A LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

UC Berkeley is many things to many people – and students are at the heart of it all. In the History Department we’re fortunate that supporting students on their paths to historical learning gives us purpose, keeps us centered, and energizes our community. That’s true whether it’s the quiet time of the summer, as we prepare for the next academic year, or the launch of the new fall semester just ahead.

This summer newsletter, as always, puts our students center stage, in the same way as our May Commencement ceremony does. Our 2024 Commencement in Zellerbach Hall honored the accomplishments of 147 new B.A. graduates and 17 new Ph.D. recipients. (Yes, our programs are growing again!) We heard from three fabulous Berkeley history graduates on the work of the historian: Taylor Valci (B.A., Class of 2024) as undergraduate speaker, Jordan Mursinna (Ph.D., 2023) as graduate speaker, and Robin Mitchell (Ph.D., 2010) delivering a magnificent keynote on the well-known historian John Wick!

At Commencement we feted students who completed their history undergraduate careers with Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors, and we presented awards to undergraduate prize-winners Ariana Kretz, recipient of the Matilda Morrison Miller Award for the history of the Western United States; Alex Ayala, awarded the Leon Litwack Prize for outstanding work in African-American history; and David Villani, who received the department’s highest undergraduate award, the Friends of Cal History Thesis Prize and Department Citation. Celebrating along with all our graduates’ families and friends, we were honored to have University Medalist Christopher Ying (B.A., Class of 2024) among us. Above all, we congratulated all our undergraduate majors for their successful completion of the rigorous history senior thesis. A highlight of Commencement was hearing History faculty members read each student’s name and thesis topic, reminding us how each new historian brings their distinctive interests, passions, and questions to their studies.

At Commencement we also celebrated the hooding of the newest graduates of our doctoral program. The milestone of the Ph.D. marks the endpoint of years of training and research, culminating in a book-length scholarly work of the student’s design. To get to that moment, our new Ph.D. graduates traveled to far-flung archives and bridged across centuries in a host of languages. Congratulations go especially to Hayley Rucker, winner of the Friends of Cal History Dissertation Prize for the most outstanding dissertation, for her study “Thrown to the Sea: Capitalism and Belonging aboard Ship on French Transoceanic Voyages, 1680–1793.” Later in this newsletter is a list of other prizes that our doctoral students have earned. We spill over with pride for our Ph.D. students’ contributions to historical knowledge. We welcome them to the discipline, inside the
academy and out, and we’re thrilled to see them take their next steps and bring the richness of their work to the world.

In updates from the department, we have two new faculty members joining us. Dmitri Brown (Ph.D., 2022, UC Davis) brings us his expertise on Native North American history. His current research addresses the relationship between the Tewa Pueblos and the Manhattan Project through the lenses of storytelling, pottery, architecture, and cosmology, asking how science and modernity stand in relation to place imbued for centuries with Tewa vitality and significance. Matthew Shutzer (Ph.D., 2019, New York University) works on the intersections between fossil fuel energy systems, empire and decolonization, and the planetary crisis of climate change. He is a global environmental historian who engages the history of capitalism, modern South Asia, and science and technology studies. We’ll have full profiles of each of them in the next newsletter. In this one you’ll also get news of other accomplishments in the History Department, including campus recognition for our director of administration, Marianne Bartholomew-Couts.

Above all, the pages that follow will let you trace along our students’ research pathways and peek into their accomplishments. And updates from our alumni, too! This newsletter also honors the life of Frank Silva (B.A., Class of 2023), who passed away suddenly this summer. You will find reflections from his teachers on an engaged student and wonderful human being who was lost to us far too soon.

Our students are at the heart of the work of the History Department. We’re delighted at all we can do to support them, whether it’s our retooled History 104 class, “The Craft of History,” to give undergraduates guidance along the route to their thesis, or the revamped History graduate library for a welcoming space for study and research. We’re always seeking creative new ways to put resources in the service of our students. We’re especially grateful for your gifts that enable their scholarly journeys.

I hope this newsletter brings you back to good times in Dwinelle Hall. Let us know what you’re doing! Please stay in touch.

— Cathryn Carson, Department Chair
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS + PUBLICATIONS

The Vanderbilt Historical Review is an undergraduate-run, peer-reviewed research journal that annually publishes substantive articles that demonstrate exemplary historical research, argumentation, and contribute uniquely to historical scholarship. Issue VIII of the Vanderbilt Historical Review, which was published this past May, featured a piece by recent graduate and winner of the Matilda Morrison Miller Award for the History of the Western United States Ariana Kretz ’24. Kretz’s piece “The Making of Female Martyrs in the Age of Revolutions” focused on the making of female martyrs in the United States, Haiti, and Colombia in the Age of Revolution (1775-1848), a period that expanded political and militaristic opportunities for women, but also saw much push back from patriarchal structures that sought to limit their gains. You can read her full piece here.

Ryan Gottschalk ’25 didn’t think his work researching queerness in Japanese American internment camps would see the light of day due to the lack of information available. He actually scrapped all of his work at one point and dove into learning more about the long-term economic effects of incarceration on Japanese Americans. It is thanks to his professor Pat Steenland, who taught his College Writing course, that we have this piece. She was the one who encouraged him to stick with it despite his initial setbacks. Gottschalk’s piece “Erased: An Exploration of Queer Japanese Americans’ Experience During the Internment Period,” which won the Charlene Conrad Liebau Library Prize for Undergraduate Research, highlights the both overtly and covertly queer lives of Japanese Americans during the internment period. When interviewed by the Bancroft Library, Charlene Conrad Liebau ‘60 stated, “While the Library Prize serves to recognize the work of students, I hope it also serves to encourage students to pursue an interest — to research in depth and to learn, as Ryan Gottschalk demonstrates. And perhaps, along the way, make a discovery and thus add to our body of knowledge.” You can read his full piece here.
This year’s University Medal, the highest honor awarded to a graduating senior, was awarded to our very own Chris Ying, a History and Mathematics double major.

While at UC Berkeley, Ying took advantage of the unique extracurriculars offered on campus — most notably, teaching math and editing news stories at San Quentin Rehabilitation Center, formerly known as San Quentin State Prison. There Ying, who aspires to become a lawyer, found that the narratives he had heard about inmates were far more complex than what he previously understood, ultimately being moved to write his senior thesis about how incarcerated people push for change and resist oppression from within prison. According to Berkeley News, in a letter recommending Ying for the University Medal, his thesis advisor David Henkin wrote, “I was especially impressed by the methodical interviews he conducted, which created from scratch an invaluable archive of inmate perspectives on the institution, but I also commended his eloquent account of the contributions of incarcerated men to the prison reform movement and his ability to frame findings about everyday life in San Quentin within the larger history of resistance to oppressive institutions and regimes.”

Alongside his time spent volunteering at San Quentin, Ying also found time to participate in UC Berkeley’s Mock Trial team, which he cited as one of the deciding factors in his decision to pursue a career in law over a career in STEM — something he had entered college contemplating. Mock Trial was the only organization he was a member of during every semester of his time spent at Berkeley. Most impressively, during the 2022-2023 National Championship tournament, Ying served as president of the Cal Mock Trial group, and although UC Berkeley’s team came in fifth place in its division, Ying was awarded All-American status, an individual award given to stand-out performers.

Ying also found purpose working for the Daily Californian, where he worked his way up from reporter to city editor to managing editor, even getting the opportunity to spend his last year focusing on diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives at the paper as their DEI hiring manager.

Outside of campus, Ying, a classically trained pianist, achieved one of his biggest goals. He used the time of forced isolation during lockdown to teach his mom how to play piano, a life-long goal of hers she had up until then not been given the opportunity to achieve.

Currently he is applying to law schools and working towards his dream of becoming a criminal defense attorney. To read more about Ying and his time on campus and what made him a standout choice for this year’s University Medal click here.
GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS + ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

LYDIA MATHEWS
CURRENT PH.D. STUDENT, NORTH AMERICA

Mathews was awarded the Edward E. Hildebrand Graduate Research Fellowship (May 15, 2024) and the John L. Simpson Pre-dissertation Research Fellowship in International and Area Studies (June 7, 2024) to conduct summer research in Montreal and Edinburgh, respectively, on the transnational history of the settlement movement, hygiene reform, and attitudes towards immigrant women’s mothering practices.

JACOB SMILEY
CURRENT PH.D. STUDENT, LATE MODERN EUROPE

Smiley was awarded the Princeton University Library Research Grant (2024) to conduct research at the Princeton University Library and the Silas Palmer Fellowship (2024) to conduct research at the Hoover Institution Library and Archives. Additionally he presented “Self-Management in Yugoslavia: Rethinking the Economy after the Tito-Stalin Split” at the 48th Annual Berkeley-Stanford Conference on Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies, Stanford University in March of 2024.

CLAIRE WRIGLEY
PH.D. ’24, LATE MODERN EUROPE

Newly graduated, Wrigley is off to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Virginia, stating “I could not have done it without my fantastic advisor, James Vernon, and my equally fantastic mentor, Caitlin Rosenthal.”

KEREN ZOU
CURRENT PH.D. STUDENT, NORTH AMERICA

Zou is currently in the process of writing a book review article for the Journal of American Ethnic History. This past year she also organized a panel titled “Immigration, Transnationalism, and Global Economy” at the 2024 American Historical Association (AHA) Annual Meeting in San Francisco. While there she gave a presentation based on her senior thesis about Chinese immigrants who worked in the Pacific fishing and canning industries from the 1880s to the 1930s.
Every year the Berkeley Staff Assembly puts out a call for submissions for their Excellence in Management (EIM) Award, which seeks to recognize leaders across campus who help their team create meaningful accomplishments. This year’s award theme was “Cultivating Staff, Harvesting Success: Recognizing Excellence in Management” and sought to highlight leaders who specifically have excelled in cultivating their staff, ultimately leading their team and the organization as a whole to success. This year our very own Director of Administration, Marianne Bartholomew-Couts (MBC), was awarded an EIM Award. To learn more about MBC and why she was awarded this prestigious honor, read the letter our HR Coordinator Laura Marostica wrote to nominate her for the award:

Marianne has been the department’s manager for over a decade, but the past two years has seen significant change in our staffing: 75% of staff have turned over in this interim. While this enormous shift has inevitably increased her workload considerably, Marianne has been tireless in her efforts to both welcome, train, and support her new staff while remaining a staunch advocate for the veteran History staff who have remained.

“Cultivating Staff, Harvesting Success” is a remarkably apt theme to describe Marianne’s efforts as a supervisor and manager: from the very earliest steps of the recruitment process, Marianne has an eye for each candidate’s potential and the ways their careers could blossom both in History and across campus. Once hired, she has a practice of consistently checking in with staff about their professional development goals and looking for ways to both cross-train within the department and use her campus contacts to provide staff with opportunities beyond History.

Under Marianne’s leadership, the History staff team has developed a culture of collaboration and support that seeks to share workload burden and consistently monitor for the possibilities of burnout or fatigue. Marianne is an advocate for each of her staff both within and outside the department - she is willing to push back on behalf of her staff if she senses disproportionate or unreasonable workload burden placed on them, even when that position or opinion leads to difficult conversations.

One remarkable aspect of Marianne’s skill as a manager is her ability to train toward excellence - workshopping material with her staff, holding standing meetings to check in, solve problems, and suggest new angles to difficult issues - without losing sight of the need for flexibility and support. Many of her staff have seen first hand the way Marianne moves rapidly to support staff who are experiencing new, challenging, or painful circumstances in their personal lives. She looks for flexibility and doesn’t hesitate to implement it, without faltering in her responsibility to keep the large machine that is History running, even when that means she herself takes on more.
GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH
2023-2024

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

ALEXANDRA COAKLEY spent time in the United States, Canada, France, and England researching global gay history.

SARAH LEE spent time researching for her project which examines the relationship between racial segregation and professional policing in California’s Central Valley during the long twentieth century.

JULIA FRANKENBACH spent time in Southern California and Mexico to continue her research on the history of the Spanish-occupied North American West with an emphasis on labor, colonialism, gender, and the environment.

MATTHEW KOVAC returned to Europe to explore Irish republican connections with left-wing militants across the continent, especially Palestinian and South African revolutionary groups.

COURTNEY BITHER traveled around the United States to continue her research which explores the relationship between the administrative state, religion, law, and education in the second half of the twentieth century.
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

VALENTINA VIKTOROVSKAIA studied the inter-communal relations between Jews from Western Russian provinces who constituted the majority of Jews in Baku during the oil boom and the local Mountain Jews and Kurdish Jews from the Ottoman Empire.

APARAJITA DAS explored environmental histories of the central Gangetic plains in the context of the Mughal Empire (1580-1790). In particular, it will study ecological change through the question of cash crops, social formations and the language of rights.

MASON HINSDALE traveled to Academia Sinica and Academia Historica in Taiwan to collect materials to shore up chapters for his current project.

ANDREW HARDY traveled to Taiwan to participate in a language program and complete an independent research project.

SEAN CRONAN focused on studying the political culture of the Yuan (1271-1368) and Ming (1368-1644) Empires specifically on the diplomatic envoys of the thirteenth through sixteenth centuries, asking how their experience abroad (in Korea, Vietnam, Japan, etc.) transformed how they understood the interstate order of the day.

CALVIN PAULSON traveled to Kenya and England to study the relationship between the colonial state of Kenya and other departments of the British Empire.
DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

2024 SENIOR SYMPOSIUM
AN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SHOWCASE

Each year graduating seniors gather to present their theses research to their peers during the Department of History’s Senior Symposium (formerly the 101 Circus). This year 30 undergraduate students presented their research with topics ranging from Taiwanese Identity in Literature and Film to Napoleon and Opera. Read a full selection of theses titles below!

| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
LUCIA ALVAREZ
B.A. ’23, HISTORY
LATE MODERN EUROPE

I was admitted into UCLA’s Ph.D. History program for Fall 2024 focusing on Late Modern German History. I also won the Eugene V. Cota-Robles Fellowship, and will be working with Professor Glenn Penny.

JAKE BERMAN
B.A. ’07, HISTORY

I have published, with the University of Chicago Press, *The Lost Subways of North America: A Cartographic Guide to the Past, Present and What Might Have Been*, an illustrated examination of what happened to public transport in North America compared to the rest of the world.

ERIC CARTER
B.A. ’94, HISTORY

My new book, *In Pursuit of Health Equity: A History of Latin American Social Medicine*, has just been published by the University of North Carolina Press. Even though I got a PhD in Geography, much of my research has been focused on the history of science, medicine, and public health in Latin America. I still haven’t forgotten all the important lessons I learned about historical research from Paula Fass, Waldo Martin, Tulio Halperin Donghi, James Gregory, and other members of the History department at Berkeley back in the early 1990s.

KAREN GUTHERTZ LIZARRAGA
BA ’60, HISTORY; VS, ’07–’08

I have added to my CV what can be considered a postscript to the autobiographical *Defining Postcolonialism: A San Francisco/Berkeley Perspective*. This time, a hand-crafted pamphlet, aptly titled “Articulating A Silence,” in a few short illustrated pages refers to the Sun Yat-Sen peace monument in San Francisco’s Chinatown and provides an answer to the question, “Is you is or is you ain’t a monument?”. The booklet can be found in the SFPL 6th floor vertical file on Sun Yat-Sen beneath the pamphlet published in 1937 under the auspices of the Down Town Association of San Francisco at the time the statue was presented publicly.
HAEJEONG HAZEL HAHN  
M.A. ’91; PH.D. ’08, HISTORY


GABRIEL LOIACONO  
BA ’98, HISTORY  
AMERICAN

In 2021, Oxford published my book *How Welfare Worked in the Early United States: Five Microhistories*. The book was dedicated to Berkeley PhD and Lecturer Caroline Cox, who mentored many at UCB, before she went on to a career at the University of the Pacific. This summer, I was promoted to Professor of History at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. Hello fellow alumni and current UCB historians!

JUDITH MARVIN  
B.A. ’62, HISTORY

I am an attorney, author, and writer who received a BA in history in 1959 and a JD in law in 1962 from the University of California, Berkeley. My work has been published in more than a dozen books and more than 200 articles. My recent books have dealt with aspects of Abraham Lincoln’s life and career, and received very good reviews. My most recent is *Lincoln and California: The President, the War, and the Golden State*, which was published by Potomac Books and the University of Nebraska Press in October 2023.

BRIAN MCGINTY  
B.A. ’59, HISTORY; J.D. ’62

This was an important year for my research, following the publication of my book *The Museum: A Short History of Crisis and Resilience* (NYU, 2022). My previous research was noted in the New Yorker, the Washington Post, the Boston Globe, and the New York Times.

SAM REDMAN  
PH.D. ’12, HISTORY
ADAM RITTER  
B.A. ’98, HISTORY

As an undergrad, I focused on contemporary history of the Pacific Rim. Later, I studied Mandarin Chinese, including a year of intensive study in Taiwan. With a JD/MBA, I practiced law, representing clients in transactional matters involving one or more parties doing business in or from Asia.

JENNIFER ROBIN TERRY  
PH.D. ’18, HISTORY

I am the president of the Western Association of Women Historians. My article, *Niños por la causa: Child Activists and the United Farm Worker Movement, 1965-1975*, was published in the Pacific Historical Review (Spring 2023), and won the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians prize for the best article in any field written by a woman scholar. To celebrate, the UC Press has made access to the article free for a limited time.

You can read more about Jennifer Robin Terry’s work and achievement [here](#).

TEHILA SASSON  
PH.D. ’15, HISTORY

My first book, *The Solidarity Economy: Nonprofits and the Making of Neoliberalism after Empire*, was published this May.

JACQUI SHINE  
PH.D. ’17, HISTORY

I recently published *Jail on Wheels: A Mid-20th-Century Scared Straight*, an essay about a Connecticut sheriff’s bizarre juvenile delinquency deterrence project in a collaboration with Chicago’s Half-Letter Press and Mariame Kaba. I am a term faculty member in the American Studies Program at DePaul University and a member of the board of the Gerber/Hart Library and Archive, the Midwest’s largest LGBTQ+ history collection.

ZOE SILVERMAN  
B.A. ’09, HISTORY  
WITH A MINOR IN LATIN

This June, I passed my doctoral qualifying exam and advanced to candidacy in the Learning Sciences and Human Development program at the Berkeley School of Education—exactly 20 years since I first stepped foot on Cal’s campus as an enrolled student. (My chair said I was the first student in the education department to invoke Beowulf during an exam! Thanks, Prof. Geoffrey Koziol!) I look forward to conducting dissertation field work in museums around Los Angeles next year and finally earning my blue tam and lollipop sometime after that.
HARRIET STEELE
B.A. ’19, HISTORY
WITH A MINOR IN PUBLIC POLICY;
J.D. ’22

I am a Staff Attorney with Public Counsel, a legal aid nonprofit based in Los Angeles. I represent unaccompanied minors in immigration proceedings.

ELLEN YUTZY GLEBE
PH.D. ’08, HISTORY
EARLY MODERN EUROPE

I have been working for the past decade as a freelance translator (German>English) and editor (English), for the past 3 years as the editorial assistant for the journal Archive for Reformation History. Links to my completed translation projects are available on my website. Getting ready to start translating a book to be published in conjunction with the 500th anniversary of the Peasants War.

WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER?

We want to hear from you!

Have you published a book? Recieved an award or accolade? Gotten a new position? Made a career change? We want to hear from you and would love to potentially highlight you in next year’s Summer Newsletter!

To submit a student or alumni note click here.
CLASS OF 2024

CONGRATULATIONS

CLASS OF 2024

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY

Maria Barreiros Almeida Reis
Noah Bender
Evan Fernandez
Daniel Friedman
Sara Rose Friedman
Sourav Ghosh
Elizabeth Hargrett
Blaze Lawson Joel
Jordan Thomas Mursinna
Brent Howitt Otto
Noah Isaac Ramage
Peter Vale
Russell L. Weber
Claire Patricia Wrigley
Christin Zurbach

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Luis Mario Allen
Micah-Luc Antonio Almeida
Alejandro Manuel Alvarez *
Sabrina Helana Arambula
Alex Ayala
Haneeyo Matias Barlis
Mia Jayne Barnard Solis
Sam Bernstein
Jack Besnoy
Binaca Marguerite Bibolet
Zalea An Bjorgum
Tori Lee Borges
Charyl Hannah Bowens
Linda P. Brambila
William Benjamin Brandt *
Nix Nicole Bukus
Sarah Caso *
Mariana Chávez-Aleman
McKenzie Emma Clark
Wyatt Clay
Kacie Lia Cosgrove *

*Phi Beta Kappa Member
CLASS OF 2024

BACHELOR OF ARTS (CONTINUED)

Angel Cuevas Garcia
Will Reid Dal Porto
Athena Aristeia Davis
Giuliano Donato De Fonte-Weiss
Clara de Goldsmith-Rothschild
Max Karl de Rocher de la Baume
Sarah Kathryn Degner
Andrew M. Devlin
Sarah Pamela Dillon
Olivia H. DiNapoli
Zacky Said Djawad
Xuanming Dong
Alec Zachery Earley
Conor Elerding
Hillary Rebekah Elliott
Jake W Pan
Brandon Folb
Andrew Fontan
Chloe Susanne Frank
William James Fuller
Isabel Grace Gallagher
Calvin Raymond Gallagher
Rahael Shosha George
Samantha Goodson
Brendan Barrett Goodwin
Sophia Rose Gorlato
Jonah Gottlieb
Osvaldo Granados
Andrew William Green
Honey Grace Guitierrez
Brian Alexander Hamilton
Berengar Cornelius Hebel
Marcela Berenice Hernandez
Jenny Hernandez Delgadillo
Brian Philip Ching-Shan Ho
Naomi Ho
Andrea Diane Hopf
Kilty Grace Huskinson
Amyla Patricia Jiménez
Nan Elizabeth Watkins Jorgensen
Andrey Antonovich Kapustin
Hrag Kyle Kassabian
Nathan Alexander Kayas
Javaria Khan
David Michael Kline
Bryan Songphon Knight
Ariana Elizabeth Perry Kretz *
Emily Nien Xue Lai

Azura Le Haynes
Dan Li
Anthony Zhantao Lin
Samantha Aura Lim
Tino Jirapat Limkhaewprasert
Yingyi Liu
Bella Lopez
Santiago Eduardo Lopez
Jennifer Lopez-Martinez
Sherry Lyu
Thais Muriel Macias
Steven Alexander Maisnik
Brandon Chou Mak
Adrian Martinez
Matthew Martinez
Marco Antonio Martinez-Elias
Lillian McAlister
Adam Daniel McGibney
Fiona McMahon
Melanie Deng Mei
Francesca Mejia
Lindsey Ann Mietus
Lia Mimun
Larisa Lisa Mkrtchyan
Diana Mondragon
Alexander Hrach Mooradian
Nick Stephen Moore
Ronan Joseph Morrill
Rosa Bradley Murphy *
Elliott Benjamin Nerenberg
Maria Juliana Newman
Kylie Thanh Duyen Nguyen
Hexin Ni
Solomon Eliot Heuermann Nichols *
Jiatai Niu
HannahLeah Nikohl Oeding
Joshua Ophir
Edwin Oroso
Krishna Parekh
Hannah Peebles
Mackenzie Taylor Perez
Liz Barajas Popham
Samuel Oliver Popkes
Jaclyn Crystal Quan
Luis Ramírez Reynoso

*Phi Beta Kappa Member
Brayan Ortiz Ramos  
Agustin M. Reiter  
Melanie Ysabell Rivera  
Adirah Rodriguez  
Vasiliki Katina Rousakis  
Elliott James Saam  
Mariam Sabawi  
Cesar Omar Sanchez Castaneda  
Divina DeCosmo Scholz  
Yangchicheng Shen  
Caleb Zachary Short

Clara Cahoon Silva  
Frank Sugar Bear Silva  
Kara Marie Smale *  
Ryen Colby Smith  
Alisa Steel  
Martin Glenn Swiadon  
Geyuan Tan  
Tobias Merlin Taylor  
Colton Frank Tedesco  
Corey L. Thomas  
Macey Tollefson

Taylor J. Valci  
Madeleine Vea  
Kayla Veloz  
David Villani  
Avery Lynn Wheless  
Tyler Harrison Wolfe  
Christopher Ying  
Emma Daye Younger  
Timothy Solomon Yue  
Haoyang Zhong  
Yushi Zhou

*Phi Beta Kappa Member
STUDENT PRIZES & HONORS

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Friends of Cal History Dissertation Prize
Hayley Rucker

Best Graduate Seminar Paper Prize
Carlotta Wright de la Cal

George T. Guttridge Prize for British or American Colonial History
Calvin Paulson

David Hollinger Prize for Intellectual History
Hu Hsu

Leon Litwack Graduate Essay Prize for African-American History
Kate Kuisel

Fred J. Martin American Political History Award
Russell L. Weber

UNDERGRADUATE

Friends of Cal History Thesis Prize
David Villani

Department Citation
David Villani

Leon Litwack Undergraduate Prize for African-American History
Alex Ayala

Matilda Morrison Miller Award for the History of the Western United States
Ariana Elizabeth Perry Kretz

Highest Honors
Alejandro Alvarez
Brendan Goodwin
Ariana Kretz
Rosa Murphy
David Villani

High Honors
Zalea A. Bjorgum
Clara De Goldsmith-Rothschild
Jonah Gottlieb
Agustin de Jesus
Andrey Kapustin
Hrag Kassabian
Emily Lai
Fiona McMahon
Hannah Peebles
Kara Smale
Madeline Vea
Timothy Yue

Honors
Sarah Delaney Degner
Ronan Morrill
Maria Newman
Emma Younger
Dear friends,

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the death of Frank Sugar Bear Silva (UCB ’23). Frank passed away in Delano, California on May 22, 2024. He was 28 years old. During his time in the History Department, Frank made numerous contributions, big and small, to our community. “It was always a joy to see Frank’s excitement for history and learning shine through,” recalls Undergraduate Major Advisor Cassandra Castillo. In class, Frank’s unique combination of curiosity, dedication, and willingness to tackle even the most challenging assignments made him a pleasure to teach. Professor Brian DeLay, with whom Frank took two U.S. history courses, recalls that Frank “stood out because of the wonderful questions he asked, and his intense commitment to and interest in the material.” But he especially stood out on account of his transparent, unmissable kindness. “He radiated kindness, decency, and gentleness,” recalls Professor DeLay, “we need more of all of that in the world, and Frank gave more than his fair share toward fixing the deficit for the rest of us.” Frank “embodied kindness with every fiber of his being,” close friend, Andrea Hopf (UCB ’24), echoes. “His smile lit up every classroom he walked into,” reflects classmate Frannie Meija (UCB ’23), “and I’ll never forget how Frank went out of his way to express kind words to me after class one day—it meant the world to me.”

Frank's passion for history ran broad and deep. He took several classes on the Roman Empire, Early North America, and Modern Latin America; he explored the vibrant salons of Early Modern Europe and the grim courtrooms of 1970s Los Angeles. In class, Frank was often reserved and a little shy at first but then he slowly and surely emerged. “It was thrilling to watch Frank discover what a great mind he had,” reflects Professor Susanna Elm, “and what it feels like to let a mind operate at full speed!” Whenever “unexpected” topics arose—for instance, eunuchs' increasingly important role as advisors and guardians in the Roman Empire Frank would look at the professor “with an expression that said “What??? Really? Are you kidding??” and then begin to think deeply about what it all might mean. He brought the same intrepid attitude to Professor Jonathan Sheehan’s famously rigorous course on the Enlightenment. The class was “a very tough one,” Frank admitted to Prof. Sheehan, and he often felt a bit lost. But not only did Frank stick with it, he picked up a new book on the topic after the semester had ended: “I’m not giving up on the Enlightenment!” Frank told Professor Sheehan. In Professor Rebecca McLennan’s senior thesis seminar, Frank tackled a deeply upsetting and methodologically complex topic, drawing on his archival research in Los Angeles to recover the once-silenced voices of the twelve Chicanas who, in 1978, sued LA County, the State of California, and the federal government for having forcibly sterilized them.

Frank pushed himself hard, both to understand complex historical problems and to improve his skills as a historian. Professor Rebecca Herman could count on finding Frank sitting in the front row, listening intently to her lectures, and he almost always emailed her some probing questions after class. He frequently attended faculty office hours, and spoke honestly and forthrightly about the challenges of reading deeply, writing well, and overcoming crises of confidence. Occasionally, faculty caught a glimpse of Frank’s other passions, including his love of music and his aspiration to play bass guitar—something that he did in fact pursue after graduation. Frank more than earned the honors with which he graduated earlier this year.

Frank Sugar Bear Silva is survived by his mother and father, sisters Valerie S. Castillo (Jorge) and Vanna M. Silva (AJ), beloved nephews Augustine Popoy, Cruz Castillo, niece Viviana Popoy and his dog Bronco (Bruno). If you would like to contribute a memory to the virtual memorial for Frank, you can do so here.

Sincerely,
Rebecca McLennan
SAVE THE DATE

History Homecoming
Thursday, November 7th • 5pm
Pauley Ballroom in the MLK Building
Donors play a critical role in the ways we are able to sustain and enhance the teaching and research mission of the department. The History Annual Fund is utilized in the following ways:

- Travel grants for undergraduates researching the material for their senior thesis projects
- Graduate summer fellowships (often used to support research travel or language study)
- Conference travel for graduate students who are presenting papers or interviewing for jobs
- Prizes for the best dissertation and undergraduate thesis
- Equipment for the graduate computer lab
- Work-study positions for instructional support
- A graduate space coordinator position

Most importantly, the History Annual Fund allows the department to direct funding to students in any field of study, so that the money can be have the most impact. This unrestricted funding allows us to enhance our multi-year funding package so that we can continue to focus on maintaining the quality that is defined by a Berkeley degree.

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