

# History House Herald



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## NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR, ANTHONY DALY

On behalf of the department, welcome to a new semester and welcome to 2021. So much changed in 2020; after one semester of hybrid classes, we are starting another. There have been challenges for students and faculty in this new learning landscape, and I want to thank our students for their patience and perseverance. I have worked to apply lessons from the fall to improve my spring courses, but I am sure you share my hope that fall 2021 sees us back in our classrooms, full-time.

We have had to cancel or adapt many of the events and experiences that are part of our programs, but as you can see in this newsletter, there are still exciting things happening in History and Political Science. It is a pleasure to be part of a dedicated group of faculty who work so hard to create opportunities for our students to learn and grow.

In faculty news, in September 2020, we welcomed Dr. Kleintop back to campus from a semester-long fellowship at the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, located at Yale University. Another of our US historians, Dr. Janis, is in the middle of a three year stint as interim Dean of Academic Affairs.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR CONTINUES ON PAGE 8

## Internships

OUR DEPARTMENT HAS WORKED HARD OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS WITH ALUMNI, LOCAL DONORS, COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS, THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS, AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO INTERNSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS. WE WILL CONTINUE TO BUILD FUNDRAISING EFFORTS FOR AN ENDOWED INTERNSHIP LEGACY FUND DESIGNATED FOR SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT. ALONG THOSE SAME LINES, WE ARE EXCITED TO CONTINUE OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE RUTH E. PROUD CHARITABLE TRUST THAT PROVIDES SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT FOR INTERNSHIPS FOR STUDENTS IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND HISTORY. TOGETHER, THESE TWO FUNDS LOOK TO REMOVE COST AS A CONSIDERATION AS MOTIVATED, HARD-WORKING STUDENTS DETERMINE WHICH INTERNSHIP IS BEST FOR THEM.



### Bianca Lascasse '20 - The Washington Center

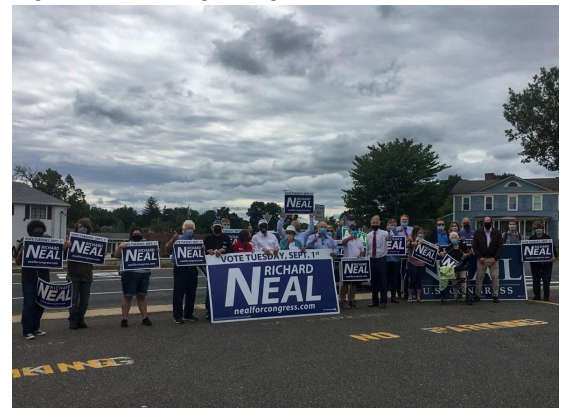
"I decided to apply especially since I knew this experience was something that would rarely happen for a person of my status [and I am] happy with my decision. **Being able to experience DC by living there and meeting new people was one of the best decisions I made in my college career.** I loved the city [since] there was always something to do, and the political climate was like no other. I was there for the iconic **March on Washington** and I am happy to say I marched and witness the beauty of the movement"

"My internship experience was just as noteworthy. **The DC Bar Foundation** taught me how charity work operates and how the grant selection process works. Seeing how many people rely on that type of money to run their organizations is very interesting. Although it's work I was not initially interested in I was happy to have worked with them.

### Chris Cozzaglio '21 – U.S. Representative Richard Neal's Reelection Campaign

"I began my internship ... collecting signatures to get Congressman Neal on the upcoming election ballot. From there the internship went remote, and I started phone banking, dropping off candidate signs, mailing or setting up safe drop-offs of petitions to different town halls, and attending socially distanced standouts. Towards the end of July, I was asked to serve the campaign as the **Field Organizer for Berkshire County**. I went from being on an internship staff to supervising that staff. Furthermore my responsibilities changed from just attending events and showing my support for Congressman Neal, to organizing these events, recruiting volunteers, and doing direct voter contact to help them with any issues they may have."

"This internship has been a great experience and has helped shaped what I want to do with my future. The reason I want to practice law, and participate in politics is because I want to help people. My internship for Congressman Neal's campaign gave me many tools, like stronger communication skills, and a stronger understanding of elections and campaigning, in addition to helping me start to build a network of people who work in the areas that I want to."



## COPLAC undergraduate research conference



DURING THE FALL OF 2020, A NUMBER OF STUDENTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESENTED THEIR ORIGINAL RESEARCH AT THE COUNCIL OF PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE'S UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE. MCLA, BEING A PUBLIC LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE, IS A MEMBER OF THE COPLAC INSTITUTIONS. EACH YEAR STUDENTS APPLY TO PRESENT ORAL OR POSTER PRESENTATIONS AT THE CONFERENCE. THIS YEAR, DUE TO COVID, ALL PRESENTATIONS WERE VIRTUAL. STUDENTS PRE-RECORDED THEIR PRESENTATION AND ATTENDED A LIVE Q&A SESSION THAT WAS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. WHILE A NUMBER OF MAJORS AND MINORS IN THE DEPARTMENT PRESENTED WORK, WE TAKE A DEEPER DIVE INTO THREE PROJECTS BELOW.

**Abigail Berry** focused her attention on the Boer War “which was fought from 1899 to 1902 between the British Empire and the Boer states, Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The Boer people, descendants of Dutch settlers in South Africa, opposed British control.” Her interest in the Boer War stemmed from a Travel Course she took to South Africa her freshman year.

**Samantha Herrington's** research spun out of Prof Daly's Russian History course and centered around Mikhail Gorbachev and how his leadership redefined the trajectory of communism and democracy in the late 20th century.

**Houa Xiong's** project on voting behavior of Asian Americans grew out of a combination of political science courses and “as Covid-19 broke out, there was an increase of racism among the Asian American community. This led me to research more about Asian American political behaviors and civic engagements.”

Read more about the above projects and the students' experience at each below and on page 4.

**Amanda Judson** presented “Anna May Wong: Bridging the Gap” and **Natalia Giacomozzi** presented “Political Discourse Between Presidential Candidates and the Media”.

### Abigail Berry – Class of 2021

#### Britain and the Boer War, 1899-1902: Causes and Problems

“When the Boer War began in October 1899, the British believed the war would only last a few months. In reality, the Boer War lasted until May 1902. My research explored the different causes of the war to determine which were most influential and examined the difficulties the British faced during the conflict. Based on my research, I came to the conclusion that the Boer War was caused by the British desire for mineral-rich land, the lack of trust between the two groups, and the failed Jameson Raid. During the war, the British faced the following major difficulties: the unprepared state of their army, the tenacity of Boer resistance, diseases that weakened British soldiers, and opposition to the war from the British public.”

“This [COPLAC] opportunity allowed me to experience what a research conference is like even though we are in the middle of a pandemic and helped me gain valuable public speaking experience. I am grateful that I was able to have this opportunity and hope to attend more research conferences in the future not only to share my own research but also to continue learning from others and their work.”

## COPLAC undergraduate research conference (Cont'd)



### **Samantha Herrington – Class of 2022**

#### **Reforms in the Soviet Union under Mikhail Gorbachev, 1985-1991**

“I have always had interest in how national leaders prioritize and enact policy changes. Those who have been in charge during significant points in history (such as the Cold War era) bear great responsibility in their nation’s future. More specifically, the transformative leaders who establish major changes in the system have been especially important. Gorbachev serves as an example of that kind of leader – his domestic work with perestroika and glasnost changed the USSR, which in turn shaped international relations.

Research skills as a history major are critical to upper-level coursework, and conferences are a way to build on that research for professional development as well. Another positive of the conference was the ability to connect with others. Having a professor as a faculty mentor in the process allowed me to get feedback on my presentation from someone who already knew it well. That kind of support from professors for opportunities outside of the classroom is a reason why MCLA is so special. Interacting with other presenters and the COPLAC organizers as well was a great feeling at my first research conference. I definitely enjoyed my URC experience and would encourage any students to participate in conferences in the future.”

### **Houa Xiong – Class of 2021**

#### **Asians' Political Engagement in the United States**

“After taking [Political Behavior and Race and Ethnic Politics], I wanted to keep learning more about Asian Americans in the US, as I learned that Asian Americans are often perceived to be this model minority of good behavior in society of wealth and education, but they often have low voter turnouts. Along with this, I learned more about voter suppression and interesting political behaviors in my American Political Behavior class. I find that there was more voter suppression among the community than I thought.”

“Writing this paper and presenting at COPLAC was an opportunity to research information that matters to me as I got a platform to share them with other folks. This has driven me to become a more effective friend, sister, and resource that I wish to be for Asian Americans who struggle with systemic racism, social stratifications, mental health, and deportation. I do believe that voting is a privilege and people should practice it, but I also believe in the struggles and challenges that suppress US citizens from getting to practice that voting power peacefully.”



## Faculty Spotlight



IN SPRING 2020, HISTORY PROFESSOR AMANDA LAURY KLEINTOP SPENT THE SEMESTER AT YALE UNIVERSITY'S GILDER LEHRMAN CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SLAVERY, RESISTANCE, AND ABOLITION (NEW HAVEN, CT) AS A FACULTY FELLOW. THE FELLOWSHIP, AWARDED TO ONE VISITING SCHOLAR EACH SEMESTER, ENABLED HER TO WORK ON HER BOOK PROJECT, THE BALANCE OF FREEDOM: ABOLISHING PROPERTY RIGHTS IN HUMANS IN THE US CIVIL WAR AND AMERICAN MEMORY.

Most have overlooked the fact that Americans continued to debate how to resolve the legal and financial systems of enslavement after U.S. victory in the Civil War and the Thirteenth Amendment, Dr. Kleintop told us. Her book takes a fresh look at how the Civil War affected these systems in her manuscript project. Slave markets weren't just physical spaces, she explained. Until the war, enslavers, merchants and investors bought and sold enslaved people on credit and mortgaged human beings. Immediate, uncompensated emancipation as it happened after the war threatened to destroy this complex system of credit and debt, based on property in humans valued at about \$13 trillion by today's standard. Even in defeat, many white southerners insisted that they should not be penalized for participating in a legal property system. They fought vigorously to retain the financial value of enslaved people by demanding federal compensation for emancipation and relief from debts for the value of people.

Proponents of compensation tended to express their claims in legal and economic frameworks, avoiding race-based moral statements about who should be held accountable for the price of emancipation and enslavement. Nevertheless, other white and Black Americans demanded they absorb the financial costs of dissolving an immoral institution that tainted the entire country. They forced white southerners to shoulder the cost when the Fourteenth Amendment nullified claims for compensation in 1868 and the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that slave buyers had repay debts for people whom the law no longer considered property in 1871.

The Balance of Freedom is the first work of historical scholarship to explain the origin of this prohibition and to explain why this pivotal moment in Reconstruction history has gone unexamined. Despite their passionate advocacy of compensated emancipation in the years following the war, by 1900, white southerners obscured the history of their claims and convinced most white Americans that they had never asked for such compensation. To do so would have suggested that they had fought the Civil War to protect slavery, a suggestion they had come to vigorously deny. Instead, they insisted that states' rights, not slavery, had caused the Civil War. With this historical interpretation, they attempted to acquit white Americans of responsibility for enslaving and commodifying millions of Africans and their descendants.

**DR. KLEINTOP'S SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES ON PAGE 10**

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

THIS ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT IS ON ALLIE KADELL-PELTIER. SHE GRADUATED IN 2016 WITH A MAJOR IN HISTORY AND MINORS IN LEADERSHIP AND POLITICAL SCIENCE. ALLIE IS CURRENTLY THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ACCESSIBILITY RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS AT BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC IN BOSTON.

*1. Could you tell us a little about your professional path since MCLA? Where are you currently working/studying, and have you completed any additional education after graduating from MCLA?*

Since graduating from MCLA, I continued my studies at Salem State University and earned a Master's degree in Higher Education in Student Affairs. During my studies, I worked in the First-Year Experience and Disability Services Offices while also interning at both Northshore Community College and Emerson College. After completing my Master's, I was offered a job at Berklee College of Music as the Assistant Director of Accessibility Resources for Students, where I currently am today.

*2. What is your long term professional goal, and how has it changed, if at all, since you started out at MCLA?*

Before starting my academic journey at MCLA, I always imagined myself as a teacher. I have always wanted to help others learn, develop, and recognize their potential, as former teachers have done for me. I grew a passion for History throughout high school, which led me to seek a degree in History and Secondary Education at MCLA. Soon after I began my teaching courses and practicums, I realized that being inside the classroom wasn't where I wanted to be. However, I still knew that I wanted to have a profession where I could cultivate learning, provide access, and help others develop into productive members of society. While at MCLA, I began to take on student leadership roles within the student affairs division such as peer advising and student government. From my exposure to those opportunities, I recognized that I could take my professional aspirations and apply them to a career in student affairs. This untimely led me to pursue a degree in Higher Education, specifically within the disability functional area. Long term, I plan to continue working with the disabled community with aspirations to get my doctorate.

*3. Do you have a favorite memory or course from your time in the History and Political Science Department?*

YES! There are so many memories and courses that I love. However, I have two in particular. During my junior year, I took a Model United Nations class where we traveled to Toronto, Canada, to participate in University of Toronto Model United Nations Conference. There I served on the Mongolian Invasions Historical Committee as Tatar Khan, who was responsible for several tribes living throughout the nomadic steppe lands. The second is from my senior year when I took the Ireland Travel Course. We didn't just learn about Ireland's history; we also experienced it during the Spring Break Trip. While in Ireland, we immersed ourselves in the history and culture we learned about in class. We saw the buildings, castles, landmarks, art, and artifacts. We took the trains, ate the food, participated in sports, watched the St. Patrick's Day parades, and engaged with the local people. What better way to merge in-classroom learning with real-world experiences?

**ALLIE'S ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT CONTINUES ON PAGE 10**

## Department-organized Speakers

MCLA WORKS HARD TO BRING TIMELY AND NOTABLE SPEAKERS TO CAMPUS. STUDENTS AND FACULTY IN OUR DEPARTMENT ARE PIVOTAL IN ORGANIZING THE ANNUAL MICHAEL S. AND KITTY DUKAKIS PUBLIC POLICY LECTURE SERIES, WHICH IS FUNDED BY THE GENEROSITY OF THE RUTH PROUD CHARITABLE TRUST. THIS LECTURE SERIES IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT OF OUR LECTURE SERIES, WITH RECENT SPEAKERS INCLUDING AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST TA-NEHISI COATES, THE LATE JOURNALIST COKIE ROBERTS, JOURNALIST AND POLITICAL/SOCIAL ACTIVIST GLORIA STEINEM, AND FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE ROBERT GATES. THIS FALL, WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF HEARING FROM FORMER ARIZONA SENATOR AND CONGRESSMAN JEFF FLAKE. THE DEPARTMENT ALSO ORGANIZED AND SPONSORED OUR ANNUAL CONSTITUTION DAY TALK WHICH TAKES PLACE EVERY SEPTEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> TO CELEBRATE THE RATIFICATION OF THE U.S. CONSTITUTION. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR LECTURE SERIES, CONTACT DR. SAMANTHA PETTEY AT [S.PETTEY@MCLA.EDU](mailto:S.PETTEY@MCLA.EDU) OR (413) 662-5551.

### Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture Series

#### Senator Jeff Flake

On Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, Senator Jeff Flake virtually joined the MCLA community for our annual lecture series. Drawing on his nearly two decades of experience on Capitol Hill, in both the Senate and House of Representatives, Jeff Flake shared candid, thought-provoking, and engaging insights on today's political climate. Combining riveting anecdotes from his time in office, lessons from his New York Times bestselling book *Conscience of a Conservative*, and insights on the importance of civil leadership and bipartisanship, Flake painted a vivid picture of our current political environment and where we can expect our nation's democracy to go from here. Senator Flake also met with a small group of students for a personal Q&A session.



### Constitution Day 2020

#### “Voting in the the Time of CoVID” – Dr. Samantha Pettey

The department hosted another virtual speaker this Fall on September 17<sup>th</sup>, Constitution Day. This year, our very own Dr. Pettey spoke to us about how elections run in the U.S. Specifically, as the title implies, focusing on how the states quickly changed the way they set up elections to make sure citizens could vote safely. Further, Dr. Pettey expanded on what election night might look like given mail-in-ballots were predicted to be heavily Democratic and election night returns were likely to be more Republican. The lecture ended with a lively Q&A that included students, faculty, and members of the public. For a link to this presentation, please contact Dr. Pettey: [s.pettey@mcla.edu](mailto:s.pettey@mcla.edu).

## Message from the chair cont'd

Looking ahead to next year, three HIST/POSC faculty, Dr. Cupery, Dr. Huang, and myself, have been awarded sabbatical leave for one semester by the college, to concentrate on research and scholarship, without normal teaching responsibilities.

Back in the reality of spring 2021, we are concentrating on giving our students the best possible academic experience, given the conditions of a global pandemic. With the continuing of the vaccine rollout, we hope that April and May will allow for recognition of our graduating seniors. We also haven't forgotten our class of 2020, and we are committed to bringing our graduates back for an on-campus celebration.

As classes continue, remember that the faculty in the department are dedicated to student success, so please let us know if we can help. I wish each of you a safe and healthy and productive semester.

## UPCOMING FALL 2021 COURSE OFFERINGS

### History

- HIST 113: US History before 1877
- HIST 114: US History after 1877
- HIST 125/HONR 101 World Regional Geography
- HIST 230 War, Science, and Society
- HIST 290 Historical Methods and Theory
- HIST 305 Ireland from 1600
- HIST 320 Queer History
- HIST 320/POSC 315 - US after 1968
- HIST 320 Civil War and Reconstruction
- HIST 403 US and World War II
- HIST/POSC 450 Career Readiness Workshop

### Political Science

- POSC 201 – US Government
- POSC 210 – Political Science Research and Methods
- POSC 304 – Constitutional Law
- POSC 307 – State and Local Politics
- POSC 313 – American Political Institutions
- POSC 315/HIST 320 – US after 1968
- POSC/HIST 450 Career Readiness Workshop





## Spring 2020 – Model United Nations

Prior to the pandemic shut downs in March, students and faculty were able to take a few exciting trips together. Professor Cupery's Model United Nations course traveled to Toronto, Canada to the North American Model United Nations conference. Through the generosity of a donor, this conference is free to students. Political Science Club also has a Model United Nations chapter, and students and faculty traveled to Mount Holyoke for the Five College Model United Nations in early March. For more information on the Model United Nations course, which happens each Spring semester, please contact Professor Cupery : [d.cupery@mcla.edu](mailto:d.cupery@mcla.edu)



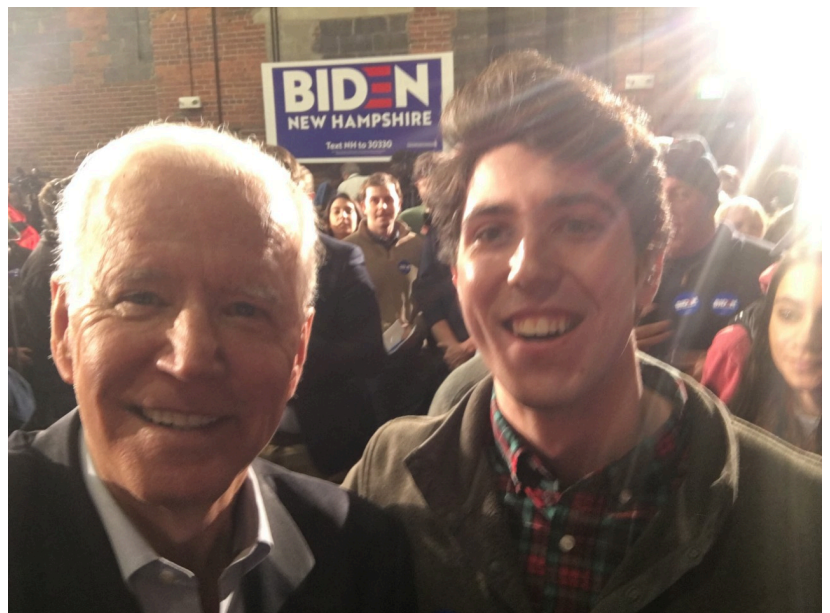
MCLA Model UN delegation in Toronto



MCLA Model UN delegation at Niagara Falls

## PRIMARY RALLIES IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

MCLA is situated in a really great area. We are about 2.5 hours from Boston and NYC and only 2 hours from N.H! While the Democratic Primary seems ages ago, Professors Cupery and Pettey drove a group of students to three rallies in N.H for a Saturday of political fun. Our first stop was, now President, Joe Biden's rally. A few students were lucky enough to stand on stage and speak with him. Another group of students attempted to get into a very crowded Elizabeth Warren rally but were unfortunately unable to get inside. The day ended on a bright note when students and faculty met back up and were all able to attend Mayor Pete Buttigieg's Town Hall.



Sophomore Jack Anderson with President Joe Biden

## FACULTY SPOTLIGHT CONTINUED

Dr. Kleintop returned to teach at MCLA in Fall 2020 and looks forward to continuing the project here. Thanks to a Faculty Incentive Award from MCLA, she's been granted a course release to work on the book in Spring 2021 while she teaches US History to 1877 and an upper-level research seminar, The Age of American Revolutions. Her research absolutely informs her teaching, she said, both its content and process. She enjoys teaching how to write as well as teaching history. She's looking forward to working with her seminar students on their scholarly research papers while sharing lessons she's learned from writing her book.

## Alumni Spotlight Continued

*4. If you had an internship during your time at MCLA, could you describe it and anyway it has helped you?*

I had one internship at MCLA with the Student Affairs Peer Advising Program. During the internship, I helped manage the peer advising team and coordinated events for the advisors. Having the opportunity to engage with processes, policies, event planning, and student interactions helped guide my professional career path.

*5. Are there particular skills, knowledge, or experience that you gained as a part of the History and Political Science Department that have come in handy for you professionally? If so, how?*

One of the skills that I continue to practice in my professional career is using context to inform my decisions and interactions with people. I often seek information about how, why, and when something came to be in order to solve issues, develop policies and engage with students. Additionally, studying history and political science at MCLA, I was exposed to learning about the many injustices that have and continue to happen throughout the world's history. This led me to explore justice and activism.

*6. Do you have any advice for our current students? Is there something you wish you would have done differently in college or maybe an opportunity you regret not taking advantage of?*

I have three pieces of advice for current MCLA students. First, apply, apply and apply for any and all scholarships that are made available to you. Second, take advantage of every opportunity that MCLA has to offer you. Whether it's taking a RASM desk job, volunteering with Civic and Community Engagement, doing intramurals, or becoming a Teaching Assistant, the opportunities will guide you beyond your years at MCLA. Lastly, ask for help often. MCLA faculty, staff, and students want to see you succeed. If you are struggling, don't understand class material, can't complete a financial form, need help picking a major, whatever it is, MCLA is here to help you.

