

**Charlton Oral History Research Grant Proposal**  
**Dr. David Strittmatter | Kent State Guardsmen Oral History Project**

**Project Description and Purpose of Research**

Perhaps the most defining episode of the Vietnam War era that occurred on American soil took place in Ohio. On the heels of President Nixon's decision to invade Cambodia in the Spring of 1970, anti-war protests erupted on college campuses at what was seen as an escalation of the conflict. Unrest turned to tragedy at Kent State University as Ohio Army National Guardsmen fired on protesting college students, killing four and wounding nine. The shooting lasted just 13 seconds, yet the infamous event remains in the American consciousness of a controversial war. While the event has been widely covered by reporters and historians alike, one perspective remains almost entirely forgotten. The curiously absent voice in the well-worn narrative belongs to the National Guardsmen deployed to Kent State. At the time, most of them were in their early twenties, either just out of college themselves or serving as a way to avoid the draft. For all of them, National Guard service existed as a one weekend-per-month commitment. Few former Guardsmen have spoken publicly about the tragedy; their silence due to the vilification of the National Guard.

Two years ago, I began an oral history project that seeks to address this void. In imagining this undertaking, I realized "oral history's potential for restoring to the record the voices of the historiographically—if not historically—silent."<sup>1</sup> Indeed, only when those previously ignored and marginalized voices are rescued for posterity can a fuller history be told. This not the first oral history project that has focused on the Kent State shootings. In 1990, Sandra Halem—now the President of the Kent Historical Society—began the May 4<sup>th</sup> Oral History Project, an initiative that she later turned over to the Kent State University Archives. It remains the [largest collection of oral histories](#) about the shootings. Of the 179 interviewed subjects, only three were National Guardsmen, one of whom only anonymously participated as he feared social castigation or retribution. In contrast, my oral history project specifically sought out the Guardsmen, innovative as that sole focus had not been done since the investigation during the Nixon administration. The Charlton Oral History Grant would allow me to further this project, which offers a new perspective while asking new questions about the memory of the Kent State shootings.

My project began as a class assignment in an advanced public history course. Students scoured contemporary news coverage, government reports, and numerous books to locate names of National Guardsmen involved in the event. Though 1,200 members of the Ohio National Guard were called out to Kent in May 1970, the recruitment efforts for this project focused on those most proximate to the shootings. With these names, my students and I used internet search tools to locate them and then mailed invitation letters. As one might imagine, many of these men chose not to respond to the interview request. We anticipated this at some level, because perhaps time has given these men both distance and anonymity from the tragedy. Some former Guardsmen did come forward and agree to interview for the project; to date, this project has conducted twelve interviews with Guardsmen deployed to Kent. The Kent State Guardsmen Oral History Project represents the largest collection of interviews with former members on duty at Kent State in May 1970.

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<sup>1</sup> Linda Shopes, "Making Sense of Oral History," History Matters: The U.S. Survey Course on the Web, <http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/oral/oral.pdf>, February 2002.

Conducting such an oral history project a half century later raises reflective questions regarding memory and historical narratives. Until relatively recently, history was told from the perspective characterized by the Guardsmen at Kent State. That is, those that served in the Guard were of the demographic of power: white men. In addition, they wore uniforms and carried government-issued firearms, both symbols of authority. Understandably, theirs is not the primary voice heard in the often-told narrative of the Kent State shootings, but the incredible dearth of a National Guardsmen viewpoint presented the opportunity for this oral history project.

The Kent State shootings and the Vietnam War era remain of interest in both public and academic arenas. Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's 2017 documentary *The Vietnam War* averaged 6.7 million viewers across 10 nights of its PBS broadcast. While those viewership numbers are impressive, the mixed reviews demonstrate the passions and controversies evoked by the conflict. Elsewhere, numerous anniversary news segments focus on the wider war, student protestors, shooting victims, and even the photojournalist who captured the most famous image of the event.<sup>2</sup> With this project, the passage of time exists as a double-edged sword. On one hand, perhaps enough time has passed that former Guardsmen are now willing to speak about how this event touched their lives. On the other, searching for their current whereabouts turned up numerous obituaries.

This oral history project engages questions of historical voice. At this particular moment, the divisive political landscape also faces these issues. Some individuals do not wish to listen to others that harbor different politics than their own. Similarly, there may be some people that believe that the Guardsmen at Kent State do not deserve a voice. I believe that stance is short-sighted for future generations. The Kent State Guardsmen Oral History Project does not advocate a particular partisan viewpoint, but merely seeks to capture oral histories from eyewitnesses to and participants in an incredibly historic event. Such a project does, though, contain a degree of urgency as the former Guardsmen are now in their 70s or older. In fact, one former Guardsman passed away just six weeks after his March 2021 interview.

Through oral history interviews, this project seeks to record and document the perspective of the National Guardsmen in the narrative and memory of the Kent State shootings. Using oral history to hear and tell the story of this community of servicemen is an important path to humanize a rarely-heard point of view and understand the challenges experienced by these men in the aftermath of a national tragedy.

## Previous Research

My scholarly research focuses on historical memory and the construction of narratives. Often, these coalesce to serve national myths that societies tell about themselves. The Kent State shootings remain stamped in the national memory, yet a primary historical actor—the Ohio

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<sup>2</sup> A sampling of such media coverage: "Remembering The Kent State Massacre" on MSNBC Morning Joe, 4 May 2020, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QZo49cNhal0>; "Former Kent State students speak out, 50 years after deadly protest" on CBS This Morning, 2 May 2020, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I26iWfa\\_oqI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I26iWfa_oqI); "Kent State Mystery Continues" on CBS Evening News, 2 May 2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OvFkEP2hUNw>; "Kent State shooting anniversary" on ABC News 5 Cleveland, 30 April 2010, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x30dOiN1fs>; "John Filo on photographing the Kent State shootings" on CBS Sunday Morning, 8 October 2017, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OazarEBEgfo>.

National Guard—has not contributed to the story. In the history profession, scholars must continue to seek out unheard voices. This was, and continues to be, the motivation for this project. For such a controversial historic event that still evokes such raw emotion, I believe oral history offers the most appropriate research method to collect visceral reactions and personal memories from interview subjects.

Disseminating the interviews has been an important secondary focus of the project. The interviews and selected excerpts, as well as commentary about the project can be found on the project website: [KentGuardVoices1970.com](http://KentGuardVoices1970.com). The full interviews and excerpts were uploaded to the ONU Digital History Channel on YouTube, and the project made an immediate impact, gaining 779 views and 3,557 minutes (nearly 60 hours) of viewed content in its first month. Furthermore, the project has received some attention beyond the academy. I wrote an opinion piece that ran on the back page of the Cleveland *Plain Dealer*'s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition.<sup>3</sup> The Findlay *Courier* published a front-page story on the project, and KentWired.com—the student-run online newspaper of Kent State University—also reported on it.<sup>4</sup> In September 2021, two students and I were interviewed by the PBS affiliate in Bowling Green for a 30-minute program.<sup>5</sup> Last year, I presented on the project at the National Council on Public History annual conference. In addition, I was recruited by Cabin Creek Films to serve as a history advisor on an in-progress documentary about the Kent State shootings, directed by two-time Oscar-winner Barbara Kopple. Most recently, the Ohio Academy of History notified me that the Kent State Guardsmen Oral History Project won the organization's 2022 Public History Award, which recognizes historical scholarship beyond the walls of academe.

## Description of Prior Interviews

As of February 2022, twelve members of the Ohio National Guard have been interviewed for this project. I interviewed some Guardsmen over the telephone, because they no longer live in Ohio or due to COVID precautions. Other interviews have been conducted by pairs of trained students. In preparation for the recorded oral histories, students read a variety of materials about the Kent State shootings as well as interview best practices. Then, they watched and listened to examples of oral histories and practiced their interviewing technique. The prepared questions are open-ended and allow the former Guardsmen to tell their stories, share their memories, and reflect on the impact of this event.

The prepared questions have evolved somewhat since the first oral histories were collected. Some of the areas explored in the interviews include the following:

- Enlistment and National Guard experience
  - Why did you join the National Guard?
  - How long, and in what capacity, did you serve in the Ohio Army National Guard?
  - Can you describe your everyday life during your years in the Guard?

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<sup>3</sup> David Strittmatter, "Oral history project delves into National Guardsmen's perspectives 50 years after Kent State," [\[op-ed\]](#) Cleveland *Plain Dealer*, May 4, 2020.

<sup>4</sup> Sara Arthurs, "Historic shooting, new perspective," [\[web link\]](#) *The Courier* (Findlay, Oh.), 4 May 2021; Megan Becker, "Professor at Ohio Northern University collects oral histories from May 4 National Guardsmen," [\[web link\]](#) KentWired.com, 25 May 2021.

<sup>5</sup> Steve Kendall, "Kent State Guardsman [sic] Oral History Project," PBS-WBGU The Journal, aired 9 September 2021, <https://www.pbs.org/video/kent-state-guardsman-oral-history-project-dzem9m/>.

- How do you remember your time in the Guard?
- What were some of the reasons your Guard unit was called out?
- Kent State deployment
  - What are your memories of being deployed to Kent in May 1970?
  - Can you describe the scene you encountered in Kent?
  - What do you recall about the morning of May 4<sup>th</sup>?
  - Do you have specific memories about the 13 seconds of gunfire?
- The Aftermath of the Shooting
  - Where were you in the hours after the shootings?
  - What do you recall about the media coverage of the shootings?
  - What was the mood at weekend drill in the weeks and months after the Kent State shootings?
  - How closely did you follow the investigation and trials that followed?
- Reflecting on the Memory of Kent
  - In the years since the 1970, how has being a Guardsmen at Kent State affected your life?
  - Do you recall any individual instances where you were treated poorly if someone learned that you had been a Guardsman at Kent State?
  - How have your feelings about the events at Kent State changed over the past 50 years?
  - How often have you spoken, privately or publicly, about your role at Kent State?
  - How have you explained your role in the Kent State shootings to your children or grandchildren?
  - Has the narrative of the Kent State shootings been fair to the Ohio National Guard?
  - Is there a lesson to be learned from the Kent State shootings?
  - In the past couple years, there have been episodes of violent protests—namely, in June 2020 after the death of George Floyd, and in January 2021 at the US Capitol. What parallels do you see between those recent episodes and Kent State in 1970?

The interviewed subjects include [Mathew McManus](#), who was one of the eight Guardsmen indicted and ultimately acquitted, and [Raymond Silvey](#), the only Guardsman who declared himself a conscientious objector after the shootings and was only discharged after a federal judge's order. The project hesitates to declaratively summarize the contents of the interviews, preferring for the Guardsmen to speak for themselves. Still, the collection illustrates a vast range of experiences on May 4<sup>th</sup> as well as how the event has affected these men in the decades since. Whereas some interviewees saw this project as a therapeutic and reflective opportunity, others carry lingering resentment about the media's portrayal of the tragedy.

This project is not without its shortcomings. The Kent State shootings was such a controversial event—to say nothing of the various conspiracy theories—and its memory remains emotionally-charged. As a result, a challenge for the project has been reconciling personal recollections that run contrary to historical documentation. For instance, during his interview [Ron Snyder](#) was asked about a *New York Times* article about his making up a story about finding a gun on the body of one of the students killed—he suggested that story was “taken out of context” when it was published in James Michener's book. That said, the contradictory accounts that appear in these interviews make the project all the more compelling. A representative from Lumen Learning—an online learning platform—reached out to me about including one of the interviews in an upcoming

online history text. Teaching students a historical skill is a focus of the textbook. For the 1970s chapter, the skill is “reconciling different eyewitness perspectives of the same event”—and the outfit wants to use the Kent State shootings.

### **Names of the Persons to be Interviewed**

I have identified a number of former Guardsmen who have expressed some level of interest in interviewing for this project. They were on Blanket Hill at the time of the shootings. They include:

- Erich R. Emch, Specialist-4 in Company A. I have had regular contact with Emch over the past 18 months, though health issues have forced him to proceed with caution during the COVID-19 pandemic. He lives in northwest Ohio.
- Ronald D. Gammell, Pfc in Company A. Interestingly, Gammell graduated high school with Emch and they have not seen each other since the mid-1970s. Gammell wants to arrange his interview with Emch as a reunion of sorts.
- Wayne R. Taggert, Specialist-4 in Company A. Taggert reached out via Facebook to another former Guardsmen that interviewed for this project. That Guardsmen, Keith E. Crilow, reported his support back to me. So, clearly, Taggert is considering his participation. Taggert lives about 60 miles from Kent.
- Rodney R. Biddle, Pfc in Company A. Biddle has vacillated in his commitment to interview. About a year ago, he shared on the phone that he was less sure about interviewing. Given more time to consider participation, I will reach out to him again.
- Bruce W. Bragg, Specialist-5 in Company A. Bragg’s wife has repeatedly reached out to me via email about her interest in the project. She was unaware of her husband’s connection to the infamous episode until they had been married for 15 years. She has offered to donate to continue to the project.
- Stephen T. Gagnon, Lieutenant. Gagnon was not present at the Kent State shootings. I found his name in a *New York Times* article from June 1970, when a reporter went to the first Ohio National Guard weekend drill after the Kent State shootings. I have exchanged emails with Gagnon, who shared that he hated his time in the Guard because he was lumped in with the units involved in the event.
- Barry W. Morris, Staff Sergeant of Troop G. Morris was one of the eight indicted Guardsmen put on trial and ultimately acquitted. A year ago, I had a 30-minute phone conversation with him where he expressed frustration at the current political environment in the United States. He also told me to “call him in a couple years.” Fascinatingly, he still lives in Kent just four miles from the campus.
- Other Guardsmen on Blanket Hill. I maintain and regularly update a spreadsheet of potential Guardsmen and my communication with them. For those who never responded to previous letters, I intend on sending a final invitation to participate in the project. This totals about 30 invitations.
- Other Guardsmen not yet identified. Over 1100 Guardsmen deployed to Kent were not on Blanket Hill at the time of the shootings. Their names do not appear in government reports. With an invitation strategically placed mention in northeast Ohio newspapers, I hope those in other Guard units sent to Kent come forward.

### **Planned Arrangements for Conducting the Interviews**

The geography of Ohio has been pertinent to scheduling interviews. I believe the fact that I am not affiliated with Kent State has benefitted the project, as that institution understandably recalls the events of May 4<sup>th</sup> from the perspective of students and faculty. That said, the City of Kent is a 2.5-hour drive from Ohio Northern University. So, the availability of funds for trips across Ohio to the Canton-Akron-Kent area is not inconsequential. In Fall 2020, I was awarded a grant of \$1000 by the ONU to continue with interviews. The award paid for a March 2021 interview trip with several students, video editing, and interview transcription. The generous Charlton Grant would go quite far towards helping my project, paying for car transportation and budget hotel accommodation for three trips. The relatively close geography will allow me some flexibility in scheduling interviews.

The completed interviews have occurred intermittently over the past two years. Admittedly, the sporadic progress of the project is the result of a heavy teaching load at a liberal arts college. However, the Charlton Oral History Research Grant would allow me an incredibly productive summer and fall semester, when I will be on paternity leave. It is my hope, as a pre-tenure faculty member, to take full advantage of a 7-month stretch without teaching obligations. So, I expect to make three research trips to the Canton-Akron-Kent area to conduct interviews for this project. Using recording equipment from the ONU media office, I intend to conduct interviews at either the National Museum of Education or the Kent Historical Society. The former was the location for two interviews last year, and its management welcomed me back in the future. Furthermore, the President of the Kent Historical Society has eagerly offered her institution as a possible location.

### **Proposed Scholarly Outcomes**

This project will digitally preserve important oral histories for future researchers. I believe the subject matter also caters to various groups in the general public, from Baby Boomers and veteran groups to anyone with a particular interest in the Vietnam War era. As the humanities encourage people to think critically and creatively, a goal of this project is to consider the memory of the Kent State shootings and what the event means in American history and political discourse. That said, the foremost objective of this project seeks the preservation of previously unheard historical voices before it is too late. The project's sense of urgency today will hopefully reap rewards for those pursuing the Kent State shootings and unrest during a tumultuous period in American history for generations to come.

In late 2022, I will submit an article for publication in the *Oral History Review*. In addition—whether awarded this grant or not—I will submit an abstract for the 2023 OHA annual meeting in Baltimore. Finally, if securing 20+ total interviews, I will craft a book proposal and seek out a publisher. I intend to edit my book in the vein of Studs Terkel (e.g. *Hard Times*) and Lawrence Ritter (e.g. *The Glory of Their Times*). These interviews with the Kent State Guardsmen could allow personal recollections to shine through an event so infamous that it has, at some level, become mythologized. And, as the former Guardsmen age, my book would necessarily be the final work in capturing the unheard voices from the most recognized domestic tragedy of the Vietnam War.

## 2022-23 Charlton Oral History Research Grant Application

Dr. David Strittmatter, Assistant Professor of History, Ohio Northern University

### Budget with Justification

I intend to travel in Ohio three times during the summer and fall of 2022. I expect to be as efficient as possible with respect to time and finances, scheduling interviews trips both during the week and on the weekend. Hopefully, this flexibility will accommodate the schedules of more former Ohio National Guardsmen. Three trips would be to the area around Kent, a 310-mile roundtrip distance from Ohio Northern University. I seek out the former Guardsmen in units from Ravenna or Wooster as those towns were the locations of the armories of National Guard units involved in the shootings. I intend to take two students with me, to assist with either conducting or recording the interviews. The Charlton Grant funds would be used in the following ways:

<i>Expense</i>	<i>Cost per day</i>	<i>Frequency</i>	<i>Total</i>
Accommodation  (one hotel room for faculty member; one for students)	\$250	3 nights	\$750
Transportation  Mileage (\$0.58/mile) for 310-mile roundtrips from Ada to Kent	\$180	3 days	\$540
Per Diem Meals  (one faculty member, two students)	\$150	3 days	\$450
Media Work Stipend  (\$15/hour; estimated 15 hours of work editing raw video recording)	\$15	15 hours	\$225
Faculty Stipend  (\$23/hour; estimated 45 hours of work)	\$23	45 hours	\$1035
<b>Grand Total</b>			<b>\$3000</b>

**DR. DAVID STRITTMATTER**  
*Curriculum Vitae*

School for the Humanities & Global Cultures  
Ohio Northern University  
Hill Memorial Building 210  
525 South Main Street  
Ada, Ohio 45810

5413 Aubrey Loop  
Dublin, OH 43016  
mobile: (319) 481-7619  
office: (419) 772-3562  
d-strittmatter@onu.edu

**EDUCATION**

**UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO**, Buffalo, New York

PhD History, 2018

Dissertation: *Sites of British History: The Revival, Creation, and Unmaking of a National Narrative*  
Committee: Profs. Patrick McDevitt, Claire Schen, & Sasha Pack

**UNIVERSITY OF ST. ANDREWS**, Fife, Scotland

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**MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY**, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

BA Journalism & History, 2008

**CITY UNIVERSITY LONDON**, Islington, England

Study Abroad Program, 2006

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

Assistant Professor of History, Ohio Northern University (2020-current)

Visiting Assistant Professor of Public History & Museum Studies, Ohio Northern University (2019-20)

Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern European History, Washington & Jefferson College (2018-19)

**PUBLICATIONS**

*British National Identity and Memory in the Twentieth Century: Preserving Battlefields, Political Sites, and World's Fairgrounds*, Palgrave Macmillan (forthcoming in 2022)

“Oral history project delves into National Guardsmen’s perspectives 50 years after Kent State,” [\[op-ed\]](#)  
*Cleveland Plain Dealer*, May 4, 2020.

“The Evolving Rhetoric of Peterloo, 1819-1919,” *Labour History Review*, vol. 83, no. 3 (December 2018), pp. 191-217.

Book review of *Pastime Lost: The Humble, Original, and Now Completely Forgotten Game of English Baseball* (2019), by David Brock, in *Journal of Sport History*, Vol. 47, No. 2 (Summer 2020), pp. 163-4.



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Book review of *Ralph Guldahl: The Rise and Fall of the World's Greatest Golfer* (2016), by Kevin Kenny, in *Journal of Sport History*, Vol. 44, No. 3 (Fall 2017), pp. 513-4.

### **COURSES TAUGHT**

Assistant Professor of History, Ohio Northern University

Tudor/Stuart England

Transitional Experience: Memorials

World Civilization II

U.S. History to 1877

U.S. History from 1877

Public History

Material Culture

Heritage Preservation

Contemporary Europe

[The Titanic](#) (January and Summer Terms)

World War Memory in Normandy & the Western Front (travel course)

Visiting Assistant Professor of Modern European History, Washington & Jefferson College

Western Civilization II

Europe during the World Wars

Immigration & Multiculturalism in Europe

Issues in World History: Memorialization

Introduction to Public History

[A History of Postcards & Stamps](#) (January Term)

Instructor, University at Buffalo

Early Modern Britain

The Great War & European Society

The Social History of Sport & Recreation

Teaching Assistant, University at Buffalo

The United States to 1865 (Prof. Adam Malka)

Global History since 1500 (Prof. Jeffrey Kohler)

Global History to 1500, Hybrid Online/Live Course (Dr. Donald McGuire)

Global History to 1500 (Prof. Claire Schen)

Global History since 1500 (Prof. Hal Langfur)

### **PRESENTATIONS**

“Centennials and Silences: The Challenge of Including Unsavory Histories in University History Projects,” Virtual National Council on Public History, May 2022

“Kent State Guardsmen Oral History,” Virtual National Council on Public History, March 2021

“Using Postage Stamps in a College History Class,” American Philatelic Society, [Live Zoom Presentation](#) in “Stamp Chat” series, April 22, 2020

“Memory Mediums of the Peterloo Massacre,” North American Victorian Studies Association (NAVSA), Columbus, Ohio, October 17, 2019

“Interwar Culture Clash: The Rodeo Disaster at London’s White City,” Mid-Atlantic Conference on British Studies (MACBS) Annual Conference, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA, April 7, 2019

“The Trial of Henry Hunt and the Peterloo Legacy,” Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies (PCCBS) Annual Conference, University of California at Merced, March 23, 2019

“Teaching Decolonization through Material Culture,” 17<sup>th</sup> East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference, Honolulu, February 17, 2018

“The Evolving Rhetoric of Peterloo, 1819-1919,” North American Conference on British Studies (NACBS) Annual Meeting, Denver, November 5, 2017

“Revisionism of a Medieval Document: the Curious Place of the United States in Magna Carta Commemorations,” 11th Biennial Symbiosis Conference, Daemen College & the University at Buffalo, July 7, 2017

“An Evolving Heritage Place: A Millennium at the Hastings Battlefield,” 13<sup>th</sup> Annual International Association for the Study of Environment, Space and Place (IASESP) Conference, National University, San Diego, April 28, 2017

“Magna Carta and the Anglo-American Special Relationship,” Scottish Association for the Study of America (SASA) Conference, University of Edinburgh, Scotland, March 4, 2017

“Remembering Runnymede in Interwar Britain,” Midwest Conference on British Studies (MWCBS) Annual Conference, Iowa State University, Ames, September 16, 2016

“Peterloo: A Lost Site and Contentious Memory,” Council for European Studies (CES) Annual Conference, Philadelphia, April 16, 2016

“The Failed Second Rebuilding of the Crystal Palace,” Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies (PCCBS) Annual Conference, Huntington Library, San Marino, CA, April 1, 2016

“Inherited or Created: The Golf Landscapes of Scotland and Beyond,” New York Association of European Historians Conference, SUNY Geneseo, October 4, 2014

“A Recovery Shot from the Rough: Golf in Wartime Britain,” 23rd Annual Milton Plesur Graduate and Presentations History Conference, University at Buffalo, April 5, 2014

“The Anglicizing of a Scottish Game,” 3rd Annual Tri-University Conference for the Trans/Disciplinary Study of Sport, Western University, London, Ontario, March 22, 2014

“The English Take on a Scottish Game,” 26th Annual Graduate History Forum, University of North Carolina at Charlotte, March 15, 2014

- “A Recovery Shot from the Rough: Golf in Wartime Britain,” Graduate History Conference, University of Rochester, NY, February 22, 2014
- “Margaret Thatcher: The Great Communicator,” LeadAmerica ‘Empowering the Leader Within You’ Conference, in collaboration with the New York City Department of Education, Hudson Valley Resort, Kerhonkson, NY, March 5, 2012
- “US Government & Politics: A Campaign Simulation,” [co-presenter] National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference, Washington Convention Center, Washington, DC, December 3, 2011
- “The Evolution of Campaign Advertising,” LeadAmerica Government & Politics Conference, University of California, Berkeley, July 10, 2011
- “How Thatcher Acted on Conviction,” LeadAmerica Government & Politics Conference, University of California, Berkeley, July 8, 2011
- “Abraham Lincoln & His Teambuilding,” LeadAmerica National Leadership Summit, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and Georgetown University, Washington, DC, four lectures, Summer 2010
- “Thatcher: A Woman in a Man’s World,” LeadAmerica National Leadership Summit, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and Georgetown University, Washington, DC, four lectures, Summer 2010
- “George Washington: The Original American,” LeadAmerica National Leadership Summit, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, and Georgetown University, Washington, DC, four lectures, Summer 2010

### **PANEL ORGANIZATION/PARTICIPATION**

- “Career Diversity in Teaching” Roundtable, [participant] 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Milton Plesur Graduate History Conference, University at Buffalo, March 6, 2020
- “Memorialization and Remembrance of Conflict” and “Women’s Experiences: 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries,” [chair] Western Pennsylvania Phi Alpha Theta Conference, Washington & Jefferson College, April 13, 2019
- “Take Me Home, Country Roads: The National Road in West(ern) Virginia,” [moderator] National Road Bicentennial Symposium, Washington & Jefferson College, October 27, 2018
- Career Paths Roundtable, [moderator] [Humanities Beyond the Academy Symposium](#), University at Buffalo, April 22, 2017
- “Historical Memory in Modern Britain & Ireland: Four Case Studies,” [chair] Council for European Studies Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, April 16, 2016
- Faculty Roundtable on Digital Humanities, [moderator] 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Milton Plesur Graduate History Conference, University at Buffalo, March 7, 2015

“Congress to Campus: An Interview with Congressman Bill Frenzel and Ambassador Jim Jones,” [moderator] LeadAmerica Presidential Inaugural Leadership Summit, Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, VA, January 19, 2013

“Before the Killing Begins: The Politics of Mass Violence,” [moderator] LeadAmerica Presidential Inaugural Leadership Summit, Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, VA, January 18, 2013

“Rising Powers: The New Global Reality,” [moderator] LeadAmerica Presidential Inaugural Leadership Summit, Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, VA, January 18, 2013

### **HONORS & GRANTS**

Public History Award, Ohio Academy of History, 2022

Junior Faculty Research Grant, Ohio Academy of History, 2022

Information Literacy Grant, ONU Heterick Memorial Library & Center for the Advancement of Faculty Excellence, Spring 2022

Dean’s Faculty Scholarship Grants (2), ONU Getty College of Arts & Sciences, 2020

Study Abroad Development Grant, ONU Academic Affairs, 2020

Excellence in Teaching Award, UB Graduate School, 2018

- One of six recipients in the College of Arts & Sciences of more than 650 teaching assistants

Stern Grant, North American Conference on British Studies, 2017

John Naylor Dissertation Fellowship, UB Department of History, 2016-17

Presidential Fellowship, UB College of Arts & Sciences, 2013-17

Milton Plesur Fellowship, UB Department of History, 2013-current

Postgraduate Research Bursary Grant, Society for the Study of Labour History, 2016

- Formerly called the E.P. Thompson Memorial Bursary, University of Warwick

[Career Diversity Departmental Grant](#), American Historical Association, 2016

- Authored proposal on behalf of UB Department of History

Stern Grant, Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies, 2016

Mark Diamond Research Fund Grant, UB Graduate Student Association, 2015

Professional Development Awards (3), SUNY Graduate Student Employees Union, 2015-16, 2018

Conference Funding Awards (6), UB Graduate History Association, 2014-18

Conference Funding Grant (5), UB Department of History, 2014, 2016-18

Conference Funding Grant (2), UB Graduate Student Association, 2014, 2016

Chris Farley Scholarship for Humor, Marquette University, 2007

**PUBLIC HISTORY EXPERIENCE**

Principal Organizer, [Kent State Guardsmen Oral History Project](#), 2019-21

Docent, Buffalo History Museum, Buffalo, New York, 2017-18

Project Consultant, Deputy Director's Office, Albright-Knox Art Gallery, Buffalo, New York,  
Summer 2014

Collections Intern, Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan, Summer  
2008

Archives Assistant, Marquette University Archives and Special Collections, Milwaukee,  
Wisconsin, 2007-08

Museum Intern, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Springfield, Massachusetts,  
Summer 2005

**PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE**

Faculty Advisor, Envision EMI, Global Young Leaders Conference, Vienna, Prague, & Berlin,  
Summer 2013

Program Manager, LeadAmerica, Boca Raton, Florida, 2010-13

Team Leader, LeadAmerica, Study Abroad Russia Conference, Moscow & St. Petersburg,  
Summer 2007

Team Leader, LeadAmerica, Global Business & Entrepreneurship Conference, New York &  
Boston, Summer 2006

**SERVICE**

Chair, Committee on Recruitment, ONU Getty College of Arts & Sciences, 2020-22

Faculty Advisor, ONU Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society), 2020-21

Volunteer Judge, ONU Elevator Pitch Competition, Fall 2019

Member, UB Career Diversity Fellowship Review Council, 2018

Planning Committee Member, UB Humanities Beyond the Academy Symposium, 2017

Member, UB History Graduate Admissions Committee, 2015-16, 2017-18

President, UB Graduate History Association, 2014-2015

Member, Mark Diamond Research Fund Review Council, 2015

Committee Member, Chris Farley Scholarship Council, 2008

