

MSU Billings Department of History Newsletter

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Academic Year 2023-2024



Dr. Patton and Dr. Arendt welcome students to campus

Faculty & Student Success This Academic Year

As the academic year draws to a close, we are thrilled to recap some of the biggest successes of the past nine months.

Our hardworking faculty and students have researched, published, and presented new scholarship, embarked on fabulous service learning projects, visited unique historically significant locations, and developed new public-facing events for the Billings community.

Read on to find out more.

Top News

Dr. Keith Edgerton retires and is honored with new annual lecture series

Dr. Cody Patton joins the Department

History professors win big at Faculty Excellence Awards

Dr. Jennifer Lynn publishes a new book

History students present at Phi Alpha Theta



Dr. De La Cruz and Dr. Patton visit the Charles M. Bair Gallery with members of the History Club



Newsletter Highlight: The Annual Edgerton Lecture

The Inaugural Edgerton History Lecture was held in fall of 2023. Recently retired Professor Emeritus and former Department Chair Keith Edgerton, pictured left, spoke about “Copper King: The Life and Times of William A. Clark.”

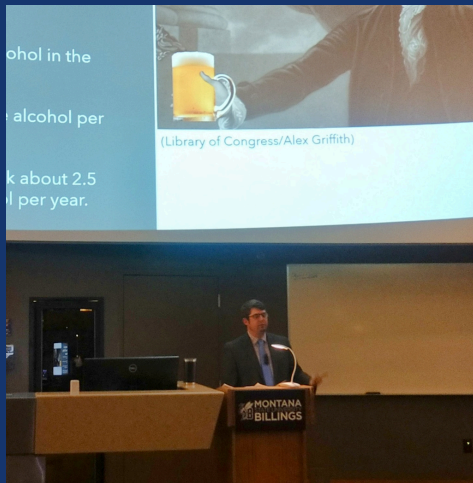
Mark your calendar for the Second Annual Edgerton Lecture featuring Dr. Sarah Mellors Rodriguez of Missouri State University. She will be speaking on the history of reproductive rights in China on Tuesday, September 24th, 6:30-8, in LI 148.

Student Achievements

- MSUB History students Tyler Armstrong and Lori Moss represented the department at the annual Phi Alpha Theta Conference at Eastern Washington University.
- Dr. Tom Rust accompanied students to Yellowstone National Park for a one-of-a-kind learning experience.
- Jacob Shropshire was awarded the 2024 Outstanding Graduate Award from the Department of History for his excellent scholarship, service, and dedication to the department during his time here. He is going on to a PhD program in history at the University of Montana. Congratulations Jacob!
- Students in History Club had an active year with fundraising, sightseeing, and fun group activities.
- Students completed a variety of service-learning projects, including the creation of a traveling exhibit titled “Bunk! Misinformation in Early America” for Dr. Arendt’s Early Republic class. They hope to obtain funds to circulate the exhibit around the state.



Welcome onboard, Dr. Patton!



Pictured here delivering a public lecture on Prohibition, Dr. Cody Patton joined the faculty at the start of the 2023/2024 academic year. With a PhD in History from The Ohio State University, Dr. Patton's expertise in business and environmental history of the modern US is a welcome addition to the department.

Faculty Excellence

Department of History faculty received top accolades at the 2024 MSU Billings Faculty Excellence Awards.

- Dr. Jennifer Lynn was awarded the Dr. Tasneem Khaleel Award for Mentoring Young Female Professionals
 - Dr. Joseph Bryan received the coveted Faculty Excellence Award
 - Dr. Rachael De La Cruz was presented with the prestigious Winston & Helen Cox Fellowship Award
- Congratulations to the faculty on their well-deserved awards!



Faculty Scholarship News

- Dr. Emily Arendt, Department Chair, became editor of *The Panorama*, the digital arm of the *Journal of the Early Republic*. She also published articles in *Montana The Magazine of Western History* and *Early American Studies*.
- Dr. Rachael De La Cruz published an article in *The Americas*.
- Dr. Jennifer Lynn published a new book, *Contested Femininities: Representations of Modern Women in the German Illustrated Press, 1920-1960*.