Encyclopedia of Milwaukee wins $250,000 NEH grant

The National Endowment for the Humanities has awarded History department faculty members Amanda I. Seligman and Margo Anderson a 2-year grant of $250,000 to support the creation of The Encyclopedia of Milwaukee (EMKE). The EMKE will include approximately 720 entries, hundreds of images and digitized primary sources, historical and original maps, footnotes, suggestions for further reading, original stories about the research process, and opportunities for readers to leave feedback about the content.

The EMKE is a major collaborative project. In addition to participating History Department faculty and graduate students, there is an editorial board of expert historians, librarians, archivists, and museum professionals; a UWM IT team of designers and web developers; UWM undergraduate researchers; the UWM development office; UWM cartographic and GIS experts; and hundreds of entry authors. Marquette University faculty members James Marten and Thomas Jablonsky are serving as Senior Editors.

The EMKE, which has been in development since 2008, will be published online by UWM and in print by Northern Illinois University Press in 2017. The estimated total cost of the project is approximately $2 million.

The NEH grant will support graduate student researchers, building of the website, honoraria for authors, and staff support. The EMKE currently has a Facebook page that supporters are invited to “Like,” and the initial website will be launched this summer. If you have questions or suggestions about the EMKE or would like to make a donation, please contact Professor Seligman at seligman@uwm.edu. A video about the process of producing the EMKE can be seen on the History Department’s website at history.uwm.edu.

Zeidler Exhibit Shown in City Hall and in the Library

UWM students, faculty and staff collaborated on the creation and presentation of an exhibit showcasing the ideas and life of Frank Zeidler, mayor of Milwaukee from 1948 to 1960. “Advancing Human Progress: Frank P. Zeidler’s Vision for Milwaukee,” examines his life as a public servant with a strong vision for the common good of Milwaukee. Public History MA student Adam Smith prepared the exhibit, which opened to a large crowd in City Hall, including Mayor Tom Barrett. It then moved to the Golda Meir Library on the UWM campus.

To complement the in-library exhibit, the Archives Department and Digitization presented selections from the WTMJ-TV Newsfilm Collection. Archivist and History Department alumna Ellen Engseth selected news film pieces which provide rich visual sources on Zeidler’s tenure and his role in Milwaukee. They depict both his broad role and busy daily schedule, and in the clips Zeidler himself reveals the responsibilities and stresses of the Milwaukee mayor during the mid-20th century.

Public History graduate student Adam Smith
The second and third annual Midwest Labor and Working Class History (MLWCH – pronounced MILL-witch) Graduate Student Colloquia, organized by the Alliance of History Graduate Students (AHGS), were held February 2012 and February 2013 at the UWM Student Union.

In 2012, the theme was “Power and Struggle,” and the conference began with a keynote panel featuring faculty and students, including Rachel Buff, Jasmine Alinder, Tony Shultz and Jacob Glicklich, who made connections between their identities as activists and historians.

In 2013, “Solidarity and Fragmentation” was the theme. The keynote panel featured faculty, students, and community activists, including Joe Austin, Joseph Walzer and Michael Gonzales from UWM, Robert Johnston from the University of Illinois-Chicago, and Christine Neumann-Ortiz from Voces de la Frontera, who explored building solidarity and understanding the fragmentation of workers’ protest movements.

In both years, the Saturday schedule included a full day of graduate student panelists from around the Midwest talking about their research. Attendees came from the University of Iowa, the University of Illinois-Chicago, Miami University-Ohio, Western Michigan University, the University of Chicago, Northern Illinois University, Northwestern, the University of Michigan, the University of Iowa, the University of Toronto, Loyola University, the University of Minnesota, UW-Manitowoc, and Marquette University, as well as UWM. UWM faculty and graduate students chaired the panels and made the experience empowering for the panelists. For many graduate students, this was their first experience at a conference, and everyone said that they felt encouraged by the support and engagement of faculty and graduate students.

Ph.D. dissertations – 10 years later

Since the History Department’s Ph.D. program was introduced in 2003, ten people have finished their degrees, in a wide variety of fields, including both transnational and transgender history.

2013: Dawson Barrett, “Neoliberalism and the Struggle for American Democracy since the 1960s”

James Nelsen, “From No Choice to Forced Choice to School Choice: A History of Educational Options in Milwaukee Public Schools”
Jackleen Salem, “The Birth & Growth of a Muslim Community: Religion, Ethnicity, Women, and Citizenship in Chicago”
Asheley Zampogna-Krug, “Navigating the Nation State: Italian Migrant Transnationalism in the 1920s and 1930s”

Brian Kangas, “Tragedy, Myth, and Memory: The “Lady Elgin” and Irish-American Nationalism”


Victor Greene Award for Best Undergraduate Paper

Spring 2012
First place: Lenore Gentner, “Boyle till it is Enough: London History through Cookery Books 1650-1700”
Second place: Matthew Payne, “Salt of the Earth: How a Film was Silenced”

Winter 2012
Janae Kalani Adolpho, "Racialization and Rehabilitation: The Hawaiian Blood Quantum as a Form of Dispossession”

Spring 2013
Alora Rodriguez, “The Meaning of Apostasy in Bede”

Outstanding Senior Thesis Award
2012
Lucas Wolff, "Campaigning to End the Worst Sort of Lynching: The Integration of African American History into Milwaukee Public Schools, 1964-1968”

A.T. Brown Award for Best Graduate Thesis
2011
Susan D. Wade, “Indigenous Women and Maple Sugar in the Upper Midwest, 1760 to 1848”
2012

A.T. Brown Award for Best Graduate Research Paper
2011
2012
Daniel J. Toth “A New Alternative: Local Urban Development in Milwaukee’s Third Ward”

Ellen Healy Award for Graduate Studies
2012: Niles Niemuth 2013: Steven W. Colagiovanni

Frank P. Zeidler Graduate Student Award
2011-2013
Benjamin Barbera

Lucetta Bissell Scholarship
2012
Jackleen Salem

Friends of History
We thank our alumni and friends for their generous contributions supporting student research, travel to conferences, speakers, and prizes for excellence.

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Margo Anderson Named Distinguished Professor

Professor Margo Anderson was named a Distinguished Professor in January, 2013. Her research has focused on American social, urban and women’s history, including the U.S. Census. Since joining the UWM faculty in 1977, her work on the history of the Census Bureau has made her a national authority.

Anderson has described how the bureau has improved the accuracy of the count, how current events have affected or changed the process, and how social prejudices have tainted the count throughout its history. Her work has uncovered new information about the census, including documents that show the U.S. government provided the U.S. Secret Service with names and addresses of Japanese-Americans during World War II, even though it was prohibited by law. The author or editor of several books on the U.S. Census, Anderson also is a favorite commentator in the national media, from USA Today to Newsweek.

Anderson’s scholarly contributions have been recognized by a variety of professional organizations. She was a member of the National Academy of Sciences’ Panel on Census Requirements for the Year 2000 and Beyond. She has testified before Congress on census issues and has held multiple fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the American Statistical Association, the U.S. Census Bureau and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. She joins Professors David Hoeveler and Merry Wiesner-Hanks as three of UWM’s current group of 25 Distinguished Professors.

The United States of the United Races: A Utopian History of Racial Mixing by Greg Carter

This book reconsiders an understudied optimist tradition in the history of racial amalgamation throughout the U.S., one which has praised mixture as a means to create a new people, bring equality to all, and fulfill an American destiny. In this genealogy, Greg Carter re-envisions racial mixture as a vehicle for pride and a way for citizens to examine mixed America as a better America. Tracing the centuries-long conversation that began with Hector St. John de Crevecoeur’s Letters of an American Farmer in the 1780s through to the Multiracial Movement of the 1990s and the debates surrounding racial categories on the U.S. Census in the twenty-first century, Carter explores a broad range of documents and moments, unearthing a new narrative that locates hope in racial mixture. He traces the reception of the concept as it has evolved over the years, from decade-to-decade and century-to-century, wherein even minor changes in individual attitudes have paved the way for major changes in public response. The United States of the United Races sweeps away an ugly element of U.S. history, replacing it with a new understanding of race in America. 2013. NYU Press.

Lost Letters of Medieval Life: English Society, 1200-1250, ed. Martha Carlin and David Crouch

Editors Martha Carlin and David Crouch reveal everyday life in early thirteenth-century England in vivid detail through the correspondence of people from all classes, from peasants and shopkeepers to bishops and earls. The documents edited here include letters between masters and servants, husbands and wives, neighbors and enemies, and cover a wide range of topics: politics and war, going to fairs and going to law, attending tournaments and stocking a game park, borrowing cash and doing favors for friends, investigating adultery and building a windmill. While letters by celebrated people have long been known, the correspondence of ordinary people has not survived and has generally been assumed never to have existed in the first place. Carlin and Crouch, however, have discovered numerous examples of such correspondence hiding in plain sight. The letters can be found in manuscripts called formularies—the collections of form letters and other model documents that for centuries were used to teach the
the arts of letter-writing and keeping accounts. The editors present letters from two such manuscripts both in the original Latin and in English translation, with each document contextualized in an accompanying essay. 2013. University of Pennsylvania Press.

**Early Modern Europe, 1450-1789 by Merry Wiesner-Hanks**

The second edition of this best-selling textbook covers European history from the invention of the printing press to the French Revolution, updated to include expanded coverage of the late eighteenth century and the Enlightenment, and to incorporate recent advances in gender history, global connections and cultural analysis. The text takes in Europe in its entirety, eastward to the Ottoman Empire, northward to Sweden, and southward to Portugal, and includes European colonies overseas. It integrates religious, gender, class, regional and ethnic differences as well as the economic, political, religious and cultural history of the period. The book sets developments in Europe in a global context, and features summaries, timelines, maps, illustrations, and discussion questions, along with interactive online resources. 2013. Cambridge University Press.

**Becoming Austrians: Jews and Culture between the World Wars by Lisa Silverman**

This book examines the situation of Jews in Austria after the collapse of Austria-Hungary in 1918, which left all Austrians in a state of political, social, and economic turmoil. Jews in particular found their lives shaken to the core, but the dissolution of the Dual Monarchy also created plenty of room for innovation and change in the realm of culture. Jews became heavily invested in culture as a way to shape their new, but also vexed, self-understandings. Lisa Silverman demonstrates that an intensified marking of people, places, and events as "Jewish" accompanied the crises occurring in the wake of Austria-Hungary's collapse, with profound effects on Austria's cultural legacy. In some cases, the consequences of this marking resulted in grave injustices, but engagements with the terms of Jewish difference also characterized the creation of culture, including novels, films, and theater. By examining the lives, works, and deeds of a broad range of Austrians, she reveals how the social codings of politics, gender, and nation received a powerful boost when articulated along the lines of Jewish difference. 2012. Oxford University Press.

**The Life of Herbert Hoover, Fighting Quaker: 1928-1933 by Glen Jeansonne**

This is the first definitive study of the presidency of one of America's most maligned and poorly understood Chief Executives. Born in a Quaker hamlet in Iowa and orphaned at nine, Herbert Hoover had already risen to wealth and global fame as an international mining engineer, the savior of Belgium during the Great War, Woodrow Wilson's Food Administrator, and perhaps the greatest Secretary of Commerce in American history by the time he assumed the presidency. While in the cabinet he had helped to engineer the prosperity of the 1920s and vainly warned of an economy overheated by speculation, but the ensuing Wall Street Crash of 1929 would come to overwhelmingly define his legacy. Combining public and private resources, he made history as the first president to pit government action against the economic cycle, creating a precedent that would be employed by his successor and all other future presidents. Glen Jeansonne's study allows a greater understanding of our thirty-first president. 2012. Palgrave Macmillan.

**The German Minority in Interwar Poland by Winson Chu**

Winson Chu analyzes what happened when Germans from three different empires - the Russian, Habsburg, and German - were forced to live together in one, new state. After the First World War, German national activists made regional distinctions among these Germans and German-speakers in Poland, with preference initially for those who
had once lived in the German Empire. Rather than becoming more cohesive over time, Poland’s ethnic Germans remained divided and did not unite within a single representative organization. Polish repressive policies and unequal subsidies from the German state exacerbated these differences, while National Socialism created new hierarchies and unleashed bitter intra-ethnic conflict among German minority leaders. Winson Chu challenges prevailing interpretations that German nationalism in the twentieth century viewed “Germans” as a homogeneous, single group of people.


As one of the three editors, Margo Anderson updates and expands a critically-acclaimed resource to the history, politics, content, procedures, and uses of the decennial census of the American population. The new edition highlights changes in the Census Bureau’s data collection and dissemination practices for the 2010 enumeration, including the use of a short-form questionnaire for the actual population count, and the release in late 2010 of the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data set based on rolling samples of the U.S. population and gathered using the long-form questionnaire. The second edition also comprehensively covers the fallout from the 2000 census and recent issues affecting the administration of the 2010 count. 2011. CQ Press.

Is Graduate School Really for You?: The Whos, Whats, Hows, and Whys of Pursuing a Master’s or Ph.D. by Amanda Seligman

Potential students will find this a helpful guide to navigate graduate study – not just how to get in but how to succeed once you are there and what to expect when you leave. Amanda Seligman weighs the pros and cons of attending graduate school against achieving a sustainable work-life balance and explains the application process, the culture of graduate school, and employment prospects for academics. This informed and candid book provides the inside scoop on what to expect in graduate school. 2012. Johns Hopkins University Press.
Diana Ahmad (BA 1974; MA 1979) is an Associate Professor of History and the university archivist at the Missouri University of Science and Technology. A specialist in the history of the American West, her first book, The Opium Debate and Chinese Exclusion Laws during the Nineteenth Century American West (2007), discusses the impact of opium-smoking on the exclusion of Chinese in the 1880s. Currently she is researching the relationship between animals, wild and domestic, and their human companions on the overland trails to the Pacific and the role of the United States Navy in the Pacific at the turn of the twentieth century.

David P. Anderson (BA 1997) is Senior Historian for the Air National Guard History Program at the National Guard Bureau. He is a retired Chief Master Sergeant with 24 years of service, including 20 years in the Air National Guard. His richly-illustrated study, Storm Surge: The Role of the Air National Guard in Hurricane Katrina Relief Operations, was published in 2011 by the Air National Guard.

Ellen Engseth, (BA 1992; MA History and MLIS 1997) was selected as a participant in the 2013 Archives Leadership Institute, which will provide advanced training for 25 emerging and innovative leaders, giving them the knowledge and tools to transform the archival profession in practice, theory and attitude. Participants were selected based on their leadership skills and potential, ability to influence policy and change within an organization and the archival field, commitment to the archival profession, career progress and history, organizational involvement, professional motivation and goals, a collaborative and innovative spirit and diversity and specialization within the profession. Engseth is archivist and senior academic librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Libraries, and an adjunct instructor with UWM’s School of Information Studies Archival Studies Program.

Julie Hardwick (MA 1986) is a Professor of History and Director of the Historical Studies Institute at the University of Texas. Her most recent book is Family Business: Litigation and the Political Economies of Daily Life in Seventeenth-century France (2009).


Robert Olwell (MA 1985) is an Associate Professor in the History Department at the University of Texas. His research and teaching interests are focused on the eighteenth-century British-Atlantic World and the early American South. Currently he is writing a book on the British Florida colony, 1763-1783.

Laura Tabili (MA 1982), is a Professor of History at the University of Arizona whose research and scholarship have been devoted to finding historical explanations for racial conflict in British and European societies, and exploring the ways these societies have been shaped by their participation in empire building. Her recent book, Global Migrants, Local Culture: Natives and Newcomers in Provincial England, 1841-1939 (2011), examines how local and global migration shaped social relations, with particular focus on race and culture, in one rapidly industrializing British port. At the University of Arizona, she teaches an array of courses that take Europe as a whole, rather than one country, as the unit of analysis.

Do you have news to share? We welcome your stories, updates and feedback on your UWM experiences. We also welcome alumni involvement – current students can benefit from your time and expertise in so many ways.

Re-engagement with UWM and the Department of History is just a phone call or email away:

Merry Wiesner-Hanks, Dept. Chair
(414) 229-4361
history@uwm.edu
Our graduate students and recent graduates have been publishing their research in print and online in many different venues. If you have published or know of others we have missed, please send information about them to the department and we’ll put these on the website and in the next edition of this newsletter.


**Dan Sokolovic** (Ph.D. program) co-author (with Prof. Glenn Jeansonne and David Lurhssen) of *Elvis Presley: Reluctant Rebel - His Life and Our Times*, (New York: ABC-CLIO, 2010).


Thanks to the dedication and hard work of several undergraduate history majors, UWM’s Delta Phi chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, which was first installed in 1953, was reactivated in 2011 under the leadership of new officers.

In the spring of 2012, forty new members were inducted. Professor Emeritus Michael Gordon gave a fascinating talk on labor history and local history, highlighting the visit of the labor organizer Mother Jones to Milwaukee in 1910. (http://www4.uwm.edu/letsci/history/news/)

Several members of the chapter attended the American Historical Association conference in Chicago in January 2012, and many attended the Organization of American Historians conference in Milwaukee in April of that year.

The Phi Alpha Theta chapter has been sponsoring a full schedule of workshops and lectures, and hosted the first annual UWM undergraduate history conference featuring presentations of student work in May 2012, with a second conference in May 2013.

In the Spring of 2013, eighteen new members were inducted. That ceremony featured a talk by Distinguished Professor David Hoeveler on the ideas of John Bascom, the philosopher, theologian, social critic, and president of the University of Wisconsin from 1874 to 1887, about whom Professor Hoeveler is now writing a biography.


Newly-inducted graduate student members in 2012: Maura A. Coonan, Benoit Leridon, Louis R. Mercer, Amanda F. Strobel, and Joseph B. Walzer. The newly-inducted alumni members were Jacob C. Miller and Kathryn E. Weisbeck.

Newly-inducted faculty members in 2012: Dr. Michael A. Gordon, Dr. Joseph A. Rodriguez, and Dr. Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks.

Delta Phi officers 2011-2012: Lucas J. Wolff, President; Danielle Eyre, Vice President; Allysia M. Loebel, Treasurer; Brianna M. Quade, Secretary; Olivia C. Wesely, Historian; Dr. Joseph A. Rodriguez, Faculty Advisor.

Newly-inducted undergraduate members in 2013: Bryan M. Bellise, Mark Henry, Kali Johnson, Sarah Johnson, Kevin Kolesari, Michael W. Kramer, Daniel Ervin Larsen, Jamie Nikstad, Maramanee Olson, Jayne M. Owens, Kristen E. Polley, Bricielyn Victoria Stermen, Syndney Tylke, Jennifer L. Van der Wal, Justine Pool

Newly-inducted graduate student members in 2013: Jaclyn Nicole Schultz, Monica Drake

Newly-inducted faculty members in 2013: Dr. Robert Smith

Delta Phi officers 2012-2013: Danielle Eyre, President; Brianna M. Quade, Vice-President; John Raffa Todd, Secretary; Allie LaBel, Treasurer; Sarah Francas Johnson, Historian; Dr. Robert Smith, Faculty Advisor.
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