

Past Perfect
New Series
Volume V: Number 2 – May 2025

Preface: Please send information for *Past Perfect* to my email address by December 1, 2024, for the December 2024 issue. benwhisenhunt@comcast.net

Special Note: The current UIC history department is very active. It would be great to hear from more emeritus faculty and UIC history department alumni about their activities!

UIC History Department:

Kevin Schultz and the UIC History Department once again hosted the 2025 Illinois High School Academic Decathlon State Championships on Saturday, March 8. After Schultz did his best impression of Bob Barker, Whitney Young again took the state championship. They finished an impressive second at nationals last year. Here's hoping for one spot higher. Lane Tech came in second, heading to nationals in a slightly lower division, where they will hope to retain their national crown. Thirty-plus members of the Department of History volunteered as judges to make the event a total success. Fingers crossed that some will become history majors.

Graduate College Awards:

Barnhurst-Doherty Award

Franklin Howard, *The HIV/AIDS Crisis in the American West Panel: "Nowhere to Sin in Sin City: Place, Queerness, and the AIDS Crisis in Las Vegas, NV;"* advisor: Jennie Brier

Outstanding Thesis/Dissertation Award

Frankee Lyons, *"Jewish Belonging on the Polish Road to Socialism;"* advisors: Gosia Fidelis and Keely Stauter-Halsted

Provost Visiting Scholar Award

Anindita Ghosh, *"Of the People, by the People: Nation Making through Native States and Indigenous People in South Asia;"* destination: Bangladesh; advisor: Rama Mantena

Nico Soto, *"Season Mexican Migrant Farmworkers and the Making of the Midwest Heartland, 1964-1994;"* destination: Detroit; advisor: Adam Goodman

University Fellowship – starting AY 2025-26

Maxwell Qian, advisor: Kevin Schultz. **Maxwell has already accepted our offer!**

Danielle Beaujon (UIC Assistant Professor) will publish a book in June 2025. See more details here. <https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9781501781490/criminalizing-the-casbahs/#bookTabs=1>

Jennie Brier (UIC Professor) won a faculty fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). During her year with the fellowship, Jennie plans to write a digital book called, *History Moves: Oral History, Historical Belonging and Social Wellbeing*, built upon a decade's work with History Moves, her community-based, participant-driven, born-digital oral

history project that centers the by and within public history. History Moves, Jennie writes, "offers a critical interpretation of the social impacts of training community members to be oral historians and makers of collaborative public histories. It demonstrates that when people become historians of their own lives, as opposed to storytellers, they experience historical belonging and produce the conditions of social health."

And...

Jennie just appeared, for the second time<<https://www.wbez.org/reset-with-sasha-ann-simons/2023/01/31/fda-set-to-make-it-easier-for-gay-bisexual-men-to-donate-blood>>, on WBEZ's Reset with Sash Ann Simons. This time, Jennie discusses the history of Fanny Barrier Williams and the Black Women's Club Movement.<<https://www.wbez.org/reset-with-sasha-ann-simons/2025/03/20/fanny-barrier-williams-black-womens-club-movement>> It's a fascinating Progressive Era-story, when civic clubs were all the rage, thought to be useful avenues to access middle class life, and of course because it was the Progressive Era, largely divided by race. Fanny Barrier Williams was Ida B. Wells' contemporary and friend and used her role in civic clubs (especially as one of the barrier-breakers) to push for political equality.

Nez Castro (UIC History major) As you can read in the announcement below from the Chicago History Museum (CHM)<<https://mailchi.mp/chicagohistory/a-digital-scrapbook-members-holiday-party-out-at-chm-and-more?e=acb398bacc>>, the work of History major Nez Castro is featured as a prominent part of the CHM's growing Latine collection, Aquí en Chicago.<<https://www.chicagohistory.org/aqui-en-chicago-digital-communities-scrapbook/>> Naz started working with the CHM while in HIST 499 last spring, and has continued with them ever since. He's flourishing!

Jon Connolly (UIC Assistant Professor) published a new article, [Granville Sharp's Ancient Constitution: Legal Argument and Antislavery Thought](#), in *Modern Intellectual History*. The article focuses on the legal arguments put forward by British jurist Granville Sharp in the late eighteenth century, showing the way in which legal scholars crafted an antislavery identity that aligned with both progress and Britain, or, as Jon puts it, the "article ultimately argues that the function of Sharp's antislavery jurisprudence was political, not simply legal, and that Sharp used and innovatively reinterpreted legal concepts to fashion an antislavery identity and frame abolition as a distinctly modern, yet restorative, cause."

Zack Cuyler (UIC Assistant Professor) joined the board of International Labour and Working-Class History, accepted a faculty fellowship at UIC's Institute for the Humanities, and had his first book review accepted by the *American Historical Review*.

Jonathan Daly (UIC Professor) published "Richard Pipes: Humanist, Cold Warrior," Bloomsbury Key Thinkers Series: History: Theory and Method (May 2024). [Online](#). The current [list](#) of sixty-six thinkers includes G.W.F. Hegel, Hannah Arendt, Joan Wallach Scott, Karl Marx, Michel Foucault, and R.G. Collingwood. He presented "Sovietology and the End of the Cold War: A Retrospective Led by Sheila Fitzpatrick," Jordan Center, New York University, November 1, 2024. This was an invitational all-day workshop. He also presented "What the Soviets Call the Anti-Soviet Professor: Comrade," Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES),

Annual National Meeting, Boston, November 24, 2024. This presentation illuminated a dramatic turnaround in the late Gorbachev era when the formally vilified Pipes was well received in the USSR.

John D’Emilio (UIC Professor Emeritus) gave the 2025 James Neal Primm lecture co-sponsored by the History Department at the University of Missouri St. Louis and the Missouri Historical Society. He spoke about LGBTQ history as a field of study and how it has developed over the last several decades both within the academy and as part of a movement for social change.

Nick Doumanis (UIC Professor) discussed his new book at the National Hellenic Museum on April 10, 2025.

Zane Elward (UIC, B.A., 2014) After graduating from UIC in 2014, he completed his master’s degree at the Central European University. He then studied at Indiana University, Bloomington, where he completed his PhD in 2022. Around that time, he became an Assistant Professor of History at Marian University, Indianapolis. He has published a chapter on [teaching history through graphic novels](#), and have published articles on [Putin’s invasion of Ukraine](#) and [how collaboration enables authoritarianism](#). He is additionally excited to share that his manuscript, [Comic Fascism: Ideology, Americanism, and Catholicism in Italian Children’s Periodicals](#), will be coming out this July with OSU Press.

Sara Gawo (UIC history major) continued her studies in the MA Public History program at Loyola University Chicago. Alongside graduate school, Sarah also works as a library coordinator at the Ashurbanipal Library of the Assyrian Cultural Foundation in Lincolnwood. Working at the library, she reports, "has provided me with countless opportunities to explore my passion for history." It has also given her a platform to co-produce special lectures focused on both ancient and modern Assyrian history specifically for the Assyrian community and scholars. The current event she's hosting is called the "Assyrian Cultural Celebration," and it was held from March 28 to 30 at the Westin O'Hare. In addition to lectures, there will be an art exhibition, special talks by artists, and musical performance.

Anindita Ghosh (UIC Ph.D. candidate) [published a lengthy literature review](#) in a peer-reviewed open-access journal, [South Asia Chronicle](#). There's even a review of Prof. Rama Mantena's recent book! This is Anindita's first essay published as a historian.

Adam Goodman (UIC Professor) and Hilda welcomed Alma Goodman Vázquez born on Saturday, March 22, at 3:00am, weighing 7 pounds 9 ounces and measuring 21 inches. Hilda and Alma are healthy and happy. We're home now and big brother Pablo (two) is enjoying getting to know his little sister -- asking about her, wanting to see her, telling his friends at daycare about her.

Joshua Hoxmeier (UIC Ph.D., 2024) received a tenure track position in American History at Benedictine College near Kansas City. A year ago, Josh defended a marvelous dissertation about the persistence of Catholicism in Lincoln, Nebraska, whose Catholic population has

flourished during the past fifty years while nearly every other diocese in America has waned. Josh developed the notion of "siege mentality" to describe the successful formula developed by two bishops in Lincoln, which other dioceses have since adopted and adapted.

After getting his PhD, Josh took a one-year position at Utah Valley University, joining fellow UIC PhDs Michael Goode and Jenna Nigro, who are tenured faculty there. And after a successful year at Utah Valley, he has been a finalist for several jobs (and, indeed, still is) before getting the offer from Benedictine. Congratulations, Josh!

When Josh first came to UIC he told me his dream was to teach at a small Catholic liberal arts college in the Midwest. And that is exactly where he is now headed.

Robert Johnston (UIC Professor) published his co-authored textbook, *The American Century: A History of the United States Since the 1890s* <<https://www.routledge.com/The-American-Century-A-History-of-the-United-States-Since-the-1890s/Johnston-LaFeber-Polenberg-Woloch/p/book/9781032180595>>. Many of us will remember Robert's brownbag on the last chapter of the book and will have seen the book adorning the bookcase outside the elevator on the 9th floor. Robert is joined by a stellar list of co-authors, including some of the biggest names in our field: Walter LaFeber, Richard Polenberg, and Nancy Woloch.

Lauren Khanano (UIC history major) received this year's Davee Foundation Scholarship. Read more about Lauren here. <https://hist.uic.edu/news-stories/lauren-khahano-wins-the-2024-davee-scholarship/>

Clare Kim (UIC Assistant Professor) and her partner Rui Gao welcomed their baby boy, Jun Haein Gao on December 11, 2024. This of course forced Clare to work around Jun's sleep schedule to finish grading, but otherwise, all is good. As Clare reports, Jun Haein's first name encompasses a range of meanings across Japanese, Chinese, and Korean—though she and Rui are still selecting the character. His middle name, Haein (해인/海印), represents a person with a deep and profound nature—like the ocean—and signifies strength, wisdom, and benevolence. It also happens to be the name of a Buddhist temple Rui's grandparents cherish. They hope he will embody the qualities his name signifies as he grows.

Young Richard Kim (UIC Associate Professor) presented "Cyprus and the Historiography of Late Antiquity: The Environmental Turn" at the UIC Institute for the Humanities in January 2025.

He also presented "The 'Cyprus Problem' and the Limits of Academic Research," Society for Classical Studies Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (January 2-5, 2025). He gave four invited lectures as well: "Receptions and Rejections of the Council of Nicaea," Vassar College (April 1, 2025), "Cyprus and the 'Environmental Turn' in Late Antiquity," Medieval Study Research Seminar, University of Lincoln (March 25, 2025), "The Council of Nicaea and Its Creed: A Heresiologist's Perspective," The Confession of the Council of Nicaea: History and Theology, Pontificia Università Gregoriana/Universität Münster, Rome (February 27-March 1, 2025), and "The Rise and Function of the Cypriot Holy Man," New Testament/Early Christianity Research Colloquium, Department of Theology, Loyola University Chicago (February 3, 2025).

James Kollenbroich (UIC Ph.D., 2006) retired from the UIC Graduate College.

Marla McMackin (UIC Ph.D., 2025) Marla's dissertation, "The Other Boomers: Chicago Youth and the Politics of Poverty," is about what happened when the newly formed Hull House Association, created in the aftermath of the displacement of the settlement to build UIC, established two new neighborhood centers, in Uptown and Lakeview, and affiliated with two existing centers, in Woodlawn and at the LeClaire Courts public housing project. These four communities were distinct. Who lived in each, the way they functioned and were perceived, was the result of long and complicated processes of development. Into the 1960s, those differential processes of development included young people who had distinct relations with social services and a prevailing youth culture of resistance.

The dissertation consists of four community studies, in thick description, that contextualize youth agency as the result of long processes of community development, resulting in localized social and political specificity. As her dissertation advisor, Prof. Jennifer Brier, puts it, Marla's dissertation "allows us to see how young people navigated the complex specificity of each community, and its power-geometry, including the role of machine politics and social provisions in determining their future mobility, their ability to escape poverty."

Along with Jennie, Marla's committee included Elizabeth Todd-Breland, Keely Stauter-Halsted, Lilian Fernandez, and Kevin Boyle (Northwestern).

Taylor Mazique (UIC PhD student) was awarded the [WARC School Fellowship from Archiving the Black Web \(ATBW\)](#), an organization and "call to to action to establish a more equitable and accessible web archiving practice in the United States to better document the Black experience online." Taylor plans to utilize this fellowship to help build necessary web archiving/archiving skills to equip her in managing her own digital archive, [The Black Girl Archive](#), which she launched in 2024 and has plans to put out the first call for submissions later this year. The WARC School Fellowship and program is "ATBW's training program that aims to create a new generation of web archiving practitioners dedicated to documenting the Black experience online. The year-long program runs April 2025–March 2026, and is designed to contribute viable and equitable solutions to increase available collections of Black web content by training Black memory workers to produce web archive collections and by supporting Black collecting institutions to formally create sustainable web archiving programs."

Hayley Negrin (UIC Assistant Professor) gave birth at 2:48 a.m. on November 29, 2024, to a beautiful baby girl, Mae Huguette. Mae came into the world weighing 7 lbs 14 oz, and she is named for Hayley's great great grandmother Jennie Mae, an early feminist in rural Texas. Her middle name comes from Soeur Huguette, the nun who educated and fed the mother of Hayley's partner Alain, and who helped get her from Haiti to the US. History runs deep among us historians!

Paul Ribera (UIC Ph.D. candidate) has a nice list of accomplishments: Paul was accepted into the Spring 2025 cohort of UIC's Inclusive Education Scholars Certificate Program. He resented a paper titled "Legislative and Bureaucratic Violence: Colonization, Whitening, and Belonging in Bolivia 1930-1960" at the 2025 MTSU Holocaust Studies Conference in Murfreesboro, TN, on March 6-7. He was accepted into the Holocaust Educational Foundation of Northwestern

University's Inaugural Lessons & Legacies Emerging Scholars Regional Institute in Omaha, NE, on April 3-5. And, he presented "Legislative and Bureaucratic Violence: Colonization, Whitening, and Belonging in Bolivia 1930-1960" at the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies 2025 Conference in Mexico City on April 24-26.

Caterina Scalvedi (UIC Ph.D., 2023) was just awarded the tremendously prestigious, two-year-long, EU-funded [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship](#). Caterina's dissertation, "An Empire of Possibilities: Education in Fascist Italy's African Colonies, 1922-1943," which she wrote under the mentorship of Kirk Hoppe, won widespread praise, and an article she published last year won the prize for [most outstanding article in the field of modern Italian history](#) from the Society for Italian Historical Studies.

She worked as a time as a visiting assistant professor in Modern European History at Wake Forest University. Now, with her new postdoctoral fellowship, she will work on expanding her project, now called, "Colonial Education in Transnational and Transactional Networks: A Global Intellectual History (1900-1961)." She will be based in Berlin and work at Freie Universität under Sebastian Conrad, a star of global history. Moreover, her Curie proposal received a score of 100/100, which, as Marina Mogilner puts it, "is theoretically impossible."

Kevin Schultz (UIC Professor and Chair) is also gearing up for the May 2 release of his new book, [Why Everyone Hates White Liberals \(Including White Liberals\): A History](#). The book tells the hundred-year history of the uses and abuses of the word "liberal" in American political and intellectual life, concluding by arguing that the only thing that binds together Trump voters is a hatred of an amorphous enemy labeled "liberal" and that it's time to give up the term and develop a new political language to signify what liberal used to mean. The book will be excerpted in Harper's and ARC, he is primping for a feature in Chicago Magazine, and he is busy doing the podcast tour and gearing up for talks in as far-flung places as the Kansas City Public Library and Providence, Rhode Island. An article featuring his work and its implication on universities [appeared in Times Higher Education](#).

Nico Soto (UIC Ph.D. candidate) was named the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy's Emerging Scholar in Residence for spring 2025. Nico will spend the semester researching and writing his dissertation, a study of how seasonal Mexican migrants remade the Midwestern heartland and navigated a changing labor landscape in the decades after the bracero program ended. The IRRPP also awarded Nico a 2025 Dissertation Research Grant to support his research.

Keely Stauter-Halsted (UIC Professor) published "Negotiated Filtration: The Surprising Fate of Poland's Postimperial Civil Servants" in *Contemporary European History* in January 2025. It can be found here: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0960777324000432>

Elizabeth Todd-Breland (UIC Professor) whose new "co-authored" book (come out March 25), *I Didn't Come Here to Lie: My Life and Education* <<https://www.haymarketbooks.org/books/2444-i-didn-t-come-here-to-lie>>, was named by Ms. Magazine as one of the "most anticipated

feminist books of 2025."<<https://msmagazine.com/2025/01/21/anticipated-feminist-books-2025-women-feminist-lgbtq-writers/>> Despite the title, the book is not a memoir of Elizabeth. Instead, Elizabeth was working with the famous Chicago labor organizer, Karen GJ Lewis, when Lewis died in 2021. Elizabeth then took on the monumental task of taking her vast interview notes, contextualizing them, and drafting them up into what became a "co-authored" memoir of Karen Lewis. As our very own Barbara Ransby put it in her blurb on the back of the book, "Who better to help share her story than the amazing Chicago educator and historian Elizabeth Todd-Breland."

And...

Elizabeth was named an [NEH-sponsored Hull House Faculty Fellow](#). Fellowships were awarded to faculty eager to work with the Hull House Museum to develop ways to incorporate the museum into their classes. She will attend a one-week workshop this summer and several events throughout the next academic year. Elizabeth plans to use the fellowship to: (1) revise the late nineteenth-early twentieth-century sections of her HIST 255 History of Chicago class; (2) create a new version of an Urban History/Renewal-related class; and (3) find intentional ways to connect Hull-House and the Renewal Project through internships in her HIST 499: History Internship.

Ben Whisenhunt (UIC Ph.D., 1997 and Visiting Lecturer) presented "The Liberation of Albert Rhys Williams: 1918 and the Trip Home" at the National Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in Boston in November 2024.