



Gettysburg
COLLEGE

THE GILDER LEHRMAN
INSTITUTE of AMERICAN HISTORY

— *MA in American History* —

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FALL 2024 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME

Welcome to the Gettysburg College–Gilder Lehrman MA in American History Fall 2024 Newsletter. We are pleased to be celebrating the third year of our partnership with Gettysburg College. This fall, we expanded our offerings with three new courses taught by Professor Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham of Harvard University, Professor Michael Birkner of Gettysburg College, and Professor Denver Brunsman of George Washington University. We also saw our highest number yet of fall enrollments, with 867 students enrolling in eight courses, and three more teachers in the program earned the Dev Chodry Scholarship.

Read on to learn more about what our students and alumni are up to.



2023-2024 COMMENCEMENT



On July 10, we celebrated 178 graduates at the Majestic Theater in Gettysburg. Elliott West, Bancroft Prize winner, Pulitzer Prize finalist, and lead professor in the program, delivered the commencement address. Gettysburg College Provost Jamila Bookwala also shared words of wisdom for the graduates before welcoming each graduate onstage to receive a Stole of Gratitude. With this tradition, graduates became part of the 32,000-strong Gettysburg alumni community.

Congratulations to the Class of 2024!

“The only way that human beings over time can coexist with other human beings is to be able to imagine our way into the lives of others. The ability of historical imagination is basically compassion.” - Dr. Elliott West



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: FAITH STACKHOUSE DALY

This fall, Faith Stackhouse Daly '22 achieved a goal years in the making and began a fully funded PhD program at the University of California, Berkeley. It was the Gettysburg College–Gilder Lehrman MA program that provided an entry back into academia for Faith, whose plans had been disrupted in her senior year of college by a severe concussion that forced her to take a break from her studies. She spent a few years working as a treaty analyst on the Chemical Weapons Convention before she found teaching.



Returning to graduate school for history was not an option early on because of the financial burden it posed, so Faith pursued her passion for teaching by becoming a high school teacher. She initially planned to go back to graduate school after five years of teaching, but it was not until twenty years later that she began the Gettysburg College–Gilder Lehrman MA Program, opening the door again to receiving the PhD she'd always wanted. "In the process of trying to convince myself that completing the MA would be enough for me and that I could teach high school until retirement," Faith said, "my family and I realized that I was so much happier when conducting historical research, that pursuing a PhD became the only natural path forward."


Faith credits section professors Jennifer Seman and Laura Ping with helping sharpen her research and writing skills. Equally influential was the opportunity to learn from the MA program's renowned lead professors. In her PhD program at UC Berkeley, Faith will be building on the research she began for her MA thesis, which focused on winery women who fought against Prohibition in Northern California. "I'm focusing on women in the West in the Gilded Age and Progressive Era, particularly women who are frequently treated as the 'other,'" Faith shares. Her dissertation will also engage with gender, protests, borderlands, immigration, and economic histories.

"I sincerely believe that I would not be entering UC Berkeley in the fall without my work and the relationships I built through GLI."

SPRING 2025 COURSES

Course registration opens on November 25, 2024. The Spring 2025 term begins Thursday, February 6 and ends Wednesday, April 30. To view full course descriptions and draft syllabi, please visit the [Gilder Lehrman MA Spring 2025 Courses page](#).

New Course Spotlights




US Political History Since 1945 with Beverly Gage | Yale University

This course will cover United States politics, political thought, and social movements since 1945. It will incorporate pivotal elections and political figures (Truman, Nixon, Reagan) as well as politics from below (civil rights, labor, women's activism).

American Art History and Material Culture of the 18th and 19th Centuries with Jennifer Van Horn | University of Delaware

This course investigates the creation, display, and reception of art and material culture in the United States from roughly 1650 to 1900. We will ask how paintings, sculptures, buildings, and artifacts of various media represented and shaped notions of "America" and American identities.



AMHI 631 Democracy in the Early Republic with Andrew Robertson | Lehman College, CUNY

AMHI 633 The Fight for Women's Rights, 1820–1920 with Catherine Clinton | University of Texas at San Antonio

AMHI 641 The American Civil War with Allen Guelzo | Princeton University

AMHI 682 The History of Latina and Latino People in the US with Geraldo Cadava | Northwestern University

DEV CHODRY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Veronica Ly
Carnegie Middle School
Carson, California

Amanda Gorman stated in one of her newest poems, "Empathy emancipates." This encapsulates what I feel about both the learning and teaching of history. Studying the past in a critical, truthful, and authentic way allows for more truth, understanding, connection, healing, and always striving to do better as a society. I am incredibly grateful to receive this scholarship to help support my continuation of work with this enlightening MA degree program.

Melinda Ott
Pioneer High School
Woodland, California

I am truly honored to receive this scholarship for my second Master's degree, which not only supports my educational journey but also empowers me to teach Dual Enrollment classes next year at my Title One school. Returning to academia after 30 years was daunting as an older student, yet the inspiring lectures, section leaders, and the supportive environment have made my experience enjoyable and fulfilling. I am excited to embrace my role as a student and contribute positively to my community through education.



Sarah Darling
Worthington Middle School
Worthington, Minnesota



I am humbled and honored to receive this Scholarship. I have been in the program for a year and a half specializing in Native American Studies: The Dakota War of 1862. This is local history that I am passionate about and my Capstone project which is a local museum project to explore living history is a work in progress through the Nobles County Heritage Center. We are awaiting grant funding to proceed with the display panels, will build the exhibit in the winter of 2025, and hope to launch in spring of 2025 in time for the tourist season. This scholarship means a great deal both financially but also your faith in my work and continued education.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

Congratulations to our MA students and alumni who were recognized as the History Teacher of the Year in their states!

Rachel Billups, DoDEA
Jessica Wood, Michigan
Michelle Rafach, Mississippi
Julie Berryhill, Oklahoma
Alyson Battistel, Oregon
Antonio Prieto Colón, US Territories (Puerto Rico)
Amanda Eskeets, Utah

...and Wunneanatsu Lamb-Cason, our National History Teacher of the Year!



FALL 2024 Q&A FACILITATORS

We'd like to share our heartfelt thanks to our Fall 2024 Q&A facilitators for their valuable contribution to the MA program! Throughout the term, each course has five live sessions in which students interact with lead professors and ask questions about lectures, readings, and research. The students and alumni listed below help make these sessions successful.

Phil Angel
Jim Coe
Kevin Conn
Faith Daly
Kim Denning-Knapp
Sarah Garcia
Jennifer Harrison Macon
Craig Moore
Joe Refinski
Nicole Sealey
Jennifer Welch

and our MA intern Desara Murati!

If you are a current student or have graduated from the MA program and are interested in facilitating Q&A sessions in future semesters, please contact maprogram@gilderlehrman.org.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS



Corinna Ahearn
Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart
Miami, Florida

After finishing my second master's degree with GLI (first M.S.Ed from the University of Miami) I was named Chair of the Social Studies Department at Carrollton! I am excited to lead a team of historians as we shape young minds to understand and reason with the past!

Gabriel P. Gutierrez
Wiregrass Ranch High School
Wesley Chapel, Florida

This year I presented an extension of my Master's Thesis at the Florida Conference of Historians.



Dr. Heather Nieto
Guam High School
Agana, Guam

My family and I are moving to Agana, Guam this month so I can teach for the Department of Defense Education Activity at Guam High School. This is my second position with DODEA - previously, I taught in Vilseck, Germany. We are excited to move to this amazing paradise and serve American servicemen and women and their families.

Carlin Fleming-Smock
Carmi-White County High School
Carmi, Illinois

I was recently chosen as a 2024 James Madison Fellow. This is a foundation that awards a very limited number of fellowships each year that help students complete a master's degree in an area of American History, and I have chosen to use my fellowship for the GLI/Gettysburg College master's program. This will not only help me to further my knowledge and understanding of American History, but it will provide me the education needed to teach dual credit American History to my high school students!



STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS

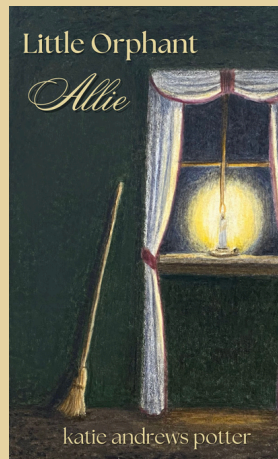


Clifford Turner
Waukegan High School
Waukegan, Illinois

Since my degree, I have been asked to teach the pilot program of AP African American Studies at Waukegan High School, and I am currently in the beginning stages of setting up a Dual Credit Class in American History for all of our students who wish to receive college credit before leaving. Last year, our students who took the AP exam in African American Studies achieved a success rate of 83% where students received a grade of 3 or higher on the AP Test. It was one of the most successful AP classes at Waukegan High School and has provided students with the possibility to obtain college credit as they continue their education.

Katie Andrews Potter
Indiana

I am releasing a new middle-grade historical fiction novel-in-verse this October! Entitled *Little Orphant Allie*, it is based on the true story behind James Whitcomb Riley's 1885 poem, "Little Orphant Annie." My author website: <https://www.katieandrewspotter.com>.



Michael Sconsa
Cascade High School
Cascade, Iowa

This is my 14th year teaching history at Cascade High School in Cascade, Iowa. I teach US History, Modern US, Pop Culture, and History Through Film to 9th-12th graders. Since I was a young student, I have always loved history. I knew I wanted to solidify my academic standing as a teacher and be able to offer college credit courses at our school. The GLI MA program allowed me to do this while I was working. I am now allowed to teach college credit courses at my school. This is the first time we have ever offered a college course in history at Cascade High School.



STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS



Lee Durham Stone
Kentucky

In December 2023, I published a book on Amazon based on many of my GLI course papers. Its title is *Across the Kentucky Color Line: Cultural Landscapes of Race from the Lost Cause to Integration*. I am working on a second book, *Deep Green River's Lonely Vale: Slavery and Civil War in Western Kentucky*. It will be published in 2025.

Barbara Silberman
Forbes House Museum
Milton, Massachusetts

This summer, I presented at History Camp in Boston, an annual event for adults. My session was titled, "Opium: The Business of Addiction." The presentation was based on an exhibition I developed for the Forbes House Museum in Milton, MA that won an award from the New England Museum Association and the American Association for State and Local History. The exhibition detailed the relationship between the Forbes family and the opium trade, linking it to the current opioid epidemic and our current relations with China.



James McKay
National Park Service (Retired)
New York

An essay I wrote with my wife, historian Patricia West, author of the book *Domesticating History: The Political Origins of America's House Museums*, has been included in the recently published collection *Interpreting Christmas at Museums and Historic Sites*. The essay, entitled "The Ghost of Christmas That Never Was" presents strategies for historic site interpreters to use to create historically meaningful holiday events at the numerous historic sites which actually have no documented evidence of Christmas celebrations. The book was published by Rowman and Littlefield as part of the American Association of State and Local History (AASLH) Interpreting History series of guides for history practitioners to enlarge their breadth of interpretation of American history.

STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS



Hank Deslaurier
Galveston College
Galveston, Texas

I am now teaching as a full-time community college professor at Galveston College, where I am also the program coordinator of the History and Government departments. I have recently been added to the Houston Heritage Society Board of Directors and I am a featured speaker for Galveston's University of Texas Medical Branch Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Katherine Corrado
Woodgrove High School
Purcellville, Virginia

I was invited to attend the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony for Rosie the Riveter last April. I completed my master's thesis on real-life Rosies toward the end of Covid in August of 2021, and thus interviewed several of them via Zoom. I have been volunteering for the National Memorial to the Women Who Worked on the Homefront Foundation to build a monument in DC honoring Rosie the Riveters. It was one of the highlights of my career to meet 30 Rosies that lived to see their recognition in the form of the highest civilian honor.



STUDENT AND ALUMNI NEWS



Elizabeth Reese
Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House
Alexandria, Virginia

I recently published my first book, *Marquis de Lafayette Returns*, and have been on a book tour in celebration of the bicentennial of Lafayette's 1824–1825 National Tour. I have been invited to give Lafayette walking tours for the city of Alexandria, Virginia and have spoken at the American Revolution Institute of the Society of the Cincinnati, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Arlington House, and the White House Historical Association to name a few. My association with the Gettysburg–GLI program has opened doors for me that I never thought possible!

Tess Nix
North Mason High School
Belfair, Washington

Tess shared that she published "Not Enough Room for the Both of Us in This Town: The Economic and Psych-Social Origins of Institutional Racism in America," in the *Journal of Psychohistory*. A second article is currently in editorial review for publication in the next edition.