



UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY · COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES



Message from Department Chair Phil Harling

November 2020

Greetings, History Department Friends!

I'm so pleased to introduce myself to you as the new chair of the History Department. Many of you are long acquaintances of mine, as I've been a faculty member at UK for 29 years. It's been my pleasure to watch the department flourish over the last eight of those years under the outstanding leadership of my predecessor, Karen Petrone. Karen recently became the director of the College of Arts & Sciences' new Cooperative in the Humanities and Social Sciences. We look forward to much fruitful collaboration with her in the years ahead.

Our department worked hard over summer to reinvent its curriculum in a form that offers students an enhanced learning experience, while respecting the challenges and constraints of the Covid era. Our courses this fall have employed a variety of approaches and technologies to ensure that students receive the engagement and support they need in order to succeed. We find ourselves nearing the end of the semester, and I'm delighted to report that things are proceeding even more smoothly than we had a right to expect. I'm proud of our instructors and our students alike for meeting the unprecedented instructional demands of this extraordinary semester with energy, enthusiasm, and aplomb. While the details have differed from instructor to instructor, all our courses offer students a stimulating learning environment with opportunities for interaction, discussion, and individual attention. Teaching modalities have varied to meet the demands of the moment, but we've been working hard to facilitate student success across all modalities. So far, the results have been very encouraging!

As the rest of this newsletter will make abundantly clear, in this time of great challenge we have continued to progress from strength to strength across the full span of our collective endeavors. Buoyed by your support, we shall continue to stride boldly forward.

Best wishes,

Dr. Phil Harling
Professor of History and Chair

*'The Rights We Have Today Are
Not Guaranteed Tomorrow.'*

UK Expert Unpacks History of 19th Amendment



"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex." The words seem simple enough, but when they were ratified by the states 100 years ago, those words reflected the culmination of decades-long efforts by suffragists of all backgrounds. [Read on](#) for an interview with Melanie Goan, associate professor of 20th century U.S history, about the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.

**After 45 Years, Professor Bruce Holle Exits
the Classroom but not the Conversations**

By Phil Harling

The 17th floor of Patterson Office Tower is strangely quiet this semester. Thanks to Covid, most of us are working remotely, and we greatly look forward to the day when POT will once again become its usual beehive of activity. But even then, if it seems quiet compared to what it was, that's because Bruce Holle has retired after 45 years of teaching.



Bruce Holle

Bruce reckons he taught more than ten thousand students over the course of his teaching career,

which began at the University of Michigan, where he got his Ph.D. in 1978, and ended at UK, where he has taught ever since. Nearly every one of them has visited Bruce's office at one time or another. I should know, because my office was only a few doors down from Bruce's. For as far back as I can remember, almost every time I walked past, he was in there talking to at least one student, and often to three or four. [Read more.](#)



For Dr. Jim Albisetti, the angels are in the details.

He was a familiar figure in Patterson Office Tower—certainly on the 17th floor, where the History Department resides, but also on the 11th and third floors, where the Honors Program used to be housed, and on the 2nd floor, where staff members in the Dean's Office knew we could rely on his impeccable proofreading skills whenever there was a deadline looming.

That attention to detail served him well as a scholar of 19th-century German and western European history. His teaching interests also extended through the 20th century, including the history of education and the professions, social history of the middle classes and women's history. [Read more.](#)

Amy Murrell Taylor Named 2020–21 Distinguished Professor in A&S

Amy Murrell Taylor, T. Marshall Hahn, Jr. Professor in the Department of History, is the 2020–21 Distinguished Professor in the University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences.

“Professor Taylor is outstanding in every aspect of her performance at the University of Kentucky, in her stellar award-winning research, her inspired teaching and her dedicated and extensive service,” said Christian Brady, A&S interim dean.

Her book *Embattled Freedom: Journeys Through the Civil War's Slave Refugee Camps* (University of North Carolina Press, 2018) won seven prizes including the Frederick Douglass Book Prize from the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition. [Read more.](#)



Amy Murrell Taylor

Inclusive Excellence Award Winner & Helps Launch the
Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies

Anastasia Curwood has been named the 2020 Dr. Doris Wilkinson Faculty Inclusive Excellence Award winner. This award honors faculty who enhance the university through their inclusive leadership and vision, particularly in the realm of graduate and professional education. [Read more.](#)



Anastasia Curwood

Professor Curwood has also been instrumental in the launch of the Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies, a multidisciplinary program that will highlight UK's growing research around issues of race and racism. "The new Commonwealth Institute for Black Studies at the University of Kentucky is an epicenter for cutting-edge research on people of African descent worldwide," she said. [Read more.](#)



FULBRIGHT
A&S ALUMNI
RECEIVE FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

SHELLEY ZHOU
HISTORY

EVAN LENZEN
PSYCHOLOGY

ANTHONY TRUFANOV
POLITICAL SCIENCE/
MCLLC

History alumna Shelley Zhou (M.A. 2020, B.A. 2016) has received a Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarship. She is among approximately 2,100 U.S. students who will travel abroad for the 2020-21 academic year.

Recipients of Fulbright grants are selected based on academic or professional achievement as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. The program operates in more than 160 countries. [Read more.](#)



In Memoriam
ELLEN FURLOUGH
(1953 - 2020)

By Phil Harling

Ellen Furlough, Professor Emeritus of History and a cherished friend and colleague to many of us, passed away on September 26, 2020. Ellen was an outstanding scholar and teacher and a deeply kind-hearted and generous colleague. Early-onset Alzheimer's kept her from giving even more of herself. But she gave us so very much. The sharpness of her intellect. Her passion for history. Her infectious love of things French. Her easy smile and ready laugh. Her quick wit and lively spirit. Her

remarkable devotion to her students and to our department community. Her generosity of spirit and her great good nature.

Ellen was a pioneer in the field of transnational history and was always challenging her students and colleagues (in the nicest, gentlest way) to think beyond the boundaries of the nation state. [Read more.](#)



Congratulations to our 2019-20 star students who won awards, including the Robert M. Ireland Undergraduate Research Award, the Daniel B. Rowland Community Internship Award, and The Holman Hamilton Scholarship in History. [Read more.](#)

PLEASE SUPPORT THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT WITH A GIFT TODAY

Your donation is an investment in the future of the department and the next generation of scholars. You can make your gift to honor or memorialize a friend, relative, or faculty member. To donate online to the following funds, please visit <https://uky.networkforgood.com/causes/15272-history-funds>

- History Development Fund: Provides critical resources to respond to student needs, attract world-class faculty, and provide innovative opportunities to enable our students to compete in the global marketplace.
- Robert M. Ireland Undergraduate Research Endowment Fund in History: Offers scholarships for travel and summer support to undergraduate History majors conducting historical research.
- Daniel B. Rowland Community Fellowship: Provides assistance to students who want to pursue summer internships, particularly in community service, historical education, or historic preservation.

By mail, please send to:

University of Kentucky Gift Receiving
P.O. Box 23552
Lexington, KY 40523

For assistance, please contact philanthropy officer Debra Gold at 859-257-8124 or debra.gold@uky.edu. We are grateful for your support!

BEST OF THE BLAST

Each Friday department chair Phil Harling emails a "Brag Blast" with that week's faculty and student accomplishments, everything from the birth of a child, to earning a new grant, to appearing on French TV or in the Washington Post. [Read more](#) for a round-up of highlights from the past five months.

RECENT AND UPCOMING EVENTS

A silver lining of Covid-19 is how easy it is to participate in online appearances by our faculty as they apply their research and expertise to a wide range of current events.

UPCOMING:

Gerald Smith: Racism and Injustice in Lexington (December 3, 2020, 12:30 p.m.). In this episode in the A&S Virtual Speakers Series, Gerald Smith will discuss Lexington's racial past, present, and future from the perspective of a native son. Professor Smith grew up in the East End neighborhood, graduated from Henry Clay High School, and attended the University of Kentucky from 1977-1988. He joined the UK faculty in the Department of History in 1993. As co-chair of Mayor Linda Gorton's recently formed Commission for Racial Justice and Equality in Fayette County, he will discuss the challenges and opportunities in his hometown, in conversation with A&S Interim Dean Christian Brady. [Register here.](#)

RECENT EVENTS:

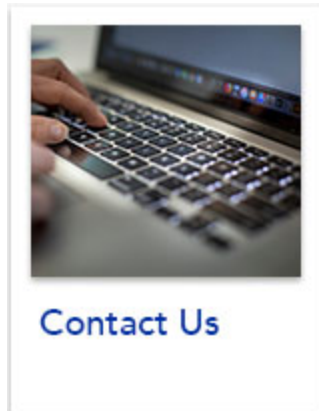
Tracy Campbell: The Year of Peril: American in 1942 (June 19, 2020). On this edition of the Behind the Blue podcast, Campbell talks about his book, *The Year of Peril*, a month-by-month chronicle of 1942, the tumultuous year in which America fully engaged in World War II. The book underscores the fragility of democracy, the challenge of mobilizing a country for a historic war effort, the divisions of politics and policy that continue today, and what happens when a country unites behind an unprecedented effort. [Listen here.](#)

Eladio Bobadilla: History and U.S. Protests (July 30, 2020). On this edition of the Behind the Blue podcast, Eladio Bobadilla provides historical context for the nationwide protests of 2020. Professor Bobadilla explains, "Successful movements take time, they take pressure, they take criticism, they take organization, and they take sacrifice. I think if I were to sum up the history of social movements, when a movement succeeds those are the elements that it requires." [Listen here.](#)

Amy Murrell Taylor: Confederate Monuments and "Embattled Freedom" (August 6, 2020). In this edition of the Behind the Blue podcast, Professor Taylor discusses how the movement to remove Confederate memorials has progressed over the past three years, and how the University and Lexington

are approaching these conversations. “I think Lexington has gotten past the most contentious part of the monument piece of all of this,” says Taylor. “But monuments are just one piece of a much bigger struggle for racial justice.” Taylor also talks about her recent book, “Embattled Freedom: Journeys Through the Civil War’s Slave Refugee Camps.” [Listen here.](#)

Derrick White: Sports, Social Justice, and Covid-19 (October 12, 2020). In this edition of the A&S Virtual Speakers Series, history professors Derrick White and Amira Rose Davis (of Penn State) join Dean Brady for a conversation examining how college and professional sports became a site of activism and protest and how this connects to a longer history of athletic activism. [Watch here.](#)



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