in 2020/2021 and is currently on a research leave in Vienna, MO to start a new project on the representation of desert monasticism in late antique hagiographic collections. His book *The Pursuit of Salvation. Community, Space, and Discipline in Early Medieval Monasticism* came out in March

2020. It is, thanks to the support of the History Department, available in Open Access. He also published a journal article on 'Regulating Passions: Emotional Discipline in Early Medieval Monastic Rules' for the *Pakistan Journal of Historical Studies* and a chapter on "Merovingian Monasticism: Voices of Dissent" for the *Oxford Handbook of the Merovingian World*.



Amy Kallander

Amy Kallander published her second book *Tunisia's Modern Woman: Nation-Building and State Feminism in the Global 1960s* with Cambridge University Press. The first study of Tunisia's feminist politics set in the global movements of the 1960s, she illustrates women's significance to post-colonial state-building in Tunisia and across the Middle East.

With chapters on fashion, love, family planning, and Cold War-era rivalries within women's organizations, Kallander argues for the importance of women to political, economic, intellectual, cultural, and social spheres in ways shaped by women activists, journalists, and scholars. Check out its beautiful cover with the artwork of Tunisian painter Houda Ajili!

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/tunisi-as-modern-woman/0AC2A92F45D9D129EAD5315AF5EFDA56>



George Kallander

George Kallander began serving as graduate director summer 2020. He won grants from the Academy of Korean Studies and the Geiss and Hsu Foundation of Ming Dynasty Studies to support the publication of his book *The Diary of 1636: The Second Manchu Invasion of Korea* (Columbia University Press, August 2020). His new monograph *Beastly Rites: Human-Animal Relations and the Hunt in Premodern Korea and Northeast Asia* (forthcoming) explores political identity and cultural practices through an examination of royal and elite hunts and changing perceptions of wild animals. Kallander is also director of the East Asia Program at the Moynihan Institute.



Radha Kumar

Radha Kumar published her book, *Police Matters: The Everyday State and Caste Politics in South India, 1900-1975*, with Cornell University Press. *Police Matters* draws on previously unexplored police records to examine the close ties between state and caste authority that were displayed at everyday as well as exceptional moments through much of the twentieth century in the Tamil-speaking countryside of southern India. The book is available on Open Access and the hard copy will be released in November 2021.



Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn

Elisabeth Lasch-Quinn, appointed Senior Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia for 2020-21, published her book on ancient philosophy and modern culture, *Ars Vitae: The Fate of Inwardness and the Return of the Ancient Arts of Living* (University of Notre Dame Press, 2020), receiving the Giles Family Fund Award and garnering numerous reviews and interviews. Her essays on the movies *Greyhound* and *Fishermen's Friends* appeared in *Current*. Her earlier book *Race Experts* (W. W. Norton, 2001) garnered renewed attention, including a requested Zoom consultation from the office of the UK Prime Minister.



Tessa Murphy

Tessa Murphy completed her first book, *The Creole Archipelago: Race and Borders in the Colonial Caribbean*. The book will be published by the University of Pennsylvania Press in October 2021. With the support of grants from Syracuse University's CUSE (Collaboration for Unprecedented Success and Excellence) and SOURCE (Syracuse Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Excellence) programs, she began working on a new project, which involves the creation of a publicly-accessible database of people who were enslaved in the Caribbean island of St. Lucia in 1815.



Mark Schmeller

Mark Schmeller continues work on his next book, which concerns the 1826 kidnapping of William Morgan, a New York freemason who had threatened to reveal the secrets of that order. While on leave during the Spring 2021 semester, he completed two chapters and presented them to workshops. Schmeller looks

forward to resuming teaching this Fall, when he will offer a course on conspiracy theories in United States history and begin serving as the department's Director of Undergraduate Studies. He also continues to work with Syracuse University Project Advance, which offers History 101 and 102 to students in over thirty high schools in New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts.



David Stam

Following the publication of his *Adventures in Polar Reading: The Book Cultures of High Latitudes* (New York: Grolier Club, 2019), David H. Stam is building a massive data base of materials related to reading in the extreme environments of the Polar regions. This online source takes the form of excerpts from hundreds of sources, both archival and printed,

presented as anthologies of the reading experience, from Bibles and prayer-books to the reading aloud of works of Darwin and Dickens. The work has evolved over the two decades of his service as Senior Scholar in the History Department into a cornucopia of commonplace books containing many gems of polar literature. The plan is to mount the results on the website of the Mystic Seaport Museum in Mystic, Connecticut, where it will continue to grow.



Junko Takeda

Junko Takeda was promoted to Full Professor in 2021. She is the first formerly undocumented immigrant in the history of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, and the first woman of color and Asian-American to be promoted to full professor in the History Department at Syracuse University.

Her second book, *Iran and a French Empire*

of Trade, 1700-1808: The Other Persian Letters (Oxford University Series in the Enlightenment, Liverpool University Press) appeared in January 2021. Her special issue on "Plagues, Pandemics and Pathologies in French History" was published in the journal, *French History* (Oxford, 2021). She published three articles and blogposts with the *Age of Revolutions*, the Voltaire Foundation, and Liverpool University Press. An interview about her professional biography was featured with the French History Society Network (UK). In addition to book talks, she gave virtual lectures on diversity, equity and inclusion, sharing her particular experiences as a woman of color in academia and in early modern European history, at the Maxwell School, Duke University, and at the international Women and Girls Africa Summit (WAGS 2021). She is currently working on her third book, *Avedik, Louis XIV's Armenian Prisoner: A Global History of Kidnapping, Incarceration, and Conversion*.



Robert Terrell

Robert Terrell spent much of his productive energy in the previous academic year developing his book manuscript, *The People's Drink: A Bottom-Fermented History of Modern Germany*. He was on leave in fall semester 2020 and while he could not travel to Germany due to COVID-19 restrictions,

he undertook significant revisions and composed considerable new material. He workshopped a new preliminary chapter in the spring and has continued to revise the manuscript as a whole. He also published an article in early 2021 based on his second major research project. "Building the Berlin Mosque: An Episode in Weltpolitik" appeared in *Contemporary European History* in February.



Margaret Susan Thompson

Margaret Susan Thompson continues to publish various popular and academic pieces on the history and current experiences of American Catholic nuns. During 2020, she was interviewed extensively on election-related matters for both local and national media, and appeared on several panels related to politics sponsored by the Maxwell School's Campbell

Institute for Public Affairs. Since President Biden's election, that activity has continued, particularly in regard to the efforts of some US Catholic bishops to discipline the second American Catholic president for his positions on reproductive rights. Coincidentally, Thompson has an article forthcoming on "Sacraments as Weapons: Patriarchal Coercion and Gendered Power" in the *Journal of Feminist Studies in Religion*.

Undergraduate Awards:

The Bernice Hogan Prize

Awarded to the graduating history major or minor judged to have written the best paper in a History class. The winner this year was Brenna Bartosiewicz.

The Hotchkiss Prize

Named after the late Professor William Park Hotchkiss, this prize is awarded to the graduating student who achieved the highest level of academic excellence in history. The prize is funded from Professor Hotchkiss' legacy to the department. The winner this year was Katelyn Bajorek.

The Ketcham Prize

Named after Professor Emeritus Ralph Ketcham, this prize is awarded to the graduating history major who best combines academic excellence in history with contribution to the life of the department. This year's winner was Benjamin Field.

The Marquardt Prize

Named after Maxwell Professor of Teaching Excellence, Emeritus, Frederick D. Marquardt, this prize is awarded to the student judged to have written the best Distinction Thesis in History. The winner this year was Jacob Sapounas.

Distinction Students

The following students completed year-long research projects, and were awarded Distinction in History: Brenna Bartosiewicz, Benjamin Field, William Hafer, Jacob Sapounas and Alexander Tsemberis.

News from one of our Graduate Students

Thomas Bouril is a Ph.D. student. His field is African History

This past year has been exceptionally different from my previous time at SU. Like most, I found myself teaching over Zoom, conducting research in new ways, and engaging with peers and mentors in new mediums. When the pandemic began, I was researching in Nairobi, Kenya. Returning from Kenya, I used the early period of the lockdown to begin the process of organizing and reviewing the material I had collected. The fall semester brought with it my first experiences of teaching online, which, while challenging, was rewarding. Despite the lack of in-person events, I was also able to present at two conferences, including the African Studies Association's annual conference. While it was disappointing not to be able to meet with people and receive feedback in person, doing the conference over Zoom allowed so many more scholars from Africa to participate. During the spring semester, my focus shifted toward teaching my own course: The History of the Early Modern and Modern Indian Ocean World. This was an incredible opportunity. It was, admittedly, a lot of work to build a course from the ground up, but it was unspeakably rewarding to teach it. I now am very much looking to returning to normal academic life, and hopefully completing my dissertation.

Graduate Awards

The Nelson Blake Prize

Named in memory of longtime faculty member Nelson Blake, this award supports research by our graduate students: This year's winner was Yifan Jiang.

Hotchkiss Scholar

Endowed by Dr. Angelo C. Garzio in honor of Professor William P. Hotchkiss

This prize is awarded to the most highly deserving graduate student. This year's winner was Erqi Cheng.