

Message from the Department Chair



Each year the Department of History hosts many visitors to the BYU campus. Most have never been to Provo, and they are always awed by the proximity and majesty of the mountains, as well as our excellent campus facilities. The other common denominator among these visitors is their outsized praise for our students. They are impressed by students' language skills, their historical knowledge and engagement, the quality of their intellect, and their enthusiasm for the study of the past. One of the pleasures of working at BYU is interacting with our terrific students, and it is always a pleasure to show them off.

In 2017 our students were involved in a wide range of notable activities. In response to President Worthen's challenge to provide experiential learning opportunities for more of our students, the department has been sending increased numbers on internships, study abroad programs, field studies, and mentored research projects. A few examples among many include Brittany Wallace, who interned at the Scottish Parliament; Wendy Brimhall, who worked at the Wilson Historical Society in Kentucky; and Matthew Tyler, who did a family history internship in Guangzhou, China. One of our chief objectives in the coming year is to raise funds so that even more students can have these experiences, which can be life-changing and often open up valuable career possibilities.

Our recent graduates have been doing great things as well. Tara Westover's memoir *Educated* has been on the New York Times bestseller list since its publication in February, and was touted by former president Barack Obama as one of his top five books to read this summer. Westover chronicles her transition from the home-schooled daughter of Idaho survivalists, to winning a prestigious Gates scholarship to study at Cambridge University, to earning a PhD in history in 2014. Her years in the BYU History Department are central to the story, and several faculty, including Drs. Paul Kerry and Rich Kimball, figure prominently.

Many other history alumni have also been involved in significant activities, which is something we hope to highlight more often. Please let us know what you've been up to, what good things are going on in your careers and lives. We want our current students to have a clearer sense of the many places that a degree in history can take them, and your real-life experiences are the best way to do that. And we'd just like to know where life has taken you since you left BYU. Write us at byuhistoryupdates@byu.edu.

As Tara Westover's book suggests, our excellent faculty play an essential role in our students' success. History faculty are among the most productive in the university, and 2017 was no different. Faculty published five books with top presses, and many more articles, reviews, book chapters, and other creative works. We brought a number of prestigious scholars to campus to lecture, and sent our faculty around the world to research and present their own work. Among many noteworthy accomplishments, in 2017 Dr. Andy Johns began serving as president-elect of the Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association, one of the largest professional historical associations in the country, and will serve as president in 2018.

Faculty also offer a wide range of interesting courses for students to choose from: of particular note in 2017 was Dr. Sarah Loose's new course on digital history. Digital history is an exciting new field that combines traditional historical research with digital technologies and resources to produce unexpected insights into the past. In the inaugural edition of Dr. Loose's class, one group of students created a digital timeline of the history of sister missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints based on primary sources in the BYU library. Another group created annotated images of works of art from the reformation artist Lucas Cranach.

As alumni and friends of the department, it is my hope that you will feel connected to the BYU Department of History. I welcome your input on how we can continue to grow as a department, and can better prepare our students for life after BYU. Please feel free to reach out to me: ericd@byu.edu.

Sincerely,

Eric Dursteler
Chair and Professor

BYU Department of History 2018 Newsletter

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In Memory of:

Paul V. Hyer



Paul Van Hyer, a founding member of Asian Studies at Brigham Young University and LDS mission and temple president in Taipei, Taiwan, died on January 22, 2018. He was 91.

Paul was born in Ogden, Utah on June 2, 1926 to Ariel Christian and Johanna (Van Woerkom) Hyer. He served in the U.S. Navy in Hawaii during World War II and returned to Hawaii to serve a Japanese speaking LDS mission after the war. He married Harriet Catherine Johns in the Logan Temple on December 15, 1948.

Paul received his undergraduate degree from Brigham Young University; a PhD in History from the University of California at Berkeley; and taught Chinese History for 52 years in the BYU History Department. He received the Karl G. Maeser Excellence in Teaching Award. He was fluent in Japanese and Mandarin Chinese, and was internationally known for his scholarship on Mongolia and Inner Asia. He was a real “Indiana Jones” and loved adventure and traveling throughout the world. With his family, he lived in Japan, Taiwan, and China, and led members of his family on three round-the-world treks.

Paul is survived by his wife, Karen Shellabarger Claus Hyer; two sisters, Joyce Hyer Kotter and Barbara Hyer Montgomery; one brother, Blaine Hyer; five daughters: Paulette (Lynn) Patterson, Luanne (Paul) Olson, Jana (Bruce) McDonald, Carol (Michael) Toone, and Annette (Ted) Luymes; and three sons: Scott (Christie Powell) Hyer, Eric (Jeanie Kader) Hyer, David (Maren Clegg) Hyer; step-son, James (Heather Rooke) Claus; 39 grandchildren; and 75 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Harriet Johns Hyer, his parents, and other extended family.

One of our current History Professors, Kirk Larsen, remembers Paul Hyer fondly,

“Although I was not a History major as a BYU undergrad, I did take one class from Paul Hyer: History 500R Special Studies in History. This was a graduate-level course that Paul was kind enough to let me, an eager and ambitious undergrad, take. I learned much about East Asia and about how to read sources closely and carefully. I remember many of Paul’s stories--Camels in Mongolia, adventures in Taiwan--and of his generosity--opening his home to students in the class for an end-of-semester party.”

HISTORY DEPARTMENT LECTURES

11th Annual

De Lamar Jensen Lecture



On last October 5th **Paula Findlen**, an Ubaldo Pierotti Professor of Italian History, gave the 11th annual De Lamar Lecture. The lecture is named

after DeLamar Jensen who earned a history degree from BYU in '52 and worked for the History department for 45 years. Professor Findlen's lecture, entitled "The Scientist and the Saint: Laura Bassi's Enlightened Catholicism and Galileo's Legacy", was thoroughly enjoyed by the large group that attended.

33rd Annual

Russel B. Swensen Lecture



On March 15th of this year we heard from **Adrian Gregory**, an Associate Professor at Oxford University, at the 33rd annual

Russel B. Swensen Lecture. The lecture is named after Russel B. Swensen who was a BYU graduate, a history and religion professor, and finally a beloved chair of the department. Professor Gregory's lecture, entitled "Global Religion and the Great War", left those in attendance both engaged and inspired.

Club Update

Phi Alpha Theta

Phi Alpha Theta is an American honor society for undergraduate and graduate students and professors of history with over 400,000 members. Their 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. The BYU chapter of Phi Alpha Theta has done its best to achieve this mission in the past year.

One of the entertaining Phi Alpha Theta events this past year was the Annual Dead Reformers Debate. In honor of the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation, we traveled back into the age of Reformation, a time marked by its turmoil between theology and warring states. We witnessed some of the greats of the Reformation period, such as William Tyndale, Martin Luther, St. Theresa, and John Calvin, debate the key events and philosophies from their period. Keep an eye out for news about the up coming Dead Reformers Debate later this year!

This year Phi Alpha Theta inducted a new President, Rachael Beath. About the club she said, "Phi Alpha Theta is an important part of the BYU community as it brings people together in the name of history. For me, the meaningfulness of the organization cannot be understated. Not only is it a place for like-minded lovers of history to come together, but it also aims to teach others the value of studying history and the role that it plays in shaping our future. I became president of Phi Alpha Theta because I wanted to be a part of that outreach effort. I hope that through this position I will be able to help Phi Alpha Theta expand to establish a more prevalent presence on campus and engage with the student body to spark a greater interest and appreciation for history."





STUDENT NEWS.....

2017-2018 HISTORY DEPARTMENT VALEDICTORIANS

August 2017: Zachary Osborne

Zachary is a history major with an emphasis in American History, from Allen, Texas. He served a mission in Korea Seoul and returned to marry Christine Petersen. Zachary's passion for history stems from a desire to understand the nature of human suffering. While at BYU, Zachary supported research at the LDS Church History Library as well as helped to improve the patient experience at Intermountain Healthcare at Utah Valley Regional Medical Center. Zachary will attend graduate school in Texas for Healthcare Administration and hopes to alleviate undue pain suffered during hospitalization. He enjoys intellectual pursuits, cleaning, spending time in nature, and the miracle of modern air conditioning.

April 2018: Kaytlin Fay Anne Nalder

Kaytlin is a history teaching major, that grew up in Alberta, Canada. Her love for history began in high school, but it wasn't until she came to BYU that she considered majoring in it. While at BYU, Kaytlin was able to work as both a teaching and research assistant for Dr. Underwood, a job which was one of the highlights of her undergraduate experience. She was also the recipient of two history paper awards including the De Lamar and Mary Jensen Student Paper Award in European History and the Carol Cornwall Maden Student Paper Award in Women's History. Kaytlin enjoys skiing, reading, cooking, crocheting, and spending time with family and friends.

HISTORY
DEPARTMENT
TUITION
SCHOLARSHIP
AWARDS 2017-2018

Travis Swindall
Arthur Becker Scholarship

Katherine Morse
De Lamar & Mary W. Jensen
Scholarship

Marc Wein
James B. Allen Scholarship

Jonathan Barrows
Mark Earl Brotherson
Memorial Scholarship

Mary Bassett
William J. Snow Scholarship

CENTER FOR
FAMILY HISTORY
& GENEALOGY
ENDOWED
SCHOLARSHIPS

Conlee Grant
Virginia Pratt

Ingersoll Grant
Karynne Arthur
Shelbie Drake
Hillary Hughes

Morse Grant
Bethany Cuevas
Matthew Tyler

Trejo Grant
Michael Crowther
McKall Ruell

Mansfield Scholarship
Carly Bagley
Janae Brown
Angela Sellers

Rice Scholarship
Charlotte Champenois
Rebecca Spencer
Ellie Vance

AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING
PAPERS WRITTEN IN 2017

Women's History Award - Jake Moeller
"Murderesses and Wretches: Infanticide as the Defining Act of Women in Victorian England (1840-1910)". Written for Jeff Hardy, Hist 306.

LeRoy R. Hafen Award in North American History - Samantha Beck
"The Rutherford Redemption: Understanding the Source of Fraud in the Election of 1876". Written for Mark Choate, Hist 200.

Sechin Jagchid Award in Non-Western History - Miranda Jessop
"Making History: Ken Burns' The Civil War". Written for Stewart Anderson, Hist 311.

De Lamar and Mary Jensen Award in European History - Christine Edvalson
"Too Old to be Evacuated but no Old Enough to be 'Called Up' : "Teenagers" in World War II England". Written for Rebecca de Schweinitz, Hist 490.

Carol Cornwall Madsen Award in Mormon Women's History
Holden Brimhall, "Historical and Contemporary Responses to Sexual Assault by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints". Written for Rebecca de Schweinitz, Hist 390R.

History of the Family Award - Daniel Handley
"Where Is Father Now? Absent John Adams and His Tender Twigs". Written for Kendall Brown, Hist 490.

Personal Family History Award - Becca Curtis
"You are the Father: A Study of the Effects of Paternal Financial Support of Illegitimate Children in Dorset, England 1848-1868". Written for Rebecca de Schweinitz, Hist 490.

Cultural History Award - Robert Swanson
"A Revolution of Heart and Mind: The Transition of Richard Stockton from Moderate to Revolutionary". Written for Stewart Anderson, Hist 200.

2017 Faith and Reason Essay Competition Award - Sarah Rounsville
"The Way to Salvation: Comparing Ana de San Bartolome and Martin Luther". Written for Craig Harline, Hist 303.

Ethnic History Award - Morgan Fronk
"Corporate Autonomy: French Jews and the Price of Citizenship". Written for Chris Hodson, Hist 294.

History of Empire - Ian McLaughlin
"Sovereignty and Civilization in Proposals to Regulate the East India Company, 1772-1773". Written for Karen Auman, Hist 490.

African or Middle Eastern History Award - Courtney Cook
"Defending Communal Identity in the Ottoman Empire: Hagop Gagosian and the Mormon Armenians, 1890-1910". Written for Christine Isom-Verhaaren, Hist 490.



HISTORY STUDENTS AROUND THE

1. Miya Jensen

Hawaii State Archives in Honolulu,
Hawaii

2. James Calhoun

Romney for Utah Internship

3. Wendy Brimhall

Filson Historical Society in
Louisville, Kentucky

4. Brittany Wallace

Scottish Parliament Internship

5. Bethany Cuevas

Rudolstadt, Thuringia, Germany

6. Travis Swindall

L. Tom Perry Special Collections
Internship

7. Briana Cullimore

Student Teaching in Washington
D.C.

8. Hillary Hughes

Washington Seminar, National
Archives

9. Madelaine Campbell

London Center Study Abroad

10. Virginia Pratt

Immigrant Ancestors Project
Internship in London, England

11. Miranda Jessop

Vienna, Austria

12. Matt Tyler

Guangzhou, China

“ My internship was to locate British emigration records at the British Library for the IAP website sponsored by The Center for Family History and Genealogy. Knowing how to search through old manuscripts quickly and thoroughly is an essential part of being a genealogist. I learned that other countries do not use the dewy decimal system when organizing their library collections, each country uses a different system. ”
-Virginia Pratt (10)

“ I am currently interning at both the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for History and Social Sciences while also taking classes in German and Viennese history and culture. This program has been a perfect fit for me because Vienna was once the center of an empire, and so the city is full of history! I hope to one day be a history professor, and use my experiences here to bring history to life for my future students. ”
-Miranda Jessop (11)

“ I became a History Major to become a better writer and thinker, and I believed that playing a small role in the campaign of a nationally prominent man would provide opportunity to utilize the writing, analytical, and organizational skills my major has provided me. I loved my time with the campaign and learned lots, including the fact that it's humanly impossible to like Twinkies more than Mitt. ”
-James Calhoun (2)

“ I indexed church records and last will and testaments for archive visitors to more quickly find the correct records. Besides the new experience with archival procedures, I learned about a different culture and made professional connections with my coworkers. ”
-Bethany Cuevas (5)

“ I did my student teaching at Woodrow Wilson High School and taught 9th grade world history. The skills I learned in my history classes were things I was able to teach my students - reading, writing, and thinking historically. I love being able get kids excited about history and showing them how relevant it is today. ”
-Briana Cullimore (7)

World

FACULTY NEWS

What have the BYU History Department Faculty been up to?

Professor Spotlight: Jay H. Buckley



BYU History professor Dr. Jay H. Buckley has been selected as the new director of the Charles Redd Center for Western Studies. Buckley will serve in this position for a three-year term that begins September 1, 2018.

Buckley will be replacing current director Dr. Brian Cannon who has served as the Charles Redd Center director for 15 years. The College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences is deeply appreciative of Cannon's many years of dedicated service and is excited to have him continue teaching full-time in the history department.

Buckley is an associate professor in the history department and the director of the American Indian Studies minor. Buckley's research and publication interests include the American West, exploration, fur trade, and American Indians. He is the author of the award-winning *William Clark: Indian Diplomat*, and co-author of six other books. Buckley has served on the Redd Center Board of Directors since 2011. He has received multiple Redd Center research grants, worked extensively with students on the Intermountain Histories public history project, and received the Mollie & Karl G. Butler Young Scholar Award in Western Studies. He is also the past President of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation.

The Charles Redd Center for Western Studies was founded in 1972 by Charley and Annaley Naegle Redd. It promotes the study of the Intermountain West (defined as the states of Utah, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Arizona) through its sponsorship of research, publication, teaching and public programs. The Redd Center is an interdisciplinary center in the College of Family, Home, and Social Sciences and the College of Humanities.

2018 Faculty Awards

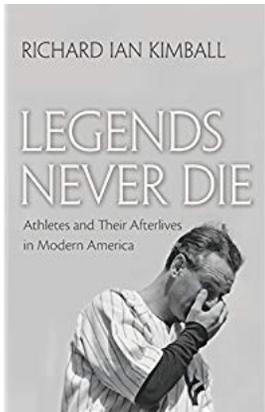
Sarah Loose - Frank W. Fox Award for Excellence in Teaching

Karen Carter - Ted J. Warner Award for Excellence in Citizenship

Matt Mason - Thomas G. Alexander Award for Excellence in Scholarship

Thank you to all of the amazing History Department Faculty, we are deeply appreciative of all that you do!

What has the BYU History Department Faculty published this year?

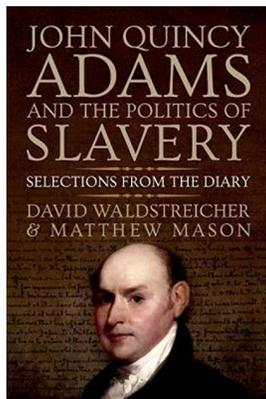


Richard Ian Kimball

Legends Never Die: Athlete and Their Afterlives in Modern America

The premature deaths of celebrated players not only capture and immortalize them, but also leave the living with the power to construct their legacies. In *Legends Never Die* Kimball explores the public myths and representations that surround a wide range of athletes, from Lou Gehrig and Joe DiMaggio to Dale Earnhardt and Bonnie McCarroll.

Kimball delves deeper than just the cultural significance of sports and its players; he examines how each athlete's narrative is shaped by gender relations, religion, and politics in contemporary America. In looking at how Americans react to the tragic deaths of sports heroes, Kimball illuminates the important role sports play in US society and helps to explain why star athletes possess such cultural power.

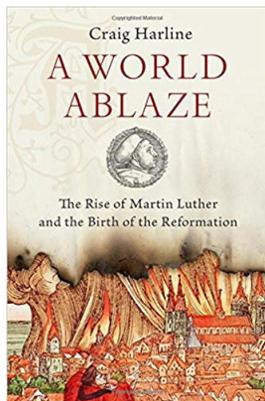


Matthew Mason & David Waldstreicher

John Quincy Adams and the Politics of Slavery: Selections from the Diary

In the final years of his political career, President John Quincy Adams was well known for his objections to slavery, with rival Henry Wise going so far as to label him "the acutest, the astutest, the archest enemy of southern slavery that ever existed." As a young statesman, however, he supported slavery.

Expertly edited by David Waldstreicher and Matthew Mason, *John Quincy Adams and the Politics of Slavery* offers an unusual perspective on the dramatic and shifting politics of slavery in the early republic. By juxtaposing Adams's personal reflections on slavery with what he said—and did not say—publicly on the issue, the editors offer a nuanced portrait of how he interacted with prevailing ideologies during his consequential career and life.

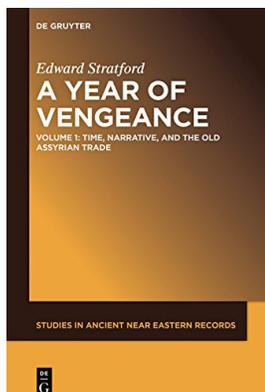


Craig Harline

A World Ablaze: The Rise of Martin Luther and the Birth of the Reformation

In 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg and launched the Protestant Reformation. At least, that's what the legend says. But with a figure like Martin Luther, who looms so large in the historical imagination, it's hard to separate the legend from the life.

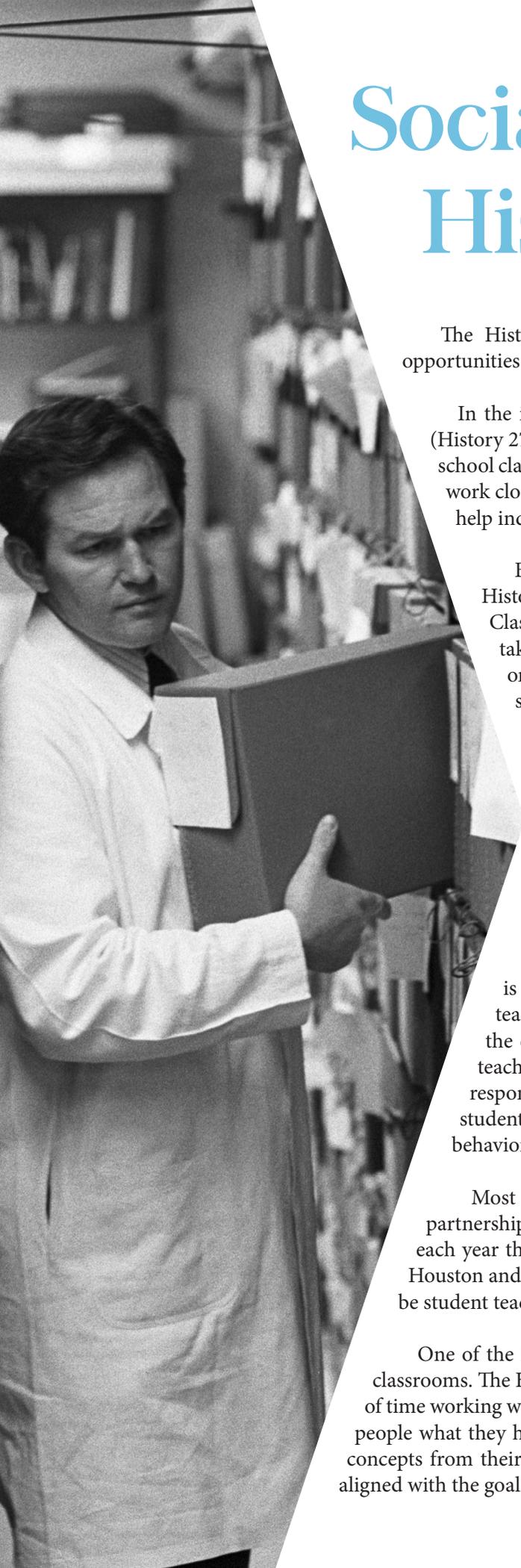
In *A World Ablaze*, Craig Harline introduces us to the flesh-and-blood Martin Luther. The Luther we find in these pages is not a statue to be admired but a complex figure -- brilliant and volatile, fretful and self-righteous, curious and stubborn. Harline brings out the immediacy, uncertainty, and drama of his story, giving readers a sense of what it felt like in the moment, when the ending was still very much in doubt. The result is a masterful recreation of a momentous turning point in the history of the world.



Edward Stratford

A Year of Vengeance, Vol. 1

Despite significant advances in annual chronology, the Old Assyrian trade fundamentally lacked a regime of time at the level of the merchant's commercial and personal activities. Stratford sets out to recapture time through narrative. Investigating a possible case of revenge leads to weaving together more than a hundred mostly undated documents to form a narrative within the course of a single year of vengeance, including trade disruptions, illnesses, and commerce. Old Assyrian commercial time and its tempos become more clear, leading to descriptions of the scale of the trade and the nature of Old Assyrian archives as they have survived. Ultimately, the Assyrians involved appear as the earliest historical individuals in world history. The treatment of Šalim-ahum's apparent revenge comprises a practicum in historical interpretation in the ancient world of interest to practitioners and theoreticians of both the ancient world and world history.



Social Science & History Teaching

The History Teaching and Social Science Teaching majors have numerous opportunities for field work in line with the university's goals for experiential learning.

In the introductory course to the teaching majors, Explorations of Teaching (History 276), students spend several days in elementary, middle school, and high school classrooms, and in alternative schools. Within these settings, BYU students work closely with practicing teachers to teach lessons, grade students' work, and help individual young people with assignments.

BYU students again enter classrooms when they take either Building Historical Literacies or Democratic Classroom Design. In the Democratic Classroom class, BYU students work on projects of their own design that take them into schools. Last year students conducted classroom research on the civics exam required for graduation in Utah. Using feedback from students and parents, they designed a new civics test that could replace the current test, which they found was seriously flawed.

BYU students again enter classrooms during their Practicum course where they spend an hour each day in the same middle school or high school classroom. They forge a strong relationship with a practicing teacher and get to know the students that they work with every day. The practicum serves as a gateway into student teaching, which often takes place in the same classroom the following semester.

History Teaching and Social Science Teaching majors' capstone work is either a semester-long student teaching experience or a year-long teaching internship. During student teaching, BYU students are placed in the classroom of a practicing middle school or high school social studies teacher. With their mentor at their side, they gradually take over all of the responsibilities of a teacher including planning lessons, teaching, grading student work, conducting parent teacher conferences, and managing students' behavior.

Most BYU students complete student teaching within one of the five BYU partnership school districts (Nebo, Provo, Alpine, Wasatch, Jordan) though each year the History Department places student teachers in inner city schools in Houston and Washington, DC. During the summer of 2018, one of our students will be student teaching at The Clifford School in GuangZhou, China.

One of the keys to successful teacher preparation programs is field experience in classrooms. The History Teaching and Social Science Teaching majors spend a great deal of time working with teachers and students in the field, where they get to share with young people what they have learned throughout their history coursework and get to apply the concepts from their education courses. The experiential learning that they gain is closely aligned with the goals of BYU.

Family History

Students majoring in Family History have an abundance of opportunities for experiential learning as well as opportunities to contribute to the genealogical community as they participate in national conferences, complete internships, and publish articles in industry magazines and journals. Several students attended the RootsTech conference again this year. They attended lectures, volunteered at the BYU booth, networked with other genealogists, and presented mini-lectures on a variety of topics in the demonstration area of the BYU booth. In May, several students attended the National Genealogical Society's annual conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan (photo below of students with NGS President, Ben Spratling). In August several more students will be attending the Federation of Genealogical Society's annual conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. In addition, two students will be presenting at FGS.

The Nauvoo Project's database continues to expand – proving the identity of early Nauvoo residents and providing vital genealogical information for their descendants to use as they work to link their family trees. Another important project doesn't have a database on our website, but serves the government and missing veteran's families by having students research deceased veterans by collecting personal histories to support identification efforts, and by working to develop strategies for finding descendants of missing veterans throughout the United States. Most family history majors take advantage of these various opportunities and are increasing their skills and abilities – preparing themselves to be outstanding genealogists at graduation.

Every year, family history students arrange to complete their internships in archives around the world. This year students will be interning in Germany, England, Kentucky, China, and Washington DC (to name just a few)! Some students are taking the initiative to get articles published. Recently Rebecca Curtis published her article “British Nauvoo” in *Genealogists' Magazine* 32, no. 7 (September 2017): 260-263. Others were recently invited to submit articles to the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*. Work in the Center for Family History and Genealogy continues to progress. All of the Center's projects that family history majors are working on are contributing important genealogical data for the benefit of many who use the Center's free online databases.



Carolyn Webber attended the National Genealogical Society Conference, about the experience she said:

“During the Conference, I attended a variety of classes designed to build research skills, explain migration paths, demonstrate DNA research, and to increase my understanding of using unique record collections. I enjoyed my opportunity to present at this conference. I enjoyed this opportunity to explore Michigan and to discover genealogical treasures.”

BYU STUDENTS CONNECT MISSING SOLDIERS TO THEIR FAMILIES



A group of BYU students has answered the Army's call for genealogical reinforcements.

With more than 82,000 Americans still missing from conflicts dating back to World War II, students at the BYU Center for Family History and Genealogy have been working with the Army and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency to return the remains of missing soldiers to their family members.

"Normally in our family history work, we are going as far back through as many generations as we can," said Sydney Bjork, one of the students who worked on the project this past year. "But this sort of feels like reverse family history work. We start with a soldier and then look for the closest living relative they have."

The Army sought help with this project from BYU, which has the only family history degree in the nation. Other partners in this project include historians who research where there might be remains of missing soldiers. Archaeology units take that information and get digging. And it's BYU's job to find the relatives.

Professor Jill Crandell standing amid her two students in the JFSB courtyard

From left: Student Melanie Torres, Professor Jill Crandell, and student Kimberly Brown.

Since starting on the project, the students have been assigned just more than 65 cases and have finished about 48 of them. After the cases are complete, students submit a report to the Army with the results of their research, the potential DNA donors and the contact information of the soldier's relatives.

"Family history is something that's really tender to all of us because it's about family and we know how much our own families mean to us," said Professor Jill Crandell, director of BYU's Center. "We actually become attached to those families and there is a certain amount of inspiration involved when working on these cases."

Not all cases are created equally. Some cases take three hours to solve. Some cases take three weeks to solve. However long it takes, the students on the project always feel an overwhelming sense of joy that they were



able to help in the process of bringing families closer together.

For these students, this project is more than names and dates; it's not just casework, each one is a meaningful story. Here's a sample of the stories they've learned and worked on:

One mother continued for decades to set an extra place at the dinner table, just in case her son came home. A still-living widow of a WWII soldier still longs to know at age 97 what happened to her husband. One family of Italian immigrants has two brothers missing in action.

"It's really fulfilling to see a family that came over and was looking for a new life in America and was willing to give that ultimate sacrifice to preserve that livelihood they had made in America," said Melanie Torres, who was able to work on the case for the Italian family. "It's really inspiring to see people who are willing to serve for the freedoms that they enjoy here."

Torres and some of her fellow students have close family members who have served in the military so this work really hits home for them.

"My grandfather was in the military, my great-grandfather was in World War II and my husband is in the Air Force. It is something that just really connects to my heart," said Torres.

This project has not only had a lasting impact on the family members of soldiers but also on the students and their future plans.

"I didn't realize this was the kind of work I wanted to be involved in until I was working on this project," said Savannah Larson, another student involved. "I really love this project for giving me a new set of skills and allowing me to learn and grow in an environment where I could focus on the soldiers who needed what we could do for them."

ALUMNI UPDATES

What have the BYU History Department Alumni been up to?

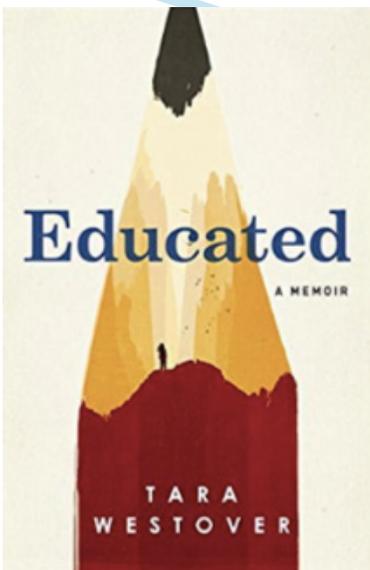
James Perkins, Producer at NPR



I graduated from BYU in 2015 with a BA in History, and a Minor in Communications. I was a History major from day one because it always seemed to be the most comprehensive way to study the breadth of human knowledge. I worked at BYU Radio while going to school, and interned with NPR at their DC headquarters shortly thereafter.

I'm now a producer with NPR working on National shows like Morning Edition, All Things Considered, and Here & Now. Working in a hectic newsroom in the nation's capital, I still try to bring a historian's attention to sources and causality to every news story I produce.

Tara Westover, Author



Before arriving at BYU at the age of seventeen, Tara Westover had never set foot in a classroom of any kind. And yet she received a BA in history in 2008 and a Gates Scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge, where she earned her PhD in history in 2014. Recently published by Random House and highlighted in the New York Times, Vogue and Entertainment weekly, her memoir, *Educated*, traces her path

from rural Idaho to Provo to Cambridge and beyond.

“The middle section of the book is about my time at BYU, and all the ways BYU opened my eyes to the world, to education, to what healthy family relationships might look like. I arrived at BYU without having any prior experience with formal education, so it was at BYU that I acquired my entire primary and secondary education. BYU has a wonderful tradition of pastoral care; it was the perfect place for me.”



De Lamar Jensen, Professor & Muralist

De Lamar Jensen received his BA in History in 1952. During his 34-year career teaching European history at BYU, Jensen authored many books, which range from an exploration of French diplomacy to Jensen's own three-volume personal history. But stepping into his Provo backyard, you'll find a much more vibrant record of Jensen's life and legacy in murals the 90-year-old has painted on wooden sheds and cinderblock walls throughout his retirement. “I just love to see beautiful, meaningful things,” Jensen says.

What have YOU been up too? Started a business? Got a Ph.D.? Lived abroad?

We love staying connected. We want to hear what ALL of our History Department Alumni are up to! Contact us at byuhistoryupdates@byu.edu to give us a quick update or just to say hi!

Leslie Edwards, Journalist & 3rd Grade Teacher



“When you’re in a war zone, your faith increases exponentially,” says Leslie Hinchcliff Edwards, a sociology and history grad from BYU in 1971. She lived with her family in Saudi Arabia for 22 years and witnessed the First Gulf War up close. Working for Saudi TV and radio and as an on-site coordinator of NBC’s war desk during that conflict, she kept track of journalists and of U.S. troop movements. Edwards returned to the States in 1999, and, after another high-octane role setting up NBC’s news bureaus for the 2002 Olympics, her professional life took a turn that surprised her just as much as it did others: she became a third-grade teacher—and a prestigious Golden Apple Award award-winning one at that.

Greg Jackson, Professor & Podcaster

Greg Jackson is an assistant professor of Integrated Studies at UVU. He earned a B.A. in history and a M.A. in French Studies from BYU. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in history from the University of Utah in 2014.

He also hosts the podcast ‘History that doesn’t suck with Professor Greg Jackson.’ It is described as “a heavily researched, totally legit, comprehensive, American history podcast by an irreverent, professional historian who wants to entertain the hell out of you.” He began this endeavor by himself but has since gained two valuable team members; Producer/Sound Tech Joshua Beatty and Associate Writer & Researcher Cielle Salazar, another BYU graduate. In response to fans, they will also be launching a spin-off podcast in the coming months, “Office Hours” where they’ll discuss HTDS episodes and have on historians as guests. One of the first episode will feature our very own Professor Jay Buckley.



Total BYU Total Day School Students: 32,922
Total History majors: 443



History Majors

195 Students
50% of department

Teaching Social Sciences Majors

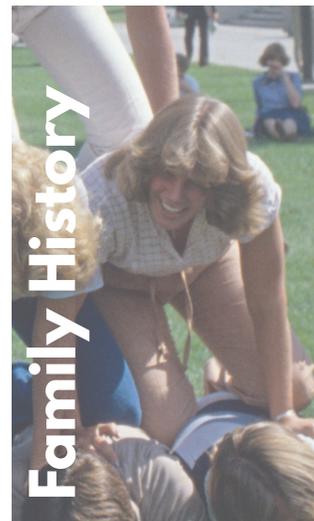
103 Students
71 declared (18%) and 32 premajors (8%)

History Teaching Majors:

72 Students
27 declared (7%) and 47 premajors (12%)

Family History Majors:

71 Students
18% of department





Department of History Fundraising Initiatives

As part of our efforts to provide more students with the opportunity to take their learning opportunities outside of the classroom, the History Department has two major, multi-year fundraising initiatives underway.

The History Capstone Research Fund

All History majors are required to take a senior thesis capstone seminar in which they do extensive research on a historical question. These projects represent the culmination of a student's history career, and challenge them to bring together all their research, analytical, organizational, and writing skills together to create their most substantial piece of work. Traditionally students have been limited in their research topics by primary sources available in the BYU library. While these are rich resources, many students would benefit greatly from gaining access to records not available at BYU. In response to this need, the History Department has begun earmarking funds for students to travel to archives and libraries beyond BYU. This may be as simple as a small amount of money to cover travel and research costs to work in the historical archive of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, or it may be more substantial funds to allow a student to spend a week or two researching in the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Our objective is to provide grants of from \$100 to \$500 to as many of the 30 to 50 students who work on their senior thesis each semester that would benefit from this sort of experience. The best guess is that about 10-15 students per semester will take advantage of these funds, and so we hope to be able to allocate \$5000 per semester, or \$15,000 annually for this initiative.

Department of History Field Study Program

Beginning in 2019, the History Department will sponsor annual field study programs for history majors. Currently most departments on campus have discipline specific programs, and so we are playing a bit of catchup here. During these month-long excursions, faculty will teach onsite courses that are normally offered on campus to groups of 15-25 majors. Courses may range from Dr. D.J. Gonzales' offering his history of race and ethnicity in California in Los Angeles, to Dr. Leslie Hadfield teaching her course on South African history in Capetown, to Dr. Jon Felt leading a group of students along the silk road to study Mongol history. Our objective is to provide mentored experiential learning opportunities for our students that will help them progress toward graduation. Another objective is to subsidize student costs so that more students from a wider range of economic backgrounds can participate in these unique and often life-changing experiences. The goal is to provide \$500-1500 to students who participate one of these field study programs. Our short-term objective is to raise \$50,000 to get this program up and running. Long-term we hope to establish an endowment that will ensure the perpetuation of this program for future generations of BYU history majors.

If you would like to add your support to either of these important initiatives, you can do so on our new website: <https://history.byu.edu/Pages/donate>, or by contacting me directly at ericd@byu.edu.