

Past and Present

Newsletter of the CSB+SJU History Department

Greetings from the History Department!

I'm happy to announce that the Tegeder-Berg Society celebrated our first in-person event since fall 2019. Held on campus on the Monday after Homecoming, Professors Ken Jones and Shannon Smith interviewed four CSB and SJU alums from the early 1970s about their experiences as student leaders in a time of challenge. The alum panelists were Nancy Frost Belmont '74, Patricia Radloff Welter '70, David Van Landschoot '72 and Chester McCoy '72. Conversation was lively and many current students stayed after the formal event to talk more with the panelists. If you missed the simultaneous webinar, you can view the roundtable here: <https://alumlc.org/csbsju/22683>.

Please look for announcements for upcoming Tegeder-Berg Society events. We plan to roll out new types of events for alums as well as maintain our current schedule of one public presentation per semester. Details to follow soon.

I hope to see you all in person at our spring event.

Best,

Brian Larkin
History Department Chair



ALUMNA SPOTLIGHT: LORI NOHNER, CSB '11

Lori Nohner, class of 2011 history major alum, was always interested in history, but started out as a management major. This changed when she went home for Christmas break her first year. Her mom asked if she liked management. Lori responded, "No, I like history better," and just like that she switched to history.



Lori especially enjoyed an Intro to Public History class she took her junior year. The class opened her eyes to the different professions she could pursue with a history major, and even showed her the job of a museum curator, which was the job she ended up getting! Lori also enjoyed a historiography class with Dr. Schroeder. She claimed that it "prepared me best for graduate coursework and is a topic that comes up often in the museum world." Another experience that helped her gain skills was an internship at the North Dakota State Archives. The research she did, as well as dealing with unlabeled materials in the archives, helped her develop problem solving skills she still uses today. When asked about advice for current or potential CSB+SJU history majors, Lori replied, "I would tell current students who have an interest in Public History to get as much hands-on experience as they can." She added that there are many county historical societies in MN that would love interns. She concluded, "Archival and museum collections care is a learn-by-doing job and learning from current professionals is the best way to do it."

Today Lori is the Assistant Curator at the North Dakota State Historical Society in Bismarck. This entails "Cataloging new donations, caring for objects in storage, and preparing artifacts to go on exhibit." Lori also claims that her history major helped her ask the 'why' and 'how do we know' questions that are essential in her work. These questions arise when new artifacts or items are brought to the museum, and Lori has to determine if the object is important and how it can be displayed or presented within the museum.

SUMMER INTERNSHIP AT HMML: CLAIRE KOURI, CSB '24



I had the wonderful opportunity to work at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library (HMML) on the Saint John's University campus as an intern this summer. There, I was able to work hands-on with rare books, namely *The Saint John's Bible* and a collection of printed books in Syriac and Classical Armenian. I worked with the public, giving tours of *The Saint John's Bible*. I also designed exhibits in both *The Saint John's Bible Gallery* and HMML's Reading Room. I learned about the importance of preserving culture and the team effort it takes to do so. HMML is truly a team atmosphere. Although I was an intern, I was treated as a colleague: I was given real work and had experiences that will benefit my future career endeavors. Not only did I work with the incredible full-time curators and staff at HMML, I also worked closely with two other Bennies this summer, senior Catie Parker and Junior Hannah Weldon. One of the highlights of my summer was when HMML co-hosted with Dumbarton Oaks in Washington D.C. a month-long language

intensive. Students came from all over the world to learn and advance their understanding of the Syriac and Classical Armenian languages. I study Greek and Latin here, so it was interesting to speak with other people who do as well. Many of the students knew several languages, with one student even admitting that he had studied thirty to forty over his life. It was inspiring to see the university and HMML from their global perspective. Over the summer I grew to love CSBSJU in a new way. This campus holds such a rich history that I had so easily missed during my first two years on campus. There are resources everywhere. HMML is only one of many. Get to know where you are. You may find your new favorite thing right under your nose. I recommend everyone to visit *The Saint John's Bible* and HMML's Reading Room. Go on an architectural tour of the campuses! Visit the Archives. History exists all around us, sometimes it just takes a different perspective to recognize it.

Submitted by: Claire Kourie, CSB '24

STUDENT EMPOWERMENT IN A TIME OF CHALLENGE



This year's Tegeder Berg Society event sought to remember and honor the experiences of alums from 50 years ago with a conversation about both the "Time of Challenge" they experienced and the "Student Empowerment" they displayed. Panelists Patricia Radloff Welter '70, Chester McCoy '72, David Van Landschoot '72, and Nancy Frost Belmont '74 responded to each other and to questions raised by History professors Shannon Smith and Ken Jones.

The conversation swirled around topics like the apparently arbitrary rules on student behavior and an irrelevant curriculum, violence and racism at home, the war in Vietnam, and the emergence of the women's movement from the ERA through *Roe v. Wade*. Patricia explained her participation in the Community Education Project, which varied the curriculum by allowing students to design an independent study focused on examples of living in community, while also shaking up the strict sex segregation by allowing CSB and SJU

students to live "in proximity" off campus. As one of the early American Black students and the first from Saint Louis, Chester discussed his sense of alienation on arriving in Collegeville in 1968 (in a state where the 1960 census recorded only 1.8% of the population as "non-white"). He talked about the reasons why a younger group of Black students occupied the SJU President's office in November 1970, and the connections he built with a variety of people over time. David was the SJU student body president in 1970-71, and because of new efforts to include students, he was part of the conversation in the SJU Executive Governing Board about how to respond to the sit-in. Both men discussed how the war in Vietnam and their draft status affected decisions they made. Nancy discussed the evolution of restrictive rules at CSB, and how her college experience affected the more conservative Catholic tenets she had learned from her parents. She also emphasized how being a woman who liked exercise made her a distinct minority when she arrived, and her joy in being able to play on CSB's first intercollegiate basketball team in her senior year.

Audience questions at the end were spectacular, with lots of focus on what if any guidance the past offers us in our current "Time of Challenge." One person summed up the message as "community, building coalitions, prioritizing what is important, and utilizing each other's strengths."

Submitted by: Dr. Ken Jones and Dr. Shannon Smith

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. DEREK LARSON

Dr. Derek Larson is a History and Environmental Studies professor at CSB+SJU and has worked here for 23 years, since earning his Ph. D from Indiana University. Derek started college as a biology major, but found the subject less engaging than he'd hoped, so he took a history class to change things up. The relevancy of the class, as well as having discussions instead of just lectures, drew him to study history instead; he ultimately ended up double-majoring in History and Religious Studies as an undergrad. However, the science portion of Derek's life never left, as his favorite class to teach now is US Environmental History, which combines his two early passions.



Outside of teaching, Dr. Larson enjoys staying busy with many hobbies. He loves to travel, and has been to all 50 states, as well as most of the Canadian provinces. When he was younger, his family traveled constantly within the US visiting historical sites, which Derek does with his family now. Besides travel, Derek also plays guitar, woodworks, fishes, reads, and is even writing two novels right now! Additionally, he published a history book on

environmental politics and culture in Oregon in 2016 and is now developing a digital resource about the 1918 influenza pandemic.

When asked if he had any advice for CSB+SJU students who could potentially become History Majors, Dr. Larson replied, "You can do a lot more than teach history with a History Major!" Derek always wanted to be a professor, but he also said that there are historians working many different jobs across America. "People with history degrees have turned their skills in critical thinking, analysis, and oral/written communication into careers that aren't directly connected to history," Derek explained. He ended by stating, "Find something that interests you about the past, explore it, and develop a skill set that you can rely on for the rest of your life."

To add one final push for students considering a History Major/Minor, Dr. Larson talked about a former colleague who said, "History is the mother of all disciplines," which Larson took to mean that historians need to know a little bit about everything. Politics, science, culture, economics, art, architecture, sociology, and many more fields are all necessary to fully understand the past! "If you're curious about the past and like to mix things up a bit intellectually, history is a great way to do it!"

Co-editors: Claire Kouri, CSB '24 and Jackson May, SJU '24

CLIO'S CORNER



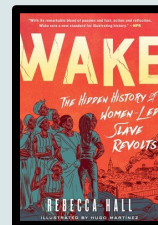
It's Clio's favorite time of year—advising! This is when she looks forward to indoctrinat—I mean, *meeting* all sorts of new History students!

It's also coming up on our Connections XPO where some of our alums discuss their jobs and how studying History helped them become the successes they are today. Clio is so excited and honored to welcome Ashley Bukowski, Steph Haeg, and Christine Quinones, an Associate

Attorney, Archives Technician, and Clinical Researcher, respectively. Well-behaved women rarely make history, so Clio knows she's in good company!

Submitted by: Dr. Elisheva Perlman

BOOK / PODCAST RECOMMENDATIONS



I recommend Rebecca Hall's graphic novel/memoir [Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts](#) for folks who are interested in exploring not only the history of women-led slave revolts in North America and aboard slave ships during the Transatlantic Slave Trade, but also wish to see a skilled historian at work, who skillfully explores how the past continues to influence and shape the present. [Wake](#) is also available as an [audio play on Audible](#).

Recommended by Dr. Jonathan Merritt-Nash



My podcast recommendations bring historical women to the fore. First, historian Hallie Rubenhold deconstructs the myths and mystique of Jack the Ripper story by reconsidering the victims. Too often dismissed as "prostitutes," in *Bad Women: The Ripper Retold*, Rubenhold analyzes what that means and why two centuries have done little to give these women their humanity. She looks at how the definition and subsequent dismissal of "sex work" condemns women for attempting to survive, while concurrently exploring the lives of these women before they gained immortality posthumously. It's a deep dive into the dirt of London's East End, and the grittiness goes well beyond the environment she recreates.



Comedian Jamie Loftus, though not by training a historian, does an entertaining job of exploring the history of Spiritualism, the religious movement dating back in America to the Fox Sisters' spirit rapping. Though not a believer and a consummate humorist, Loftus' journalistic inquisitiveness is never mean-spirited (no pun intended) and while she does note the personal failings of her subjects, both historical and contemporary, she does not do so condescendingly or cruelly. Loftus has other podcasts, about *Mensa*, *Nabokov's Lolita*, and the comic strip, *Cathy*, and I'd recommend all of them, but *Ghost Church* is just the perfect blend of history and travelogue and humor with a soupçon of the paranormal.

Recommended by Dr. Elisheva Perlman

ALUM SPOTLIGHT: QUINTON JOHNSON, SJU '19

Quinton Johnson, a 2019 CSB+SJU history alum, was always drawn to history. "Growing up, I was always obsessed with history. From books to TV, basically all media I consumed was somehow connected to history." So, when he took Europe Since 1750, he knew for sure that he wanted to major in history.

Johnson's favorite CSB+SJU history course was The Invention of Race in the 19th Century United States (now titled Race and the Law in US History) with Dr. Shannon Smith. This course was very impactful for him both academically and professionally as it "became the foundation for my Senior thesis, which examined the role of gender in the Convict Leasing System in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. This is especially relevant in the policy work I do now in the House of Representatives. It is so important to understand context when examining current public policy."



For students considering a history major, Johnson says to "do it!" The skills he developed as a CSB+SJU history major are still relevant in his life today. "I use the writing, communication, and comprehension skills taught in the History major every day."

He also stresses their relevance in his career: "there is no replacing these skills as a professional and investing them in college will take you a long way in whatever career path you pursue." Johnson proves that history majors get great jobs! He is currently a Legislative Aide and Correspondent for Congresswoman Betty McCollum in Washington, D.C. Johnson credits his success in the political world to his training in history. "My History major motivated me to become more involved politically. Learning about this country's past and then seeing some of the same moments repeat prompted me to get involved and try to make change where I saw the best opportunity."

Co-editors: Claire Kouri, CSB '24 and Jackson May, SJU '24

SUMMER AND FALL EVENTS



**Summer Social at Utepils
with History faculty and alums
July 2022**



**Throwback party with majors, minors,
and friends of History
September 2022**



**Tegeder Berg Roundtable
October 2022**

Still to come:

- **Haunted History party**
- **Senior thesis presentation entitled, "Edith Bolling Wilson: Doting Wife, Badass Feminist, Underminer of Democracy" by Lillian Brudwick.**

PODCAST RECOMMENDATIONS

Now & Then: This podcast by U.S. historians Heather Cox Richardson and Joanne Freedman is always interesting. They look at contemporary issues in U.S. life and trace their history, and I learn something new from them in every episode!



The Constant: A History of Getting Things Wrong. This podcast by playwright Mark Chrisler is fantastic. As the title suggests, he dives into various histories of "getting things wrong" from the ancient world to the present, and it's completely fascinating.



Recommended by Dr. Brittany Merritt Nash