

# The Sextant

## Dr. Pearson Retires

As we mark the retirement of Dr. Thomas Pearson, we would like to share the following Resolution previously presented to the full faculty of Monmouth University:

Whereas Professor Pearson first joined the department in 1978, served as chair from 1981 to 1987, and again from 1989 to 1992,

whereas that means that he is one of the few people left without a first initial in his email address,

whereas Professor Pearson won Monmouth's Distinguished Teaching Award in 1988,

whereas a key aspect of his distinguished teaching has, and continues to be, making shockingly lengthy and detailed comments on students papers in the smallest hand-writing on campus,

whereas Professor Pearson achieved the rank of full Professor in 1994,

whereas Professor Pearson has written two books and published numerous articles and book chapters on Russian history, with a

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Dr. Pearson with most of the members of his last senior seminar class this Spring.



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## Dr. Pearson, continued:

special focus on late 19th century Russian political history,

whereas Dr. Pearson was instrumental in Monmouth College becoming Monmouth University,

whereas Dr. Pearson served 22 years as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs from 1992 to 2014,

whereas in that role of contract executor, on an at least weekly basis, Dr. Pearson conducted sometimes felicitous, sometimes difficult, but always expansive discussion with FAMCO's presidents,

whereas Dr. Pearson worked in close collaboration with the Executive Committee of Faculty Council to further the academic mission,

whereas Dr. Pearson established the Academic Affairs Planning Group to discuss the plans and concerns of schools in a single forum, and championed the academic mission in the cabinet,

whereas Dr. Pearson helped to establish the Schlaefter School, the Graduate School, the School of Science, the School of Nursing and Health Studies, the School of Social Work, the Honors School, and CETL,

whereas Dr. Pearson oversaw two Middle States reaccreditations, two major revisions of the general curriculum, and a couple of strategic plans,

whereas Dr. Pearson oversaw the hiring of 415 full-time faculty and 21 deans,

whereas Dr. Pearson was extremely good with names,

whereas during his 22 years as provost, Dr. Pearson never stopped offering courses on Russian history,

whereas as provost, Dr. Pearson strove—one might even say leaned over backward, very far—not to favor his department of origin,

whereas since 2003, through the Two River Film Festival, the Provost's Film Series, and the World Cinema Series, Professor Pearson has brought 76 foreign films to Monmouth and our local community audience at Pollak Auditorium—exquisite movies, the vast majority of which never ran in any nearby theater,

whereas Professor Pearson has led seven groups of Monmouth students and employees tours of Russia, creating indelible memories for the participants,

and whereas when forces inside and outside of Russia compel it to end its cynical, senseless, brutal invasion of Ukraine, the world will have need of such students of Russia's history to facilitate its return to the family of nations,

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## Dr. Pearson, continued:

please join us in thanking Tom Pearson for his extraordinary record of scholarship, teaching, and service to Monmouth, its faculty, and students. We wish him every happiness in retirement, many seasons of travel, many days in the company of Suzy, Tim, and Mark; many nights of streaming movies, and many hours of uninterrupted reading and research for his biography of Count M.T. Loris-Melikov, and other projects,

But whereas Professor Pearson is scheduled to teach History of Russia I and II next year as adjunct faculty, we say good luck and Godspeed, but not goodbye.

## Killian Mann Wins Library Research Award

History graduate student Killian Mann's paper, "The Marriage of Religion and Politics in Nigeria: Precolonial Roots of a Modern Problem," won the 2022 Murry & Leonie Guggenheim Memorial Library student research paper award, graduate student category. The paper was completed for HS-599: Precolonial Africa, taught by Dr. Julius Adekunle. It discusses religion's effect on the social politics of Nigeria and how individuals frequently vote against their own economic or social interest in order to vote within religious affiliation. Mann explores the social and religious practices across ethnic groups in pre-colonial Africa to find connections to religion in the Nigeria of the present and also with attempts to find a more internally cohesive norm for Nigeria's politics. Mann provides a thoughtful summary of Nigeria's history, focusing on its religion-infused monarchical structure and how this traditional association of the religious with every aspect of cultural and political life endures to the present, and in complex interplay with Islam, Christian, nationalist, postcolonial, and other concepts, seeking unity without resorting to violence. *(Text and photo courtesy Murry & Leonie Guggenheim Memorial Library.)*





## MAAC is Back!

By Reagan Miller, Graduate Student in Anthropology

This March, a group of Monmouth students and faculty made the journey to Ocean City, MD for the Mid-Atlantic Archaeological Conference (MAAC). After making a quick stop at Meding & Son Seafood Restaurant, highly recommended by Professor Sean McHugh, we finally made it to our destination. This conference was particularly special as it had been some time since archaeologists could gather in person, fawning over one another's achievements, and reveling in the good times. As a graduate student, it was truly a sight to behold.

Thanks to Dr. Richard Veit, I was given the opportunity to present a paper at this year's conference entitled, "Unearthing Joseph Bonaparte's Gardener's Cottage," where I discussed the work being conducted at the Point Breeze Estate located in Bordentown, NJ. I, along with several of my peers in the Department and Steve Santucci, presented papers covering the archaeological research, field-work, and analysis being done in the NJ area. This session drew in a large crowd and MU students were able to inform members of MAAC about the incredible findings in our own backyard. Outside of the wonderful presentations, MAAC hosted several networking events that enabled students at both an undergraduate and graduate level to connect with professors and professionals in the field to ask questions. The student leaders of MAAC even put together an Archaeology Olympics for members to participate in. This event tested our knowledge and skill from typology to field walking. Needless to say, MU represented well at this event.

I truly love any opportunity to better myself both academically and professionally, but what I find difficult is making the time to connect with my peers. Over the course of my time at the conference, I was able to not only meet incredible members of the archaeological community but also my peers right here at MU. Jeannette Lombardi, an incredibly talented and intelligent senior, thank you for being such a friend and representing Monmouth with such grace and class. Good luck at Syracuse! Rick Altenburg, a professional through and through, has an incredible ability to captivate a room. Moira Sullivan is a passionate and enthusiastic individual that radiates positivity wherever she goes. And Tyler Bane, an incredible supporter with such interesting stories, had our small group laughing all weekend. I think as we further our education and are presented with opportunities such as the MAAC, we often forget about what makes this field so exciting: the people. I find the statement, 'if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life' to be rather hyperbolic. Rather, 'if you love what you do and love the people around you, you'll never work a day in your life' is much more realistic.

If I could provide any advice to my fellow students, it would be this: seize every opportunity, thank everyone along the way, and don't forget to take a moment to appreciate your company.



The MU contingent to the MAAC.

## History and Anthropology Club News

By Gillian Demetriou, Undergraduate Student in History

This year, the club's leadership team included Gillian Demetriou, Jenna Lombardi, Evan Stackhouse, and Giovanni Palumbo, who represented both history and anthropology majors, as well as both undergraduate and graduate interests. Professor Melissa Ziobro continued to serve as the History and Anthropology Club's devoted faculty advisor. In hoping that the worst of COVID-19 was behind us, our club offered some in-person events in addition to virtual ones.

For our first event back from Winter Break, we welcomed author David Austin for a virtual talk about his book, *Small Miracle: A Holocaust Story from France*. Mr. Austin discussed his book as well as his many years of experience with Holocaust education in New Jersey's public schools.

In March, we announced our annual art contest for the design of our Spring T-Shirt Fundraiser. Submissions were open to all students at Monmouth and the winning club logo design, by Jenna Lombardi, was ultimately featured on the fundraiser's apparel (more on that in a bit).

Along with the logo art contest, in March we also hosted our annual alumni careers panel. We were joined by Stephanie DeLaat, a History / Special Education Teacher at Monmouth Regional High School; Rachael Goldberg, the Executive Director of the Liberty Hall Museum; Kristen Hohn, a Historic Preservation Specialist with the Monmouth County Parks System; Rick Pachman, a supervisor focusing on Business Immigration with Fragomen, Del Rey, Bernsen & Lowey; and Michael Timpanaro, a historian at Monmouth Battlefield State Park. Our incredible alumni discussed their own paths from Monmouth University into the career world.

Finishing out our semester on a high note after a 2-year break, 19th Century Base Ball returned to Monmouth in April! The H&A Club fielded a team comprised of students, faculty, and alumni to scrimmage against the Monmouth Furnace Base Ball Club and learn about the origins of Ameri-

ca's favorite pastime. We didn't win, but we'll get 'em next year!

And finally, in April we partnered with RAD Shirts Custom Printing in Manasquan and launched our annual fundraiser. The merchandise we sold included t-shirts, sweatshirts, and tote bags featuring original art by our own Jenna Lombardi, as noted above. Orders are set to ship out in early May and we raised several hundred dollars. Thank you to everyone who bought our apparel in support of our future club efforts!



Some of the players pause for a photo post-game.

## Trivia for a Good Cause

By Isabella Sorrentino, Undergraduate Student in English and Elementary Education

On Friday evening, April 1st, Professor Adam Black, Alpha Sigma Tau, and Hawk TV ran a student charity trivia tournament. What a night of adventure and fun I had participating in Professor Black's yearly Trivia Night at Monmouth University! I faced off against 8 other handpicked students (all of whom were past or present students of Professor Black) in a competition which highlighted each of our academic abilities. Since I am only a freshman, I was incredibly intimidated facing off against all the upperclassmen in my heat. All of my doubts faded away, however, when I met the team. I was greeted by the nicest, most genuine souls on the planet. Each member of the team was beyond sweet and intelligent. This comes as no surprise, as Professor Black is a great man with a big heart who selected these people. With his busy schedule, Professor Black still managed to put on an entire show to raise money for CHOP (Children's Hospital of Philadelphia). In total, we raised \$1,750 for charity; 50% of the donations collected (\$875) were donated to the Anti-Poverty Network of New Jersey (the charity chosen by winning contestant Allyce Andricola), and the remaining 50% (\$875) was donated to CHOP. I am extremely grateful for all the laughs I had that evening, especially when Jordan, one of the other student competitors, quickly answered almost all of the questions in the "Mall Stores" category and even answered "Claire's" correctly! This was such an incredible opportunity to have during my first year at Monmouth University. I will truly treasure the memories I have made here for a lifetime! This event once again reminded me that Hawks do fly together at this school.



A screen capture from Trivia Night. View the full video [here](#).

## Works in Progress Series

Our Works in Progress series provides a forum for both full-time and part-time faculty in the Department of History and Anthropology (and occasionally beyond) to present their research in progress and teaching pedagogy to the campus community. Presentations generally take place once per month on Wednesdays from 1:15-2:15 in HH 342. This semester, presentations were primarily virtual. Dr. Geoff Fouad now coordinates the program, which was started by Dr. Hettie Williams.

The following presentations took place in the Spring 2022 semester:

Dr. Katherine Parkin, "Abortion in Popular Culture: 1970-1972"

Dr. Corey Dzenko, "Rumpled Bed Sheets and Online Mourning: Social Photography and the COVID-19 Pandemic"

Drs. Adam R. Heinrich, Richard Veit, Geoff Fouad, and Tom Herrington, "Historical, Archaeological, and Environmental Investigations at an Eroding Tavern Site on Sandy Hook"

Dr. Manuel Chavez, "Epistemology in Global Studies and World Philosophy"

## World Cinema Series

Dr. Tom Pearson once again successfully coordinated our World Cinema Series (WCS) virtual discussions on the theme of "Living on the Edge: Displacement, Identity, and Resilience." This semester's films included *Shoplifters* (2018), *For Sama* (2019), and *Minari* (2020). A return to in-person events is planned for the Fall. For more about the WCS, click [here](#).

## MA Theses and Comprehensive Exams

### History Comprehensive Exams:

Jessica Solomon (with Drs. Parkin and DeRosa) and Justin Montana (with Drs. Parkin and Pearson)

### Anthropology Theses:

Jarret Bird, "American Xenophobia: Contextualizing and Understanding Anti-Asian Reactions to the COVID-19 Pandemic." Readers: Dr. Heidi Bludau and Professor Brooke Nappi. With distinction.

Ryan Knipple, "Mapping the Pleistocene: Understanding the Relationship Between Paleoindian Peoples and Pleistocene Megafauna in the American Northeast Using Maps." Readers: Drs. Richard Veit and Geoff Fouad.

## Senior Seminar Students Shine

Congratulations to all who presented their senior seminar papers this semester, under the mentorship of Drs. Thomas Pearson and Nica Davidov! Special thanks to office coordinator Debora Graas

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## Senior Seminar, continued:

for making the arrangements for presentation day, and to graduate students Moira Sullivan, Denis Long, Killian Mann, and Reagan Miller for their generous assistance during the event. You can see the full list of student presenters [here](#).

## 2022 Departmental Awards Recipients

We extend our congratulations and wish the best of luck to our award winning students:

Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar in Anthropology: Jeannette Therese Lombardi

Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar in History: Jordan David Leyh and Kari Grace Larsen

Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar in History-Political Science: Grace Joyce

Outstanding Graduate Scholar in Anthropology: Alessandra Michelle Conte and Lindsey Marie Adams

Outstanding Graduate Scholar in History: Ryan Michael Radice

Department of History & Anthropology Service Award: Gillian Elizabeth Demetriou

Susan Douglass Future Educator Award: Nicholas John DelBuono

Brian Greenberg Social Justice Award: Rowan Ahmed Elrais

Bill Mitchell and Barbara Jaye Scholarship: Reagan Miller

## Geographic Information System Program Report

By Dr. Geoff Fouad

I will be presenting the following peer-reviewed paper with a colleague at the International Association for Hydro-environment Engineering and Research World Congress, a partner of United Nations Water, at Granada, Spain this summer:

Fouad, G. and T.M. Lee. Validation of an approach to predict discharge rates from small, depressional wetlands. *Proceedings of the 39th International Association for Hydro-environment Engineering and Research World Congress*, Granada, Spain, June 19-24, 2022. [Link](#)

I also presented at the Trenton Computer Festival hosted by the College of New Jersey in March. The presentation on the long-term collaboration between our GIS program and the Borough of Lake Como can be viewed at the link in the citation below:

Fouad, G. Mobilizing Your Town – Geographic Computing and Drone Applications. *Trenton Computer Festival: The World's First and Oldest Computer Fair*, March 19, 2022. [Link](#)

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## GIS Program Report, continued

The GIS Program can also report the following student presentations:

Craft, H., S.C. Sterrett, G. Fouad. Where should we be prioritizing the conservation of vernal pools for pond-breeding amphibians in New Jersey? *Northeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies 2022 Annual Conference*, April 3-5, 2022. [Link](#)

Craft, H., S.C. Sterrett, G. Fouad. Statewide prioritization of vernal pools for pond-breeding amphibians in New Jersey. *American Association of Geographers Annual Meeting*, February 25-March 1, 2022. [Link](#)

Hannah Craft's work above received the Gail Carter Science Award from the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection 34th Annual Mapping Contest, and another GIS student, Mia Najd, received a second place award in the three-dimensional mapping category for the entry at this [link](#). For a view of the competition, the mapping contest results are at this [link](#).

## Promoting African Culture and the Diaspora

By Dr. Julius Adekunle

This semester has been full of activities in HS/AN-296 01: Cultures and Societies of Africa. To promote the African Diaspora Studies Minor, two guest speakers were invited to speak. Dr. Aribidesi Usman from Arizona State University spoke on the Atlantic Slave Trade and the African Diaspora, while Dr. BioDun Ogundayo of Pittsburg University, Bradford Campus spoke on Africana and Technology. A "Panel on Women," organized to mark Women's History Month in March, featured Dr. Hettie Williams, Professor Lauren Rorie, Marcia Brown, Esq., and Dr. Julius Adekunle. Dr. Hettie V. Williams presented, "We can Love Ourselves by Loving the Earth: Eco-Feminist Praxis in the Life and Writings of Wangari Maathai." Wangari Maathai was the first African woman to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Professor Lauren Rorie presented, "It Begins With Us: Black Radical Feminism in Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's *We Should All Be Feminists*." Ngozi Adichie received many awards for her novels. Dr. Julius Adekunle presented, "Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf: African Iron Lady." Johnson Sirleaf was the first elected female head of state in Africa. Marcia Brown, Esquire, presented, "Ruined: A Discussion on the Award-winning Play by Lynn Nottage." Lynn Nottage, an American playwright, received the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.

Cultural activities took place in the class. Among others, there was a display of African food and dress. All presentations and class activities were intended for education and for promoting the African Diaspora Studies Minor.



## News and Notes

We celebrate the following as a Department, in no particular order:

Several of our current students will be working as summer hires for community partners! These include Thomas Chiappisi, who is working for the Monmouth County Park System as an interpreter at Battery Lewis; Gillian Demetriou, who is working to update Preservation NJ's 10 Most Endangered Sites inventory; Trevor Quasius, who will be interpreting at Monmouth Battlefield State Park; and Justin Montana, who will be supporting the historian at The Twin Lights. Congrats to all of our students gaining experience in their chosen field!

Dr. Hettie Williams's podcast "This Week in Black History, Society, and Culture" has been downloaded over 10,184 times in over 90 countries! Click [here](#) to start listening today, if you haven't already.

From April 29-30, our Department co-sponsored the Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) annual conference with the Public History Program at American University. The close to 75 registrants of this two-day, virtual event included oral history practitioners and enthusiasts at all levels, from established professionals in the field, to emerging scholars and students. Professor Melissa Ziobro currently serves as the President of OHMAR. View the program [here](#).

Jeannette Lombardi presented some of her anthropological research at the Northeast Regional Honors Conference in Philadelphia, PA. This research focused on four early humans and their relation to present-day Native American groups using forensic anthropology, DNA analysis, and genome sequencing.

On April 11, Professor Bill Gorman delivered a Department-sponsored public talk about his book, *American Economic Development: From Historical and Contemporary Perspectives*.

Professors Heidi Bludau and Melissa Ziobro were each selected as "faculty of the game" by student athletes, and honored at basketball games this season.

Dr. Hettie Williams taught an adult education series course called "Writing for the Public." This seminar style course focused on using the historical method to write about various topics in history for the public.

Drs. Tom Pearson, Nica Davidov, Chris DeRosa, and Fred McKittrick participated in a teach-in on Ukraine and Russia co-hosted by the School of Social Work and the Wayne D. McMurray School of Humanities and Social Sciences.

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## News and Notes, continued:

In our annual “Public History in Practice” student scholarship week panel on April 21, students discussed public history projects that are preparing them for life after Monmouth, furthering historic preservation efforts throughout the state, documenting personal narratives, and benefitting our community partners and the general public. Gillian Demetriou talked about her ongoing work researching the current status of Preservation NJ’s “10 Most Endangered Historic Places,” Angelica Juliani discussed the work she and her Fall 2021 Oral History classmates did to summarize veterans’ oral history interviews for the National Guard Militia Museum of NJ, Travis Greenberg discussed the oral history interviews conducted independently by that same class, to include his interview conducted for the Monmouth County Historical Association project “Monmouth County, 9/11, and Its Aftermath,” and, lastly, Jordan Leyh discussed his work as an archival intern for the InfoAge Science and History Museums at the Camp Evans National Historic Landmark. For more about Monmouth University Student Scholarship Week, click [here](#).

In February, Professors Heidi Bludau and Brooke Nappi hosted a “Café on Critical Race Theory in Education” in honor of National Anthropology Day.

Sydney Lucas, a student who completed the geographic information systems (GIS) minor, and more recently a graduate assistant position in the GIS program, is now a GIS specialist at Monmouth County.

This semester, Professor Ziobro accepted invitations to speak to the Mid-Atlantic Regional Archives Conference NJ Caucus, Wallace House and Old Dutch Parsonage, Liberty Hall Museum, InfoAge Science and History Museums, US Army Corps of Engineers, Point Pleasant Historical Society, Parsippany Public Library, Eatontown Historical Society, Ranney School, Middletown Public Library, and Ocean County Historical Society.

Graduating senior Gillian Demetriou curated an exhibit at the University library called, “The Promised Land: The Protest and Activism of Bruce Springsteen” using materials from the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music. It will be up through the Fall.

The Department served as a (virtual) regional site host for NJ History Day (along with Rutgers University Camden). You can see the welcome for students by Department Chair Dr. Chris DeRosa and the keynote by Noelle Lorraine Williams of the NJ Historical Commission [here](#). Congrats to all the 6-12 graders who presented their work! We hope to be able to welcome you back to campus next year. Thank you to all the faculty, graduate students, alumni, and community partners who served as judges and mentors.

Dr. Richard Veit provided meaningful input to a recent *Asbury Park Press* article on “Slavery at the Shore.” See more [here](#).

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Department of History  
and Anthropology**

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## News and Notes, continued:

Professor Ziobro recently joined the board of the Monmouth County Historical Association, founded in 1898. She previously curated their exhibits “Tracking Sandy: Monmouth County Remembers,” “Bruce Springsteen: His Hometown” (with Bernadette Rogoff), and “Monmouth County, 9/11, and Its Aftermath.”

Graduate student Alessandra Conte won a \$300 New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance (NJSAA) Mappen Student Research Grant to support her investigation into how many homes within Monmouth County have been raised or lifted since Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Congratulations to alumni Tedi Pascarella and Lauren Rorie on their publications of “Laskarina 'Bouboulina' Pinotsis, (1771-1825)” [Tedi] and “Rosetta Thrape (1915-1973)” [Lauren] in the four volume tome *Women Who Changed the World: Their Lives, Challenges, and Accomplishments through History*, published by ABC-CLIO and edited by Candice Goucher.

Kudos to Dr. Richard Veit, who was recently elected President of the Society for Historical Archaeology! See more [here](#).

Professor Ziobro published a piece in the *Two River Times* for National Vietnam War Veterans Day. See more [here](#).

Slate’s critically acclaimed narrative podcast, *Slow Burn*, explores “the most consequential moments in American history.” It returns next month “for a season focused on the origins of a monumental Supreme Court decision: *Roe v. Wade*,” and our own Dr. Katherine Parkin contributed. See more [here](#).

In May, Dr. Heidi Bludau conducted a workshop titled, “Teaching Students to Practice,” at the “Building Careers in Anthropology” conference held at the Gabelli School of Business (Fordham University).