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History at CU

The Alumni Newsletter of the Program in History, Philosophy, and Religion
Concord University
Athens, WV 24712

Congratulations to our students who graduated with a B.A. in History this spring: Brandon Brumfield, Jeremy England, Abigail Ward, and Peyton Watts.

Greetings from Athens, WV! We hope this message finds you well. It's been too long since we've reached out and shared our latest news.

We're Thriving

History continues to thrive at Concord—as well as philosophy and religion. We taught twenty six courses this past year to four hundred and ninety three students. Fifteen of them are majors in history. We won a grant from the Lumina Foundation and we entered into a series of initiatives with the Mercer County Historical Society, the West Virginia Mine Wars Museum, and the Mercer County Visitors Bureau.

We also began to host a monthly history lunch hour at noon on the first Wednesday of each month while classes are in session in the cafeteria. If you're in town, join us. We would love to see you there.

Our Students

We celebrated our first history research symposium at the end of the fall semester. Four students participated: Brandon Brumfield presented his research on the Emperor Constantine at the Council of Nicaea, Maggie Friend on amputation in the Civil War, Chance Sowder on the experience of African American soldiers in the Civil War, and Abigail Ward on the Roman navy in the Second Punic War. Peyton Watts, who wasn't able to attend the symposium in the fall, presented his research on Kaiser Wilhelm II in the spring.

Our students continue to distinguish themselves. Four students graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History: Brandon Brumfield, Jeremy England, Abigail Ward, and Peyton Watts; Peyton graduated with Honors in Field. Four earned membership in Phi Alpha Theta, the National History Honor Society: Maggie Friend, Chance Sowder, Abigail Ward, and Peyton Watts. Abigail also won the Outstanding History Student Award at the Annual Honors Banquet in April.

Katelyn Marrs, a major in Psychology, graduated with a minor in Philosophy and Religion and Cari Burns-Ervin, a major in Education, graduated with a minor in History. Cari has also been admitted to the Master of Arts Program in Museum Studies at Johns Hopkins University. She'll begin in the fall.

Mr. Lilly with Drs. McKenna
and Berkey with two of our
most recent graduates:
Peyton Watts and Brandon
Brumfield.



Our Faculty

Dr. David Bard retired in 2005 and passed away in 2021. Some of you might also remember Dr. Bernard Kiernan who retired in 1998 and passed away in 2009. Mrs. Dr. “Kaz” Manzione retired in 2018 and Mr. Dr. “Chip” Manzione retired in 2021. They now reside in Alabama.

Dr. Berkey continues to lead the Program in History, Philosophy, and Religion and he completed a peer reviewed article in the history of nursing for the *Historical Encyclopedia of Nursing* (Bloomsbury Publishing, forthcoming in 2026).

Mr. Lilly is currently working on a biography of General John Echols who fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War. He is also developing a new course on World War II and he continues to organize local chess tournaments.

Dr. McKenna delivered the keynote address at the St. Anselm Conference at St. Anselm College in Manchester, NH, and completed three peer reviewed articles for the *Historical Encyclopedia of Nursing*.

Our Alumni

What have you been up to? Send us a message to let us know or just to say hello. We’d love to hear from you. You can reach us at history@concord.edu.

Best,

J. Berkey, Ph.D.

K. Lilly, M.A.

T. J. McKenna, Ph.D.
