



/HISTORY

SPRING 2024

ON THE HILL

HISTORY IS MADE HERE



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS



Letter from the Chair



Happy Spring to the KU History Community!

This is an eventful season on campus. Classes have “turned the corner,” with students and faculty alike preparing for final projects and exams. Seniors pursuing honors and graduate students nearing defenses are at work on final drafts. Faculty are planning for summer research, including trips to archives and sites around the globe. The whole department is celebrating exciting announcements of promotions and awards.

Happily, my busy spring included attending an academic conference chock-full of excellent panels and chances to connect with other professors and graduate students. After a particularly lively exchange in a session concerning undergraduate teaching, a longtime friend and colleague told me that the discussion had made him feel less alone. I knew what he meant. Participants had shown intellectual generosity and a shared sense of purpose in the face of tough questions. I too felt less alone.

I'm reminded of my friend's comment as I peruse this latest installment of *History on the Hill*, which celebrates the accomplishments of a remarkable community. That community may be rooted in this corner of Wescoe Hall, but it thrives well beyond. Reading the accomplishments of KU History's alumni, faculty, and graduate students, I hope that you too feel an affirming connection. And I hope that you will reach out to us with exciting updates or possibly a donation.

This spring we highlight a new opportunity for giving: the Undergraduate Research Initiative. With URI funds, we will support undergraduates pursuing original historical research by paying for such things as travel to local archives, document scans from collections far away, and participation at regional research symposia. Perhaps you remember your own joys (or frustrations) with a History research project. Your gift will help us maintain our strong tradition of student research.

Thank you for reading these pages, remaining in touch, and being a part of the broader KU History community!

With gratitude,
Laura Mielke

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura L. Mielke". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.





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Learn the latest news from our alumni and discover how to share your own stories!



Allie Haggar

How do you turn a research paper into a museum exhibit?

KU History and Journalism double major Alexandra Haggar has had the opportunity to find out. This spring, Allie worked to curate a special exhibit, “ERA IN THE HEARTLAND: Ratification and Reconsideration in Kansas, 1973-1980” at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics, the official repository for the career papers of former U.S. Senators Bob and Elizabeth Dole. In 1972, Kansas was among the rush of states who voted to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment, which would guarantee equal protection to American citizens regardless of sex. Working closely with Institute staff, Allie selected objects from the Dole Archives and Special Collections to tell the story of ordinary Kansans’ debates over the ratifications of the Amendment and its legacy today.

ERA IN THE HEARTLAND is based on Allie’s Honors thesis, “Rescind ERA: The Failed Efforts in Kansas to Rescind Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, 1973-1980,” which she completed in Spring 2022. Her research included interviews with politicians and pro- and anti-ERA activists of the period, surveys, flyers, newspaper articles, and legislative records. Audrey Coleman, Director of the Dole Institute, immediately saw the promise in Allie’s project. “It was thrilling to read Allie Haggar’s honors thesis, which shed new light on political attitudes in 1970s Kansas.”

The exhibit, the first of its kind to feature a student curator, underscores the mission of the Dole Institute. Sarah Gard, Senior Archivist and Head of Collections, explains:

“Providing opportunities for students to learn through our collections is one of our essential tasks. In addition to being an archive rich with source material for course assignments and more in-depth research projects, we also employ several students each semester, who get to work hands-on with our collections.” Allie’s work has been more hands-on than most. In constructing the exhibit, she selected 30 items, primarily from the Dole Archives and Kenneth Spencer Research Library, along with historical newspapers held at the Kansas State Historical Society, the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and Pittsburg State University.

Allie spoke with Allayne Thornton, our Communications Coordinator, about her experience.

What inspired you to write about the Equal Rights Amendment?

When I was in high school in a U.S. History class I was assigned to give a brief presentation on the ERA. After I had given my presentation, my teacher added that Nebraska was one of the states that ratified the amendment but then changed their minds. Being from Nebraska, my ears perked up because it is quite rare that our state is mentioned when discussing a national issue. I was also concerned because I had done an entire research project on the ERA but never found anything about this part of the history that seemed very significant. As with a lot of scholarship on the ERA, the materials we were given in this class failed to mention the rescission efforts.



PRO-ERA BUTTON, 1972-1982
NATIONAL MUSEUM OF
AMERICAN HISTORY





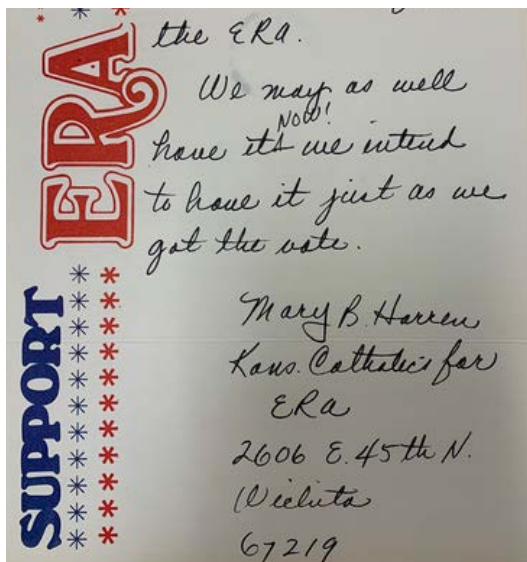
Could you walk us through the difference between writing a paper and making a piece of public history?

One of the hardest things for me is just cutting it down because my thesis was ten thousand words and that's all the words in the world; I could be so detailed. With the exhibit, people aren't going to sit and read ten thousand words. You're gonna have to cut it down so the audience is engaged and thinking about what the most important stuff is. To **me** everything is important and everything needs to be added. So I've been working the most on the text and the script. That has been the biggest difference.

Which items within the exhibit are your favorites and the most important for you to have included?

The constituent mail. There's a lot of it. I think that's probably the bulk of the archives we got from the Spencer Library and a lot from the Dole Institute, too. And just people writing their elected officials and their elected official writing back.

My favorite item was a postcard where Governor-elect, Robert Bennett, a Republican, writes back to a constituent explaining why he supports the ERA. He basically says that because of the current laws in Kansas the ERA won't make that much of a difference. That was a really impactful item for my thesis argument as well as well as summing up attitudes towards the ERA in Kansas.



EXAMPLE OF CONSTITUENT MAIL, SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY

I also included a photograph and quote from Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm. She visited Pittsburgh State University in 1972 and spoke about the ERA and race. It is really interesting to look at prominent national figures visiting Kansas and how that influenced people.

The Equal Rights Amendment is not a part of the U. S. Constitution. Do you think it is still needed today?

I think a lot of people are surprised to know that many women don't have equal rights under the law. That's a really important thing to know. It's been interesting learning what people think is going to happen if the Equal Rights Amendment becomes law. I was talking to a former congressman, and they asked, "Do you think that the ERA is needed today?" That is just what Governor Bennett said in the 1970s, there are already laws in Kansas that support equal rights. But I think that having a broad overarching amendment that says that men and women are equal under the law would be good. I hope this question makes people think hard when they experience the exhibit.



We hope students will attend ERA IN THE HEARTLAND and be inspired. Says Coleman, "The Dole Archives has tremendous potential for new scholarship and broader understanding of American political and legislative development in the 20th century." With materials related to the inner workings of congressional leadership, and policy development in areas such as disability rights, nutrition, and transportation safety, the Dole Archives connects with a broad range of research interests.

Gard is eager to work with more students, "I hope we can continue the kind of work we have been doing with Allie. It has been a pleasure connecting with her first as a researcher to this spring collaborating on transforming her thesis into an exhibit."

ERA IN THE HEARTLAND models the very best of community investment in student research. We want to provide more of our students with opportunities for hands-on engagement with historical sources and connection with area archives. The Department of History has launched the Undergraduate Research Initiative, a fund that offers financial support for History majors and minors pursuing original research. Director of Undergraduate Studies, Nathan Wood explains, "Undergraduate research is vital to the history major. As a department, we are eager for students to find new source materials and to showcase and exhibit their findings in creative ways." To support excellence in student research and more collaborations with renowned centers like the Dole Institute, please consider making a donation to the Undergraduate Research Initiative.

ERA IN THE HEARTLAND: Ratification and Reconsideration in Kansas, 1973-1980, will be on display at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics from April 19, 2024, through early 2025. It is presented in partnership with the KU Department of History and with special thanks to Dr. Marie Grace Brown.



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH INITIATIVE

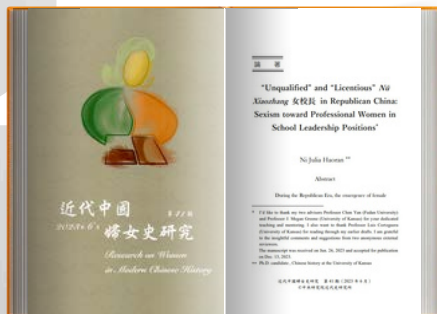
Did you know that History is one of the few majors at KU to offer research opportunities for undergraduates?

The Undergraduate Research Initiative is a renewable fund to provide financial support for our majors and minors pursuing original historical research. Scan the QR code to learn more about how you can help students gain hands-on experience in archives, internships, and workshops. Your support ensures that our tradition of student research remains strong.



Scan to Contribute or visit:

<https://www.launchku.org/project/41955>



Julia Haoran Ni

Julia Haoran Ni published an article titled “‘Unqualified’ and ‘Licentious’ Nü Xiaozhang in Republican China: Sexism toward Professional Women in School Leadership Positions,” in the *Journal of Research on Women in Modern Chinese History*. This Journal is an open-access Taiwan Humanities Core Index journal, hosted by Academia Sinica. Ni argues in her article that women’s educational qualifications and their sexual morality as school principals were easily questioned in male-dominated Republican China. She found in legal archives and other historical sources that being “unqualified” and “licentious” were the most two common accusations leveled against women in school leadership positions. This gender tension further reveals Chinese male intellectuals’ territoriality concerning Chinese morality and traditions during China’s modernization process.



**/ Kim
Warren ...**



Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

We are delighted to congratulate **Kim Warren**, Associate Professor of History and formerly the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at the KU Edwards Campus, on being named KU's Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education. In this new role, Dr. Warren undertakes the leadership of the KU Core, Jayhawk Blueprint Concurrent Enrollment, Transfer Student Services, Career Curriculum Programming, and Experiential Learning. This portfolio includes the Center for Service Learning, the Center for Undergraduate Research, and the Office of Fellowships, and Academic Programs & Experiential Learning.

We extend our congratulations and gratitude to Vice Provost Warren for her continued dedication to academic excellence and service to and within the KU Community.



**/ Beth
Bailey** ...



Pitt Professorship of American History



Beth Bailey has been appointed to the prestigious Pitt Professorship of American History and Institutions for 2025-2026 at Cambridge University. Since its establishment in the 1940s, the Pitt Professorship has brought to Cambridge many of the most distinguished US-based scholars working on American history and social science.

The Pitt Professor Advisory Committee voted unanimously and enthusiastically to recommend Bailey for this Professorship. Her committee relayed, "You have produced a sterling body of work on American social, political, and military history. Your contributions to the discipline on these topics has been immense. We would benefit greatly from your presence among us for a year."



**RACHEL
SCHWALLER**



GRANT



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MOLLY ADAMS



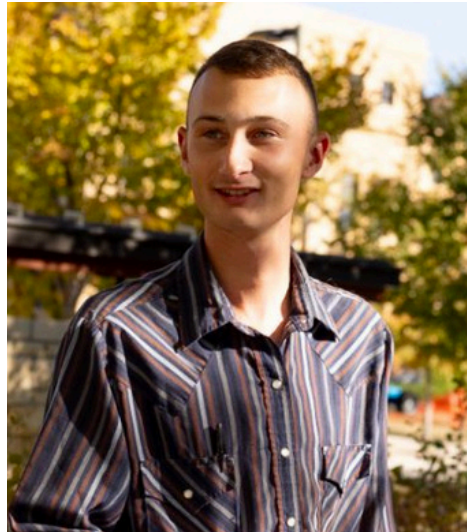
KU Racial Equity Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award

Rachel Schwaller, a Multi-Term Lecturer, has been named one of four recipients of a 2024 KU Racial Equity Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award. We are equally as thrilled to congratulate **Molly Adams**, photojournalist, and graduate student in Indigenous Studies, for her work with Dr. Schwaller. Together Schwaller and Adams will be working on the public history project, “‘Unsettled Lawrence’: Challenging Collective Memory of Settlement Through the Oral and Public Histories of Unhoused Populations in Lawrence” which will center houseless encampment as a type of settlement.





Fall Fling 2023







**/Alana
Holland** ●●●



Historians Making Moves Alumni Spotlight

Alana Holland graduated from the Department of History in 2020 with a PhD in Russian and East European History, advised by Nathan Wood and Eve Levin. Her committee members also included Erik Scott, Andy Denning, and Vitaly Chernetsky (KU Slavic Department). Holland shares the very exciting news that she has accepted a position as a tenure-track Assistant Professor of History at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, VA, to begin on July 1 of this year. She will also be appointed a core member of the East European and Russian Studies program. She will teach widely in modern European history, including classes on Russia, 20th-century Eastern Europe, and the Holocaust.

What unexpected experience or event has shaped and/or influenced your current professional life?

After my PhD, I had a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at American University and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC.



***KU WAS A PLACE
WHERE I COULD
WORK CLOSELY
WITH DIVERSE
FACULTY***

This ended when it was still the high tide of the pandemic and I needed to figure out what to do next. I found a job as a paralegal at an immigration law firm in DC while teaching courses in History and Jewish Studies at American University and Georgetown University. This unexpected experience with an immigration law firm helped me develop research on migration and displacement in a global context and gave me a unique “practitioner’s perspective” to topics in law and human rights as I move forward with my academic career.

What brought you to KU to study history?

I chose the University of Kansas for its well-known interdisciplinary Center for Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies and its strong connections with the Department of History. I was looking for a program where I could develop research combining various fields—East European, Soviet, Russian, Holocaust, and Modern European history—and KU was a place where I could work closely with diverse faculty to pursue those goals.

What is your favorite memory from your time at KU?

It’s hard to choose just one! I enjoyed going to KU basketball games at Allen Fieldhouse and meeting the Ukrainian writer and poet Serhiy Zhadan when he visited KU in 2018. When graduation ceremonies were cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic, my advisor Nathan Wood held a socially distanced hooding ceremony for another student and me in his backyard. I came back to participate in the formal hooding ceremonies in 2022, but the backyard version remains a special memory!



What classes or professors played a major role in preparing you for your life after graduating from the doctoral program? Do you have any specific examples?

The members of my doctoral committee—Nathan Wood, Eve Levin, Erik Scott, Andrew Denning, and Vitaly Chernetsky—deserve special gratitude and recognition for their ongoing support! It was especially meaningful to graduate at the same time that my co-advisor Eve Levin was retiring, so we were able to celebrate these things together and she remains an important mentor for me.

What do you enjoy in your free time?

I live in Massachusetts and enjoy visiting the beaches and am learning to play soccer with a pickup club which has been a lot of fun. I'm looking forward to weekend hikes in the Shenandoah Valley after the move to Lexington, VA this summer for my new position!

How have you utilized your historical skills and knowledge outside of the profession of history?

When I worked at the immigration law firm in Washington, DC, I contributed the specific skill set in writing, analysis, research, and critical thinking as well as the international understanding that I acquired from my training in history to cases in everything from business to asylum law.



/Garrett
Gatzemeyer P.H.D. '18 ●●●



Historians Making Moves



Garrett Gatzemeyer was born and raised in Fruitland, Idaho. He graduated from the U.S. Military Academy (USMA) at West Point in 2007 as a Military Intelligence Officer. He served in that field for more than a decade, including tours in Washington, Texas, Arizona, and Iraq. Garrett went on to study History at the University of Kansas, where he ultimately earned his doctorate in 2018. Thereafter, Garrett became a Strategic Plans and Policy Officer and served as an Instructor and Assistant Professor in the USMA Department of History, and then as an Operational Planner in the U.S. European Command's J-5. He is currently a Lieutenant Colonel and serving as a Staff Officer on NATO's International Military Staff in Brussels, Belgium. Garrett will return to the USMA's Department of History as an Academy Professor in 2026. Garrett is the author of *Bodies for Battle: U.S. Army Physical Culture and Systemic Training, 1885-1957* (2021). He is married to Amy, and they have two children, Quenby and Theodore.



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EXCELLENT
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BROUGHT ME
TO THE
UNIVERSITY***
”

What brought you to KU to study history?

Deciding to study history was a no-brainer—I love it—but KU’s excellent faculty brought me to the university. In particular, I knew Professors Adrian Lewis and Beth Bailey would enable me to engage with military history and my full-time profession in new and better ways—and they did. What I couldn’t fully appreciate until I arrived was the diversity, excellence, and investment of the wider faculty. Each member with whom I worked opened new perspectives and honed my skills. Moreover, KU’s graduate program meshed well with my timing considerations as an Active Duty Army Officer on special assignment. As if I needed any more reasons to stay, there was always Lawrence itself. It is a fantastic place to live!



What do you enjoy most about your current position/profession?

Serving on NATO’s International Military Staff puts me in touch with high-level political and strategic decision-making on a daily basis. Fostering consensus among 32 nations on complex policies can be gruelling work, but it is also stimulating and rewarding. I apply skills I developed during my time as a graduate student at the University of Kansas every day, including interpersonal skills, critical thinking, precise writing, and clear speaking. The seminar room prepared me well for the committee room. As a bonus, I get to work on a wholly international and mixed military-civilian team. Regular cultural exchange is exciting and ensures that I am always learning something new.

What is a professional highlight of your career, either where you work currently or in the past?

After graduating from KU History, I spent three years teaching Military History at the U.S. Military Academy. These years were the absolute highlight of my military career. Service as an instructor, and later professor, at the Academy lets me combine three of my great professional passions: the history discipline, military service, and personal mentorship. The USMA Department of History’s unofficial motto recalls that “much of the history we



teach was made by the people we taught.” Indeed, walking the grounds and mentoring cadets simultaneously made me proud and kept me humble. Knowing that I’ll return on a permanent basis in a few years is a dream come true.

What career advice do you have for history majors?

Think broadly about the skills and attributes you bring to the table professionally. Accordingly, think broadly about careers. History helped me appreciate complexity and contingency in human affairs, perceive systemic tendencies, reason through cause-and-effect, and appreciate a diversity of perspectives. The discipline also equipped me with hard skills such as critical thinking and persuasive communication. Many of the civilian career fields with which I interact are hungry for people with these capabilities. History majors are well equipped to work in many areas. Specifically, I urge history majors to consider national service, civic enrichment, and international organizations.



Share Your Alumni Stories. 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 our fellow alumni and share your achievements with us by scanning the QR code above with your mobile device or visiting our website: <https://history.ku.edu/alumni-survey>

/ ALUMNI NEWS:

Clyde Toland, BA '69, Independent Historian, reports that in 2022 his *Becoming Frederick Funston Trilogy* was published. Volume one, *American Hero, Kansas Heritage*, received a Spur Award as the Best New Nonfiction Book from the Western Writers of America and a Silver Will Rogers Medallion Award in the category of Western Biographies/Memoirs. His advice to current history students: "Be able to endnote every fact and every statement or allegation that you make. Beware relying on secondary works since they are subject to potential bias and how well researched they are. Approach your research topic without bias one way or the other. It is okay to have a theory but do not let that blind you to the evidence both ways that you find. I discuss my "Thoughts on Writing a Biography" in Funston Trilogy volume three, "Yankee Hero": Frederick Funston, Expedicionario in the Cuban Liberation Army, 1896-1897. Good luck!"



ALUMNI NEWS CONTINUED:

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***STUDYING
HISTORY AT KU
WAS THE
FOUNDATION ON
WHICH
EVERYTHING,
FOR ME, IS
BUILT.***
— — — — —

Christopher Warren, BGS '89, was named the Vice President of Collections and Senior Curator at the National WWI Museum & Memorial in Kansas City in August 2022. When asked for his advice to current students he said, “Don’t listen to people when they ask you ‘what are you going to do with a degree in history?’ You can make a career with a history degree (or any liberal arts degree) if you are willing to work and be open to opportunities. There are many options for those with an undergraduate degree in history and being able to articulate to an employer how studying history has prepared you for a job is key.” We also asked Warren how his training in history has shaped his professional experience. His response: “Learning how to research, interpret, summarize, and write are rare attributes in this day and age but incredibly valuable skills. They are applicable to almost any type of career and these abilities will separate you from the competition. I’ve enhanced my research and writing abilities over the years with graduate work and employment experience, but studying history at KU was the foundation on which everything, for me, is built.”

MAKE HISTORY BY DONATING TODAY

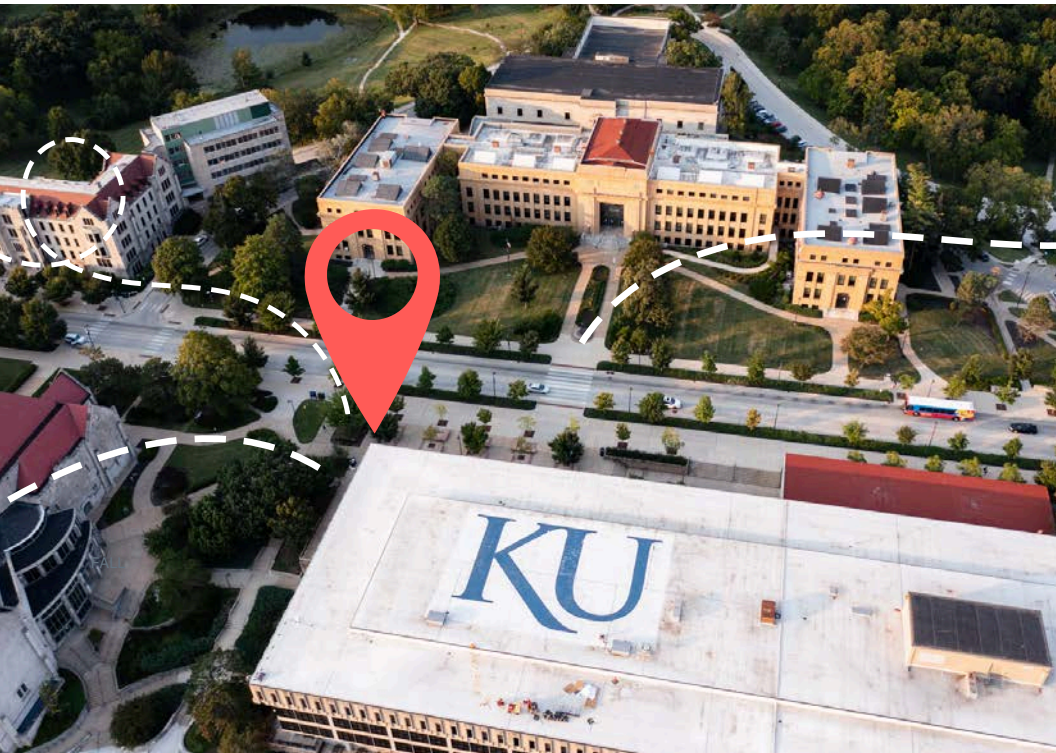
The KU Department of History would like to thank our friends for their continued support. Donor funds provide research opportunities for our undergraduate and graduate students, sponsor lectures from visiting faculty and alumni, and support events with the broader Lawrence community. Ensure that Jayhawks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

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