

History is All Over

**MACALESTER COLLEGE
HISTORY DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER**
FIND YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY

SPRING 2020

History is All Over is a publication of the Macalester College History Department, sharing student, faculty, and alumni news; and highlighting opportunities, classes, study away, and research.

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Maria Fedorova Has Been Hired for a Tenure-Track Russian History Position

We are happy to announce that Professor Maria Fedorova has been hired for a tenure-track Russian history position. Professor Fedorova came to Macalester in the fall of 2019 as a Wallin Postdoctoral Fellow in Russian and Modern European History. She will serve one more year in that role, and then continue in her new tenure-track position. A Moscow native, she came to the United States as a Fulbright Fellow, receiving an MA in History at Washington State University and a Ph.D. at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Fedorova teaches courses on Russian history and the transnational history of food and agriculture. When classes begin, she will teach "Revolutionary Russia and the Soviet Union, 1856-2000," and the following semester she will offer "Rise and Fall of Tsarist Russia," and "Food, Science, Technology." Fedorova's research focuses on the transnational circulation of knowledge and technologies between Russia and the world during the twentieth century.

OUR SENIORS SHINE



We Congratulate our Seniors

At left: This picture of most of our seniors in close proximity is from our December capstone event. From left to right: Sam Nail, Keaton Belbas, Spencer McAllister, EJ Coolidge, Bea Chihak, Liam McMahan, Jennifer Arnold, Ben Trumble, Melaine Guardado, Marley Higbee, Michael Milnar, Maria Peterson, and Isaac Hoehn. (not pictured, Orianna Galasso, Morgan Hess, and Lydia Sulik)

History Prizes

Please join us in congratulating our department prize winners

Sam Nail, *The Yahya Armajani Prize in Global History*

EJ Coolidge, *Case Prize in American Western History*

Morgan Hess, *J. Huntley Dupre Prize in European History*

Keaton Belbas and Lydia Sulik, *The Kenneth L. & Martha S. Holmes Prize in History of the Americas*

Oriana Galasso and Spencer McAllister, *Kathleen Rock Hauser Prize in Women's and Gender History*

Bea Chihak and Liam McMahan, *Ernest R. Sandeen Memorial Prize*

Melanie Guardado, *Teresita Martinez Vergne Memorial Prize*

Our senior week events were changed for COVID. Instead of an in-person party, department members mailed notes to our seniors, and made the [celebratory video that can be viewed here:](#)

<https://youtu.be/vcFM5precqk>. On behalf of the entire department Linda Sturtz wrote a note to accompany the video that said in part, "The video brings together, virtually, the faculty who would love to be celebrating with you in person this spring. You will always be a special class of History Majors to us."

The department also arranged for a gift book to be given to each graduate. The books were shipped to those who had already left town, and Linda Sturtz delivered gift bags to those who were still in the Twin Cities.



Linda Sturtz's cat, Cliq, performed gift-bag quality control inspection.



Doorstep deliveries for seniors who stayed in town.



Maria Peterson gave the gift bag delivery two thumbs up.



Linda found one of our "The Future of History" stickers on the door at one of the homes.

OUR SENIORS SHINE

Honors Projects

Congratulations to our seniors who completed honors projects. **Liam McMahon** for his honors project in history, a critical study titled, *"Can you please get my family justice so we can rest in peace?": The Pat Finucane Centre's 'In Their Footsteps' Archive and the Search for Truth and Justice in Northern Ireland.*

Ben Trumble completed his honors project in Geography, his second major. Follow [this link to read a little more about honors projects](#), including Liam's and Ben's.

Bea Chihak Awarded Honors by Scott Turow in the ACM's Nick Adams Short Story Contest

Bea Chihak's story "Las Hermanas Grimm" was honored by author Scott Turow, who was the final judge for Associated Colleges of the Midwest's (ACM) Nick Adams Short Story Contest. Bea's story was selected for honorable mention from the six finalists among 37 stories submitted for the contest by ten ACM colleges. The [ACM's Q&A with Bea can be found here](#).

Because **Maria Petersen** and **Michael Milnar** were both library employees, they were invited to write about a favorite book and say something about what it was like to work in the library. Find [Maria's pick here](#). Find [Michael's pick here](#).



Seniors above, left to right: Keaton Belbas in her graduation regalia in front of Old Main; Ben Trumble at a lunch gathering that was held on the 3rd floor of Old Main in the fall, ready to fly; Award-winning author, Bea Chihak.

What's Ahead? Some of our seniors have shared their plans:

Jennifer Arnold has been hired as a Software Engineer at Slack in San Francisco, CA.

Keaton Belbas will be "in St. Paul for the summer living and gardening, but after that it's up in the air! I'm moving to Portland, OR at some point but that timeline has been upset by the virus."

Bea Chihak plans to work in various organizations around the Twin Cities that are centered on disability rights and the arts.

Isaac Hoehn "COVID-19 has already put my plans on hold, and who knows what the next several months will bring. But at the moment, I'm working toward earning certification to teach English as a foreign language." He hopes to get a teaching job in Uruguay in the near future, and might coach youth soccer.

Spencer McAllister will go to the UC Berkeley School of Law.

Maria Petersen will work in a preschool (casa) classroom at Sunny Hollow Montessori in St. Paul in 2020-2021, and says, "I've been accepted to Johns Hopkins' 2021 Urban Teachers cohort at their School of Ed, and I'm deciding whether [to] go there for grad school or [...] If I stay in the cities, I'll get my Master's of Ed/maybe Early Childhood Ed and a Montessori certification."

Ben Trumble will earn a Masters degree in teaching from NYU, while teaching in the San Francisco area.

HISTORY IN PICTURES



At left: "Food, Science, and Technology (1914-1939): A Transatlantic Perspective" - This semester the Food, Science, and Technology class visited the Macalester College Archives to examine how Macalester students, particularly women, participated in food conservation drives during the First World War. By reading wartime issues of *Mac Weekly*, the class uncovered that, in 1918, Macalester female students had to fill out the Patriotic census to demonstrate their contribution to the war effort. Many women reported that they attended food conservation lectures, knitted and sewed, as well as did other social welfare work.

Below: On February 22, 2020, Macalester students from the Revolutionary Russia and the Soviet Union class presented their work at the 2020 Interdisciplinary Student Research Symposium at the Museum of Russian Art. Erin Leary and Maddy Rodemeier collaborated on a presentation titled "Revolutionary Ruckus: A Comparison of Visual Media During Critical Revolutionary Periods in Russia." Ryan Cirillo presented a paper titled "Transforming Tashkent: A Case Study of Nationalism and the Built Environment."



History Inspires Inquiry

In this [article about "Why Polio Still Exists"](#) senior Ikran Sheikh-Mursal credits a history class as her main inspiration in coming up with her research topic.

Faculty Updates

AWAY, NOT AT PLAY, 2

Four of our faculty were on sabbatical leaves in 2019-2020. We included updates from three of them in our *Fall 2019 History is All Over*, and provide the fourth here.

Ernie Capello has spent his sabbatical researching and writing a short monograph on the history of Mapping Mountains, for which he received fellowships at the Huntington Library in California and at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, where he was the inaugural Phillips Society Fellow in the History of Cartography. The study will appear later this year and provides an overview of major thematic concerns in relief representation, both from a technical and cultural-political perspective. Some of the more fascinating images include representations of the five-peaked Mount Meru, held to be the center of the Buddhist universe, Andean cosmographical architecture focused upon mountain peaks, and the slew of tourist maps of the American West or the Swiss Alps. He is also completing an edited volume on cartographic expeditions and visual culture in the 19th-century Americas and since March, has been under lockdown in Quito while working on his broader history of the equatorial Andes.

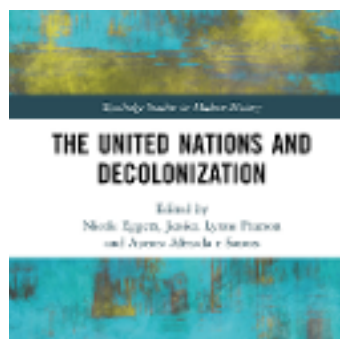


Above: Unidentified Artist, *Bhugola* Globe, showing Mount Meru. 19th century. Victoria and Albert Museum, London.



Above: Cards for the game Professor Fedorova's "Rise and Fall of Tsarist Russia" class created. Players will use the playing cards to place events in Russian history in chronological order.

At right: The new book Professor Pearson co-edited.



Professor Ernie Capello [was spotlighted in this AHA Perspectives magazine.](#)

Professor Maria Fedorova's "Rise and Fall of Tsarist Russia" class was featured in this [Macalester "courses in the city" story.](#)

As part of their "New Books in History" series, the New Books Network posted an interview with **Jessica Lynne Pearson** about her book *The Colonial Politics of Global Health: France and the United Nations in Postwar Africa* in a recent podcast. [Listen to the podcast episode here.](#)

Professor Pearson also co-edited and wrote the introduction for a new book, [United Nations and Decolonization](#), which will be coming out in July.

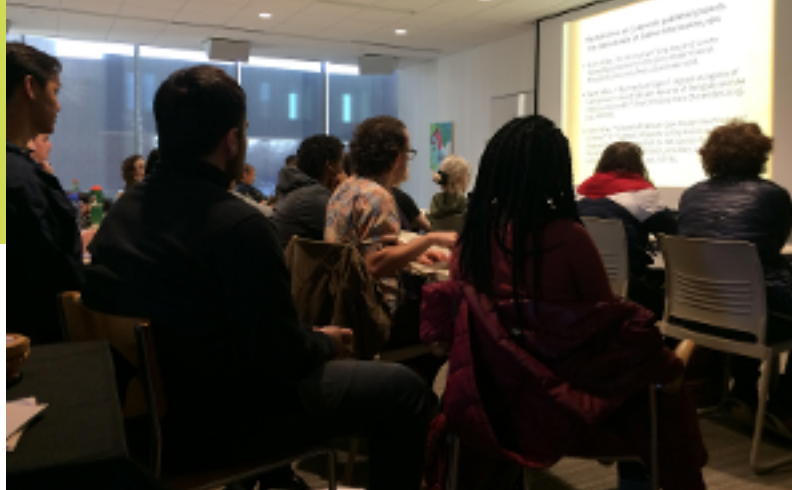
Karin Vélez Went Solo

As the COVID pandemic began to alter campus plans in March, the "Of Blasphemy and Miracles: New Approaches to Old Catholic Puzzles" panel scheduled for Sunday, March 8, became a solo act when one of the planned speakers, Katrina Olds had to cancel. **Professor Vélez** carried on alone, presenting to a full house about her recently published book, *The Miraculous Flying House of Loreto: Spreading Catholicism in the Early Modern World*, for which she has received several awards.

This [interview by Metro State University with Professor emeritus Peter Rachleff](#) celebrates collaborations with the East Side Freedom Library (ESFL), like the ones Macalester History students frequently enjoy.

WHERE WILL YOU GO WITH HISTORY?

Students, and parents, often ask where a future with a History major might lead. Answers to that question are far-ranging, and depend quite a bit on the individuals and their interests. If you are looking for the big picture answers, our Career Exploration Center provides access to What Can I do with My Major lists. You can also visit History's "[After Macalester](#)" webpage to see what some of our graduates have reported they are doing now. Our "[Jobs and Internships](#)" page has links to sites, on-campus and off, that can help you address your own questions about where studying history can take you. It's a good place to look when you wonder about your future in history. There you will find links to the American Historical Association's "Careers for History Majors" mini guide, and their "What to Do with a BA in History" blog, and more links to multiple organizations that share listings of job, internship, publication, conference, networking, and other opportunities. Of course, our best resource is our professors. Make time to have a conversation with one or more of them to talk about your particular interest in history, and where it could lead.



Above: Students in the audience at a presentation by Professor Vélez

Visit [History's Opportunity Update Listings](#) and find opportunities like these to:

Attend: Free Online Screening & Virtual Discussion of "Blood Memory" Film

Connect: FindSpark to Assist Students and Alumni to Form New Connections

Engage: Angie Craig's Campaign for Congress Interns Sought

Publish: Call for Papers: On Incarceration

Participate: ESFL Continuing to Support Stories and Build Connections

Student Opportunity Updates

We are often asked to share opportunities with our students. We do that by adding them to the "[Opportunity Updates](#)" on our web site.

Opportunity Updates is where we consolidate announcements and information for your convenience, and try to avoid inundating you with frequent emails that are not about our own events. The updates include calls for papers, internships, job opportunities, grad programs, volunteering opportunities, fellowships, research/project opportunities, events, study away programs, and more.

COVID-19 AND HISTORY

COVID-19 and History

In March, when our campus pivoted to on-line instruction, plans of all kinds were upended and revised. This unwanted and unprecedented turn of events has been an opportunity for new learning, sometimes about ways of learning. Our students, professors and staff scrambled to continue to work together in ways that had meaning. Some of the stories in this issue bear the imprint of this particular moment, as does this newsletter itself, largely being created out of the office, using moments made possible by technological tools that did not exist a few decades ago, and with reports collected from our scattered constituents, who have all needed to adapt multiple plans, and bear worries and disappointments. Here we share just a few of the adaptations History made to COVID-19 2020

The **admissions** department asked our faculty to make department introduction videos. Professor **Katie Phillips** created [this "Meet Your Professor" video](#) on the grounds behind Old Main. And Professor **Ernie Capello** hosted a Zoom session for admitted students and their families while quarantined in Quito. He was joined by rising seniors Irene Shulte and Michelle Armstrong-Spielberg, and alumnus William Theriac '16. [Find that video here.](#)

History Club

History club has thrived in recent years. COVID-19 caused cancellation of most of the club's Spring meetings. The club's leadership, seniors Spencer McAllister and Morgan Hess provided a little history of the club's recent history in an email written in March. Spencer wrote "since Morgan and I are both seniors, we wanted to take this opportunity to say farewell. We both joined this club years ago when Emma (Dasciewicz) and Jemma (Kloss) first resurrected it. It has truly been our pleasure laughing and snarkily debating the finer points of history with all of you, both as fellow members and as your presidents. Thanks for such an amazing time, and rest assured, history club will resume next year under the capable leadership of the heir-apparent, Brooke Sapper.

"At the risk of being too corny, I want to close out this email not with a goodbye, but with a quote that has always stuck with me from the great Cameron Bradley, the former Macalester medievalist that convinced many students, including Emma, Jemma, Morgan, and myself, to join this major: "We look to our past to imagine better futures." Good luck with whatever the future holds for all of you. Stay healthy, and stay the awesome history nerds that you are!"

At right: Rising junior **Katie Chin** shared this photo of her cat, Shadow, on the textbook used in History: Then & Now this semester.



STUDENTS OF THE PAST

The Beginning of History at Macalester

Macalester students have been studying history since Macalester was founded. In fact, the Prospectus of Macalester College 1885-1886 begins with the "History of Macalester College." You might be surprised to learn that the location for the college has been fixed "near the Falls at Saint Anthony." [Find that prospectus here](#). It is the first entry in the [list of early college catalogs](#) that can be found on our archive's webpage.

Alumni Updates

These alumni will be entering grad programs this fall.

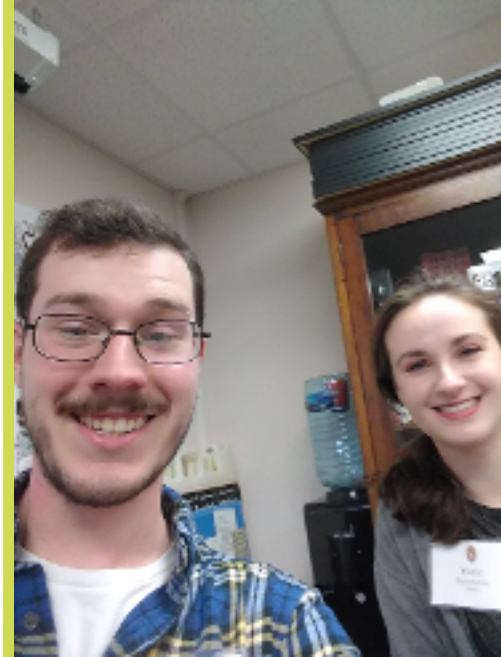
Patrick Eickman, '17 is beginning a PhD in Medieval History at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Zhantao Luo, '19 is beginning a Master's Program at the University of Chicago.

Suzie Rubinstein, '17 is beginning a PhD in the History of Science, Medicine and Technology, with a focus on Latin American History, at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

Liam Downs-Tepper, '16 who has just completed one Master's Program in Vienna, will begin another history-themed Master's Program--this one in Medieval Studies at Central European University, with a project doing a GIS survey of Transylvanian fortified churches.

We love hearing from our alumni. If you have a story about your history major in your life that we could include in our newsletter, please share it with Herta Pitman, pitman@macalester.edu.



Above: Patrick Eickman and Susie Rubenstein ran into each other at the University of Wisconsin-Madison prospective grad-school-visit weekend, just before COVID-19 restricted travel.

Events

On Thursday, February 13 the History and Classics departments hosted an "Open Doors Lunch" on the 3rd floor of Old Main, not realizing it would be our last social event of the year. Here are a few pictures of us taking our proximity for granted at our "fun open house with hot soup on a (definitely!) cold day."



Fall Class Schedule

Our course offerings will be revised to fit the proposed structure for the fall semester.

HERTA'S LITTLE HISTORY OF HISTORY

My rear-view mirror says "Objects In The Mirror Are Closer Than They Appear," but Meatloaf says "Objects in the Rear View Mirror May Appear Closer Than They Are." I say that both these things are true. In January, just as a new virus was starting to make news, I had a big anniversary. On a (long ago? recent? lucky? fateful?) January day 20 years ago, I interviewed with the chairs of history and classics for a temp job to serve as department coordinator for the rest of the semester. I got the job. I worked in the same room for 20 years, except for right now I'm working at home.

I remember telling my interviewers that my prior work experiences would combine to make me a good fit for this job. I was right. I didn't tell them that I couldn't type. I still can't. I remember telling another staff person early on, that I didn't take the job to make friends. I made many friends. My job has been everything I expected, and so much that I did not expect.

Even here in my little nest-away workplace, I'm alternatingly: surprised, delighted, inspired, infuriated, distracted, amused, informed, proud; by/with/of my work, my co-workers, my co-students, and the world my work has opened to me.



Above left: On a beautiful May day, recent grads Jennifer Arnold and Ben Trumble had a physically distant, but socially lovely visit with Herta in Herta's backyard. Above right: Herta in her natural habitat.

The pandemic has made me even-more-than-usually willing to flaunt professional convention, and say feelings; to offer and reach for comfort from one another; to be tender with you, and appreciate my own good fortune. I point to history in its largest sense, and to our personal history, to see our way through this moment, and I try not to sound like an old windbag doing it, but sometimes I say things that I think are worth repeating. So I will tell you this again.

You are historians. You know that pandemics come, and that they also go. This moment is just this once. It's a strange, but still wonderful, moment. I want you to find ways to have fun and enjoy it, and to be proud of your accomplishments. Those are worth celebrating in all the ways we can dream up.

In case that's not enough wisdom for you, I provide a more thorough look at my historical insight with my [PeepsShow SlideShow](#).

This little history of History isn't about ending. I'm looking back, AND ahead. To the things we are hoping to do together again and soon. I've loved the first twenty years. I am not saying goodbye. I'm looking forward.

Auf wiedersehen, Heart/Herta

