

History Department Newsletter

STUDENT EDITOR: **Olivia Krall '23** | FACULTY EDITOR: **Philipp Gollner**

History Department Embraces Community-Engaged Learning

BY **Olivia Krall '23**

Thanks to a grant from the Lilly Foundation, Goshen College will forge deeper connections with the Elkhart County community by forming a new center for community engaged learning.

The history department, which has already fostered many relationships in the local area through courses and internships, is well suited to support the college in this effort.

Last March, Goshen College received a \$3 million phase three grant from the Lilly Foundation to start the Center For Community Engagement, which will be housed in the Newcomer Center. Prior to this, the college had received two smaller grants from the foundation to plan and test their grant proposal.

The funds will be used to build connections with Goshen Community Schools, develop the new center, and build partnerships with Anabaptist Biblical Seminary, the Elkhart Community Foundation, and several other local organizations.

This program intends to build ties between GC and the greater Elkhart area and engage with historically disenfranchised communities. Speaking on the proposal, President Rebecca Stolfus said that "We recognize that our future is inextricably linked to a thriving and equitable community."



Paige Renshaw '21 at her internship with the Elkhart County Historical Society.

With these same goals in mind, several current history students have taken on internships that focus on creating connections and supporting underserved communities.

Caleb Gingerich, a junior history and writing double major, spent his summer interning in San Antonio working with immigrants who crossed the southern border.

Gingerich recounted one moment of understanding that occurred with two of the refugees that he met through his internship program. One day, as they were walking, a garbage truck passed by them.

"They asked me what they were doing," he said, "and I was immediately struck with this realization that they weren't accustomed to civil services such as a weekly garbage pick-up."

Of the experience as a whole, Gingerich reflected on his time in San

Antonio, saying, "it is an amazing community that was nothing but supportive of me and the work of the church to assist asylum seekers."

While Gingerich's internship focused on communities far from the college, history majors Paige Renshaw and Grace Hitt are spending their semesters working on internships within the Elkhart County community.

Renshaw has worked alongside the Elkhart County Historical Society this fall to create an exhibit on the 80th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor bombing. She said that the project will tell the story of the bombing "through the personal experiences of Elkhart County residents who either remember the day it took place or the following weeks and/or by men or women who served."

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Theses Demonstrate New Focus on Local History

Five students completed baccalaureate theses in History and Peace, Justice, and Conflict Studies this spring, projects which, in most cases, they had begun researching as Junior Seminar students a year earlier. As a result of changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students’ senior thesis defenses were presented in-person but streamed live over Zoom. This year’s students and thesis titles:

Claire Franz (Lakewood, CO), “Guarding Women’s Suffrage: The Politicized Social Capital of Western Female Professors, 1869-1938.”

Paige Renshaw (Hessel, MI), “Flint, Michigan: the Inevitable Urban Crisis”

Shailyn Mathews (Elkhart, IN), “Road to Objection: Resistance to the Civil War Draft in Elkhart County”

David Aguilar (Goshen, IN), “Hispanic Immigration from Border Towns to the Midwest from the 1990s to the early 2000s.”

Lilly French (Canby, Oregon), “Colonial Structures of Foreign Aid: The Maasai and Indigenous Identity.”



Students join professor Philipp Gollner at Notre Dame as part of an immersive May Term course

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Hitt’s internship has a more legal focus; she has been in downtown Goshen this semester interning at the local branch of the National Immigrant Justice Center.

Hitt said that she is “grateful for the way that this internship exposes me to the difficult realities and choices faced by many immigrants,” she went on to say that her internship forces her “to confront issues that I am privileged enough to be able to ignore if I choose to but that people like NIJC’s clients think about every single day.”

Internships are not the only way that the History Department has encouraged connections with the local area; several courses are focused on getting students out of the classroom and into the community.

One class that focuses on studying the town of Goshen is Latino Community

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Grace Hitt '23 in downtown Goshen, Indiana at her internship with the National Immigrant Justice Center.

Conversations with First Year History Students

BY **Olivia Krall '23**

Why did you choose the History Department?

Naomi Klassen: I’ve always loved history, watching documentaries, and observing human nature. I knew I would enjoy a major that captures all the little fascinations that I’ve had throughout my life.

Emma Gingerich: I chose history because I want to go to law school and history is a good path to prepare for that. I’m also fascinated by human behavior, and I think history classes provide a great environment for having thoughtful and interesting discussions on humans.

What do you enjoy most about your history classes?

Naomi Klassen: I like discussion and deep analysis. While I like the big picture, I especially enjoy really specific tidbits of history.

Emma Gingerich: I most enjoy the analytical aspect of my history classes; researching and drawing conclusions is invigorating and exciting to me.

What books/subjects that you have learned about in class have been particularly fascinating?

Naomi Klassen: I enjoy learning about ancient civilizations and how advanced they were hundreds of years ago.

Emma Gingerich: In one of my history classes, we’re about to start a project where we look at the history of Goshen as a sundown town which I think is going to be really interesting.

Faculty Spotlights



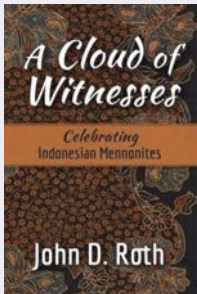
Professor **Jan Bender-Shetler** received a three-year National Endowment for the Humanities grant to create the Mara Cultural Heritage Digital Library from her research materials. This new resource will be part of the African Online Digital Library at Michigan State University. She also received a federal IDEAS grant to provide more access to SST for students who are currently underrepresented in the program. She is finishing an essay on walking as a research methodology that will be a chapter in a book from Routledge entitled; *Drift, Pause, Indirection: Walking as Embodied Research in Emergent Anthropocene Landscape*.



Professor **Julia Schiavone Camacho** is looking forward to researching in Shanghai and Liverpool next summer with the support of a Mininger and is currently focused on background reading and research ahead of that. Her work will focus on Chinese sailors that worked with the British Navy during WWII. Stationed in Liverpool, England, these men created unions and put down roots. However, at the end of the war, the men were expelled, and the families were split apart, leaving some to seek reunification years afterward. As of now, there has been little academic research on this story, but Schiavone Camacho will explore this narrative further through her work. In addition to this, Schiavone Camacho’s short nonfiction piece entitled “Zhong Yi” will appear in the next issue of *Hayden’s Ferry Review* (Issue 69, Fall 2021).



Professor **John Roth** has a busy semester ahead of him. In addition to teaching a class on “Anabaptism in a Global Context,” he is working on two writing projects this Fall, having just completed a short history of Mennonites in Indonesia, *A Cloud of Witnesses*, published by Herald Press. The first — supported by a grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship — is a study guide on baptism that attempts to make the final report of a recent ecumenical dialogue between Catholics, Lutherans, and Mennonites (“Baptism and Incorporation into the Body of Christ, the Church”) more accessible to ordinary congregation members. The second project, supported with a grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc., is a history of Goshen College since 1960 focused on the themes of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Both manuscripts should be published sometime in 2022.



Professor **Philipp Gollner** is writing a book that investigates how immigrants utilized and shaped white Protestantism in the United States. He is also beginning an essay on faith and nationalism in American higher education today for an essay collection and conference sponsored by the Lilly Network. Gollner has also been busy designing a new introductory course to the field of History for 1st and 2nd-year students and preparing a new SST May term immersive course on immigration and transnational identities that will take students to Chicago, Elkhart County, and Shipshewana.

Histories, taught by Professor Julia Schiavone Camacho. This course is taught in partnership with the Goshen Historical Society and encourages students to interview and engage with local Latino business owners.

In addition to Schiavone Camacho's class, Professor Philipp Gollner introduced a new SST alternative course that takes place over May Term. The new class focuses on studying immigration history and identity from Chicago to Elkhart County.

These two new academic programs allow the Goshen College History Department to help students from a variety of majors explore Elkhart County's past.

History students at Goshen College are already engaged in the community through coursework and internships, and now, thanks to the Center for Community Engagement, these learning opportunities will grow. 🌱

Scholarship Recipients



The 2020-2021 Willard and Verna Smith U.S. History Scholarship has been awarded to **Andrew Ness**, Junior, of Portland, OR.

The Oswin and David Gerber Scholarship in Mennonite Studies for 2020-2021 was awarded to **Daniel Eash-Scott**, sophomore, of Milwaukee, WI.

The generosity of the Smith and Gerber families has been helpful to many Goshen College students. The History, Politics, and Society Department welcomes donations to the Smith and Gerber scholarship endowments. To donate, contact finaid@goshen.edu.

Recent History Alumni Updates

Crystal Zook '10 is a student at Temple University Beasley School of Law on a full scholarship, and has been living in Philadelphia this past year, although the majority of the year was spent online. She ended the year near the very top of the class. This summer she interned in immigration law at the Nationalities Service Center in Philadelphia and participated in Temple's Law and Public Policy Summer Program.

Jay Strickland '01 is in his first year as principal at Crawfordsville High School in Crawfordsville, Indiana. As a 1996 graduate of CHS, Strickland is honored to have the opportunity to lead a great school. Prior to CHS, he was at Mid-Prairie High School in Wellman, Iowa for five years and spend the first fifteen years of his career at Crawfordsville Middle School as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, and principal. He and his wife Kristi (GC alum) have three kids: Ally (13), Cole (10), and Brock (8). They live in Crawfordsville again and are excited to be back in the community.

Landon Weldy '19 is in his second year of working as a writer on the Storytelling & Engagement Team in the Development Department at the University of Notre Dame. He began working there after graduation and is currently living in Mishawaka, IN.

Jenae Longenecker '18 is a third-year law student at Notre Dame Law School. Last summer, she worked for the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation and this fall, she is interning with the Notre Dame Office of Institutional Equity. Longenecker will graduate in May 2022 and then clerk for Judge John Robert Blakey of the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois (2022-23) and Judge Kim McLane Wardlaw of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit (2023-24).

Ted Maust '12 is the Director of the Elfreth's Alley Museum in Philadelphia, Pa, after earning his M.A. in Public History at Temple University in 2018. Over the last year, he has worked with a team of student interns and volunteers to produce a podcast for the museum about past residents of one of Philly's most historic streets, 'The Alley Cast.'

Send your updates to stu_hist@goshen.edu.



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