



Gettysburg COLLEGE

THE GILDER LEHRMAN INSTITUTE *of* AMERICAN HISTORY

— *MA in American History* —

FALL 2023 NEWSLETTER

At the beginning of Fall 2023, the Gettysburg College-Gilder Lehrman MA in American History program had 808 enrollments across our eight course offerings. This term, along with familiar professors, we have Gettysburg College's own Professor of History Timothy Shannon and Professor Stephen Vider from Connecticut University teaching new courses. With the help of generous funders, 10 San Antonio and Houston area teachers have now been awarded the John Nau scholarship, with 10 more teachers in the program earning the Dev Chodry scholarship.

In this newsletter, we will share recent accomplishments from students and alumni of the program, scholarship recipients, and upcoming courses for the spring 2024 term.

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STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Andrew Bedell, who teaches eighth and eleventh grade U.S. history in Wilmington, Delaware received the Teacher to Teacher Award! The Middle States Council for Social Studies awards this to teachers who create innovative classroom experiences and share their ideas with colleagues. Bedell said of the award, "Recently, it has motivated me to think about different ways to engage students with historical thinking, and has inspired me to begin to develop new strategies to better develop the analysis of sources through collaboration and historiography through puzzles."

Pilar Svendsen earned her MA in American History in 2019 and has continued to grow her career as a teacher in California. She said, "I was excited to take the GLI MA Program because it was affordable, convenient, and accessible... Much of the classes that I completed have stuck with me and influenced my teaching practice. The accessibility to the Gilder Lehrman resources have been impactful both for my own research as well as in the classroom with students." After earning her Master's degree, she taught dual enrollment at Half Moon Bay High School, pursued her National Board Certification. She will also be presenting at the 2024 California Council for the Social Studies on "Ditching the Chromebook to create Meaningful Lessons in the Classroom with Primary Sources and Artifacts."

Connecticut teacher Katie Boland and James Madison Fellow was inspired by Professor Ned Blackhawk's course on American Indian History and researched the five tribal nations in Connecticut for her capstone. She built a curriculum and is now teaching a course on American Indian History at Trumbull High School this fall!



Boland's class with Clan Mother Shoran Piper of Golden Hill Paugussett Tribal Nation.

California teacher Adrian Montero graduated from MA program in spring 2022 and began teaching dual enrollment this fall through the local community college in Orange County.

"I teach 11th grade at a primarily Latino high school in Orange County, California. I wanted to get my Master's in US History so that I could teach a dual enrollment course at my school site. One of the side benefits of getting my Master's through GLI's program was that it got me more in touch and familiar with local history, particularly its connection to Latino culture. It made me a better teacher and enriched my students' learning."

— Adrian Montero

STUDENT AND ALUMNI ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Congratulations to our MA students and alumni who won the History Teacher of the Year award in their states!



Christine Costa
Tiverton Middle School
Tiverton, RI



Joe Refinski
East Orange STEM
Academy
East Orange, NJ



Emily Staat
Liberty High School
Hillsboro, OR

If you would like to be featured in a future highlight, email onlinecourses@gilderlehrman.org with the subject line MA Newsletter, and let us know what exciting things you are doing in the world of history or K-12 education.

Fall 2023 Q&A Facilitators

We'd like to thank our Fall 2023 Q&A facilitators for their valuable contribution to the MA Program! Throughout the term, each course has five live sessions where students interact with lead professors and ask questions about lectures, readings, and research. This term, the following current students and alumni have stepped up to facilitate live sessions.

CherylAnne Amendola
Phil Angel
Jim Coe
Kevin Conn
Faith Stackhouse Daly
Kim Denning-Knapp
Jennifer Harrison Macon
Craig Moore
Alan Nunez
Danielle Roseberry
Nicole Sealey
Jennifer Welch
and our MA intern Emily Royston!

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



SPRING 2024 COURSES

The Spring 2024 term begins Thursday, February 8 and ends Wednesday, May 1. Applications for the Gettysburg College–Gilder Lehrman MA in American History are open and considered on a rolling basis. To view full course descriptions and draft syllabi, please visit the [Gilder Lehrman MA Spring 2024 Courses](#) page.

New Course Spotlights

AMHI 616 American Environmental History with Catherine McNeur | Portland State University

This course is an introduction to the history of human interactions with the environment in the United States with a special focus on the history of political, social, cultural, and economic forces that have structured relationships with nature.

AMHI 677 Jim Crow and Its Challengers with Nikki Brown | University of Kentucky

This course addresses the rise, institutionalization, fall, and lasting impact of racial segregation laws in the United States.

AMHI 679 Immigrants and Immigration in the Age of Lincoln with Harold Holzer | Hunter College, CUNY

Through the lens of Abraham Lincoln's rise in local, regional, and national politics, this course will follow the growing nativist response to the role of German and Irish voters in the crucial presidential election of 1864.

AMHI 605 American Colonies: A Continental History with Alan Taylor | University of Virginia

AMHI 621 The American Revolution with Denver Brunsman | George Washington University

AMHI 609 Presidential Leadership at Historic Crossroads with Barbara Perry | University of Virginia



FALL 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Thanks to the generosity of external funders, we have been able to offer John Nau Scholarships to Houston- and San Antonio-area teachers to fully fund their degrees and \$750 Dev Chodry Scholarships for students taking two or more courses in a term. To apply for Spring 2024 scholarships, please visit the [Gilder Lehrman MA Scholarships page](#).

John Nau Scholarship Recipients



Christopher Adam Farris
Cypress Falls High School
Houston, TX

"I am overwhelmingly humbled by the opportunity to pursue my MA in American History through Gettysburg College in partnership with Gilder Lehrman with the John Nau Scholarship. The scholarship removes so much financial pressure and allows

me the freedom to focus on my family, my students and the MA program. I cannot wait to share with my students what I learn through this program."

Michael Gossett
Nimitz Middle School
San Antonio, TX

"I was honored to be considered for, and to receive, this scholarship. I am always encouraging my students to be knowledge-seekers, and to never stop learning. This scholarship will allow me to further my own learning, so that I can continue to improve my presentation of materials to my students."



Alicia Lockhart
Atascocita High School
Humble, TX

"I am highly excited about the opportunity to obtain an MA in US History through the Gilder Lehrman

program...Many of the courses highlight different, underrepresented groups in American history, ensuring that their stories are captured and studied. I look forward to building my own knowledge through this program, and also bringing this knowledge to my students in my classroom...This scholarship makes the program financially feasible for me, allowing me to take advantage of these unique classes while also earning my MA in US History!"



Bettina Melton
Health Careers High School
San Antonio, TX

"I'm very honored and grateful to receive this scholarship to help me complete my study of American History and finish my Master's program... As a U.S.

history teacher, I aim to learn as much as possible of our history, including the study of diverse voices, in order to provide a more well-rounded study of the subject for my students. Receiving this scholarship allows me to continue my education without the worry of financial hardship and also allows me to offer that college level education to my public school students."



FALL 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Brooke Weddle
Fairview Jr. High School
Alvin, TX

"I have always wanted to go back to school to earn my master's degree in history, so when I learned of the program through Gilder Lehrman and Gettysburg College, it seemed like a perfect opportunity to pursue my goals. One obstacle that prevented me from starting a master's program sooner was that it was hard for me to justify it to myself financially since I have a young daughter. I'm incredibly grateful that the John Nau Scholarship has alleviated this concern by granting me a scholarship. I have loved every minute of this program and feel that it is helping me to become a better teacher. I am so incredibly grateful to Gilder Lehrman, Gettysburg College and of course, the John Nau Scholarship fund."



Dev Chodry Scholarship Recipients

Elizabeth Barber
Phillips Exeter Academy
Exeter, NH

"I am incredibly grateful for the Dev Chodry Scholarship—it has helped inspire and motivate me to take on the challenge of two classes this semester, along with my increased workload during the day.

I was intimidated going back to school last year after a few decades and 5 presidential administrations away. The combination of GLL/Gettysburg's amazing program, the wonderful professors and section professors, along with fellow students, has made all the difference. I look forward to discussion boards each week to see what others bring to the table regarding the weekly readings and lectures, and how those readings and lectures have motivated and even have changed the way that they teach and approach history in their own classrooms."



Bess Wilhelms
Westbury High School
Houston, TX

"I am thrilled to receive the Nau scholarship for Master's degree studies. It is so important to be able to continue learning and expanding your understanding of the subject matter you teach, and cost can

quickly become a barrier to high quality educational opportunities. Receiving this scholarship means I can continue to both practice history and further my own understanding of the field of history, and bring those experiences back to my students to further help them become better historians and thinkers."



Katie Daitoku
Kelseyville High School
Kelseyville, CA

"Receiving this scholarship is an honor. I'm grateful for the assistance in moving toward completing my MA."

Olivia Good
Manheim Township Middle School
Lancaster, PA

"I am honored and grateful to receive the Dev Chodry Scholarship because it makes a valuable program even more affordable. The content of the

FALL 2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



courses is pertinent to what I teach. Being able to bring a greater depth of content knowledge to the classroom is a tremendous asset to my students, and this scholarship allows me to move through the coursework more quickly."

Jared Huhta
Carmel Middle School
Carmel, IN

"I am grateful to receive this scholarship for a program that has allowed me to work full time while still completing the graduate courses. I have learned so much already and am ecstatic to continue onward in my studies."



Jessica Sterling
Eagleton College and
Career Academy
Eagleton Village, TN

"I have loved being a part of this program. This program has made me a better teacher for my students. This scholarship will allow me to graduate earlier than I had anticipated by allowing

for me to take two classes in the spring. American history truly is a passion of mine, and I am very grateful for this program. World class lead professors who make you think outside of your comfort zone. I want to thank Gilder Lehrman for this program. This master's program is one of a kind!"

The Gettysburg College— Gilder Lehrman MA in American History

**ADVANCE YOUR CAREER
EARN A MASTER'S DEGREE
IN AMERICAN HISTORY
WITHOUT LEAVING HOME**

