



Footnotes

Department of History, University of Northwestern – St. Paul
Offering courses in History, Politics, Economics, and Geography

Fall 2023 Edition

Northwestern at the Capitol

On March 30 fifty UNW political science and history students participated in **Day at the Capitol**, an annual event at the Minnesota State Capitol organized by the Minnesota Private College Council. Students received training on policy advocacy and met in small groups with legislators to discuss current bills. The event was coordinated by Professor Leanna Swanson, who provides instruction in political science and geography and serves as the UNW Social Studies Education Coordinator. **President Corbin Hoornbeek**, **Vice President Greg Johnson**, and **Dr. Matt Miller**, history department chair, also attended. In February **Andrew Jantz** ('22) contributed to the **Scholars at the Capitol** program, with the support of **Dr. Adina Kelley**, history professor and director of the Eagle Scholars Program. At this event Andrew and students from around Minnesota presented their research projects and demonstrated the quality of education provided by private universities.



Opportunities in the Legal Profession

The study of history and political science provides excellent preparation for a career in law as our recent graduates can attest. **Cole Birkeland** ('19) now serves as an attorney at a law firm in Eagan after completing his degree at the University of Minnesota Law School. **Brett Tidrick** ('19) was hired as a judicial law clerk in Virginia after completing his law degree at Regent University. Recently we introduced a new Pre-Law Minor, which offers all UNW students an opportunity to prepare for entrance to law school. In recent years three of our graduates have joined the staff of the Webber Law Firm in Plymouth. **Matthew Biancardi** ('21) and **Abbey Stellingwerff** ('20) are shown here with Mr. Robert Webber, firm owner, and Dr. Miller, enjoying a lunch together at the Samarkand Restaurant. **Julia Gams** ('20) has also joined the team, and **Jenny Liang** ('25) completed a summer 2023 internship.



Onward!

Recently we congratulated four hard-working graduates after completing their degrees in History or Politics, History, and Economics: **Andrew Jantz**, **Sadie Mueller**, and **Diana LaMere** (on the right). Not pictured is **Lauren Viebrock**.



Updates from Alumni

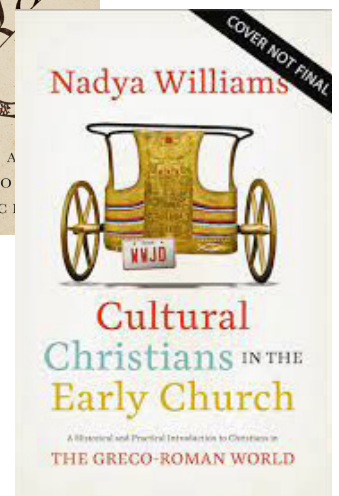
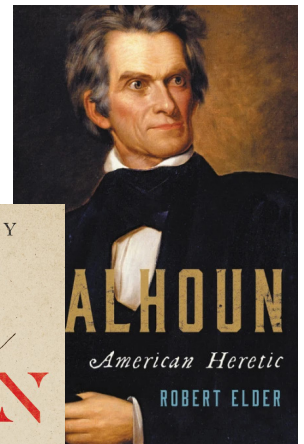
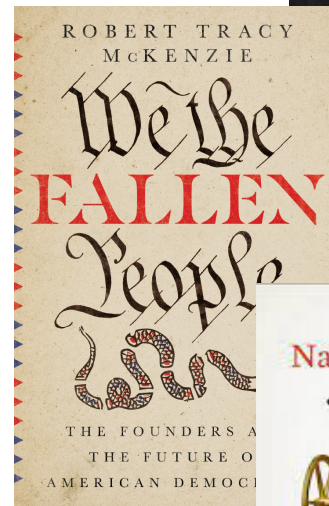
- **Lauren Viebrock ('23)** is currently working for the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) at the Eisenhower Presidential Library and Museum in Abilene, Kansas.
- **Andrew Jantz ('22)** begins graduate study in history at the University of Oxford in fall 2023.
- **Ellie Simpson ('22)** serves as a Legislative Assistant in the Minnesota Senate.
- **Joshua Weber ('16)** has enrolled in the Applied Linguistics and Second Language Acquisition masters program at the University of Oxford.



Guest Speakers

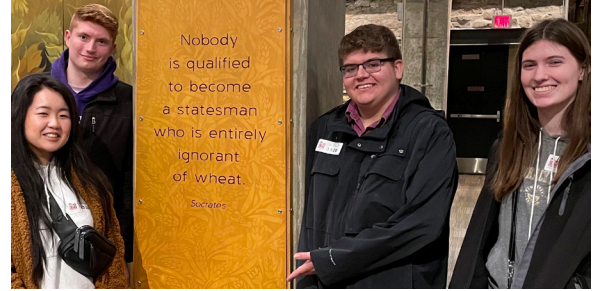
In September our department hosted a number of special events for Constitution Day, an annual opportunity to reflect on the significance of the U.S. Constitution. Our special guest was Dr. Tracy McKenzie from Wheaton College, a nationally-recognized Christian historian and author who speaks frequently on the need for believers to reflect carefully on the past in order to live faithfully in the present. He spoke to the UNW student body in chapel on the theme “Right Through Every Human Heart’: Human Nature and the Crisis of Democracy.” In the evening he presented a lecture to students, faculty, and guests on “We the Fallen People: Redefining Ourselves for a Healthier Democracy.”

In April we hosted two historians who met with our students and made engaging presentations. Dr. Robert Elder from Baylor University spoke on “John C. Calhoun: American Heretic”—Calhoun was one of the most significant US political figures of the 19th century. Dr. Nadya Williams, specialist in ancient history, spoke to our church history class on the topic of her new book, *Cultural Christians in the Early Church: A Historical and Practical Introduction to Christians in the Greco-Roman World*.



Field Trips!

Recently our department added a new Museum Studies and Public History Minor, which gives our students the opportunity to develop a range of practical skills in these fields. This year we enjoyed a field trip to the Mill City Museum, which was built within the ruins of the Washburn A Mill, the largest and most technologically advanced flour mill in the world when it was completed in the late 1800s. Minneapolis later became the flour milling capital of the world. We enjoyed learning about changes in technology, labor, baking, and marketing, and how this museum interacts with visitors to provide information about Minnesota's past in an engaging way. Dr. Kelley's Digital History, Public History, and Archiving class also had the opportunity to take a behind the scenes tour of the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul. We got to see amazing artifacts such as a Civil War flag carried by Minnesota soldiers at the Battle of Gettysburg and the costume worn by Prince in his Purple Rain video. We also were astounded by the number of manuscripts, documents, and artifacts held by the archives.



Please write and share your updates with us—we are always glad to hear from you!

Dr. Matt Miller, Department Chair, mlmiller@unwsp.edu

The Department of History compiles annual assessment reports on our work and recently completed our six-year program review. This process helps us to reflect on recent progress and make adjustments for the future.

The department thanks teaching assistant Carrena Falls for her assistance in creating this newsletter.