

2021/2022 | ISSUE 1

# THE ARCHIVE

**\*INAUGURAL ISSUE\***

The Annual Newsletter of the Muhlenberg History Department

## WELCOME TO MUHLENBERG, DR. SARAH RUNCIE!

*Interview by Eva Vaquera '23*  
*Photography by Rebecca Clark '23*



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In the Fall of 2020, the History Department of Muhlenberg College welcomed a new professor to their team—Dr. Sarah Runcie. Given that students and professors alike had to transition to a digital academic space during quarantine, Dr. Runcie began her journey at Muhlenberg differently in comparison to her colleagues. While she had an academic space to interact with students, Zoom did not translate to the learning environment students and professors value. Despite the rough start, Dr. Runcie states that her first semester online allowed her to notice the inequities and how her role as the professor could help students during those difficult times instead of causing more stress. The Fall of 2021 marks the transition to a somewhat normal state with Muhlenberg welcoming students back to campus. With expectations of returning to a life before COVID-19, students did not have time to welcome the new faces on campus. I was given the honor of interviewing Dr. Runcie for the Department Newsletter in hopes of giving her the proper welcome she deserves after being isolated from her community due to online learning.

Studying French abroad during college, Dr. Runcie became more interested in francophone countries than just appreciating the French language. Her attention shifted to the history surrounding Africa. With this newfound curiosity, Dr. Runcie learned that historical narratives are powerful, thus important, as the general information about Africa, as American students know it, is a constructed European narrative meant to uplift white supremacy. She wanted to make others aware of the power these narratives hold. Such a revelation became one of her motivators as she continued with her academics, leading Dr. Runcie to focus her research on the history of medicine and public health.

In detail, Dr. Runcie's main area of interest in her research is the decolonization of Cameroon, which took place between the 1950s and 1960s. Another motivator of Dr. Runcie is confronting racism and colonization, be it by studying or teaching African history. Currently, Dr. Runcie teaches several courses on African history, ranging from ancient to

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modern times, in hopes of solidifying her motivations. Runcie states: "Studying African history and prioritizing African history is a confrontation of European history and a way to break down damaging ideas about Africa, Africans, and those of African descent".

During the interview, Dr. Runcie recognizes that students may question her legitimacy and credibility as a white woman teaching black history. While she has not been asked specifically by students, Dr. Runcie "sees [her] intellectual commitments as confronting white supremacy." Additionally, Dr. Runcie focuses and centralizes African authors and perspectives when teaching students about African history as "it is central to thinking about who speaks for Africans about African history." Dr. Runcie begins at the start of her course and syllabus by talking about her position to initiate a discussion about where students' information pertaining to Africa originates. By highlighting students' information, Dr. Runcie believes more valuable discussions about Africa can occur as students are bringing their own knowledge to the table, again emphasizing that she is a facilitator to the subject, not the sole expert on the continent.

Dr. Runcie's eagerness to spread information about African history and dismantle previous beliefs caused by white supremacy showcases her genuineness on the matter and cements her motivations. But, why choose to teach at Muhlenberg? Previously, Dr. Runcie worked at a bigger university, so when given the opportunity to teach at a small liberal arts college, excitement overtook her. Dr. Runcie emphasizes that she was looking forward to the small classes to get to know and work with students at a more personal level than her experience at her previous location. Additionally, Muhlenberg gives her more freedom to design her classes, all within her area of expertise. Dr. Runcie also mentions that there is intersectionality between fields when it comes to her courses--having public health students taking history courses pertaining to Africa, an occurrence that does not happen at other schools. So, how is Muhlenberg treating Dr. Runcie so far? As previously mentioned, Dr. Runcie began her Muhlenberg journey during a pandemic. Regardless of the rough start, Dr. Runcie states that her experience on campus has been good! She continues to demonstrate excitement toward meeting and teaching students, especially now that classes are in person.

As for what the future holds for Dr. Runcie at Muhlenberg, she will be teaching a first-year seminar in the fall for the first time! It is titled "New York City: A Global History," and it focuses on the multiple historical trajectories in New York. Dr. Runcie shared courses she is currently working on for the future, like a course on gender in West-African history. As for her involvement in the social sphere of Muhlenberg, Dr. Runcie shares that she has not done enough exploring of the Lehigh Valley, so she would love to hear any recommendations for activities to do in the area. She shared a small piece of information that could help with recommendations: Dr. Runcie prefers Starbucks coffee over Dunkin Donuts.

Everyone can agree that teaching and learning during a pandemic has been trying and exhausting. But, it has also been influential, as Dr. Runcie states. The recent events have reemphasized the importance of education, specifically the importance of public health and the humanities. Often overlooked, the humanities hold skills like critical thinking and empathy, which have proven their importance these past years with the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic. For Dr. Runcie, the pandemic not only allowed her to change her teaching methods and reevaluate her role as an educator, it also allowed her to recognize the role of the humanities. The pandemic has charged everyone, especially Dr. Runcie, with a new sense of academic purpose at a new location. It was a pleasure to interview Dr. Runcie; I definitely want to take one of her courses now. I believe I speak for everyone when I say: Welcome to Muhlenberg, Dr. Runcie!





## PHI ALPHA THETA

*An American honor society for undergraduate and graduate students and professors of history.*

### Congratulations to our 2022 initiates!

Amina Beasley	Patrick McDonald
Rebecca Clark	Carlie Nieman
Francois D'Elia	Sean O'Neill
Jodie Goldberg	Hannah Ott
	Chloe Selover

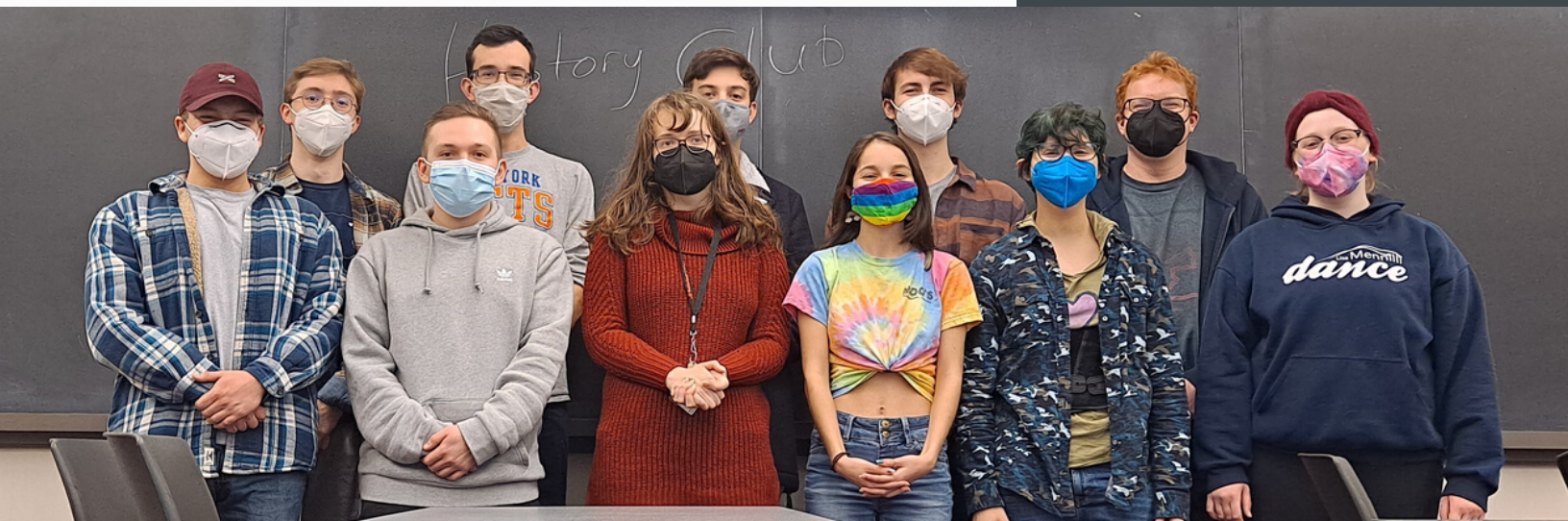
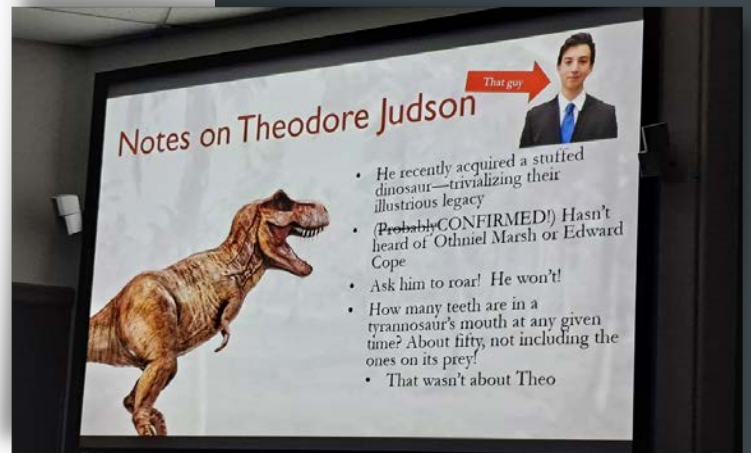


## HISTORY CLUB

The History Club is dedicated to keeping the fun in history, while still providing factual information. Every meeting we have a PowerPoint duel on whatever historical topic the presenter wants. We have had ones from the history of vampires to the history of cheesesteaks! We have also been researching Jewish history at Muhlenberg and in the Allentown community. Follow us on instagram [@muhlenberghistoryclub](https://www.instagram.com/muhlenberghistoryclub) for upcoming meetings and events.

### 2021-2022 OFFICERS:

*President: Andrew Buckwalter*  
*Vice President: William Moody*  
*Secretary/Treasurer: Anthony Panuccio*  
*Head of PR: Theodore Judson*





## 2022 HONORS CONVOCATION AWARDS



**DR. EDWIN R. BALDRIGE PRIZE**

*Chloe Selover*



**DR. VICTOR L. JOHNSON AWARD**

*Eva Vaquera*



**DR. JOHN J. REED AWARD**

*Rebecca Clark*



**THE HYMAN-GOODMAN AWARD**

*Jodie Goldberg*



**THE RUSSELL-FULFORD AWARD**

*Francois D'Elia*

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

*Taylor Garrison '20*



After graduating Muhlenberg in 2020, I dove headfirst into the public history world. I worked at the National Canal Museum as a seasonal Welcome Center Host. As the first person visitors spoke to, I quickly learned how to explain the vast and interesting history of the Lehigh Canal to a wide range of people. In the summer of 2021, I accepted the position of Outreach Assistant at Northampton County Historical & Genealogical Society. At NCHGS, I write for the newsletter, manage the front desk, fundraise, and much more. Most recently, I have been accepted to the combined MA/PhD program at the College of William and Mary.





# HISTORY HONORS

## *Congratulations to our 2022 Honors in History Recipients*

Aryeh Filler

*The War on Terror in the Context of Public Health:*

*9/11, Islamophobia, and Interventionism*

Honors

Abigail Learner

*A Socio-Political and Economic Analysis of the Transition to  
Custodial Mental Institutionalization in Late 19th and Early 20th  
Century America*

Honors

Angelo Mahaffey

*Neorealism and Post WW2 Italy*

High Honors

Sarah Raab

*Cut From A Different Cloth:*

*The History of Female Surgeons in 20th Century America*

High Honors

Chloe Selover

*An Analysis of Folk Practices of the East Coast and the  
Delegitimization of Folk Medicine throughout the Nineteenth  
Century*

High Honors

History Majors who are rising Seniors (or Juniors who are completing the research portion of their CUE during their 6th semester) who have earned a 3.75 grade point average in History and a 3.50 grade point average overall have the opportunity to participate in the Department's Honors Program. Students work with three faculty members (at least two from the History Department) to review their work over the course of the semester, which culminates in an oral defense of their independent research project. Students who wish to pursue honors are eligible for one of three honors categories: Honors, High Honors, or Highest Honors.



## FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

*What have our faculty been up to this year?*

### **Dr. Jacqueline Antonovich**

*Assistant Professor of History*

Dr. Antonovich has been busy with two publications this year! She published the article, "White Coats, White Hoods: The Medical Politics of the Ku Klux Klan in 1920s America" in the Bulletin of the History of Medicine, and her chapter, "Feminist Doctors and Medicine Women: The Lady Physician in the American Western," is in the new book, Diagnosing History: Medicine in Television Costume Dramas. In addition to teaching courses on Disease and Medicine in American History, the History of Public Health, and an FYS on Juvenile Delinquency, Dr. Antonovich taught her first CUE, guiding History majors and minors through researching and writing their senior seminar papers. In March 2022, Dr. Antonovich delivered a Grand Rounds Lecture on the history of women in medicine to Stanford University School of Medicine. In May, Dr. Antonovich appeared on the Jonathan Van Ness podcast, Getting Curious, to discuss the history of medicine. The episode will air this July.

### **Dr. Thomas Cragin**

*Professor of History*

In the midst of the pandemic, Tom Cragin had a pleasant surprise at the paperback issue of his recent co-edited volume, Resistance, Heroism, Loss: World War II in Italian Literature and Film, with Fairleigh Dickinson University Press (originally published in hardback before the pandemic). Tom is currently working on a study of the 1982 Italian classic, La notte di San Lorenzo, a tale of the Italian Civil War in 1944. Tom plans to give a paper on the film's representation of Fascism at the coming May conference of the American Association of Italian Scholars and then to expand that into an article. Tom has launched a new introductory course this year, "World War One and Remembrance" and is starting work on a new course for Fall 2022, "The Second and Third Reichs: Germany, 1848 to 1945."

### **Dr. Tineke D'Haeseleer**

*Assistant Professor of History*

Dr. D'Haeseleer has been invited to contribute a chapter on the history of Higher Learning in Middle Period China for the book A Cultural History of Higher Learning in the Medieval Age. In January she edited and published a student-authored Korean History textbook with chapters written by the students who took the first ever Korean History course at Muhlenberg in Spring 2020. A second edition, with chapters from the students of the Spring '22 course, is forthcoming. In Spring 2022 she wrote a series of blog posts about the digital tools she uses in teaching, and she presented in #PressEdConf22, an annual one-day Twitter conference about using Wordpress in education.

### **Dr. John Malsberger**

*Professor of History*

Dr. Malsberger was asked by the Journal of American History to review Marc C. Johnson's Tuesday Night Massacre: Four Senate Elections and the Radicalization of the Republican Party, Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press, 2021. It is forthcoming in the JAH. He also reviewed the manuscript "Atomic Fatherhood: How "Uncle Louis" and "Ike" Harnessed Masculinity Politics, 1949-1953," for Gender & History. He is completing revisions to an article "Technology, Work, Leisure, and 20th Century American Science Fiction" based on his ongoing research in American science fiction of the early Cold War.

### **Dr. Sarah Runcie**

*Assistant Professor of History*

Dr. Runcie introduced three new history courses to Muhlenberg this year: Africa before 1800, African Independence and Liberation, and Africa and World War II. She published a review of the book No More to Spend: Neglect and the Construction of Scarcity in Malawi's History of Health Care by Luke Messac, as part of a roundtable in H-Diplo. Dr. Runcie is also the recipient of the 2022 Research Travel Award from the Society for French Historical Studies and the Western Society for French History. She will use the award to visit archives in Paris and continue her research on public health and decolonization in Cameroon.

**Dr. Cathy Marie Ouellette**  
*Professor and Chair of History*

This past year, Dr. Ouellette published an article on Global Learning and Latin American and Caribbean Studies and a piece on the importance of the Humanities in fostering anti-racist approaches at institutions of higher learning. She taught a variety of courses, including Sex, Beauty and the Body in Brazil and the Caribbean, Colonial Latin America, and Environmental History. Dr. Ouellette returned to teaching the core International Studies course, Introduction to International Studies, and she looks forward to teaching the History CUE course in the fall.

**Dr. Mark Stein**  
*Professor of History*

Dr. Stein published two articles this year. The first, "Inalcik and Ottoman Military History" appeared in Archivum Ottomanicum Vol. 38 (2021). This was a special issue in memory of his dissertation advisor, Halil Inalcik, a foundational figure in the study of Ottoman history. Stein's article reconsiders Inalcik's work in military history. The second article, "Integrative Learning and Simulating Revolution and Protest in the Middle East," Review of Middle East Studies, Vol. 55, no. 1 (Winter 2021) was written with Dr. Brian Mello of the Political Science department. This study grew out of the Linked Courses Stein and Mello have taught on Revolutions and Social Movements in the Middle East and discusses the simulation projects that students develop and run as the integrative assignment linking the two courses.

**Dr. William Tighe**  
*Professor of History*

In late March 2022 Dr. Tighe, who periodically teaches a course at Muhlenberg on Eastern Orthodox Christianity, was asked to write for the journal Touchstone an article of some 5000 words on "The Two Rival Orthodox Churches in Ukraine: Their Origins and Their Root Disagreements." Although the two rival Orthodox churches have now grown to three he intends to have the article finished by the end of June (at least in the absence of further ecclesiastical multiplication). During his Fall 2022 sabbatical he hopes to resume work on, and finish, an incomplete article stalled in Covid limbo, an earlier version of which was presented at the annual meeting of the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in 2018, on the intersecting careers and contrasting fortunes of two Elizabethan courtiers, John Norris and Dru Drury, and to submit it for publication He hopes to revise his FYS, "Middle Earth Stories," prior to offering it again in the Spring 2023 semester.

**Dr. Lynda Yankaskas**  
*Associate Professor of History*

Dr. Yankaskas made up this year for time lost to Covid by working on three grant-supported projects. She continued work with an international team of researchers on a digital humanities project to unite the surviving catalogs and circulation records of 18th-century libraries in British America, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Ireland. Thanks to funding from the Council of Independent Colleges and along with special collections and archives librarian Susan Falciani Maldonado, she mentored History majors Hector Chen '23 and Sophia Framm '24 in researching the origins of the Allentown Public Library. She also continued as an M.C. Lang Fellow in Book History, Bibliography, and Humanities Teaching with Historical Sources. With Fellowship funds provided by Rare Book School, she purchased a tabletop letterpress, and looks forward to initiating students in early-American and book history courses into the mysteries of the printer's craft beginning in the Fall.

**CONGRATULATIONS**

to  
**Dr. Cathy Marie Ouellette**  
and  
**Dr. Mark Stein**

on their promotions to  
**Professor of History**





