



HISTORY,

ON THE HILL

HISTORY IS MADE HERE

REVIVAL ISSUE



UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Please consider as well making a gift in support of work of historians at KU. Your gift will translate into scholarships for students in need, awards for scholarly excellence, and travel to archives and libraries all over the US and around the world. Your contributions will help students achieve their dreams and ensure a bright future for history at KU.

With all our best wishes to you,

Luis Corteguera
Professor and Chair

This Newsletter highlights some of the many achievements of KU History students, faculty, and alumni. A full list of accomplishments would require many more pages.

We're proud of our undergraduate and graduate students who earned degrees and won recognition for their work. They not only overcame the challenges associated with higher education, but did so during the pandemic.

Once more, our faculty earned recognition for outstanding teaching and mentoring. Their research garnered national and international attention. They won competitive grants, fellowships, and awards.

News from our alumni across the US and abroad brought us joy. We're elated to hear that their success is due in part to what they learned and experienced while studying history with us.

This year we're honored to welcome our newest colleague Justin Roberts while we celebrate Elizabeth (Betsy) Kuznesof's nearly half a century of contributions to KU.

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AWARD WINNING FACULTY



ASSOCIATE DEAN OF ACADEMIC AFFAIRS - KU EDWARDS CAMPUS AND ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, **KIM WARREN**, WAS SELECTED AS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2022 LOUISE BYRD GRADUATE EDUCATOR AWARD. THIS AWARD HONORS THE DEDICATED WORK OF OUR MOST OUTSTANDING GRADUATE FACULTY MENTORS. SHE RECEIVED 22 LETTERS OF SUPPORT FROM HER COLLEAGUES, CURRENT STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI.

FOUNDATION DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF HISTORY, **BETH BAILEY**, WAS AWARDED THE 2022 SAMUEL ELIOT MORISON PRIZE



HISTORY WELCOMES NEW FACULTY

During the early days of 2020 the History Department welcomed two new faculty members. We are extremely grateful that **Dr. Elaine Nelson** and **Dr. Kent Blansett** both joined the ranks of the History Department Faculty. Previous to their employment here at KU, they both taught at the University of Nebraska, Omaha.

Dr. Kent Blansett (Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Shawnee, and Potawatomi) joined the ranks of the KU History Faculty as the Langston Hughes Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies and History. Kent also serves as the founder and Executive Director of the American Indian Digital History Project which aims to preserve and promote Indigenous History through digital media.

Kent's book *"A Journey to Freedom: Richard Oakes, Alcatraz, and the Red Power Movement"* has received national attention and was optioned for a future Hollywood movie. Blansett's most recent co-edited novel, *"Indian Cities Histories of Indigenous Urbanization"* presents historical scholarship of Indigenous peoples as city makers and residents rather than the victims of Westward expansion and

modernity. It provides a wide-angle view of a complicated story to the urban Indian experience from colonial times to the present. His curated museum exhibit "Not Your Indians Anymore: Alcatraz and the Red Power Movement, 1969-71," was sponsored by the National Park Service.



**Dr. Kent
Blansett**



Dr. Nelson's research focuses on the complex history of American Memory, monuments, and tourism in the Black Hills region. She teaches courses on the Great plains, North American West, women and gender, and US. History in general.

Her current project "*Dreams and Dust in the Black Hills: Tourism, Performance, and the American West in National Memory*" reveals new insights about the transformation of the Black Hills, from a land promised to the Lakota Nation to a land of promise for America. This presentation delves into the complex history of the Black Hills and the roles that travel and myth played in America's invasion and occupation of the region. This history set the stage for an aggressive booster campaign in the nineteenth century, which resulted in settler expansion into the Black Hills and the creation of a series of U.S. federal-Indian policies, treaties, and land appropriations. The Black Hills tourism industry exploited Indigenous lands and revised history to produce a celebratory narrative of Manifest Destiny, convincing audiences from around the world to visit. Employing the iconic Black Hills gold dust to appeal to American dreams of exceptionalism, these views of U.S. national identity (now carved in stone) remain controversial today.

Dr. Elaine Nelson joins the KU History Department as an Assistant Professor. She is also the Executive Director of the Western History Association, and an award-winning historian specializing in the North American West Native History and western women's history.



MEET OUR
NEWEST
FACULTY
MEMBER

EIGHT
QUESTIONS WITH

**DR. JUSTIN
ROBERTS**

In July 2022, the KU History Department welcomed Associate Professor and Hall Professor of British History, Justin Roberts, to our Faculty cohort. Dr. Roberts specializes in the study of slavery in the British empire. He's currently in the throes of a major research project focused on the expansion of slavery across the early English empire in both the Indian and Atlantic Oceans in the seventeenth century. We've composed a set of questions for our wider community to get to know him.

What inspired you to become a historian?

My father had me reading history and literature from a young age and I was raised for many years on university campuses. He was doing his PhD in English and then teaching at various colleges. As a teenager, I was always carrying some tattered paperback with me wherever I went. I used to look for coats with big enough pockets for a book. I've had some exceptional professors who nourished that passion for reading and most of them happened to be in History. They encouraged me to go to grad school and many years later I ended up here. I'm not sure that I ever decided to become a professional historian when I was younger. It just happened.

EIGHT QUESTIONS WITH JUSTIN ROBERTS

What's your favorite class to teach?

I really enjoy the challenge of teaching large lecture classes that cover vast swaths of time across multiple continents. I've taught a two-semester survey on the Atlantic World (1450-1812) many times and a class on the Global History of Capitalism a couple of times. Teaching those courses has really forced me to start thinking about the forests rather than just the trees. My understanding of the past is so much richer now. Yet, the course I've been enjoying the most in the last few years is actually "The American Revolution." I'll be teaching that at KU next semester. It's such a complex event, filled with contingencies. I like to help students carve through the myths surrounding that moment.

What's your favorite book?! (And no, you can't say your own.)

I have so many. Harari's *Sapiens* was exceptional. I read *Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks recently. Few books have moved me as much as that one. Cormac McCarthy is one of my favorite writers. There is a play by him called "The Sunset Limited" that I have returned to a few times in my life. I also really enjoyed a short story by Herman Melville called "Bartleby the Scrivener." I've read that a half dozen times. I like Stephen King too. He's so prolific but I've tried to find time to read all his books.

What excites you most about your future at KU?

I'm looking forward to working with more graduate students and developing a strong graduate program in slavery and in British Atlantic history. It's a very collegial department and there are some fantastic scholars here. It will be a good place to work.

You've recently moved from Canada to Lawrence, Kansas. What has been your biggest culture shock so far?

I would have to say the climate shock has been much greater than the culture shock. I was wearing short-sleeved shirts outside at the end of October! I've also never experienced so many successive days with bright blue skies. The other differences are more minor. That Jayhawk mascot stands out; it really is everywhere in this town. Shortly after we arrived, my daughter, who was still five at the time, told me that that bird was the "flag of the US, like we have the maple leaf flag in Canada."

Advice for current or future students?

Focus less on outcomes, grades and credentials. Read and write and talk about the things that excite you. Enjoy the process. Enjoy the discoveries. They'll stay with you longer than the stress of deadlines.

What's your favorite thing about teaching?

I used to dread lecturing but now I love the performance aspect. I get to tell stories for a living!

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

I put on noise cancelling headphones, turn on a timer to tell me when to stop and turn off all other notifications. I shut the door. Phones and notifications are just destroying our ability to think deeply. I think writers need solitude and a door that closes. I used to think I needed a writing spot with a great view but I have a great view in my office at KU and a great view in my home office and I often forget to even open the blinds.

/ A LEGEND RETIRES /



AFTER 47 YEARS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, BETSY KUZNESOF RETIRES. SHE GAVE THE FOLLOWING SPEECH AT THIS YEAR'S CONVOCATION CELEBRATION.

“ It has been my great pleasure and honor to work and teach at KU these last 47 years. My dream and wish all my life since childhood was for a life focused on education, books and teaching. When looking for a job I very much wanted one that was in a public institution, to have graduate students and to emphasize international education. I was fortunate to come to KU. To help young people focus on their own goals, develop their critical thinking skills, broaden their sense of culture and the world, to learn their own strengths--that has been an immense pleasure and satisfaction. It has been wonderful to work in an environment with all of you very smart people with similar goals. I also could attend conferences and broaden my own thinking while traveling to new places and cultures, and immersing myself in the language and culture of Brazil and Latin America. It was part of my job!! What a privilege. I have been involved in recruiting just about everybody here and I am grateful . You have all brought richness to my life. I am very grateful for having had all of you as colleagues. ”

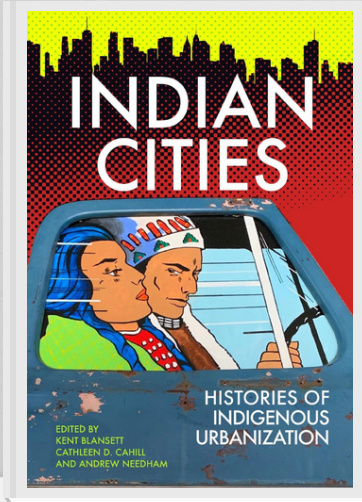
-BETSY KUZNESOF



KU EXPERTS PUBLISH

OUR FACULTY DELIVERED INCREDIBLE
WORK THIS YEAR

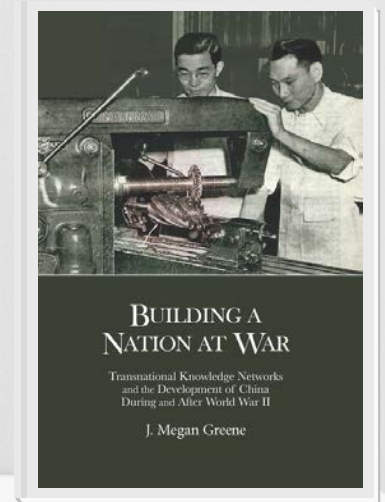
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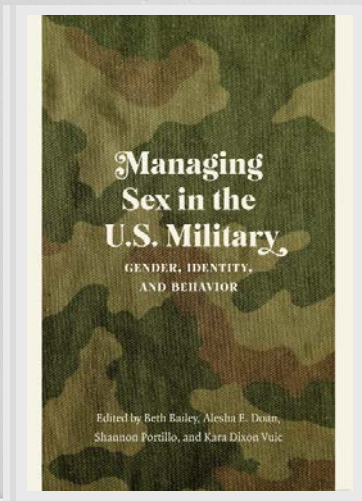
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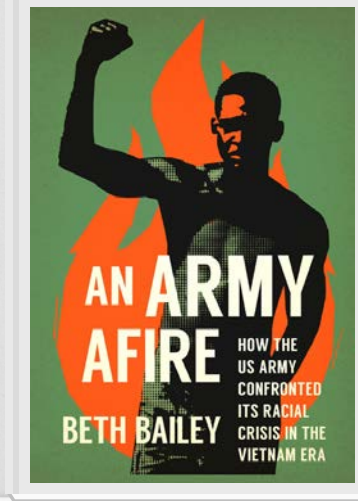
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1

**INDIAN CITIES BY
KENT BLANSETT**

2

**SOVEREIGN SKIES
BY SEAN SEYER**

3

**BUILDING A NATION
AT WAR BY
J. MEGAN GREENE**

4

**MANAGING SEX IN
THE U.S. MILITARY
BY BETH BAILEY**

5

**AN ARMY AFIRE
BY BETH BAILEY**

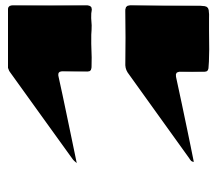


ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT

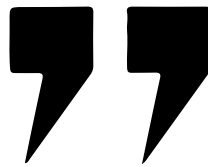
HISTORIANS MAKING MOVES

AUDREY ROSE CALOVICH

B.A. '20



**I WAS EAGER
TO STUDY
HISTORY AT KU...
THE PROGRAMME
WAS
IMMEDIATELY
ENCOURAGING**



- AUDREY ROSE CALOVICH

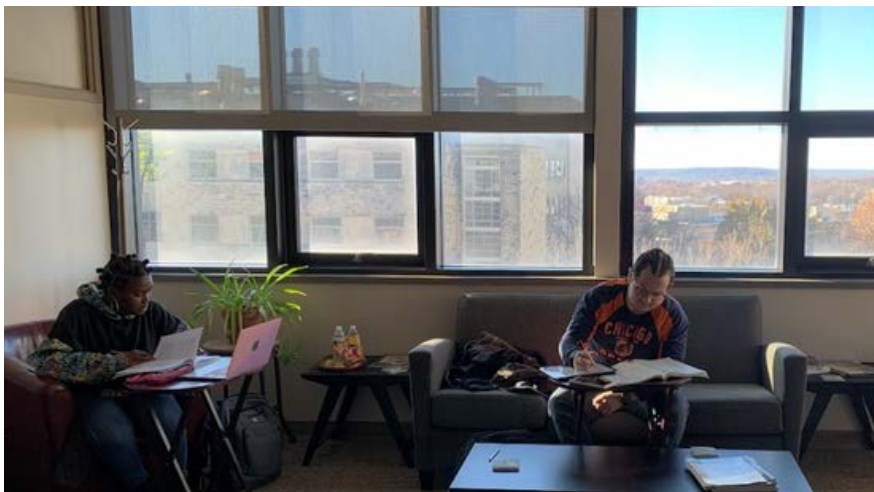
Growing up, I was lucky that my family always made it a priority to visit museums, historical sites, and national parks. I loved exploring the past through stories that provided a creative and imaginative context to the physical space. I continued to avidly learn and explore, finding research opportunities through extracurriculars in high school. I was eager to study history at KU but didn't know how many doors it would open. The programme was immediately encouraging from Freshmen Orientation Week, setting me up with seminars that combined my interests inside and outside of the department. I later added an additional major in Film and Media Studies that fulfilled my desire to present my research through storytelling. My two undergraduate theses consisted of my on-going WWII written and documentary research which was completed in Normandy, France in the fall of my senior year.

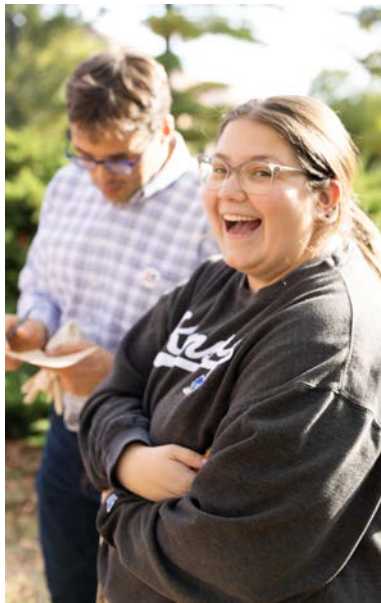
Neither of these successes could have been accomplished without the immense support of my mentors in the History Department. One of the core Topics in Non-Western History credits led to my enrollment in a Museum Studies course, something I had never considered but had always been fascinated with. The course explored cultural heritage at risk and ethical protocol in museums in displaying and owning artefacts from the origin communities. Throughout the course, I knew I wanted to be involved with museum ethics for the rest of my life. I asked the department about options for Masters Programs and began applying with the encouragement and recommendations of my mentors. I was invited to many programmes but chose to accept the offer from the University of Aberdeen in Scotland in 2020.

I graduated with a Master of Letters in Museum Studies in November of 2022, ready to enter the sector as a professional. I was incredibly nervous to find a job while the museum and tourism industry was still covering from the ongoing pandemic. Using the skills that I identified in my very first history class at KU (taught by Dr. Nathan Wood), I was able to stand apart and identify what I was looking for in an institution. In May of 2022, I attended an interview at Westminster Abbey, stunned almost silent by where I was and how exactly I got there. I received a call not 10 minutes after, offering me a position in the Westminster Abbey Institute. The Institute was established by Dr. Claire Foster-Gilbert to revitalize moral and spiritual values in public life. This opportunity more than feeds my ever-growing interest in ethics and public service. To work in an iconic institution with incredible people in the heart of the Western world – so capable of change and influence – is a gift I will always attribute to my experience with the History Department at KU. I am forever grateful and forever a Jayhawk.



YEAR IN REVIEW







JANELLE FOX

B.A. '16

One of the best aspects of teaching is watching the paths students take beyond the walls of Wescoe Hall. Recently, Dr. Luis Corteguera and Dr. Robert Schwaller received one of the best emails you can hope for as a mentor from Janelle Fox. The following is a note to her mentors and her advice to future history students.

“I appreciate all of your mentorship while I was a student at KU. I have some good news to share, and I consider my successes to be in large part thanks to all of you seeing value in me when I was struggling.

I most recently worked at the University of Arkansas, and excelled in my position in the teacher's college. I thoroughly enjoy academia, in no small part thanks to you all.

My husband I have since moved to small town Colorado, and I've been asked to join the county Tourism board by a sitting member, the state farm bureau board by a city member, and as of today the town council by a sitting member.

Thank you all for believing in me when I was struggling. The skills I learned in the LATAM/HIST programs have served me very well post-graduation.

I hope all is well on the Hill, and thank you again.”

Warm Regards,
Janelle Fox



What brought you to Kansas University to study history?

I graduated valedictorian of my high school in Kansas and chose to attend the University of Kansas because of its reputation as a tier-1 research school, the breadth of programs offered, and its status as the state's flagship university. I wanted the best education possible, and KU offered me that. I was admitted into and completed the Honors Program, double majored in Latin American Studies and History, worked as an office assistant for the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, as a student researcher under Dr. Vanchena at the Max Kade Center, and involved myself with women's rugby, KU Alternative breaks, and an international student group.

KU offered a wonderful undergraduate experience that I thoroughly enjoyed, as well as academic scholarships that made attending financially sensible.

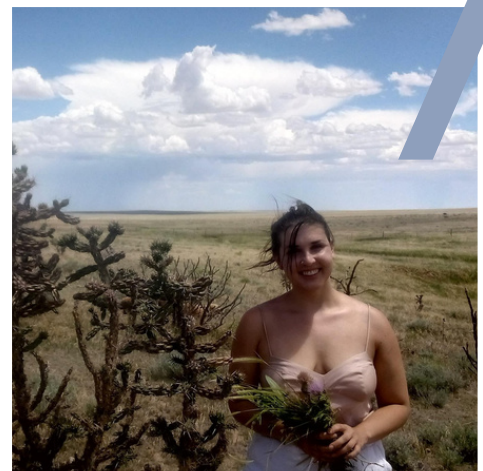
What was your favorite memory from your time at KU?

My favorite memory is probably working at the Max Kade Center through all four seasons. It's in a beautiful building at the edge of campus that most students never see. I had two wonderful fellow undergraduate coworkers, and we worked directly under Dr. Vanchena, who treated us like family. Getting paid to assist on scholarly research as an undergrad felt like a huge accomplishment, and the atmosphere was so calm.

I also treasure the memories of walking at the Honors Program graduation ceremony with my best friend, scoring my first try in rugby, and observing the flowers coming up in spring. I had some great conversations with KU graduate assistants over the years, notably Danica and Gabriel in LACS and Adam Newhard (PhD '18) in History. Spending time in the libraries was always fun for me, and standing at the top of Bailey Hall's fire escape in a snowstorm was beautiful.

What career advice do you have for history majors?

I strongly encourage history majors to get to know their professors and subject-area librarians, and to network on campus, in their jobs, and in their communities before and after graduation. Network like your life depends on it! I didn't understand or pursue networking as much as I now wish I would have, and its importance can't be over-emphasized when it comes to opening doors in the working and social worlds following graduation. Secondly, I encourage current history majors to take all of their writing projects seriously. Studying history at KU provides a unique opportunity to hone your critical, analytical, and interpretive writing skills, all of which are eminently applicable to careers and further study.



ALICIA HOUSER

JORDAN TRAVEL BLOG



At 9am, the desert sun had yet to emerge over the walls of the canyon that sheltered the great city of Petra, the capital of the Nabatean state who held power over their domain from 168 BCE-106 CE. A panel in the museum located outside the canyoned walls attributes Nabatean success to “their openness and acceptance of other cultures, while keeping at the same time their own Arabian roots and traditions.” This resonated deeply with my experience of Jordanian kindness and hospitality so far. My taxi driver from the airport had stopped and bought me a cup of roadside coffee as well as a water, before inviting me to join him in the front, which went against usual gendered norms. He wanted me to sit up front so that it would be easier to communicate—we took turns passing his phone back and forth between us after speaking our questions and responses to each other into his google translate app. In a country with a coffee shop on every corner, that remains the best coffee I had on my trip.



Back in the canyon, I sat with another cup of coffee. After waking up early to beat the crowds at this wonder of the world, I wanted to sit for a bit before wandering more. The 21st century is alive and well amongst these luxurious-for-their-time dwellings built into the yellow and red sandy rockface, dating back as early as the third century BC. Had I needed to, I could have logged onto the wifi available with my cup of coffee, but my international data worked just fine. I had a phone call to make.

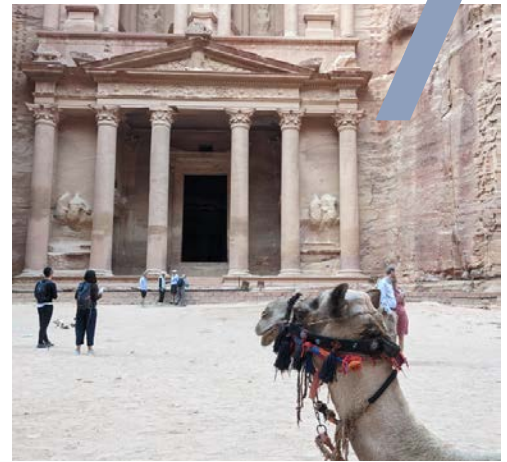
My Tanzanian host mama did not answer, but she soon called back. Over the years, she has “visited” Namibia, the Washington coast, the Arkansas Ozarks, the campus of the University of Pittsburgh, and a number of other places via video call with me. Now she was at one of the world’s wonders. During our call, the man who had served me coffee peered over my shoulder and asked who I was talking to. They greeted each other in Arabic, and then he walked away. I guess not every tourist calls their Tanzanian mama and has a conversation in Swahili while visiting Petra. My mama could greet this stranger a continent away due to a history of centuries of exchange between East Africa and the Arabian Peninsula, a history that manifests itself in current times through shared language and religion.

Language, what it tells us about connections between people in the past, is what first drew me to history as a field. Those connections were all around me in Jordan. In Arabic, the word for “hello” is the word an elder uses in Swahili as a response to hello. In Swahili, the words for six, seven, and nine, are borrowed from Arabic. Why those numbers? In Swahili, the word for year and decade are Bantu words (of African origin), but century is an Arabic word. When my friend’s childhood Arabic teacher asked me what I study, I replied, “tarikhda,” the word I had learned in Somali for history. Her face lit up; she had understood me in Arabic.

Officially, I had come to Jordan to attend a wedding. Unofficially, I had come to start the healing process, with my sister at my side, of our dad’s recent cancer diagnosis.* I left Jordan reminded of why I had started this PhD journey in the first place, and with motivation to learn Arabic starting next year.

*My dad’s first scans post-treatment came back clean. Now we wait for the next round and the next; in the meantime, we keep living.

BY ALICIA HOUSER



HISTORY GRADUATES

MOVE EVER ONWARD



BRIAN TRUMP

Brian Trump, PhD '22, successfully defended his dissertation, "Sex Crimes and Criminal Sexuality: Legislating and Policing Community Boundaries in Nebraska, 1880 – 1980". Brian has relocated to Kentucky to be a part of the Civil War Governors of Kentucky Project.

Alyssa Cole, PhD '21, successfully defended her dissertation, "Movement before the Movement: Black Hospitals in Kansas City, 1890-1940". Since earning her Ph.D., she has accepted a position as the Dr. Patricia Hilliard Nunn Visiting Assistant Professor in the African American Studies Program at the University of Florida.

Marjorie Galelli, PhD '21, successfully defended her dissertation, "Two Sides of the Same COIN: A History of the United States and Counterinsurgency During Operation Iraqi Freedom," on December 10, 2021. She was also named recipient of the Henry Chauncey Jr. '57 Postdoctoral Fellowship, the Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy, Yale University. Marjorie will join the Kansas State History Department this fall.



ALYSSA COLE



MARJORIE GALELLI



PAUL LANDSBERG



DAN CHMILL

Dan Chmill, PhD '22, successfully defended his dissertation, "Taking the Waters: A Hydrological History of Health and Leisure in Hot Springs National Park, 1832-1932." Since earning his P.h.D., Dan is currently a Park Ranger for Hot Springs National Park.

Paul Landsberg, PhD '22, successfully defended in August 2022. His dissertation was entitled, "Deploy Globally, Train Locally: the U.S. Army and the Global Environment." Paul is currently a Navigator for the United States Air Force.

ALUMNI NEWS



CASSIE BA '15
OSEI

B.A. Dr. Cassandra Osei, has completed a Ph.D. in Latin American and African Diaspora History at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Osei is the newest Latin American scholar as a tenure-track Assistant Professor at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania.



MINDY PhD '16
LANDECK

Mindy Landeck has been promoted to tenure and the rank of Associate Professor of East Asian Studies at Austin College, a private liberal arts college in North Texas.

ALUMNI NEWS



FRANCIS J.H. PARK

PhD '12

“

In July 2021, I took over the Basic Strategic Art Program, the U.S. Army's course for training its military strategists. The course is held at Carlisle Barracks, PA, at the U.S. Army War College. It came after five years in the Pentagon, the last two of which were spent at the Joint History Office, the official history office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. In my last several months at the Joint History Office, I traveled to Qatar and personally did the last major collection of records from Operations Enduring Freedom and Freedom's Sentinel. The harvest was over 11 terabytes of information from the military campaigns in Afghanistan from 2006 to 2021. I talked about my experiences last year as a military field historian at this year's Society for Military History Conference at Fort Worth, Texas in May 2022. In an interesting twist, I have had the opportunity to teach about documents I wrote in previous jobs; my students are reading the 2021 Unified Command Plan as well as the 2018 National Military Strategy. What the students don't expect are some of the backstories from having written parts of those documents years ago. ”

ALUMNI NEWS



**SARAH
BELL**
PhD '19

Sarah Kay Bell, has recently been appointed as the new Director of the Kansas History Museum in Topeka.

ARE YOU AN ALUMNI WISHING TO SHARE YOUR NEWS?

We are eager to hear about your experiences beyond KU. Whether you've landed a new job or a new promotion, moved to a new city or had a baby - we'd love to hear about your latest adventures and accomplishments!

We know our alumni are doing incredible work all over the world, and we can't wait to hear all about it. We'll feature your updates in our alumni newsletter and on our social media channels. Stay connected with your fellow alumni and share your achievements with us:

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



THE 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 new campaign to establish a renewable fund to provide financial support for our majors and minors to pursue original historical research. Scan the QR code below to learn more about how you can help students gain hands-on experience in archives, internships, and workshops. Your support ensures that the tradition of student research within the Department of History remains strong.

Celebrate the Class of 2023! #PayItForward with a donation of \$20.23.

<https://www.launchku.org/project/37301>



