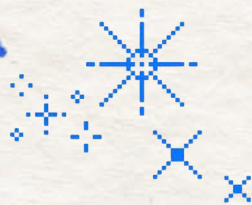
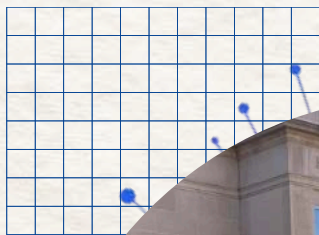


UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

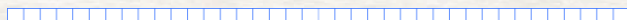
History

ON THE HILL

SPRING 2025



HISTORY IS MADE HERE



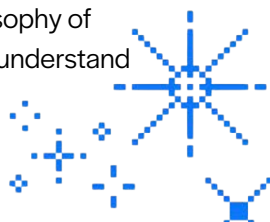


Letter from the Chair

Welcome to the latest installment of History on the Hill, in which we celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni and testify to the important contributions of the KU History Department across the country and around the world.

At a time when the American Historical Association and the Organization for American Historians find themselves having to publicly condemn censorship and uphold professional standards, the work of our department is more important than ever. In our classrooms, students not only learn about the past, but they also learn about how to responsibly write about that past through the careful examination of evidence and discerning engagement with the scholarly record.

Nowhere is this clearer than in the Undergraduate Research Highlights contained in this newsletter. A study of the Supreme Court case *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) led Brooke Peters to consider more closely the personal experiences and legal philosophy of Chief Justice Earl Warren. Madi Norris came to better understand



the political culture of Lawrence, along with the challenges faced by local government and KU administration, through a study of KU campus unrest in the 1960s and 70s. Reading about how these two majors framed research questions and analyzed primary sources, I find that my faith in the power of historical analysis as a source of vital insight in chaotic times is renewed.

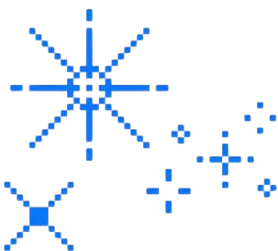


The department is excitedly preparing for graduation festivities this spring and the arrival of new students and colleagues in the fall. I remain appreciative of all the ways in which our students help us sustain a sense of community at the heart of our mission. A few weeks ago, members of the undergraduate Jayhawker Historical Society organized a Trivia Night in the KU Memorial Union that pitted students against faculty. In case you're wondering, a student team won top bragging rights, but the faculty look forward to a rematch.

In closing, I offer gratitude to the department and larger KU History community for the privilege of serving as chair for two years. That time has flown by, filled with administrative tasks but also productive meetings, stimulating lectures, engaging conversations, fun social events, and joyful celebrations of milestones in the lives of students and faculty alike. KU History is alive and thriving, and it is in good hands going forward.

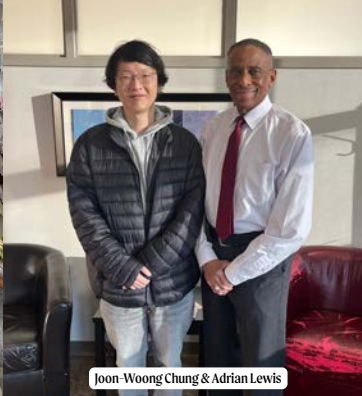
Thank you for sustaining your commitment to the study of history and to the KU History community. We wish you all the best.

Laura L. Mills





Elizabeth MacGonagle & Adedolapo Adewuyi

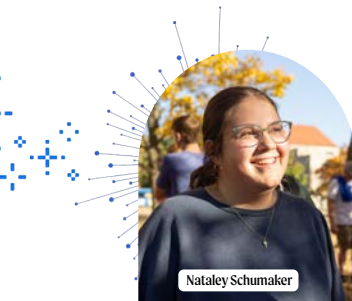


Joon-Woong Chung & Adrian Lewis



Keegan Lundman

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Nataley Schumaker



Gabriel Barnes & Soji Adedipe



Emmaly Dryden

04 Undergraduate Student Research

Undergraduate students Brooke Peters and Madi Norris share their research and what inspired their projects for the Honors Thesis Capstone.

15 Graduate Student Research

Chancellor's Doctoral Fellow and Graduate Research Assistant Kip Perry offers a closer look at their research trip to Mexico City, Mexico.

18 New Faculty Publication

Hall Distinguished Professor of American History Andrew Isenberg published *The Age of the Borderlands: Indians, Slaves, and the Limits of Manifest Destiny*.

21 Alumni Feature

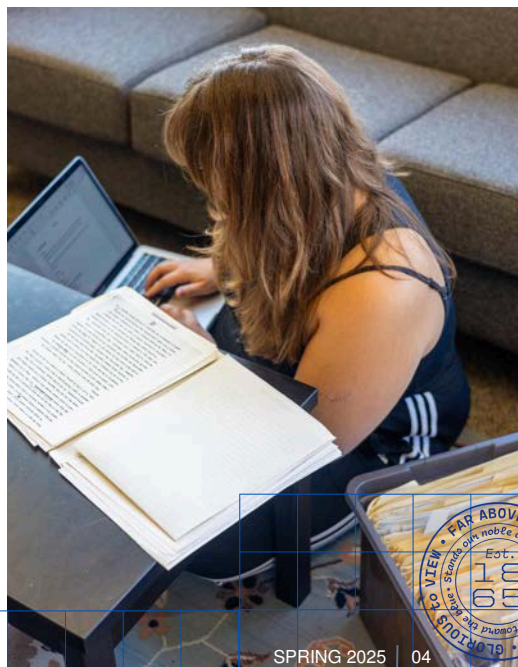
KU History Alumni are making moves! Read as we catch up with Patrick Luiz Sullivan De Oliveira, BA '10 History & Journalism.



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Students enrolled in Dr. Beth Bailey’s Honors Thesis Capstone sequence spent this spring fine tuning the most ambitious research projects of their undergraduate career. Each year students in our Honors capstone undertake a research project that encapsulates the skills they’ve gained as History majors: the ability to identify and locate sources, synthesize information, construct an argument, and write persuasively. Dr. Bailey selected two students from this year’s cohort whose projects model the great work being done in our Honors Thesis sequence.

Undergraduate students, Brooke Peters and Madi Norris, share their research and what inspired their projects.



BROOKE PETERS



UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

SENIOR THESIS



"The Right to Marry: Civil Rights Lawyering's Influence in *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) and the Question of Judicial Activism."

This thesis studies the arguments of the *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) Supreme Court case to find out how the legal profession shaped the arguments presented to and used by the Court in order to better assess the charges of judicial activism against the Warren Court.

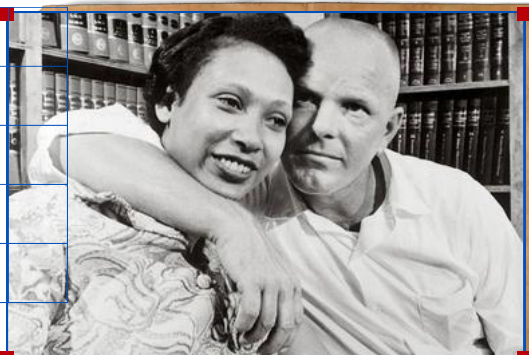


THE WARREN COURT THAT RULED ON *LOVING*. CHIEF JUSTICE WARREN SITS IN THE FRONT ROW, IN THE CENTER. (PHOTO COURTESY OF US GOVERNMENT, OFFICIAL SUPREME COURT PHOTO)

What inspired you to write about this particular court case?

I knew I wanted to focus on the Warren Court. Chief Justice Earl Warren embodies a legal ethic that I believe in – freedom and justice for every individual. His cases shaped the world we live in today; *Miranda v. Arizona* gave us *Miranda Rights* to protect from unfair

interrogation; *Brown v. Board of Education* ended school segregation; *Griswold v. Connecticut* allowed the use of contraception by married couples. And those are just the landmark cases. Truthfully, I chose *Loving v. Virginia* because beyond the outcome, I knew nothing about the case. I thought, “huh, here’s this 9-0 landmark decision that I’ve heard next to nothing about. There has to be an interesting legal story in there somewhere.”



RICHARD AND MILDRED LOVING. (PHOTO COURTESY OF HISTORY.COM)

How did *Loving v. Virginia* fit into the broader context of the Civil Rights movement of the time?

In my research, I noticed that *Loving* is typically a footnote in the larger history of the Civil Rights Movement.


There is no doubt that other court cases had a bigger and broader impact on African Americans’ rights and the Civil Rights movement. However, for the African Americans who found themselves in love with someone who happened to be white, this case meant the world. Interracial marriage bans disproportionately impacted African Americans, more so than other races, because these bans originated from the days of slavery. *Loving* not only protected an interracial couple’s freedom of movement across states, but it protected a fundamental right to marriage which the Court had affirmed in the nineteenth century. I found it interesting to try and understand how the Court itself played a role in civil rights issues – whether it was progressive when the legislature would not be, or if it lagged behind the movement itself.

What primary sources did you use in your research?

I decided to research this case from the perspective of the legal arguments surrounding interracial marriage bans. I wanted to know, “What did the legal community (lawyers, interest groups, etc.) say to get the Court to rule the way it did?” Thus, my primary sources were mostly legal documents.



PROTESTORS FROM THE INTER-RACIAL MARRIAGE CLUB
PROTESTING BANS ON INTERRACIAL MARRIAGE IN 1963.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES)



I first focused on items from the legal community: university law review articles, precedent opinions, and interest group amicus briefs. Each of these items gave me a wide range of arguments for or against the legality of interracial marriage. Then, I looked at the Lovings' brief (written by lawyers at the ACLU) and the State of Virginia's brief (written by the Attorney General's office). Finally, I analyzed the Supreme Court's written opinion and their oral arguments with the parties to the case. The complexity of the language and content in the legal documents was a challenge, but the evidential material in the documents is exceptionally rich.

What's been your favorite discovery?

My favorite discovery actually came during the revision process. My first draft focused almost exclusively on legal arguments. However, during the revision process I was advised to check the American public's opinion on interracial marriage to get a gauge on perspectives outside of the legal profession. I found that, according to a Gallup Poll in 1958, only 4% of Americans approved of interracial marriage. In 1969, two years after the Loving decision, that number was only at 20%. Today, that number sits at 94%. Whether it was the Warren Court's influence or not, it is clear that today most Americans agree the State cannot infringe on someone's right to marry a person of a different race.

Did you find any lesser-known facts or perspectives that surprised you?

To understand Loving, I had to understand the person and the jurist that was Chief Justice Earl Warren. His perspectives on the law are so much more nuanced that he gets credit for it in the public eye. G. Edward White, a Warren biographer, was invaluable to my research. Despite Warren's fame as a judge, White reported that Warren's first love was law enforcement. The idea of Warren as a prosecutor was surprising given his strong commitment to criminal justice and civil liberties.

I was also surprised to discover the source of Warren's commitment to familial privacy. Warren's father was brutally murdered when Warren was young, and he felt exposed by all the publicity surrounding the murder. Many years later, he chaired "The Warren Commission" to investigate the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. His childhood experience with his dad led Warren to rule that members of the Commission would not have access to the pictures of President Kennedy after the tragedy. He insisted on the importance of privacy in intimate family relationships. To this day, those pictures remain privately with the Kennedy family.

What did you learn about Richard and Mildred Loving as individuals?

I learned just how humble the couple was. Neither Richard nor Mildred Loving wanted to be famous. Neither of them was out to change the country. In fact, Mildred Loving famously said that they did not want to make a political statement or fight. She and Richard were in love, and they wanted to be married. It really was that simple. In a similarly beautiful way, when asked by the ACLU lawyers if there was anything they should tell the Justices in oral arguments, Richard Loving said just one thing: "tell the Court I love my wife." I think Richard's statement sums up the Lovings and the Loving case quite well.

How have Americans been personally affected by the ruling?

The Lovings' courage to take their case to the Supreme Court granted the freedom to love without scrutiny to so many Americans. Despite the case's controversy when it was decided in 1967, in 2008 when



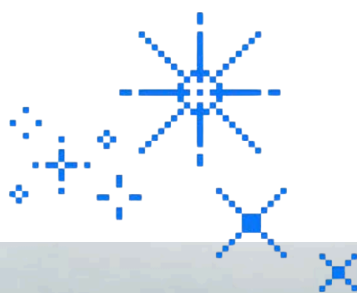
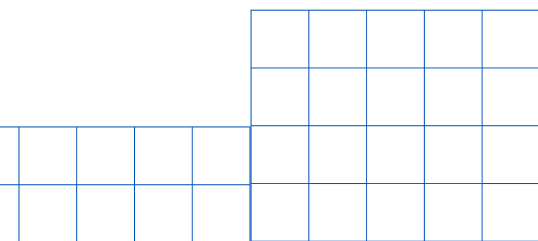
BERNARD COHEN (LEFT) AND PHILIP HIRSCHKOP (RIGHT),
THE ACLU LAWYERS THAT REPRESENTED THE LOVINGS.
(PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST)

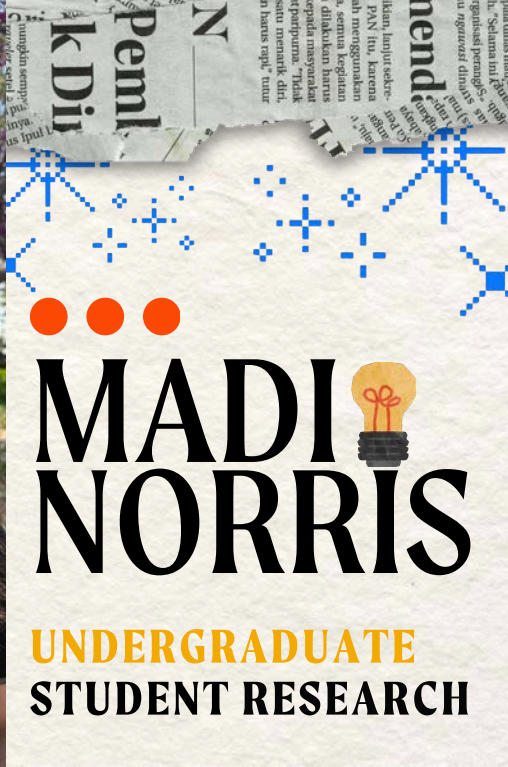


Mildred Loving died, many people expressed their thanks to her and her late husband Richard for making their own marriages possible. Loving is also cited as precedent for the 2015 Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage. In this way, the Lovings' continued to aid the fight for marriage equality long after the couple's death.

What do you hope to take with you from this project into your next chapter: law school?

In a technical sense, this project was a great first exercise in reading and understanding legal briefs and arguments. But that's what law school is for. More importantly, I want this project to serve as a homing beacon as I develop my legal ideology throughout law school and beyond. I think the legal profession can sometimes get lost in the glitz and money of being an attorney or get frustrated in the faults of the justice system. I want my work on this project to remind me that my job as an attorney will always be to fight for justice, equality, and fairness for all.





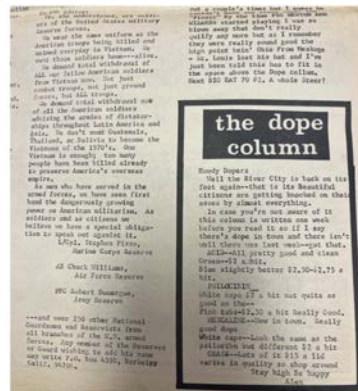
SENIOR THESIS

Resistance in River City: The Counterculture and the Antiwar movements in Lawrence in the 1960s and 1970s.

This thesis examines the counterculture in Lawrence, Kansas, from 1965 to 1975, focusing on how the local counterculture movement contributed to and influenced the antiwar movement in the early 1970s.

What inspired your research?

I grew up in conservative Kansas City suburbs for much of my life. The culture and politics of these places were clearly displayed—in shops, town-wide events, clothing customs, and polite conservatism. I had not been exposed to many other values in Kansas or Missouri. I first came to Lawrence in the fall of 2021, one year before I would make the KU campus my home. Massachusetts Street



VORTEX MAGAZINE, 1969-1980, SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY ARCHIVES, LAWRENCE, KS.

was unlike any midwestern downtown I had ever visited. I saw hippie clothing shops, stationery boutiques, and prominently featured local artists. I caught the smell of the ever-present scent of dope smoke and incense, paired with pride flags and lesbian couples holding hands in the street. Lawrence was completely unlike any place I had ever experienced, and I needed to know how the community shaped itself as a blue island in a sea of red.

In my second year of studying history, I took Dr. Adrian Lewis' class on the Vietnam War concurrently with Dr. David Farber's class on the 1960s in the United States. In both classes, I became fascinated with the conduct of the war and the extreme uprising against it. Across a backdrop of shifting political and social expectations for young people in America, students at college campuses across the country rose up against their government, changing the landscape of the relationship between the people and their government. I knew that I wanted to focus my first significant piece of research on that uprising, and how the people that came before me changed their circumstances in a way my generation cannot seem to grasp. Lawrence was the ideal setting for this research. The hippie undertones that underscored my experiences here drove my curiosity about the origins and actions of the counterculture in the city.

What key sources have been the most valuable in reference to your work?

In my research, I focus primarily on the organizations that arranged and publicized both the antiwar movement and the counterculture movements. Records for organizations such as the Lawrence Peace Center, the Kansas Free Press, and the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) have been vital.



VORTEX MAGAZINE, 1969-1980, SPENCER RESEARCH LIBRARY ARCHIVES, LAWRENCE, KS.

unproportioned and have absolutely no voice in the economic
of America. Under Martial Law, all the pseudo-property-
privileges-carriers are ripped down. Pigs come into your
house whenever they want and take whatever they want and
say take you along, witness the raids on Great street
where people in "their" houses were arrested while watching
their televisions. The concept of property privilege
becomes just another myth under these conditions. It
becomes that it essentially is -- illusion. Along with
small propertyless people, white people think that they
are privileged -- that they can cut their hair, go out and
get jobs and be part of America. But is this really a
privilege -- that is, to be part of America? The wielders
of power allow for this scarce reward as they allow for
small businessmen to think that they really have any
voice with regard to the lifting or maintaining of the
curfew. Privilege again reveals itself to be illusory
and the more struggle you are involved in, the more you
realize this.


demonstrated the effectiveness of the mobile.

ARE WE DEMONSTRATORS OR REVOLUTIONARIES? WE KNOW WHERE THE MAN'S AT AND WE KNOW HIS GAME, SO WHY PLAY IT? CONFRONTATION TACTICS ARE FOR SHIT! EVERYBODY WHO DOESN'T GET PAPPED RUNS BACK TO THEIR SECURITY SYMBOL, LIKE LITTLE KIDS HIDING IN THEIR MOTHER'S SKIRTS. THEY SIT AROUND AND TALK ABOUT IT, TAKE VOTES, AND EVERYBODY GOES BACK TO THEIR DORM TO SMOKE Dope OR STUDY. FUCK THAT SHIT! WE SHOULD TAKE A LESSON FROM THE FIRST AMERICAN REVOLUTION: WHEN PEOPLE MET THE TROOPS HEAD ON THEY GOT VAMPED ON, BUT WHEN THEY TOOK TO THE WOODS AND SNIPED AT 'EM THEY WIPED THOSE COCKSUCKERS OUT! NOW A MOLONTO UNDER A PIG CAR WILL USUALLY DO THE TRICK, AND IF THEY'RE ON FOOT AN M-16 DIPPED IN HOT WAX AND ROLLED IN S.B.'S CAN REALLY DO SOME PARALYZING. AND IF YOU'VE GOT GUNS, THEY SHOULD BE EMPLOYED. THE PIGS INTEND TO WIPE US OFF THE PLANET. WE'RE BATTLING FOR SURVIVAL, & THE ONLY WAY TO OFF ARMED PIGS IS THROUGH ARMED STRUGGLE.

The River City Arts Co-op will hold it's first public exhibition May 1-10 at the VOCE center opposite the Mall. Any community art work is acceptable, if interested in exhibiting work contact Larry Hickey at the Vary bookstore. The exhibit is an extension of the Vitis House, 1223 Broad, Sunday we'll be together again. Admission is free to the exhibit. Help out community artists, show and tell your friends to come.

GO HOME AND LEAVE US ALONE

CHURCH PIGS



The largest body of evidence I draw from is underground press newspapers, such as *Grist*, *The Screw*, *Vortex*, and *the Oread Daily (O.D.)*. My most interesting evidence is the records of the Kansas Federal Bureau of Investigation and the national Federal Bureau of Investigation on *Vortex* magazine, wherein they find that many editors of *Vortex* were active members of the SDS. I also interviewed two alumni, Mary Doveton and Ric Averill, who were on campus during the height of the protests from 1969 to 1972. Both individuals were heavily involved in anti-war efforts, and on the spectrum of counterculture affiliation. All of my sources thus far have confirmed that the antiwar movement and the counterculture movement in Lawrence were undeniably intertwined.

What lasting impact, if any, did this movement have on Lawrence or broader activism?

Both movements were perfectly positioned in Lawrence's existing political climate. A U.S. Senator from Kansas described Lawrence as "the testing ground for every experiment in morals, politics, and social life." Lawrence in the late 1960s and early 1970s was a safe haven for Midwest participants in the nationally growing movement against mainstream culture, while the KU campus culture fostered increasing anti-war sentiment among its students. The lasting impacts of the counterculture is evident today. A short walk down Massachusetts Street displays the hippie sentiments that have stuck around, and the laws of Lawrence reflect it. For example, a City Council Ordinance passed in 2019 lowered the fine for possession of cannabis to only \$1 for first- and second-time offenses, locally decriminalizing the offense. Lawrence is among very few cities in Kansas to do so, joined by other college towns such as Wichita and Manhattan. Additionally, the very composition of Lawrencians' political alignment is a clear remnant of both anti-war and counterculture sentiments. In every political party map of Kansas, Lawrence appears as a dark, dark blue dot amongst the red swaths between Kansas City and Colorado.

Have you uncovered any surprising or overlooked aspects of this history?

In exploring underground press publications, I found far more politics than I had anticipated.

In every publication made by Lawrence's hippies of the mid 1960s and early 1970s, I found pages and pages of mentions of the Vietnam War. This experience with primary sources contradicted what I had read in local politics and protests. Specifically within the anti-war movement, counterculture organizations such as the Lawrence Liberation Front planned and executed effective anti-war protests. This contradicts the existing historical opinion of the counterculture in Lawrence, and illustrates that the two movements were much more intertwined than previously thought.

How has this research influenced your perspective on activism today?

In my interviews with the individuals who were on campus participating in anti-war protests during the height of the movement, I found that they were much more willing to sacrifice their own time, education, and even their lives than members of my own generation. Not only has this research influenced my opinion of my generation's political effectiveness, but it has also exposed me to a new level of optimism. Anti-war protestors in Lawrence in the late 1960s and early 1970s fully dedicated themselves to the cause, and they also had a clear vision for their future. I found new confidence that I am capable of shaping my own future using political action through my research.

What advice would you give to other undergraduates interested in historical research?

As an undergraduate, I fell in love with research by visiting the archives. The Spencer Research Library Archive staff are incredibly knowledgeable and skilled. My advice to other undergraduates interested in historical research would be to identify a topic that you have interest in and bring that topic to the archival staff. They will help you get your hands on physical material that connects you to the people you want to study. There is nothing comparable to the emotion an aspiring historian feels when holding physical evidence connected to their niche historical interest. Personally, flipping through the various editions of underground newspapers filled me with compassion, curiosity, and connection. If you could spend one day in the setting of your topic, what would you want to see? What would you see, read, or experience? These materials likely exist somewhere, so get your hands on them!





THE UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH INITIATIVE



Undergraduate Research Projects like those by Brooke Peters and Madi Norris represent the very best of student research. Thanks to your support, our students can bring the past to life in meaningful and imaginative ways. The Department of History is renewing our commitment to student research with the annual launch of the [Undergraduate Research Initiative](#). This fund provides equitable financial support for history majors pursuing conference presentations and archival work, it showcases exceptional student research projects.

Honors Thesis Capstone Professor Beth Bailey explains, “research—defining a good question, tracking down primary sources that help to answer that question, analyzing those sources in appropriate historical context, and using them to craft an argument—is a critical skill in the history major. Teaching the history honors capstone this year, I’ve admired the passion and rigor our students brought to their research projects and hope the department can continue to expand its support for undergraduate research.”

We invite you to help us sustain and expand these opportunities. Your gift to the Undergraduate Research Initiative will support the next generation of historians. Please consider making a contribution to the Undergraduate Research Initiative.

Scan to Contribute or visit:

<https://www.launchku.org/project/Research2025>





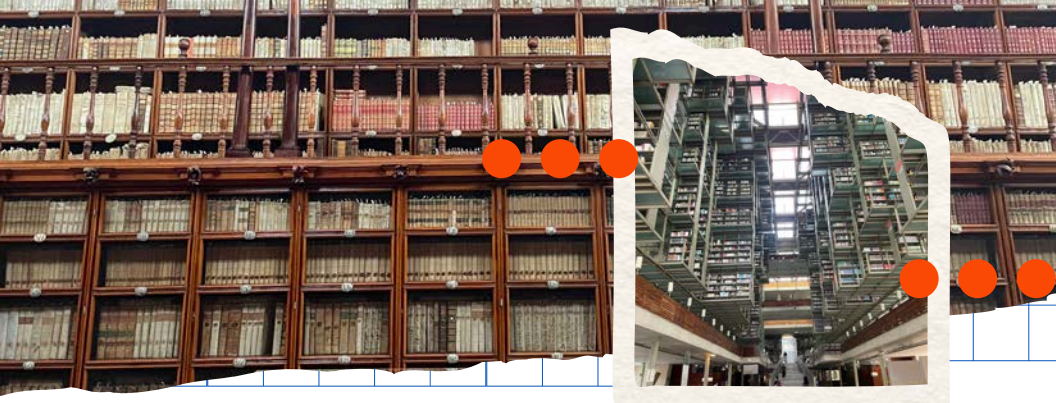
GRADUATE RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

Kip Perry

From January 15th to February 25th of this year, Chancellor's Doctoral Fellow and Graduate Research Assistant Kip Perry, conducted research in Mexico City, Mexico, exploring early modern Mexican science, philosophy, and ethnohistory through archival sources.

Tell us about your research.

I'm researching the ways in which Mexican intellectuals of the Enlightenment created and circulated knowledge, and how that knowledge (science, philosophy, art) informed Independence politics and national myths. The inception of my current research on early nineteenth-century science can be traced back to the undergraduate Latin American culture courses I took at NC State over a decade ago. One of my favorite professors introduced me to the casta painting genre, paintings of miscegenation in New Spain, in her lectures on race in colonial Mexico. Her classes in particular used art as the throughline to teach the history of conquest, resistance, revolution, and counterculture. I revisited those paintings during my M.A. in a history of science class, where I analyzed them as racial taxonomies during the long eighteenth century. I've been thinking about the interplay of science, art, and politics in the process of racialization since. In short, I'm interested in the way that Mexican intellectuals of the Enlightenment created and circulated knowledge, and how that knowledge (or science, philosophy) informed Independence politics.



Why was Mexico the ideal location for this research?

I chose Mexico City because of its many archives, like the Archivo General de la Nación and Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia, as well as the archives of the Academia de San Carlos and Biblioteca Rafael Granados García which are both located on National Autonomous University of Mexico's campus. These archives all house a variety of primary sources that pertain to scientific, political, and artistic culture of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. I also made plans to meet with some folks in the city to talk about their research and talk to the reference desk workers about recent secondary sources written by Mexican scholars on my research topic. I was able to go to many of the art museums on the weekends to check out installations that showcased some of the art I've been researching for years that I'd only ever been able to view online. And, since Mexico City is so close to Puebla, I was able to meet with friends at Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla who gave me a rapid introduction to Creole and Indigenous science, art, and religion in Puebla.

What was a typical day like for you while in Mexico City?

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I woke up early to eat breakfast and prepare for my Yucatec Maya class. After class wrapped up around 10 am, I would either walk to the Biblioteca Nacional de Antropología e Historia or use the metro to get to UNAM's campus. In the afternoon, I would head back to where I stayed in Roma Norte to make dinner. I'd reserve the evenings for organizing my notes, chores, or reading for leisure. Other days, I would do pretty much the same, except I would also work on a draft of my dissertation prospectus in the evenings and practice Yucatec Maya. Everyday involved a lot of walking around my part of the city to think, drinking a lot of coffee, and doing a lot of reading. I burned through at least six novels and three tins of instant coffee and I maxed out my free storage on Zotero.

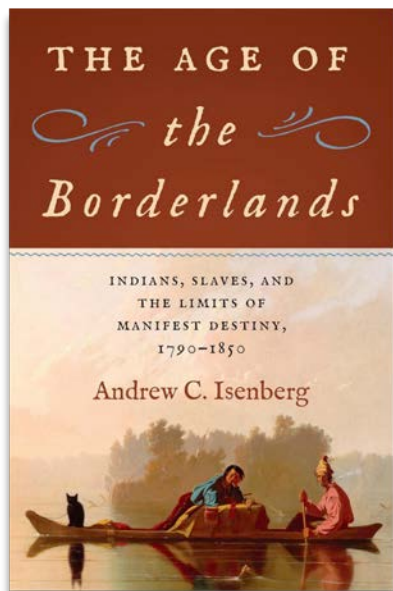
History Welcomes New Chair



We are delighted to congratulate Professor Robert Schwaller on his new leadership role as Chair of the Department of History starting July 1, 2025. Schwaller brings a wealth of experience to the five-year position, having previously held roles as both Director of Undergraduate Studies and Director of Graduate Studies. He has also served on the executive committee of KU's Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies since 2012.

Schwaller is a celebrated scholar who has earned numerous awards. His work includes a wide variety of essays and articles; a monograph, *Géneros de Gente in Early Colonial Mexico: Defining Racial Difference* (Oklahoma University Press, 2016); and two edited volumes: *Overlooked Places and Peoples: Indigenous and African Confrontations and Collaborations in the Spanish Empire* (Routledge 2024) and *African Maroons in Sixteenth Century Panama: A History in Documents* (University of Oklahoma Press, 2021).

The department is grateful to Schwaller for his willingness to take on this vital and challenging new role. Schwaller says, "I am honored to be able to serve the department and I look forward to working with my colleagues to build upon the excellent foundation that we have inherited. All I want is for our department to be a place where students, faculty and staff can make history!"



KU Experts

New Publication Andrew C. Isenberg

On April 15th, 2025, Hall Distinguished Professor of American History, Andrew C. Isenberg, published *The Age of the Borderlands: Indians, Slaves, and the Limits of Manifest Destiny, 1790-1850* (University of North Carolina Press 2025).

Praise for *The Age of the Borderlands*:

"When the textbook writers who installed the study of manifest destiny as a required unit in American history courses read this book, the next thing we hear will be a chorus of 'Oops!' As Isenberg reminds us, the people of the past are sure to defy us when we think we have them figured out." – Patricia Limerick, faculty director of the Applied History Initiative, University of Colorado.



Awards

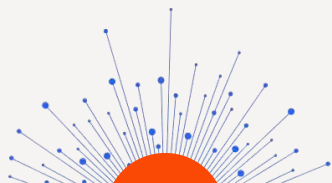
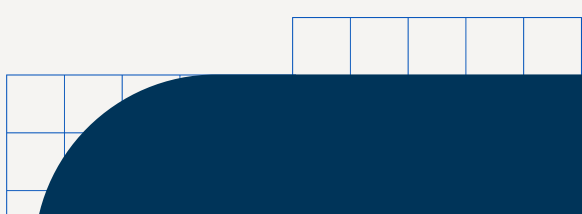


Professor **Megan Greene** was named Associate Vice Provost for International and Global Engagement at the University of Kansas. Her appointment began on January 1st of 2025. Greene's new administrative role is housed in International Affairs and will lead international and global engagement efforts by overseeing the university's five area studies centers: the Center for East Asian Studies, the Center for Global & International Studies, the Center for Latin American & Caribbean Studies, the Center for Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies, and the Kansas African Studies Center.

Professor **Beth Bailey**'s latest monograph, "An Army Afire: How the US Army Confronted Its Racial Crisis in the Vietnam Era" (University of North Carolina Press 2023) was awarded the Collins Prize by the US Commission of Military History.

Associate Professor **Sheyda Jahanbani** received a Faculty Research Travel Grant from the Hall Center for Humanities to conduct in-depth archival research in Nimes, France on 20th-century internationalism and identities.

Associate Professor **Kent Blansett** received a Mid-Career Research Fellowship from the Hall Center for Humanities. It will provide him with a full academic year off from teaching to work on a book entitled "Expressions of Red Power," which explores Indigenous efforts to challenge ongoing forms of colonization through popular forms, from rodeo to comics.



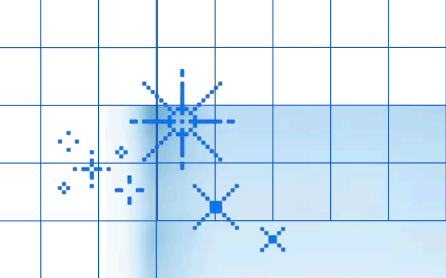


Graduate Student **Han Mao** received a Graduate Student Research Travel Grant from the Hall Center for Humanities and Student International Research Funds from the Center of East Asian Studies that will enable her travel to Taipei, Taiwan, and Tokyo, Japan, to pursue research.

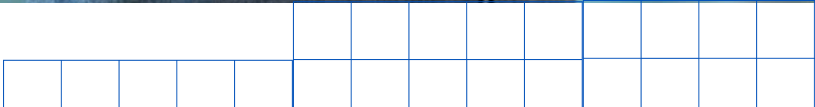
PhD Candidate **Abigail Scott** was awarded the Richard and Jeannette Sias Graduate Fellowship in the Humanities from the Hall Center of Humanities for her work, "French Imperial Memory and the American West, 1760-1860." Scott also received a Lapidus-OI Fellowship from the Omohundro Institute for Early American History and Culture.

PhD Candidate **Ridwan Aribidesi Muhammed** was awarded a Graduate Student Research Travel Grant to travel to southwestern Nigeria to continue his research.

MA Student **Jude Butler** is the first recipient of the Pete Carino Young Scholar Award, given at the Baseball in Literature and Culture Conference at Ottawa University.



Patrick Luiz Sullivan De Oliveira





History Makers Alumni Spotlight

BA in History, 2010

Patrick Luiz Sullivan De Oliveira is an Assistant Professor of History at IE University in Madrid, Spain. His main field of research is the history of modern France (1700 to the present), and he works on topics including the history of technology, urban history, and exchanges between France and Latin America. He is currently writing a cultural history of the intense ballooning revival that France experienced in the late nineteenth century, which is under advanced contract with The MIT Press. His work has been recognized by the Royal Society's Notes and Records Essay Prize and the Western Society for French History's Millstone Prize, and he has held research fellowships at the Smithsonian Institution National Air and Space Museum, the Huntington Library, the Linda Hall Library, and Sciences Po. De Oliveira was born and raised in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, received his training at the University of Kansas and Princeton University, and has taught at Princeton and Singapore Management University. In addition to his academic work, he has published in outlets like *The Washington Post*, *Slate*, *The Age of Revolutions*, and *Observatório da Imprensa*.

What do you enjoy most about your current position?

There are wonderful elements to both teaching and research (my main responsibilities). With research, it's hard to beat the archival thrill—that moment when you open a box you requested without being fully aware of what may be inside of it. It may sound silly, but it is kind of like opening a Christmas present. With teaching, it's always a treat when students stick around after class to continue the discussion. A couple of years back I had a student come up to me after a class on totalitarian technologies, where we spent a lot of time on concentration camps and the Nazi discourse about technology. He had never talked much in class but was always attentive. After this class he came up to me, and I could see that he was a little nervous, but he wanted to thank me for that class, for while he already knew a good deal about the Holocaust, he had never really thought about it from the perspective of science and technology. I keep that moment in the back of my head whenever I have a bad teaching day (which also happens, of course).

How do you see your profession changing in the next five to ten years?

That's a good question, although if there's one thing history teaches us, it is that predicting the future is a fool's game. That being said, if I were to play the fool, I would bet on a couple of trends. First, history will remain at the forefront of the polarized political conflicts we see going on—and that's because history matters immensely. Now, on the one hand, this may lead to further attacks on the new critical approaches to history that have kept the field moving forward. We've seen these attacks this spring through funding cuts, political pressure, and censorship of certain scholarly approaches in higher education. On the other hand, people are hungry for these approaches, as we've seen with the success of the "1619 Project" and the popularity of podcasts like NPR's *Throughline*. These innovative public history projects depend on the work of the basic research that is done in universities, so it's not really clear to me how things will shake out.

Second, there seems to be a general concern about the impact of AI on various professions. Whatever that impact may be, I do think historical research is insulated from it—or at least many of the foundational elements of historical research. ChatGPT cannot go to an archive and dig through dusty files. It's also prone to fabrication (and that's baked into the stochastic nature of these tools, so there's no real solution). Finally, ChatGPT can't write truly compelling prose—and there will always be demand for that.



What is a highlight of your career?

Well, I think the highlight will soon come. My first book is coming out with MIT Press this summer, and it is the culmination of about ten years of research. The book is titled *Ascending Republic: The Ballooning Revival in France*, and it explains how and why different sectors of French society embraced the balloon as a technology that could potentially rehabilitate the nation in the late nineteenth century. After the French suffered a humiliating defeat in the Franco-Prussian War, French champions of aeronautics (a nascent science) made the case that if the British Royal Navy controlled the seas and the Imperial German Army dominated the continent, then France had to take ownership of the sky. It's lavishly illustrated and should be interesting if you're fascinated by figures like Jules Verne or the period we've come to know as the "Belle Époque."

What is your favorite memory from your time at KU?

I'm assuming this question is centered on academic memories (rather than the countless nights dancing at the Replay Lounge or the Eighth Street Taproom). I do have very fond memories of History 301, when I got to write my first "real" historical research paper. I chose to focus on Chancellor Laurence (Larry) Chalmers's leadership of the university during the late 60s and early 70s. He was very popular with students and actually did a pretty good job at defusing tensions that were running high at the time (Lawrence was a hot site for Civil Rights and Vietnam War activism, after all). But that didn't please the more conservative factions of the Kansas legislature, and the pressure was such that Chalmers was basically forced to resign.

I remember looking through Chalmers's files in the Spencer Research Library, reading his correspondence, and being very touched by how committed he was not only to the students' safety, but also to the kind of autonomy they were practicing through these protests. In fact, I think a lot of current university administrators could learn from Chalmers, given their cowardly responses to protests on campus the last couple of years. Anyway, when I wrote that paper, Chalmers was the only former Chancellor to not have a building named after him on campus. When he passed away in 2009, I wrote a letter to *The University Daily Kansas* denouncing that travesty. But it still took a while for it to finally be rectified; the Art & Design Building received his name in 2015.



What classes or professors played a major role in preparing you for life after college?

Nathan Wood taught me the value of being a professor who cares about his students and is invested in their work, while the late Benjamin Sax taught me the value of questioning things taken for granted. I took a history of modern European metropolises with Professor Wood, which set me in the track for my undergraduate honors thesis on the urban renovation projects that took place in nineteenth century Lyon (France). I don't know if I would've pursued academia if I hadn't had Professor Wood as a model of collaborative work. I learned so much from sessions in his office where we discussed how the research was going and all that fun stuff. Professor Sax's courses on European intellectual history were also great. He never used PowerPoint, and rarely wrote on the board (and when he did, it was usually illegible). In those classes we got deep into questions pertaining to the human experience, from the idea that each human has a "self" worthy of interior exploration and dignity to the crisis of representational ideas about truth in the twentieth century. That's what the college experience is supposed to be all about, right?

What do you enjoy in your free time?

My wife and I are really into scuba diving. We started practicing it more often during the couple of years we lived in Singapore (2020-2022), especially since Southeast Asia has such a wonderful aquatic ecosystem. It's a little harder now, since we're not close to the beach and since the Mediterranean has been overfished, but we still try to organize one or two trips per year. I'm also into "prestige" TV, especially of the historical variety—shows like *Babylon*, *Berlin*, and *Shogun*.



What career advice do you have for history majors?

Ignore what the media and your elders say about employability—it's mostly fear-mongering. No one knows what the job market is going to look like four years from now. In fact, claims about the future of jobs have more to do with self-interested parties trying to shape that market than anything else. Study what you love, build relationships with your professors, and have fun. The first will allow you to succeed academically, which will signal to future employers that you're a reliable and ambitious worker. The second will help you build the kind of network necessary to tap into good opportunities. The third is just a helpful reminder that a job is just a job. It doesn't define you. It's not the main thing that will dictate whether or not you have a meaningful life. I am aware it can be hard to think that way — I often struggle with it myself. That's when I know I need to take a step back, connect with my loved ones, and start planning that next scuba trip.





Alumni Updates

Scharla Paryzek

MA in History & Women Gender Sexuality Studies Graduate Certificate 2014

Since earning her MA in 2014, Scharla Paryzek has planted herself firmly in the nonprofit sector. Since September 2020, she has served as a CASA Supervisor for Douglas County CASA, Inc. in Lawrence, KS. In addition to her professional accomplishments, Paryzek married her husband in May 2022, and they welcomed their daughter in April 2023.

What's your advice to current students?

Explore the job and internship opportunities KU has to offer! I won a Hall Center for the Humanities internship in Summer 2013. My work at Humanities Kansas in Topeka introduced me to the nonprofit sector and inspired me to pursue a career in nonprofit work. I also had an on-campus job at the KU Writing Center that taught me better communication and editing skills.

How has history shaped your professional experience?

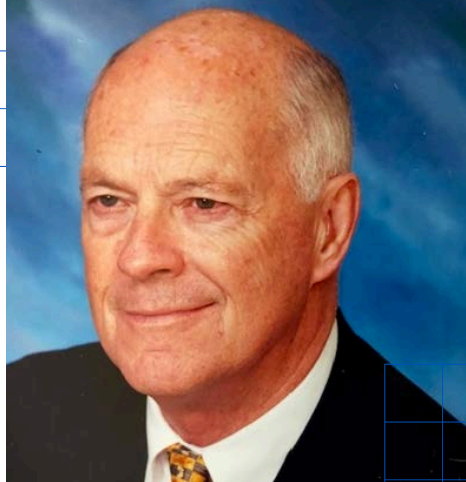
My training in history taught me invaluable writing skills. I learned to synthesize large amounts of complex information clearly and succinctly. I credit the Department of History for shaping me into a careful, competent writer in the workplace.

What job position do you currently hold and where?

As a Court-Appointed Special Advocate we train, supervise, and support volunteers who advocate for children who are victims of abuse and/or neglect.

Larry Burke

BA in History, 1962



At KU, I was selected for the honorary history fraternity, Phi Alpha Theta. My favorite professors were Ambrose Saricks, Robert Colodny, and Jim Seaver. I was named a Distinguished Military Graduate from the KU Army ROTC Department and received a Regular Army Commission. I served six and a half years in the Regular Army and three in the Reserves. I completed Airborne and Ranger schools. I served a year in Vietnam with the First Infantry Division as a rifle company commander and staff officer. I was awarded the Bronze Star with "V" for heroism; the Army Commendation Medal with "V" for heroism; six Air Medals; and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

I left the Regular Army in 1968, returned to my hometown, Dodge City, and joined the family business. The history professor at Dodge City Community College was also a member of the state legislature. One day he asked me to fill in for him during the legislative session. I did so and loved college teaching. I was eventually offered the position of history professor and division chair at DCCC and accepted. I taught there for many years and no one ever loved their job more than I did mine!!

At DCCC, I taught classes in Survey of Western Civilization, US History, Civil War and Reconstruction, and a course in the Vietnam War. I won numerous teaching awards including the Master Teacher Award from the College of Education, University of Texas at Austin; Distinguished Professor at DCCC; and was inducted into DCCC Hall of Fame for Outstanding Career Achievement in April, 2016. I was also honored to be inducted into the KU Army ROTC Jayhawk Battalion Wall of Fame in 2019.

In 2001, I wrote a prize-winning short story, "Quan Loi," based on my Vietnam experience. It was named the best short story of the year by the Kansas Authors Club and by Kansas Voices and was published in *The Vietnam War Generation Journal* in 2002. I was asked to present it at the International Conference on the Vietnam War at Texas Tech University and at the annual meeting of the Kansas Association of Historians. I have made numerous presentations at international and regional history conferences and have written multiple book reviews for the *Journal of Military History*.

I am married to my wife of 62 years, Sonja Hampton Burke, who I met while a student at KU. We have three children, all of them KU graduates. We also have eight grandchildren, four who are KU graduates and two who are KU students. We moved to Lawrence seven years ago to be closer to our daughters and their families. I have taught courses for Kansas Humanities and the Osher Institute. My KU history degree paved the way for a wonderful military and teaching career, and I will be forever grateful for my KU experience.

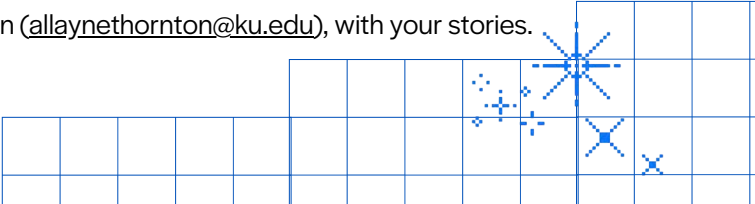


Share Your Alumni Stories. We want to hear from you!



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.

Reach out to our Communications Coordinator,
Allayne Thornton (allaynethornton@ku.edu), with your stories.



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