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  - Kellie Buford
  - Justin Castro
  - Lucy Barnhouse
  - Andrea Davis
  - Edward Salo
  - Gary Edwards
  - Erik Gilbert
  - Gina Hogue
  - Pam Hronek
  - Wesley Jackson
  - Joe Key
  - Cherisse Jones-Branch
  - Jason Post
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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Spring 2026 Newsletter

INSIDE

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SCRAPBOOK

#6 | APR 2026

From the Editor:

"Continuing change, inevitable change is the dominant factor in society today."

The faculty search is complete. Our newest hire to the department will be Dr. Joshua Crutchfield, our newest African American Historian and director of our African American studies minor. We look forward to him joining us in the fall!

We also have several faculty who are retiring this year: Dr. Sarah Wilkerson Freeman and Dr. Lauri Umanksy. We thank them for our service to our campus and departments. We wish them well on this newfound path. Please remember to visit us once in a while! ;)

Phi Alpha Theta hosted its annual regional conference here on campus! The last time our department hosted was in 2019. Thanks to all our presenters, judges, Pat President Jayme Rawls, and Dr. Erik Gilbert.

Hope everyone has a good rest of Spring '26, and an even better Summer break.

Kelsey

Convocation of Scholars 2026

BEST UNDERGRADUATE PAPER

Ravn Breed
"Faith, Holiness and War: Crusader Justifications and Motivations for Going on Crusade Through the Lens of Piety"

BEST PRACTICE OF HISTORY PAPER

Ashlee Colvey
"A System Built on Silence: Power, Purity and Control in the Magdalene Laundries"

BEST GEOGRAPHY PAPER

Olivia Edwards
"Modeling Anhydrous Ammonia Release and Emergency Response Planning in Waterloo, Illinois"

BEST GRADUATE PAPER

Nicholas Sides
"The Rocky Mountain College: Knowledge Network in the Pre-Settlement American West"

Convocation of Scholars 2026

PHI ALPHA THETA INITIATES:

Olivia Edwards, Molly Johnston, Eliza Lane, Julien Mieirs, and Darrah Thompson

Faculty Achievements

Dr. Ed Salo has been appointed a 2026 Research Fellow at the Modern War Institute MWI at the US Military Academy at West Point.

Two of his projects were selected for the US Marine Corp Reading List.

Dr. Lucy Barnhouse was invited to present her article in progress at a seminar conducted by the history department at John Hopkins University. She spoke on her current project regarding Nazi medievalism and the role of propaganda about medieval history in the occupation of Poland.

She was also awarded a Provost Travel Grant to present at a CARA panel at the Medieval Academy of America.

Convocation of Scholars 2026

Department Scholarships

Olivia Edwards
CK and Linda McFarland and Charles Kenner Memorial Scholarships

Allen Nguyen
Cooper Huitt

Aubrey Schalk
Fairy Conlee-Gillespie Memorial

Sarah Allen
Roger and Janna Lambert

Jillian Kinder
Simon & Ali Hosken Travel/Research Award

Outstanding Students

Sloan Sifford
Best BA Student

Jilian Kinder
Best BSE Student

Jayme Rawls & Lucas Timmerman
John A Galloway Jr. Award (Best MA Award)

Faculty Achievements cont.

Dr. Aiqun Hu received a FRAC-funded research trip of $20,000 to travel this summer and next summer for archival research on "China's Initial Social Security Reform: Learning from Abroad, 1978 - 1989."

She traveled to Boston's Harvard's Yenching Library: "the most comprehensive East Asian collection of any American university."

Dr. Wesley Jackson presented at the Conference on Higher Education Pedagogy at Virginia Tech. He also participated in a panel at the Organization of American Historians in Philadelphia. Both trips were funded by the CLAC Dean's Office.

Dr. Jason Post published a public health article on his fieldwork findings in Los Angeles. He's also applied for a National Institute of Health (NIH) grant.

He also supervised student fieldwork in Del Rio, TX. And will be supervising the study abroad trip to Dominica this summer.

Faculty Achievements cont.

Dr. Andrea Davis presented at the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies in Toronto, Canada, funded by the CLAC Dean's Office.

Dr. Justin Castro received the mentorship award at the College of Liberal Arts and Communication Convocation of Scholars.

Edwards also published "One Soldier in Two Armies..." in the June issue of Civil War History, the leading scholarly journal of the American Civil War.

He was a guest speaker at A-State Museum's "100 Years of Black History Month."

Student Highlights

Jayme Rawls was accepted into the PhD program at the University of Arkansas. She recieved a Doctoral Academy Fellowship of $48,000.

She also presented at the Arkansas Historical Association.

Loren Coleman was awarded the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship of $5,000 with an additional $3,000 critical need language award.

She'll be studying Chinese at Chung Yuan Christian University this summer.

Lauren Hennings used funds from the Heritage Sites travel grant to present at the Arkansas Historical Association.

NIRVANA

RED WOLVES

Alumni Spotlight

OUR ALUMNI. THEIR JOURNEY. YOUR GUIDES.

Chase Cook, BSE '15

Currently: History Teacher/Asst. Football Coach at Rogers, Arkansas

Degree Skills Used:

Definitely the teaching skills and ideas we covered in the internship class. #BufordsArmy

Most Rewarding Class:

Colonial North America with Dr. Key and all of the internship classes with Dr. Buford.

I don't admire them because of the content, but they were the kind of teachers that made me realize the connections you build with students is more important than the content itself.

Advice for someone who's thinking of majoring in history:

It's a good time, the whole history department was so good to me while I was there.

Aside from the professors already mentioned there's so many welcoming professors that made the 4 years in the history department a great experience.

Alumni Spotlight

OUR ALUMNI. THEIR JOURNEY. YOUR GUIDES.

Lindsey Partlow-Smith, BA '14

"I began in sales at ATT, then pivoted to working at a comedy production studio and in the event ticketing industry. When Covid began, it took a toll on that industry, so I took a sabbatical to find the right career to match my personal values.

I am now an employee owner with Terracon Consultants, as an Assistant Program Manager for our Texas Transportation Team. I am part of a program management team leading geotechnical transportation projects across the state of Texas.

The skills I gained studying both history and philosophy at Astate, helps me tremendously through communication skills, logic and reasoning, analytical skills and more. Working for an engineering consulting firm may not be a traditional industry for someone with History and Philosophy degrees, but I think it proves that these fields of study relate to any industry.

Most Rewarding Class:
Although I am most passionate about medieval and Egyptian history, I think I gained a lot from Latin American studies since they're more relevant to issues we face today.

Advice for potential majors: Have an open mind and don't limit yourself to jobs in the field of history directly. Your influence can be massive if you keep your doors open to new opportunities."

Alumni Highlights

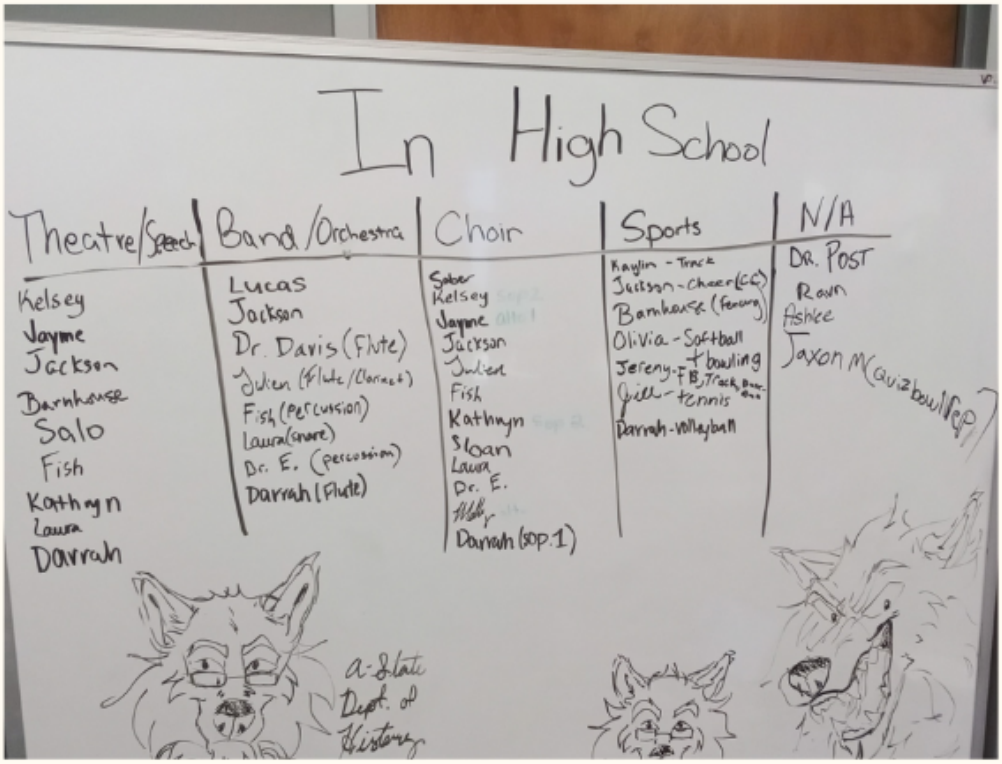
BA ‘20 Matthew Willard was elected to participate in the William H. Bowen School of Law Rural Incubator Project. This is to address the shortage of attorneys in underserved areas.

BA '22 alumni Ryan Carter won the Arkansas Historical Association's NEARA Award for Exemplary Archival Research for the paper entitled, "The Assassination of Black Pioneer 'Old Jim' Hanover and the Struggle for Justice in the Upper White River District."

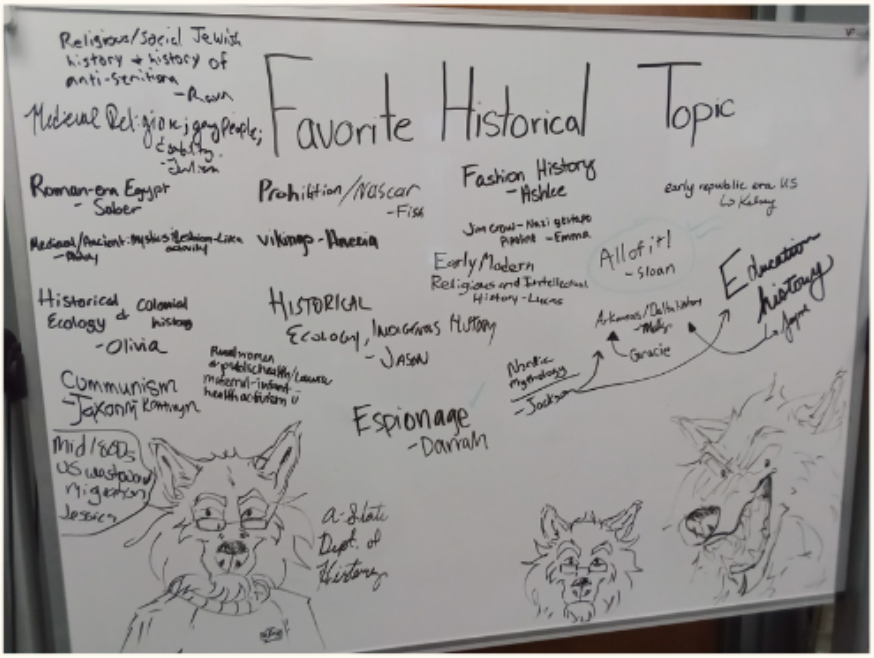
Ryan received the award at the 84th Arkansas Historical Association Annual Conference in Fort Smith at the U.S. Marshals Museum. Currently, he writes weekly history articles for the Clay County Courier and Clay County Times-Democrat.

board antics

w/Saber Brown



Wolf Drawings by Molly Johnston



Fieldwork in Del Rio, TX

Student Ravn Breed's Trip to Krakow, Poland

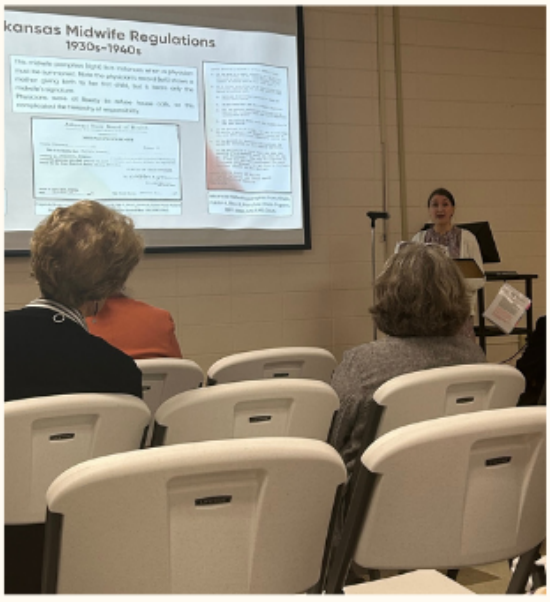
PASSPORT

ANNE
FRANK
HUIS

since
1899
since
1899

Study Abroad
Amsterdam
Paris

Conferences



Please email Kelsey information on your achievements to be included in Fall 2026 Newsletter

Students:

Stay on track with other updates on the A-State Academic Calendar.

"Time Ticket" Error?

Freshman only, this means you need to meet with your advisor

Other students, email Kelsey if you're getting this error

Special Thanks

Photos: University Marketing and Communications, Carla Wehmeyer, CLAC Dean's Office

Student workers: Molly Johnston, Kaylin Wilson, Abbigale Rounsavall, Gurnoor Singh

Career Options in History

History Careers

What you can do with the degree

History Clubs and Honor Society

History Club Applications

Phi Alpha Theta Application

Application Form:

Please complete the following and email to PAT Advisor Erik Gilbert at egilbert@astate.edu.

PAT Application Form.pdf

Membership Requirements:

Undergraduate:

"Undergraduate students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours (4 courses) in History, earned in the classroom, online or through AP or transfer credits (or a combination thereof). A minimum GPA of 3.1 in History and 3.0 GPA overall are required. A student need not be a history major to apply.

Undergraduate students must complete a minimum of 12 semester hours (4 courses) in History, earned in the classroom, online or through AP or transfer credits (or a combination thereof). A minimum GPA of 3.1 in History and 3.0 GPA overall are required. **A student need not be a history major to apply**.

Graduate:

Graduate students should have completed a minimum of 12 semester hours towards their Master's Degree in History, have a GPA of better than 3.5, and shall have completed approximately 30% of your institutes or programs requirements for the Master's Degree."

Information from national website: Membership Requirements – Phi Alpha Theta

MA in History information

MA in History information

MA Grad Pack

Contacts

Please contact Dr. Edward Salo with any questions you have at esalo@astate.edu.

CVs of History Department Faculty

Ed Salo

Ed+salo_CV_July+.pdfEd+salo_CV_July+.pd

Lucy Barnhouse

Justin Castro

Newsletters

CVs for Faculty

CVs of Faculty

Elaine Riot Project: The Event

On the evening of September 30, 1919, a group of sharecroppers (men, women and children) met at a black church at Hoop Spur, Arkansas to discuss problems they had trying to get a fair price for their cotton crops which they were in the midst of harvesting. Merchants and planters, who "furnished" sharecroppers and tenant farmers with seed, fertilizer, equipment, etc. in exchange for portions of the farmers' crops, insisted on buying the cotton of black farmers at a price far below market value. To combat this problem, black farmers (men and women) joined the Progressive Farmers' and Household Union and began organizing to buy land, through a cooperative venture, and to hire legal representation to fight the efforts of merchants and planters to secure the farmers' crops without fair compensation. At the meeting, leaders of the organization explained the purpose of the union and signed up new recruits. Fearing possible trouble, the farmers posted armed guards outside the church. After night fell, an automobile stopped outside the church and shots were fired through the windows and into the congregation. A fire fight between the white men (in at least one automobile) and the black farmers ensued. A white railroad detective was killed in the exchange and an unknown number of people in the church were killed and wounded. News of the battle spread throughout Phillips County and a general alarm was sounded among whites that blacks in the region were seeking to kill white people. The slaughter of African Americans in Phillips County that followed the battle at Hoop Spur, or the "Elaine Riot," was cast by the press as a defensive act against an "uprising" of blacks against whites in the region. The story of what happened to the black cotton farmers took on a life of its own.

October 1-2, 1919

"Serious Race Riot Near Helena--Troops Enroute"10/1

"Big Race Riot on in S. Arkansas"10/1

"Seven Unidentified Negroes wounded"10/1

"J.S. Bratton, Jr. is Charged With Inciting Blacks" part 1 10/2

J.S. Bratton, Jr. is Charged with inciting Blacks" part 2

"10 Dead, Dozen Hurt, Race War At Elaine: ARK." part 1 10/2

"10 Dead, Dozen Hurt, Race War At Elaine: ARK." part 2

"10 Dead, Dozen Hurt, Race War At Elaine: ARK." part 3

October 3-4, 1919

“Helena Alderman, Former Jonesboro Man, Killed Today”10/3

"Gov. Brough and Col. Jenks Fired on at Elaine; Five More Killed" 10/3

headline “Gov. Brough and Col. Jenks . . .”

"There is not trouble in Helena at this time. . . ."10/3

"Five hundreds soldiers arrived at Elaine. . . ."10/3

“Federal Troops Have Situation Under Control”10/3

“Federal Troops . . . “ part 2

“. . .about a dozen are”

"500 Camp Pike Soldiers Sent to Quell Riot" 10/3

"500 Camp Pike Soldiers Sent to Quell Riot" part 2

“Six More Are Killed In Arkansas Riots” 10/3

“Proclamation Is Addressed To Negroes”

“Three Whites, Eleven Negroes Killed In Race Fights”

"Elaine Race Riot Premature Burst, Was Set for Later"

“Deaths In Phillips County War Now Total 22”

“Deaths” cont’ “…deputy sheriffs”

"Eleven More Die in Arkansas Riots"

"Total Dead in Elaine Riot 22"

“Son Innocent, Says Father of Bratton”

“Son Innocent” part 2 “…several days later”

“Negroes Have Been Aroused By Propaganda”

“Negroes Have” part 2

“Negroes Inflamed By A White Man”

"26 Killed Elaine Says Governor"

“Blacks Headed By Man Suspected as Leader In Recent Trouble”

“. . .ing all the trouble here”

“Vicious Blacks Were Planning Great Uprising”

“. . . tots from negroes in the”

“No Lynching In Phillips County”

"Disturbances on Wane Except for Round-Up Work"

“Phillips County Affair Gets On Peoples Nerves”

"Nine Persons Dead in Arkansas Riots"

"Wynne's Citizens Plead For Troops To Prevent Riots"

"Ring Leader Arrested"

October 5-9, 1919

“Big Uprising Was Plotted”

"Today Was Set For Big Uprising"

"Troop Cordon Around 35 Sq. Mile Area To Capture Negro Desperadoes"

"Phillips County Quiet Today--Designing Negro Led Plot to Make Money"

“Frank Hicks”

“Insurrection Was Planned Says Committee of Seven”

"Arkansas Blacks Plotted To Kill White Residents"

"Arkansas Negroes In Gigantic Plot" (cont')

"Young Arkansas Negro Blamed for Race Riot" 1

"Young Arkansas Negro Blamed For Race Riot"

“Plotters Behind The Plots”

"Instigator of Negro Plot Leaves Arkansas"

"Troops Recalled from Riot Duty"

October 10-29, 1919

"Four Negroes Held As Leaders of Elaine Trouble"10/10

Helena Committee Says Bratton is 'Not In Danger'"

“Lays Riot To Cotton Row”

"21 Indicted for Elaine Race Riot"10/29

November

"Hundred Negroes To Be Tried This Week For Murder"11/3

"18 Negroes Go On Trial in Helena"11/4

"37 Rioters of Elaine Given Prison Terms"11/6

"Helena Court Sends Eleven Negroes to Chair and Fifty-Four Other to Penitentiary"11/8

"Two Negroes Are Arested At New Orleans, Confess"11/10

"Eleven Negroes Are Sentenced to Death Over Elaine Rioting"11/11

"Rumor of Intended Race Riot is Strongly Denied By Negores" 11/28

January 1920

"12 Elaine Negoes Are Given Stays"1/10

February 1920

"ARK. Negroes Ask for Hill"

March 1920

"Petition Asking For Extradition of Elaine Uprising Leader Refused" 3/25

May 3, 1920

"Phillip"Phillips Co. Negroes Lose Their Cases"