



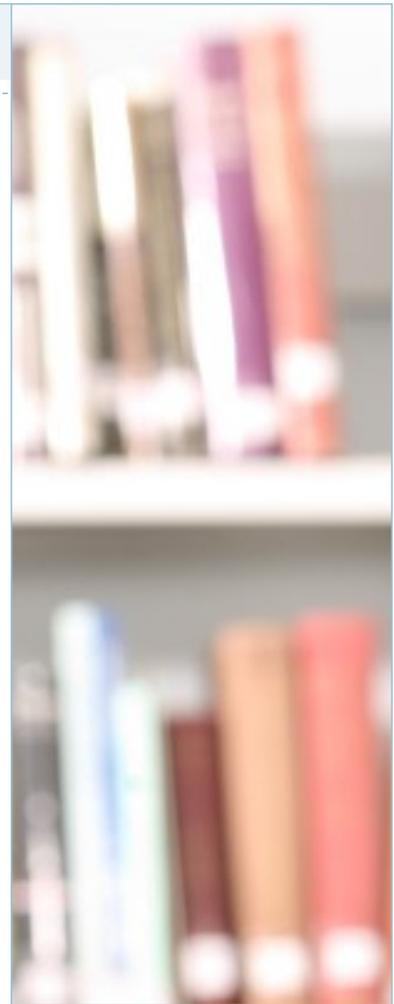
The Sextant

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Dear history and anthropology students,

I'm writing on the 25th of April, the day the History & Anthropology Club was set for our third 1864 baseball game against the Monmouth Furnace. I think maybe they lucked out a little not having to face us, given our loaded roster and our improvement arc from 2018 to 2019. So as the Dodgers used to say: wait 'til next year.

A lot has to wait during this, the Great Pause. But some things that continue unabated are our joy in knowing you and teaching you, and your own efforts to learn. Fleeing Japanese invasion in 1937, the students of Sun Zhongshan University piled the contents of the college library onto boats and poled them out of Guangdong all the way to the suburbs of Chongqing, where by fall of 1939, they had reestablished a refugee college with an enrollment that surpassed that of the original institution. I always like to ask my World War II classes if they would be willing, in order to continue their education in the face of calamity, to remove Monmouth's library book by book and haul it to say, Peoria, Illinois. Answers are generally skeptical, but when I relate this incident to future classes, I will tell them about how in 2020, Monmouth students had to suffer the cancellation of all their immediate plans, gather their things, go into sequestration, and finish the semester by correspondence and online meetings. And that they rose to the occasion and did what they had to do. (Continued, page 2.)



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Intern Spotlight.....	2-3
Theses and Comps.....	4-5
Student Awards	6
Works in Progress Series	6
History and Anthro Club.....	6
News and Notes.....	7-8
Spring 2020 in Photos.....	9-11
Honor Society Inductees.....	12

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR, CONTINUED

Perhaps you will object that what we are doing is nothing like what those Chinese students did in 1937, and of course I hope for as many of you as possible, it is not. I hope you get to experience the coronavirus pandemic as a frustrating inconvenience rather than a matter of life and death. But know that you have classmates and workers at your university for whom this rampaging affliction is absolutely a matter of life or death. We live near a cosmopolitan center. It is hitting our region hard.

We learn in the academy that people inside communities and events do not necessarily measure the dimensions of their experiences similarly to those who come along and study them under anthropological or historical lenses. As we try to make sense of events as they unfold, I hope we will approach the task with the humility of an open mind, a healthy awareness of our own ignorance, and a compassionate imagination for the circumstances of others.

We miss you and we are proud of you, and we can't wait to see you again,

Professor DeRosa

Chair, History & Anthropology

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

By Sierra Sorrentino

During the Fall 2019 semester, I took a Business Anthropology class taught by Dr. Heidi Bludau which taught me how I could use my Anthropology degree to do something other than academics. She taught us how our qualitative data research training could be applied to a business setting and gave us no room to doubt her, bringing in guest speakers, sharing job postings, and assigning countless readings that all screamed "You can do this!"

After the class ended, I felt like I wanted to find a position that more closely related to the career in qualitative business research than the work I was currently doing as a paid social media intern for the Marilyn Schlossbach Group. A little over two weeks before we would be returning to school from winter break, I got the worst news you could receive as a college student trying to keep up with rent payments, that my bosses were hiring a marketing company to do my job. There had been talk about this happening for a few weeks at this point, and they assured me that this move wasn't because I had done a bad job, they were just ready to move on, and in reality, so was I. They graciously offered to keep me on as an intern, but I respectfully declined and put in my two-weeks notice. (Continued, page 3.)

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

So there I was, two weeks until unemployment, feeling the anxiety of trying to find a new job, when I got an email from Jeff Mass in Career Services at Monmouth, advertising for an internship position at Commvault doing employer branding. I had heard of Commvault before and had even met their head of human resources, Jesper Helt, about a year before at a Transformative Ten dinner that I was invited to by Professor Bludau. At the dinner (at which he was a guest speaker) he explained how he was trained in sociology and showed us how his team had conducted qualitative research on their employees to create a more positive corporate culture. Hearing about their proactive values and inclusive culture, I was immediately hooked on trying to find a job with them, at the time I just didn't know where I would fit. Back to this past January, when I saw that email from Career Services, I was already applying before I could even think about it. I fit almost all of the job requirements due to my experience at my old internship and from what I had learned in business anthropology. After fixing up my resume a little bit, I submitted my application to the company probably within 20 minutes of getting the email.

I soon had an interview with my future manager, head of employer branding, Anna Andre. In our interview, we had a great discussion about how the skills I learned in anthropology could be applied to a career in employee branding because of my understanding of both people and qualitative data analysis.

Here's me on my orientation day going down their in-office slide for the first time (if I look terrified it's because I slid so much faster than I expected and almost crashed right into the photographer on my dismount). The office was a productive and soothing environment where I could get my work done while also being able to chat with my coworkers who sat around me. Thankfully, my job can be done completely online, and I have been able to work from home without a problem during the pandemic (although I do miss the comfortable desk chair and double monitor I have at the office).



I am so glad to have been able to find this internship, especially during the end of my senior year. I have used my qualitative research training to find themes in online reviews and create a presentation for the head of human resources, as well as analyzing internal survey data. I certainly didn't think that I would be in this position when I first decided to take on an anthropology major, but with the guidance and training that I received from my professors, I was able to find a path that I never thought possible. While being away from the office that awed me when I first had a tour took some adjusting, the quality of my assignments and work never faltered and I feel ready and excited for what my future at Commvault and beyond holds for me.

THESES AND COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

As the COVID-19 crisis worsened and campus closed, many events were canceled, re-scheduled, or postponed indefinitely. Faculty innovated new models for time-sensitive things that usually would have been handled in-person but no longer could be—like thesis defenses and comprehensive exams. Most thesis defenses took place using video conferencing technology.

Spring 2020 History Theses Successfully Defended:

(* denotes completed with distinction)

Tedi A. Pascarella,* “The Rose and The Cross: How Alum of the East Became English Gold.” Readers: Drs. Ken Campbell and Maryanne Rhett

Andrea M. Sanzari, “Everything but The Kitchen Sink: A Look at the History of Diners and Their New Jersey Connection.” Readers: Drs. Rich Veit and Maryanne Rhett

History Comprehensive Exams Passed:

William J. Cotter,* Peter Orenzoff, and Liam P. Powers

Anthropology Theses Successfully Defended:

Jacqueline Urmey,* “Unraveling the Mystery of a Nameless Colonial Wreck Site: A Maritime Archaeological Investigation of Crosswicks Creek’s Shipwreck Remains.” Readers: Dr. Veit, Professor Jim Nickels from the MU Urban Coast Institute, and Professor Steve Nagiewicz from Stockton University

Lisa Anne Michaloski, “Women at the North American Phalanx An Exploration of Gender Equality in a Utopian Socialist Community.” Readers: Professors Nappi, Schmelzkopf, and Veit

Sadie Dasovich, “German Language Gravemarkers in Missouri and the Dakotas.” Readers: Drs. Veit and Heinrich

Jamie Esposito, “The Great Undoing: A Historical and Theoretical Examination of Anthropology’s Anti-Racist Past.” Readers: Drs. Davidov, DelPrete, and Veit

Anthropology Comprehensive Exams Passed:

Meredith Maggi

THESIS DEFENSE GOES VIRTUAL

Here, we share a Q&A with Tedi Pascarella, who was the first student to defend her thesis virtually using Zoom and Facebook live.

1. What were some of the challenges you encountered while finishing your thesis during the pandemic?

I was lucky enough to have portions of my thesis completed before the quarantine was put in place. Planning my thesis earlier in the semester, I checked out our library's books as well as inter-library loan books already and kept them with me. Where some of my research was falling short, I turned to online museum archives and databases, which were wonderful sources of help but also reassurance. Communication with Dr. Rhett and Dr. Campbell pertaining to my editing process felt almost like we were in the same room because of their helpfulness and quick responses. Though I really missed having conversations with them in person and in the department, they were prompt in providing clear, detailed feedback and comments through email.

2. You used both Zoom and Facebook live— how did that come about?

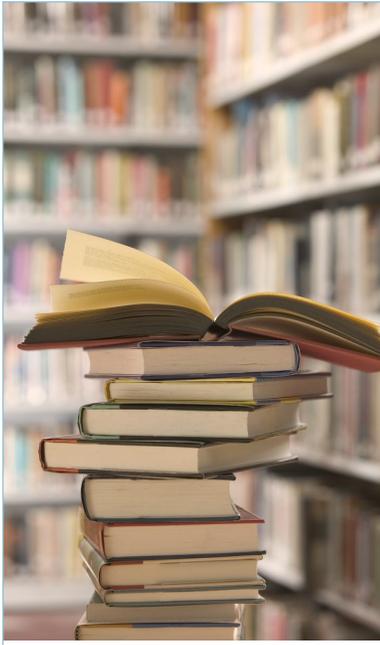
Doing a Facebook live defense was inspired by my PhD candidate (now PhD!) friends at Northeastern University.

3. How did it work out? What were the pros and cons of this format?

Before quarantine, I was so looking forward to some of my family and friends in the program attending my defense. The Facebook live idea worked out in a way that allowed my family and friends who otherwise would not make it to my in-person defense or from other countries to also view my presentation. Another pro of making a defense available to your Facebook connections is the formatting of the actual event: you can add photos and links (things you might have included in your thesis but might not have time to fully discuss) to share prior to presenting. Something that I am sure we have all been struggling with is internet/video connection. This is one of the cons to having any type of meeting online. I think, too, it is difficult to fully express some of your ideas over video, not only because you are, in part, just trying to make sure you can hear each other, but also because of the setting. Class and conference rooms lend us a type of comfort I am sure we are all missing.

4. Anything else you'd like to add?

Lastly, I would just like to say how proud and honored I am to have committed and inspiring mentors and colleagues. In an unprecedented and uncertain time when we are worried about our loved ones (and worried in general), I think professors and students alike did their very best to make learning and interconnection the most normal it could be. I would like to congratulate everyone on a job well done in finishing this semester. Stay healthy and care for one another.



HISTORY AND ANTHROPOLOGY CLUB

The first (and ultimately only) speaker the Club welcomed this semester was Dr. John Warhol, who discussed his role as the lead advocate on the team of scientists who helped get NJ an official state microbe. See more [here](#).

Prior to the campus closure, the Club also hosted its annual Careers Panel, "What Will You Do When You Leave MU?"

And the Club's annual t-shirt fundraiser raised \$850! Shirts were delivered during the pandemic and are being held on campus. We will distribute shirts when we are back. Though our Spring 19th century baseball game, trip, and other events were canceled, these funds will roll over and be put to good use in the future. Thanks to all who supported our students!

SPRING 2020 STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar in Anthropology: Matthew Del Guercio

Outstanding Undergraduate Scholars in History: Hayley Branstrom, Catherine Harvey, and Ryan Radice

Outstanding Undergraduate Scholar in History-Political Science: Thomas Prioli

Outstanding Graduate Scholar in Anthropology: Richard Adamczyk

Outstanding Graduate Scholar in History: Tedi Pascarella

Department of History & Anthropology Service Award: Graciela St. Onge

Brian Greenberg Social Justice Award: Catherine Harvey

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 from 1:15-2:15 pm on Wednesdays in HH 342. Dr. Geoff Fouad now coordinates the program, which was started by Dr. Hettie Williams.

The following presentations took place before the pandemic closed campus:

January Presenters: Professors Walter Greason, Hettie Williams, and Cory Cummings

Title: Teaching with Technology

February Presenter: Dr. Kenneth L. Campbell

Title: Help! The Beatles and the Culture of the mid-1960s

See more about these talks, and the Works in Progress series generally, [here](#).

NEWS AND NOTES

Here we present good news from throughout the Department, in no particular order:

Ryan Radice won the 2020 undergraduate Library Research Award for his paper, "Pack Up Your Troubles in Your Old Kit Bag: Medicine on Ellis Island During the First World War." The paper was written for our Research Seminar in History, taught by Dr. Julius Adekunle.

Congratulations to Dr. Hettie Williams, who published 3 pieces on *Medium*: "[The Civil Rights Movement Began in NJ](#)," "[COVID-19 and the Spanish Flu: A Comparative History](#)," and "[Grief in the Time of COVID-19](#)."

Professor Ziobro's Introduction to Public History class completed several unique projects this semester. They published a "libguide" for the Dorn-Severini Historic Photography Collection recently donated to the Monmouth University Murry & Leonie Guggenheim Memorial Library! See more [here](#).

They also completed 15 micro interviews for the Bruce Springsteen Archives & Center for American Music at Monmouth University. These interviews explore the many ways the Archives benefit the campus community.

And they researched little-known suffragists from Ocean County for the

Ocean County Historical Society's women's history exhibit. As the exhibit was postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic, these brief biographies were featured on the Historical Society's Facebook [page](#).

Graduate student, social worker, and Navy veteran Jaclyn Urmev was in the news for her thesis work, exploring a Revolutionary War era shipwreck off the coast of Bordentown City in the Crosswicks Creek. You can read more [here](#).

The New Jersey Historical Commission's 2020 New Jersey History Conference, "Battles for the Ballot: New Jersey Voting Rights Then and Now," invites submissions for their Posters and Projects Session. Students are encouraged to submit. More information can be found on the flyer [here](#).

Congratulations to graduate student Ashley Parker, who won an inaugural research grant from the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance (NJSAA) to support her work on heritage tourism in NJ. This grant will be offered in the fall and spring going forward.

Professor Ziobro gave a livestreamed "Hawks @ Home" talk on May 7th. The topic was "American Women and Royal Marriages: NJ's Dollar Princesses."

NEWS AND NOTES

Dr. Geoffrey Fouad published a new article titled, “Independent variable selection for regression modeling of the flow duration curve for ungauged basins in the United States.” See more [here](#).

The Department and the University Library co-hosted a traveling exhibit titled, “Marketing the Movement: How Women Won the Vote.” The exhibit was on display in the library in March in honor of the centennial of the 19th amendment, which gave women the right to vote. The exhibit was on loan from the Alice Paul Institute in Mount Laurel.

Dr. Ken Campbell’s new course, HS 398 01, “Bruce Springsteen’s America: Land of Hope and Dreams,” got a lot of great press this semester! See [here](#) for just one example.

Dr. Hettie Williams reviewed Graham R. G. Hodges’ new book, *Black New Jersey: 1664 to the Present Day* (Rutgers University Press, 2018). See more [here](#). She also reviewed Christopher Cameron’s *Black Freethinkers: A History of African American Secularism* (Northwestern University Press, 2019). See more [here](#).

The World Cinema Series continued in January with *Lemon Tree* and in February with *The Eagle Huntress*. Dr. Thomas Pearson continues to lead this

program. See more [here](#).

In February, Dr. Katherine Parkin presented her research on the history of stillbirths in Howard County, Indiana, 1890-1940 at a conference in Turku, Finland. See more [here](#).

Dr. Parkin also recently won an Alvin A. Achenbaum Research Travel Grant to support a research visit to Duke University’s David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library. Congrats!

Dr. Hettie Williams organized a Black History Month Event featuring Christopher C. Gore, Esq., who spoke on “Voting Rights, Legal Cases, and the Black Vote.”

You might recall that, for the past 4 years, the Department has hosted a [NJ History Day](#) competition. Though the in-person event was canceled this year, many of our faculty, staff, students, and alumni generously volunteered to judge remotely.

SPRING 2020 IN PHOTOS



Professor Maureen Dorment and her Honors cluster partner, Noel Belinski, took their classes to Thomas Edison National Historic Park early this semester.



Interns Lexi Martin and Jack McDonald pause for a photo at the National Guard Association Convention at Ocean Place Resort, just prior to the pandemic! They were helping their supervisor, Carol Fowler, recruit potential oral history narrators for the [National Guard Militia Museum of New Jersey](#).

SPRING 2020 IN PHOTOS



Left: History and Anthropology Club President Graciela St. Onge poses for a photo at our Anthropology Day Café on climate change, organized by Dr. Heidi Bludau in February.

Below: Professor Sean McHugh giving a talk on WWII Airfield Archaeology to a local group of Battle of the Bulge veterans in February.



SPRING 2020 IN PHOTOS



Top: Professor Ziobro and Eileen Chapman of the Bruce Springsteen Archives and Center for American Music at Monmouth University spoke at the Monmouth County Junior League's CoLAB event in February. The panel was titled, "MY HOMETOWN: A SONG OF COLLABORATION," and it explored the exhibit *Springsteen: His Hometown*. Photo by Tom Zapcic.

Bottom: Drs. Rhett and DeRosa pause for a photo with students at the American Historical Association meeting in NYC in January.

SEXTANT TEAM:

Managing
Editor/Layout:

Professor
Melissa Ziobro

Editorial Board:

Dr. Heidi Bludau
Dr. Katherine Parkin
Dr. Chris DeRosa

ADDRESS:

400 Cedar Avenue
West Long Branch, NJ
07764

PHONE:

732 571 3440

WEB

SOCIAL MEDIA:

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Instagram](#)

HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

Though we were unable to celebrate in person, the following students were inducted into our honor societies this semester:

Lambda Alpha 2020

Saine Hernandez Burgos

Meghan Quigley

Marilyn Scherfen

Jamie Warwick

Phi Alpha Theta 2020

Alyssa Bellomo

Gillian Demetriou

Sarah Dill

Christopher Duffett

Evan Gulino

John Hendricks

Alyssa Hodnett

Amanda Macchia

Isabella Manzi

Michael Mazzola

Thomas Prioli

Ryan Radice

Vincent Sauchelli

Katelyn Shapley

James Watson