

The Sextant

Interdisciplinary Conference on Race

The Department hosted its sixth biennial Interdisciplinary Conference on Race from Thursday, November 14 to Saturday, November 16, 2019. This year's theme was Race, Memory, and Identity.

The Monmouth University race conference was founded in 2008 by Dr. Julius Adekunle and Dr. Hettie V. Williams. This conference has brought together scholars from more than fifteen U.S. states, four continents, and twelve nations. Robin D.G. Kelley, Tera Hunter, David Roediger, and Jonathan Holloway have all previously served as keynote speakers for this event. This year, historian Dr. William Sturkey, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, delivered the opening plenary lecture. Dr. Qiana Whitted, University of (continued on page 2)



Left to right: Dr. Hettie Williams, Dr. Christopher DeRosa, Dr. William Sturkey, President Patrick Leahy, Professor Tiffany Williams, Professor Brooke Nappi, Dr. Julius Adekunle, and Dr. Richard Veit.

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Dr. Qiana Whitted, Director of African American Studies & Professor of Literature, University of South Carolina, delivers the Friday evening keynote.



Thursday evening's program included a cultural event called "Memory in African American Music and Culture: An Extravaganza." It featured performances by Daryl L. Stewart, Leah Joy Hillard, Solomon Cobbs, Donna J. Gore, The Rushing Singers, and Kasey Sanders.



Thursday night also featured a "Founder's Event," in the form of "A Celebration of Dr. Julius Adekunle's Work, Mentorship, and Foundational Contributions." Here, Dr. Adekunle (second from left) poses with family and friends.

Race Conference, continued:

South Carolina, delivered the keynote, and Professor Tiffany Williams, Pepperdine Law, also delivered a plenary talk.

The conference also included musical performances, concurrent panels, and workshops. You can view the complete schedule [here](#).

We are particularly proud of our students presenters, who held their own amongst distinguished scholars: Tedi Pascarella, Jenna Paterno, and Lauren Rorie.

Conference committee members included: Heidi Bludau, Hillary DelPrete, Maureen Dorment, Walter Greason, Katherine Parkin, Karen Schmelzkopf, Rich Veit, Hettie Williams, and Melissa Ziobro.

Our biggest thanks, though, are reserved for our hard-working co-chairs, Professors Brooke Nappi and Maryanne Rhett (pictured below).



Springsteen: His Hometown Exhibit Opens

The exhibit “Springsteen: His Hometown” opened to much fanfare at the Monmouth County Historical Association (MCHA) at 70 Court Street in rocker Bruce Springsteen’s hometown of Freehold this September. This exhibit was co-curated by Professor Melissa Ziobro of the Department of History and Anthropology and MCHA Curator of Collections Bernadette Rogoff. Eileen Chapman and Bob Santelli of the [Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth University](#) provided critical support.

The exhibit started as a class project in Ziobro’s fall 2018 HS 317 museums and archives class. It features over 150 items from the Springsteen Archives and guitars, clothing, jewelry, and other items from Springsteen himself—who joined the curators and guests at the exhibit preview party on Saturday, September 28. The exhibit will be open through fall 2020. It has enjoyed much local and national news coverage, for example in the [NY Post](#), [Rolling Stone](#), [Billboard.com](#), and [Variety!](#)



Local rockers Joe Grushecky and Bobby Bandiera were slated to play at the opening night party, “Dancing in the Dark.” Bruce delighted the crowd by jumping on stage himself.



Professor Ziobro pauses for a photo with co-curator, Bernadette Rogoff, of MCHA. The first floor of the exhibit focuses on Bruce’s career, while the second floor explores “The Ties That Bind” him to Freehold, NJ.



Top: Professor Ziobro and Eileen Chapman of the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth University walk Mr. Springsteen through the exhibit on opening night.



Right: A glimpse into one display case.

History and Anthropology Club News

By Collin Dougherty

Fall 2019 semester saw all new leadership for the History and Anthropology Club. Graciela V. St. Onge took on the role of president once Jenna Paterno stepped down to focus on her graduate studies. Jarret R. Bird took on the role of Vice President; Collin Dougherty, Parliamentarian; and Saine C. Hernandez Burgos, Treasurer. Our leadership represents a mix of history and anthropology and graduate and undergraduate students.

The revitalized club continued many of the Club's activities that have become traditions. For example, the Club once again kicked off the semester with a "pizza and planning" session that allowed all members to suggest programming ideas. We organized an atlatl toss on the Lower Lawn, tossing spears at Bessie the Bison to learn about ancient technologies; hosted "bring your own artifact day;" and ran a trivia game that pitted student against professor and colleague against colleague. Our winner was student Thomas Prioli, followed by Dr. Maryanne Rhett in second place, with last year's winner, department chair Dr. DeRosa, now in third place.

The Club also ran its Halloween candy drive for the 7th year in a row. 780 pounds of candy were collected for the non-profit group American Military Recreational Services, which will ship it overseas to deployed military personnel.

In keeping with the Halloween spirit, the Club invited Kathy Kelly to discuss the paranormal at the end of October. Kelly, an alum and owner of Paranormal Books and Curiosities in Asbury Park, gave riveting tales of her experiences and adventures. Kelly told stories that ranged from ghost stories, to dark tourism, to Romanian national identity. Students learned of Kelly's own personal encounter with a ghost, how certain sites trade off their paranormal past for monetary purposes, and how Romanians are tired of Dracula seekers.

The last club activity to finish out the semester was a talk given by Lisa Laird Dunn, whose family has run the local Laird & Company distillery for the last 300 years.

Thanks to faculty advisor Professor Ziobro and all the Club members for their dedication in continuing the History and Anthropology Department's traditions, and perhaps starting new ones.

Spring events will include our annual t-shirt fundraiser and 19th century base ball game (yes, it used to be two words). Stay tuned for more information!



Club VP Jarret at the Involvement Fair in September. Club events are always open to all students, and are (almost) always free! We hope you will get involved, and welcome any ideas about programming that you might have.

Making History: A Professor's Drive to Fill the Gap Between Academia and Adulthood

By Madison Hanrahan

In the classroom of Bey Hall 130, one new professor has taken the initiative to teach his students life skills they may not have learned outside of class. Every Friday morning, Professor Adam Black spends time teaching his students life skills such as writing checks, sewing clothes, tying a tie, and how to write professional emails. "I began [these life skill classes] a few hours before Monmouth's formal last semester," Professor Black stated. "I volunteered to teach two of my students how to tie a necktie. From there, I decided to start teaching life skills as a means of helping college students adjust to college life and to life after college." Today, Professor Black is dedicated towards helping students learn how to live independently as adults - especially since many students are getting their first taste of freedom and independence and may have a hard time adjusting to living on their own.

Professor Black decided to teach lessons on what he "personally feels are critically important lessons to learn." He also teaches materials that were taught to him by his parents. Some examples of these are "how to fold a fitted sheet and how to tie a necktie." Since the start of his life lessons, "the reception and enthusiasm for these optional pre-class lessons has been inspiring," Professor Black beams.

With such a great emphasis on test-taking, school systems have sacrificed teaching about life skills and have removed classes such as art and home economics in favor of additional STEM classes. Students today are less likely to learn life skills such as folding clothes and sewing tears in clothing yet are more likely to understand complex mathematical formulas and scientific theories. "I remember being taught Calculus and Physics in high school, but not how to balance a checkbook or even how to write a check," Professor Black discussed. Schools have become even more rigorous with standardized testing, which creates a more pressing need to teach higher levels of Math, Science, and English. To make space for these classes, schools have started cutting programs and classes that seem "less important" towards getting a higher test grade, such as art, music, and home economics. "There is a borderline manic drive to push students into college and to take as many advanced placement classes as possible. Home economics, woodworking, and personal finance have all slowly been replaced by more academically rigorous courses in order to make a student's transcript more impressive to colleges," claims Professor Black.

By teaching these lessons, Professor Black has gained an important insight into the mindset of incoming students he teaches. "It is fascinating and inspiring to see how responsible and eager our generation of young adults can be when given the chance... This generation is comprised of hard-working, intrepid individuals who want to learn, want to improve themselves, and want to be better, more well-rounded people – both for themselves and for their fellow

(continued on page 6)

Making History, continued

human beings.” Although this generation was not taught skills outside of academia to the extent previous generations were, Professor Black has seen a generational wave of students ready and eager to learn anything and everything.

Professor Black hopes that his initiative to teach these life lessons before his classes “imparts important life skills to [his] students, and that these small acts of kindness will create a butterfly effect of positivity and compassion in our community.” He has seen how little “emphasis is placed on teaching life skills,” and finds that “this is painfully evident with [the] incoming freshmen.” He believes that teaching these life skills will help students adjust to a more independent lifestyle. Professor Black summarizes his endeavor with a quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson: “The purpose of life is... to be useful, to be honorable, to be compassionate, [and] to have made it make some difference that you have lived and lived well”—and that is exactly what he is doing; all within the classroom of Bey Hall 130.



Professor Adam Black and Education major Alyssa D'Amico ponder one of life's great questions: just HOW does one fold a fitted sheet?!

*Our Summer and Fall
2019 in photos....*

At right: On the 18th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, Monmouth University partnered with the 9/11 Memorial & Museum to offer a day of free public programming including art and discussion. Pictured here: MU Provost Rekha Datta; Virginia S. Bauer, a member of the Board of Directors for the 9/11 Memorial & Museum; MU President Patrick Leahy; and faculty members Douglas Collier, Melissa Ziobro, Christopher DeRosa, and John Comiskey.



Top: The Department once again kicked off the semester with our fall welcome. Thanks to Dr. Heidi Bludau and office coordinator Debora Graas for their hard work organizing this collegial event.



Dr. Bludau's AN/GO 282 "Life's a Beach" course and the Urban Coast Institute explore the Jersey Shore "from the other side."



Dr. Bludau's AN/GO 282, "Life's a Beach" course works with Clean Ocean Action to do a beach sweep at Monmouth Beach.



Dr. Bludau's AN 306 "Food & Culture" students explore alternative proteins with crickets!



Top: Dr. Bludau's AN306 "Food & Culture" course take its annual excursion to Sabor do Brasil to explore ethnic restaurants as ethnosites.



Left: Dr. Bludau's AN306 "Food & Culture" spent the semester learning about food insecurity, starting with a fieldtrip to Fulfill.



For the third year in a row, Department students won the campus-wide Monmouth Challenge trivia competition! Congrats to Kelly Schuld, Thomas Prioli, Jenna Paterno, and Bill Elwell.



Our Department was well-represented at the NJ Historical Commission's annual conference this fall. Left to right: Dr. Richard Veit, Lauren Rorie, Tedi Pascarella, Dr. Hettie Williams, Dr. Katherine Parkin, and Dr. Adam Heinrich.



We love seeing our students doing what they love! Here's graduate student Jenna Paterno making us proud, working WinterFest at the Twin Lights! Photo courtesy Twin Lights Historical Society.



Top: Seen around the department: graduate student Bianca Lucarini labeling skeletal material from a local excavation. Photo courtesy Dr. Hillary DelPrete.



Left: Dr. Heinrich chats with Lisa Laird Dunn about her family's 300 year old distillery, Laird & Co., at a Club event in December.



Bulletin Board

Dr. Ken Womack, Dean of the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences, has edited a new book due out in March. Titled, *The Beatles in Context (Composers in Context)*, it includes an essay by Dr. Ken Campbell, titled "'Love, Love, Love: Tracing the Contours of the Beatles' Inner Circle."

Working on a research project on "Slavery in the Classroom," Catherine Harvey applied for and was awarded, along with Profs. Katherine Parkin and Hettie Williams, a Center for Excellence in Teaching Mini Grant for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Catherine completed her joint Honors thesis and Senior Seminar thesis this fall and presented her findings on the history of textbooks in Kentucky, Mississippi, and New Jersey in the 1970s. She and Profs. Parkin and Williams will now turn toward developing her scholarship into an article that explores teaching slavery in the classroom then and now, with an eye toward how to improve form and content.

The theme of this year's World Cinema Series is "Women: Power and Identity." This series started September 25 with a showing of *The Second Mother*. The series returns on January 28 with *Lemon Tree*. See more [here](#).

Starting in the spring semester, Dr. Fred McKittrick will be chair of the Art & Design Department.

Dr. Heidi Bludau co-organized the roundtable, "Struggle, Collaboration and Doing Justice: Best Practices in Teaching Ethnographic Methods" at the American Anthropological Association annual meeting in Vancouver in November.

Dr. Thomas Pearson is leading a guided tour of Russia and Poland from June 26 – July 10, 2020. See more information [here](#).

"Bruce Springsteen's *The River*: An International Symposium" is coming to Monmouth University October 2-4, 2020. The conference theme is "The Ties That Bind." The festivities will include various live acts, as well as keynote addresses by rock critics and figures from the music industry. The deadline for abstract submission is March 1, 2020.

Our Oral History class had a busy semester! In October, students processed oral history interviews for the National Guard Militia Museum of NJ. Many of their interview summaries have already been posted on the Museum's website. In November, the class skyped with noted oral historians David Caruso of the Science History Institute, Abigail Perkiss of Kean University, and Molly Graham of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Students ended the semester by completing oral history interviews for the Ocean County Historical Society and Christ Church, Shrewsbury. Everyone leaves the class with concrete skills, just a little better prepared for "life after Monmouth."

Did you hear? Next semester, the University will introduce a new course dedicated to the work of Bruce Springsteen called "Bruce Springsteen's America: Land of Hope and Dreams" (HS-398-01). It will be taught by Dr. Ken Campbell. Hop on WebAdvisor and see if you can still grab a seat!

Dr. Benji Rolsky's new book, *The Rise and Fall of the Religious Left*, debuted November 12th with Columbia University Press.



Bulletin Board

Professor Melissa Ziobro, president of Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR), hosted a public workshop called “Oral History for Beginners” on December 15 at the Historic Wicoff House Museum in Plainsboro. The workshop was free for all Monmouth University students.

On Thursday, October 17, Dr. Hettie Williams moderated a “Monmouth Forum” event. The multidisciplinary roundtable discussion focused on White Supremacist Terrorism. Featured panelists included Professor Claude Taylor, Department of Communication; Dr. Johanna Foster, Department of Political Science and Sociology; Dr. Walter D. Greason, School of Education; and Professor Jamie Nappi, School of Social Work. Thanks to all who attended this important conversation. You can find more on future Monmouth Forum events [here](#).

Dr. Richard Veit spoke at the Monmouth County Park System’s inaugural “History on Tap” program on November 14th. His talk was titled “Famous and Forgotten Ships and Shipwrecks of New Jersey, an Archaeological Perspective.” The event started at the Historic Seabrook-Wilson House (Bayshore Waterfront Park) and then moved to a local brewery for continued discussion. Congrats to Dr. Veit, and to alumni Kristen Norbut and Michael Achimov, who work at the Park System and organized the event.

Professor Melissa Ziobro and our colleague Dr. Walter Greason from the School of Education both spoke at the Monmouth County Library for Archives Week in October. Ziobro’s talk was titled, “American Women and Royal Marriages,” while Greason’s was “From the Pines to the Waves: Wealth, Leadership, and Historic Preservation.” Zi-

obro also assisted with the Archives 2019 exhibit, “Four Centuries of Women in Monmouth County.” You can view the exhibit catalog [here](#).

Congrats to our friends at historic Christ Church, Shrewsbury on their new Graveyard Video Self-Guided Tour page. This page contains a set of short videos that describe various aspects of the Christ Church historic graveyard. These include Notable Figures, Gravestone Artistry, and Special Graveyard Features. Our own Dr. Richard Veit and undergraduate student Ryan Radice assisted with this wonderful public history project. Click [here](#) for more information.

National History Day returns to Monmouth University for the 5th year in a row this March 21st! And we need YOUR help, MU faculty, grad students, and community partners! We’re asking YOU to consider serving as a History Day judge. What does serving as a judge involve? You’ll be asked to attend a two-hour training workshop a few weeks before the competition (if you can’t attend the workshop, other arrangements can be made). Those who can’t make it on March 21st can volunteer to judge papers or websites remotely roughly two weeks in advance of the competition. Those judging at the competition can expect to be on campus from @8:00 am to @2:00 pm. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. We hope you will join us in supporting this wonderful program! To RSVP as a judge, or with any questions, email Professor Ziobro, mziobro@monmouth.edu

Dr. Parkin was invited to attend a symposium on advertising at Duke University and presented her research on the Christmas Boycott of 1963 at a conference in Essex, England.



Bulletin Board

On October 3, Dr. Maryanne Rhett spoke at the National Archives in NYC. The talk was billed as a “conversation between a prominent historian of comics, Maryanne Rhett, and the co-author of the *March Trilogy*, Andrew Aydin. Rhett and Aydin will begin the conversation by briefly situating their work in and with comics and graphic texts. Following their presentations they will discuss creating graphic history, reading comics as a primary source, and the role of comics in history and social studies instruction.” See more [here](#).

Dr. Ken Campbell’s article on “The Beatles at Woodstock” was recently published in a special 50th anniversary edition of the journal *Popular Music and Society*.

On Friday, December 6, the Department held our regular senior research conference. Congratulations to all the students who presented papers, and to Drs. Julius Adekunle and Adam Heinrich, who supported them through the research and writing process this semester.

Professor Melissa Ziobro was recently invited to join the board of [The New Jersey Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Foundation](#). She will be teaching “The Vietnam Era” in the Spring of 2021.

Dr. Hettie Williams would like to call your attention to the project on The Underground Railroad in New Jersey from her U.S. history class.

Dr. Katherine Parkin’s new article, “‘Joy Turned to Sorrow’: Stillborns in Howard

County, Indiana, 1890–1940” is now available in Volume 45, Issue 1 of the *Journal of Family History*.

Congrats to alum Brad Bach, who recently re-signed with the NY Mets! Click [here](#) for more.

Dr. Katherine Parkin was quoted in the *Washington Post* article, “He said ‘yes’! Why aren’t more women proposing to their boyfriends?” Click [here](#) to read.

Department faculty are beginning a project called, “Paradoxical Paradise: Asbury Park An African American Oral History and Mapping Project.” This multiyear initiative seeks to explore the largely untold experiences of African Americans in Asbury Park, New Jersey from the founding of the city in the 1870s to the present. Asbury Park is well-known as a site of urban rebellion, but it has also been a pivotal center of black settlement, Jim Crow-era segregation, American music culture, and social justice. In many respects, the story of African Americans in Asbury Park provides us with a window into the larger history of African Americans in the United States. Phase I of the project addresses the outsized role that the 1970 riots have played in the public’s perception of Asbury Park. We hope to explore the existing archives and historiography, and conduct oral history interviews with as many willing narrators as possible. Collaborating with community members and constituencies will be key. Stay tuned for additional information.

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Works in Progress Series

This semester, the following “works in progress” talks were delivered:

Presenter: Dr. Adam R. Heinrich, RPA

Title: “The Right Tools for the Job: Preliminary Thoughts on Native American Stone Tool Choices in New Jersey”

Presenter: Dr. L. Benjamin Rolsky

Title: “In Defense of the Public: Religion, American Liberalism, and the Production of the Christian Right”

Presenter: Professor Matt O’Brien

Title: “A general confluence of all or English Papists of the better sort wch lyve in these parte” (stet)

Presenter: Dr. Monica R. Ward

Title: “Little Tallassee: Town or Sacred Space?”

You can find the abstracts, and more about the works in progress series, [here](#). Thanks to Dr. Hettie Williams for organizing this!

Theses Defended

Richard Adamczyk, “Pre-Contact Archaeology at the William Trent House: A Site Specific Analysis and Regional Synthesis of Native American Occupation in Trenton, NJ.” Readers: Drs. Richard Veit and Adam Heinrich.

Jessica DiFranco, “Stats at the Ballpark: A History of Statistics and Baseball.” Readers: Drs. Chris DeRosa, Ken Campbell, and Stan Green.

Eric Lauenstein, “A Study of the Howell Furnace, the Making of Iron and the People Who Made it Possible.” Readers: Dr. Richard Veit and Professor Sean McHugh.

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