

DAVID D. VAIL

Professor, Department of History, University of Nebraska at Kearney

Department of History
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Education

Ph.D. in History Kansas State University, 2012
M.A. in History Utah State University, 2006
B.A. in History Southern Oregon University, 2004 (Minor in Political Science)

Specialization Areas

Environmental and Agricultural History
History of Science, Medicine, and Public Health
History of the American West and the Great Plains
Public History

Academic Appointments

Department of History, University of Nebraska at Kearney
Professor, 2024–present
Assistant Chair, 2023–2024
Interim Assistant Chair, 2021–2022
Associate Professor, 2019–2024
Interim Graduate Program Chair, 2019
Assistant Professor, 2016–2019
Department of Special Collections and University Archives, Kansas State University
Assistant Professor, 2013–2016

Humanities Appointments

Humanities Nebraska
Vice Chair, Board of Directors, 2024–present
Member, Executive Committee, 2024–present
Member, Board of Directors, 2021–present
Humanities Kansas
Chair, Board Membership Committee, 2015–2016
Member, Executive Committee, 2014–2016
Member, Board of Directors, 2013–2016
National Endowment for the Humanities
Member, State Council Site Evaluation Team (Arkansas Humanities Council), 2020–2021
Member, Media Projects Development Grants Committee, 2019
Member, State Council Site Evaluation Team (Michigan Humanities Council), 2016–2017

SCHOLARSHIP

Awards/ Honors

“Water Scholar Award,” Colorado State University Libraries, 2023
“Writer’s in-residence,” Center for Great Plains Studies, 2023
“Faculty Development Fellowship,” University of Nebraska System, 2023
“Hamaker Faculty Research Fellowship,” UNK History Department, 2022

“Love of Learning Research Award,” Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, 2021–2022
“New Frontiers Faculty,” *New Frontiers: Research and Creative Activity at UNK*, 2018–2019
“Hamaker Faculty Research Fellowship,” UNK History Department, 2017
“Fellow,” The Center for Great Plains Studies, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, 2016

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Books (Monographs):

Vulnerable Harvests: Emergency Conservation in the Cold War Great Plains (under advance contract with University of Nebraska Press).

Chemical Lands: Pesticides, Aerial Spraying, and Health in North America’s Grasslands since 1945 (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2018). Part of the NEXUS Series: New Histories of Science, Technology, the Environment, Agriculture, and Medicine.

Awards/Honors: “Summer Bookshelf” selection by Phi Kappa Phi *Forum Magazine*, Summer 2018; University of Nebraska’s Center for Great Plains Studies “Book of the Month,” June 2018.

Reviews: **Choice* (July 2018); *Western Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2018); *Environmental History* (Fall 2018); *Agricultural History* (Fall 2018); *Technology and Culture* (October 2018); *American Historical Review* (Spring 2019); *Journal of American History* (Fall 2019); *Kansas History* (Fall 2019); *Annals of Iowa* (Fall 2019); *Great Plains Research* (Spring 2020).

Books (Co-authored and Co-edited):

Interpreting Science at Museums and Historic Sites, co-edited with Debra Reid and Karen-Beth Scholthof (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2023).

Interpreting Environment at Museums and Historic Sites, co-authored with Debra A. Reid. (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2019).

Reviews: **EXARC.net* (Spring 2020); *Choice* (April 2020); *Agricultural History* (Summer 2020); *Public Historian* (Spring 2021).

Books (Anthology Chapters):

“A Yearbook of Science for the Public Good” in *Interpreting Science at Museums and Historic Sites*, Debra A. Reid, Karen-Beth Scholthof, and David D. Vail, eds., (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2023).

“Medical Science Archives: Closer and More Accessible Than They Might Appear,” with April White in *Interpreting Science at Museums and Historic Sites*, Debra A. Reid, Karen-Beth Scholthof, and David D. Vail, eds., (New York: Rowman and Littlefield, 2023).

“A Counterculture Agriculture: Organic Farming in a Commercial Food Age,” in *A Companion to American Agricultural History*. Edited by R. Douglas Hurt (New Jersey: Wiley-Blackwell, 2022), 188–199.

Book Award: Best Historical Materials published in 2021 and 2022 by Reference and User Services Association (RUSA), American Library Association, 2023.

“Vulnerable Harvests: Agricultural Risk and Environmental Hazard in the Modern Great Plains West,” in *The North American West in the Twenty-First Century*. Ed. Brenden Rensink, (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2022), 29–58.

Articles (Solo-authored):

“False Gospels of Efficiency: Contested Knowledge, Determined Experts, and Unfaithful Lands in Rural Utah,” *Agricultural History* 96.3 (August 2022): 342–378.

“Field Notes: Exploring the STEM-Humanities History of Nebraska’s Agriculture,” *Great Plains Research* (Fall 2019): 55–70.

“Farming by Rail: Demonstration Trains and the Rise of Mobile Agricultural Science in the Great Plains,”

Great Plains Quarterly 38 (Spring 2018): 151–174.

“Toxic Fables: The Advertising and Marketing of Agricultural Chemicals in the Great Plains, 1945–1985.” *Endeavour* 36 (December 2012): 165–173.

“Kill That Thistle: Rogue Sprayers, Bootlegged Chemicals, Wicked Weeds, and the Kansas Chemical Laws, 1945–1980.” *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 35 (Summer 2012): 116–133.

Articles (Co-authored or Co-edited)

“Teaching Through Agriculture: A Forum for Pedagogy About and Across Fields,” with Nicole Welk-Joerger, *Agricultural History* (forthcoming with special issue slated for Fall 2023 issue).

“Going Remote: Faculty Case-Studies on Building Community During COVID-19 Through Online Teaching, (with Matthew R. Bice, Angela Hollman, and Phu Vu) for the special issue “Digital Technology and Education in the Time of COVID-19” in *International Journal of Technologies in Higher Education* 17 (November 2020): 97–103.

“Sustaining the Conversation: The Farm Crisis and the Midwest,” Introduction to Special Issue (with Jenny Barker Devine), *Middle West Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal about the American Midwest* 2 (Fall 2015): 1–10.

Essay Reviews:

“Of Webs and Intersections,” on *A Field on Fire: The Future of Environmental History*, by Mark D. Hersey and Ted Steinberg. Eds. *Agricultural History* 94 (Fall 2020), 485–489.

“Has the Frontier Won?: Unsettling versus Resurgence in the Rural West,” including *Bridging the Distance: Common Issues of the Rural West* by David B. Danbom eds; *The Small-Town Midwest: Resilience and Hope in the Twenty-First Century* by Julianne Couch. *Nebraska History* 97 (Winter 2016): 215–216.

“Toxicity Abounds: New Histories on Pesticides, Environmentalism, and *Silent Spring*,” including *Banned: A History of Pesticides and the Science of Toxicology*, by Frederick Davis; *Our Once and Future Planet* by Paddy Woodworth; *Rachel Carson and Her Sisters* by Robert Musil. *Studies in History and Philosophy of Biological and Biomedical Sciences* 53 (October 2015): 118–121.

Exhibit Review:

“You Are There: Eli Lilly at the Beginning” exhibit by the Indiana Historical Society. *The Public Historian* 39 (August 2017): 113–115.

Book Reviews:

The Politics of Smallpox in the American Revolution by Andrew Wehrman. *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (submitted).

Poison Powder: The Kepone Disaster in Virginia and Its Legacy by Gregory S. Wilson. *Journal of American History* (forthcoming).

Running Out: In Search of Water on the High Plains by Lucas Bessire. *Journal of Disaster Studies* (forthcoming).

Losing Eden: An Environmental History of the American West by Sara Dant. *The Chronicles of Oklahoma* (forthcoming).

Agriculture in the Midwest, 1815 – 1900 by R. Douglas Hurt. *Missouri Historical Review* (forthcoming).

Glyphosate and the Swirl by Vincanne Adams. *Technology and Culture* (October 2023), 1324–1325.

Killing Bugs for Business and Beauty: Canada’s Aerial War against Forest Pests, 1913–1930, by Mark Kuhlberg. *NiCHE: The Network in Canadian History and Environment* (August 2023), online.

Seismic City: An Environmental History of San Francisco’s 1906 Earthquake by Joanna L. Dyl. *New Mexico Historical Review* (Winter 2023), 114–115.

Adapting to the Land: A History of Agriculture in Colorado by John F. Freeman with Mark E. Uchanski.

Western Historical Quarterly, (Winter 2022), 1–2.

Wild Capital: Nature’s Economic and Ecological Wealth by Barbara K. Jones. *H-Environment–Humanities and Social Sciences Online* (August 2022): 1–4.

Framing the Farm Bill: Interests, Ideology, and the Agricultural Act of 2014 by Christopher Bosso. *H-FedHist–Humanities and Social Sciences Online* (April 2022): 1–3.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park: An Environmental History of the Southwest Borderlands by Jeffrey P. Shepherd. *Journal of American History* (March 2022): 803–804.

Open Spaces, Open Rebellions: The War Over America’s Public Lands by Michael J. Makley. *Nevada State Historical Quarterly* (Summer 2021): 177–178.

Magic Bean: The Rise of Soy in America by Matthew Roth. *Middle West Review* 7 (Spring 2021): 93–95.

Nebraska During the New Deal by Marilyn Irvin Holt. *Annals of Wyoming* 92 (Summer 2020): 47.

Field Life: Science in the American West during the Railroad Era by Jeremy Vetter. *Journal of American History* 106 (December 2019): 784–785.

A History of Occupational Health and Safety: From 1905 to the Present by Michelle Follette Turk. *Western Historical Quarterly* (Winter 2019): 432–433.

Looking Forward: Prediction and Uncertainty in Modern America by Jamie L. Pietruska. *Environmental History* 24 (April 2019): 419–420.

The Lost Species: Great Expeditions in the Collections of Natural History Museums by Christopher Kemp. *The Public Historian* 41 (February 2019): 179–181.

Farming across Borders: A Transnational History of the North American West by Sterling Evans. *Great Plains Quarterly* 39 (Winter 2019): 94–95.

The Perfect Fence: Untangling the Meanings of Barbed Wire by Lyn Ellen Bennett and Scott Abbott. *Kansas History* 41 (Winter 2018–2019): 250.

Teaching Difficult History Through Film by Jeremy Stoddard, Alan S. Marcus, and David Hicks. *Historical Geography* 46 (2018): 348–351.

Listening in the Field: Recording and the Science of Birdsong by Joeri Bruyninckx. *Human-Wildlife Interactions* 12 (Fall 2018): 291–292.

Homesteading on the Plains: Toward a New History by Richard Edwards, Jacob K. Friefeld, and Rebecca S. Wingo. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 49 (Summer 2018): 341–343.

Bison and People on the North American Great Plains: A Deep Environmental History edited by Geoff Cunfer and Bill Waiser. *Environmental History* 23 (January 2018): 201–202.

Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History by Dan Flores. *Human-Wildlife Interactions* 11 (Fall 2017): 233–234.

Picturing Migrants: The Grapes of Wrath and New Deal Documentary Photography by James R. Swensen. *Great Plains Quarterly* 37 (Summer 2017): 237.

Prelude to the Dust Bowl: Drought in the Nineteenth-Century Southern Plains by Kevin Z. Sweeney. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 48 (Summer 2017): 99–100.

Pesticides, A Love Story: America’s Enduring Embrace of Dangerous Chemicals by Michelle Mart. *Annals of Iowa* 76 (Spring 2017): 248–249.

A Land Made from Water: Appropriation and the Evolution of Colorado’s Landscape, Ditches, and Water Institutions by Robert R. Crifasi. *Western Historical Quarterly* 3 (Winter 2016): 1–2.

The Blue and the Green: A Cultural Ecological History of an Arizona Ranching Community by Jack Stauder. *H-Environment–Humanities and Social Sciences Online* (September 2016): 1–2.

Arresting Contagion: Science, Policy, and Conflicts over Animal Disease Control by Alan L. Olmstead and Paul W. Rhode. *Human-Wildlife Interactions* 9 (Fall 2015): 277–278.

Rethinking Rural: Global Community and Economic Development in the Small Town West by Don E. Albrecht. *Montana Magazine* 65 (Summer 2015): 86–87.

Frontier Manhattan: Yankee Settlement to Kansas Town, 1854–1894 by Kevin G. W. Olson. *Agricultural History* 88 (Summer 2014): 462–463.

Arming Mother Nature: The Birth of Catastrophic Environmentalism by Jacob Darwin Hamblin. *Kansas History: A Journal of the Central Plains* 37 (Spring 2014): 55.

Schafer State Park (Images of America) by Peter Schafer Reid and Barbara Seal Ogle; *Mt. Rainier National Park (Postcard History Series)* by Donald Johnstone; *Eagle River, Alaska (Images of America)* by Zane Treesh. *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* 104 (Fall 2013): 199–201.

DDT and the American Century by David Kinkela. *H-Environment–Humanities and Social Sciences Online* (May 2012): 1–2.

Photographic Essay:

“Farmers Fight Flinchbaugh: A Photographic Essay,” *Middle West Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal about the American Midwest* 2 (Fall 2015): 27–32.

Encyclopedia Article:

“Eliot Porter,” in *Encyclopedia of American Environmental History*. Ed. Kathleen Brosnan. (Facts on File, 2010), 1072–1073.

Presentations

Invited:

- “Life as a First-Generation Student,” UNK First-Gen Roundtable, Fall 2023
- “Toward a Pedagogy of Care: Using Open Educational Resources in Teaching the History of Science and Medicine,” UNK OER Team Presentation Series, Fall 2022
- “Reflections on Being First-Gen,” UNK First-Gen Student Organization, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2022.
- “How to Communicate with Faculty Members,” UNK Thompson Scholar Learning Community Freshman Orientation Series. University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2022.
- “Farming by Rail: Demonstration Trains and the Rise of Mobile Agricultural Science in the Great Plains,” Honors Student Advisory Board Academic Book Club, Spring 2022.
- “Vulnerable Harvests: Risk and Resiliency in the Cold War Great Plains,” UNK History Department and Kearney Public Library Brownbag Lecture Series, Summer 2022.
- “Vulnerable Harvests in a Climate Change Era,” Paul Olson Lectures: “Great Plains Anywhere,” Center for Great Plains Studies, Fall 2021.
- “First-Gen Region: A Cross-Campus Reflective,” Department of History, Colorado State University, Fall 2021.
- “Reflections on Being First-Gen,” UNK First-Gen Student Organization, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2021.
- “Adventure is Here,” UNK Fall Convocation Keynote Speaker, UNK Student and Family Transitions Office, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2021.
- “Diseases are Coming for You: Perspectives on a Century of Sickness,” Sigma Xi Science Honor Society “Science Café” Lecture Series. University of Nebraska at Kearney, Spring 2021 (Virtual).
- “How the History of Sustainability Can Help in Your Everyday Life,” UNK Residence Hall Association, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Spring 2021 (Virtual).
- “Remote Teaching and Learning at UNK during the Covid-19 Pandemic,” UNK Department of Education Teaching and Research Forum (Representing the College of Arts and Sciences, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2020 (Virtual).
- “Planning for the First Year: Preparation Strategies for the First Semester,” UNK First Year Program, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2020 (Virtual).
- “How to Communicate with Faculty Members,” UNK Thompson Scholar Learning Community Freshman Orientation Series. University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2020 (Virtual).
- “Pandemics Through History,” UNK International Student Services, University of Nebraska at Kearney,

Summer 2020 (Virtual).

- “The History of Climate and Food Security in the Great Plains since the 1950s,” University of Nebraska at Lincoln Thomas C. Sorensen Public Policy Seminar Series, “Rural Communities and Extreme Climate Events,” Kearney, NE, Fall 2019.
- “Being a First-Generation Student at UNK,” First Generation Institute Conference, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, Fall 2019.
- “Something New,” Freshman Convocation, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Kearney NE, Fall 2019.
- “How to Communicate with Faculty Members,” UNK Thompson Scholar Learning Community Freshman Orientation Series. Kearney, NE, Fall 2019.
- “Vulnerable Harvests: Agricultural Risk and Environmental Hazard in the Modern Great Plains West,” “Histories of the 21st Century West” Writing Seminar, Brigham Young University, Provo, UT Summer 2019.
- “On *Chemical Lands: Pesticides, Aerial Spraying, and Health in North America’s Grasslands since 1945.*” *New Frontiers* Faculty Profile Roundtable. UNK Research Services Council, 2019.
- “Quests in Unexpected Places: Knowing and Learning for Life.” UNK Mortar Board Freshman/Sophomore Event. Kearney, NE, Spring 2019.
- “Crafting an Academic Vita: How Do I Showcase My Work?,” UNK Graduate Student Workshop (with Associate Dean of Graduate Studies Matthew Bice), Office of Graduate Studies, Spring 2019; Fall 2019; Fall 2020 (with UNK Clinical Professor Laura Moody).
- “Vulnerable Harvests: Environmental Risk in the Cold War Great Plains,” Nebraska OneHealth Stakeholder’s Meeting, Ashland, NE, Fall 2018.
- “Academic Book Publishing” Roundtable, College of Arts and Sciences Book Festival, UNK. Kearney, NE, Fall 2018.
- “Field Notes: Exploring the STEM-Humanities History of Nebraska’s Agriculture,” Warner Distinguished Lecture Series, UNK College of Arts & Sciences. Kearney, NE, Fall 2018.
- “How to Communicate with Faculty Members,” UNK Thompson Scholar Learning Community Freshman Orientation Series. Kearney, NE, Fall 2018.
- “History of Conservation on Production Lands” Roundtable Discussion for Americorps and Nebraska Common Ground *Rancher, Farmer, Fisherman* film on contemporary conservation practices and policies. Grand Island, NE, Summer 2018.
- “As Archivist and Historian: Reflections on the Field of Public History,” Khalaf Al Habtoor Archives, Illinois College, Jacksonville, IL, Spring 2018.
- “Learning from the Noxious Ones: Exploring the Histories of Insects, Weeds, and other Unsavory Environmental Characters,” Phi Alpha Theta Luncheon Keynote Address, Missouri Valley History Conference. Omaha, NE, Spring 2018.
- “Thinking Like a Weed: The Rise of Weed Science and Aerial Spraying in Great Plains Agriculture, 1945–1985” for the Nebraska State Historical Society Brown Bag Lecture Series, Kearney Public Library, Spring 2018.
- “Learning from the Noxious Ones: Agricultural Health and Aerial Spraying in the Great Plains,” Nebraska OneHealth Stakeholder’s Meeting, Omaha, NE, Fall 2017.
- “Dry and Dusty Lands: Exploring the Dust Bowl through Reports, Photographs, and Posters,” Nebraska Country School Conference. Kearney, NE, Summer 2017.
- “Backyard Agriculture: Gardening for Community and Country in the Twentieth Century,” Soil Sisters and Mistert Garden Club. Kearney, NE, Spring 2017.
- “Cheating the Digital Way: Teaching and Cheating Online,” Academic Dishonesty Luncheon, UNK Ethics Week. Kearney, NE, Spring 2017.
- “Learning from the Noxious Ones: The Rise of Weed Science and Agricultural Aviation in the Great Plains,” Sigma XI Science Honor Society “Science Café” Lecture Series. University of Nebraska at Kearney. Kearney, NE, Fall 2016.

- “How the North Central Weed Control Conference Shaped Agricultural Aviation in the Grasslands.”
Keynote Speaker. North Central Weed Science Society, Indianapolis, IN, 2015.
- “Where Science and Farming Meet: The Rise of Chemical Agriculture in North America's Grasslands.”
Social Sciences Department Colloquium Series. Emporia State University. Emporia, KS, 2014.
- “Spraying the Airplane Way: Fred E. Weick, the Ag-1, and the Emerging Science of Aerial Application at Texas A&M.” Department of History, Biological and Agricultural Engineering, and Plant Pathology and Microbiology. Texas A&M University. College Station, TX, 2014.
- “To Protect or Endure?: Rachel Carson, *Silent Spring*, and Pesticide Application in the Great Plains, 1945 to 1985.” *Silent Spring After Fifty Years: A Symposium*. Scholar's Commons. Strozier Library. Florida State University. Tallahassee, FL, 2013.

Book Talks for Chemical Lands:

- Presented on *Chemical Lands* for @NewBooksAmWest podcast. Fall 2019.
- Presented on *Chemical Lands* for Eisenhower Presidential Library, “Lunch and Learn Lecture Series,”
Eisenhower Presidential Library, Museum, and Boyhood Home. Abilene, KS, Summer 2018.
- Presented on *Chemical Lands* for Illinois College’s “National Agriculture Month Symposium.”
Jacksonville, Illinois, Spring 2018.
- Presented on *Chemical Lands* for University of Alabama Press Author’s Signing Event. American Society
for Environmental History. Riverside, CA, Spring 2018.
- Presented on *Chemical Lands* for the Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine
Working Group with Frederick Rowe Davis (author of *Banned: A History of Pesticides and the Science
of Toxicology* [Yale, 2014]). Philadelphia, PA, Spring 2018.
- Presented on *Chemical Lands* in talk “Thinking Like a Weed: The Rise of Weed Science and Aerial
Spraying in Great Plains Agriculture, 1945–1985” for the Nebraska State Historical Society Brown Bag
Lecture Series, Kearney Public Library, Spring 2018.
- Presented on *Chemical Lands* for Calvin T. Library Faculty Profile Series and Phi Alpha Theta Lecture
Series, Kearney, NE, 2018.

Refereed:

- “Roundtable: “The Convergence of Environmental and Public History,” American Society for Environmental
History, Denver, Colorado, 2024.
- “Roundtable: Writing the Modern West into the 21st Century,” Western History Association, Los
Angeles, California, 2023.
- “Keeping the Harvests Safe: The Great Plains Agricultural Council and a Conservation-Based Civil
Defense in the Early Cold War Great Plains,” Agricultural History Society, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2023.
- “A Conservation Civil Defense: The Great Plains Agricultural Council in the Early Cold War,” Center for
Great Plains Studies. Lincoln, Nebraska, 2023.
- “A Field Science West: Extension Reports, Experiment Stations, and the USDA Yearbooks as Agriculture
and Knowledge Systems in the Great Plains,” Western History Association. San Antonio, Texas,
2022.
- “Food for the Fallout: The Great Plains Agricultural Council’s Efforts to Study Climate Change, Protect
Crops, and Conduct Rescue Science Operations in the early Cold War Era,” Northern Great Plains
History Conference, Fargo, North Dakota, 2022.
- “Roundtable: State of the Field: Grasslands History,” Northern Great Plains History Conference, Fargo,
North Dakota, 2022.
- “Roundtable: Interpreting Environments: Bringing Rural, Urban, and Agriculture to the Table,”
Agricultural History Society. Las Cruces, New Mexico, 2021 (Virtual).
- “Chemical Migrations: The Grasslands Chemical Exchange and the International Conference of
Agricultural Aviation,” Western History Association. Albuquerque, New Mexico, 2020 (Virtual).

- “Keeping the Harvests Safe: Food Security and the Cold War Great Plains.” Organization of American Historians, Washington D.C., 2020 (Virtual). * Endorsed by the Agricultural History Society, the Western History Association and the Business History Conference
- “Agricultural History: Emerging Scholarship.” Organization of American Historians, Washington D.C., 2020 (Virtual). *Solicited by the Agricultural History Society
- “Defending Plenty: The Great Plains Agricultural Council’s Efforts to Study Climate Change, Protect Crops, and Solve the 1950s Drought.” Western History Association. Las Vegas, NV, 2019.
- “*Chemical Lands: Pesticides, Aerial Spraying, and Health in North America’s Grasslands since 1945*,” for “New Books, New Directions on the Northern Plains.” Northern Great Plains History Conference and the Western Canadian Studies Conference. Manitoba, Canada, Fall 2019.
- “Book Roundtable: *Chemical Lands: Pesticides, Aerial Spraying, and Health in North America’s Grasslands since 1945*.” Agricultural History Society. Washington D.C., 2019.
- “The Place of Agricultural History in the History Curriculum: A Roundtable,” Agricultural History Society. Washington D.C., 2019.
- “Pesticides, Production, and Politics: A Roundtable.” Organization for American Historians. Philadelphia, PA, 2019.
- “Chemical Crossings: The Grasslands Chemical Exchange, and the International Conference of Agricultural Aviation.” Agricultural History Society. St. Petersburg, FL, 2018.
- “Lessons from *Chemical Lands*” for the “Agriculture in Public History Working Group.” National Council on Public History. Las Vegas, NV, 2018.
- “A Failed Hydraulic Society: The Tragic Past of Utah’s Cache County Water Conservation District No.1.” Agricultural History Society. Grand Rapids, MI, 2017.
- “Farming by Rail: Demonstration Trains and the Rise of Mobile Agricultural Science in the Great Plains.” Midwest History Association Conference, Grand Rapids, MI, 2017.
- “Noxious Memories: Agricultural Uncertainty and the Rise of Weed Science in the Great Plains.” Missouri Valley History Conference. Omaha, NE, 2017.
- “Dying Harvests: The Great Plains Agricultural Council’s efforts to study climate change, protect crops, and solve the 1950s Drought.” American Society for Environmental History, Chicago, IL, 2017.
*Organized session panel: “Environmentalism in Unexpected Places: The Strange Advocates and Unconventional Partnerships of Environmental Activism.”
- “Farmer, Scientist, Citizen: Toward a Global Public History of Agricultural Science through the USDA’s Yearbook of Agriculture,” for *Agricultural Policy and Science in Domestic and International Contexts: Public Memory, Public Interpretation Roundtable*. National Council on Public History, Indianapolis, IN, 2017.
- “Outreach Lands: Usable History, Accessible Archives, and Interactive Humanities.” Organization of American Historians. Providence, RI, 2016.
- “Taking a Field View: Public History and Humanities in Rural Places,” for *Strategies for a New Public History of Agriculture and Rural Life Roundtable*. National Council on Public History. Baltimore, MD, 2016.
- “Reclaiming the Humanities Commons: Taking an Ecological View of Scholarly Stewardship and Civic Engagement in the Midwest.” Kansas Association of Historians. Emporia, KS, 2015.
- “Leveraging Library Ecology: Growing Beyond Boundaries to Cultivate a Sustainable Knowledge Community through Team-Based Librarianship.” Association for College and Research Libraries. Portland, OR, 2015.
- “Learning the Special Collections Way: Unplugged Sources for a Plugged-In Culture.” Society for American Archivists. Washington D.C., 2014.
- “Spraying the Airplane Way: Fred E. Weick, the Ag-1, and the Emerging Science of Aerial Application.” History of Science Society. Boston, MA, 2013.
- “Failing Waters: The Contentious History of Utah’s Cache County Water Conservation District No. 1.”

- Annual Utah State History Conference. Salt Lake City, UT, 2013.
- “The Farmer’s Iron Horse: Railroads and Agricultural Extension in the Twentieth Century American West.” Agricultural History Society. Banff, AB, Canada, 2013.
- “Thinking Like A Weed: The Rise of Weed Science and Custom Application in Great Plains Agriculture, 1945–1985.” Agricultural History Society. Manhattan, KS, 2012.
- “Toxic Fables: The Advertising and Marketing of Agricultural Chemicals in the Great Plains, 1945–1985.” American Society for Environmental History Conference. Madison, WI, 2012.

Chair, Moderator, or Comment:

- Chair: “In the Swamps and the Fields, in the Toilets and the Churches: Where Environmental and Religious Histories Meet,” American Society for Environmental History, Denver, Colorado, 2024.
- Chair: “Prairie Patchwork: Reexamining Bigoted Bias, Labeled Landscapes, and Heralded Historiography on the North American Great Plains in the 21st Century,” Western History Association, Los Angeles, California, 2023.
- Comment: “Master’s Thesis Lightning Roundtable,” sponsored by the WHA Graduate Student Caucus, Western History Association, Los Angeles, California, 2023.
- Chair: “Reckoning with a Toxic World: New Perspectives on Pesticide Legacies,” Agricultural History Society, Knoxville, Tennessee, 2023.
- Comment: “Brainstorming Roundtable: Early-Stage Academic Research Presentations,” WHA Graduate Student Caucus Professional Development Panel. Western Historical Association. San Antonio, Texas, 2022.
- Chair and Comment, “Roundtable: The 1990 Conference,” Climate Change and Culture in the Great Plains Conference. Center for Great Plains Studies. Lincoln, Nebraska, 2021 (Virtual).
- Comment: “Lightning Talks: Condensed Doctoral Research Presentations,” Graduate Student Caucus Professional Development Panel. Western Historical Association. Albuquerque, NM, 2020 (Virtual).
- Comment: “Lightning Talks: Condensed Doctoral Research Presentations,” Graduate Student Caucus Professional Development Panel. Western Historical Association. Las Vegas, NV, 2019.
- Chair and Comment: “Reform, Ruminantion, and Reality in the United States after 1945,” Agricultural History Society. St. Petersburg, FL, 2018.
- Chair and Comment: “Farming and Agricultural History.” Missouri Valley History Conference. Omaha, NE, 2018.
- Comment: “Farmers as State-Builders: The Many Faces of the Agricultural Associative State.” Agricultural History Society. Grand Rapids, MI, 2017.
- Chair and Comment: “Keep on Truckin’: Commodity Flows Between Urban Markets and Rural Agroecosystems.” Agricultural History Society. New York City and Briarcliff Manor, New York, NY, 2016.
- Chair and Comment: “Tangible Memories: Forging a Physical, Usable Past for the Public—Three Case Studies.” Kansas Association of Historians. Emporia State University, KS, 2015.
- Chair and Comment: “Pesticides: New Directions.” Agricultural History Society. Provo, UT, 2014.
- Chair and Moderator: “A Usable Past for a Healthy Civic Life: A Roundtable Discussion on History, Outreach, and Humanities in Kansas.” Kansas Association of Historians. Wichita, KS, 2014.

Poster/ Exhibit:

- “The Dust Bowl: An Exhibit Connecting the Past to the Future and People to the Library.” United States Agricultural Information Network. Gainesville, FL, 2016.

Other Published Works and Media:

- “Farmers and cropdusting pilots on the Great Plains worried about pesticide risks before ‘Silent

- Spring” reprinted in “‘*Silent Spring*’ 60 years on: 4 essential reads on pesticides and the environment.” *The Conversation*, October 2022.
- “Interpreting the Environment at Museums and Historic Sites,” *Technical Leaflet #289* (American Association of State and Local History, 2019). Coauthored with Debra A. Reid.
- “Highlights from the Las Vegas Working Groups—WG5: Agriculture and Public History,” *Public History News*, National Council on Public History, Spring 2018.
- “Farmers and cropdusting pilots on the Great Plains worried about pesticide risks before ‘Silent Spring.’” *The Conversation*, May 2018.
- “The Spray King of the West” for *Picturing Meteorology: Images of Science and History* blog by Roger Turner, (Week of February 3rd, 2018): <https://picturingmeteorology.com/home/2018/1/30/book-excerpt-the-spray-king-of-the-west>.
- “Adventure Great Plains: How Mountain Biking the Great Plains taught me to love the region’s history, its landscapes, and its peoples” for the “I love the Great Plains” blog initiative. Center for Great Plains Studies, Spring 2017.

Fellowships, Grants, and Research Awards

- College of Arts and Sciences Travel Award, University of Nebraska at Kearney, 2023 (\$500.00).
- “Water Scholar Award,” Colorado State University Libraries, Water Resources Archive, 2023 (\$1700.00).
- “Faculty Development Fellowship,” University of Nebraska System, 2023 (Spring 2023 Semester Sabbatical).
- “Hamaker Faculty Research Fellowship, “UNK History Department, 2022 (\$5600.00).
- College of Arts and Sciences Travel Award, University of Nebraska at Kearney, 2022 (\$500.00).
- “Vulnerable Harvests: Risk and Resiliency in the Cold War Great Plains.” Truman Presidential Library Research Travel Grant, Independence, MO, 2021–2022 (\$1544.00).
- “Vulnerable Harvests: Risk and Resiliency in the Cold War Great Plains.” Eisenhower Presidential Library Research Travel Grant, Abilene, KS, 2021–2022 (\$1000.00).
- “Love of Learning” Research Award, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, 2021–2022 (\$500.00).
- “Pedaling the Past: Historic Bike Tours for Kearney, Nebraska,” in collaboration with Director Will Stoutamire of the G.W. Frank Museum of History and Culture. Humanities Nebraska Mini-Grant, 2018–2019 (\$1200.00).
- “Hazardous Waters and Dry Lands: Environmental Risks and Emergency Science in the Rural West,” John Topham and Susan Redd Butler Off-Campus Faculty Research Award. Charles Redd Center, Brigham Young University, 2018–2019 (\$1800.00).
- College of Natural and Social Sciences Travel Award, University of Nebraska at Kearney, 2018 (\$500.00).
- “Vulnerable Harvests: Agricultural Risk and the Great Plains Agricultural Council during the Cold War,” Illinois College, Visiting Humanities Scholar Grant. Illinois College, Jacksonville, IL, 2017–2018 (\$1300.00).
- “Hamaker Faculty Research Fellowship, “UNK History Department, 2017 (\$3000.00).
- College of Natural and Social Sciences Travel Award, University of Nebraska at Kearney, 2017 (\$500.00).
- “Vulnerable Harvests: Agricultural Risk and the Great Plains Agricultural Council in the Eisenhower Era.” Eisenhower Presidential Library Research Travel Grant, Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library, Abilene, KS, 2016–2017 (\$800.00).
- “Vulnerable Harvests: Agricultural Risk and the Great Plains Agricultural Council in the Eisenhower Era.” Visiting Scholars Research Grant, the Carl Albert Center, University of Oklahoma, 2016–2017 (\$1000.00).
- “The Farmer’s Iron Horse: Railroads and Agricultural Extension in the Twentieth Century American

West.” Charles Redd Fellowship Award in Western American History. Charles Redd Center, Brigham Young University, 2014–2015 (\$1000.00).

“Love of Learning” Research Award, Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society, 2014–2015 (\$500.00).

“Farming By Rail: Perry G. Holden, Demonstration Trains, and the Rise of a Mobile Agricultural Experiment Stations.” State Historical Society of Iowa Research Grant. State Historical Society of Iowa, 2013–2014 (\$750.00).

“Spraying the Airplane Way: Fred E. Weick, the Ag-1, and the Emerging Science of Aerial Application.” History of Science Society/National Science Foundation Travel Award. History of Science Society, Boston, MA, 2013 (\$800.00).

Select Faculty Development Activities for Research (Attended)

University of Nebraska at Kearney:

“Op-Ed Writing for Historians: How to Pitch, Write, Revise, and Get Your Ideas to the Public,” American Historical Association Webinar, Spring 2023

“Research in the Era of COVID-19: Archives, Libraries, and the Study of the West,” Western History Association Webinar, Summer 2020

“Spring 2019 Water Faculty and Stakeholders Retreat,” Nebraska Water Center with the Daughtery Water for Food Global Institute, Spring 2019

“Academic Opportunities & Challenges Facing UNK,” Academic and Student Affairs, Spring 2017

“UNK Research Portal Training,” Office of Sponsored Programs, Fall 2016

Kansas State University:

“Grant Writing for Public Historians, Archivists, and Local Community Groups” workshop, Kansas Humanities Council and Kansas State University Libraries, Spring 2016

TEACHING

Awards/Honors

Excellence in Teaching General Studies Award, UNK General Studies Council, 2022–2023

James C. Giesen Teaching Excellence Award in Agricultural and Rural History, Agricultural History Society, 2022

Open Educational Resources (OER) Teaching Grant, UNK OER Committee, 2022

Outstanding Faculty Member of the Year, UNK Student Government, 2020–2021

Open Educational Resources (OER) Teaching Grant, UNK OER Committee, 2020

Michael Schuyler Award for Excellence in Teaching, UNK History Department, 2018

University of Nebraska at Kearney Courses (2016–Present)

Graduate:

Agricultural History

American Environmental History

History of Science and Technology

History of National Parks

History of Global Pandemics

Warfare and the Environment in the 20th Century

The Age of Eisenhower

History of the Great Depression

America Interpreted

Undergraduate:

History of Health and Medical Law

History of Global Public Health
History of Science and Medicine
American History Since 1865
American History to 1865

Kansas State University Courses (2009–2016)

Graduate:

Public History: An Introduction
Seminar in Digital Humanities
Special Collections for Humanities and STEM Research
Special Collections for Digital Humanities

Undergraduate:

Special Collections for Digital Humanities
Special Collections for Public History and Local History
History of American Conservation and National Parks
History of the American West in Film and Literature
Introduction to the University
United States History Since 1877

Invited Class Lectures

University of Nebraska at Kearney:

- “Diseases are Coming For You,” *INTS 100: Introduction to International Studies*, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2023.
- “*Chemical Lands* Five Years Later,” Dr. Lori Lahlum’s Environmental History Class, Minnesota State University—Mankato, Spring 2023 (Virtual).
- “The 1930s Dust Bowl and our Environmental Future,” Paul Sheppard’s Great US Ecological Catastrophes Class, University of Arizona, Spring 2023 (Virtual).
- “*Chemical Lands* and the Field of Environmental History,” Michael Childers’ Graduate-Level Environmental History, Colorado State University, Spring 2023.
- “Notes on *Interpreting Environment* for public historians,” Dr. Jennifer Stinson’s Public History Class, Saginaw Valley State University, Fall 2021 (Virtual).
- “Global Diseases,” *INTS 100: Introduction to International Studies*, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2021.
- “Public History Community and Stakeholder Outreach related to Pedaling the Past,” *HIST 464: Introduction to Public History*, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2020 (Virtual).
- “From a Silent Spring to a Green Peace: 1960s Environmentalism,” Senior College of Central Nebraska, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Spring 2019
- “Problems of Plenty: Agriculture, Environment, Vulnerability since 1945,” *INTS 100: Introduction to International Studies*, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2018.
- “As Archivist and Historian: Reflections on the field of Public History,” *HIST 466: Museums and Archives*, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Spring 2018.
- “Problems of Plenty: Agriculture, Environment, and Vulnerability since 1945,” *INTS 100: Introduction to International Studies*, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2017.
- “Weapons in the Wind: World War I as the “Chemists’ War” for *HIST 327: World War I*. Department of History, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2016.
- “Taking a Field View: Public History and Humanities in Rural Communities” for *HIST 466: Museums and Archives*. Department of History, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Fall 2016.

Kansas State University:

“Poisons for Protection: Food, Pesticides, and Politics in the American West.” *History of Kansas and the American West*. Bethel College, Newton, KS, Spring 2014.

Advising

Committees (M.A.), University of Nebraska at Kearney:

Chair/Advisor, Graduate Thesis Committees (Completed):

Megan Launchbaugh, “This Land is My Land: Tree Planting and Environmental Construction on the Great Plains,” Fall 2023. *Center for Great Plains Studies Graduate Fellow.

Clyde Bryant, “Opportunity Lost: American Diplomacy in Iran, 1943–1953,” Fall 2022.

David Blakely, “Toward an Environmental History of the First Great Awakening,” Spring 2022.

Will Connelly, “Buried in Our Backyard: The Environmental Legacy of American Chemical Weapons Production and Disposal,” Summer 2021.

Leah Stagg, “‘This is Now Our War!’: Beaver County, Utah and World War I,” Summer 2021.

Justin Horn, “‘Where Meteorologists Fear to Tread:’ Weather Modification on the Great Plains and the Rainmakers of the 1890s,” Spring 2020.

* Published article version “Frank Melbourne: Rain Wizard of Humbug?” *Annals of Wyoming* 94.2 (Spring 2022)

* Published article version “Where Meteorologists Fear to Tread: Rainmakers and the 1890s Great Plains Drought,” *Great Plains Quarterly* (Summer–Fall 2021): 225–250.

Guy Bassini, “We Have Been the Most Patient of All People: From Jackie Robinson to Joe Idlette Jr., Desegregation in Vero Beach, Florida, 1941-1972,” Spring 2020.

Hannah Freeman, “Coveralls or Coverless: Rosie the Riveters and Pin-Up Girls on the World War II Home Front,” Fall 2019.

Committee Member, Graduate Thesis Committees (Completed):

Carly Marze, “‘Storm of Insanity’”: The Chaotic Nature of Relief Work and Financial Compensation Following the Johnstown Flood of 1889,” Fall 2023.

Jennalyn MacKay, “The Mother’s Heart: Was Smallpox Inoculation Worth the Risk to 18th Century American Women?,” Fall 2023.

Tyler Amick, “Queer Frontier: Gender, Sexuality, and Intimacy in Minnesota Before 1900,” Summer 2023.

Jake Whitney, “‘My Flesh Was Its Own Shield:’ Anti-Eroticism in Gay AIDS Activism,” Summer 2023.

Christy Gordon Baty, “‘Rare and Curious Covers:’ Embroidered Book Bindings in Early Modern England,” Summer 2023.

Braydon Conell, “‘Never Silent: Development of Gay Activism During the Cold War Era,” Fall 2022.

Justin McIntosh, “Memories of War: An Oral History of the United States Army Special Forces Actions in the Gulf War,” Fall 2022.

Gregory Withrow, “Glider Warriors: American Transport Aviators and Glider Infantrymen in World War II,” Fall 2021.

Autumn Langemeier, “Fashion in Focus: Women and Textiles in Rural America, 1920-1959,” Summer 2021.

Kristina Wenger, “‘Protecting People, Not Places’: How *Katz v. United States* Restructured the Fourth Amendment,” Summer 2021.

Steve LeBarre, “The American Housewife Goes to War: Sewing Kits that Accompanied the American Soldier to the Front, 1776 – 1976,” Summer 2020.

Matt Smith, “As the World Watched: Spokane’s Urban Renewal Project and the World’s Fair and Exposition, 1964–1977,” Summer 2020.

Gail Blankenau, “Journey to Freedom from Nebraska Territory,” Summer 2020.

Tracie Grube Gaurkee, “Wisconsin Women Desire the Ballot: Wisconsin Woman Suffrage Association, World War I and Suffrage as a War Measure,” Spring 2020.

Joel Rick, “Don’t Be a Slacker, Uncle Sam Wants a Backer!: Reflections of wartime society in the American sheet music of World War I,” Spring 2020.

Chase Webster, “Negotiating Zion: Mormon Doctrinal Transformation, 1896–1930,” Fall 2019.

Benjamin Battiste, “The Dark Cloud Loosed: Understanding the Relationship between the Longbow and Armor during the Hundred Years War,” Fall 2019.

Valerie Reese, “Neither Nurse nor Doctor: An Analysis of Civil War Hospital Stewards,” Summer 2019.

Sara Ruggles, “The Edmonds Community Oral History Project: Using Public History to Find a Collective Identity,” Summer 2019.

Patrick Grieco, “For Freedom Always: Politics, Law, and the Declaration of Arbroath,” Summer 2019.

Brooke Menke, “La Marine Nationale: The French Navy’s Rise to Naval Superiority in the 18th Century,” Summer 2019.

Michelle Setlik, “Platte Valley Powerhouse: “The Life, Career, and Advocacy of Maggie T.G. Mobley, Nebraska’s First Female Newspaper Editor,” Summer 2019

Megan R. Chesnut, “The King of Circumstance: The Person, Life, Reign, and Legacy of Henry IV of England,” Spring 2019.

Amber Spence, “Spy Culture: Espionage Television Programming and American Identity in the Cold War,” Spring 2019.

Meredith Underwood, “The Forgotten Patients: Sterilization in Nebraska,” Spring 2019.

Marilyn Burns, “From the Storehouse of Forgotten Memories: Colorado’s College Nisei, 1941–1946,” Spring 2019.

Megan Rogers, “Great Plains Issei and Nisei: The Japanese of Nebraska, 1890 – 1952,” Fall 2018.

Jeffrey Dreste “An Honest Advocate: Ulysses S. Grant and his Fight for Civil Rights for the Freedom,” Fall 2018.

Bill New, “The Island Nation: The Story of the Madeline Island Ojibwe, 1650–1854,” Summer 2018.

Aren Lerner, “All Events Profitable, All Men Divine: The Influence of Transcendentalism in the Civil War,” Spring 2018.

Holly F. Toft, “All Out For Victory: The Nebraska Advisory Defense Committee in World War II,” Summer 2017.

Kim Smiley, “Suffragettes on the Homestead: Single Women Homesteaders and the Suffrage Movement in South Dakota, 1900–1920,” Spring 2017.

Sarah Hoegger, “Restoring Order: Law and Justice During the Reign of Henry V,” Spring 2017.

Madelina Cordia, “The Fruits of Their Labor: The Bracero Program in Southern Oregon, 1942–1964,” Spring 2017.

Nancy Hansen, “Feathers in the Nest: Disloyalty Charges Neighbor Against Neighbor on the Home Front of World War I,” Fall 2016.

Non-Thesis Students:

Hunter Handzus, “History Graduate Portfolio,” 2023

Courtney Polak, “History Graduate Portfolio,” 2023

Andrew Beman-Cavallaro, “History Graduate Portfolio,” 2023

Samuel Applegate, “History Graduate Portfolio,” 2022

Trice Waide, “History Graduate Portfolio,” 2022

Joe Polvere, “History Graduate Portfolio,” 2020

Timothy Kluck, “History Graduate Portfolio,” 2020

Michael Forbes, “History Graduate Portfolio,” 2018

Peter Fritz, “History of Science and Technology,” comprehensive examination, 2018

Kelly Schmidt, “History of the Great Depression,” comprehensive examination, 2018

Christal Tongish, “History of Science and Technology” comprehensive examination, 2017

Donna Cox, “History of Science and Technology” comprehensive examination, 2017

Experiential Learning

Undergraduate Research Fellowships:

Katie Cornelio, “Everyday Aid in the Great Depression: Documenting the Lives of Kearney Residents During the 1930s,” Undergraduate Research Fellowship, UNK Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, 2023–2024.

Miranda Niemeyer, “The Persistence of Resistance in HIV/AIDS Education and Awareness” Undergraduate Research Fellowship, UNK Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, 2022–2023.

Miranda Niemeyer, “The Willingness to See: An Analysis of Grace and Edith Abbott's Efforts in Social Work,” Undergraduate Research Fellowship, UNK Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, 2021–2022.

Douglas McCue, “‘Escaping the Lab:’ Digital Medical Humanities Project,” Undergraduate Research Fellowship, UNK Office of Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity, 2021–2022.

Author Chats:

Timothy Rives (Deputy Director) on the history and archives of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library for *History 848: The Age of Eisenhower*, Summer 2019.

Frederick Rowe Davis on his book *Banned: A History of Pesticides and Toxicology* for *History 848: History of Science and Technology*, Spring 2017; Spring 2019.

Sarah Fox on her book *Downwind: A People's History of the Nuclear West* for *History 848: American Environmental History*, Fall 2016; Fall 2018.

Chemical Lands: Pesticides, Aerial Spraying, and Health in North America's Grasslands since 1945 for *History 898: History of Warfare and the Environment in the Twentieth Century*, Summer 2018.

Tore Olsson on his book *Agrarian Crossings: Reformers and the Remaking of the US and Mexican Countryside* for *History 848: History of the Great Depression*, Spring 2018.

Jenny Barker Devine on her book *On Behalf of the Family Farm: Iowa Farm Women's Activism since 1945* for *History 848: History of American Agriculture*, Fall 2017.

Phi Alpha Theta Lecture Series:

Visiting Speaker: Torsten Homberger, “Anti-Fascist Protection Rampart, or Merely the Wall?: The History of and Life Behind the Berlin Wall, 1961–1989,” (Co-sponsored by Calvin T. Ryan Library's “Faculty Profile Series”), November 2019.

Visiting Speaker: Nathan Tye, “‘Mark your memory of tired empty faces:’ Doing History from the Bottom-up with the Down and Out,” (Co-sponsored by Calvin T. Ryan Library's “Faculty Profile Series”), October 2019.

Visiting Speaker: Chris Steinke, “The Making of Nebraska's Boundaries” (Co-sponsored by Calvin T. Ryan Library's “Faculty Profile Series”), February 2019.

Campus Event: “Frank Conversations: Influenza on the Plains, 1918-2018,” (Co-sponsored by the History Department and the G.W. Frank Museum of History and Culture), December 2018.

Visiting Speaker: Todd Kersetter, “Flood on the Tracks: Living, Dying, and the Nature of Disaster in the Elkhorn River Basin,” (Co-sponsored by Calvin T. Ryan Library's “Faculty Profile Series”), September 2018.

Book Talk: “Chemical Lands: Pesticides, Aerial Spraying, and Health in North America's Grasslands since 1945,” (Co-sponsored by Calvin T. Ryan Library's “Faculty Profile Series”), January 2018.

Pi-Nu Members, “Research Presentations for the Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference,” February 2018.

Visiting Speaker: Todd von Kampen, “Ron and Carol Cope: A Nebraska Love Story,” April 2018.
Visiting Speaker: Matthias Bischel, “The Driving Forces of Political Radicalization in Bavaria after World War I: Factors in the Emergence of the Nazi Party,” December 2017.

“Classrooms to Careers:”

“The Past Matters” Conference. Students in History 251 (American History to 1865 [Fall 2019: Thompson-Scholars Section]).
“Moments in American History” Conference. Students in History 251 (*American History to 1865* [Spring 2019: Thompson-Scholars Section]).
“Connections & Changes in American History” Conference. Students in History 251 (*American History since 1865* [Fall 2018: Thompson-Scholars Section]).
“Adventures in History” Conference. Students in History 250 (*American History to 1865* [Spring 2018: Thompson-Scholars Section]).
“Community Preservation.” Pi-Nu Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, Fall 2017.
“Digital History Outreach.” Pi-Nu Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, Spring 2017.
“History Teacher Workshop.” Pi-Nu Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta, Spring 2017.

Faculty Development Activities for Teaching (Attended)

University of Nebraska at Kearney:

“Teaching American Environmental History: Digital Sources in the Classroom,” American Society for Environmental History (ASEH) Connects Event, Fall 2023
“Universal Design for Learning Day,” UNK, Fall 2023
“Faculty Workshop for TSLC Teaching,” TSLC Event, Fall 2023
“Faculty Workshop for TSLC Teaching,” TSLC Event, Spring 2022
“Faculty Workshop for TSLC Teaching,” TSLC Event, Fall 2020
“Online Education Trends You Need to Know: Creating More Engagement and More Opportunities for Your Gen Z Students with Jill Schiefelbein,” eCampus luncheon, Spring 2019
“Strategies to Promote Academic Integrity in an Online Course,” eCampus workshop, Spring 2019
“Teach Smarter: Maximize Your Impact in the Online Classroom,” eCampus luncheon, Spring 2018
“Learning on the Go: How Mobile Can Expand Your Course,” eCampus workshop, Spring 2018
“Collaborative Blended Courses: Strategies to Succeed in the Blended Classroom,” eCampus workshop, Fall 2017
“2017 Canvas Fall Event,” UNK Academic Support Services, Fall 2017
“Thompson Scholars Learning Community Teaching Effectiveness Study,” UNK TSLC Program, Spring 2017
“UNK Advisor Training,” Registrar advising workshop, Spring 2017
“Beyond Accessible: How ADA Considerations Can Improve Classes for All Students,” eCampus workshop, Spring 2017
“Reaching Out to Students on their Phones (a UDL Tale),” eCampus workshop, Fall 2016
“Ensuring Academic Integrity across Campus and Online,” eCampus workshop, Fall 2016
“Keys that Unlock Evaluating Online Teaching,” eCampus workshop, Fall 2016
“Canvas-Best Practices and Lessons Learned Panel Discussion,” Academic Support Services, Fall 2016
“Canvas-Demonstration Session,” Academic Support Services, Fall 2016
“UNK Canvas Kickoff and Informational luncheon,” Academic Support Services, Fall 2016
“Faculty Online Training,” eCampus workshop, Summer 2016

Kansas State University:

“Digital Humanities for All,” K-State Libraries workshop, Spring 2016

“Scoping and Funding Crowdsourcing Projects,” OCLC WebJunction.org webinar, Spring 2015
“Creating Online Exhibits: New Ways to Reach Out, Advocate and Publicize Your Collections and Services,” LYRASIS webinar, Spring 2015
“Combining Librarian Superpowers for the Greater Good: Building a Collaborative Model of Instruction with Archives & Special Collections,” ACRL panel, Spring 2015

SERVICE

Awards/ Honors

UNK Department of History “Excellence Award in Service as Assistant Chair,” 2024
UNK Online “Favorite Faculty Friday” Award, 2023
UNK Online “Favorite Faculty Friday” Award, 2022
UNK First-Year Student Advocacy Umbrella Award, 2020
TRIO Achiever Award, UNK TRIO-SSS Program, 2019
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Best Chapter Award, 2019 (as advisor)
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Best Chapter Award, 2018 (as advisor)
Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society Best Chapter Award, 2017 (as advisor)

Professional

Humanities Nebraska

Vice Chair, Board of Directors 2024–present
Executive Committee, 2024–present
Member, Humanities on the Hill Advocacy Team, 2024
Grant Review Committee, 2021–present
Program Committee, 2021–present
Development Committee, 2021–present
50th Year Celebration Committee, 2022–2023
Local Arrangements for Kearney Meeting, 2021
Board of Directors, 2021–present

Humanities Kansas

Chair, Board Membership Committee, 2015–2016
Member, Executive Committee, 2014–2016
Member, Board of Directors, 2013–2016

Center for Great Plains Studies

Board of Governors, 2021–2023
Center Conference Program Committee for “From Plant to Table: Food Production and Culture on the Great Plains, 2022–2023
Stubbendieck Book Prize Committee, 2021–2022

Agricultural History Society

Executive Committee (elected), 2023–present
AHS Grants Committee, 2023–present
Chair, Everett E. Edwards Award (best article submitted to *Agricultural History* by a graduate student), 2018–2019
Nominating Committee (elected; Chair in 2021), 2018–2021
Member, Editorial Board, 2016–2022
Journal Manuscript Reviewer, 2016–2022

History Nebraska

Academic Consultant, History of Food Exhibit, 2021–2022

Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society

Director/Coordinator, Phi Alpha Theta Nebraska Regional Conference, 2018–2020

Advisor of the Pi Nu Chapter (UNK), 2017–2020
The Public Historian
Book Review Editor, 2017–2021
University of California Press
Manuscript Reviewer, 2020–present
University of Nebraska Press
Manuscript Reviewer, 2020–present
University of Alabama Press
Manuscript Reviewer, 2019–present
North Dakota State University Press
Manuscript Reviewer, 2018–present
Environmental History
Manuscript Reviewer, 2020–present
NETSOL: New Trends in Social and Liberal Sciences
Manuscript Reviewer, 2020–present
Online Journal of Rural Research and Policy (OJRRP)
Member, Editorial Board, 2019–present
History of Science
Manuscript Reviewer, 2018
Great Plains Research
Manuscript Reviewer, 2016–present
Human-Wildlife Interactions
Manuscript Reviewer, 2016–present
Middle West Review: An interdisciplinary journal about the American Midwest
Manuscript Reviewer, 2021
Guest Editor, “The Farm Crisis in the American Midwest” (Fall 2015 Issue), 2014–2015
American Society for Environmental History
Conference Site Selection Committee, 2017–2020
Midwestern History Association Alice Smith Prize in Public History
Prize Committee Chair, 2017–2018
Consortium for History of Science, Technology, and Medicine
Earth and Environmental Sciences Working Group Member, 2016–2020
National Endowment for the Humanities
NEH State Council Site Visitor (Arkansas Humanities Council), 2020–2021
NEH Media Projects Development Grants Committee, 2019
NEH State Council Site Visitor (Michigan Humanities Council), 2016–2017

College/University

Appointments:

Member, SVCAA Search Committee, 2022
At-Large Senator, UNK Faculty Senate, 2021–present
Ad-Hoc Covid-19 Task Force, 2021–2022
Member, First-Gen Faculty Working Group, 2021–present
Faculty Consultant, UNK First-Generation Student Association, 2021–present
Co-advisor, UNK Xi Phi Chapter, Mortar Board National Honor Society, 2018–2021
Co-advisor, UNK Sustainability Group, 2018–2020
Co-organizer, Calvin T. Library Faculty Profile Lecture Series, 2017–2020
Reviewer, UNK Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee, 2017–2019

Committees:

Member, Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Council, 2022–present
Member, Fraternity and Sorority Life Awards Selection Committee, 2022
Member, Student Activities Budget Commission, 2022
Manuscript Reviewer, *UNK Graduate Review*, 2022
Member, Student Research Week Review Committee for Fine Arts & Humanities Presentations, Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity, 2021
Member, Director Search Committee, Academic Success Offices (ASO), 2021
Member, Honors Faculty Advisory Board (HFAB), 2020–2022
Member, UNK First-Generation Academic Support Committee, 2020–2021
Member, UNK First-Generation Students Subcommittee, 2020–2021
Member, Copeland Hall Emergency Team, College of Arts and Sciences, 2019–2023
Member, TRIO Disability Advisor Search Committee, 2019
Member, Student Research Day Review Committee for Oral Presentations, Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity, 2018
Member, Calvin T. Library Archives Planning Session, 2017
Member, UNK Summer High School Institutes & Initiatives Committee, 2016–2017

Participant:

Faculty Participant, “History Adventures in Science and Medicine,” UNK Health Science Explorers Academy, 2022
Faculty Participant, “Loper Life Roadshow—History Program,” UNK Admissions Department, 2022
Faculty Participant, “Homecoming Exhibit Judge,” UNK Student Event Group, 2022
Faculty Participant, “Pie the Professor,” UNK Health Sciences support for HelpCare Clinic in Kearney, 2022.
Faculty Participant, “United Way and First Leaders of Office of Student and Family Transitions Basketball Shooting Event” for Kearney United Way, 2022.
Faculty Participant, “Fraternity and Sorority Life Awards Selection Committee,” UNK Fraternity and Sorority Life, 2022
Faculty Attendee, “Halfway to Graduation,” UNK Thompson Scholars Learning Community (Virtual), 2021
Faculty Participant, UNK Honors Program Omaha World Herald/Kearney Hub Scholarship Interview Day (Virtual), 2021
Faculty Participant, “Etiquette Dinner and Presentation,” UNK Thompson Scholars Learning Community, (Virtual), 2020
Faculty Participant, “Resume Workshop,” UNK Thompson Scholars Learning Community (Virtual), 2020
Faculty Participant, “Fall Student Orientation,” UNK Thompson Scholars Learning Community, (Virtual), 2020
Faculty Participant, “Graduate Student Workshop: Crafting an Academic Vita: How do I Showcase My Work?,” UNK Office of Graduate Studies, 2019–2021.
Faculty Participant, “Pie the Professor,” UNK Health Sciences support for HelpCare Clinic in Kearney, 2019.
Faculty Participant, UNK Loper Preview Day (Department of History), 2019
Faculty Participant, “How to Major in the Humanities When You’re Headed to Medical, Law, or B-school,” UNK Department of English, 2019
Faculty Participant, UNK Honors Program Omaha World Herald/Kearney Hub Scholarship Interview Day, 2019
Faculty Participant, “What is Plagiarism,” UNK International Student Orientation, 2019

Faculty Participant, UNK World Affairs Conference, 2018
Faculty Participant, UNK Orphan Train Colloquium, 2018
Reviewer, UNK Undergraduate Research Paper Competition, 2017–2022
Faculty Participant, SSRP Field Experience for Central Nebraska Public Power Water Resource Management, 2017

Department

Appointments:

Interim Assistant Chair, 2021–2022
Interim Graduate Program Chair, 2019
Advisor, Phi Alpha Theta Pi-Nu Chapter, 2017–2019

Committees:

Member, Executive Committee, 2021–present
Chair, Marketing and Outreach Committee, 2022–present
Chair, Marketing and Recruitment Working Group, 2021
Member, Faculty Annual Review Committees, 2020–present
Member, Graduate Program Committee, 2019–present
Member, Public History & Digital History/ Community Outreach Committee, 2017–2022
Member, Nebraska History Faculty Search Committee, 2019
Member, Public History Faculty Search Committee, 2019
Member, Student Success Committee (Recruitment, Retention, and Advising), 2017–2019
Member, Department of History Thesis Award Committee, 2016–2020
Member, Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference Graduate Paper Award Committee, 2017–2018
Member, Public History Certificate Program Committee, 2016

Participant:

Faculty Participant, History Day Judge, 2016–2018; 2021
Faculty Participant, “K-12 Social Studies Standards Revision Process,” 2018
Faculty Participant, Praxis Exam Workshop, 2017
Faculty Participant, Student Organization Fair, 2017
Faculty Participant, Blue & Gold Days, 2016–present
Faculty Participant, Faculty Research Seminar, 2016–present
Faculty Participant, Multicultural Scholars & Leaders Day, September 2016

Public/Community:

“Pedaling the Past: Bicycling Kearney’s History,” in collaboration with William Stoutamire and Humanities Nebraska for Humanities Week, 2023
Consulting Historian/ Commentator: 880 AM KRVN Podcast: “Special COVID-19 Coverage: The History of Pandemics and the 1918 Influenza,” April 2020
Consulting Member: Fort Kearny Restoration Project, UNL/UNK Partnership Committee, 2020
Historian/Discussant: Dawson County Museum and KRVN Community Roundtable on the Blizzards of 1948–1949, Lexington, NE, February 2019
Consulting Historian/Commentator: 880 AM KRVN Podcast: “The Blizzards of 1948–1949,” December, 2018
“This Month in Agricultural History,” 880 AM KRVN Radio Series, 2017–2020
*(See davidvail.net “Agricultural Radio” for an audio archive of interviews)
Consulting Historian: “Historical Fiction of the Great Depression.” Syracuse High School. Syracuse, NE,

Spring 2018.

Contributor: Central Nebraska Veterans Memorial Project, Kearney, NE, Fall 2018.

Phi Alpha Theta/ Sigma Xi Eclipse Glasses Collection Program: Directed Phi Alpha Theta with President Allen Thomas of UNK's chapter of Sigma Xi: Scientific Research Society to collect glasses from the UNK and Kearney Communities to send to Astronomers without Borders, Fall 2017

Chair/ Commentator: "From *Silent Spring* to Earth Day and Beyond: A Roundtable Discussion and Documentary Film on the Book that Sparked a Movement," Co-sponsored by Phi Alpha Theta: The History Honor Society, Sigma Xi: The Science Research Honor Society, and The Women's and Gender Studies Program Triota Student Organization, University of Nebraska at Kearney, Spring 2017.

Judge: Nebraska History Day (Regional Competition), Kearney, NE, 2017.

Consulting Historian: Kim Kankiewicz, "North Platte Canteen: Where The Heartland Opened Its Heart in WWII." National Public Radio. Fall 2016.

Consulting Historian: Madalyn Johnson, "History of the Covered Wagon in the American West." St. Teresa's School Eighth-Grade History Projects. Lincoln, NE, Fall 2016.

Community Teaching Series: "The Farmer's Iron Horse: Railroads and Agricultural Extension in the 20th Century American West." Osher Lifelong Learning Collaborative, Kansas State University and the University of Kansas. Manhattan, KS, Fall 2015.

Invited Presentation: "Railroad Laboratories: Demonstration Trains and the American Agricultural Extension System." Meadowlark Outreach Lecture Series, Meadowlark Hills Retirement Center. Manhattan, KS, 2015.

Judge: Kansas History Day (State Competition), Topeka, KS, 2015.

Invited Presentation: "Historic Visions: Joining History and Humanities with Artistic Exhibitions." Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art's "Take Shelter: A Roundtable Discussion on the Tom Parish Root Cellar Exhibition." Flint Hills Discovery Center. Manhattan, KS, 2014.

Invited Presentation: "A Historical Sketch of the Way We Worked in Montgomery County, Kansas," Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, "The Way We Worked." Independence Historical Museum and Arts Center. Independence, KS, 2013.

Invited Presentation: "To Protect, Produce, or Endure?: Pesticides, Aerial Application, and Food Production in Kansas, 1945–2013." Kansas Town Hall Discussion Series. Ellis County Historical Society. Fort Hays, KS, 2013.

Invited Presentation: "Blurred Boundaries and Unexpected Bridges: Jobs that mix Public History and Academic History." Committee for Professional Development. Department of History. Kansas State University, 2013.

Select Faculty Development Activities for Service (Attended)

University of Nebraska at Kearney:

UNK Fireside Chat: "Dealing with Disasters," UNK Department of Political Science (attended and participated), (virtual), 2020

Nebraska Ecotourism Webinar, Conservation Nebraska (virtual), 2020

Water Faculty and Stakeholders Retreat, UNK, 2019

Graduate Commencement Hooding Faculty, UNK Winter Commencement, 2018

"Halfway to Graduation," Thompson Scholars Learning Community, Celebration Event, 2018

"Student Research Day," Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity, Spring 2018

"National TRIO Day Recognition and Open House," UNK TRIO-SSS, Spring 2018

"Unconscious Bias in Higher Education: Part One of the Inclusive Excellence Development Series," Access & Inclusion, University of Nebraska, Spring 2018

"Fall Student Research Symposium," Undergraduate Research & Creative Activity, Fall 2017

"Praxis Student Workshop," Department of History, Fall 2017

"The Western Cattle Trail, 1874–1897," Geography Awareness Week, Departments of Geography and

- History, Fall 2017
“Can There Be, Or Should There Be, Another Jerry Warner?,” UNK Chancellor Doug Christensen, Warner Lecture Series, Fall 2017
“No Limits: Women's & Gender Studies” Regional Conference, UNK Women's, Gender & Ethnic Studies, Spring 2017
“The Nebraska Constitution” and “Happy Birthday Nebraska,” CNSS Nebraska Statehood Events, Spring 2017

PUBLIC HISTORY, DIGITAL HISTORY, AND CURATORIAL WORK

Appointments

The Public Historian

Book Review Editor, 2017–2022

History Nebraska

Academic Consultant, History of Food Exhibit, 2021–2022

Prairie Studies Initiative, Kansas State University

Archival/Humanities Specialist, 2014–2015

Digital Humanities Initiative, Kansas State University

Archival/Humanities Specialist, 2014–2015

Articles, Reports, and Reviews

“Interpreting the Environment at Museums and Historic Sites,” *Technical Leaflet #289* (American Association of State and Local History, 2020). Coauthored with Debra A. Reid.

“Highlights from the Las Vegas Working Groups—WG5: Agriculture and Public History,” *Public History News*, National Council on Public History, Spring 2018.

“You Are There: Eli Lilly at the Beginning” exhibit by the Indiana Historical Society. *The Public Historian* 39 (August 2017): 113–115.

“Adventure Great Plains: How Mountain Biking the Great Plains taught me to love the region’s history, its landscapes, and its peoples” for the “I love the Great Plains” blog initiative. Center for Great Plains Studies, Spring 2017.

Digital/Public History Projects

“Pedaling the Past: Bicycling Kearney’s History,” in collaboration with William Stoutamire and Humanities Nebraska for Humanities Week, 2023

“Pedaling the Past: Bicycling Kearney’s History,” in collaboration with William Stoutamire and the Frank Museum and Cultural Center, 2018–2019

Exhibitions and Museum Experience

UNK Calvin T. Library (Kearney, NE)

Historian/Consultant for UNK Calvin T. Ryan Library: “100 Years Ago: Kearney, World War I, and the Influenza Epidemic (with University Archivist Laurinda Weisse and Dean of Graduate Studies Mark Ellis),” 2018

Humanities Kansas (Topeka, KS)

Environmental Historian/ Archival Consultant for Theater Project/Exhibit: *Shared Stories of the Kansas Land: A Reader’s Theater Project*, 2015–2016

Humanities Kansas Exhibition and Event Reviewer for the Blue Rapids Historical Society’s Hometown Teams partner project “The Tour to End All Tours,” exhibition, 2015

Kansas State University Libraries (Manhattan, KS)

Historian and Archivist for Exhibit: *Prairie Dust: Living, Studying, and Farming in the Dust Bowl Era*, 2015–2016

Historian and Archivist for Exhibit: *Mapping History: Connecting GIS and Digital Technologies with Historical Maps in Kansas State's Department of Special Collections*, 2015

Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library (Abilene, KS)

“Heart of the Matter: The Humanities and Social Sciences for a Vibrant, Competitive, and Secure Nation” Programming Committee, 2013–2014

Kansas State University Libraries/ Eisenhower Library Collaboration Committee, 2013–2016

Flint Hills Discovery Center (Manhattan, KS)

Humanities Curator, *Forces II: Our Town, Our Fort, Our University*, 2013–2014

Marianna Kistler Beach Museum of Art (Kansas State University):

Humanities Scholar, Open Artist-in-Residence Program, 2014

Humanities Curator, “Tom Parish Root Cellar Exhibition,” 2013–2014

Mid-America Air Museum (Liberal, KS)

Oral History Consultant, 2010–2012

Television/Digital Videos & Documentaries

Consulting Historian and Archivist, “Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve: A Flint Hills Love Story,” Flint Hills Discovery Center Foundation, Azura Credit Union, Kansas Humanities Council, Barton P. & Mary D. Cohen Charitable Trust, Trusler Foundation, Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc., Dianne Shumaker, Richard & Sarah Porter, Porter Cattle Co. Strong City, KS, 2016–2017.

Historian and Commentator, “Farm to Flight: The Story of Agricultural Aviation in Kansas,” School of Journalism, A.Q. Miller School of Journalism and Mass Communications, Kansas State University, 2015–2017.

Humanities Commentator, “Flint Hills Structures,” KTWU *Sunflower Journeys*, 2014.

Radio Programs and Podcasts

“This Month in Agricultural History,” 880 AM KRVN Radio Series, 2017–2020

*(See davidvail.net “Agricultural Radio” for an audio archive of interviews)

Consulting Historian/ Commentator: 880 AM KRVN Podcast: “Special COVID-19 Coverage: The History of Pandemics and the 1918 Influenza,” April 2020

Consulting Historian/Commentator: 880 AM KRVN Podcast: “The Blizzards of 1948–1949,” 2018

LANGUAGE

Spanish (research proficiency).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Agricultural History (Lifetime Membership); American Society for Environmental History (Lifetime Membership); National Council on Public History; Organization of American Historians; Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society; Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society; Sigma Xi: Scientific Research Society; Western History Association.