



DEPARTMENT of **History**

SHATTERING
EXPECTATIONS
The Campaign for Liberal Arts

The Department of History

History is the study of human action and how it has shaped our world across time and place. We study history to understand change over time, who made it happen, why, and how. If we do not know our past we cannot know our present. History shows us that we can all be agents of change. Everyone makes history – not just those in positions of power.

The Department of History at the University of Minnesota has long been a leader in the field. Our work has helped to create a broader, richer, and fuller understanding of how historical change happens. As one of the most highly ranked history departments among American public universities, we are noted for our distinguished faculty, our interdisciplinary centers and workshops, and our strong public history engagement with institutions in the broader community.

Among the many innovations that we've undertaken to maintain our leadership in the field, and to serve our students and community, are new approaches to organizing and studying the past.

Integrating our work with other disciplines, and engaging communities beyond the University, our faculty and students are asking new questions, redrawing old boundaries, and forging creative connections that intersect with virtually every facet of the human story.

Many of the themes that we are pursuing in our historical scholarship and teaching have profound implications for today's world. Environmental history, for example, is a new area that we're exploring in a global context, and throughout the centuries. Migration and immigration also span nations and time periods, as we look at how and why people have moved around the globe. We also examine topics such as histories of food and family that transcend time and place. Questions surrounding race, gender, indigeneity, politics, sexuality, science, technology, economics and human rights are urgent contemporary issues, and they are also central to the work we do as historians.

Public history is a major new focus of our department. The new interdisciplinary master's program in Heritage Studies and Public History, for example, partners with colleagues in and outside of the University who are doing heritage-related work, giving students opportunities to work across disciplines and engage with museums, historic sites, and landmarks.

One of our most important outreach efforts is History Day, a collaboration with the Minnesota Historical Society and schools across the state, in which thousands of Minnesota middle school and high school students develop their own history projects based on primary sources and independent research. Our undergraduate and graduate students serve as mentors, and our faculty volunteer as consultants and judges. The students who compete at the top level travel to Washington DC for National History Day, where Minnesota students have a stellar record of success. Participating students come to love history. The excitement and sense of accomplishment they experience stays with them for their lifetimes.



Student Success

Your gifts will ensure each of our students can chart a path to success after graduation.

Scholarships will help us recruit the brightest minds to Minnesota. They'll also provide critical access to experiential learning opportunities, like internships, undergraduate research, and study abroad. With your help, every one of our students can chart a path to success.

Graduate students are essential for creating new knowledge and developing innovative teaching methods. More competitive fellowship packages will ensure the department continues to beat our Big 10 and Ivy League peers in recruiting tomorrow's academic and industry leaders. Fellowships will provide critical research support for graduate students, providing travel funds to conduct primary research at the source and offering students time and resources to work during the summer months.

We also participate in the College in the Schools program, with 25 certified teachers statewide offering the United States History survey in high schools for University of Minnesota credit. This is an important outreach effort that links our curriculum to high schools throughout the state.

These are just a few of the ways that the Department of History is serving our students and the public.

As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, we are positioned to take advantage of a new paradigm in historical scholarship.

Join us in expanding both the horizons of our discipline and creating exciting new opportunities for our students and our communities.



**Alex Werndli,
recipient of the
Hedley Donovan
Scholarship**

"I couldn't have done my research without traveling to Morocco. It was extremely helpful for finding primary sources and also gave me a taste of what graduate student life could be like. I feel prepared for my future because of my experiences there, and because of the help from donors and members of the history department."



**Brooke
Depenbusch,
graduate
fellowship
recipient**

"My research explores the grassroots history of state and local welfare provision from the New Deal to the War on Poverty. Fellowship support has been essential to my project's development and has granted me the time and resources necessary to complete the project."



Faculty Research and Teaching

Our faculty members are driven to build a more vibrant and inclusive community.

Your gifts will provide seed grants to launch new projects, enabling faculty to explore promising ideas, compete for large external grants, and generate findings that improve lives.

Through new investments in world-class interdisciplinary programs, you'll provide critical resources for faculty to collaborate on complex challenges and seek innovative solutions.

Your gifts for endowed chairs and professorships will ensure CLA recruits and retains the world's most promising, field-shaping faculty.



Community Engagement

You can help the Department of History build bridges between campus and community.

Gifts for workshops, conferences, seminars, and other community-facing events will extend the work and expertise of faculty into our community.

Your gifts can also support high school teachers who participate in our College in the Schools program, to offset their tuition. This would provide a service not only for teachers, but also for the students they inspire.



Ryan Dresher,
teacher,
College in
the Schools

“As a teacher at a small high school in rural Minnesota, participating in the College in the Schools (CIS) program has helped me stay up to date on the most recent developments in the field of history and ensures that I am continually growing as a professional. By partnering with the University of Minnesota faculty and staff, I can offer a more rigorous and relevant curriculum to my students. The CIS program provides these juniors and seniors with academic opportunities that they would not otherwise have.”

