

# Department of History Alumni Newsletter

SPRING 2022

## FACULTY NEWS



**MATT BAHAR**

delivered lectures at the University of Oxford’s Transnational and Global History Seminar and at the Brick Store Museum in Kennebunk, Maine. These invited talks connected his research

on Native American maritime history (*Storm of the Sea: Indians and Empires in the Atlantic’s Age of Sail*, Oxford, 2019) with historical memory in colonial New England on the road to the American Revolution. The material was drawn from an article he is finishing for a special issue on “Indigeneity” in the journal *Eighteenth Century Studies*.



**NICHOLAS BUJALSKI**

was delighted—after a year of remote pandemic instruction—to join the Oberlin community in person in the second year of his Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship. He also saw the acceptance

for publication of his article “‘*Tuk, tuk, tuk!*’ A History of Russia’s Prison Knocking Language” at *The Russian Review*, as well as the appearance of a pedagogical piece “The Dialectical Images of Russian History” in the *All the Russia’s Blog* of the NYU Jordan Center for the Advanced Study of Russia. Alongside teaching lectures and seminars, Bujalski also served as co-organizer of a speaker series involving Oberlin College, Kenyon College, and the College of Wooster on the politics of difference in Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. Similarly rewarding was

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## Chair’s Greeting

BY ANNMARIE SAMMARTINO, PROFESSOR OF HISTORY



**A**s I write this chair’s letter, I am looking out of my window on a sunny spring day that is, nevertheless, unseasonably cold and with the threat of snow on the horizon for tomorrow. I don’t want to belabor it, but there is a metaphor for Oberlin College in there somewhere. Last year, Oberlin strove mightily to create some sort of on-campus experience for students. But this year is more like the Oberlin of pre-COVID times. While masks are still required indoors in most places on campus, students once again fill the halls of Rice and King with in-person classes and meetings. There is an energy again on campus that I know I’m not alone in having missed and no one is taking for granted the bits of normalcy that have returned.

Here in the department, we have been adjusting to a new normal as well. Our two most recently tenured colleagues—Tamika Nunley and Danielle Terrazas Williams—both left Oberlin for other institutions, Cornell University and University of Leeds, respectively. We will definitely miss the energy and erudition they brought to the department. Renee Romano has taken over the History Design Lab that Professor Nunley began to feature student-led and faculty-mentored research projects. You should check out Professor Romano’s update about the great projects that they have been working on including digital and public history projects on everything from the history of Oberlin to the history of global revolution.

In the third academic year of the pandemic, we have risen to the challenge of creating and maintaining community. We have started an Instagram page (@oberlinhistory) that we hope you will follow, as it has become our primary way to communicate about events and other happenings in the department. It was also where our fabulous student reps—Rey Jackman ’22, Gillian Sutliff ’22, Gunja Sarkar ’23, and Cortny Robinson ’24—held a meme contest for “found” and “original” history-themed memes. One of the memes will soon appear on some history department swag. We have also begun hosting a wine and cheese party for graduating majors that we hope we will be able to continue annually.

The department hosted a “History in the News” event in which Nick Bujalski, visiting assistant professor of Russian and history, and I talked about historical antecedents of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. We continued our once-per-semester series of faculty book seminars. As part of this series, we buy interested history majors copies of recent books by history department faculty authors. These authors sign the books, then hold a discussion of their work. In the fall, majors met with Associate Professor Matthew Bahar to talk about his *Storm of the Sea: Indians and Empires in the Atlantic’s Age of Sail* (Oxford, 2018) and in the spring, they met with Professor Leonard Smith to talk about his *Sovereignty at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919* (Oxford, 2018).

The history department continues to be proud of the research by both our faculty and students. Oberlin history faculty are committed to being engaged scholars, and I hope you

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# STILL LEARNING IN SAFETY



Oberlin had strict vaccine, booster, and mask mandates in 2021-22 and continued to face bravely the pandemic. Bit by bit, life inside and outside the classroom became more normal. Remote teaching was kept to a bare minimum. Some modest travel even resumed, including a visit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame and Museum in Cleveland associated with Professor Renee Romano's class on the History of Museums. As always, the students were smiling, unmasked, because they were outdoors!

## CHAIR'S GREETING, CONT.

read some of their updates about articles being published, major fellowships being won, and more. My book, *Freedomland: Co-op City and the Story of New York*, was published this spring and is discussed in more detail below. Professor Shelley Lee's *Korea Town, Los Angeles: Immigration, Race, and the "American Dream"* (Stanford, 2022) will be published this summer.

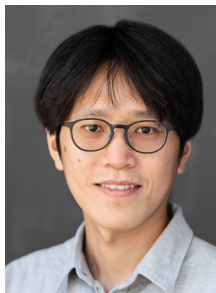
We have honors and senior capstone students working on topics as diverse as the West Virginia Battle of Blair Mountain miners' strike of 1921, the career and ideology of Japanese envoy Ebara Soroku, a small progressive school

in Croton-on-Hudson, New York, and mythologizing the German Tiger Tank during World War II. As you will read below, our alums continue to do great things after Oberlin.

If you have an update you would like to share, please send it to [history@oberlin.edu](mailto:history@oberlin.edu). I don't think I'm giving away any secrets when I tell you that Oberlin history department faculty meetings often consist partially of faculty bragging about their students. This has been a year of return and renewal in the Oberlin history department, and I hope that it has been the same for all of you.

Finally, I would like to ask you, our alumni, for help. We expect to continue our initiative to help students learn about career pathways by bringing back alums (both in person and virtually) to talk about what they have done with their Oberlin history degree. We continue to establish more opportunities for our students to do Winter Term projects and summer internships in history-related fields. History alums: If you would like to be part of this ongoing project or have potential internship opportunities to advertise, please let us know by contacting us at [history@oberlin.edu](mailto:history@oberlin.edu). Thank you!

the experience of leading a campus reading group on Walter Rodney's *The Russian Revolution: A View from the Third World*. He is also extremely pleased to be rejoining the history department as a visiting assistant professor for the coming academic year.



**YU-CHI CHANG** joined the Departments of History and East Asian Studies in fall 2021 as visiting assistant professor and is enjoying his time working with Oberlin colleagues and students. During

spring semester, he taught two courses on modern China and a seminar on East Asian maps. He was recently named a corecipient of the 2021-22 History Distinguished Dissertation Prize of Brown University Department of History. His dissertation was also nominated for Brown University Graduate School's Joukowsky Outstanding Dissertation Prize. He is completing an article coauthored with Lukas Rieppel, assistant professor of history at Brown University, on the 1920s natural history expeditions in China and Mongolia led by American explorer Roy Chapman Andrews, former director of the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Chang will continue to teach at Oberlin in 2022-23 and plans to teach a new course on "the edges of China."



**RISHAD CHOUDHURY** used his recent sabbatical leave to finalize his book manuscript. *Hajj between Empires: Pilgrimage and Political Culture after the Mughals, 1739-1857* is now slated

to be published by Cambridge University Press. Dovetailing his research for the book, Choudhury also completed two articles. The first, "Wahhabis without Religion, or a Genealogy of Jihadis in Colonial Law, 1818 to 1857," will appear sometime this summer in the journal *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa, and the Middle East*. The second, "The Tiger and the Turks: An Islamicate Embassy during the Age of British Expansion," was recently accepted for publication by *Itinerario*.

Choudhury is excited at the prospect of traveling later this year to Istanbul, where he is scheduled to give a talk on 19th-century Indo-Persian travel writing at Ibn Haldun University. He was also pleased to offer a new course in the spring on the history of Pakistan.



**JIYUL KIM** continued to work on *The Korean War: A New History* for Cambridge University Press. Coauthored with Professor Sheila Miyoshi Jager of East Asian Studies, the manuscript is due to be completed by the end

of 2022. He plans to return to teaching in 2023, offering one to two courses a year, including a new lecture course on War, the Military, and the American Nation. The Russo-Ukrainian war has been of keen interest for him not only because of his career as a U.S. Army officer that spanned the last decade of the Cold War and focused on the Soviet threat, but also as a source of rich contemporary historical material for his courses—Theory & History of War and War and Civilization. He believes that the Ukraine war is a bloody and stark reminder that warfare is an enduring and ineradicable part of human nature and society. Like so many past wars, it has the potential to fundamentally change the direction of history. He wants to emphasize through his teaching the vital necessity of studying wars, how they start, are waged, and end, if humanity is to have a chance at minimizing their occurrence and mitigating their tragic and destructive impact.



**OWAIN LAWSON** enjoyed his visiting position in the history department in 2021-22. While learning with Oberlin's exceptional students, he completed the manuscript for his most recent article. This article analyzes the

strategies Lebanese agrarian communities used to negotiate the big dam era of the 1950s and the lessons we might draw from those strategies to navigate developmental responses to the unfolding climate crisis. While developing this argument, he presented his research at the Middle East Studies Association's annual meeting and at the University of Southern

California. Through Oberlin's history department, he also organized an on-campus public talk by Hannah Elsis, PhD, and a Zoom panel featuring the Egyptian activists Laila Soueif and Nora Younis. Next year, Lawson will hold the position of postdoctoral fellow in the University of Toronto's Department of History. There, he will be completing his first book manuscript, *Power Failures: Water, Electricity, and Environmental Justice in Lebanon*, which historicizes the development of Lebanon's Litani River basin to reveal the centrality of environmental justice and demands for equitable natural resource distribution to postcolonial state formation and sectarianism. Additionally he will begin a second book project, *Bread Without Freedom*, which explores the imbrication of international population control programs with the consolidation of repressive states across the Middle East.



**SHELLEY LEE** is finishing her final year as chair of the Department of Comparative American Studies. Her book, *Koreatown, Los Angeles: Race, Immigration, and the "American Dream"* will

be published in June by Stanford University Press. She is working on multiple projects, including an article on the history of Asian Americans and the political right, an update of *A New History of Asian America*, and a monograph on the history of undocumented Asians in America.



**EMER O'DWYER** has enjoyed her return to classroom teaching following a sabbatical during the 2021 calendar year. She also continues to enjoy serving as director of the East Asian Studies Program.

**RENEE ROMANO** returned to teaching after a sabbatical doing graduate certificate programs in museum studies and digital public humanities. This year she introduced two new courses, an upper-level seminar on the history of museums and a first-year seminar called "Deconstructing Disney." She also led

## FACULTY NEWS, CONT.



the effort to create a new integrative concentration in public humanities, which will launch in 2022-2023. Romano's current research project explores the commemoration of blackface performer

Daniel Emmett in his hometown of Mount Vernon, Ohio. She has completed a digital site, *Whitewashing Blackface and Whistling Dixie: The Commemoration of Dan Emmett*, and is now writing an article about the 1935 plan to build a national memorial to honor Emmett and his composition, "Dixie." Romano gave presentations this year at the American Studies Association and at a conference honoring her graduate advisor Estelle Freedman. She is also excited to be joining a team that is developing a new exhibit about the environment and climate change at the American Museum of Natural History.

**LEONARD V. SMITH** taught in the unusual summer and fall semesters in 2021 and in spring 2022. His article, "The Politics of Recognition at the Paris Peace Conference," was published in *Postwar Continuity and New Challenges*



in *Central Europe, 1918-1923: The War that Never Ended*, edited by Tomasz Pudłocki and Kamil Ruszała (Routledge, 2022). Smith also completed a book manuscript, *French Colonialism from the*

*Ancien Régime to the Present*, to be published by Cambridge University Press in the New Approaches to European History series. In April, he gave his first in-person invited lecture in nearly two-and-a-half years titled "Problematizing the Nation State: France at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919," at Pennsylvania State University. In May, he gave a shortened version of the talk at Princeton University for a retirement symposium in honor of Philip Nord. Smith is looking forward to a sabbatical leave in 2022-23. He will spend spring semester 2023 as a Fernand Braudel Senior Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. He will begin a new monograph project on law, liberalism, and racial exclusion in 19th century Texas and French Algeria.

**ELLEN WURTZEL** has been grateful for the resilience of returning students and the energy



of new arrivals on campus. Students have made the transition to in-person teaching this year better than she thought possible. She has introduced a new course on popular and elite culture in early modern Europe titled

*Lords, Peasants, and Pigs on Trial* and looks forward to a new collaboration with the Allen Memorial Art Museum for an exhibit connected to the course. This summer she will teach in the Advanced Studies in England program in Bath, England, on early modern science and medicine and the collecting impulse that helped create the first museums in Stuart England. Wurtzel took a productive and restorative two-week research trip to Paris in January to work in the Archives nationales and the Archives de l'assistance publique collecting information on urban bathing in the francophone world of the later Middle Ages. Having recently completed one article on bathhouses, health, and crime in late medieval northern France, Wurtzel is now turning to an investigation of ownership and inheritance of these institutions and their role in the economy of Paris in the 14th and 15th centuries.

## A FULBRIGHT, PLUS OTHER PLANS FOR CLASS OF 2022



**ABIJAH AHERN WILL** explore the culture of the western Balkans through a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Serbia. A history and politics major at Oberlin, he hopes to become fluent in the Serbian language and gain a better understanding of Croatian, Bosnian, and Montenegrin languages.

A native of Laramie, Wyoming, Ahern says he looks forward to working with students and

developing connections with colleagues at his host institution, and taking in the food and culture—by eating a lot of Čevapi (Balkan minced meat sausage) and watching "the eternal derby" between soccer teams Red Star Belgrade and Partizan Belgrade. "It has a reputation for being one of the most intense stadium atmospheres in all of sports, and it would be really exciting to experience."

Ahern studied at the University of Zagreb in Croatia in spring 2020, where he took Croatian language classes and courses in the politics department. He also completed a Winter Term project on the European

Capital of Culture ceremony in Rijeka, Croatia. As he prepares for the teaching aspect of the Fulbright, Ahern says he will have his favorite classes and professors from Oberlin in mind: "In addition to providing me with theoretical and historical schema that will be extremely valuable when I go to Serbia, Oberlin has also shown me what high quality and engaged teaching looks like." —*Amanda Nagy*

The Class of 2022 included 29 history majors. Here are after-Oberlin plans for a few of them.

**ALEX ADELMAN** will work as an investment services analyst at Fidelity Investments in Boston.

**ALEX COPETAS** will begin law school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

**REILLY (REY) JACKMAN** will teach in Austria through the U.S. Teaching Assistantships (USTA) Program. In fall 2023, she will begin the Master of International Affairs program at the Hertie School in Berlin.

**LAUREN TANNENBAUM** will serve as an Avodah Jewish Service Corps member with HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) in Chicago.

# OBERLIN'S HISTORY DESIGN LAB

BY RENEE ROMANO

**IN FEBRUARY 2022, 14 OBERLIN STUDENTS** primarily first and second years—did historical research projects and learned about using a variety of digital history tools in a History Design Lab Winter Term group project. The History Design Lab (HDL) was founded by former Oberlin Professor Tamika Nunley as a space for students of all majors and backgrounds to engage in student-led, faculty-mentored historical research. Under Nunley's leadership, students launched several projects, including the undergraduate history journal *On Second Thought* and the African American Women Intellectuals project, for which students wrote several scholarly biographies of African American women with ties to Oberlin.

Now under the leadership of Professor Renee Romano, the HDL is also becoming a space for students to learn about digital history and public-facing historical research projects. The group Winter Term project offered students new to the HDL an opportunity to learn about the lab, to do research projects of their choice, and to practice communicating their findings using different digital tools. Students visited Oberlin's Special Collections and had a chance to use the archives. They participated in workshops in which they learned how to design online exhibits using Omeka, to do digital publishing using Scalar, and to do mapping and timeline projects using other online tools. They also enjoyed being part of the Frederick Douglass Day "transcribe-a-thon" for the Colored Conventions Project.

Students in the Winter Term project researched a wide variety of topics in both

United States and world history. One project explored the life and legacy of Thomas Sankara, the socialist revolutionary leader of Burkina Faso known as "Africa's Che Guevara." Another examined letters by Peggy Shippen Arnold, the second wife of Benedict Arnold, to try to determine how involved she had been in her husband's Revolutionary War treason. One

some experience communicating their findings in digital forms, and had presented their findings either as a digital project or as a short journal article.

Winter Term proved an ideal time to introduce students to the work of the History Design Lab. At least one student from the Winter Term is now a member of the lab's



student used editorial cartoons and sources in both English and Vietnamese to explore the analogy between the 2021 American evacuation of Kabul and the 1975 American evacuation of Saigon. Several students did projects focused on Oberlin history, including one student who created a timeline of the history of OSCA [Oberlin Student Cooperative Association]; another who discovered the fascinating history of the Oberlin Temperance War of the 1880s; and a third who studied Oberlin's student exchange program with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HCBUs). By the end of Winter Term, each student had completed a small historical research project, had gained

student leadership team. Others will soon have their work appearing in *On Second Thought*. Student leaders of the lab are working on a range of projects this year, including conducting oral histories about the pandemic with residents of the Kendal at Oberlin retirement community; developing a new Oberlin College history walking tour through the online program, Curatescape; and helping student organizations develop and maintain their archives more systematically.

# FEATURED INTERVIEW WITH ANNEMARIE H. SAMMARTINO: *FREEDOMLAND: CO-OP CITY AND THE STORY OF NEW YORK*



**Tell us about the subject of the book and what you consider to be your main conclusions.**

If you've ever driven north on I-95 from New York City, Co-op City is the huge housing development on the right. It comprises 35 tower buildings and 236 townhouses that contain over 15,000 apartments. The development was designed to provide affordable housing for people of moderate means, that is, the working and lower middle-classes. The book tells the story of Co-op City from its tumultuous planning process in the 1960s, through the largest rent strike in American history in the 1970s, to the community's reinvention after white flight in the 1980s. Co-op City has been reviled for everything from its brutalist style to its role in the destabilization of the Grand Concourse neighborhoods, to fostering the intransigence and irascibility of its residents. Other critics maintained that its construction defects made it an unaffordable boondoggle. As I argue, each of these charges is somewhat overblown (OK, the construction defects were pretty bad). I believe that to understand New York, you need to look to its margins and not just its center. So ultimately, the book is a story of New York from the '60s to the present—a story of race, ethnicity, class, urban crisis, and neoliberalism—but also of community, resistance, and utopia.

I hope the book will be read by activists interested in the history of tenant activism, urban planners looking at the potentials and pitfalls of large-scale development, and New Yorkers and others who want to understand how this neighborhood largely avoided the racial turmoil that rocked similar outer-borough neighborhoods in the 1970s and 1980s, even if it never became the paradise that many early residents had hoped. I also hope it will be read by residents and former residents who realize how important they and their progenitors have been in making Co-op City and indeed New York as a whole the place that it has become.

***How did you arrive at writing a book about Co-Op City in the Bronx after writing your first book about the eastern border of Germany after World War I?***

It is a bit odd to be a German historian and write about New York, right? But actually, this work stemmed directly from my first book, albeit maybe not in a fully straightforward way. My first book, *The Impossible Border: Germany and the East, 1914-1922* (Cornell, 2014), was mostly researched in Berlin. While I lived there, German friends would often ask where I grew up in New York. And I found myself often comparing Co-op City with the huge East German housing development, Marzahn, on the outskirts of Berlin. After making the comparison a thousand times, I started wondering why a development in the Northeast Bronx looked like one in Northeast Berlin. This led me to research global post-World War II modernist urban planning and also to want to know more about Co-op City specifically. What I found was that Co-op City was mostly absent from histories of New York, but that there was a fascinating story to tell. And so I decided to tell it!

***How do research and scholarship fit into your role as a member of the Oberlin Department of History?***

This book could never have happened without Oberlin. First of all, Oberlin provided me with several grants that allowed me to make necessary research trips. One of those grants allowed me to hire student Michael Kennedy '18 as a research assistant. He helped me review and organize large amounts of material that I'd collected and come up with the charts and

graphs in the book. But the benefits of working at Oberlin are maybe more important in less tangible ways. One thing about a liberal arts college is that by definition you are the only expert in your field and are constantly talking to people who are specialists in other fields, students and faculty alike. I taught Readings in 20th Century Urban History (HIST 479), which was an invaluable way to do a lot of important contextual reading and discuss my conclusions with several cohorts of students. Talking with colleagues and students about the book has made me a clearer writer and helped me to do a better job of keeping the bigger picture in mind as I wrote. Furthermore, their interests and suggestions pushed me to consider perspectives and ideas that turned out to be immensely useful for my work. The generosity of the Oberlin community—from the history department to my colleagues in the conservatory—has really stamped this book in so many ways and made me a more capacious reader and better scholar.

***What plans to you have as a scholar now that this book is finished?***

I'm not actually sure yet. I have been kicking around a couple of large-scale projects. One of them would be a return to my roots of sorts, writing about migration in East Germany and rewriting the history of a state often seen as the poster child for stasis and stagnation to one that saw mobility as key to its identity and future. I did some research for this a few years ago—enough to know that this is absolutely a project worth pursuing but still one that is far from completion. The second is a more ambitious and (so far) less defined project on the history of risk in modern Europe and America, starting from early modern treatises on gambling to examining how communities on both sides of the Cold War assessed the potential for nuclear war and thought about how to protect themselves from destruction. It's been a pretty crazy couple of years and I'm looking forward to taking a little time this summer to read and think about the project I want to pursue next.

*Freedomland: Co-op City and the Story of New York* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2022)

# ALUMNI UPDATES

**SARAH COLE '14** earned an MA in international policy and development at Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey in May 2018. She then spent a year and a half working for Democracy Fund, a foundation in Washington, D.C., conducting research on U.S. election administration from August 2018 to January 2019. In January 2020, Cole served as a research analyst (government contracting) for SelectUSA, the program in the Department of Commerce that focuses on bringing foreign direct investment to the United States. Recently, Cole was promoted to senior analyst. She works with international companies and economic development offices throughout the United States, pulling and analyzing data on everything from workforce trends to levels of clay in soil across the country.

**JESSE GAMORAN '16**, currently works as the manager of volunteer services for Win, Inc., the largest provider of family shelter in New York City. Gamoran's team is responsible for coordinating volunteer programs and in-kind donations to improve the lives of families experiencing homelessness. He is also completing a MA in clinical psychology at Teachers College, Columbia University, and serves as a research assistant for the Anxiety & Mood Program lab at Montefiore Medical Center. Beyond his work and studies, Gamoran enjoys running, kayaking, and playing flute in a local New York City marching band.

**LORI GINZBERG '78** is professor of history and women's, gender, and sexuality studies at Penn State University. Ever since writing an honors thesis about women in Oberlin's evangelical community, she has been engaged in scholarship about the intellectual and social experience of 19th-century women. Her most recent book, *Elizabeth Cady Stanton: An American Life*, and the 2020 centennial of the 19th amendment, have given her numerous opportunities to participate in discussions about the relationship between history and memory, celebration and commemoration, and white-dominated feminism and movements for racial justice. Obies can join that conversation by watching her recent Francis X. Gerrity Lecture at St. Joseph's University, titled "Rights, Racism and Commemoration: The Complex Legacies of Elizabeth Cady Stanton." After more than 30 years of commuting from West Philadelphia to State College, Ginzberg has entered phased retirement, advising PhD

students, working on her next (sprawling) book project, reading/running/cooking even more than usual, and planning post-pandemic political, professional, and travel activities. Visitors are welcome to her house once again! Feel free to send email to [ldg1@psu.edu](mailto:ldg1@psu.edu).

**DANIEL HAUTZINGER '16** has been a digital producer for the last five years at WTTW, Chicago's PBS station. He writes about everything from Chicago history to PBS shows to intriguing Chicago businesses and people while also working on digital content to complement PBS programs produced in Chicago. Hautzinger grew up in Chicago and loves the city. He feels fortunate to have a job where he can explore its stories and neighborhoods, drawing on the research skills and curiosity he learned at Oberlin to bring some of those stories to a public media audience.

**ANNIKA KRAFCIK '20** is finishing her first year of law school at UCLA, with a plan to specialize in environmental law and critical race studies. She recently joined the staff of UCLA's *Journal of Environmental Law and Policy*, where she works with other law students to peer review some of the nation's leading scholarship on the field. This fall she plans to study law at Arctic University in Tromsø, Norway. After graduating from law school, Krafcik hopes to practice environmental law and advocacy in Alaska, her home for the last several summers. When she's not pouring over her constitutional law casebook, Krafcik enjoys soaking up the California sun at the beach or in the mountains and attending as many stand-up comedy shows and classical music concerts as possible.

**SARAH MOORHEAD '63** offers advice on careers in information science: My career was in librarianship, helping patrons find resources. A liberal arts education was a perfect preparation prior to a master's degree. Now many public libraries have changed so that the librarians do programming, reader's advisory, and media relations in place of reference as their focus. However, local history rooms still are a good fit for history majors. My love for history encouraged me to learn about Mesa, Arizona, through volunteering with the Mesa Historical Society and later to manage the Mesa Room at the Mesa Public Library when the room opened to the public. Other pleasures of this career were the building of a stronger connection

with the community and adding to history with oral history interviews. I continue to volunteer in the history room a few hours a week. To my surprise, I became considered one of the historians of Mesa. Archivists can also use a history degree or an archival specialty in information science as professional preparation to work in a historical collection.

Send us your news! [history@oberlin.edu](mailto:history@oberlin.edu)

# EMERI FACULTY UPDATES

**MARCIA COLISH** taught during fall term at Yale University, both in person and by Zoom. She taught an undergraduate course and a graduate seminar. Scholarly activity and travels have picked up. In March she spoke on “Free Will and Grace: Method and Model in Anselm’s *De concordia*,” at the New College Medieval and Early Modern Conference in Sarasota, Florida. In April, she delivered the annual St. Anselm lecture, “Method, Model, and Innovation: John Cassian, Anselm of Canterbury, and Bernard of Clairvaux on Grace and Free Will,” at St. Anselm College in Manchester, New Hampshire. Colish will also give the following conference papers: “Ethics à la mode: Seneca in Roger Bacon’s *Moralis philosophia*,” at the Powers of the Soul in Medieval Franciscan Thought conference in London (presented in May); and “Anselm’s Boethius: A View from *De concordia* 1,” at the SIEPM (Société internationale pour l’étude de philosophie médiévale) conference in August in Paris. A few of her backlogged publications have finally appeared: “The Eucharist in Early Franciscan Thought,” in *The Summa Halensis: Doctrines and Debates*, edited by Lydia Schumacher (Berlin: De Gruyter, 2021); “Authority and Innovation in Bernard of Clairvaux’s *De gratia et liberto arbitrio*,” in *The Intellectual Dynamism of the High Middle Ages*, edited by Claire Monagle (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2022); and a review of Edit Anna Lukács, *Dieu est une sphère: Les métaphores d’Alain de Lille à Vincent de Beauvais et ses traducteurs* (Aix-en-Provence: Presses Universitaires de Provence, 2019) in *Speculum* 97 (January 2022).

**SHULAMIT MAGNUS** is close to completing a new book project titled *Thinking Outside the Chains to Free Agunot and End Iggun: The History and Present Reality of Iggun, and How to End, Not Manage, Jewish Marital Captivity*. Her article, the first on the subject of agunot—women chained in marriage against their will—was published in *Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia*: <https://jwa.org/encyclopedia/article/agunot>. [Now the Shalvi/Hyman Encyclopedia of Jewish Women.] Magnus continues to publish opinion pieces in the *Times of Israel*, the *Jerusalem Post* and other venues and to study spoken (Palestinian) Arabic in Jerusalem.

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT FACULTY AND STAFF

**Annemarie (Ari) Sammartino**, *Department Chair and Professor of History*

**Zeinab Abul-Magd**, *Professor of History*

**Matthew R. Bahar**, *Associate Professor of History*

**Nicholas Bujalski**, *Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow and Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian and History*

**Yu-Chi Chang**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of History and East Asian Studies*

**Rishad Choudhury**, *Assistant Professor of History*

**Marcia L. Colish**, *Frederick B. Artz Professor of History, Emerita*

**Michael H. Fisher**, *Robert S. Danforth Professor of History, Emeritus*

**Heather Hogan**, *Professor of History, Emerita*

**David Kelley**, *Associate Professor of History and East Asian Studies, Emeritus*

**Jiyul Kim**, *Adjunct Assistant Professor of History*

**Clayton Koppes**, *Professor of History, Emeritus*

**Gary Kornblith**, *Professor of History, Emeritus*

**Carol Lasser**, *Professor of History, Emerita*

**Owain Lawson**, *Visiting Assistant Professor of History*

**Shelley Lee**, *Professor of Comparative American Studies and History*

**Shulamit S. Magnus**, *Professor of History and Jewish Studies, Emerita*

**Pablo Mitchell**, *Professor of History and Comparative American Studies*

**Emer O’Dwyer**, *Associate Professor of History and East Asian Studies; Chair of East Asian Studies*

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