Spring 2026

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

Spring 2026 Newsletter





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#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.



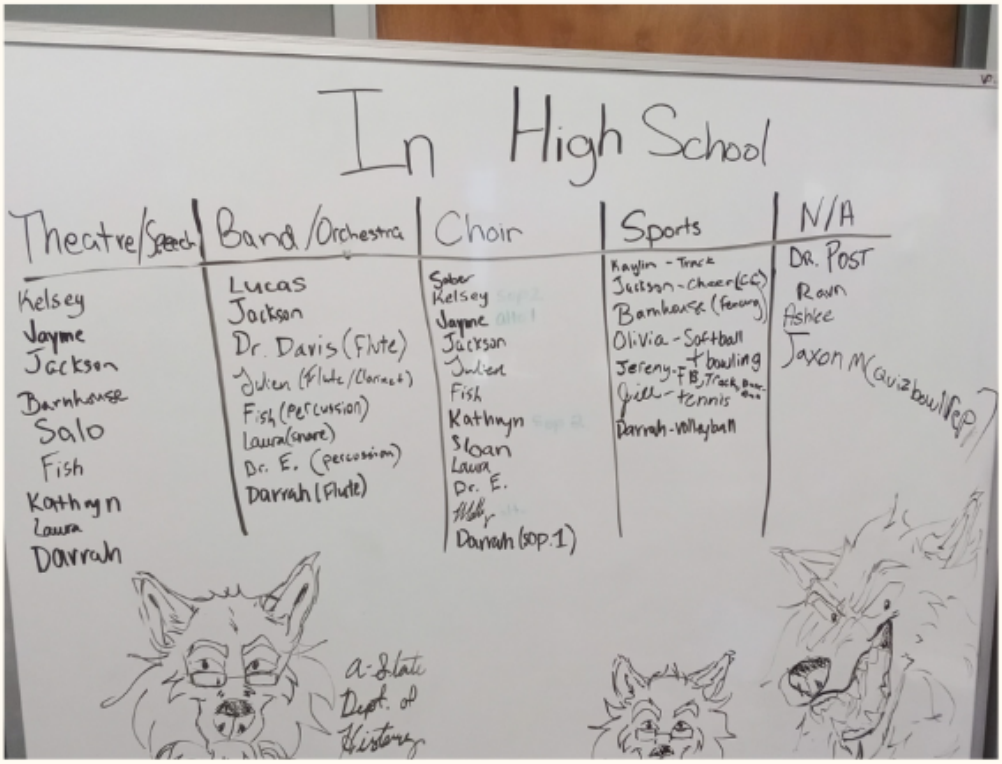
BA '22 alumni Ryan Carter won the Arkansas Historical Association's NEARA Award for Exemplary Archival Research for the paper entitled, "The Assassination of Black Pioneer 'Old Jim' Hanover and the Struggle for Justice in the Upper White River District."

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



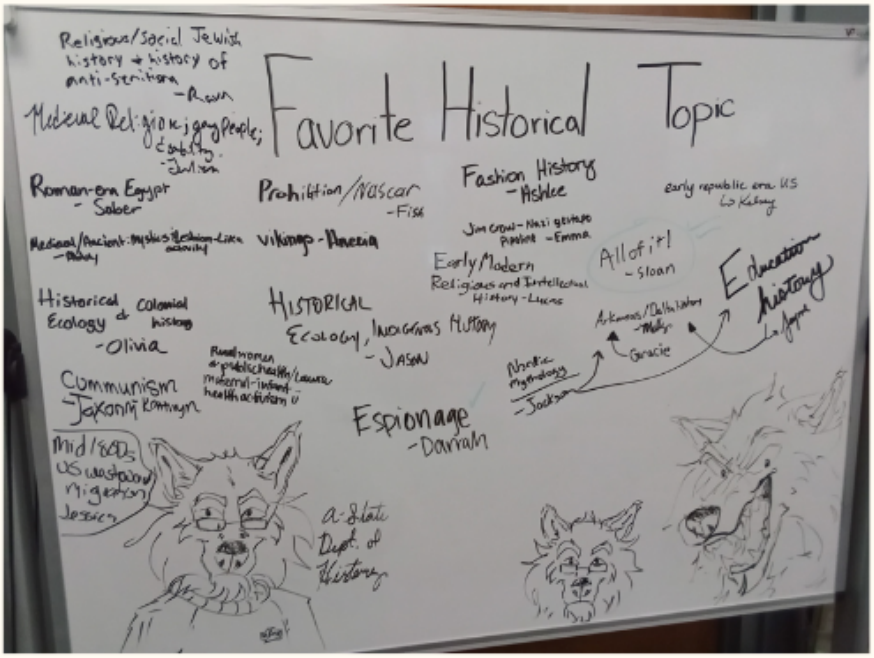
w/Saber Brown





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

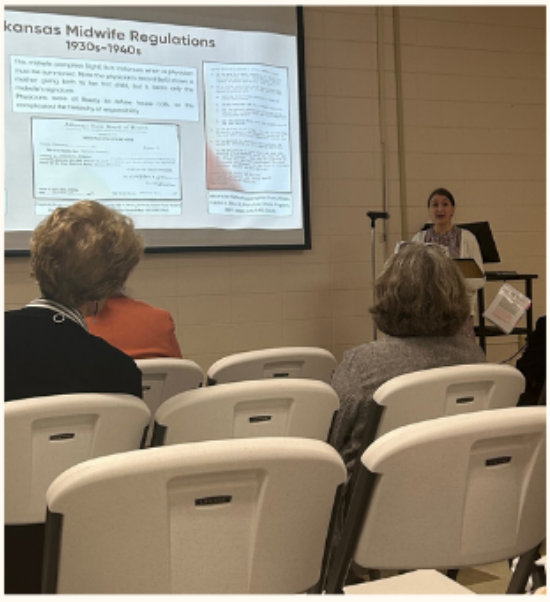














Please email Kelsey information on your achievements to be included in Fall 2026 Newsletter

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

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