



## History Department Newsletter 2022

The University of Maine

### Alumni Spotlight: Mary Copeland

**Mary Copeland is this year's Alumni Spotlight. Mary was kind enough to share reflections on her career, her time at UMaine, and the importance of her History B.A. Mary also gave this spring's keynote address at the History Department Award Ceremony.**



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I am currently the Managing Director of Lippman Jungers Bala, LLC. I'm a legal recruiter so I tap into the skills I gained as a history student when I'm researching the market. I spend a lot of time targeting a very specific type of lawyer, generally those who do transactional corporate finance work in New York, for a particular set of firms known as "Big Law" firms. The process looks like this – I partner with certain firms who outline who/what they are looking for and, after an exhaustive amount of research on my end, I present them with a list of potential law firm partner candidates. With their approval, I will cold call each of these partners and make an overture on behalf of the firm who I've partnered with. When a prospective partner says yes, I act as their agent and help them navigate the very lengthy interview and compensation negotiation process with said new law firm.

There are a lot of different types of jobs you can have after obtaining a degree in history and I think you'll find that the skills you gained in undergrad (researching, writing persuasive essays and papers, etc.) will come in handy more than you think. The ability to read, analyze, and convey your thoughts concisely is a skillset you'll use no matter what you decide to do after college and I think as a history major we flex that skillset more than other majors.

I've always been drawn to history. History and social studies were my favorite subjects growing up so when I had the freedom to decide in college what I wanted to study more in-depth history felt like a natural choice. My favorite history class was my capstone (HTY 498 with Dr. McKillen) – I loved the freedom to pick a subject I found interesting, the topic I chose was how the media's portrayal of the Tet Offensive ultimately made Lyndon Johnson not run for re-election in 1968. I felt empowered by the whole experience – having the time and guidance to explore a historical topic of my own choosing, and coming up with my own analysis, is still one of my fondest academic memories. I find the 1960s and 1970s particularly interesting – there was a lot of turmoil and social change happening during that time under the

additional complicated backdrop of the Vietnam War. In a lot of ways, I think there are similarities between that period of time and now.

## Notes from the Chair

By Stephen Miller

“What a long, strange trip it’s been!” I’ve always wanted to start the Newsletter with a quote from the Grateful Dead, and perhaps there hasn’t been a better time to do it. Spring was a very challenging semester for all of us here in Orono. The masks finally came off but the stress and strain of two years of a pandemic really hit us hard. Students, staff, and faculty struggled with the physical, psychological, and economic impact. The contentious domestic political situation, which shows no sign of diminishing, has made things even worse. In late February, Russia invaded its neighbor, Ukraine, and Vladimir Putin tried to convince us that the Ukrainian people had no history and culture of their own. Just yesterday, May 2, as the death toll continued to rise, Sergei Lavrov, the Russian Foreign Minister, went on Italian television and tried to paint the Ukrainians as Nazis and likened their President, Volodymyr Zelensky, to Adolf Hitler, who he claimed “also had Jewish blood.” All of you graduated with History degrees from our program and, I’m sure, could immediately recognize the antisemitic tropes and know that this kind of rhetoric is hateful and false.

Through it all, our faculty and students have continued to do what we love to do – study history. This year’s Phi Alpha Theta induction and awards ceremony was a fantastic event despite the many hurdles we had to overcome. Assistant Professor Asif Nawaz, the head of our Department Life Committee, took ill in March (He’s doing much better!). Professor Liam Riordan stepped in for him but then had to withdraw a few days before the event (He has recovered!). Assistant Professor Joel Anderson snuck away from his newborn (Congratulations!) and played emcee to welcome perhaps our biggest celebration of undergraduates, graduate students, family, and friends. Joel introduced the event’s keynote speaker, one of our Alumni, Mary (Emmi) Copeland, who is the Managing Director of Lippman Jungers Bala, a global legal recruiting firm. Mary graduated in 2011 with a BA in History. Mary fondly remembered her capstone project on the Cold War, supervised by Professor Beth McKillen, and shared with us her journey navigating the “real world” with a degree in History which took her from Orono to Brooklyn and, happily, back to Maine again.

Among our many honorees was Tom Pinette who received the Ronald F. Banks Scholarship. Delaney Colson and Hannah Whitley received the Caroline Colvin Scholarship which honors a distinguished historian and the first woman to chair a department at the University of Maine. The John J. Nolde Memorial Prize in Asian History went to Chris Duplisea and Sean Staton. Chapman Hall and Lauren Potter won the Roger B. Hill Scholarship; Sadie Richardson, the Laurence Evans ’51 Fund award; and Townsend Larmore, the Charles J. Dunn Trust Award. Among our graduate students, Dylan O’Hara won the Ipsen-Weiner Memorial Scholarship; Maggie Kontra-Emmens, the Canadian-American Center Fellowship; and, Darcy Stevens, the New England-Atlantic Provinces-Quebec Fellowship (Darcy also won the Frances Robinson Mitchell Scholarship). The Bowen Scholarship in Canadian History went to Joseph Wroblewski.

The Department of History requires all of its students to research, write, and present a capstone project. Students often tell us that this experience is one of their most rewarding at the University of Maine. As it turned out, the two themes of this year’s capstones both concentrated on the Twentieth Century. At the ceremony, we presented the Outstanding Senior Thesis Awards to Sadie Richardson who researched Protestant Churches which aligned themselves with Hitler in Nazi Germany, and to Margaret Campbell whose thesis was entitled, “Palestine: The Idea Versus the Reality for Foreigners and on the Homefront.” We also presented the inaugural *Black Bear Undergraduate History Journal* Essay Award. The graduate students, led by Evan Zarkadas and

Dylan O'Hara, created this wonderful forum for undergraduates to present their work, and Tom Pinette's paper on the German American Bund was recognized. More information about the journal can be found at <https://sites.google.com/maine.edu/blackbearughistoryjournal/home>.

I want to again thank everyone for their support of the History Department at the University of Maine. Whenever you are in Orono, please stop by the office to say hello, take a look at the capstone posters on the walls of the second and third floors, and please consider coming to next year's awards ceremony!

### **Celebrating the Career of Dr. Elizabeth McKillen**



Elizabeth McKillen retired this summer, after teaching 30 years in the history department at the University of Maine. During her long career here, McKillen regularly taught a two-semester sequence in U.S. foreign relations history that covered the period from the American Revolution to the present, graduate classes in the U.S. and international affairs, U.S. working-class and labor history, a course she crafted on Robber Barons, Reformers, and Radicals of the U.S. Gilded Age and Progressive Era, the second half of the U.S. history survey, and varied research seminars required by the department. In contrast to more traditional foreign relations historians, McKillen's foreign relations classes encouraged students to define the field broadly to include not just

policymakers and diplomats but also private actors engaged in significant exchanges with people in other societies, ranging from business and corporate leaders, to missionaries, pioneers, social reformers, labor activists, and NGOs. She believes that historians and students of U.S. foreign relations history can play an especially important role in making both policymakers and the American public more aware of the phenomenon of "blowback," or of the unintended consequences of past U.S. interventions in other countries, whether of a political, military, economic or cultural nature, and their role in shaping contemporary international problems. She suggests for example, that President George W. Bush's question after the attacks on 9/11 about "Why Do They Hate Us" cannot be fully answered without considering how the U.S. and Britain betrayed Arab Nationalism at the end of World War I, and how they subsequently dominated the oil industry in the Middle East. McKillen notes that her working-class and labor history courses, while generally smaller than foreign relations classes, have regularly attracted students interested in social justice and workers' rights issues. She is proud that several students from her labor history classes have gone on to play leading roles in teachers' unions and in the Black Lives Matter Movement.

During her time at UMaine, McKillen published two books on U.S. labor internationalism that have been widely praised by reviewers and more than two dozen scholarly journal articles in the fields of diplomatic, labor, and diaspora history. She is currently working on a third book she has tentatively titled "Contesting Colonized Lives: Women of the Transatlantic Irish Left and the Irish Revolution, 1916-1923." McKillen will miss the creativity and humor of UMaine students, but will enjoy having more time to spend in Irish archives completing her third book as well as in Irish pubs discussing international affairs.

### \*\*\*Faculty Updates\*\*\*

**Mary T. Freeman's** article, "Seeking Abolition: Black Letter Writers and the Pennsylvania Abolition Society in the Era of Graduate Emancipation," will be published in the *Journal of the Early Republic* later this year. Professor Freeman will be participating in an NEH Institute on "Civil War Archives: A New Social and Cultural History" at Gettysburg College this June. She also gave public presentations for the North Yarmouth Historical Society and Sunrise Senior College on the history of abolition and the Underground Railroad in Maine. And finally, Professor Freeman has continued to work with the graduate student editors on the publication of *Maine History*. They are currently planning a women's history themed issue for publication in Fall 2022.

**Nathan Godfried's** scholar-activist research was published in *Left History*, titled "Social Unionism and the Popular Front: The Cambridge Union of University Teachers, 1935-1941."

**Anne Knowles** is concluding four years of research on the Holocaust Ghettos Project. Funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities supported her collaboration with UMaine undergraduates, History graduate students, and colleagues at Duke and Washington University at St. Louis. They are now analyzing and mapping data on over 1,100 Jewish ghettos in Eastern Europe, with the goal of developing a new, more detailed understanding of the many kinds of ghettos and how their form and duration affected Jews chances of survival. Anne is also doing summer field research at Holocaust sites in the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, and Czech Republic, thanks to a UMaine Faculty Research Award.

**Elizabeth McKillen** published, "Neither Lenin nor Wilson: The Evolving Anti-Imperialism of Three Women of the Transatlantic Irish Left, 1916-1923," chapter in *The Irish Revolution: A Global History*, edited by Patrick Mannion and Fearghal Patrick McGarry (New York: New York University Press, May 2022). She also published a review of Francis Carroll's *America and the Making of an Independent Ireland*, H-Net and H-Diplo, August 2021. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=56518>

Another highlight of the year was her participation as an expert on the 1919 influenza pandemic in a webinar on "The History of Resilience: Using History to Find Hope During COVID in 2022," for the Healthy Life Resources series sponsored by Acadia Hospital on March 24, 2022.

**Stephen M. Miller** published an article entitled, "'Politics, the Press, and the Royal Commission on the War in South Africa,'" in the *International Journal of Military History and Historiography*. He has also been busy editing *The Military Papers of Field Marshal Sir George White 1885-1900: Upper Burma, India, and South Africa* for the Army Records Society.

**Kara A. Peruccio** gave the talk, entitled, "At a Crossroads: Italian and Turkish Suffrage, Authoritarianism, and the International Woman Suffrage Alliance 1926 Congress in Paris," for the Wake Forest University Department of History's "History Homecoming Lecture Series" in October 2021. She presented the paper, "Sisters on the Margins: Turkish and Italian Suffrage Activism, 1923-1935," at the Consortium for European Symposia on Turkey (CEST) meeting in Naples in November 2021. With Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, she co-organized the "Gender, Politics, and Praxis" lecture series, hosting historians Diana Sierra Becerra of UMass-Amherst and Mona Siegel of Sacramento State. Lastly, she received funding from the McGillicuddy Humanities Center to conduct archival research in Milan, Italy and present a paper at the British Society for Middle Eastern Studies Annual Meeting, held in St. Andrews, Scotland in June and July 2022.

### \*\*\*Graduate Student Updates\*\*\*

**Savannah Clark**, who graduated with her MA in History from UMaine this spring, wrote her thesis on northern New England women during the Civil War. This summer she is interning with the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center as part of their Maine Government Summer Internship Program, where Savannah will be cataloging graves in China, Maine. This fall she will matriculate into the History Department's Ph.D. program and will take over as HGSA's Secretary.

**Joseph Collard** successfully defended his Master's thesis on April 14th, 2022, titled "Prophets of Pong: How Newspapers Covered Video Games between 1972 to 1976." He was also hired in March of 2022 as the Head of Library Technologies and Innovation at Fogler Library.

**Greg Gaines**, Ph.D. student, passed his comprehensive exams and is developing his dissertation on the cultural influence of Scandinavian Studies scholars around the turn of the twentieth century. He has also been getting lots of teaching experience as a TA and instructor in the History and Franco-American Studies departments.

**Brittany Goetting** successfully defended her Ph.D. dissertation this past April. She has accepted the position of Assistant Professor of History at the University of Pikeville in Pikeville, Kentucky and will begin in the fall.

**Justus Hillebrand** received his doctorate in co-tutelage with the University of Cologne last summer and is now the proud business owner of Digital History Consulting, Inc. He provides professional yet approachable consulting, collaboration, and research services for all skill levels and all stages of digital history projects with a focus on database development. Many of his skills he developed working for his advisor Anne Knowles, which has among others led to a constant engagement as contract Database Manager for the Applied Research Division of the Mandel Research Center of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He is always happy to chat about digital history projects with students and colleagues at UMaine. Find more information at [digitalhistoryconsulting.com](http://digitalhistoryconsulting.com).

**Dee Marasco** is an M.A. student and incoming HGSA Treasurer for the 2022-2023 academic year. Dee's thesis research will focus on Medieval religious history and she loves spending time with her cats, Tofu and Dijon. Dee is also the owner of a prolific plant collection and loves hiking and camping.

**Jennifer Munson** is an M.A student planning to finish her degree in fall of 2022. She has been a part of the History Department for six years now, having also completed her bachelor's degree in History at UMaine. In February, Jennifer started her career in history as the Operations Manager at the Cole Land Transportation Museum in Bangor. It has been her dream to work for a Museum and to see her placed at its helm is very exciting news. She is hoping to create several opportunities for students in the department, starting with a paid internship that begins this summer.

**An Thuy Nguyen**, Ph.D. candidate, recently gave a public lecture in April on "The Nixon Doctrine and Student Opposition in South Vietnam" to the Saigon Social Sciences Hub and students and faculty members of Fulbright University in Vietnam. Fulbright is a private university funded by the U.S. Congress, the U.S. State Department and Harvard Kennedy School, and is located in Ho Chi Minh City. This April, An was also awarded the Margaret W. Moore and John M. Moore Research Fellowship to conduct four weeks of archival research at the Swarthmore College Peace Collection in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania this June. An is actively writing her dissertation, which she hopes to complete and defend by December 2022.

**Dylan O'Hara**, Ph.D. student, has almost completed her first year as Editor of the *Maine History Journal*, which is currently working on a women's history themed issue. Dylan's dissertation research focuses on the

uneven urban development in 20th century Boston and leftist resistance to divestment. She completed her comprehensive exams in November and in January was a panelist at a national city planning conference, TransitCon, where she gave a talk titled “Urban History & Planning the Future: What Historians Lend to Rebuilding Equitable American Cities.” Dylan was awarded the Ipsen-Weiner Memorial Scholarship by the Department, and this summer she will begin archival research in Boston. Dylan will continue her second year as the Chief Editor of the *Black Bear Undergraduate History Journal*.

**Darcy Stevens**, Ph.D. Student, has had a productive and rewarding year. She has presented at the Penobscot Valley Senior College and the Colonial Society of Massachusetts Graduate Student Forum. She completed her comprehensive exams in October 2021. She is currently preparing to present papers at the Massachusetts Historical Society and the Atlantic Canada Studies Conference. She has been awarded funding for these conferences by the Graduate Student Government and the History Department's Charles J. Dunn Grant respectively. Her work was published in *The Beehive*, the blog of the Massachusetts Historical Society in June 2021. She was awarded the 2022 Francis Robinson Mitchell Scholarship by the History Department and the New England-Atlantic Provinces-Quebec Fellowship by the Canadian-American Center for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023. Stevens was selected to join a panel of scholars discussing public scholarship for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence by the Omohundro Institute. During the summer of 2022, she will be the first Patricia L. Hutchins Endowed Intern with the Wilson Museum in Castine Maine. She has been the Book Review Editor for *Maine History* since 2019. Stevens’ research focuses on allegiance and neutrality in the Northeast Borderlands of Maine-Nova Scotia-Quebec during the American Revolution.

**Evan Zarkadas**, from Portsmouth, RI, received his BA in History and Political Science from the University of Maine at Presque Isle in 2020, and in Spring 2022 he received his MA in History from the University of Maine. His thesis focused on identity and ethnicity in 14th-century Byzantium and the effects of regional separatism. Evan has recently accepted a position as a high school history teacher in Providence, RI where he plans on teaching for a few years, while also working towards a second master's degree in teaching (MAT). After that, Evan's plan is to apply to a Ph.D. program in history in order to study the effects of the environment and landscape on the formation of identities.

**The History Graduate Student Association** virtually hosted the UMaine-UNB Graduate Student Conference this past March, organized by Evan Zarkadas, Dee Marasco, and Christine Liu. The conference, titled “Unheard Voices in History” hosted 23 presenters across 6 panels, and was moderated by UMaine graduate students. HGSA thanks Mark McLaughlin for his valuable guidance and the Canadian American Center for sponsoring the keynote speaker for the conference, Dr. Angela Tozer from the University of New Brunswick.

The *Black Bear Undergraduate History Journal* is hard at work on its spring 2022 issue, which was published in July. If undergraduate history majors would like to submit their work, please email [ughistoryjournal@maine.edu](mailto:ughistoryjournal@maine.edu). The *BBUHJ* editorial team is lucky to continue working with Dylan O’Hara, Evan Zarkadas, and Savannah Clark. The team welcomed David Coombs to the team this spring. The *BBUHJ* also gave out its Best Essay Award of AY ‘21-’22 to Tom Pinette, and the editorial team thanks the History Department for all of its support!

HGSA and the graduate student community has also elected a new Executive Board for the 2022-2023 academic year. Christine Liu will be President, David Coombs will be Vice President, Dee Marasco will be Treasurer, Savannah Clark will be Secretary, and Allen Horn will be Social Media Manager. Congratulations to the newly elected leadership of HGSA! HGSA thanks outgoing members of its Exec. Board: Evan Zarkadas, Dylan O’Hara, Greg Gaines, and Jennifer Munson.

## Undergraduate Spotlight: Tom Pinette



I am a junior undergrad with a major in History and a minor in Religious Studies at UMaine. I am currently a Wiggin Fellow with the McGillicuddy Humanities Center. My current research project is entitled ‘This Land is Your Land and This Land is My Land:’ Conflict between the Penobscot and Passamaquoddy Nations and the Portland Diocese of Maine as a Remnant of Colonial Attitudes.’ My research interests include the residual impacts Western religions have on secularized institutions, politics, and intellectual history. My favorite History class thus far has been HTY 398 with Dr. Mary Freeman — she has taught me that history is equal parts what we remember and what actually happened. This spring I was awarded the Robert F. Banks Scholarship, I am a newly inducted member of Phi Alpha Theta, and I received the 2022 Best Essay Award from the *Black Bear Undergraduate History*

*Journal*. I am also a writing consultant at the University’s Writing Center, and act as one of the social media coordinator’s for UMaine Hillel. Beyond college, I am very interested in the growing intersections between Leftist thought and grassroots rural political movements in America. In my spare time, I enjoy hanging out with my sweet dog, Webster.

## Graduate Spotlight: Hannah Schmidt



I am Hannah Schmidt and I am a fifth year Ph.D. candidate in the History Department. My dissertation is titled “Captive Positions: Spatial Dimensions of Captivity in the Colonial Northeast, 1630s to 1760s.” This project examines the practice of captive-taking and captivity narratives using spatially grounded methods of analysis to bring new insights into the subject. The scope of the project varies from a close analysis of individual narratives to a broader analysis of captivity throughout New England and parts of Canada. Right now, I am particularly interested in exploring how captivity narratives can be mapped/visualized in a variety of ways to reveal macro-scale patterns in captive-taking as well as the emotional and psychological experience of spatial displacement and captivity. I’m also interested in redirecting the discussion of captivity narratives to include Indigenous experiences of captivity.

Much of my research thus far has been done remotely through a fellowship with the Massachusetts Historical Society, but I also traveled to Philadelphia last fall to complete a research trip to the American

Philosophical Society, who funded me through their Philips Fund. I have held Canadian-American Center fellowships supporting my doctoral research, as well as a Trustee Tuition Scholarship for AY ‘22-’23. Dr. Pawling’s Ethnohistory and Dr. Knowles’ Historical Geography courses were two of my favorites I’ve taken at UMaine. I really enjoyed their emphasis on interdisciplinary methods as well as non-Western sources. Both courses really broadened my understanding of what history can be. I have been the Associate Editor of the *Maine History Journal* since spring of 2019, in the past I have been both VP and President of HGSA, and helped organize the 2019 UMO-UNB Graduate Student Conference. Outside of my dissertation, my hobbies include walking my dogs Roger and Willow all over Bangor, hiking, and weightlifting!

## Faculty Spotlight: Joel Anderson

Joel is a medieval historian. His research revolves around one of the most important institutions of the Middle Ages, the Roman church. He is particularly interested in how churchmen on the northern fringes of Europe conceptualized their relationship to distant centers of power and their place in the wider Christian society. His book, *Reimagining Christendom: Writing Iceland's Bishops into the Roman Church, 1200–1350*, is forthcoming in 2023 with the University of Pennsylvania Press. It demonstrates how medieval Icelandic writers recruited, refashioned, and repurposed the legal principles and official documents of the Roman church for their own ends. The book draws on a wide variety of sources, including a little-studied genre of Icelandic sagas known as the bishops' sagas. Joel is excited to introduce these sagas - with their tales of married bishops, fictitious and forged papal bulls, and imagined canon law proceedings - to a wider scholarly audience.

Joel enjoys teaching at all levels at UMaine. His class on the Vikings (HTY 427) has consistently been a joy to teach, mainly because of the interest and enthusiasm of the students. He reports that current events, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic and the recent upsurge of populist politics around the world, have cast his course on the Late Middle Ages (HTY 404) in a new light. He relishes thinking together with his students about how fourteenth-century plagues and popular uprisings both resonate with and differ from our present dilemmas. Lastly, Joel enjoys the challenge of teaching lower-level survey courses on Medieval Civilization (HTY 202) and the History of Ancient and Medieval Europe (HTY 105). The "so what?" question is particularly pressing in these courses, especially for the many non-history majors who take them to fulfill general education requirements. He appreciates the opportunity to make the case to these students that the premodern world is worth their time and consideration.

Joel is a former cross-country and track athlete. His current running endeavors are limited to the occasional jog. He maintains a very small vegetable garden in his backyard and he loves spending time with his wife and young son.

## Emeritus Professor William J. Baker



(The *Bangor Daily News*, September 25, 2022)

In September, the History Department lost one of our colleagues and our dear friend, Bill Baker. Bill taught in Stevens Hall for three decades. Originally trained at Cambridge University as an 18<sup>th</sup> Century British historian, Bill recreated himself in the late 1970s as a sport historian and quickly became one of the standouts in the field. He published *Jesse Owens: An American Life* in 1986 and *Playing with God: Religion and Modern Sport* in 2007 and the widely used textbook, *Sports in the Western World* in 1982. We will miss Bill very much.



**\*\*\*Congratulations to the May 2022 Graduates\*\*\***

**Bachelor of Arts**

Margaret Campbell  
Elizabeth Dalton  
Matt DelMonico  
Bram Dennis  
Kathleen Dunn  
Holden Edwards  
Teddy Fegley  
John Grogan  
Townsend Larmore  
Natalie Nahabedian  
Sophie Robinson  
Tanner Sargent

**Master of Arts**

Jordan Bruso  
Savannah Clarke  
Joseph Collard  
Evan Zarkadas

**Doctor of Philosophy**

Brittany Cathey (Goetting)

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If you enjoyed this newsletter or value the work being done by the History Department to help the University of Maine fulfill its mission as a land-grant institution while raising its profile at home and abroad, consider making a contribution. Donations can be made online through the following website: <http://umaine.edu/history/>

You can also contact the History Department through the following:

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