

Greetings from Cockefair

UMKC Department of History

Spring 2015



College of Arts and Sciences

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Hello everyone and welcome to another semester. With this newsletter, we hope to connect with friends and alumni of the department and keep you up-to-date with the many exciting goings-on in Cockefair Hall.

As we move forward, we will once again request your help. Please keep us informed about your latest activities, current contact information, and where your travels have taken you beyond UMKC. If you have questions or concerns, or just want to touch base, you may reach the history department at 816-235-1631 or history@umkc.edu.

Stay up-to-date on History Department news by connecting with us on facebook and twitter.

 facebook.com/umkchistory

 [@UMKChistory](https://twitter.com/UMKChistory)

Greetings from our Chair

"come see how we're making history"

Hello from the Big Office—

In past newsletters, I have used this space to discuss large trends in history and university life. This time I want to make the discussion more local and focus on the department and my wonderful colleagues.

Like many institutions of higher learning, UMKC felt the impact of the economic downturn in profound ways. State resources, already on a decade-long decline, slumped even further and funds for programming, research, and importantly, replacement of faculty, evaporated. Adding to the unsettled academic environment, in 2012, as we entered what many predicted was a period of financial recovery, our university rolled out a new general education system complete with a three-part course sequencing system that left many students (and faculty) confused.

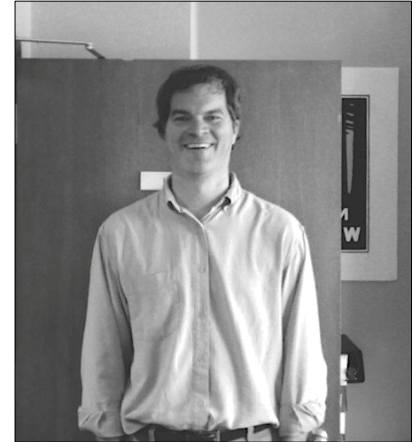
Add both events to our campus embrace of STEM fields and the results were not wholly positive for the department. Student credit hour production, the number of majors, entering graduate students, (faculty morale?) were all down. Dark days indeed.

But to the surprise of no one inside the department--but probably everyone else-- we have made a comeback. With

limited resources and a still reduced faculty, we have increased our credit hour production dramatically, stepped up our participation in the university general education program, and confirmed our commitment to our many partners in interdisciplinary studies. We have launched a newly invigorated Center for Midwestern Studies (more on this research center soon) and increased our public profile. As you will read in the following pages, we formalized our relationship with the Hunt family leading to increased support for our graduate students and laid the foundation for even more support for graduate students with our expanding internship program.

And the positive news continues. One of our undergraduate majors was selected to represent UMKC at the state capital in Jefferson City, several others were singled out to receive financial support for their research, and two history essays were among the top ten undergraduate research projects published in our university's student journal.

Assistant Professor **Max Vitiello** received the 2014 faculty scholar award, one of the few humanities researchers able to compete head-to-head with



John Herron
Department Chair

the hard sciences and Associate Professor **Diane Mutti Burke** received the 2014 Distinguished Literary Achievement Award from the Missouri Humanities Council.

We have in, our relatively small department, endowed chairs, Curator's Professorships, connections to two international journals, multiple teaching award winners, several innovative certificate programs, and a relationship with the premier private library of science and technology in the world.

All of this (and more) is made possible because of the dedication of my colleagues. In teaching, research, and service, I will put the achievements of our department against any in the college. Come to Cockefair Hall and check out the new look history department. You too might be surprised.

UMKC + Kansas City Chiefs = History

The University of Missouri-Kansas City's Department of History and the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club have joined together to enhance the community's cultural life and advance the university's educational mission. This semester, two graduate students from the Department of History's Public History program are interning with the Arrowhead Art Collection at Arrowhead Stadium to develop the collection's interpretative materials and public programs. The interns, in return, receive a graduate assistantship that covers both tuition and a stipend.

"These are exactly the kinds of high-impact learning experiences UMKC values and our public history program hopes to generate," said Assistant Professor **Chris Cantwell**. "Not only do they allow students to apply the skills they learn in the classroom, but they are also essential in helping our graduates find fulfilling careers in the humanities."

Opened in the fall of 2012, the Arrowhead Art Collection currently has 26 pieces on display that range from photographs to oil paintings to both indoor and outdoor sculptures. All of the pieces focus on the history and culture of the region and feature artists from Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, and Arkansas. The Arrowhead Art Collection is designed to celebrate regional art while providing educational opportunities and engaging the community in a way that touches individuals of all ages and walks of life. UMKC's Public History students will be working with the Collection to build upon its already strong elementary education program by developing other kinds of interpretative materials.

"The Chiefs and the Arrowhead Art Collection are honored and proud to join with UMKC's Department of History in this unique opportunity," said Sharron Hunt, Chairwoman of the Collection and daughter

of team founder Lamar Hunt. "By utilizing the talents of students in this UMKC graduate program, we can advance the objectives of our art program far beyond the scope of what we originally envisioned. This relationship exemplifies how the Chiefs can be an asset to the community and will be beneficial for both parties."

Started in the fall of 2010, the Department of History's Masters of Arts with an emphasis in Public History trains students for careers at museums, archives, historical societies, and other cultural institutions. Students take classes that focus not only on history, but also on exhibit design, digital media, and nonprofit management. The program's graduates have already gone on to secure positions as curators, museum technicians, and archivists.

Students wishing to apply to this innovative program can visit: umkc.edu/history/



ARROWHEAD ART COLLECTION

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Kevin Scharlau, MA student

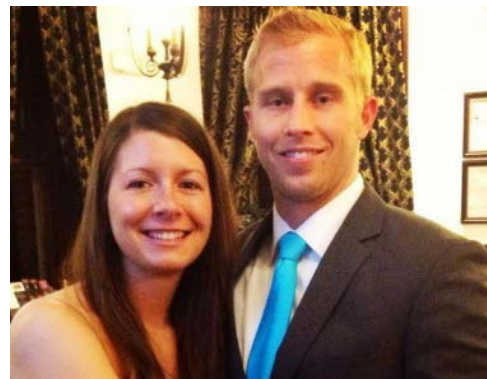
I am in my third year in the UMKC Master's Program and it has been a whirlwind. The faculty have been immeasurably helpful in molding my thinking and writing, helping advance my goal of becoming a historian. I've enjoyed the colloquiums and seminars so much that my wife often asks why I'm happy about going to class at night. It truly has been a rewarding experience.

In pursuit of the never-ending struggle to add to my curriculum vitae, I took **John Herron's** sage advice in his "How to History" course and sought out every opportunity, chased down every lead. I've published two book reviews, with a third in the editorial process and a fourth in the works. I presented at the Kansas City Public Library with Stuart Hinds—curator of the La Budde Special Collections office at Miller Nichols Library—last year on the earliest years of the gay rights movement in Kansas City. Research that began as part of **Rebecca Davis's** 1960s course subsequently landed me a spot at the Missouri Conference on History.

I found that Kansas City—named the publishing clearinghouse and key

distributor of literature and correspondence for the entire gay rights movement in the mid-1960s—played a crucial role in developing the framework capable of turning the Stonewall Riots from a local fight with police into a national catalyst for change. My research on the Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom has been my most rewarding experience at UMKC. It helped me develop a greater understanding of (and love for) my hometown's history, and provided me fantastic scholarly opportunities. This research will appear in an upcoming edition of *Missouri Historical Review* and I will be presenting a call to action for further research into the early gay rights movement at this year's Graduate Conference on History at the University of Maryland.

As I near the end of my Master's Program, I'm finding myself swimming in sources as I work on my thesis—a study of slave freedom-suit cases from the St. Louis area. Working with **Diane Mutti-Burke** and my research seminar professor, **Miriam Forman-Brunell**, I plan to begin what will hopefully become a larger dissertation topic focusing on such cases all the way through the famous *Dred Scott* case. Of particular



[The History Department] is a great place to learn and collaborate while advancing your goals.

interest is how slave politics influenced the recourse available to slaves at the expense of legal precedent. I know that before my time at UMKC ends, I'll have a few more presentations and hopefully one or two more publications up my sleeve. Along with that, I'm sure I'll have a couple of favors to ask of the faculty. The department has always been welcoming and helpful and I do not think I would be on track to becoming the historian I am without them. It is a great place to learn and collaborate while advancing your goals.

-Kevin Scharlau

The Many Adventures of Dr. Chris Cantwell

Chris Cantwell continues building relationships with key Kansas City institutions, organizing partnerships and attracting donations, most notably a new relationship with the Hunt family and the Kansas City Chiefs. This first gift is what we hope will be a long-term relationship with one of our city's most recognizable institutions.

In an effort to increase the networks available for our students, our department, and our university, Dr. Cantwell has also partnered with the Kansas City Emerging Museum Professionals (KSEMP) to host a monthly happy hour called *Drinking About Museums*. The name is cheeky but the discussions are serious. Come see what is happening in the city. More information on the department's webpage.

Building on his commitment to public engagement, in October, Chris led 12-, 30-, and 50-mile bike tours of Kansas City's prominent sites to explore the city's rich religious and cultural history, beginning at Kaw Point, the Lewis and Clark camp that would become Kansas City. The proceeds from the event went to the non-profit group Free Wheels for Kids.

In December, Dr. Cantwell moderated a discussion between Pulitzer Prize winning writer Taylor Branch and theologian Rufus Burrow on the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Nobel Peace Prize at the National Archives at Kansas City.

And finally, Dr. Cantwell is also working on an aggressive research agenda. He

presented at several conferences and gave various invited talks, including at the American Historical Association, the American Society of Church History, Cornell University's History of Capitalism Conference, the University of Kansas's Hall Center for the Humanities' Digital Humanities Seminar, and the Bible in American Life Conference in Indianapolis. He was the lead organizer for The Humanities and Technology Camp in San Diego, sponsored by the American Academy of Religion; published an article in *Religion and Politics*; and signed a contract with the University of Illinois Press for his first book, *the Pew and the Picket Line: Christianity and the American Working Class*. He also received a UMRB for next year, which will allow him time to prepare his monograph for publication. **Congratulations Chris on a terrific year.**

Alumni News

UMKC's Honors Program recently published the latest issue of UMKC's undergraduate research journal, *Lucerna*. The journal publishes the ten best undergraduate essays from across the university and two articles came from the history department. Congratulations to **Natalie Walker** and **Kelly Hangauer**.

Congratulations to Our Fall 2014 History Graduates!

Christabel Appiah · Shaina Burris · Clayton Frans · Elizabeth Hartzler · Donald Hinton

Ryan Hook · Kate Jackson · William Merryman · Kyle Morehead · Daisy Morgan-Pevehouse

Ryan Nash · Autumn Neal · Kyle Richardson · Nikolaus Schroff · Beverly Thompson-Beazley

Natalie Walker · Erik Wynn · Caitlin Eckard (MA) · Charles French (MA) · Deborah Keating (MA)

Perspectives on History

In a world increasingly interested in STEM and less concerned with the Humanities, historian Peter A. Coclanis at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill tackles the issue in an essay published in Perspectives in History about "Why STEM Students Need an H."

"Should we be concerned that there's no h in STEM? That history is missing out on the shift in student interest in recent years toward scientific and technical fields? I think so..."

History has something to offer those studying STEM. Wouldn't STEM students benefit from knowing about the mathematical contributions of George Boole and Evariste Galois? Wouldn't it behoove chemical engineers to know something about how the first synthetic polymers were invented?... Something about the 19th-century communications revolution ushered in by the telegraph, "the Victorian Internet"? And, even in our own era, the story of Alan Emtage, the African American from Barbados, who is generally credited with developing the first pre-web Internet search engine in 1989?

History should not be seen a frill or add-on, or even as something whose high opportunity costs outweigh its benefits. Quite the contrary, I submit. It is not merely plausible, but likely that students can do STEM work more effectively if they incorporate into their intellectual tool kits both historical content and, more important, an appreciation of

history as a "way of knowing."

It is quite beyond me how on earth ardent STEM advocates can believe that their preferred curricula can prosper without their students knowing—at a bare minimum—how to read deeply and write good prose, without mastering the basic principles of economics, and without understanding something about logic, human psychology, ethics, and geographical/special thinking. Is one more engineering course relating to materials management in construction or ASIC verification more worthwhile for a budding engineer than a course or two on the history of technology? Or, going to bat for my friends in English departments, a course on Shakespeare? It's hard to believe so. Indeed, regarding history, I would go even further and argue that every STEM department should not only offer historically oriented courses but also employ trained professional historians.

Why? For starters, to deepen students' understanding of their own STEM disciplines, to broaden their analytical frames and their skill sets, to provide them with additional cultural capital, and ultimately to enhance their long-term

career viability in the global labor markets in which they will likely be competing for the rest of their working lives. To be sure, there are plenty of good reasons for college students today to major in STEM disciplines and to segue into STEM careers. That said, it would be a mistake to discount too heavily the future value of "investments" in history specifically and the humanities more generally. Most STEMers will find the skills they learn in history to be useful as they progress in their careers, and in time many will work with (or for) historians and other humanists. As an added bonus—hardly an incidental one—history and the humanities... can help to guide one toward a meaningful life."

History should not be seen a frill or add-on, or even as something whose high opportunity costs outweigh its benefits.

FACULTY & STAFF

News and Department Achievements

Andrew Bergerson will attend several upcoming meetings and workshops, including one to discuss an English language MA in microhistory at European universities and a conference in Hannover. He is presenting at a workshop sponsored by the Sorbonne, which will launch a 2-year research project focusing on the history of love, sex, and war in Europe. Dr. Bergerson will be a Guest Research Professor at the Université Paris Ouest-Nanterre La Défense for the month of May and will teach at the National Taipei University in the fall.

He helped create the new Certificate in Holocaust Studies as well as the new Public Humanities emphasis in the Humanities Consortium.

Rebecca Miller Davis presented at the Southern Historical Association meeting in a panel commemorating the 50th anniversary of Freedom Summer. She had a book review published in the *Journal of American History* with another in the works for the *Journal of Southern History*. Dr. Davis will give an invited lecture at the University of Tennessee at Martin's civil rights conference on LBJ and the Great Society in February.

David Freeman presented at a First Friday workshop last fall to discuss his latest research on trans-Atlantic trading networks.

Linda Mitchell sent her book, *Joan de Valence: The Life and Influence of a Thirteenth-Century Noblewoman*, to Palgrave Macmillan and she is completing *Voices of Medieval England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales* for ABC-Clio this year. She also had an article accepted for an edited collection with Brill Publishers. She is excited about the excellent special issues being published this year in *Historical Reflections* and about the development of several others on medieval topics and World War I for 2016. Dr. Mitchell is chairing a session for the Society for Medieval Feminist Scholarship at the International Medieval Congress; chaired a session for Midwest Medieval History Conference (MMHC) and was elected conference organizer for the 2015 MMHC.

Diane Mutti Burke won the 2014 Missouri Humanities Council's Distinguished Literary Achievement Award, which celebrates accomplishments by individuals who have made exceptional contributions to the understanding of Midwestern history and culture. Dr. Mutti Burke has certainly earned this honor as her books on slavery and the Civil War in the Missouri-Kansas region have attracted a national following. She will be recognized for her scholarship and community engagement at a formal ceremony later this spring. In addition, Dr. Mutti

Burke organized the 2015 Richard D. McKinzie Lecture on "Founders as Fathers: The Private Lives and Politics of the American Revolutionaries."

Lynda Payne returned to the History Department full-time in January, having served as the Sirridge Missouri Endowed Professor in Medical Humanities and Bioethics for the last six years. She presented her paper, "Who's Your Enemy? Incorporating stories of trauma in a medical humanities courses," at the International Health Humanities Conference at the University of Nottingham in the UK in September.

Massimiliano Vitiello won the prestigious 2015 UMKC Trustee's Faculty Scholar Award. The honor recognizes scholarly achievement and promise of future success. This certainly characterizes the quality and breadth of Dr. Vitiello's scholarship, which includes three monographs and numerous journal articles. He also won a UMRB for next year to work on his next book, *Reinterpreting Anonymus Valesianus II: The Life of Theoderic and Sixth Century Italy*, which is a philological and historical commentary of this early medieval document, which is of fundamental importance for the history of Sixth Century Italy.

GRADUATE STUDENTS

News and Achievements

Matthew Reeves (iPhD) started work as a Special Projects Manager for Eisterhold Associates, Inc. in August and is also working with the National Museum of Toys and Miniatures as a Lead Exhibit Designer for the museum's grand reopening in the Summer of 2015. Along with fellow graduate student, **Leah Palmer (MA)**, he has also started working for the Kansas City Chiefs Football Club to develop the Arrowhead Art Collection. In his spare moments, he serves as President of the History Graduate Student Association.



Autumn Neal (MA), a fall semester graduate and current public history MA student, was chosen by the Undergraduate Research Board to represent UMKC at the system-wide research symposium held this spring at the state capitol where she will talk to lawmakers about her work on the Edgar Snow digital exhibit, completed with Dr. Cantwell. For more information, please visit <http://edgarsnowproject.org/>

Leah Palmer (MA), worked for the Wornall/Majors House Museums and the American Truck Historical Society in the fall. She and **Matt Reeves** are working to develop the Kansas City Chiefs' Arrowhead Art Collection.

Chad King (MA) is currently revising his article, "The Courts of Great Importance: President Grant and the Circuit Courts," submitted to the *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*. He presented a paper on President Grant and the Courts at the Presidential History Network Conference at the University of Northumbria in Newcastle, England last summer, with travel funding from the College of Arts and Sciences and History Department.

Kevin Scharlau's (MA), article "Navigating Change in the Homophile Heartland: Kansas City, Gay Rights, & the Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom," is forthcoming with the *Missouri Historical Review*. This research was also the basis for an invited lecture at the Kansas City Public Library's LGBT Advocacy Talk and presentation at the Missouri Conference on History. He has two published book reviews with *New York History: A Quarterly Journal* and *Human Rights Review*, along with two more in the works for *Southern Historian* and *Civil War History*.

Craig Workman (iPhD), has many recent publications in short fiction, such as "K in the Dirt," appearing in *Kansas City Voices: A Periodical of Writing and Art*, as well as other pieces in *Corium Magazine*, *Fiction on the Web*, and *The Subterranean Quarterly*.



He has a book, *Walking to Elysium: A Novel-in-Stories* under consideration with Steward House Publishers. Craig was the winner of the 2014 Whispering Prairie Press Flash Fiction Prize and the Ilus Davis Doctoral Teaching Fellowship.

A Medievalist Abroad

In November of 2014, **Melissa Morris (iPhD)** arrived in London to present her work at the "Landmarks in Printing: From Origins to the Digital Age" conference. The symposium was held to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of England's Printing Historical Society. Held at the St. Bride Institute, this conference brought together premier scholars in the fields of printing and book history. Along with fellow student, **Chainy Folsom (iPhD)**, they presented a paper on UMKC's CODICES: A Codex and Manuscript Digitization project. Their work with the project was entitled "Re-imagining Incunables: How Accessible Digital Technology Illuminates the Production Process of Antoninus' *Summa theologica*." The research performed by the CODICES team looks at incunables (books printed, not handwritten, before 1501, the infancy of the printed work). Their goal is to discover information about the paper used in the printing of these five hundred year old texts. Researching centuries old paper may seem an odd historical exercise, but Morris, Folsom and the rest of CODICES team have discovered a new investigative technique to examine and catalog the watermarks embedded in incunables printing. From these watermarks has come new data not just about printing technology, but also clues about the social, cultural, and economic history of the era. Understanding where the paper originates enabled Morris and Folsom to recreate European trading networks and better illuminate the trans-national exchange of the 15th century. Morris spent considerable time at the British Library looking through various editions of the *Summa theologica* and documenting the watermarks to add to the CODICES database.



After the conference. Morris spent time throughout England researching her dissertation. Her project examines women and their books in 14th century England, especially the petitions, wills, and chronicles that are now held in various English archives. Most of her time was devoted to the National Archives in Kew where she had access to a variety of documents including the Close Rolls, royal petitions, and papal bulls. Many of the women she investigates were wives of Knights of the Order of the Garter and they also participated in the feast of Saint George as Ladies of the Garter. Records connected to the Order of the Garter are held at the College of Saint George Chapel Archives located inside the walls of Windsor Castle. She spent ten days at Windsor Castle looking at the earliest surviving documents associated with the Order of the Garter and its members. She also visited Westminster Abbey to see the tombs of Anne of Bohemia and Eleanor de Bohun, two participants in the Ladies of the Garter. Her time in England gave her access to documents that are vital to her dissertation research, we in the department look forward to the completion of her most recent



Where can the History Department take you?

Send us your photos to let us know where your research has taken you.

Certificate in Holocaust Studies



Starting this spring, UMKC will offer a Graduate Certificate in Holocaust Studies (CHS) that will allow students to study comparative genocides through interdisciplinary approaches. Students may take up to 9 courses at institutions that are part of the Consortium: Avila and Park are current members; the Art Institute, KU, and perhaps the Command and General Staff College may be joining in the near future. This certificate can be used to supplement an existing degree program (like an MA, MALS, or iPhD), as a credential for professional development, or simply out of personal fascination with the topic. The first course, History 5586GR, offered spring 2015, was an interdisciplinary Introduction to Holocaust and Genocide Studies at the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education.

For more information about the certificate program, check out <http://cas.umkc.edu/holocaust> or <http://mchekc.org/certificateinholocauststudies> or contact **Dr. Andrew Bergerson** at bergersona@umkc.edu

Center for Midwestern Studies

With the support of the **Kansas City Public Library** and our other institutional partners throughout the metro, the **Center for Midwestern Studies** is sponsoring the upcoming "Kansas City in the Golden Age" symposium. This conference will bring together scholars from around the nation to present new work on Kansas City between the World Wars when jazz bubbled up from underground speakeasies and mob bosses controlled city politics. Popular images of music and crime define national perceptions of the city in the early 20th century but Kansas City was more than gangsters and

saxophones. In this era, the city and its citizens were also deeply engaged in important debates over race, economics, and politics that would shape the region for the next 75 years.

To support the symposium, the Center will sponsor a pre-conference workshop for scholars in November where participants will share their work during a two-day roundtable discussion. The following spring, these scholars will return to Kansas City for a public forum held **March 31-April 2, 2016**. Stanford University's **David Kennedy** will deliver the conference

keynote.

In addition to offering a one-credit course to accompany the symposium, Center for Midwestern Studies director, **Diane Mutti Burke** will organize and edit a scholarly volume based on the scholarship produced for the conference.

The History Department is very excited to be a co-sponsor for this event, we look forward to an excellent conference. More information about the symposium will be available on the departmental website in the coming months.

SUMMER COURSES

The History Department has some exciting courses for Summer 2015. Whether you are looking to fulfill a General Education requirement or for an upper-division elective, we have you covered.

FOCUS C COURSE SECOND 4-WEEK
U.S. HISTORY TO 1877
HISTORY 101 M.OSBORN Online Asynchronous
FULFILLS CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT GEN ED CORE: FOCUS C

FOCUS C COURSE FIRST 4-WEEK
U.S. HISTORY SINCE 1877
HISTORY 102 R.DAVIS Online Asynchronous
FULFILLS CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT GEN ED CORE: FOCUS C

FOCUS A COURSE SECOND 4-WEEK
WORLD HISTORY SINCE 1450
HISTORY 208 D.FREEMAN MTWR 9:30am-12:00pm
GEN ED CORE: FOCUS A

FIRST 4-WEEK
GETTING HIGH
ALCOHOL AND DRUGS IN AMERICAN HISTORY
HISTORY 300H M.OSBORN MTWR 2:00-4:30pm
UNITED STATES

FIRST 4-WEEK
children & the family
HISTORY 300J M.FORMAN-BRUNELL Online Asynchronous
UNITED STATES

SECOND 4-WEEK
GOD AT THE MOVIES
AMERICAN RELIGION IN FILM AND FICTION
HISTORY 300K C.CANTWELL MTWR 2:00-4:30pm
UNITED STATES

FIRST 4-WEEK
**LATIN AMERICAN
CRISES + OPPORTUNITY**
HISTORY 400CL V.GRIEGO Online Cluster Course
NON-WESTERN

FIRST 4-WEEK
Islamic and the Arabs
FROM MUHAMMAD TO THE MONGOLS
HISTORY 444R C.KLAUSNER MTWR 9:00-11:30am
NON-WESTERN

Need to meet with an undergraduate advisor?

You can view your advisor's schedule and make appointments in Blackboard via [Starfish Connect](#).

HistoryMakers

The Department of History's
Internship Program

The UMKC HistoryMakers internship program allows students to earn up to 3 credit hours per semester while gaining valuable professional experience in public and private institutions engaged in the work of history. Interns will work 120 hours over the course of a semester or a summer on a schedule approved by their Internship Supervisor. This course can count towards the major. Students must apply to join the HistoryMaker internship program in order to receive permission from the Faculty Director to register. The application, a listing of open internships, previous placements, and more can be found at <http://info.umkc.edu/historymakers/>

For more info contact Dr. Chris Cantwell (cantwellcd@umkc.edu).

We dedicate these pages to the memory of Shona Kelly Wray.

Those interested in honoring Shona's career as a medievalist and her commitment to students may wish to donate to The Shona Kelly Wray Scholarship in Medieval Studies.

Donations may be made by check to the UMKC Foundation or on the UMKC Foundation's website:

<https://ecommerce.umkc.edu/donate/non-alumni.aspx>




Current students and alumni:

We would love to include you in future newsletters so please keep us up to date. We can be reached at 816.235.1631 or history@umkc.edu

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