

THE ARCHIVE

The Annual Newsletter
of the

Muhlenberg History Department



*Phi Alpha Theta
History Club
Honors Convocation
History Honors
Faculty Highlights*

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. WILLIAM TIGHE

Interview by R.J. Mahar '24

Photography by Ryan Dratler '24

After a landmark 38 years of teaching in the History Department, Dr. William Tighe is retiring from Muhlenberg College. Specializing in Tudor-Stuart British history, he leaves behind a lasting legacy along with a treasure trove of amusing anecdotes to boot. When asked to interview Dr. Tighe, I jumped at the opportunity as I never had a class with him. During our hour and a half together, my expectations were more than met. In the time span of a single class, I had gained the insights of an entire semester. Simply put, Dr. Tighe is someone I find deeply engaging, passionate, and nothing short of intriguing. The greatest histories also make for the greatest stories, and within two minutes, Dr. Tighe had me engrossed in his own.

Born in Lowell, Massachusetts, about a 35-minute drive from Boston, Tighe was the son of a working-class Irish-American family. A self-described “real pain in the behind,” he was nothing short of “hyperactive” as a child, which in turn fostered a love for quick bursts of reading as he grew older. By 8th grade, he simply read anything that interested him. In time, he went from being “suspended from kindergarten” to being at the top of his class by high school. Studying Latin greatly enhanced his understanding of English, inspiring him to start writing. Fueled by newly

found curiosity, he decided to attend Georgetown University in Washington D.C., majoring in history. At the start of his senior year, Tighe seriously considered his academic future. He contemplated law school but kept coming back to his interest in history. “What do I do? What do I do?” he mused during our conversation. It mirrors the uncertainties all of us at Muhlenberg eventually face, and fifty years ago it was perhaps an even more important decision. In some respects, the academic job market was even worse off than it is today.

After much reflection and several memorable graduate school visits, Tighe attended Yale University and began narrowing down his historical interests. Darting around the historical canon, he contemplated studying the Renaissance or Reformation history, or perhaps Byzantine history was the way to go. More uncertain than ever, he struggled with what to write his dissertation on, wanting to find the perfect area. Little did he know, his answer was right around the corner. In the fall of his second year, some old friends from Georgetown asked him a question that undoubtedly changed his life - “Would you like to go to England?” Jumping at the opportunity, Tighe took the journey during Christmas vacation of that year, reaching out to his soon-to-be mentor Sir Geoffrey Elton, a renowned Tudor historian at Clare College at Cambridge University. Recalling their first meeting, Elton offered Tighe a glass of Glenfiddich Single Malt Whiskey, bonding soon after. Entertaining the idea of transferring from Yale to Cambridge, Tighe eventually obliged, finding a dissertation topic soon after. He ended up living in the United Kingdom for eight years, receiving his PhD from Cambridge in 1984, and briefly taking on a research fellowship at the University College of North Wales.

It may be more correct to say that Muhlenberg found Dr. Tighe instead of vice versa. After investigating various colleges for job offers, he received a call from his mother, eager to tell him that Professor Baldrige, a former chair of the Muhlenberg history department, wanted to speak with him. After arranging a flight back to the United States to see his family, Dr. Tighe arrived at Muhlenberg for the first



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time. After a duet of dinners with other professors and a rather impromptu lesson plan in front of the department, Baldrige offered him the job. However, Dr. Tighe wasn't exactly expecting it. You see, a day before coming to the college, Baldrige asked him to prepare a lecture, completely catching him off guard. In his own words: "You could have told me earlier. ... I can't make up a lecture overnight!" Instead, Dr. Tighe ended up detailing a proposed class he would teach at Muhlenberg which after 20 minutes of explanation, his predecessor told him "We've heard enough!" which he remarked "wasn't exactly encouraging." Nevertheless, Tighe was hired by the college in 1986, and the rest - was history.

In a span of nearly forty years, Dr. Tighe has taught numerous history courses at Muhlenberg and written many publications, spanning topics everywhere from 17th and 18th Century Europe to other topics like the Renaissance and Reformation. One of his most popular classes was a First Year Seminar about the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, which Tighe takes a particular interest in. He admits that some classes aren't nearly as popular as others, but as long as he is interested in learning more it doesn't stop him from teaching them. He once collaborated with the Russian Department to teach a class on Eastern Orthodox Christianity, a topic he's written about. He laments that sometimes his own enjoyment stems from how enthusiastic the students are. Once he had a class where nearly all of his students were Eastern Orthodox Christians themselves, while another time he had a class where most of them "made it clear that they disliked religion." All in all, he kindly asked his students to take some initiative. After all, what's the fun in taking a class unless you're interested in it yourself? It is undeniable that Muhlenberg has undergone substantial changes in the time Dr. Tighe has taught. I decided to ask him what he thought the biggest changes were. As many other professors will tell you, he is indeed cautious about AI, the internet, and the

other typical worries of academics. As I reflected on it, it hit me that Dr. Tighe has taught throughout almost every recent technological innovation (or hindrance) to academia. He says that "the effort to which you have to go to make plagiarism successful is probably at least as difficult, if not more difficult ... [than the] honest thing." It was extra fascinating to me, how he pinpointed the much more nuanced changes in the students he's taught. For example, he claims that his students were less and less able to take the types of exams he took as an undergraduate. Throughout the years he changed his classes from being more lecture-based, to more discussion-based, and back again. To the students who take a real interest in history, he recommends taking classes of a wide historical selection. Although sticking with your favorite professors may "be just the bees knees," he encourages the potential Masters or PhD student to observe and take note of many different styles of teaching. Taking a variety will help with what he calls "truffle hunting:" how historians dig deep in the dirt to find the most interesting topics and narrow them down to a very specific area "like animals."

I would be remiss if I didn't ask Dr. Tighe some fun questions too. I hit him with the infamous historical dinner question, which morphed into a theoretical historical tea party, where he could invite anybody of his choosing, living or dead, for a spot of tea. Among them were old mentors and professors, as well as an assortment of historical figures. Sitting alongside Dr. Tighe is either Elizabeth I or Mary I (he worries inviting both wouldn't work out), Louis XVI of France (who he feels gets a



bad rap), Henry VIII (with a barricade in front), the Adamases (John and John Quincy), and to top it all off, Abraham Lincoln. More generally I asked for some other amusing stories about his time at Muhlenberg. Although he told me there was a treasure trove, only one was deemed "for publication." He was teaching in Shankweiler some 20-odd years ago, when all of a sudden the wooden lectern collapsed, resulting in Tighe doing two full somersaults and a classroom erupting in hilarity. He reminisced about having to let them go early, an oddity for the time.

In addition to academia, Tighe enjoys a variety of other interests including traveling, learning different languages, and devouring science fiction and fantasy novels. In fact, to usher in his retirement, Dr. Tighe is going on a two-week holiday with his wife to Oregon, Northern California, and Washington State! He's particularly interested in going to Redwood Forest National Park and Crater Lake when he leaves on August 31st, the fabled "first day of retirement." When he gets back, he told me he'll be continuing to write various books and articles all in different stages of completion. After 38 years he is "content" telling me that "life is like being dealt a hand of cards, but you're allowed ... to play around with them and change the values. To bookend our time together, I asked Dr. Tighe what he would miss about Muhlenberg. Above all else, he told me he would miss the students the most. The "camaraderie" and "joy of seeing other people ... share an interest" were perhaps his favorite aspects of teaching. Although he did reveal he "won't miss grading papers so much." Equal to what Dr.

Tighe will miss is how much we will miss him! To say that he was incredibly valued in our department is a gross understatement, and our conversation is one that I will cherish as my own time at Muhlenberg comes to an end as well.

Dr. Tighe, have a wonderful retirement! Thank you for all that you've done. We wish you nothing but the best!

PHI ALPHA THETA

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

Congratulations to our 2024 initiates!

Collin Boldt	Madeline Jutsen	Paige Majewski
Andrew Buckwalter	Aamir Khan	Charlotte McKay
Elena Calantoni	Jenny Lee	Joshua Chait
Alena Craig	Madison Leonard	William Moody



HISTORY CLUB

The History Club is dedicated to keeping the excitement and fun in history, while still providing factual information. Everyone is welcome at our meetings where we have a variety of activities. Activities include a timeline game, finding when things occurred relative to each other, Karaoke night, and PowerPoint duels on historical topics presenters choose.

We also have trips and activities outside of our club meetings too. We assisted with National History Day in early March. This allowed us to help inspire the love of history in high school students and guide them on their way to the next stage of competition.

FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM @BERGHISTORYCLUB FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS!

2023-2024 OFFICERS:

President: William Moody

Executive Board:

Aamir Khan

Anthony Panuccio



2024 HONORS CONVOCATION AWARDS



DR. EDWIN R. BALDRIGE PRIZE

Sean O'Neill



THE RUSSELL FULFORD AWARD

Madeline Jutsen



DR. VICTOR L. JOHNSON AWARD

Simone Dutton



DR. JOHN J. REED AWARD

Bridget Parks



THE HYMAN-GOODMAN AWARD

Hayden Klein

WELCOME DR. ANH SY HUY LE!



I am a Vietnam-born Sinologist with expertise spanning three key areas of historical studies: Modern Vietnam, Modern China, and Sino-Southeast Asian connections. My research has primarily focused on Chinese influences in Vietnam and Southeast Asia with a particular emphasis on the Chinese diaspora and their networks from roughly the mid-19th century to the present. A transnational historian at heart who spent the most part of my career studying migration, I am fascinated by mobile lives on the margins—from migrant laborers, traders, capitalists, pirates, and opium smugglers to political exiles—who often find themselves overlooked in nation-centered historical narratives. Yet, their stories allow us to understand the making of Greater China's political economy and society as well as unexpected interactions that defy conventional geographic boundaries.

I have published a number of peer-reviewed articles on these topics, ranging from a history of Chinese migrants and the transformation of the commercial rice economy, migrants' "bodies" and colonial epidemiology to the politics of French colonial policing targeting Chinese migrants at the turn of the 20th century. I am currently completing a book on Chinese migration in colonial Indochina, which draws from multi-year archival research in several countries and weaves together various threads of my academic interests over the years.

A former student of the liberal arts turned historian, I see teaching and research as intertwined, mutually enriching endeavors. The courses I teach are often transnational in scope—even when they explore regional/national histories by design—and emphasize various degrees of social, political, and cultural interactions that have shaped modern Asian societies. At Muhlenberg, I look forward to teaching courses in Modern East Asia, Chinese Gender History, Modern and Pre-Modern China, Comparative Colonialism and Empire in Asia, Migration and the Making of Modern Asia, The Vietnam and American War, and A History of Asian America. I am excited to explore the many fascinating histories of transnational Asia and the wider world alongside Muhlenberg students.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Jialin Huang, '24

During my time at Muhlenberg, I was actively engaged in on-campus organizations such as the Wall Street Club (Chief Marketing Officer), International Students Association (Public Relations Head), and Asian Students Association (Treasurer). I also interned at the Berg Career Center as a Social Media & Marketing Intern in Fall 2023 where I managed marketing campaigns and promoted professional development opportunities to the student body. Currently, I am working as the Administrative Coordinator at the University of Pennsylvania's Career Services office. I work with students/alums interested in pursuing post-grad programs in medicine, dentistry, and law. I will also be an incoming masters student at UPenn's Graduate School of Education studying higher education.



***ATTENTION ALUMNI* - WE WOULD LOVE TO FEATURE YOU IN FUTURE EDITIONS!
PLEASE EMAIL lordinimmick@muhlenberg.edu**

HISTORY HONORS

Congratulations to our 2024 History Honors Recipients

Andrew Buckwalter - Honors

Foreign Anglican Priests and Their Anti-Apartheid Radicalization

Alena Craig - Honors

Clothing the Glorious Revolution

Simone Dutton - Honors

An Exploration into the England's Most Controversial Queen Anne Boleyn: Separating Fact from Fiction

Samuel Glass - Honors

Ireland: Divided By Politics, United Against Apartheid

Declan Kelsey - Highest Honors

Lessons in Colonization: The Impact of Shane O'Neill's Revolt on English Policy in Ireland

Jenny Lee - High Honors

The Success of Catholicism under Mary Tudor: Examining Her Policies and Her Legacy

Charlotte McKay - Honors

"Love Thy Neighbor... Unless they have AIDS"

R.J. Mahar - Highest Honors

Playing with Fire: A History of Video Game Moral Panic

William Moody - Honors

How the United States Justifies its Relationships with Problematic Allies



PLAYING WITH FIRE: THE FAREWELL TOUR

R.J. Mahar '24

Nearly three semesters ago, I and five others embarked on the most terrifying experience of our lives: writing our history CUE papers. Perhaps I'm overexaggerating, but writing something of such gravitas and consequence can seem like an endlessly stressful task. Thankfully for us, and with the brilliant help of Dr. Antonovich, we were able to make it out of our two-semester ordeal mostly unscathed, surviving to tell the tale. My paper: *Playing with Fire: A History of Video Game Moral Panic* was a labor of love. I'm thrilled to report that the number of hours I spent researching, brainstorming, writing, revising, digging, and writing some more actually paid off. I was lucky enough to have received Highest Honors for my work, and although many would take the ceremonial "W" and run into the final semester of their senior year with a newfound sense of relief, I asked myself: OK, I've got this amazing paper... now what?

On a whim during my winter vacation, I decided to check my dormant Muhlenberg email. Call it boredom, but I stumbled upon a forwarded email from Lori Dimmick, our wonderful administrative assistant, that changed every-



thing. It was from Mississippi State University, looking for papers for their annual Symposium for History Undergraduate Research, affectionately known as the SHUR. Without much thought, I immediately began thinking about how great it would be to present my work to others. I had never been to Mississippi, let alone gone somewhere by myself before. I've always enjoyed the idea of traveling, and with a mostly empty final semester, why not? After a little back and forth I sent in a 200-word abstract and to my disbelief, I was accepted! Honestly, it caught me off guard. They wanted me? With the SHUR fast approaching, I had a bit of a dilemma. I had no money and no way to fly myself a thousand miles across the country.

Muhlenberg thankfully came to the rescue! With help from the Experiential Learning Grant, the Dean of Academic Life, and a more than generous plane ticket from the History Department, I was actually able to make this dream a reality. Of course, there was a lot I had to do from my end as well. I had to take a 45-page paper and condense it into a 10-page, 10-minute presentation. I also had to make a snazzy PowerPoint as well, which takes more time

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than you think. Despite the short amount of time we had, everything seemed to come together in the perfect storm. On March 20th after many delays, I was en route to Georgia with a tight connection to a small regional airport. If I missed this flight, I'd be waiting 8 hours at the busiest airport in the world. Upon landing, I ran through Atlanta airport like I had never run before. I kid you not, I was the last person on that flight before they closed the gate.

Mississippi State University is located in a tiny college town in the middle of nowhere, a quaint place named Starkville. One of the coolest experiences of the trip was simply landing in the area. It was farmland as far as the eye could see, one teensy runway, and a Mule far from its stable. When I finally walked down the airstairs, there was surprisingly somebody waiting for me. I came out of the bathroom to see a History PhD student holding up the name MAHAR scribbled on a piece of paper! I had no clue I'd be chauffeured to my hotel, and the theatrics of it all were comical after two exhausting flights. I was lucky enough to be centrally located within the university, with tons of walking paths and places to explore. Sometimes I had four or five hours to check things out. In my spare time, I went to the college's clock museum, went downtown, ate at some amazing restaurants, and cautiously prepared for my presentation. I tried to immerse myself in all the school had to offer, checking out various gift shops and heading home with a signature cowbell that students ring during football games. Due to some issues with hotel booking, I even ended up getting upgraded to a King Suite. It was a surreal experience and I had nothing short of an amazing time!

The conference itself was fantastic too. It was set up as an introduction to academic conferences and they had a panel of professors who talked about graduate school experiences and a keynote speaker, Dr. Jim Downs, who talked about his Civil War Medical

Research. It was all super interesting, and they made everyone feel welcome. I met many other history students and we networked with each other, forming friendships in the short days we had. After the first day, they chauffeured us yet again to a local barbeque shack named The Little Dooley, where I had the best fried catfish I ever ate. During our dinner, I bumped into the professor who'd be providing feedback to my presentation group, and my nerves were slightly eased. The next day, I suited up early in the morning and began the grueling but fascinating task of listening to other students present their papers before my own presentation. They divided everyone loosely into groups of three by topic, and you had the choice of picking the panels you wanted to attend. During our lunch break, I was invited to tour Mississippi State's Ulysses S. Grant Presidential Library as well as the "Lincolnia," an amazing collection of items relating to Abraham Lincoln that had been donated to the university. After all that, the time had finally come. I took one last look at myself in the mirror, fixed my tie, and went to my panel.

Presenting my paper went better than I had expected; everyone seemed to really enjoy it! If I had to give any advice it would be to turn your paper into something you can read as a script, and put cues in the paper you're reading off of. Whenever you're switching slides, write down SLIDE in big bold letters and put ellipses to signify pauses. Remember, you're giving a presentation, so have a little fun with it and loosen up! It's a moment to be proud of your work by giving ample reason to the audience to believe in it! I was relieved when it was all said and done, but overall it was very rewarding. There was also a panel at the end with the other two students giving us the opportunity to talk to everyone informally about our thought process and how we came to our topics. Everyone with a truly great paper should try and seek out conference opportunities. Most of the time you'll get tons of support from not only

Muhlenberg but the conference staff as well. Check those emails! You never know what comes around!

I also had the opportunity to give my presentation at Rowan University in New Jersey the following month as part of Phi Alpha Theta's Regional Conference. The process was more or less the same as the SHUR, so I could reuse everything I had prepared. It was great to be closer to home, and now that I had already gone through the steps, it was generally easier to give my presentation the second time around. One of the three panelists had failed to show, and the other presenter was a much older gentleman. His difference of perspective was a change for how the panel went in Mississippi, so I got even more out of my paper. It's worth going to multiple conferences for that alone. I affectionately refer to this entire journey as The Farewell Tour, as I was allowed to tour around the country with a paper I'm immensely proud of. I hope that all future CUE students, regardless of honors, take my advice and go on a trip of their own!

I'd like to thank everybody in the History Department for giving me these amazing opportunities and for your never ending support. Extra special thanks to Dr. Antonovich and Dr. Cragin for serving on my honors defense, and to the other CUE students in my class (Charlotte, Jacob, Devyn, Jackson, and Jialin) who wrote equally amazing papers!



FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

What have our faculty been up to this year?

Dr. Jacqueline Antonovich

Associate Professor of History

Dr. Antonovich had a big year, earning tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Over the past year, Dr. A presented papers at three history conferences, and she also delivered grand rounds lectures for medical professionals at Northwestern, Michigan, and UT-Austin. This summer, Dr. A began a new collaboration with Drexel's Medical Archives in Philadelphia, working on developing a CUE course that will immerse students in archival research experiences.

Dr. Thomas Cragin

Professor of History

Dr. Cragin has enjoyed another year of teaching, which included experimentation in the Dana Sophomore Seminar, last Fall. He marvels at the particular success of his students in HST 217 "Europe in the Age of Revolutions," last Spring, where they role played 19th-century characters in lively, sometimes raucous debates. Dr. Cragin has recently published "Fascism 'for a Public that Searches' in La notte di San Lorenzo" in *Annali d'italianistica*. Bucknell University Press has just completed its review of his prospectus for his book, *Beyond the Open City*, and invites submission of the complete manuscript when it is finished.

Dr. Cathy Marie Ouellette

Professor of History

Dr. Ouellette is stepping down as Department Chair of History after five long COVID years. Under her leadership, the department has undergone several curricular changes and now offers more experiential and independent research experiences for majors and minors. The History Department continues to support the largest number of interdisciplinary programs on campus, and offers the widest global reach on campus, with teacher-scholars in the histories of Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East, and the United States.

Dr. Ouellette was thrilled to return to Cuba with twenty MILA students in January, after a four year hiatus due to COVID. Students in *Bodies & Identities in Contemporary Cuba* studied racial inequalities, forms of resistance, and public health, and learned how gendered and class-based discourses of national identity affected diverse populations in the revolutionary and COVID time periods.

Dr. Sarah Runcie

Assistant Professor of History

Dr. Runcie gave two lectures in the spring at the United States Department of State Foreign Service Institute to US diplomats heading to positions in West Africa. She also presented in a roundtable on the theme of empire and race at the annual meeting of the Society for French Historical Studies. Dr. Runcie is looking forward to serving as one of the Program Directors for Muhlenberg's Center for Ethics series on "The Ethics of Repair" in the upcoming academic year.

Dr. Mark Stein

Professor of History

Dr. Stein chaired a panel on "State Power and Social Order in the Early-Modern Era" at the annual Middle East Studies Association conference. He also published "A Tanzimat for TSA" in the *Journal of the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association*. The article discusses his successful efforts to revive the Turkish Studies Association and transform it into the Ottoman and Turkish Studies Association during his tenure as president of the organization. On campus, Stein began a brand new senior seminar sequence, "The Expanding World of the Early Modern," and is part of the steering committee for the College's re-accreditation process. This year will be his last as Director of the Center for Ethics.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS CONTINUED

Dr. William Tighe

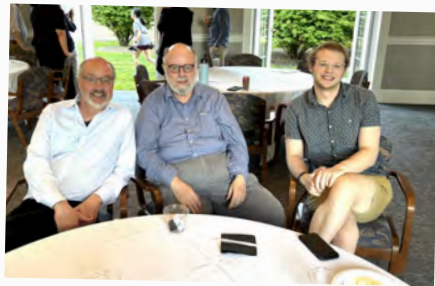
Professor of History

Professor Tighe retired at the end of the 2023-24 academic year after teaching five exceptionally lively courses in the course of that year. He remembers with gratitude and warmth the thirty-eight years he has "professed" at Muhlenberg College.

Dr. Lynda Yankaskas

Associate Professor of History, Chair of the History Department

Dr. Yankaskas continued work this year with an international team of collaborators on Eighteenth-Century Libraries Online, a Digital Humanities project to unite the surviving catalogs-and other records-of 18th-century social libraries in the English-speaking Atlantic world. In particular, she worked closely with the circulation records of the Salem Social Library, one of only four sets of surviving records from 18th-century North America that show which books library members borrowed. She looks forward to the public launch of the project, possibly as early as this academic year. This year, she will reprise her senior seminar sequence on community and citizenship in early America, and also looks forward to a new role as History department chair.



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