

# ***/HISTORY***

**FALL 2023**

***ON THE HILL***

**HISTORY IS MADE HERE**

**UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**

# HISTORY WELCOMES NEW INTERIM CHAIR

## LAURA MIELKE

Dr. Laura Mielke comes to us by way of the Department of English and currently holds the title of Dean's Professor of English. Her research focuses on the intersection of literature, politics, and performance in America before the twentieth century.

Greetings from Mount Oread!  
We are proud to share with you an overview of what our students, faculty, and alumni have been up to this past year. In the smiling faces and exciting narratives of these pages, you can see the vitality of the KU Department of History.

We continue to welcome a return to post-pandemic normalcy, especially with in-person celebrations of our students' milestones, from defenses to graduation ceremonies. This year we have also welcomed a new faculty member, Dr. Tiffany González, whose profile you can read [here](#). As we honor the legacies

### LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



of past professors, especially Ted Wilson and Philip Paludan, for whom a new scholarship has been established, we look with confidence to a future led by a new generation of scholars. The Department of History continues to foster undergraduate and graduate students' passion for the discipline through award-winning



teaching, social events, scholarly colloquia, study abroad opportunities, and much more. Our faculty's outstanding publication record—consider this year's wealth of books!—stands as a testament to their expertise and drive.

You will find here all this news from the hill, as well as updates from accomplished alumni, who have taken what they learned out into the world. Our alumni continue to gift us with funds to strengthen what we do, from bestowing student awards to supporting research travel. We hope you will consider making a gift this year.

In my sixteen years on faculty at KU, I have always admired my colleagues in History and their dedication to teaching and research at the highest level. What a privilege, then, to step into the department this year and become a part of a wonderful, welcoming community.

Thank you for maintaining your connection to the KU History community. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

With gratitude,

Laura Mielke  
Dean's Professor and Chair

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**ELIZABETH MACGONAGLE**





# WOODYARD EDUCATOR

**Elizabeth MacGonagle**, Associate Professor of History and African & African-American Studies at the University of Kansas, is the recipient of the 2022 George and Eleanor Woodyard International Educator Award.



“Dr. MacGonagle’s unanimous selection among a very strong field of candidates recognizes and celebrates her substantial and lasting impact on international education at KU.”  
-Megan Greene



The award recognizes MacGonagle’s strong support of the Global Scholars Program, leadership of the Kansas African Studies Center, and collaborative work with International Affairs and the area studies centers through public humanities projects such as Coming to the Heartland and the CollAB: Bridging East Africa’s Health Divides. Along with her research in Africa studies, the committee also highlighted MacGonagle’s mentorship and support of students from diverse backgrounds, dedication to securing funding for students to research and study abroad, and efforts to bring African students and scholars to KU.



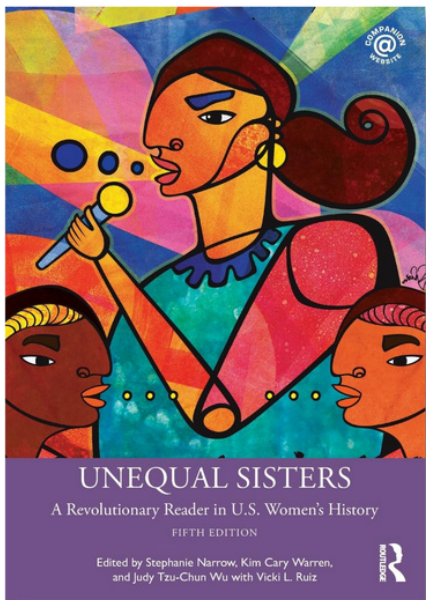
- KU INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

# PUBLISHED

KU EXPERTS CONTINUE TO DELIVER INCREDIBLE WORK







## KIM WARREN

### **Unequal Sisters: A Revolutionary Reader in U.S. Women's History**

Routledge Press

Edited By: Kim Warren, Stephanie Narrow, Judy Tzu-Chun Wu, and Vicki L. Ruiz

Unequal Sisters has become a beloved and classic reader, providing an unparalleled resource for understanding women's history in the United States today.

Kim Warren is an Associate Professor of History and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for KU Edwards Campus and School of Professional Studies.

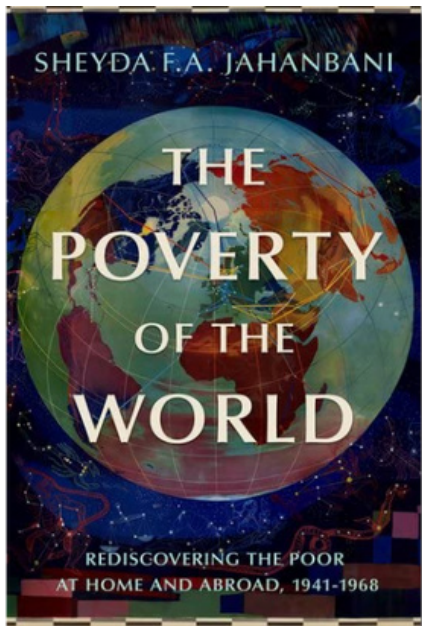


## SHEYDA F. A. JAHANBANI

### **The Poverty of the World: Rediscovering the Poor at Home and Abroad, 1941-1968**

Oxford University Press

In *The Poverty of the World*, Sheyda Jahanbani brings together the histories of US foreign relations and domestic politics to explain why, during a period of unprecedented affluence, Americans rediscovered poverty and supported major policy initiative to combat it.



Dr. Sheyda Jahanbani is Associate Professor of History at the University of Kansas.



## ANDREW DENNING

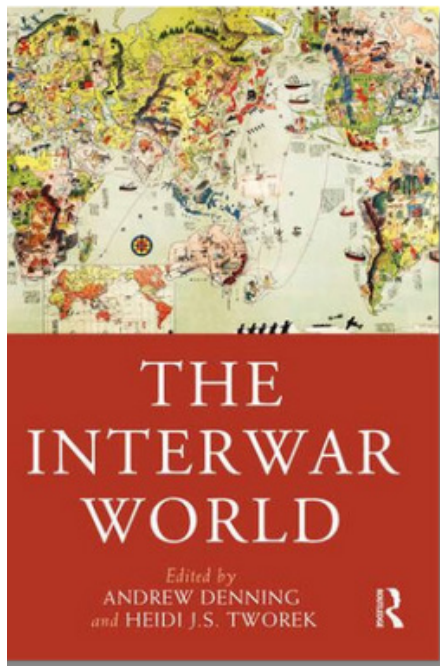
### **The Interwar World**

Routledge Press

The *Interwar World* collects an international group of over 50 contributors to discuss, analyze, and interpret this crucial period in twentieth-century history. A comprehensive understanding of the interwar era has been limited by Euro-American approaches and strict adherence to the temporal limits of the world wars.



Andrew Denning is an Associate Professor of History and Director of the Museum Studies Program at the University of Kansas.



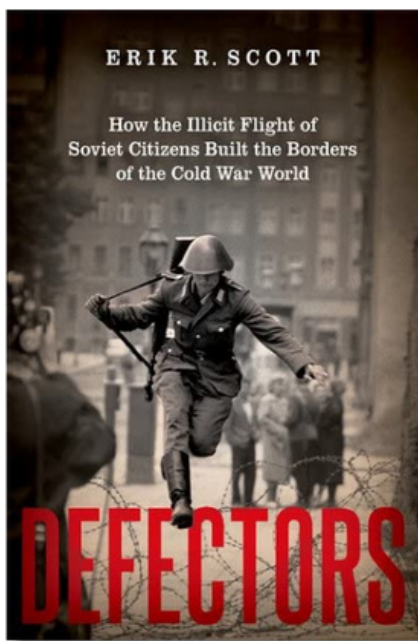
## ERIK R. SCOTT

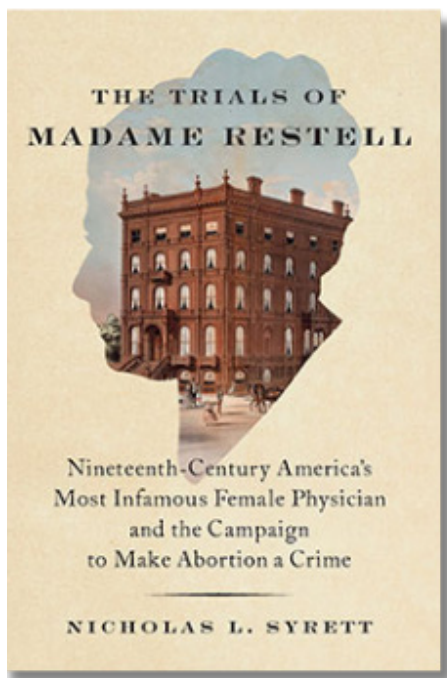
### **Defectors: How the Illicit Flight of Soviet Citizens Built the Borders of the Cold War World**

Oxford University Press

A broad-ranging history of defectors from the Communist world to the West and how their Cold War treatment shaped present-day restrictions on cross-border movement.

Erik Scott is an Associate Professor of History and Director for the Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies at the University of Kansas.



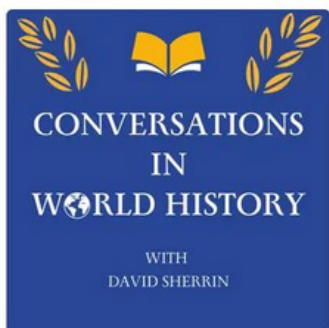


## NICHOLAS L. SYRETT

**The Trials of Madame Restell  
Nineteenth-Century America's Most  
Infamous Female Physician and the  
Campaign to Make Abortion a Crime**  
The New Press

The biography of one of the most famous abortionists of the nineteenth century—and a story that has unmistakable parallels to the current war on reproductive rights.

Nicholas L. Syrett is a Professor of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and an Associate Dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



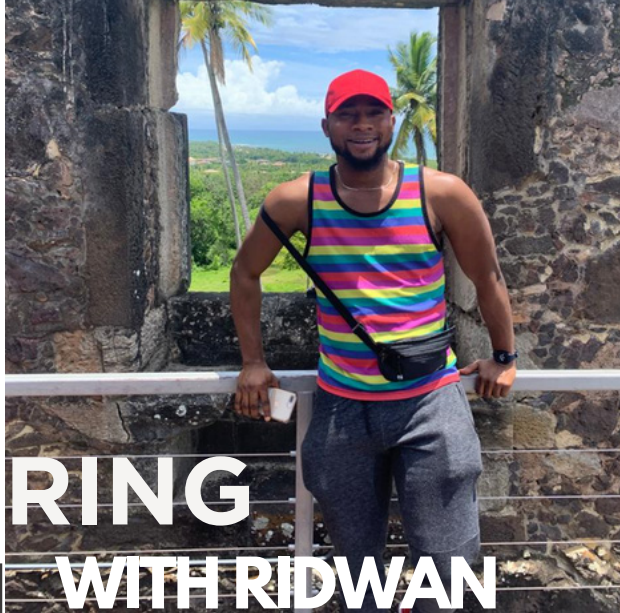
# PODCAST

Adjunct Researcher **Dr. John Schwaller** joined author and award winning social studies teacher David Sherrin on his Apple Podcast, “Conversations in World History.” Scan to listen!

Conversations in World History is a bridge to the past connecting scholars to people interested in the deeper meaning of history.



# EXPLORING BRAZIL WITH RIDWAN MUHAMMED



In January 2023, Graduate Teaching Assistant, Ridwan Muhammed, took part in a new Study Abroad program that occurred during winter break: Race, History & Health in Salvador, Brazil. In this new program students about how Afro-Brazilian cultural elements such as religion, education, music, and capoeira intersect with Salvador's contemporary health landscape.

## **From the research you conducted, what did you find that surprised you?**

What I found that surprised me the most is that there is an ongoing deliberate appropriation of traditional reproductive health knowledge by white midwives who go to the interiors of Bahia [a northeastern Brazilian state] to learn traditional reproductive health procedures for the traditional midwives. This is commercialized and sold as “Sacred Feminine” and brandished as a “new” medical spirituality.

## **How did you spend your free time?!**

Spent my free time going to the beach, and taking walks to familiarize myself more with the city.





*THE OS TRES GORDOS*

### **What was your biggest takeaway after visiting Brazil?**

My biggest takeaway from visiting Brazil is that there are vast disparities in terms of access to health care, education, and other resources based on race and socioeconomic status. Inequality is still a major issue in Brazil, and it has a direct impact on the health and human development of the population. It is important to recognize the challenges that Afro-Brazilians like other Africans in the diaspora face in order to address them and create a more equitable and prosperous society.

### **What was your favorite part of the trip?**

My favorite part of the trip was the visit to Garcia D'avila Castle which is two hours away from Salvador. The castle is one of the most important historical sites in Brazil. Built directly opposite the ocean, this castle served as a forte for Portuguese colonialists and slave owners for the purpose of colonial surveillance. For me, this castle represents the paradox of power and anguish, where the feudal dominion that would later become Brazil was governed from this castle. The castle also represents a dungeon of anguish for African slaves who served under the harshest conditions and lived in the most despicable space in the castle. All of these I consider colossal memory in the history of Brazil.

**THESE ARE THE PICTURES OF *THE OS TRES GORDOS* (THE THREE FAT ONES). THESE STATUES SYMBOLIZE THE DIVERSITY IN BRAZIL, AS EACH REPRESENTS ASIAN, BLACK, AND WHITE WOMEN. THEIR FATNESS ALSO REPRESENTS THE SYMBOL OF BEAUTY AND FERTILITY IN BRAZIL, WHICH IS SIMILAR TO HOW BEAUTY AND FERTILITY WERE SYMBOLIZED IN PRE-COLONIAL, AND COLONIAL NIGERIA.**



(above) A statue of Orixá called *Iyamonja* (The goddess of the Ocean), which is one of the surviving Afro-religion legacies in Brazil, with its origin in Yoruba religious practices. *Iyanmoja* symbolizes the goddess of beauty, love, and fertility.

(below) Ridwan snapped this picture after one of the most insightful interviews he had with Mrs. Chyna on the left, who is a traditional birth attendant in Salvador and also a qualified midwife. To the right is Samuele Ferreira, his Translator/Research Assistant



L-R: ADESOJI ADEDIPE, RIDWAN, AND DR. ELIZABETH MACGONAGLE AT THE GARCIA D'AVILA CASTLE

### What did you learn about the culture and the country?

I learned that the culture of the country is one of the most diverse across the world, owing to the age-long presence and influence of indigenous people, African slaves, Portuguese colonizers, British investors, Japanese migrants, other European migrants, and in contemporary history, the influence of the United States. These have made the country a confluence of cultures, which are concentrated in different regions of the country. This is evident in the mode of dressing, accent, choice of food, architecture, religion, and so on. However, I also learned the importance of the phenomenon of syncretism in religious practice in Brazil, which also spread to other cultural endeavors.



## MEET TIFFANY GONZÁLEZ

# KU HISTORY'S NEWEST FACULTY MEMBER

**Tiffany J. González** joins the Department's ranks as an Assistant Professor of History. Her research centers on 20th-century U.S., emphasizing U.S. politics, Chicana-Latina/o history, women's history, and social movements.

She is currently in the process of crafting her book manuscript, "Representation of Change: How Chicanas Reshaped the American Political Process in the Late Twentieth Century," which will be published by UNC Press as part of the Latinx Histories Series.

### **What inspired you to become a historian?**

That's a great question. I imagined myself as a pediatrician in my younger years. My earliest memories of playing a profession encompassed teaching, and I collected papers quite often; my mother would get upset with me with the random, scattered papers I had in my room. This seems like an odd combination, but reflecting on this memory makes sense now. As a history professor, we teach and collect documents for research. My home office is filled with scattered books and papers. Now it's my husband who gets upset with me (grin).

### **How do you spend your free time?!**

I ride my Peloton and take Orange Theory classes. I also enjoy hiking and camping, perhaps a mountain trip is in my future.





In all honesty, I didn't intend on becoming a historian when I started college. I didn't even know becoming a professor was an option. I grew up with two parents who didn't attend college. My father was persistent in ensuring I knew I needed to attend college and earn a degree.

I worked full-time at Sonic Drive-In after high school, and when I began my higher education journey at a community college, I had an ambitious idea of becoming a pediatrician. My community college history professor inspired me in some way to enjoy history. Upon transferring to a four-year university, I changed my major from biology to history. Throughout my university days, I took women's history and political history courses. Those two interests helped me think about research questions and inquiry, which paved my entry towards grad school and solidified why I wanted to become a historian and professor.

### **What would students be surprised to find out about you?**

My southern twang masks my midwestern roots. Despite living and researching about Texas, I was born in Chicago, Illinois, and grew up as a Chicago White Sox fan.

### **What's your best focus tip? How do you achieve "flow state"?**

I work best when I have a routine. I try to turn off my social apps, including e-mail, and sit down and work

### **What's your advice for students?**

I just recently told my undergraduates some reflective advice in class. I told them to enjoy every minute of being a college student. The hard days of studying, working at minimal paying job, and the mundane everyday tasks will end after X amount years. These years are important in shaping you into the person you need to be. And hopefully, when you're working at your dream job and working a lot, you'll reflect on these days with a smile - even the days that seemed the hardest. Because that's the magic of it all.

### **What's your favorite thing about teaching?**

Watching students make real-life connections to historical topics.

### **What is your favorite version of our mascot?**

1912 Jayhawk



# ARTICLES

**Rachel E. C. Beckley.** 2023. "I Left My Bible At Home...": Evangelical Women's Bodies as Biblical Text in the Workplace during the 1980s," *Postscripts: The Journal of Sacred Texts, Cultural Histories, and Contemporary Contexts* 14 (1): 162-76.

**Rachel E. C. Beckley.** 2023. "'Relentlessly Pursu[ing] All Who Live in Darkness': The African Read as Bondage through Devotional Missionary Life Writing." In *Masquerade: Scripturalizing Modernities Through Black Flesh*, edited by: Vincent L. Wimbush. Maryland: Lexington Books.

**Luis Corteguera.** 2023. "Past, Present, and Future of Catalan History in North America" *The Catalan Review* 37 (1).

**Andrew Denning.** 2023. "Unscrambling Africa: From Eurafrican Technopolitics to the Fascist New Order\*." *Journal of Modern History* 95 (3).

**Amy Millet.** 2023. "Global Connections and Culinary Conceptions of Cultural Identity in Austrian Food Literature of the Nineteenth Century." *Journal of Austrian Studies* 56, no. 2.

**Eric C. Rath.** 2023. "What Rats Reveal about Cooking in Late Medieval Japan." *Gastronomica: The Journal for Food Studies* 23 (3).

**Eric C. Rath,** 2023. "It Gives the Rice a Kick: Sweetness and Kōji in Early Modern Sake Brewing." *Gastronomica: The Journal for Food Studies* 23 (4).

**Eric C. Rath and Takeshi Watanabe,** 2023. "Sweet in Japan: Confectionery in Japanese History." *Gastronomica: The Journal for Food Studies* 23 (4).

# HISTORY GRADUATES MOVE EVER ONWARD

## DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY RECIPIENTS 2023



### **PRESTON DECKER Ph.D. '23**

Dr. Preston Decker defended his dissertation, "Writing a Modern Land: Discourses of Environmental Modernity in Twentieth-century Xinjiang," with honors. Preston is currently in the throes of his next chapter as a high school social studies teacher at Washburn Rural High School in Auburn (Topeka).



### **JOAO BATISTA N. GREGOIRE Ph.D. '23**

Dr. João Batista N. Gregoire defended his dissertation, "Fighting the Myth of Racial Democracy from Within: Black Political Action in Brazil (mid 1970s - early 2000s)" and passed with honors.

### **EMILY RAYMOND Ph.D. '23**

Dr. Emily Raymond defended her dissertation titled, "The Man-Midwife's Tale: Medical Professionalism and Masculinity in Eighteenth-Century British Midwifery," with honors. Emily has also recently accepted a position as Upper School History Teacher at Lexington Christian Academy in Lexington, MA - a private college prep school with roughly 350 students from grades 6-12. She'll be teaching two sections of AP European History to seniors and three sections of World History for sophomores.



# 2023 MASTER OF ARTS RECIPIENTS



**RIANA  
HENDERSON**

Committee: Kim Warren  
(Chair), Marie Brown,  
Marta Vicente



**KATHERINE  
PRICE**

Committee: Andrew  
Denning (Chair),  
Marie Brown, Nathan  
Wood , Erik Scott

NOT PICTURED:

**GARY  
ALEXANDER**

Committee: David Farber  
(Chair), Beth Bailey, and  
Sheyda Jahanbani



**DEREK JOHN '01** B.A. IN HISTORY & HUMANITIES  
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER, NARRATIVE PODCASTS AT SLATE

**Derek's advice for current students:**

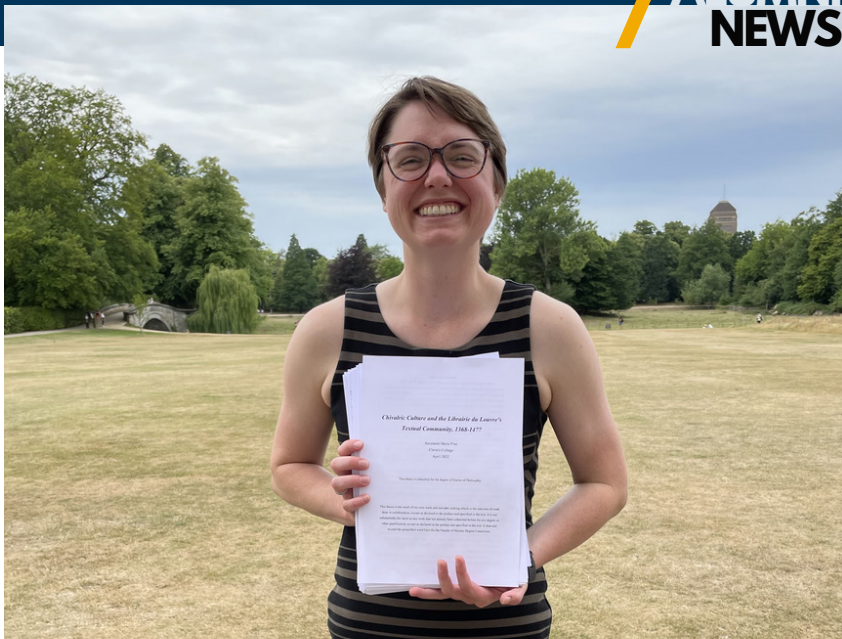
**“ SPEND MORE TIME IN THE ARCHIVES. THERE ARE AMAZING STORIES (OFTEN RECORDED ON TAPE!) THAT ARE JUST WAITING TO BE RESURRECTED. ”**



**“ Slow Burn: Roe v. Wade”**

The women who fought for legal abortion, the activists who pushed back, and the justices who thought they could solve the issue for good.

Derek is putting his KU History degree to very good use at Slate making the popular narrative history podcast, “Slow Burn.” Last year’s season on the path to Roe v. Wade was named Apple Podcast of the Year, and their latest season on Clarence Thomas’ unlikely journey to the Supreme Court is getting rave reviews.



## **SAVANNAH PINE '17** B.A. IN HISTORY

FELLOWSHIPS ADVISOR IN THE OFFICE OF SCHOLAR  
DEVELOPMENT & FELLOWSHIP ADVISING AT THE UNIVERSITY  
OF DENVER

**Savannah shares how history prepared her for her current role:**

**“ MY TRAINING IN HISTORY HAS ALLOWED ME TO  
DEVELOP ANALYTICAL, RESEARCH, AND  
COMMUNICATION SKILLS. THESE ARE SKILLS WHICH I  
HAVE UTILIZED IN A VARIETY OF PROFESSIONAL  
EXPERIENCES, FROM TEACHING TO WORKING IN A LAW  
FIRM TO WORKING AS AN ADMISSIONS COUNSELOR  
WHO HELPS STUDENTS APPLY TO UNIVERSITY. ”**

**Dr. Savannah Pine** received a PhD in Medieval History from the University of Cambridge. Her dissertation focused on a topic to which she was introduced as an undergraduate student at the University of Kansas.



**Marie Kelleher**, PhD 2003, Associate Professor of History at California State University-Long Beach, won, with her co-author Adam Franklin-Lyons, the 2022 Bishko Memorial Prize for the best article on medieval Iberian history from the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies for “Framing Mediterranean Famine: Food Crisis in Fourteenth-Century Barcelona,” *Speculum*, 97(1).

**John Schneiderwind**, PhD 2015, in modern Japanese history, was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in the Department of History, Political Science, and Geography at Southern Arkansas University. John was co-advised by Bill Tsutsui and Megan Greene.

## **ARE YOU AN ALUMNI WISHING TO SHARE YOUR NEWS?**

**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

Our alumni are doing incredible work all over the world and we are eager to hear about your experiences beyond KU. Please consider sharing your most recent update. We'll feature your updates in our alumni newsletter and on our social media channels.

We've made it easy to stay connected with your fellow alumni and share your achievements with us by scanning the QR code with your mobile device or visit our website:

<https://history.ku.edu/alumni-survey>





# SHEYDA JAHANBANI

RECIPIENT 2023 WILLIAM T. KEMPER FELLOWSHIP  
FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE AWARD



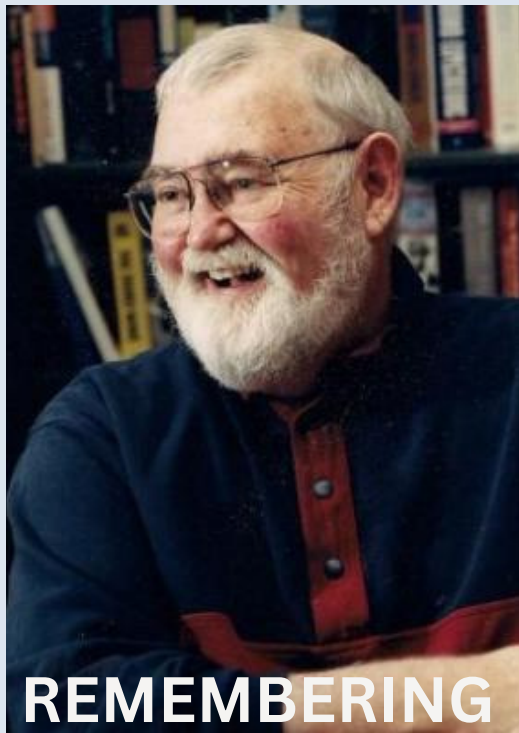


IMAGES BY COREY RANDSBERG & ALLAYNE THORNTON



Our department is thrilled announce that Sheyda Jahanbani has earned the 2023 William T. Kemper Fellowship for Teaching Excellence. The William T. Kemper Foundation has partnered with the University of Kansas to improve undergraduate learning by rewarding outstanding teaching and advising. Since 1996, nearly 300 faculty members representing virtually every discipline across KU have been designated William T. Kemper Fellows for Teaching Excellence, with more than \$1.5 million given as awards.

Beginning this year, the Kemper Foundation and KU renewed the fellowship with a \$7,500 award to five outstanding faculty members. The Kemper Fellowships recognize faculty whose student-centered and innovative approaches to teaching help students gain crucial skills, embrace academic and professional challenges, develop learning strategies, and improve long-term success.



# REMEMBERING / THEODORE “TED” WILSON

**Theodore Allen Wilson, 82, died peacefully at Pioneer Ridge, Lawrence, Kansas, on May 6, 2023.**

Ted was born on September 27, 1940, in Evansville, Indiana, the son of Benjamin Wilson and Anna Basham Wilson, the youngest of five children. He graduated from Reitz High School, and received a Bachelor's degree, Masters degree, and PhD in History from Indiana University, specializing in World War II history and foreign policy after the war. Ted was a Phi Beta Kappa and won a Fulbright scholarship to study in Britain. His dissertation, *The First Summit*, was published shortly after he was granted his Ph.D, winning the Francis Parkman prize in 1970 from the Society of American Historians for best book in American history that year. Additionally, Ted wrote a number of books on the Marshall Plan and the military in WWII and the post-war period.



Ted married his high school sweetheart, Judith Juncker Wilson, in September, 1962, Married for 58 years before her death in 2020, Ted and Judy lived first in Bloomington Indiana while he finished his PhD. In July, 1965, he accepted a position in the History Department of the University of Kansas. Over his 49 years as a professor at KU, Ted served as an assistant dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the chair of the History Department, and the head of the Hall Center for the Humanities. A recipient of Guggenheim and NEH fellowships, Ted held visiting appointments at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Leicester University, University College Dublin, and served as the Senior Research Fellow during 1989-91 at the U.S. Army Center of Military History in Washington, D.C. Since 1986 until shortly before his death, Ted served as General Editor of the University Press of Kansas series, Modern War Studies,

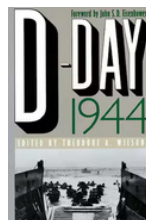
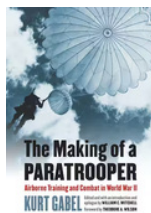
In 1970, Ted and Judy joined the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, now UUCL, where he was an active member, serving as chair of the congregation's board twice over the years. He attended services at UUCL until his death, contributing superior grilling skills at cookouts and standing in for Santa Claus for the children over the years.

The time spent in Ireland and Great Britain left Ted with a lifelong love of both countries and he and Judy spent many summers and vacations with friends and family. In the 1980s, Ted developed a great passion for red wine, especially cabernets, and was a member of several wine tasting groups in Lawrence. He was a big fan of the KU Jayhawks and the Kansas City Chiefs, and a lover of science fiction in both books and television shows/movies.

Surviving family are his daughter, Laura, Lawrence, son Andrew and his wife Kimberlee, Geneva, Illinois, and grandson, Alexander, Geneva, Illinois.

PUBLISHED BY LAWRENCE JOURNAL-WORLD ON MAY 7, 2023.

## THE WORK OF DR. WILSON



# THE PHILLIP S. PALUDAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Created by Dr. David Courtwright (B.A. English, University of Kansas)



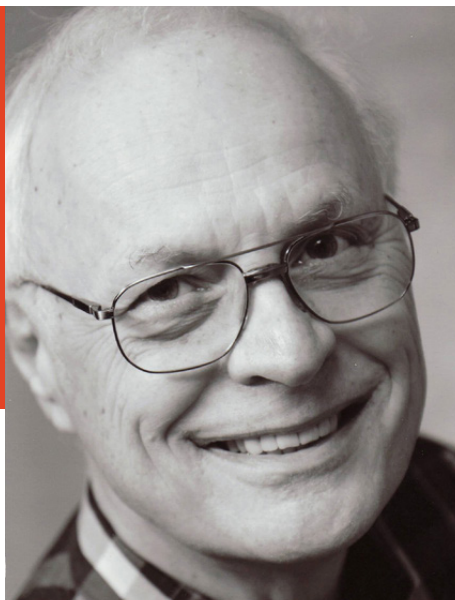
**David Courtwright ('74)** shared that he endowed the scholarship in Paludan's name because he came to more fully appreciate, during in his own career as a history professor, how Paludan excelled as a teacher. "A Battenfeld roommate told me that I had to take 'Doc Paludan's' legal and constitutional history course," Courtwright said. "He raved about it." Courtwright signed up. After a shaky start—a 78 on the first quiz—he realized that all he had to do was follow Paludan's meticulous syllabus and lock into his lectures, among the best of any he heard at KU. "He didn't waste a second in class," Courtwright remembered. "He was soft-spoken but dead serious. You knew it, too." Paludan honored KU with first-rate scholarship as well as teaching. Now, Courtwright says, it is his turn to help KU honor Paludan.

# About Dr. Paludan:

**Phillip Shaw Paludan** (1938-2007) was a distinguished scholar renowned for his profound contributions to the field of Lincoln Studies. Born in St. Cloud, Minnesota, Paludan earned his Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees from Occidental College before completing his doctorate at the University of Illinois. With over three decades of teaching experience at the University of Kansas and distinguished visiting appointments at Rutgers University-Camden and University College, Dublin, Ireland, Paludan authored influential works including *A Covenant With Death: The Constitution, Law, and Equality in the Civil War Era*, *Victims: A True Story Of The Civil War*, *A People's Contest: The Union and Civil War, 1861-1865*, and *The Presidency of Abraham Lincoln*. His exceptional scholarship was recognized with numerous honors, including the Lincoln Prize and the Barondess Lincoln Award.

**Your support will provide scholarships to undergraduate students with financial need pursuing a major or minor in the Department of History at the University of Kansas.**

**Your donation is appreciated. Simply scan the QR code with your mobile device to make a donation.**



**For more information, contact Sheri Hamilton, Senior Development Director | Team Lead—College of Liberal Arts & Sciences | KU Endowment Association | 785. 832.7454 | [shamilton@kuendowment.or](mailto:shamilton@kuendowment.or)**

# MAKE HISTORY BY DONATING TODAY

**The KU Department of History** would like to thank our friends for their continued support. Donor funds provide research opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students, sponsor lectures from visiting faculty and alumni, and support events with the broader Lawrence community. Ensure that Jayhawks continue making history by donating today.

You may donate using the QR code here or make out a check for your tax-deductible donation to "KUEA" (KU Endowment Association) and mail it directly to:

KU Endowment Association  
West Campus - University of Kansas  
1891 Constant Avenue  
Box 928  
Lawrence, KS 66044-0928



In the memo or note line, note the "Department of History"





