



HISTORY NEWSLETTER

SPRING AND FALL
2024

From the Department Chair's Desk...

It's been a busy year since our last Newsletter!

*As I write this, we've had a gorgeous fall on campus. Another high point of 2024 was watching the April 8th total solar eclipse together as a community on the Quad. We hosted a "Collecting Eclipse Histories" event to gather photos and memories; check out the showcase display if you're ever in Satterlee Hall. Also in Spring '24, our beloved Departmental Assistant **Laurie Pearie** retired. She's living her best life, but we do miss her.*

This Fall several History faculty are presenting sessions as part of CFES Day (Nov. 8th) and Social Studies Field Trip Day (Nov. 15). North Country area high school students will be able to learn about hieroglyphics, witchcraft, the global food system, Japanese history through manga & anime, and the real history of piracy in the Caribbean.

Read on for updates about our students' accomplishments as well as faculty and alumni news and kudos. – Dr. Freed

2024 Honors and Awards

The Department of History offers several awards to students. Please join us in congratulating the following students:

Ilse J. Shaw History Award

Jocelyn Smith

M.J. Heisey Award for Public History

SharonMarie Bartz

F. Roger Dunn Memorial Essay Award

Karen King

Departmental Scholars

Luke Allen

SharonMarie Bartz

Robert L. Briggs Award

Zachariah Morehouse

Norah K. Pease

Robert and Katherine Briggs Scholarship

Khelsey Charter

Lance Wilson

Annabelle Kahle

John Schwaller Award

Valerie Wloch

Walter Wakefield Award

(not awarded in 2024)

Father James Pennock Scholarship

Ryan Costin

Alexa Picciano

We thank our donors for their generous support for these awards and scholarships.

PHI ALPHA THETA SPRING 2024 NEW INDUCTEES

FOUNDED IN 1921 NATIONALLY, PHI ALPHA THETA IS THE INTERNATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY IN HISTORY. WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE FOLLOWING INDUCTEES:

VERONICA BIKOWICZ

EVE BORELLI

NICHOLAS CARDENAS

RYAN COSTIN

CHARLES C. DEPRIMO

ANDREW EDWARDS

MITCHELL HART

LOGAN LAVALLEE

NORAH K. PEASE

ALEXIS PITCHER

NOAH SCHWARTZ

LANCE WILSON

STUDENT NEWS

In summer '24, six SUNY Potsdam students completed paid internships working with NY town historians to research the history and legacy of the American Declaration of Independence, in anticipation of the Declaration's upcoming 250th Anniversary:

- SharonMarie Bartz ('26)
- Nicholas Cardenas ('24)
- Ryan Costin ('25)
- Teresa Dickson ('24)
- Logan Lavallee ('26) and
- Noah Schwartz ('24)

This wonderful program was funded by the Gardiner Foundation, organized by Dr. Michael Oberg (SUNY Geneseo), and brought to our campus by Dr. Sheila McIntyre. For more, see this [Reporter article](#).



Interns with Drs. Baker & McIntyre



Potsdam's **History Student Association (HSA)**

has hosted on-campus events and presentations as well as trips to Canada's Diefenbunker (Cold War bunker museum) in April '24, and to Plattsburgh in October '24 to visit the North Country Underground Railroad Museum, the Plattsburgh Air Force Base Museum, the War of 1812 Museum, and the Clinton County Historical Association. In April 2024 the HSA also held its annual book sale as part of our campus Eclipse events.



Jacob Orcutt (History '12, photo with Dr. Freed) is *Director of Operations at Connecticut's Old State House*. A Phi Alpha Theta member since '11, Jacob earned his MA in Public History at UMass. His research interests focus on Indigenous history of early America.

Congratulations to **Ethan Brownell** (History '12; MST Secondary Ed. and Teaching '13) for being awarded *2023 Maine History Teacher of the Year*. Ethan teaches History at Maine Central Institute in Pittsfield, ME.



In sadder news, **Andrew Brink** (History '09) passed away unexpectedly in June. Andrew's love for history fueled his deep commitment to social activism and justice as well as his participation in Civil War reenactments.

ALUMNI NEWS



Karen King (History f'23, concentrations in Classical Studies and Museum Studies) is *Director of the Gouverneur Public Library*. A Phi Alpha Theta member since '22, she took part in the Washington Semester in Fall'23, interning at Studio Gallery and the Office for Public Records and Archives.

In addition to teaching, advising, doing research, and publishing, our faculty have been working hard providing key campus service:

Dr. Thomas Baker

is Associate Director Loughheed Center for Applied Learning,

Dr. Geoffrey Clark

directs the NEH Program,

Dr. Shiho Imai continues

as our Interim Dean of Arts & Sciences,

Dr. Sheila McIntyre

is serving as Associate Director of General Education,

Dr. Kevin Smith

is President of the SUNY Potsdam UUP chapter, and

Dr. Gaylynn Welch is an Online Faculty Fellow.

FACULTY NEWS



Dr. Sheila McIntyre was awarded a 2024 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching. Congrats, Dr. McIntyre!



Dr. Steven Stannish and Potsdam alumna **Alexandra Morris** ('12) presented research about disability in ancient Egypt at the 2024 American Research Center in Egypt Conference (Pittsburgh). They also met up with alumnus **Daniel Warne** ('07).



Summer '24 Cuba students with Potsdam's Dr. Axel Fair-Schulz and Prof. Dictinio Diaz Gonzalez

Dr. Axel Fair-Schulz was Potsdam's first professor to participate in a joint travel course initiative with the University of Cienfuegos in Cuba. Dr. Fair-Schulz will lead this course again in 2025.



Stay Connected.

Join us on Instagram @[sunypotsdamhistory](https://www.instagram.com/sunypotsdamhistory).

Scan the QR code (at right) to find out more about us.



Please email Dr. Libbie Freed, Dept. Chair, at freedlj@potdam.edu with any information that you would like to add to a future newsletter. Let us know what you are doing and how things are going!

Thank you to our donors!

SUNY Potsdam's History Department offers programs and experiences for students that would not be possible without your support. From internships and site visits to scholarships and awards, your generosity provides opportunities for students to excel on campus and in their own communities.

Wondering how you can contribute?

- **Give online!** Visit SUNY Potsdam's giving form at potdam.edu/give. To restrict your gift, select "Other" in the designation field and type "History Department." Your gift to this fund will provide resources for the greatest needs of the department.
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- **Learn more about other ways to give, including gifts of stock or through your IRA.**

Questions about making a gift can be directed to (315) 267-3253 or invest@potdam.edu.

Thank you for joining with other alumni and friends to ensure the continued growth of our department and our students!