The faculty at the School of Historical, Philosophical cross boundaries to research across the world. Embedding themselves in the communities they study have led them to drive meaningful change for society's concerns.
This has been an exciting and productive year for the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies (SHPRS). Our school is home to over one hundred faculty, staff and graduate students, who have spent the year producing innovative research, teaching thousands of ASU students and helping the public make sense of complex issues that are local, national and international in scope.

SHPRS faculty authored thirteen books and nearly one hundred journal articles and book chapters in the past year. These works demonstrate the tremendous breadth of our faculty’s expertise, including titles such as Cheshire Calhoun’s Doing Valuable Time: The Present, the Future, and Meaningful Living; Jason Bruner’s Living Salvation in the East African Revival in Uganda; Tracy Fessenden’s Religion Around Billie Holiday; Julian Lim’s Porous Borders: Multiracial Migrations and the Law in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands. SHPRS faculty continue to be successful in earning external grants and fellowships to support their research, and several faculty pursued new projects this year with external support, such as Shahla Talebi (National Humanities Center), Chris Jones (American Council of Learned Societies) and Aaron Moore (National Endowment for the Humanities). SHPRS faculty have also been active in sharing their research for public audience via the Los Angeles Times, Washington Post, Arizona Republic and KJZZ.

One of the most important projects to launch this year was Water/Ways, a collaboration involving Arizona Humanities, the Smithsonian and ASU. History professor Paul Hirt is serving as the State Scholar for the Water/Ways exhibition, which will travel to twelve sites in Arizona over the next two years.

These new research pathways lead directly into the classroom. We take seriously ASU’s charter that the university is “measured not by whom it excludes, but by whom it includes and how they succeed.” Our faculty are proud to have taught over 20,000 students this year, both on the Tempe campus and online. The new Undergraduate Research Experience is enabling students to work one-on-one with faculty on research projects. This initiative gives students first-hand experience with research, helps them develop transferable research skills and allows them to develop valuable relationships with faculty.

Finally, we have been collaborating with the WWII Museum in New Orleans to develop a new online MA degree in WWII Studies. The degree, the first of its kind, is set to launch in January 2019.

I want to thank all of SHPRS faculty, staff, students and friends for their support over the past year. My colleague Tracy Fessenden will serve as interim Director for 2018-2019 while I am on leave with a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Since coming to ASU in 2014, I have been impressed with the scale and ambition of the university’s mission, and I can say firsthand that SHPRS is helping ASU achieve these goals.

Sincerely,

Matthew Delmont
The School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies produces innovative and distinguished research on subjects such as morality, rationality and ethics; race, citizenship and immigration; and the role of religion in public life. SHPRS faculty educate thousands of students every year and share knowledge with millions of people beyond the university through accessible media. SHPRS enables students and the public to make sense of complex issues that are of critical importance to Arizona, United States and the world.
School Leadership 17-18

Matthew Delmont
Director
Calvin Schermerhorn
Assistant Director - Undergraduate Studies
Miguel Aguilera
Assistant Director - Graduate Studies
Gaymon Bennett
Assistant Director - Research

History

Jim Rush
Faculty Head
Katherine Osburn (Fall) & Anna Holian (Spring)
Director – Undergraduate Studies
Christopher Jones (Fall) & Alexander Aviña (Spring)
Director – Graduate Studies

Religious Studies

Eugene Clay
Faculty Head
Alexander Henn
Director – Undergraduate Studies
Miguel Aguilera
Director – Graduate Studies

Philosophy

Cheshire Calhoun
Faculty Head
Peter de Marneffe
Director – Undergraduate Studies
Angel Pinillos
Director – Graduate Studies

Fellowships awarded to faculty:
3
Total amount: $131,200
Doing Valuable Time: The Present, the Future, and Meaningful Living
Cheshire Calhoun
Published by: Oxford University Press

Living Salvation in the East African Revival in Uganda
Jason Bruner
Published by: University of Rochester Press

Southeast Asia: A Very Short Introduction
James Rush
Published by: Oxford University Press

Feinde, Freunde, Fremde?: Deutsche Perspektiven auf die USA (Enemies, Friends, Strangers?: German Perspectives on the USA)
Volker Benkert
Published by: Nomos Publishing Company

Northeast Asia: A Place of Relations
Yasmin Saikia
Published by: Cambridge University Press

“That’s What They Used to Say”: Reflections on American Indian Oral Traditions
Donald Fixico
Published by: University of Oklahoma Press

Indian Treaties in the United States
Donald Fixico
Published by: ABC-CLIO

Porous Borders: Multiracial Migrations and the Law in the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands
Julian Lim
Published by: The University of North Carolina Press

Theravāda Buddhist Encounters with Modernity
Juliane Schober
Published by: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group

Knowledge as Acceptable Testimony
Steven Reynolds
Published by: Cambridge University Press

Religion Around Billie Holiday
Tracy Fessenden
Published by: Penn State University Press

The Wiley International Handbook of History Teaching and Learning
Lauren McArthur Harris
Published by: Wiley-Blackwell

LBJ’s 1968: Power, Politics, and the Presidency in America’s Year of Upheaval
Kyle Longley
Published by: Cambridge University Press

Republican Character: From Nixon to Reagan
Donald Critchlow
Published by: University of Pennsylvania Press
Dr. Hannah Barker
Assistant Professor of History

Dr. Barker earned her PhD in 2014 from Columbia University. She studies ideologies and practices of slavery in the late medieval Mediterranean, especially the slave trade from the Black Sea to the markets of Cairo, Genoa and Venice during the thirteenth through fifteenth centuries. She is particularly interested in the logistics of slave shipments, the use of racial categories to commodify slaves and the legal implications of medical fraud in the slave market.

Dr. Adrian Brettle
Lecturer in History

Dr. Brettle earned his PhD from University of Virginia in 2014. He is the Andrew W. Mellon postdoctoral fellow at the American Civil War Museum and working on an exhibit, “Southern Ambitions: War for the Future,” based on his scholarship. His book, A Vastly Different World: Confederate Ambitious Planning for a Postwar Global Role, is under advance contract with the University of Virginia Press who plan to publish it in 2020. In addition to the Civil War, Dr. Brettle’s research and teaching interests include nineteenth century to the Civil War, Dr. Brettle's research and teaching interests include nineteenth century to the Civil War, Dr. Brettle's research and teaching interests include nineteenth century to the Civil War, Dr. Brettle's research and teaching interests include nineteenth century to the Civil War, Dr. Brettle's research and teaching interests include nineteenth century to the Civil War.

Dr. Matthew Casey
Lecturer in History

Dr. Casey earned his PhD this May in Latin American History from University of California, Davis, where he completed a dissertation titled, “The Religion Question: How Christians Shaped Society during Peru’s Long Cold War.”

Dr. Tobias Harper
Assistant Professor of History

Dr. Harper earned his PhD in 2014 from Columbia University. He is a historian of modern Britain and the British Empire. He is writing a book about the democratization and decolonization of the British honours system (knighthoods, etc.) in the twentieth century.

Dr. Stephen Lazer
Lecturer in History

Dr. Lazer earned his PhD from University of Miami in 2014. He is a historian of early modern Germany and France with a particular focus on political culture and state formation. He has published two articles and is currently revising a manuscript on state formation in early modern Alsace. He looks forward to embarking on his next project, a study of cross-border crime in the upper Rhine during the eighteenth century.

Dr. Stanley Mirvis
Assistant Professor of History and Harold and Jean Grossman Chair in Jewish Studies

Dr. Mirvis earned his PhD in 2013 from City University of New York. He specializes in the colonial Jewish Atlantic and the early modern “Western Sephardic Diaspora.” His forthcoming monograph is titled The Jews of Eighteenth-Century Jamaica: A Testamentary History of a Diaspora in Transition.

Dr. Ben Phillips
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Dr. Phillips earned his PhD in 2016 from the University of California, Irvine. Her work covers a range of topics in ethics, applied ethics, political philosophy, and social epistemology. She has already produced an impressive publication record with a dozen articles/chapters published or forthcoming, and more research in the pipeline. She is coming to ASU from Radford University, where she is a tenure-track Assistant Professor, and she was previously a Bioethics Research Fellow at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

Dr. Maura Priest
Assistant Professor of Philosophy

Dr. Priest earned her PhD in 2016 from the University of California, Irvine. Her work covers a range of topics in ethics, applied ethics, political philosophy, and social epistemology. She has already produced an impressive publication record with a dozen articles/chapters published or forthcoming, and more research in the pipeline. She is coming to ASU from Radford University, where she is a tenure-track Assistant Professor, and she was previously a Bioethics Research Fellow at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City.

Dr. Terry Shoemaker
Lecturer in Religious Studies

Dr. Shoemaker recently earned his PhD in Religious Studies from ASU. His research focuses on sites of resistance within religious communities and social pressures inherent in religious shifts. His dissertation, titled “Competing Christianities: Social Dynamics of Religious Change in the Upper South,” was a study of competing forms of Protestant Christianity within the Bible Belt of the upper South. He has published eight articles and book chapters, and is the editor of the forthcoming collection, The Prophetic Dimension of Sport.
**STUDENTS**

**Meet SHPRS’ Fall Dean’s Medalist**

**Tiffany Spicer** spent most of her childhood exploring the woods with her friends in a rural area of Maryland, unaware of the impact she would make in SHPRS from over 2,000 miles away.

Spicer graduated with her BA in religious studies from SHPRS in December and was chosen as the recipient of the Dean’s Medal from the school. She has been called “an extraordinarily motivated student” by her professors and has been exceedingly well-prepared, able to capture analytical, comparative and applied perspectives and is always ready to articulate her knowledge in clear writing and expression.

Read more about Spicer [here](#).

**Meet SHPRS’ Spring Dean’s Medalist**

**Shawn Courson** stood out among his fellow history majors due to his commitment to others and his education. Because of his accomplishments and engagement in ASU, he was chosen as the Dean’s Medalist for the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies.

Courson impressed his faculty and peers as he balanced teaching full-time at Tempe High School, earning top marks in his courses and working on his honors thesis that details the struggles of African-American political leaders in Texas after the Civil War.

Read more about Courson [here](#).

**Undergrad studies abroad thanks to “Friends Of” scholarship**

Undergraduate **Janna Tobin** is currently majoring in history and political science. Last year, she was chosen to receive the Friends of History scholarship out of 45 applicants. We caught up with Tobin to see how the scholarship has impacted her academic career.

Read more about Tobin [here](#).

**Online Student helps rewrite history through Undergrad Research Experience**

**Stephanie Williamson**, an undergraduate student studying history and Jewish studies, was one of Matthew Delmont’s research assistants last fall, working on the Undergrad Research Experience that allowed undergraduate students to help find sources for Delmont’s book, work alongside him and develop skills applicable to their field of study. The research project takes a look at the war from the perspective of African Americans by looking at the stories of black soldiers and nurses. She was collecting data from the ProQuest database and hopes the research will show that the Civil Rights Movement started earlier than thought by most Americans. Surprisingly, she was working on the project from Colorado as an online student.

Read more about Williamson [here](#).

**Graduate student inspires others to rethink immigration**

Before her spring graduation, **Judith Perera**, a PhD candidate who studied the history of immigrant detention in the U.S, realized the way immigration is taught and talked about does not reflect the process and reality of the immigrant experience. She created a project for her students to break down their ideas of immigration by applying their own family to the narrative.

Perera decided to have her students take on a project called “Our Stories,” in which students found their immigration story within their families. They traced back to when their families came to America and put together posters for an exhibit in Hayden Library last fall.

Read more about Perera here and [here](#) and [here](#).

**Student’s philosophical thinking leads him to Budapest**

**Forrest Schreick** has long been a friendly face around SHPRS. For the last six years, the graduating philosophy MA student made the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies his academic home and even helped fellow students as the writing tutor in the SHPRS Writing and Logic Studio. After graduating in May, he worked on finalizing chapters of thesis for publication and moved to Budapest, Hungary, to pursue a PhD in philosophy at Central European University.

Read more about Schreick [here](#).
When you give to the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies, you become a partner in the academic success of our students, the research discoveries of our faculty and the continued effort to make the world better. You’re also supporting a top-ranked research university that’s committed to finding solutions to some of our most pressing concerns. From scholarship support to funding for a specific research cause, your generosity and continued investment impact our community profoundly.

Whether you’re donating a couple dollars or a large sum, your gift is greatly appreciated. Any amount makes a difference for our students, faculty, staff, research and programs. Your charitable contributions enable our school to achieve the highest standards of excellence, access and impact.

Thank you to all who made an impact in the last year.

*Total donated: **$40,448.**
*Total number of donors: **281**
*Scholarship money awarded: **$22,254**

For more information about SHPRS' fundraising initiatives, please visit [shprs.asu.edu/give](shprs.asu.edu/give).

*As of July 2018*
Stay in touch!

School of Historical, Philosophical & Religious Studies

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