



# Fall 2023 Newsletter



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# From the Editor:

Faculty and staff are excited about the upcoming prospects next semester. There are several exciting changes already happening; this newsletter being the first!

The Department of History welcomes our new Chair, Dr. Kellie Wilson-Buford, taking over for Dr. Justin Castro, after his five years of service in the position. Dr. Ed Salo will be co-chairing the department. Dr. Castro is also taking over the reins of Graduate Studies Director from Dr. Erik Gilbert.

Dr. Jason Post is our newest faculty member, joining us from Tohono O'odham Community College in Arizona. He is currently teaching geography survey courses and will teach more upper electives in the Spring.

Heritage Studies staff joined the fourth floor as well; hoping this will increase our interactions with their department and PhD program.

The Women and Gender Studies minor now has its permanent home in the History Department. For more information about this minor, please contact Ms. Tabitha Simpson-Farrow at [tsimpsonfarrow@astate.edu](mailto:tsimpsonfarrow@astate.edu).

Our Instagram is up and running, alumni are being contacted to talk about their current employment and journey as A-State alum.

We face these new changes with optimism; as always, our faculty and staff remain dedicated to the service of the profession and assisting students in the road ahead.

"A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history." -Mahatma Gandhi



*Kelsey*



# Convocation of Scholars 2023



**Rory Walling, BA**  
*CK and Linda McFarland  
Fairy Gillespie  
Scholarships*

**Emily Brannon, BA**  
*Cooper-Huitt Memorial  
Scholarship*



**Rebeka House, BA**  
*Rousey Book Award  
Best Undergraduate Paper*





# Convocation of Scholars 2023



**Morgan Sweeney, BA**  
*Best Practice of History Paper*



**Kyra Dobson**  
*Outstanding BA Student*



**Jessica Gunnels**  
*Outstanding BSE Student*



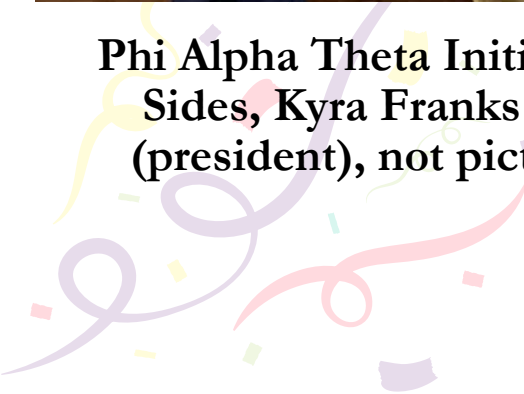
# Convocation of Scholars 2023



**Kyra Franks**  
*Dr. John G Galloway Award*  
*Best Graduate Student*



**Phi Alpha Theta Initiates-** (left to right): **Morgan Sweeney, Nicholas Sides, Kyra Franks (secretary), Lezlie Johnson, Madison Garrett (president)**, not pictured: **Richard Burt, Jeydon Riggs, and Lucas Timmerman**





# P20 Summer Institute

SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHERS ATTEND  
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS



On June 14, 2023, Arkansas State University held its third-annual P-20 Summer Institute. This year, conference style presentations related to social studies content and pedagogy.

The event was organized by BSE Social Science Program Director Dr. Heather McNamee, A-State Educational Renewal Zone and its Director Jill Clogston, College of Liberal Arts and Communication, College of Education and Behavioral Science, and the Department of History.

Social Studies teachers from inside and outside the state of Arkansas attended these sessions. Many of whom were alumni of the BSE Social Science program.

**9:00-9:50 A.M.: KEYNOTE  
ADDRESS: "A STORY TO TELL"**

Dr. Brent Miller, Campbell  
Ward

**10:00-10:50 A.M.: "RANDOLPH  
COUNTY'S FRIENDLY  
VETERINARIAN (SERIAL  
KILLER): THE STORY OF JOHN  
KIZER**

Dr. Brent Miller, Campbell  
Ward  
Dr. Rodney Harris, Williams  
Baptist University



**11:00-11:50 A.M.: 'TEACHING  
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT"**

Dr. Todd Shields  
A-STATE Chancellor



**1:10-2:00 P.M.: BREAKOUT  
SESSION ONE**

Dr. Kellie Buford, "'Othering and  
the Politics of Exclusion:  
Confronting Bigotry & Creating  
Change in Classrooms"  
(Centennial Hall)

Dr. Gina Hogue  
"'President Jimmy Carter and his  
lifelong support for Human  
Rights" (Mockingbird Room)



**2:10-3:00 P.M. BREAKOUT  
SESSION TWO**

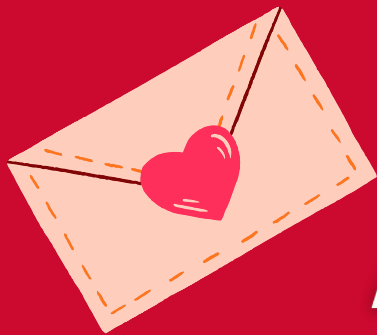
Dr Ed Salo, "Teaching with  
Comic Books" (Centennial  
Hall)

Dr. Joseph Key, "Revolution!"  
(Mockingbird Room)





# P20 Summer Institute

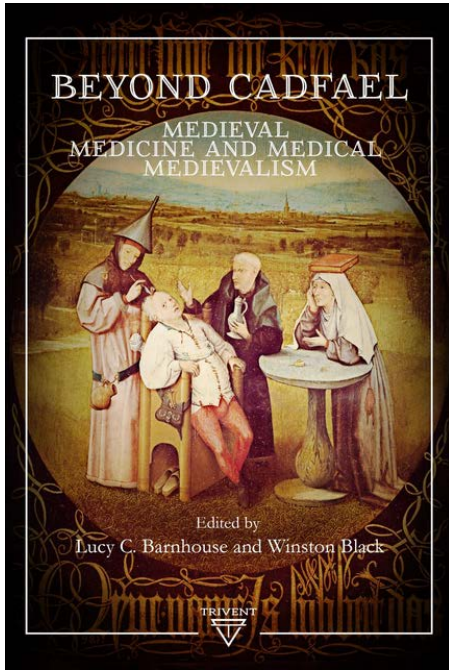


A heartfelt thanks to all  
our presenters,  
organizers, and teachers!





# Faculty Achievements



**Dr. Lucy Barnhouse's** co-edited collection of essays with Dr. Winston Black, *Beyond Cadfael: Medieval Medicine and Medical Medievalism*, published in July.

In addition to editing, Dr. Barnhouse co-wrote the introduction and chapter seven, entitled: "Mysteries and Medicines: Medieval Medical Practitioners in Crime Fiction."

Barnhouse also completed the article "Contentious catalysts: beguines, place, and identity in late medieval Mainz" in *Women's History Review*. You can hear about it in the Footnoting History podcast here.



In September, **Dr. Andrea Davis** traveled to Luxembourg's Centre for Digital and Contemporary History. She was awarded a fellowship as a visiting researcher.

As part of the fellowship, Davis presented "Memory and History: Spanish Civil War and Dictatorship" at their conference.

In November, Davis presented "Enabling Access through Collaboration: Memory and History" at a conference at Barcelona's Centre for Dictatorships and Democracies. A-State and UCLA co-hosted the event, of which Davis was part of the organizing committee.

Dr. Davis was also granted tenure in June, becoming Associate Professor of History.





# Faculty Achievements



**Dr. Edward Salo** participated in the National Security Seminar at the US Army War College in June.

This seminar or NSS is the capstone event for the academic year. It is a four-day event that invites guests and students to discuss issues of national security.

Salo was nominated by Lt. Col. Christopher Wilson, an A-State alum.



In September, the Modern War Institute announced Salo as a research fellow at Joint Special Ops University to study the weaponization of heritage in irregular warfare “The Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., [also] appointed Salo to serve as a non-resident research fellow.”



Dr. Justin Castro presented “Engineer Modesto C. Rolland: His Life and Work in Global Context” at the Mexican Seminar on the History of Construction, hosted by the National Coordinating Office for Historical Monuments and the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History.

He also chaired Zane Brown’s master thesis.



# Faculty Achievements



**Drs. Kellie Buford and Ed Salo** are writing a chapter that explores the social history of military sites in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in California.

The National Park Service and the Organization of American Historians chose them to take part in a historical resources survey that “examines the park’s resources and how to present them to the public.”



The American Association of State Colleges and Universities chose **Dr. Cherisse Jones-Branch**, dean of the Graduate School and professor of history, as one of 29 higher ed professionals to participate in the AASC 2023 Millennium Leadership Initiative.

“The initiative is rooted in preparing higher education leaders from traditionally underrepresented communities with the skills, philosophical overview, and networks necessary to advance to the highest ranks of postsecondary education.”



The Women’s Foundation of Arkansas also chose Dr. Branch as one of the Top 100 Women of Impact in Arkansas.



# Faculty Achievements



**Dr. Jason Post** was invited by the Association of American Geographers to write an article for their "From the Meridian" section of ESRI ArcNews.

His article: "At What Scale Do Historically Excluded Geographers Become Visible" is about including students from historically marginalized communities.



**Dr. Cristina Urías-Espinoza** won the 2023 Gastón García Cantú Award from the Mexican Federal Ministry of Culture through the National Institute of Historical Studies of the Revolutions of Mexico (INEHRM) for best doctoral dissertation.

Her dissertation is titled Land Speculation and American Colonization of Northwest Mexico.

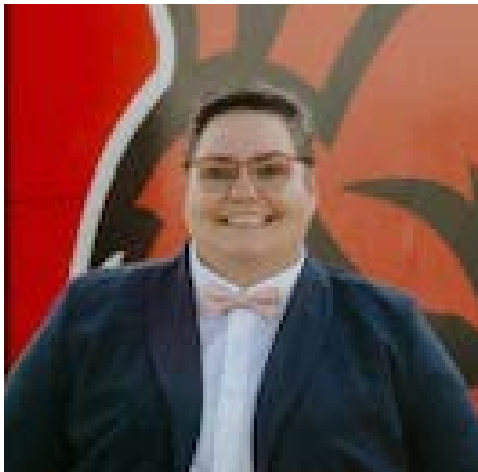
Dr. Urías-Espinoza received her Ph.D. in 2022 from the University of Arizona. She currently teaches history at A-State Campus Queretaro.



# Faculty Achievements



**Dr. Kellie Wilson-Buford** presented "Foolish, Incautious and Possibly Provocative Virgin[s]": Cold War Courts-Martial and the Impossible Burden of Proof Shouldered by Female Victims of US Military Sex Crimes" at the American Society for Legal History in Philadelphia, PA.



**Dr. Heather McNamee** presented "Seasons of Love" at the National Humanities Conference in Indianapolis, IL. She will also be supervising 11 BSE interns in Spring 2024; the largest cohort in over a decade.

## Student Highlights

**MA students Zane Brown, Kyra Franks, Mollie Mason, and Kaylee Crain passed their comprehensive exams!**

**MA student Mollie Mason is now the full-timer park interpreter for Lake Dardanelle State Park.**



# Student Highlights



**MA Student Zane Brown successfully defended his master's thesis, "Methvin, Mooney, and Southern Plains Societies: A Study of Missionaries and Anthropologists in the Kiowa, Comanche, Apache Reservation."**

**BA student Alandria Maddox is first female African-American drum major and became Homecoming Queen. See here in a video [here](#).**



**BA student Nicholas Sides is recognized along with other Volunteer A-State members at the annual Greenfield Distinguished Lecture; see him featured in Giving Tuesday's promo [here](#).**



# Welcome to A-State History!



**Dr. Jason Post**  
**Instructor of Geography**



**Jared Allinson, MA Student**  
**Graduate Assistant**



**Halee Mills**  
**MA Student**

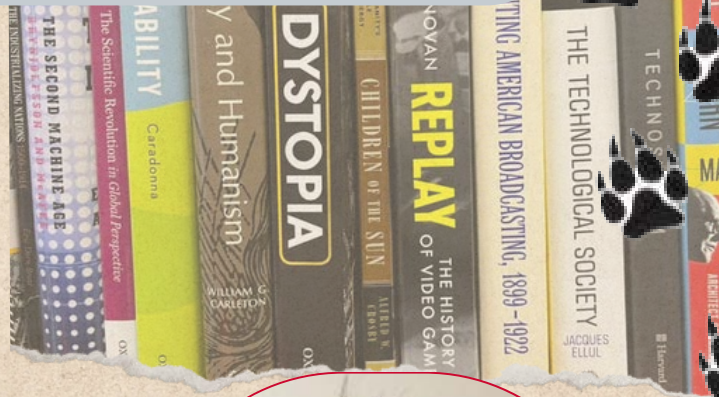




# Graduate Assistants



**Zane Brown**



**Ryken Cocherell**



**Kyra Franks**



**Jared Allinson**



**Madison Garrett**





# Alumni Spotlight

OUR ALUMNI. THEIR JOURNEY. YOUR GUIDES.

## Sarah Vangilder, BA '15:

Currently: Loan Assistant II- Centennial Bank  
Owner- Sarah's Resume Services and Beyond



"I had originally planned on going on to law school. I was going to take a gap year working for an attorney.

The day after my graduation my Dad got really sick. It was a long healthcare crisis and I moved back home to help with the cattle ranch.

I did work for a local attorney as his Legal Assistant/Office Manager for a year. Then I went on to work as an Executive Assistant to CEO for a healthcare nonprofit organization. I worked there for about 4 years.

I started as an assistant to a Commercial Lender in Jonesboro and then transitioned to assistant to Market President and a Commercial Lender for our Paragould Market. A couple of years ago, I decided to start my own side business, Sarah's Resume Services & Beyond, providing assistance with resumes and application related documents.

I did not go into a standard typical history related job.

I do feel that having a Bachelor's and college education in general has helped in my career. Having a degree in some ways sometimes helps by just gaining someone's respect.

It shows that you are definitely capable and writing those papers took so much research and skills in general. It's not easy to pass all of those classes. You have to put in the work.

The truth is you can do anything [with a history degree]. If you aren't sure of exactly what you want to do then take some other classes too with your electives."





# Alumni Spotlight

OUR ALUMNI. THEIR JOURNEY. YOUR GUIDES.

## Taylor Ann Matthews, BA '18

Currently: Visitors Services Supervisor  
Falkland Palace and Garden  
Fife, Scotland



"I'm really excited about this because it means that I will be in charge of a lot of things, including opening and closing the palace, planning upcoming events and helping to run our education team.

I love working at the palace, which was built by the Stuart kings in the 15th and 16th centuries, and became the Balmoral of its time for them, including Mary Queen of Scots!"



**WANT TO BE A FEATURED ALUM?**

Contact Kelsey DeFord at  
kdeford@AState.edu OR

**[CLICK THIS LINK TO THE SURVEY!](#)**

# A-STATE HISTORY CLUB AND PHI ALPHA THETA

*The A-State History Club is open to anyone who enjoys the subject of history and wants to be a part of a growing community of scholars!*



**We host many events throughout the school year, such as presentations, panels, hangouts, and more!**

**Opportunities by participating in these organizations include:**

- *Scholarships and Leadership Positions*
- *Networking with Professionals and Likeminded Peers*
- *Attending Conferences and Presenting Your Research*
- *Professional and Educational Development*

**Join us by scanning the QR Code!**



***Questions?***

**Contact Club President Madison Garrett at  
[madison.garrett@smail.astate.edu](mailto:madison.garrett@smail.astate.edu)**



*wismod la... at quis risus sed vulputate odio. Sed  
euis... is.*





# Important Dates



**Late Registration Ends**

**JANUARY 12, 2024**



**Fall Commencement**

**DECEMBER 16**



**Final Exams**

**DECEMBER 11-15**

## A-STATE HISTORY CLUB

The History Club, established in 2020, welcomes all A-State students passionate about history. It allows students who do not meet the requirements of Phi Alpha Theta membership to participate in Department of History events and to access the Wunderkammer history lounge, club quarters, and collections.

Contact Dr. Ed Salo: [esalo@Astate.edu](mailto:esalo@Astate.edu)






# Artificial Intelligence

## FAKE NEWS HUNT

In today's world, the use of artificial intelligence or AI is becoming more well known. AI can be used to construct pictures and stories. This is concerning as more people consume this information, believing it to be true.

In this issue, there is **one picture** that has been modified with Artificial Intelligence. Can you tell what has been altered?

Click on the 

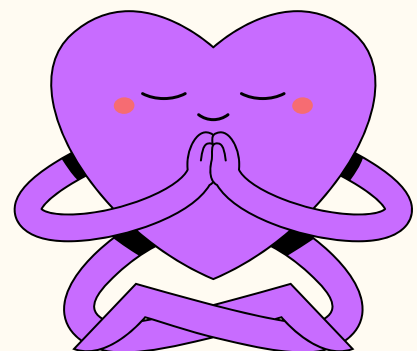
[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)



## CLAC Holiday Drop In

DECEMBER 6  
2:00 - 4:00PM  
HSS LOBBY

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



## Meditation Sessions

DECEMBER 4-8  
CALL TO SCHEDULE  
WILSON COUNSELING

[FIND OUT MORE](#)



# Updates

## History Faculty:

Please email Kelsey information on your recent research to be included in the next newsletter (Deadline: **APRIL 19, 2024**)

## Students:

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

## Registration errors:

You can sign up for more than one Special Topics! Get in touch with Kelsey to get an override!

## **STUDENTS:**

Email Kelsey DeFord at [kdeford@AState.edu](mailto:kdeford@AState.edu) for spotlights in the next newsletter (Deadline: **APRIL 19, 2024**)

*Special Thanks*

**BS '17, Creative Media Production, Kaitlyn DeFord**

**Crim/Soc Admin III, Lavonda Evans**

**Work studies: Thomas Baker, Brayden Imler, and Alyssa Willie**