Dear Friends of the History Department,

This academic year was yet one more extremely hard, challenging, and vexing one for all involved. While we welcomed the return to in-person teaching and learning on campus, many of the challenges and realities created by the pandemic continued to rule many of our lives. Our colleagues with children saw them return to school, still having to manage those times when the babysitter unexpectedly cancelled at the last minute, or their kids and/or themselves got sick with Covid throwing off their delicate balance of home-work dynamics created by the pandemic, once again having to reinvent themselves on the go. While our colleagues who had to tend to the illness and/or special needs of their partners, parents, or family members, or lost loved ones, did so while keeping up with the daily demands and needs of the job of teaching and caring for their students. This year students also continued to face many, and in some cases unprecedented, challenges and difficulties, from getting sick, to dealing with the problems and insecurities created by the pandemic on campus but also often back at home, who in some cases saw their loved ones fall ill or simply lost them, while living far away on campus, and/or being quarantined at one of the hotels, while also trying to keep up with their readings, and class-work and other demands of their respective curricula. Overall, life on campus was quieter than usual as we continued to observe a weekly ritual of Covid testing, a strict mask mandate, and restrictions on indoor and outdoor gatherings and cultural events. Despite restrictions, our Academic Administrator, Sharon Zimmer continued to be the soul and force behind our numerous and successful public events, with help from our student assistants Isabella Garcia ’22 and Courtney Yang ’24.

This year Professor Tak Matsusaka retired after 29 years of dedicated teaching and mentoring, and service to our department and to the college. Professor Matsusaka joined the History Department in 1993 as the first historian of Japan, a field that before him was occasionally taught by Paul Cohen, then the historian of China. He received a B.A. in biology from Brandeis University in 1975, and after a year of medical school, redirected his career track, receiving his Ph.D. in History and East Asian Languages from Harvard University in 1993. Tak taught courses on modern Japan and Japanese colonialism as well as on East Asian history on rotation with Professor Pat Giersch. He was a key figure in the transformation of the International Relations (IR) major into a structured major with a program home and strongly grounded historically in the world, beyond Europe and the US. He was also involved in the development (Continued on page 2)
and teaching of the core IR required course HIST 205 The Making of the Modern World Order, becoming the only History faculty member to teach one unit of this course every year.

Prof. Matsusaka’s research interests included the history of Japanese imperialism, nationalism of the Meiji era, and the history of the Imperial Japanese Army. In 2001 he published The Making of Japanese Manchuria, 1904-1932 (Harvard Asia Center), a history of the South Manchuria Railway Company. He also authored several articles on this company in Japanese as well as English, as well as others on Japanese imperialism, the Russo-Japanese War, historical geography, and Japanese public intellectuals. He was awarded two National Endowments for the Humanities Fellowships for his research.

Beyond his teaching and research, Professor Matsusaka chaired the History Department from 2003 to 2005 and from 2006 to 2009, shaping it in a myriad of ways by giving it a structure that since has been followed by department chairs, and by diversifying it in significant ways, transforming the culture and curricular content of our department years (if not a decade) before diversification and inclusion became part of the mission of the College. Tak generously mentored many of us into successful reappointments and promotions, as well as intellectually. Professor Matsusaka also served for many years in the Wellesley College International Board of Admissions, among other college wide committees.

Professor Matsusaka’s retirement leaves a significant void in our curriculum in terms of world coverage, but also in human terms, as he was one of the wiser and highly esteemed members of our department. We thank him for his long and meaningful service to our department, for his dedicated mentoring and teaching, and for his embrace of the College mission. We will miss his presence and wish him a long and much deserved enjoyable retirement traveling, hiking, kayaking and white-water rafting with his wife Suzanne.

Finally, this year Professor Quinn Slobodian was promoted to full professor, and Pat Giersch was named the Edith Stix Wasserman Chair in Asian Studies. And three of our history majors received student prices. Isabella Garcia ’22 was awarded the Three Generations Prize for Writing in the Art and Humanities, Ishita Krisan ’22 received The Kathryn W. Davis Prize for Undergraduate Research from the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, and Natalie Li ’23 was awarded a 300-level Student Library Research Award. Congratulations to all.

As it was the case last year, the academic accomplishments of this academic year owe much to the resilience, adaptability, hard work, commitment, and collective efforts of our faculty and staff, who in the face of the lingering disruptions and changes of this pandemic, nonetheless, carried out the mission of the History Department and the College.

Stay healthy and stay in touch, as we all always love to hear from our alumni near and far.

Best regards,

Ale Osorio, Chair
(aosorio@wellesley.edu)
History Department Faculty

FACULTY AND AREAS OF SPECIALITY

C. Pat Giersch (History of China)
Katherine A. Grandjean (History of Early America)
Brenna W. Greer (History of the U.S. in the Twentieth-Century)
Simon Grote (History of Early Modern Europe)
Lidwien Kapteijns (History of Africa and the Middle East)
Y. Tak Matsusaka (History of Japan)
Alejandra B. Osorio (History of Latin America)
Ryan Quintana (History of the U.S. in the Nineteenth-Century)
Valerie Ramseyer (Medieval History)
Nikhil Rao (History of South Asia)
Guy M. Rogers (Ancient History)
Andrew Shennan (History of Modern Europe, Currently Provost)
Quinn Slobodian (History of Modern Europe)
Nina Tumarkin (History of Russia)
C. Pat Giersch

I am enjoying sabbatical during this academic year, taking the time to advance a new project on the history of Chinese corporations while also finishing a state-of-the-field book chapter on global borderlands and frontier history.

Kate Grandjean

Despite the pandemic, this year was marked by a number of teaching highlights for me, including arranging field trips with several groups of students into Boston to visit historic sites. I took HIST 260 (Pursuits of Happiness: America in the Age of Revolution) to the Old South Meetinghouse and the Tea Party Ships and Museum to recreate the scenes of the Boston Tea Party, while HIST 114 (American Hauntings) took a nighttime ghost tour of Boston around Halloween. On sabbatical this fall, I look forward to a period of writing and research. Early this summer, I will be a fellow at the Filson Historical Society in Louisville, Kentucky, where I hope to unearth hidden gems in boxes of uncatalogued materials, as I continues work on my book project about murder in the 1790s.

Brenna Greer

This academic year began with my giving the keynote at the annual meeting of the Society of Historians of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing (SHARP). Speaking before this international audience of book historians was a great honor and transformative for my scholarship. Still, the biggest blessing of this year was getting back in the classroom with my students. This year, I taught history courses in fashion politics, consumerism, and the black freedom struggle. When not in the classroom, I’m working on my second book project – a history of the post-World War II black magazine industry. I wrote a piece related to this work that will appear in a volume titled Black Designers in Chicago, to be published by the University of Chicago Press. I’ve also been working as a consultant for a collaboration between WGBH, the American Archives of Public Broadcasting, and the Library of Congress to produce primary source sets for educators. The turn to virtual events allowed me to present to various audiences on various topics. I am fortunate to have been invited to speak at an upcoming conference in Munich, Germany with the theme “High Society in a Global Perspective.” To my delight, I will attend this conference in person – knock wood.
**Simon Grote**

I returned to campus for the spring 2022 semester after a sabbatical semester in Germany, which I spent investigating debates about the “world-soul” in early-Enlightenment Germany. The project, funded in fall 2021 by a fellowship from the Francke Foundations in Halle, is ongoing. Having given a pair of lectures about it in December 2021 and March 2022 to audiences in Halle, I’m planning to write a substantial article about it over the coming summer. Meanwhile, I continue to work on other projects in the history of science, including a collaboration with Thomas Ruhland (of the Interdisciplinary Center for Pietism Research in Halle) to explain the history of biblicist physics and the triumph of Linnaean natural taxonomy in eighteenth-century Germany. One highlight of my teaching this year was my seminar on mental health in European history. Drawing on Wellesley’s rare book collections, students did original studies of such varied topics as the place of Franz Fanon (1925-1961) in the history of madness, the nineteenth-century publishing history of Johann Casper Lavater’s (1741-1801) works on physiognomy, and theories of the humours as conveyed by popular guides to healthy eating in seventeenth-century England. I have also joined Sarah Wall-Randell, of Wellesley’s English Department, as co-director of the Program in Medieval and Renaissance Studies.

**Lidwien Kapteijns**

This last year still very much stood in the sign of COVID, with many aspects of life, including travel, on hold, and the overall fallout, even within the College, not yet fully clear or digested. However, having all students back on campus and the return to the semester format (instead of the term or quarter system) has been intellectually, pedagogically, and socially rewarding. I introduced a new 200-level course titled “Islamic Africa: A Historical Introduction” to the most diverse and mutually supportive group of students I have ever taught – from first years to seniors, from STEM to humanities majors, and including African and non-African, Muslim and non-Muslim students, and so forth. In terms of research, Ousmane Kane’s edited volume Islamic scholarship in Africa (Currey 2021), which resulted from two stimulating workshop meetings and to which I contributed a chapter, was published in the US and Senegal and is about to come out in French. Inspired by this group of scholars studying non-Europhone (Arabic, African language, and Ajami) African Islamic knowledge production, I started a new research project about this subject with a focus on 19th-century Somalia.

**Y. Tak Matsusaka**

At the end of almost three decades at Wellesley, I am looking forward with eagerness to full retirement at the end of June and a time of freedom that comes rarely in life. I have found my time at Wellesley and my career as an academic historian fulfilling. I hope that I have contributed something to my field of research and, above all, to the young women who have entrusted me with a part of their education. I will miss teaching (including reading, although not grading, papers), but it’s time to move on. I wish the readers and contributors to this newsletter all the best.
Faculty News

Alejandra B. Osorio

This has been a busy year. I continue to chair the History Department and offered two new courses: one dealing with authoritarianism, dictatorship, and democracy ca. 1930s-1990s in Spain and the Southern Cone countries in South America, and a seminar examining the history of public health, medicine and nation building in the Americas from the late nineteenth century to the present. I also published two new articles and a book review. “(No) ‘solo Madrid es Corte’? the head that governs an empire of courts” Culture & History (2022) vol. 11, no. 1, 1-18; “Del género como categoría de análisis a la Historia de Mujeres: una consideración historiográfica desde el feminismo.” In Esther Alegre Carvajal, ed. (2021) El mundo cultural artístico de las mujeres en la Edad Moderna (s. XV-s. XVII). Logroño, Spain: UNED, 11-27, and The Habsburgs: To Rule the World. By Martin Rady. Journal of Church and State (2021) Vol. 63, Issue 3, 524-526. I delivered several lectures, among others, at the Annual Meetings of the Renaissance Society of America in Dublin and of the Sixteenth Century Studies in San Diego, CA, and at the Universidad Autónoma of Madrid, the Catholic University in Lima, Peru, the Universidad Andrés Bello in Santiago de Chile, and the Keynote Lecture, “Bananas is my Business: From Tropical treat to Global commodity, the history of the banana from Central America to the United States,” for Latinx Heritage Month at Goggle LLC in San Francisco, CA. This year I am serving as the Committee Chair of the Leo Gershoy European History Award of the American Historical Association (AHA) and continue as Executive Committee (elected) Member of the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies (ASPHS), and as Americas Representative for the Renaissance Society of America (RSA), as well as organizer of the History and Archeology sections of the 2023 Latin American Studies Association (LASA) Annual Meeting.

Ryan Quintana

Like everyone else, I was thrilled to be back in the classroom this year. While my previous sabbatical was hamstrung because of the pandemic, I was able to spend this year working on a couple of research projects, including continuing my project on the everyday practices of global abolition. I also began archival research on a new project that focuses on infrastructural development on the edges of the US empire in the Civil War era. This summer I’ll be presenting some of my findings, visiting family in Brazil, and continuing my research in archives in Minnesota, Oregon, and Montana.

Valerie Ramseyer

Teaching has been my primary activity during the Covid pandemic. In addition to creating new assignments for online and in-person classes, I’ve also been expanding the curriculum of my courses to include more content related to women, new perspectives on race in the Middle Ages, and topics of interest to the LGBTQ community. My main research project has been a book chapter entitled “Mobility, Diversity, and Connectivity in the Beneventan Zone” which examines southern Italy/Sicily in the early Middle Ages as a part of transnational history: as both a meeting place for people from diverse cultures, religions, and locations as well as a node in
Valerie Ramseyer (continued)

the global medieval world that encompassed Europe, Africa, and Asia. It also argues that groups often seen as peripheral to the study of Italian history, such as Muslims, Jews, Africans, and Slavs, were in fact central to the region’s historical developments. I recently gave a talk on this topic as part of a year-long seminar series entitled “Euro-Mediterranean Entanglements in Medieval History,” organized by the German Historical Institutes of Paris and Rome.

Nikhil Rao

This past Fall I, like many others, returned gratefully to in-person teaching. In addition to familiar courses on colonialism and nationalism, cities, and imperialisms, I also taught a new course titled Body Politics: Food, Sex, and Sports in South Asia. Approaching South Asia through these perspectives – for which there is only a nascent (but fast-growing) literature – was both challenging and rewarding. On the research and writing front, I participated and presented at my first, in-person academic conference/workshop since the start of the pandemic, at the University of Vermont. As the current academic year winds down, I’m building steam on various writing projects that I hope to bring to completion during the next academic year, when I will be on sabbatical leave. The Fall semester of next year will be spent as a Fellow at the Newhouse Center at Wellesley. In the Spring semester, I will be conducting research in Mumbai, funded by an American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Research Fellowship. In summer 2023, I will be researching in Berlin.

Guy Rogers


In my spare time I continued to tend to my rose garden and to my equally unruly herd of cats.
Quinn Slobodian

It was great to be back on campus in fall semester teaching in person again. My seminar on the history of World Economic Orders felt as topical as ever as the global economy was convulsed by the aftershocks of the pandemic-related shutdowns and deepening competition between the North Atlantic countries and China. I have been on leave in the spring, hosted by Brown University’s Watson Institute, as I complete my new book on visions of radical capitalism since the end of the Cold War. An edited volume, Market Civilizations, was published by Zone Books and I have also been active in trying to bridge the worlds of the academy and policy with the History and Political Economy Project, funded by the Hewlett Foundation, which I co-direct with Christy Thornton of Johns Hopkins University.

Nina Tumarkin

The horrific Russian war in Ukraine has fully dominated my Spring 2022 teaching semester. As Wellesley’s historian of Russia, I organized and moderated two major public events to shed light on the conflict: “Russia’s War in Ukraine (March 8);” and “Russia: What Next? (April 5)” These virtual events combined were attended by almost 1,000 participants, including hundreds of alumnae. My First-Year Seminar on Vladimir Putin in Spring 2022 was partially transformed into a workshop on week-to-week developments in Ukraine and Russia, and the students bravely shouldered the extra work of gaining an expertise on events as they were happening, in addition to more historical course material. I also appeared on NBC-Boston TV several times to comment on the situation and have remained in close phone contact with Russian friends and colleagues, including those who fled what they deem the “morally insupportable” country that has launched this war. A Discussion Forum on “The Weight of the Soviet Past in Post-1991 Russia,” with my commentary, has appeared in the Spring 2022 issue of the Journal of Cold War Studies, and I participated in a roundtable on a book, “Is Russia Fascist?” at the 2021 annual convention of the Association for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies.
New Faculty Books


Faculty Promotions

Professor Pat Giersch was named the Edith Stix Wasserman Chair in Asian Studies

Professor Quinn Slobodian was promoted to Full Professor
New Courses in 2021-2022

**HISTORY 218**
Professor Osorio

**DICTATORSHIP, AUTHORITARIANISM, AND TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY IN SPAIN AND LATIN AMERICA**

**HIST 218 MON/THURS, 2:20-3:35 PM**

In the twentieth century, democracies in Spain and Latin America fell under the authoritarian boot of dictatorial rule. In the 1960s, a democratic republic governed in Spain led to a devastating civil war and to the long dictatorship of Francisco Franco (1939-1975). In Latin America, strong democracies fell to authoritarian rule in Brazil (1964-1985), Chile (1973-1990), and Argentina (1976-1983). By examining the social, political, and cultural conditions that led to these dictatorial regimes, this course considers how political ideologies, a part of their agendas aided their rise; the role of Catholicism; the Catholic Church; foreign intervention; and social movements in their rise, consolidation, ultimate end, and resistance to such regimes; the challenges and conditions of these post-dictatorial transitions back to democracy; and the lessons for democratic rule more generally.

**PROFESSOR OSORIO FALL 2021**

**HISTORY 268**
Professor Kapteijns

**ISLAMIC AFRICA: A HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION**

**HIST 268 MON, 6:30-9:40 PM**

This is a history of Islamic Africa in the precolonial and colonial periods with a focus on the Saharan and Sudanian belts and the Swahili coast of East Africa. Themes: Islamically inspired religious, legal, and political reforms; responses to the establishment of European colonial rule; understandings of gender and race; the agency of women and enslaved people in shaping everyday “Iraqi” life; the role of religion in women’s contributions to a long tradition of knowledge production as well as their diverse, often passionate and artistically accomplished, expressions of faith.

**PROFESSOR KAPTEIJNS FALL 2021**

**HISTORY 273**
Professor Rao

**FOOD, SPORTS, AND SEX: BODY POLITICS IN SOUTH ASIA**

**HIST 273 MON/THURS, 3:45-5:00 PM**

South Asian cultures posit that food serves to mediate between ourselves and the world around us. This course examines interactions between diet and physical activity in South Asia’s modern history. Topics include: the connection between the body and the spiritual world as mediated by diet in premodern South Asia; assumptions about food and colonial diets; the role of diet; and the role of diet in anti-colonial nationalism; anti-colonial politics and experimentalism; with diet; the connection between the body and politics in modern South Asia; the role of food policies and politics in shaping the international relations of postcolonial South Asia.

**PROFESSOR RAO FALL 2021**

**HISTORY 376**
Professor Osorio

**SEMINAR MEDICINE, PUBLIC HEALTH AND NATION BUILDING IN LATIN AMERICA, 1890s-2000s**

**HIST 376 TUES, 12:45-3:25 PM**

No one history reflects the multiplicity of paths followed by “Latin American” countries to develop modern and public health national infrastructures. New public health programs in the 19th century Latin American transformed debates about national culture, the state, and the role of the environment, race and disease in achieving modernity and progress. Among others, this course examines the professionalization of medical practices; how foreign immigration and internal migration shaped health-related institutions and understandings of disease, race, and modernity; the role of local literatures; research in parasitology, bacteriology, and the role of regulatory institutions in countering assumptions about racial and cultural inferiority; how foreign funding institutions (such as Rockefeller Foundation and US Health Projects) facilitated US interventions; how Cuba’s national health system today exports scientific, doctoral, and epidemiologists to a world in crisis.

**PROFESSOR OSORIO SPRING 2022**
Russia Programs 2021-2022

Professor Tumarkin Organized the Following:

**RUSSIA NOW**
The Current State of the Former Soviet Union

Moderator:
Prof. Adam Weiner
Speakers:
Prof. Thomas Hodge
Prof. Igor Logvinenko
Prof. Nina Tumarkin

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 7 PM

Register at tinyurl.com/RussiaNOW21

**RUSSIA’S WAR IN UKRAINE**

TUESDAY, MARCH 8, 2022
8 PM EST

Register at tinyurl.com/WellesleyUkrainePanel

Free and open to the public
End of Semester Party Fall 2021
Honors Seminar Program and Scholarships

Each year a small number of outstanding students choose to undertake honors work in History. Candidates for honors in History build upon the knowledge learned and skills developed in their previous coursework by crafting their own interpretations of the past. This experience can be richly rewarding: it offers students an opportunity to work closely with a faculty adviser, to think deeply about a significant intellectual problem of their own choosing, and to grow as a researcher, writer, and thinker. Because of a generous grant from the F.A.O. Schwarz Foundation, honors students in History are eligible for the prestigious F.A.O. Schwarz Foundation Scholarship, established in memory of Professor Henry Schwarz, former chair of the Department of History. The scholarship grants funds for student research activities (including travel to archives and other collections) as well as a student senior year stipend. The Schwarz Foundation grant also funds the department’s Honors Seminar, which brings the department’s honors students together with their advisors and other faculty members throughout the year. In 2020-2021 the Schwarz Honors Seminar was directed by Prof. Grote. This year four students earned Honors in History:

Ishita Grishan  “Gender, Land, and the Cooperative Movement in India”

Hannah Morse  “A Life Story as a Therapeutic Tool: Solomon Maimon (1753–1800), Karl Philipp Moritz (1756–1793), and the Magazin zur Erfahrungsseeelenkunde (1783–1793)”

Kyra Wilson  “Salvation to Legalization: The “Numbers,” Race, and Criminality in 20th Century New York City”

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of the F.A.O. Schwarz Family Foundation for its sponsorship of the History Department Honors Program.

Student Essay Prizes

Each year the History Department awards essay prizes:

The 2020 Barnette Miller Essay Prize in the field of International Relations was awarded to:

Courtney Yang, Class of 2024

The 2020 Ralph H. Bollard Essay Prize in the field of United States History was awarded to:

Rozey Hill, Class of 2023

The 2020 Erasmus Essay Prize for the best essay on a historical subject was awarded to:

Ella Rockart, Class of 2023
Laura Ginsburg Strauss ’56

History was my major and I have rejoiced in this choice throughout my life. I bless E. Faye Wilson—the kindest and the best—who helped me to become a student. My husband was an American History major at Harvard. I met him six years after graduation, we have enjoyed our mutual interest in history. It has enlarged our lives. My husband’s family were German Jews, long established in their country. They left it all and started again in the U.S. Thanks to Mr. Schwarz’s German history course, I had some understanding of how events in that country shaped our world. My class just had our 65th reunion—on zoom, of course. So many expressed their gratitude for Wellesley—our wonderful education and the friendships we have kept throughout our lives. Thank you for developing and sending this newsletter. I just wish more students understood the necessity of studying history.

Dolores (Lolly) Siegel ’57

I was a history major at Wellesley, class of ’57. One of the first classes I attended at the College was on medieval history taught by Ms. Faye Wilson. (I believe that was her first name.) Ms. Wilson was electrifying. I unhesitatingly proceeded to enroll over the next four years in all Ms. Wilson’s classes which culminated in a brilliant history-writers seminar given in Ms. Wilson’s on-campus apt. I selected Toynbee for my paper and found the research exciting and the presentation of my paper challenging and satisfying.

I thought you would be interested in this bit of history. I have found my major helped enormously in examining current events and the actions of our presidents in light of historical events. I regard Wilson as the most destructive President we ever had, considering the effects of the Treaty of Versailles which Wilson fashioned. I believe James Garfield’s death was an extraordinarily terrible event for the nation since I believe Garfield would have ensured that the Reconstruction would have been more effective and far less destructive. Thus I appreciate my major since it provided me with perspective on future events.

Jane Huber Yates ’59

After graduating as a History Major where I fell in love with the Enlightenment permanently, I taught in public schools and college. Received an MA from Columbia in American History. Made progress towards a Ph. D at NYU until I ran out of money, after discovering accidentally that colleges paid women teachers less than men. Perhaps public schools too.

Ended up, thanks to hiring people (all men) recognizing Wellesley’s virtues, as the first woman Vice President at a Johnson & Johnson affiliate. Was hired to innovate and establish a competitive place for the corporation’s feminine hygiene education programs and then with the added responsibility of a new corporate function Consumer Affairs. (Just getting some documents from that exciting period in American history together for the Margaret Clapp Library.) Change agent historic times with messages for today.

Pamela Price ’66

I went to India on a college-year-in-India program in 1964-65 and, when I returned to Wellesley, decided to graduate in 1967, so that I could both write an honors thesis and have the opportunity to act in plays on campus. This means that I ended up at Cambridge University in 1967 to work on a PhD in Indian history and became part of the student protest there in 1968. I decided to drop out of Cambridge and join the revolution in the United States as a pacifist Yippie. That of course, came to nothing, and I returned to graduate school, this time at the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1970. My political experience left me with awareness of the forces of ideology, values, and culture in human behavior and I became a historian of Indian political culture. The 1970s was not a good time for the hiring of PhDs in history, so, after returning from doctoral research in south India in 1975, I lived in Berkeley, California, for three years, writing my dissertation and living from part-time jobs at the university there. Eventually I ended up tenured in the history department at the University of Oslo, Norway, where I brought American enthusiasm for area studies and started an interdisciplinary South Asian studies program. I credit Wellesley for giving me opportunities to gain competency in scholarly writing, but it was in India that I developed a great desire to do research.

Lucy Kerman ’73

Though I had many great history teachers and courses during my time at Wellesley, probably the most inspiring course I took was a full year survey of American social history taught by Kathleen Conzen, who went on to make her career
at the University of Chicago. Social history was a relatively new field at the time (1972-73) and the course offered an amazing introduction to the work. For my research project, I dug into letters I found in the Wellesley Archives written by students from 1885-95 and 1914-17. One student had written home almost every week for 5 years -- students were apparently required to write home every Sunday and some students later donated their letters to the Archives. I ended up using the letters for a comparison of students’ experiences, including their friendships and concepts of love, across those two very different periods in women’s higher education -- Wellesley in its earliest years, Wellesley during the first World War. It was thrilling to sit in the Archives reading letters written almost a hundred years earlier by young women who were my age. That inspired me to go on to graduate school and I ended up getting my PhD in American History at the University of California, Berkeley.

Though I haven’t taught since my Berkeley days, I’ve used my degree and history background in my professional work, which for the past 24 years or so has focused on how universities interact with their neighboring communities. I’m a senior vice provost at Drexel University in Philadelphia and my background in American history is invaluable as we seek to advance the ambitions of the communities around our campus and account for some of the damage done as the university has grown and expanded over the years. An understanding of urban history, of the complicated legacy of racism, of the different traditions in American higher education -- not to mention the historian’s ability to tell a story from disparate data -- it’s all very relevant, and Professor Conzen’s introduction to social history laid a good foundation for me. Most recently, I was one of four co-chairs of a year-long Anti-Racism Task Force that sought to address systemic racism at our institution. There again, my history background was an incredible benefit. I truly believe a history background is the best possible training for work in education and the nonprofit sector!

Megan Burland ’08
I’m an ’08 alum, IR-History major, and am currently living in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. I’ve been here for a bit over two years now, with some time in the States last year due to COVID, but have been back in UB since the beginning of the year and am enjoying Mongolian summer. I just took a 10 day trekking trip out to western Mongolia and was able to learn many new things about Kazakh history and pre-historic/Iron Age history here.

Christina Rieth ’14
Christina combined her two majors, Architecture and International Relations-History, and pursued a career in historic preservation. After Wellesley, she spent two years conducting architectural research in West Virginia and subsequently received a Master of Historic Preservation from the University of Kentucky. After spending 15 months at a nonprofit in Washington DC that rehabilitates historic homes for affordable housing, she moved to Austin to work as an architectural historian for the Texas Historical Commission.

Angela Coco ’19
Angela graduated with her J.D., cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School. In the fall, she will begin work at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP in New York City. Angela is most looking forward to connecting with old and new Wellesley friends in NY and beginning legal practice in the field of White Collar Criminal Defense!

Francesca Gazzolo ’20
After a year in my native Midwest working as a tutor, I’m back in Boston. I live in Brighton with my best friend, Kira Hamilton ’21, and my partner, Ky Fuller ’21 (who is now Wellesley’s rock climbing instructor!). I now work as a software engineer -- a career I never thought I’d pursue as a History major, but every day, I use my skills from my humanities courses: critical thinking, communication, and a focus on people over pure efficiency. Next year, I’m hoping to leave for my Watson Fellowship, where I’ll study interfaith communities and spiritual practices in areas of religious conflict. For now, I’m enjoying watching the Brighton turkey population stop traffic outside my apartment.

Hazel W.H Leung ’20
Since September, I have been working on a comparative legal history project at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. At the time of writing, I’m currently revising a manuscript for a co-authored book chapter with my supervisor, Prof. Christopher M. Roberts, on the legacy of vagrancy and vagrancy-type laws in Hong Kong from 1841-1941 to be published as part of English Law and Colonial Connections (Routledge, forthcoming). We have also just finished and submitted for publication a second article on Hong Kong vagrancy law from 1945 until the present. I’m not quite sure where I’ll be professionally and geographi-
Outside of work, I have been exploring Hong Kong’s beautiful country parks - I’m a big fan of Sections 4-6 of the Hong Kong Trail and am currently training for a trail race scheduled for late May (hopefully the heat and humidity won’t be too awful!). On a related, ex-History major note, I have also been on the lookout for a good history of country parks and conservation in Hong Kong (which does not seem to exist...maybe I’ll have to write it!). I’m wishing everyone a happy and healthy spring and summer!

Eleanor Willard ‘20
I am living in Ithaca, NY and working at Cornell as the assistant to the chair of the math department. I’m planning on applying to PhD programs, most likely in history, at some point in the next few years. I’m hoping to visit Wellesley in the fall and say hi to everyone in the history department!

Adair Bartram ‘22 (IR-History)
After graduation, I will be working as a Program Assistant at the Massachusetts Interest on Lawyers Trust Accounts Committee, a Boston-based nonprofit that subsidizes legal services for people from low-income backgrounds.

Sunaina Chatterjee ‘22 (IR-History)
I’m going to be working as an analyst at Goldman Sachs Asset Management in London!

Olivia Davis ‘22 (History)
After graduation, I will be going back home to Arizona to take some time to relax and destress under the sun. I plan on taking some time to figure out what will make me happy in the coming years and to continue my job search. I’m hoping to find opportunities that will allow me to engage with my passion for history!

Hope Ferris ‘22 (History)
I’m planning on staying in Boston and applying to library jobs, and hopefully I’ll be getting a masters in library science in a few years. Looking forward to what the future holds post-Wellesley!

Isabella Garcia ‘22 (History)
I’m going to UC Berkeley to begin my Ethnic Studies PhD program!

Katherine Leary ‘22 (History)
I’ll be starting a service program in the fall in Western Massachusetts through the Episcopal Service Corps.

Dominique Mickiewicz ‘22 (IR-History)
After graduating this May, I will be making the big move to Paris, France to study at the Sciences Po Paris School of International Affairs. The two-year Master’s program in International Relations will be the perfect blend of my IR-History and French Language majors at Wellesley. I am beyond grateful for the academic guidance and professional opportunities that I received from both the History and French Departments, that helped me prepare to continue my education and begin a career abroad. Merci beaucoup!

Sophie Wang ‘22 (IR-History)
I will be moving to the DMV area to learn more about coding and work as a software engineer in Capital One! I am looking forward to exploring new disciplines and applying my IR-History knowledge to them as well.

Kyra Wilson ‘22 (History)
Next year I plan to teach history at an independent high school.

Meredith Youngblood ‘22 (History)
After graduating, I will be spending some much needed time with my family and dog over the summer. From there, I’m beginning a career as a paralegal and venturing into the world of law!
Rachel Shuen ’12 (History)

Can you tell us something about your current work and personal life?

After graduating law school last year, I have been working at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) as an Associate Industry Contracts Officer, which means that I draft, review, and negotiate contracts with industry and non-profit partners on behalf of the university. I mainly work on non-disclosure agreements, clinical trial agreements, data use agreements, material transfer agreements, and sponsored research agreements. I came to this field of work because during law school, I became interested in health law, public health law, and contract drafting. This role allows me to combine those interests while doing transactional legal work. And, doing mission-oriented work is important to me, so I am happy that my work supports UCSF’s mission to advance health worldwide.

In terms of my personal life, I reside in Berkeley, California. I am from the San Francisco Bay Area and am glad to be back in the Bay Area since my journey post-Wellesley has taken me to a few other places. I try to spend my free time outside with my dog and play a lot of tennis, which is a sport I picked up as an adult/post-Wellesley.

How did you experience your Wellesley College education?

I absolutely loved my entire Wellesley experience, and in particular, the educational component of my time at Wellesley. I came into Wellesley not sure of what I wanted to study, so my first year, I really took advantage of the freedom and breadth afforded by a liberal arts education and took courses in a wide range of subjects such as Astronomy, Computer Science, Linguistics to try and figure out what I wanted to study. I eventually decided to major in History and Spanish.

Wellesley encouraged my love for learning, and I truly cherished my time as a Wellesley student. I don’t think I’ll ever have the freedom to explore and just sit with my thoughts the way I did while at Wellesley. I was so sad to graduate! I thrived in having small classes and liked that we were able to get to know our professors in office hours and to develop relationships with them. Wellesley was such a unique experience, and I am very grateful for all of the professors, staff, and friends that shaped my education.

How has your Wellesley College experience, broadly speaking, figured in what you did afterwards?

In many ways, my Wellesley College experience has shaped who I am today and the path I have taken. I experienced a lot of personal growth during my time at Wellesley—from coming out of my shell and becoming more confident to understanding my identity as an Asian American. Discovering more about my identity and wanting to learn more about Asian American history actually nicely intersected with my History major, and I was able to take courses and write papers relating to Asian American history due to some really supportive faculty. That whole journey of discovery and learning undoubtedly shaped the education I have received post-Wellesley.

After Wellesley, I earned a M.A. in Asian American Studies. While I did aspire to pursue a PhD in History at that
time, I decided to take some time away from school. Given my interest in working with Asian/Asian American communities, I began volunteering at an immigration legal clinic for the Asian community in the Bay Area. This exposed me to the legal profession (which was useful since I have no lawyers in my family) and allowed me to see how I could use the law as a tool to help people. That is what led me to pursue my J.D. Though my current work lies in the fields of health law, contracts, and intellectual property, I know that the root of my path to becoming a lawyer stems from the social, political, and educational interests I developed as a student at Wellesley.

**Can you reflect on your choice to major in History?**

I distinctly remember the moment I decided to major in History. To set the scene, it was first semester of my sophomore year and I had not yet declared a major, which was causing me some panic! Since I had always enjoyed history classes in high school, I decided to take Professor Grandjean’s “HIST 203: Out of Many: American History to 1877” the fall of my sophomore year. Our first paper required us to analyze various primary sources. I remember addressing the potential bias of one of the sources in a footnote and getting positive feedback from Professor Grandjean on it. Since I had enjoyed the process of writing that paper and I liked the way in which I had to think about the sources, getting that positive feedback felt like a sign that History would be the right major for me. I declared my History major that semester. I am so glad I took that class, as it led me to find an area of study I loved and introduced me to all of the other fantastic History classes I took later on.

Looking back, I am really glad that 19-year-old me followed my heart and majored in History. The writing skills I honed through writing so many papers have been invaluable to the skills I needed in law school and will continue to use in my career. Developing the ability to take a set of facts, analyze sources, and write persuasively has been incredibly useful. I also found that a lot of my History papers not only required the ability to write analytically, but also to craft a compelling narrative, so I have my History classes to thank for that skill.

**Best memory from the history department?**

I have many fond memories of the history department professors, classes, and students, but there are a couple that stand out in my mind. The first was the “HIST 312: Understanding Race in the US, 1776-1918” seminar I took with Professor Quintana the spring of my junior year. This was my favorite class at Wellesley. I found the readings to be relevant and fascinating, and I truly looked forward to going to class every week because I wanted to discuss the readings and hear the insightful and smart comments I knew my classmates would share. Our class was mostly History majors and the class size was quite small, which allowed for really thought-provoking discussions. I remember leaving each class with some new idea or thought to mull over.

The second was the monthly thesis dinners with the other History thesis students and Professor Osorio at Amarin. It was only after graduating from Wellesley that I realized how well Wellesley treats its students and how fortunate we were to have the resources and support for a group such as this. These thesis dinners were always a fun time, and it was nice to talk and essentially have a support group. Writing a thesis was a difficult endeavor that at times felt very solitary, so I appreciated these opportunities to connect with other thesis students about the progress and challenges they faced as well.
Sam Lanevi ’18 (History)

Can you tell us something about your current work and personal life?

I am currently preparing to start the bulk of my writing for my M.Phil dissertation in American History at the University of Cambridge, which focuses on the weaponization of perceived white female vulnerability in the nineteenth century. I moved to England in September 2021 after living in New York City for almost three years, where I worked at an international collectibles auction house, doing everything from finance management to packing and shipping military drums, swords, and uniforms. While I did a Wintersession in Berlin my senior year, I did not study abroad, so I feel fortunate to be here and have the opportunity to study at a place like Cambridge. I was recently accepted to the Ph.D. program here to pursue a dissertation on the geopolitical dimensions of war brides during WWII and the Vietnam War, examining the role of race and gender in US foreign policy toward these women. So I’ll be shifting my work on race and gender from the nineteenth century into the twentieth century, which builds off of my interest in studying WWII. On a personal level, I’ve enjoyed getting to know my classmates through potlucks and college formals as well as day trips into London and other nearby towns.

How did you experience your Wellesley College education?

Before my first semester at Wellesley, I met with Professor Grote, my first year advisor, and he said that I should be “open to serendipity.” I think like many incoming Wellesley students, I came in wanting to major in political science, but over the course of my time there, I found myself drawn to other courses and departments, so I ended up with majors in History and Classical Civilization as well as taking four semesters of German. With the history department specifically, I was lucky to have the opportunity to take on a variety of independent research projects across a variety of topics which no doubt set me up for graduate school in terms of honing my research and writing abilities. I think in allowing myself to be open to taking courses that seemed interesting but I had not factored into my Big Plan going into Wellesley allowed me to have a more varied education. While there were times I questioned why I had decided to take a second language as a junior, mostly while commiserating during late night study sessions in the Shafer living room, I feel that I took advantage of all that Wellesley had to offer me as a student.

How has your Wellesley College experience, broadly speaking, figured in what you did afterwards?

During my time at Wellesley, whether in my classes, my res hall, my on-campus job, or during my time on CCAP, I learned about the importance of building community in various spaces. When I first got to Cambridge, I had the same feelings I had when I first arrived at Wellesley where I was worried about making friends and getting to know people. But through my classes, I got to know my classmates better, and we began to plan outings to coffee shops, hosting potlucks, and have recently started a craft circle for knitting, crochet, and cross-stitching. While the work is a key component of being in an academic space, Wellesley taught me that it is the people you share the space with that make the experience even more gratifying.
Can you reflect on your choice to major in History?

I think I somehow always knew I would major in history. Whenever I looked through the course browser, it was always the history classes that grabbed my attention and I always had a difficult time deciding which one to take because they all sounded intriguing to me. I learned so much from my history classes, both from the lectures and my peers during the dynamic class discussions. By majoring in history I knew that I would not only learn interesting material but also that I would grow as a writer and researcher through the robust curriculum and opportunity to pursue independent research projects through independent studies.

Best memory from the history department?

I miss the end-of-semester department parties! It was always fun to connect with classmates and professors and enjoy delicious food as a nice break and treat for the end of the semester. Wellesley could definitely skew stressful, especially at the end of the semester, so it was really nice to have an opportunity to take a step back from the bubble for a bit.
The following history students presented at the Tanner and Ruhlman Conferences 2021-2022:

**TANNER CONFERENCE:**
- Adair Bartram ’22 International Relations-History
- Olivia Feldman ’22 History and Religion
- Hope Ferris ’22 History
- Natalie Li ’22 History
- Rosalind Lucier ’22 History and Chemistry
- Talia O’Shea ’23 History and Astrophysics
- Ahalya Ramgopal ’23 History
- Millie Stone ’23 History
- Avalon Swanson ’23 History and East Asian Languages & Cultures
- Sophie Wang ’22 International Relations-History

**RUHLMAN CONFERENCE:**
- Doreen Chen ’22
  “Samurai in War Tales: Examination of Historicity and Fictionality in Heike Monogatari”
- Olivia Feldman ’22
  “Monumentality: Spaces, Places, and Races”
- Kyra Wilson ’22
  “Salvation to Legalization: The ’Numbers,’ Race, and Criminality in 20th Century New York City”
History Majors

Doreen Chen
Olivia Davis
Olivia Feldman
Hope Ferris
Felix Jordan
Katherine Leary
Jenna Lu
Hannah Morse, Honors
Isabella Garcia
Ishita Krishan, Honors
Kyra Wilson, Honors
Meredith Youngblood

IR-History Majors

Adair Bartram
Margaret Maeve Brandes
Sunaina Chatterjee
Dominique Mickiewicz
Sophie Wang

Departmental Awards for Distinction in History

2022
The Deborah W. Diehl Prize for Distinction in History
Hannah Morse ’22
The Ralph H. Bollard Prize for Distinction in Early American & United States History
Kyra Wilson ’22
The Barnette Miller Prize for Distinction in History Outside of the United States
Hope Ferris ’22
The Barnette Miller Prize for Distinction in International Relations – History
Dominique Mickiewicz ’22

History Minors

Katie Ball
Theresa Rose
Anushe Sheikh