

THE REUNION

Newsletter of the Department of History at SHSU

Volume 2
July 2022

GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR

The 2021-2022 academic year was an exceptionally busy one for our students and faculty. It has been wonderful to once again host in-person events and engage with students on campus. Faculty are once again traveling to archives, attending scholarly symposia in-person, and delivering invited talks.

This year, the department successfully completed two national searches. For the first time, SHSU will have a devoted faculty line in the history of slavery. **Dr. Nicholas Crawford** will join us this summer at the rank of Assistant Professor. Dr. Crawford's scholarship interrogates the connections between slavery, food, and freedom in eighteenth and nineteenth century North America and the Caribbean. He earned his Ph.D. at Harvard University, where he worked under the tutelage of Joyce Chaplin, Vincent Brown, and Walter Johnson. Dr. Crawford's work has been supported by prestigious fellowships from Yale's Gilder Lehrman Center, the Huntington Library, the American Antiquarian Society, and the Library Company of Philadelphia. **Dr. Joshua Haynes** will join us in the fall as Assistant Professor of Native North American History. Dr. Haynes earned his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia, where he worked with Claudio Saunt. His scholarship focuses on inter-ethnic violence and state formation in Native American societies. Already, he is the author of *Patrolling the Border: Theft and Violence on the Creek-Georgia Frontier, 1770-1796*. Dr. Haynes comes to us after stints at McKendree University and the University of Southern Mississippi. We are looking forward to the many contributions that our newest colleagues will make to the life of the department. These active scholars and dynamic teachers will further diversify our curriculum and course offerings.

Throughout 2021-2022, the department trained its attention on enhancing undergraduate career readiness. Phi Alpha Theta, under the direction of professors **Bernadette Pruitt** and **Tom Cox**, hosted a graduate student research symposium. In October, the department hosted the first annual "History @ Work" event, which invited recent alumni in a range of career fields back to campus for a panel discussion with our current students. We produced (and published on our website) a video highlighting the marketable skills and career outcomes of history majors. We made available complimentary copies of the American Historical Association's pamphlet, *Careers for History Majors* (if you are a student and did not receive yours, stop by the departmental office!) The department also secured approval for the launch, in 2022-2023, of a public history internship program. This exciting initiative will work to pair interested students with local historical sites, cultural centers, libraries, and museums. The department will host informational meetings for students in the fall semester.

Not unrelated to these efforts, we continue to build meaningful connections with our colleagues in the College of Osteopathic Medicine as we enhance our unique B.S. in History degree (designed for students interested in medical school, but who have an interest in history). Under the able direction of Visiting Assistant Professor in the History of Medicine **Scottie Hale Buehler**, the department launched a Medical Humanities Lecture Series this year. The series brought nationally recognized historians (including Jim Downs, Courtney Thompson, and Jacob Steere-Williams) to campus to discuss histories of epidemiology, disability, and public health—as well as the relationship between race, gender, and medicine. Recorded talks will be archived on our new departmental YouTube channel.

A final word to our many alumni: please send us an update and let us know how you are doing. We love to hear from you and would love to share your life and career journeys in the pages of the next departmental newsletter! And if you find yourself near campus, stop in and pay us a visit. The door is always open.

Sincerely Yours,



Brian Matthew Jordan
Associate Professor of Civil War History & Chair
Department of History
Sam Houston State University

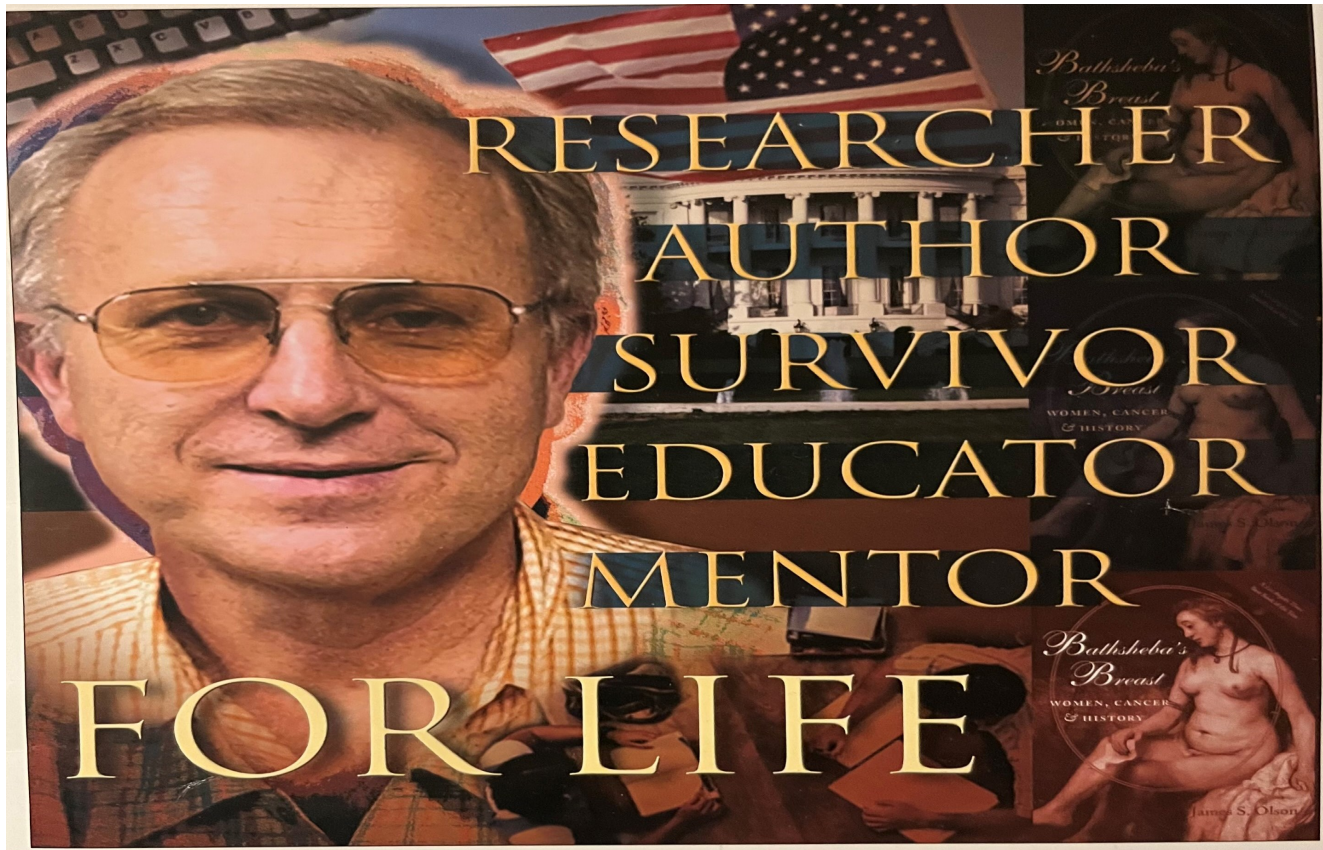
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Special points of interest:

- Dr. Olson's Retirement
- Spring Scholarship Banquet
- Czech Archival Donation
- New Faculty Spotlight
- Events in 2021-2022

DR. OLSON RETIRES AFTER 50 YEARS



LEGENDS NEVER STOP.

On the afternoon of May 17th, friends, family, alumni, and colleagues gathered in the Olson Auditorium of Academic Building IV to celebrate the remarkable career of Dr. Jim Olson, who officially retired from Sam Houston State University after fifty years of service on May 31st, 2022.

Dr. Olson quickly illustrated himself as an inspiring classroom instructor, a devoted university citizen, and a prolific scholar. His abbreviated vita tallies eleven book chapters; twenty-five peer reviewed

journal articles; and some forty books—from a pair of monographs on the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to a cultural biography of John Wayne; from an evolutionary classroom survey of the Vietnam war to a groundbreaking history of breast cancer; from historical dictionaries of the British and Spanish empires to an ethnohistorical encyclopedia of China. He contributed to the “memory boom” with a well-received book on the Alamo and tried his hand at institutional history with his work, *Making Can-*

cer History.

It goes without saying that Jim had the good fortune to be trained before hyperspecialization! Jim asked historical questions that helped him to make sense of himself and a world that changed dramatically around him—from the deep shadow cast by the Great Depression to his own inspiring battle with cancer.

Dr. Olson will forever hold a special place within the Department of History at SHSU as there are incredible shoes that will never be filled.

Jim Olson is a legend not just for the books he wrote and the awards he won, but because of what he inspired this department—students and faculty alike—to become.

~Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan



SCENES FROM A (SORT OF) MARRIAGE: A TRIBUTE TO JIM OLSON

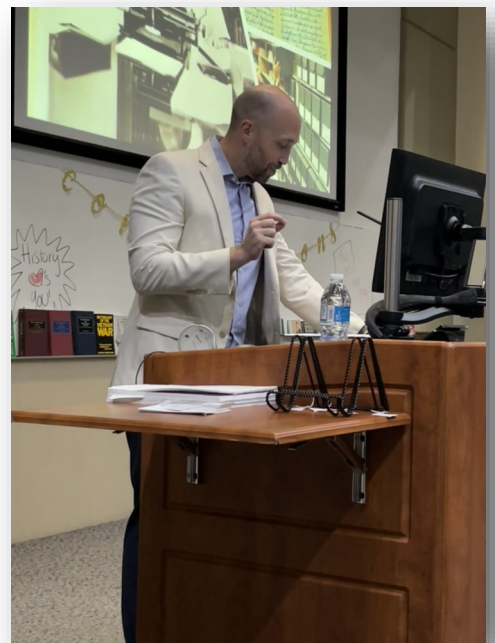
Long time associate and dear friend, Dr. Randy Roberts (Purdue University's Distinguished Professor of History) provided remarks as a surprise guest! Having co-authored more than a dozen books, Drs. Olson and Roberts are two bestselling historians that have forever impacted and revolutionized the profession. Thank you both for your dedication to our field.



THE MORMONISM OF JIM OLSON'S (NON-MORMON) HISTORY

Director of Graduate Studies Dr. Ben Park delivered words to further situate Dr. Olson's career in context (as well the Moron historical tradition).

Dr. Olson, it will never be enough but,
thank you.



FACULTY NEWS

The Department of History's Faculty were asked to share their highlights from the 2021-2022 academic year.



DR. NANCY BAKER



In 2021-2022, I continued to serve as Associate Chair of the History Department and teach undergraduate and graduate courses in the history of politics, gender, and women in the United States. I have two book projects in progress. I am nearing completion of *Taking it Back: The Equal Rights Amendment and the Politics of Rescission* (under contract with University of Georgia Press), a national study of a century of opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment. *Texas Feminism Between and Beyond the Waves* (under contract with Louisiana State University Press) is a prosopography of Texas feminist legal reformers during the 20th century, such as Hermine Tobolowsky and Louise Raggio. I was interviewed about my research on Louise Raggio by Texas Monthly magazine for their January 2021 issue.

Provost Michael Stephenson asked me to serve on a university committee revising and reforming all major policies concerning faculty. Although this kept me extremely busy, I enjoyed the opportunity to work with administrators and colleagues across the university. I am honored to be one of six finalists for the SHSU Excellence in Service Award. I am a previous winner of the SHSU Excellence in Teaching Award.



This academic year has been a productive one, despite the continued fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic and responses to it. I organized a virtual workshop in February 2022 for the Second World War Research Group, North America (SWWRGNA) with my co-director Mary Kathryn Barbier on "Information at War," which the history department generously supported. The workshop was a great success, and I am working on an edited volume based on the presentations. My monograph, *Survivors: Warsaw under Nazi Occupation* (Cambridge University Press), was released in early 2022 and I have enjoyed the opportunity to give talks on the book. Two that are available for those interested include a discussion with Piotr Kosicki at the New Books Network (NBN) channel on Eastern European Studies (<https://newbooksnetwork.com/survivors>) and one with Paul Woodadge, host of WW2TV, on "Resistance in Poland," which is on YouTube now (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hx93O-r12N0&t=2s>). Like many scholars of eastern Europe, and particularly those specializing in war and violence, I have been focused on the Russian invasion of Ukraine and have spent the spring working with colleagues in the United States and Europe to maintain a database of opportunities for Ukrainian scholars and students fleeing the war. I look forward to spending summer 2022 doing research for my second book.

DR. JADWIGA BISKUPSKA



DR. SCOTTIE BUEHLER



My first year at SHSU has been productive and fulfilling. I developed undergraduate classes on the history of western medicine and the history of disease (called "Poxes and Plagues") and graduate courses on methods in the history of medicine and global pandemics. In all my classes, I invited students to consider medicine's role in creating, supporting, and justifying social hierarchies. With undergraduates, we interrogated the tension between individual rights and public health using the case of Mary Mallon (aka, "Typhoid Mary"). Students embraced the opportunity to make connections between pandemics of the past and present.

The History Department has also played a leading role in expanding the medical humanities on campus. We initiated our history of medicine speaker series, inviting five scholars from around the country to share their expertise with our faculty and students. They covered wide-ranging topics including phrenology and crime, the cultural history of the seeing eye dog, the origins of epidemiology, and the unintended consequences of mosquito nets in global health. I also made progress on my research, receiving a fellowship from the American Association for the History of Nursing and presenting my scholarship at the American Historical Association and the Society for the History of Technology. My article, "Delivering Smallpox Vaccination in Bordeaux," on female

vaccinators in France appeared in the journal *Early Modern Women*. This summer I will be conducting archival research in Louisiana on midwives in eighteenth-century New France for my book project. This year overflowed with new opportunities and relationships and I am excited about the future of the medical humanities at SHSU!



DR. THOMAS COX



Dr. Cox spent the past year working on his monograph project, *The Mandarins of Algonac: The Delano Family and the Origins of U.S.-China Trade*. As an Association of Colleges and University Educators (ACUE) Fellow, he completed a course on effective teaching practices. With Dr. Littlejohn and Dr. Montz, he taught an honors dialogue seminar on Free Speech. Dr. Cox also chaired a panel at the East Texas Historical Association Annual Meeting in Nacogdoches and attended the American Historical Association's Annual Meeting in New Orleans. With Dr. Bernadette Pruitt, he continues to serve as a faculty co-sponsor for SHSU's Phi-Alpha Theta chapter. Dr. Cox helped to organize the first annual Phi Alpha Theta graduate students roundtable this spring. He also continues to teach courses in colonial America and the history of the early republic. Dr. Cox is also currently chairing two MA theses.

DR. AMY DEAN

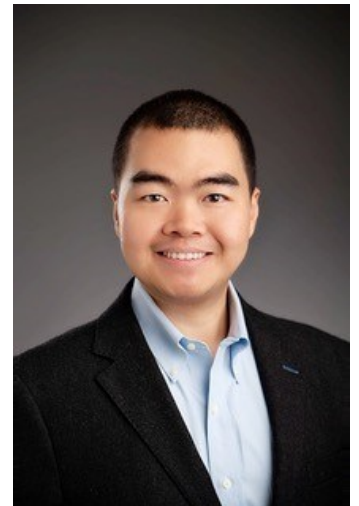


Dr. Amy Dean is a Lecturer in the Department of History. Her research examines the agency of noble women in early modern France, their roles in running the family economy, and their vital position in garnering power for their families. She is currently working on an article, "Defending Privilege: Women of the Noblesse de Robe in Early Modern Burgundy." In the fall of 2021, Dr. Dean taught the newly created undergraduate course, "Early Modern France, 1453-1789," which fo-

cuses on French society and institutions between the Late Middle Ages and the eve of the French Revolution. On campus, Dr. Dean continues to serve as Faculty Advisor of the SHSU Chapter of the multidisciplinary honor society, Alpha Chi National College Honor Society. Off campus, she holds the positions of Commissioner and Reporter of the Walker County Historical Commission. Dr. Dean plans to return to the archives in France to conduct research on additional noblesse de robe families during the summer of 2023.

The academic year of 2021-2022 has been unbelievable, full of opportunities and horizons. I was thrilled to join the Department of History at SHSU in Fall 2021 as an assistant professor in East Asian history. Since joining the supportive department, I have taught both face-to-face and online courses, from the Asian history survey to the graduate seminars on modern China and Japan. I sought to bring dialogic pedagogy into my classrooms that facilitated inquiry-based learning. I have been actively engaged in new course development and course revisions for both history undergraduate and graduate programs. I developed three courses: "Modern China," "The Pacific War," and "Violence and the State in East Asia," which are currently under review by the Assessment and Curriculum Committee. I expect to teach these courses beginning in Spring 2023. Throughout the academic year, I made steady progress on the manuscript of my book, titled *Arming and Disarming: The Culture and Politics of Guns in Modern China*. I plan to send the manuscript to the University of Michigan Press in Fall 2022. I am pleased to report that a research article that I completed revisions in Fall 2021 will be published in the edited volume *War and Communism* in June 2022. It is entitled "'Political Power Grows Out of the Barrel of the Gun': Communist Policies on Mobilizing Armed Masses in Wartime China." As a new faculty member at SHSU, I endeavor to learn about the university's culture and resources, and look for ways to help students succeed.

DR. LEI DUAN



DR. MAGGIE ELMORE

During the 2021-2022 academic year, Dr. Elmore was in residence at Southern Methodist University's Clements Center for Southwest Studies as the Bill and Rita Clements Research Fellow for the Study of Southwestern America. While on leave, she completed a draft of her book, *Torn Soul: American Catholicism*

and Mexican Immigration. She also published a co-edited book, *Faith and Power: Latino Religious Politics Since 1945*. Although she enjoyed being a part of the community at SMU, Dr. Elmore greatly missed her students and colleagues, and is looking forward to being back on campus this fall.



DR. PINAR EMIRALIOĞLU

In 2021-2022 academic year, Dr. Pinar Emiralioğlu continued working on her second book project which investigates the close relationship between geographical knowledge and imperial politics in the Ottoman Empire during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Among the articles and book reviews she completed this academic year are “Cartography and Imperial Vision: An Ottoman Experience,” in *Ottoman History Sourcebook*, edited by Linda Darling and Matthew Lupin. (Forthcoming in Cambridge University Press) and Review of Yossef Rapoport and Emilie Savage-Smith. *Lost Maps of the Caliphs: Drawing the World in Eleventh-Century Cairo* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2019), *The Journal of World History*, Vol. 32, No. 3 (2021). She also presented a paper titled “Mapping the Center of the World: Constantinople in the Early Modern Ottoman Geographical and Imperial Consciousness,” at the American Historical Association’s January 2022 meeting.

Since November 2021, Dr. Emiralioğlu serves as a higher education content advisor for the State Board of Education (SBOE) to review and revise the social studies Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS).

Dr. Emiralioğlu continues to teach undergraduate and graduate classes on World History, History of the Middle East, and the Ottoman Empire.

DR. CHARLES HEATH

Graduate students this year examined the history of Mexico during the Global Sixties (HIST5385) and published their original research projects to [Historical Mexico](#). **Jennifer Berry** traces Texas native and JFK’s Ambassador to Mexico, **Robert C. Mann’s “quiet negotiations”** in settling a long-standing and fractious border dispute over El Chamizal, a small piece of land on the El Paso-Juárez border. Jennifer conducted research at Baylor University, where Mann’s papers are held, and visited the Chamizal National Memorial. **Anna Barker** recounts **the history of Soviet trade efforts in Mexico** and the 1959 visit of Anastas Mikoyan to inaugurate the Soviet Exhibition of Science, Technology and Culture at Mexico City’s Auditorio Nacional. Over one million Mexicans viewed displays of vehicles, industrial oil equipment, and bulldozers, but the most popular objects on display were the Lunik and Sputnik spacecrafts. **R. Miles Block** revisits a hot June day during 1963 when a large flatbed truck drove through Houston’s Museum District carrying **a colossal basalt Olmec sculpture** of the head of an ancient ruler from the San Lorenzo archaeological site in Veracruz state.



My own research path this year included deep drives into the pine vortices of east Texas, chasing dreamy airs of the Mexican Army Fourth Cavalry band (Reynosa, TAMPS) at the Great Texas Fruit Palace, Tyler, in 1895. I reported my findings to ETHA at The Fredonia in Nacogdoches. We raised tumblers bathed in mash, moonlight, and aromatic oils. The whole family, Niza included, searched solemnly for the walls of San Francisco de los Tejas.

Presently we recover more strains of Mexican military airs and follow them to the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Centennial, St. Louis World’s Fair. There, the Zapadores band (Mexico’s Third Artillery) under Captain Ricardo Pacheco played waltzes and cornet solos after John Phillip Sousa had long cleared out of St. Louis, because for most of his career, Sousa would refuse to follow *any* Mexican military band! So, research this year takes place at the rich archives, libraries, and museums of St. Louis, Missouri, where the further history of the world’s encounters and exchanges with the republic of Mexico at the World’s Fairs awaits. Meet me in St. Louis!

DR. BRIAN MATTHEW JORDAN



This academic year, I published a chapter on how Union soldiers coped with mass killing and death at Antietam (in Jean Baker and Charles Mitchell, eds., *The Civil War in Maryland Reconsidered* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2021]); a chapter on Union regimental mascots in war and peace (in Earl J. Hess, ed., *Animal Histories of the Civil War Era* [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 2021]); a chapter on Civil War era Americans' fascination with the question, 'what if Lincoln had lived?' (in Chris Mackowski and Brian Matthew Jordan, eds., *The Great What Ifs of the American Civil War: Historians Tackle the Conflict's Most Intriguing Possibilities* [California: Savas Beatie, 2022]); and the foreword for Vincent Burns, *Voices of the Army of the Potomac: Personal Reminiscences of Union Veterans* [Philadelphia: Casemate, 2021]. I likewise published articles in *The Civil War Monitor* and *The Lincoln Forum Bulletin*, as well as reviews in *The Journal of Military History*, *Civil War History*, *The Civil War Monitor*, and *Civil War News*.

I brought work on a co-edited volume, *Final Resting Places: Reflections on the Meaning of Civil War Graves*, to a close; the book, which the University of Georgia Press will publish next year, features essays from thirty leading Civil War historians, including Edward Ayers, Michael Vorenberg, Barbara Gannon, Caroline Janney, and Douglas Egerton. I likewise made progress on a major interpretive synthesis of the Civil War, under advanced contract with Liveright/W.W. Norton.

This year, I delivered invited talks at the Atlanta History Center; The Civil War Museum of Kenosha, Wisconsin; Texas A&M University; Blinn College; The Abraham Lincoln Book Shop; The Wisconsin Veterans' Museum; The Marblehead Museum; The Civil War Round Table of White Plains, New York; The Civil War Round Table of Pasadena, California; the National Association of Scholars; the New England Historic Genealogical Society; The Civil War Round Table of Tampa Bay, Florida; The Civil War Round Table of Los Angeles; The Civil War Round Table of Southern Maryland; Gettysburg National Military Park; and Pamplin Historical Park.

I taught the Civil War lecture course in Fall 2021 (in-person for the first time since 2019!), as well as a graduate seminar on Reconstruction. In Spring 2022, I taught a graduate seminar on recent directions in Civil War history. I was also proud to advise three MA theses to successful completion.

DR. JEFF LITTLEJOHN

This year proved to be a productive time for me, despite the limitations imposed by Covid-19. I taught eight courses during the fall and spring, as well as another five during the summer. I also accepted a new position as the first [Honors College Teaching Faculty Member at SHSU](#). This position has involved planning, teaching, and publishing with honors students in a variety of ways. In May 2021, for example, I led a group of 10 honors students on a study-away class to Mississippi and Alabama. There, we examined how public history venues have presented the African American experience in the United States. With my colleague Kristin Henze, I then helped the students publish "[Chronicling the Journey from Slavery to Civil Rights: African American Public History in the U.S. South](#)," in *The Measure*.

On the research front, I continued my collaboration with Dr. Charles Ford. We published our article "[In the Best American Tradition of Freedom, We Defy You: The Radical Partnership of Joseph Jordan, Edward Dawley, and Leonard Holt](#)," in the *Journal of African American History*. We also continued work on our edited collection, *Queer Virginia*, which features a number of fascinating articles on LGBTQ history in the Old Dominion. In addition, Charles and I finished an article titled, "Race and Recreation in East Texas: A History of Huntsville's Municipal Swimming Pool and Emancipation Park," which has been accepted for publication in the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*. And, finally, we received a \$7,040 SHARP grant from Virginia Humanities for a project titled, "The Old Dominion and the High Court," which examines U.S. Supreme Court cases from Virginia.

On other fronts, I am working with friends Reginald Ellis and Peter Levy as the co-editor of a new collection titled, *Fighting for the Soul of a Nation: Black Americans' Struggle to Keep American Democracy Alive*. The book received a contract from the University of Florida Press and is scheduled for completion this summer. In addition, I worked with my SHSU colleagues, Aaron Hyams, Kristin Henze, and Zach Montz, to publish a short piece in *The Conversation* titled, "[Texas Distorts its Past – and Sam Houston's Legacy – to Defend Confederate Monuments](#)." And, finally, Thomas Cox, Zach Montz, and I built a website for our project, "[The Lone Star and the High Court](#)," as part of a \$6,000 SHSU Teaching Innovation Grant.

Beyond the university, I served as the Vice President and Program Chair for the East Texas Historical Association in 2021 before becoming President of the organization in 2022. I also served as Chair of the Texas State Historical Association's Membership Committee and H. Bailey Carroll Award Committee. At the TSHA, I also launched the new Texas Talks program, which features historians talking about their work. Our own [Uzma Quraishi gave a talk on her book, *Redefining the Immigrant South*](#), as part of the series. Finally, I continued my work on racial violence in Texas, presenting on numerous programs. For my work, I was recognized as one of three finalists for the University Service Award in 2022.



DR. SARAH MASS



Dr Mass's contribution to a new open access book, *The Neoliberal Age? Britain since the 1970s* came out in December 2021. The chapter asks why retail and shopping needed to be flexible in Britain after the Second World War, and the long-term effects that had on political culture by the 1970s. After a quick trip to the British Library over Spring Break, Dr Mass is looking forward to an extended research trip to Exeter, Leeds, and Scotland in the summer of 2022.

In the classroom, Dr Mass continued to expand offerings in British history at Sam. Her senior seminar students conducted original research into the history of London, ranging from papers on Jack the Ripper to gentrification in Notting Hill. Graduate students in the new course, "Britain's Modern Wars," read about the long shadows cast by conflicts from the Boer War to the Falklands.

Want FREE History Swag?

Find out how on pg. 18!

DR. BEN PARK

This past year I was very fortunate to receive the "Best Book Award" from the Mormon History Association for *Kingdom of Nauvoo: The Rise and Fall of a Religious Empire on the American Frontier*. The book was also optioned for a movie or dramatic series. I remain the co-editor of the annual journal *Mormon Studies Review*, and a new issue was published in January. I spent several weeks in UC-Santa Barbara as a Distinguished Visiting Professor of Religious Studies, and I delivered invited lectures at several universities and historical institutions. I was also a featured scholar in a new documentary, *The Tomb of Joseph*, and recently returned from filming scenes for another documentary, *Free Exercise: The Story of American Religious Liberty*, that is narrated by Richard Brookhiser. I hope to complete my new book, a survey of Mormonism in America, this fall.



DR. BERNADETTE PRUITT

Prof Bernadette Pruitt (PhD, University of Houston, 2001) teaches classes in Recent African American history, internal migrations, civil rights, and Recent United States history and is the author of one book, *The Other Great Migration: The Movement of Rural African Americans to Houston* (College Station: TAMU Press, 2013). This academic year the historian has concentrated her energies on two groups of history makers. First, she has spent the last few years examining the lives of Black Texans during World War II. She recently published "The New Negro Moves Forward: Black Texans Earn Their Citizenship in World War II," coauthored with Christopher Bean and Michael Hurd. *Texans, Texas, and World War II* (College Station: Texas A. & M. University Press), 2021. Prof Pruitt also awaits the publication of another book chapter, "The Second Great Migration to

Houston, 1940-1945," in *Race, Place, and Power in Houston, Texas*, edited by Alex Byrd, Emily Straus, and Brien Behnken (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, forthcoming). And Ms. Pruitt is working on a book-length study of Black Houston during World War II and the Second Great Migration. Second, the native Detroiter has spent the last few years researching the lives of Black Texas women. She recently authored and coauthored (one piece with scholar Jeff Littlejohn) three biographies (and is completing a fourth chapter) for the upcoming anthology *We Did It: Portraits of African American Women in Texas History*, edited by Bruce Glasrud, Merline Pitre, Jessica Brannon-Wranosky, and Cecilia Gutierrez Venable. The work is currently under review with Texas A. & M. University Press. As well, Dr. Pruitt is coediting an anthology with LaGuana Gray and

Yvonne Davis Frear. Tentatively titled "Black Women Historians in

the Texas Academy: Writing, Teaching, and Living for Future Generations," the compilation addresses mental health, racism, class, and gender matters among African American women history professors in Texas. Pruitt also serves as Second Vice President of the East Texas Historical Association and is a member of the board of directors for the Texas State Historical Association.



DR. UZMA QURAISHI

The 2021-22 academic year proved especially rewarding. My book, *Redefining the Immigrant South: Indian and Pakistani Immigration to Houston during the Cold War*, was awarded the Theodore Saloutos Prize for the best book in US immigration history, the Association for Asian American Studies–Best History Book Award, and an honorable mention for the Pacific Coast Branch Book Award. I also had the pleasure of speaking about my work with a range of academic audiences including at St. Louis University, University of Tennessee, and Emory University, among others. I expanded my public engagement through participation in social media events, film media, and radio. Despite pandemic hurdles, I presented my research at the annual conferences of Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, American Historical Association, and Texas State Historical Association (TSHA). A particular honor was the invitation to deliver the keynote lecture at the Women's Luncheon at the 2022 TSHA conference in Austin.

My new book project concerns U.S. public diplomacy in South Asia, and I am currently immersed in reading through documents gathered from research at the Truman and Eisenhower Presidential Libraries.

This academic year, teaching highlights included graduate courses on the Cold War and recent U.S. history, and an undergraduate senior seminar on Asian American history. Still, the greatest joy of the year was returning to the classroom to teach SHSU students in person.



DR. STEPHEN RAPP

Because travel to far-away places like Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan was not possible during another pandemic year, Dr Steve Rapp temporarily diverted his gaze to other projects, including a cross-cultural investigation of the Garden of Eden's association with the Caucasus region. He also presented new material in "Davit' Ağmaşenebeli and the Marginalization of Caucasia's Persianate Identity," a talk given via Zoom for the Saint Grigol Peradze Second International Scientific Conference Dedicated to the 900th Anniversary of the Battle of Didgori, hosted by T'bilisi State University in the Republic of Georgia. And his "Religious Plurality and Mixture in the Persianate North: Christians, Jews, Zoroastrians, and Manichaeans in Late Antique Georgia," was published in the online journal *Entangled Religions*.



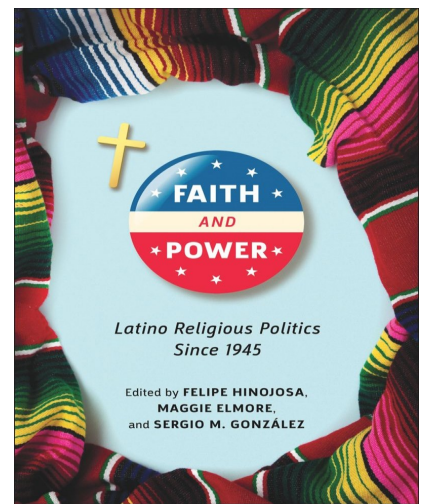
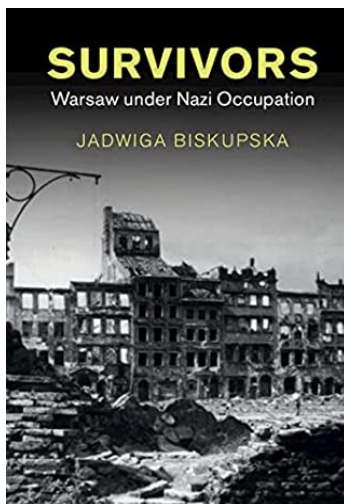
The Department of History's very own Joshua Rachita blacksmithing at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum!

Congratulations to Tonia Cansler-Merideth who earned both a BA in History and MA in History in our department. Tonia has been offered and accepted a position in the Colonial Williamsburg Family Program for Summer 2022!

FACULTY PRODUCTIVITY

Our departmental faculty continues to raise the national profile of Sam Houston State University through significant research and scholarly output. This year, we celebrated the publication of a pair of first monographs: **Jadwiga Biskupska's** *Survivors: Warsaw Under Nazi Occupation* (Cambridge University Press) and **Zach Dolehsal's** *In The Kingdom of Shoes: Bata, Zlin, Globalization, 1894-1945* (University of Toronto Press). **Maggie Elmore** published an edited collection, *Faith and Power: Latino Religious Politics since 1945* (co-edited with Felipe Hinojosa and Sergio M. Gonzalez and published by New York University Press).

NEW BOOKS FROM THE FACULTY



DEPARTMENTAL & FACULTY AWARDS

Uzma Quaraishi's monograph, *Redefining the Immigrant South: Indian and Pakistani Immigration to Houston during the Cold War* (University of North Carolina Press) has lived up to its title, earning the Association for Asian American Studies Book Award (in addition to the 2021 Theodore Saloutos Book Prize for the Immigration and Ethnic History Society).

Departmental faculty likewise scored nominations for coveted university awards: **Nancy Baker** was nominated for the Excellence in Service Award; **Ben Park** was nominated for the Excellence in Teaching Award; and **Brian Jordan** was nominated for the Excellence in Research Award.

Niche.com ranked SHSU as #15 out of 43 as part of the 2022 Best Colleges for History in Texas!



University HQ ranked SHSU as #19 in their Top 50 Online History Bachelor's Colleges!



NEW FACULTY ADDITIONS

This year, the Department conducted two national tenure-track searches in an effort to further diversify our curriculum. We are pleased to welcome two new faculty members to the ranks this Fall!



DR. NICHOLAS CRAWFORD *ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY*

Dr. Crawford joins us from previous position as an NEH Long Term Fellow at the American Antiquarian Society (Worcester, Mass.) after previous postdoctoral fellowships at Washington University in St. Louis and the Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse. Dr. Crawford received a PhD and MA in History from Harvard and a BA from NYU.

His research interests center on the connections between slavery, empire, and abolition in the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Atlantic world. Dr. Crawford is currently revising a book manuscript on food provisioning, slavery, and resistance in the British Caribbean colonies.

Dr. Crawford believes that the main objectives in teaching history should be conveying histori-

cal knowledge to students while at the same time providing students with analytical skills that will enable them to critically evaluate evidence and probe omissions in how we write about the past. Stemming from his interests in the history of slavery in the early modern Atlantic world, he encourages students to consider the legacies of unfree labor in the contemporary politics of race and inequality around the globe.

As a native New Englander with an avid interest in hiking, he is very excited about exploring the great outdoors (and BBQ) in Texas!

DR. JOSHUA HAYNES *ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN THE HISTORY OF NATIVE NORTH AMERICA*

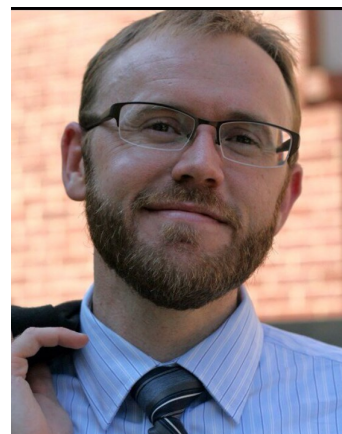
Dr. Haynes joins us from Florida, as well as Massachusetts. He is originally from Alabama. Dr. Haynes earned his Ph.D. at the University of Georgia; M.A. at the University of Mississippi; and a B.A. at Tulane University. His research interests include early America, Native America, with a particular focus on colonialism, violence, and the state formation in the Native South.

When asked what his teaching philosophy entails, Dr. Haynes responded, "I try to convince students to treat history as a verb rather than a noun; so, in my classes, I focus on getting students doing history:

reading, formulating research questions, reading more, seeking and evaluating evidence, reading still more, and making evidence-based arguments."

A fun fact about Dr. Haynes: once he joins us in Texas, he will have lived in every Gulf South State except Florida! How cool!

Dr. Haynes has never been more excited about joining a university community, and can't wait to meet his new colleagues and students face to face!



MA IN HISTORY PROGRAM UPDATES

We had another wonderful year in the graduate program. Completing a graduate degree is an impressive accomplishment in any climate, but it is especially impressive while dealing with the lingering effects of a pandemic!

We launched a lively and successful webinar lecture series. In the fall, we hosted two Pulitzer Prize-winning authors, Annette Gordon-Reed and David Blight, who spoke about their recent books. We were privileged to hear from excellent speakers like Gary Cadava, Courtney Thompson, Megan Kate Nelson, Michael Graziano, and Jim Downs. These lectures were stimulating for all who tuned in, and they helped expose us to some of the most exciting research taking place in the historical discipline. We look forward to continuing this new tradition next year!

Thank you to everyone who helps make our program successful. We remain the oldest and most substantial online MA in history program in the nation, all because of our wonderful faculty and students. Here's to another year!



AMERICAN HISTORY CERTIFICATE

The certificate program in American history will prepare graduate students to read, analyze, and write about the past in a way that is meaningful today. Students in the program will find a broad-based education incorporating in-depth studies of American history, immersion in the latest historiographical theories, and training in advanced research methods.

The graduate certificate program in history allows secondary school teachers who already hold a Master's degree to earn the credentials needed to teach courses for joint high school and college credit.

Through this program, teachers will be able to:

- Work with leading scholars from SHSU's faculty members in history;
- Complete the certificate completely online from their homes or offices;
- Finish the program in a single year;
- Apply coursework from this 18-hour program to a full MA degree in history at SHSU.

Interested? Apply for Spring 2023 by October 1st!

PORTFOLIO ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to the following students who successfully defended their MA in History portfolio, the capstone of the program. The portfolio entails the preparation of an original synthetic essay (building connections between courses); an annotated bibliography of all books and articles read during the program; and samples of written work from each course.



THESIS GRADUATES

⇒ Nadia Arensdorf (Fall 2021), "British Soldiers' Life Histories: Global Mobility, Army Reform, and British Identity in the Nineteenth Century"

Committee: Dr. Sarah Mass, Dr. David Mayes, and Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan

⇒ Sarah Johnson (Spring 2022), "The Lived Civil War Experience of British Women"

Committee: Dr. Ben Park, Dr. Nancy Baker, and Dr. Willis Oyugi

Congratulations to the following students who successfully defended their MA theses:

FALL 2021

Carl Clark
Kristina Coen
Lauren Glen
Helenna Ignatovich
Cathrine McMahan

Brent Mowdy
Lynette Patton
Spencer Raney
Scott Wingerter

SPRING 2022

Anna Barker
Colin Bohne
Emily Figueroa
Mackenzie Henderson
Adam Jackson
Jordan Larsen

James Ryan Mckee
Tonia Merideth
Crystal Moore
Tamara Parsons

SPECIAL EVENT SPEAKERS

Our Visiting Assistant Professor, Dr. Scottie Buehler, organized a fantastic lecture series covering various aspects of medical and health humanities.

**MEDICAL AND HEALTH HUMANITIES
SPEAKER SERIES—SPRING 2022**






January 26th: Zoom Webinar at 4 P.M.
 Dr. Aparna Nair, Oklahoma University
 "Freedom and a Friend! Or How the Guide Dog Has Become a Signifier for Disability in the U.S."
 Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3KoPNJ5>

February 9th: Zoom Webinar at 4 P.M.
 Dr. Jacob Steere-Williams, College of Charleston
 "The Filth Disease: Typhoid Fever and the Practices of Epidemiology in Victorian England"
 Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/3rxF7yO>

April 14th: 3:30 P.M., AB4 Room 220
 Dr. Jim Downs, Gettysburg College
 "Maladies of Empire: How Colonialism, Slavery, and War Transformed Medicine"

May 4th: 4 P.M., AB4 Room 220
 Dr. Kristen Moore-Sheeley, Cedars Sinai
 "Nothing But Nets: A Biography of Global Health Science and its Objects"

Contact Dr. Scottie Buehler with questions at shb014@shsu.edu
 Sponsored by the Department of History, Sam Houston State University



Sam Houston State University

MEMBER THE TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

JOAN COFFEY SYMPOSIUM

Dr. Nükhet Varlık (Rutgers University) presented 'Rethinking Past Plagues in an Age of Pandemics: Black Death and its Legacy' as part of the 15th Annual Joan Coffey Symposium, sponsored by the Department of History at Sam Houston State University.


Dr. Varlık is an Associate Professor of History at Rutgers University–Newark. Her research focuses on disease, death, medicine, and public health in the Ottoman Empire. Her first book, *External Plague and Empire in the Early Modern Mediterranean World: The Ottoman Experience, 1347–1600*, is the first systematic scholarly study of the Ottoman experience of plague during the Black Death pandemic and the centuries that followed. It was awarded Middle East Studies Association's *External2016 Albert Hourani Book Award*, the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association's *External2016 M. Fuat Köprülü Book Prize*, the Society for the Medieval Mediterranean's *External2017 Dionisius A. Agius Prize*, and the American Association for the History of Medicine's *External2018 George Rosen Prize*.

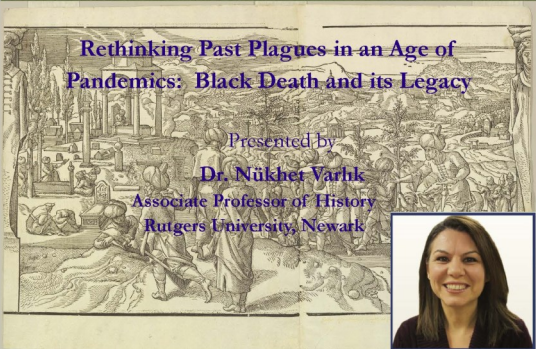
Want to rewatch the seminar? [Check out our YouTube!](#)

15TH ANNUAL JOAN COFFEY SYMPOSIUM

Rethinking Past Plagues in an Age of Pandemics: Black Death and its Legacy

Presented by
Dr. Nükhet Varlık
Associate Professor of History
Rutgers University, Newark





April 21, 2022
3:30pm–5:00pm
Olson Auditorium (AB4-220)

Sponsored by SHSU Department of History

APPLIED SKILLS CONSORTIUM

Over the course of the Spring semester, with the help of SHSU alumnus and former Entergy executive Mike Bakewell and Clinical Assistant Professor Zach Doleshal, history majors Naomi Baum and Morgan Robertson participated in the Applied Skills Consortium. The students crafted ideas to help expand a subsidiary of Elliot Electric Supply Company, NacSpace.

On May 1, Naomi and Morgan pitched those ideas at the Applied Skills Competition in Nacogdoches, TX.

The event featured two students from each of three participating universities, SHSU, SFA, and Southern Arkansas University. They gave boardroom pitches to the Chief Financial Officer of Elliot Electric Supply, Robert Flores. They then worked in teams of three to consolidate their ideas and present again.

Naomi and Morgan demonstrated well that the humanities equi students with a broad range of skills for the private sector. Morgan's team won. Naomi was recognized as having the most outstanding ideas for NacSpace. The two walked away from the project as paid consultants for an expanding business.



CZECH ARCHIVAL DONATION

Josef Opočenský founded Wesley Brethren Church in 1864, making it the first Czech speaking Brethren congregation in the Texas. The old church, with painted frescoes and an interesting wooden foundation, still stands in surprisingly fine shape, a testament to the care given to the structure by its members.

The current custodians of the place, many of whom trace their ancestors to the original immigrant families from Moravia, reached out to Dr. Zach Doleshal during a Bearkat History Club trip to the site in 2018 about how to care for the earliest church records. After a long hiatus, Doleshal reconnected and found a renewed eagerness to preserve the sources, which had been sitting in a safe untouched for decades.



Information provided by Dr. Zach Doleshal

Doleshal and SHSU Special Collections Director Trent Shotwell took possession of the records on March 29, 2022.

As a result, SHSU has gained a priceless historical resource. The documents consist of records dating from the church's founding to around World War One. In Czech, they record the births, deaths, marriages, and confirmations of the church's members as well as financial records. They are now in the process of digitization, which will make them readily available to researchers across the world.

SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET

Hosted on April 13th, 2022, the Department of History celebrated 22 students being selected for 12 of the Departmental scholarships. SHSU's own Dr. Lei Duan provided remarks on "Why I Became an Historian."

Presenting over \$55,000 in scholarships, the Department of History is humbled by its donors to be able to provide these opportunities to students.

Lee Olm & Elizabeth Olm Scholarship

Nicholas Free Katherine Shaver

Dr. Joan L. Coffey Scholarship

Elizabeth Ventura

Amanda Phillips Michael Jay

Ingrid Scholarship

Joshua Teague

Dr. Tracy L. Steele History Scholarship

Logan Galle Stephanie Goff

John & Louie Payne Scholarship

Star Red Cloud-Owen

Avery Clarke

John Payne Scholarship

Deztiny Johnston

Haylee Cranston Rachel Hill

Holly Walker Sally Tanner

Roger Olson Scholarship

Hailey Windham

Lynn Ray Smith Memorial Scholarship

Heidi Parra

Thomas M. Camfield Scholarship

Anthony Antonello

Joan Verrilli Scholarship

Becky Julian

William N. Boehme Scholarship

Krista Macumber

Rather-Powell American History Scholarship

William Lange Emily Allen



CO-CURRICULAR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Bearkat History Club

The Bearkat History Club is a student club built to expand historical awareness beyond the university classroom. BHC maintains a high paced schedule every semester, usually including two to three film nights, two field trips to historical sites, and a visiting speaker. The club is open to any students, undergraduate or graduate, who have an interest in history, regardless of their

chosen major or minor, and offers many students the opportunity to travel and learn about their surroundings.

Above all, the Bearkat History Club strives to show students that learning history is fun.

Free T-Shirts, pens, notebooks, and other 'swag' are available to members who attend BHC events. Members of the SHSU History Faculty along with BHC

student officers administer the Club and create its semester schedule.

Club dues are \$10.00 per year or \$5.00 per semester.

Please contact history@shsu.edu with any questions!



Phi Alpha Theta (National History Honor Society) - Sigma Phi Chapter

The National Honor Society in History, Phi Alpha Theta, was founded at the University of Arkansas in 1921 by Professor Nels Cleven. We are a professional society whose mission is to promote the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. Since its inauguration in 1921, Phi Alpha Theta has grown to more than nine hundred chapters in all fifty states, more than any other accredited four-year college honor society.

The total number of initiates since its inception exceeds 500,000 nationwide. On February 22, 1972, the Sigma-Phi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta was established. The Sigma-Phi chapter participates in local conferences, hosts engaging bi-weekly meetings, and provides valuable comradery with professors.

For more information about Phi Alpha Theta, check out the national website: phialphatheta.org. For more information about the Sigma-Phi chapter, contact chapter sponsors Berna-

dette Pruitt (his_bxp@shsu.edu) or Dr. Thomas Cox (thc001@shsu.edu).

We also have a bulletin board located in the History hallway on the 4th floor of AB4!

Phi Alpha Theta Membership is not limited to History majors!

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Fax: 936-294-3938
Email: history@shsu.edu

*The Reunion
Annual Newsletter*

History at SHSU: Creating a Culture of Excellence



DONATE TO FRIENDS OF HISTORY!

Each year, the Department of History welcomes a new class of undergraduate and graduates students that we are so excited to get to know. We work hard to make sure that we are providing the amazing learning opportunities in the classroom and beyond.

You can help us help students with a donation to the Friends of History account. Donating is easy (and tax deductible!)

Instructions for Online Giving Form

- Enter the amount you are donating in the "Gift Amount" field.
- In the Gift Designation field, pick "Other" from the drop-down menu.
- In the "Other" field, type in "Friends of History".
- Under the "Personal Information" section, you must select at least one category for the "Connection to SHSU" field (e.g. Alumni, Friend).
- Click the "Submit" button at the bottom of the page. This will direct you to a confirmation page, then to enter the payment information (credit card or account debit). Note that no convenience fee is charged for your gift.

*Become a
Friend of History*

