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# HGSA 2022-2023



## NEWSLETTER

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### 2022-2023 HGSA OFFICERS

President: Rhiannon Turgel-Ethier

Vice President: Brian Davis

Treasurer: Frank Amico

Secretary: Madeleine Stout

Communications: Dragana Zivkovic

### 2022-2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2022-2023 academic year saw our graduate students traveling far and wide for research, conferences, vacations, and so much more. This issue of the HGSA Newsletter will celebrate all of the accomplishments, achievements, and exciting adventures that our graduate students went on throughout the year.



Left to right: Brian, Dragana, Rhiannon, Maddy, and Frank.

## HGSA CONFERENCE: "THE PURSUIT OF POWER"

The 2022-2023 Conference Committee hosted the 13th Annual Southeast Regional Graduate Student Conference on March 3, 2023 in person at the Globe. The theme for this year's conference was "The Pursuit of Power." This year saw a more diverse range of participants from many different universities. The keynote speaker was Dr. John Corrigan, Lucius Moody Bristol Distinguished Professor of Religion, Professor of History, and a Distinguished Research Professor in the Department of Religion at Florida State. Following the conference, there was a social at Proof at the new Student Union.

### **Conference Committee:**

Brian Davis  
Frank Amico  
Dragana Zivkovic  
Baylee Staufenbiel  
Danielle Wirsansky  
Regina Coffey  
Monique Hyman



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## HGSA EVENTS

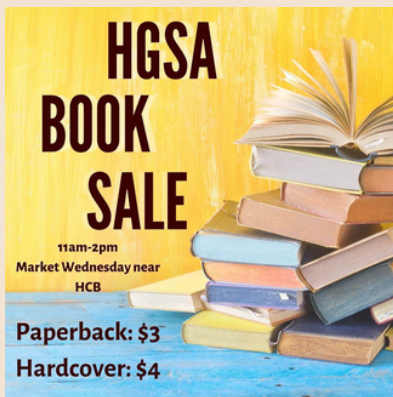
We had so many exciting and new events this year. We kicked off the new academic year with a back-to-school social at Railroad Square. Two new events were created by Monique Hyman, Diversity Day and Revolutionary Game Night. Diversity Day was focused on learning more about the diversity within our department and we had fun games, music, and snacks prepared, as well as food brought in by the graduate students. Revolutionary Game Night contained revolution-themed games, a costume contest, and a revolution-inspired potluck. We ended the semester off with an event at Tom Brown park.





## HGSA BOOK SALE

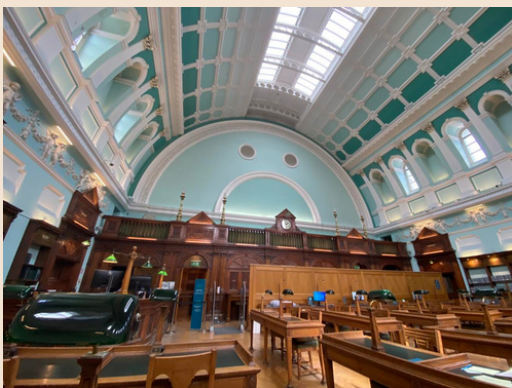
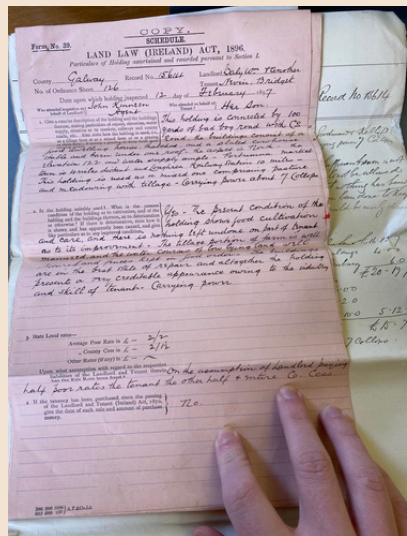
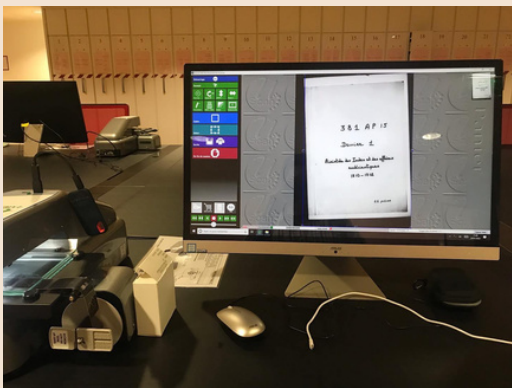
This year we decided to participate in FSU's Market Wednesday. With so many books being donated by faculty and students, the HGSA office was running out of space so we decided to do a book sale. In our very first day, we sold over 70 books and were a big hit amongst the students! We got a lot of good feedback from everyone with what sort of books they were interested in and each time we participated in Market Wednesday we brought more of those books. We hope that this will be continued on as it is such a fun way to fundraise for the HGSA. We want to thank everyone that stopped by to help us out!





## RESEARCH ADVENTURES

The 2022-2023 academic year saw our PhD students traveling for the first time to conduct research for their dissertations. In the fall, Michael Vernon and Chelsi Arellano traveled to London. In the spring, they were joined by Kiri Raber. Michael traveled to Dublin to the National Library of Ireland to finish up his research. Will Oaks and Daniel Arenas ventured to France, Germany, and Spain. Will has been conducting research in France and will visit Germany and Austria in the summer to complete his research.



## DISSERTATION DEFENSES

This year we had 8 dissertation defenses. Congratulations to Justin Vos who defended in the fall semester and to Daniel Zylberkan, Benjamin Goff, Megan Groninger, Bradley Hardy, Erik Braeden Lewis, Marina Ortiz, Jason Ratcliffe, and Ed Shockley who defended in the spring semester. Ben will be a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Saskatchewan and Megan will begin her job as an assistant professor of history at William Jewell College in Liberty, MO.



## COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS

The spring semester saw a number of students take their comprehensive exams. With the adoption of the portfolio beginning in the fall of 2023, these comprehensive exams are likely to be the last ones taken by our current graduate students. Congratulations to the following students who successfully completed their exams and passed their oral defenses:

Emily Lu  
Dragana Zivkovic  
Danielle Wirsansky  
Regina Coffey  
Noah Cole  
Madeleine Stout  
Frank Amico  
David Ward

The next step is for them to write and defend their prospectus. We can't wait to see what exciting research they are going to do in the next few years.



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

### Emily Lu

Over the summer, Emily interned at Goodwood Gardens and Museum where she sifted through historical records (1920s-1950s), deciding which ones were of historical value, and then digitized them using a recorder and compiled data in a spreadsheet. She learned the intricacies of maintaining records, digitizing them, recording and storing them from FSU College of Music folks. Emily was also recommended as a Semifinalist for the Fulbright US Student Award for graduate research by the US side to Japan. Emily states that “preparing for the Fulbright application was a long and arduous process. Although I did not ultimately receive the Fulbright, I am nevertheless glad to have been recognized as a semi-finalist for my effort and skills. I am also grateful to have learned more about myself and my own research through this experience, and I would be happy to share my thoughts and tips with any future applicants from the department.”



## **Brian Davis**

Brian began the first year of the PhD program in the fall after fast-tracking and was nominated for FSU's Graduate Student Leadership Award. He was the Vice President of the HGSA and was in charge of organizing the 2023 FSU HGSA Conference which saw a great turnout this year. He continues to work as an Oral Historian for The Bottom Oral History Project. This African American business district's rich history is being recorded and documented to embrace the culture and experiences it provided for the citizens of Thomasville, Georgia. Brian was invited to present his research paper "The Black West Point: Policing the Black Cadet" at the Military Frontiers Graduate Student Symposium: An Interdisciplinary Conversation on National Security in Columbus, Ohio. Brian has also begun writing two photographic essays for *Picturing Black History*, a project between Getty Images and Ohio State University's *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective* to develop a collaboration chronicling Black experiences in American History. Last summer Brian worked alongside Dr. Jones in the CARE Program and he will continue working there again this summer.





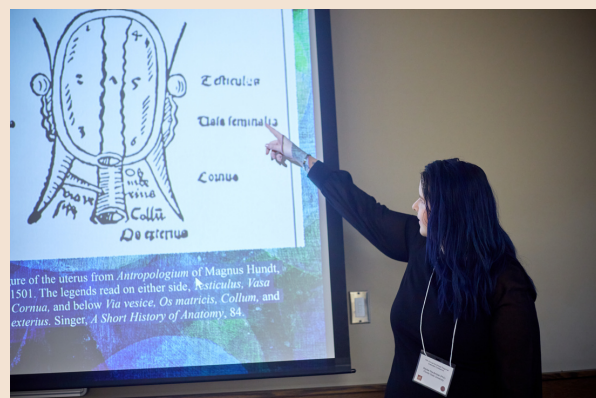
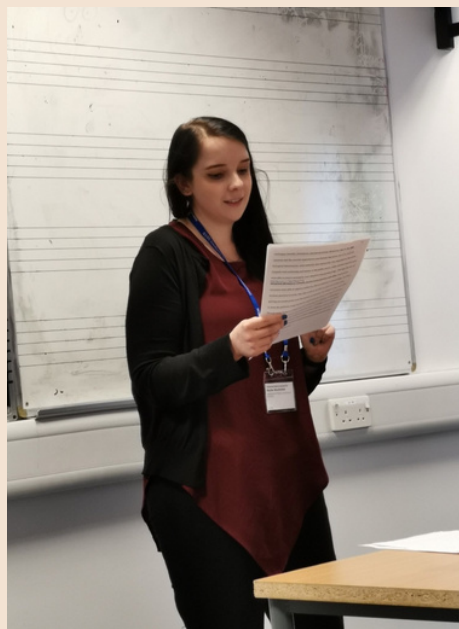
## **Kiri Raber**

This academic year, Kiri presented at the Southern Conference on British Studies, and won the Martin-Vegue Fellowship award. This fellowship has allowed Kiri to conduct research abroad in London, where she has been staying since January 5th and will be staying until May 5th. While in London, she has found numerous exciting documents pertaining to her area of study, 18th C Jamaica. Kiri has taken this time to visit Greece for a weekend and travel around London. Kiri was also awarded the Dean's Award for Doctoral Excellence.



## **Baylee Staufenbiel**

This year, Baylee passed all of her comprehensive exams and her prospectus defense. Along with serving on the HGSA Conference Committee, she presented at the annual HGSA conference where she was awarded the best paper in her panel. In May she will be presenting a paper at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Travel will be funded, in part, by the FSU Department of History and COGS. In July, she will be presenting at the International Medieval Congress that takes place in Leeds, UK. She is now preparing for her research year, the travel and archival experiences to come!





## Danielle Wirsansky

Danielle has been very busy this academic year. She won Best Play and Best Director in the Tallahassee Broadway World Awards for her public history project/play "Sitting Still" which was about real queer women medics of WWI. Similarly, she had two public history short plays produced at FSU featuring the real stories women of WWII. Danielle has a new musical, "The Hock-Cock-A-Mook Islands" premiering in Tallahassee in April before going on tour as part of the Orlando International Fringe Festival May 16-29th. She was nominated for the National Council of the Dramatis Guild. She had a duet photography exhibit in Dirac Library (see History Department socials). Recently, Danielle had a book review published by H-Net, "Wirsansky on Purnell, 'A Woman of No Importance: The Untold Story of the American Spy Who Helped Win World War II'" and she has an academic article titled "Women Doctors' Contributions to the British Suffrage & Women's Rights Movements" being published in an upcoming anthology, *Gender Diversity and Inclusion: Contemporary and Historical Perspectives* edited by Gloria Y. A. Ayee; Elena V. Shabliy; Tony Wall; Dmitry Kurochkin, later this year. Danielle also won a UROP Materials grant and presented at the HGSA conference and the UW-Milwaukee HGSA Conference this year.



## Madeleine Stout

This year Maddy was the Secretary of the HGSA and worked the CARE program over the summer which she will continue this summer. She completed her comprehensive exams and orals. Maddy received the Dean's Award for Doctoral Excellence.



## Michael Vernon

In the fall and spring, Michael was at the British Library and National Archives in London and then the National Library of Ireland in Dublin conducting research for his dissertation. He was also appointed the co-chair of the North American Conference of British Studies Graduate Caucus for 2023, and awarded the Dean's Award for Doctoral Excellence.





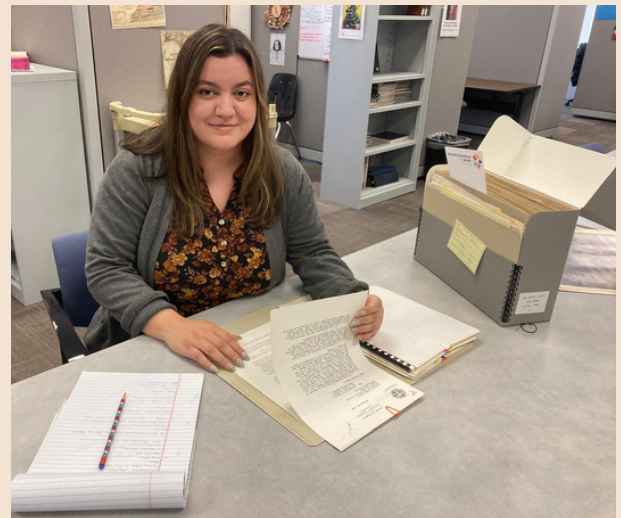
## **Rhiannon Turgel-Ethier**

Rhiannon was thrilled to receive a short-term Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship at The Huntington Library for 2022-2023. She had already completed research in Georgia and Oklahoma, but the collections at the Huntington were essential to the last two chapters of her dissertation. She decided to complete her archival research in July and August 2022. During her time at the Huntington, she found many records that allowed her to get a better understanding of Cherokee life on the Overland trails as well as in the mines and Gold Rush counties. Notably, their collections included original issues of two important Indigenous newspapers: the Cherokee Phoenix and the Cherokee Advocate. On her lunch breaks, she enjoyed exploring the Huntington's beautiful gardens and museums. Almost daily, she was able to eat lunch with and learn from wonderful scholars from all around North America and Europe. On weekends, she took advantage of California's striking natural beauty (the Pacific Coast Highway, Sequoia National Park, and hiking in the Sierra Nevadas). From Disneyland to Hollywood, she also made sure to visit some of Los Angeles' most touristy spots. Overall, her experience at the Huntington was absolutely wonderful and highly recommends applying for a short- or long-term research fellowship. While at the Huntington, she also attended SHEAR's (Society for Historians of the Early American Republic) annual conference virtually. She participated in the Graduate Research Seminar on Indigenous History. Kathleen Duval and Michael Witgen led several graduate students in sharing and workshopping their dissertation research.



## **Dragana Zivkovic**

Over the summer, Dragana did an internship at the State Library and Archives of Florida. At the same time, she was accepted into the Central European Interdisciplinary Summer School (CEISS) hosted by the University of Pécs (Hungary) and presented a conference paper titled "Women and Space in 16th Century Southeastern Europe." Dragana was the Communications officer for the HGSA and was on the 2023 FSU HGSA Conference Committee where she also presented her paper on clothing, identity and gender in the early modern Mediterranean. She completed her comprehensive exams and defended her prospectus. She is currently preparing to go on research in the fall.





## LOOKING AHEAD

The 2023-2024 academic year will welcome 12 new graduate students into the program. Along with new students, the HGSA has new officers which were elected in April. Congratulations to the new HGSA officers:

President: Monique Hyman

Vice President: Danielle Wirsansky

Treasurer: Chris Loman

Secretary: Noah Cole

Communications: TBD

We look forward to seeing what the graduate students do next. Congratulations to all of the students who passed their comprehensive exams and those that defended their dissertations. We also look forward to the graduate students who will be teaching for the first time in the fall semester.

To see what the graduate students are up to, you can find the HGSA here:

Instagram: @fsu.hgsa

Twitter: @hgsafsu

Website: [www.hgsafsu.com](http://www.hgsafsu.com)