

Annual report 2016-2017

Institute on World War II and the Human Experience

Department of History

College of Arts and Sciences

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

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**Please check out our new and updated website at** <http://ww2.fsu.edu/>**!**

**Annual Report written, compiled, and edited by Brianna McLean.**

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# **OVERVIEW**

The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience is dedicated to preserving the history and promoting the study of the Second World War from a human perspective. Founded in 1997 by the late Professor William Oldson, the Institute maintains one of the largest archives at an American university that documents the human dimension of this war that engulfed the world. The Institute houses over 6800 individual collections, including the collection donated by award-winning journalist and the author of *The Greatest Generation*, Tom Brokaw. Located on the Florida State University campus in the Bellamy Building, the Institute serves as a resource for scholars, teachers, students, journalists, and the general public. The Institute is a constituent part of the Department of History, directed by a tenured faculty member, Dr. G. Kurt Piehler, who teaches both undergraduate and graduate courses. He also functions as an advisor for eight graduate students and supervises several undergraduate honors’ students and Directed Independent Studies.

This past year has been a year of many significant accomplishments for the Institute. Led by our archivist, Mike Kasper, our undergraduate assistants and high school interns have been working diligently to create publicly accessible records of all our collections to replace our older internal database. By cataloguing our collections in Archon, they are now connected to WorldCat, the world’s largest online library catalogue allowing scholars, students, journalists, and the public the opportunity to discover our rich holdings documenting the human dimension of the Second World War. Within the past year, we have catalogued about 163 of our 7000 collections, and more are added every week. You may browse the collections we have catalogued so far at <http://ww2.fsu.edu/collections>.

Not only has the Institute been striving to modernize our holdings, we also experienced the privilege of hosting the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History (March 30th-April 2, 2017) in Jacksonville, Florida. Our whole staff, which mostly consisted of undergraduate students, organized the event and attended the conference to ensure its success. This event brought over 600 historians from 42 states and 12 countries to the Sunshine State, generating over half a million dollars of commerce.

In the upcoming year, we are excited to continue to serve the needs of scholars, faculty, and students as a living history laboratory at Florida State University.

# **DIRECTOR’S NOTE**

There are reasons the Institute started issuing annual reports beginning in 2013. They provide my colleagues in the History Department and university leaders an overview of our contributions to Florida State University in the areas of research, teaching, and service. For those who have supported the Institute with philanthropic gifts, they provide an overview of how we have made good use of these funds to promote the study of the Second World War. For the over 6000 individuals and organizations that have entrusted irreplaceable letters, diaries, photographs, maps, and artifacts, we have discharged our fiduciary responsibility to not only preserve them for posterity, but also make sure they are used by scholars, students, journalists, and the general public to gain a better understanding of the human aspect of World War II.

The Institute had several notable achievements in 2016-17, beginning with our continued progress in creating easily accessible finding aids for our collection in the Archon database, maintained by the Florida State University Libraries. As a result of the hard work of the Institute Archivist, Mike Kasper and a remarkable staff of interns we are able to process immediately all new manuscript collections donated to the Institute. We have also made progress in creating Archon entries for some of the most important collections donated in earlier years, but to create a full online catalogue for the entire collection will take several years to accomplish with resources available. Put simply, we could not have made the progress we have made, with regard to archives, without the thousands of hours of labor provided by undergraduates. Currently we only have funds to employ a handful of our interns, most are compensated with academic credits or serve as volunteers.

To raise the profile of the Institute, in 2013 we committed to hosting the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History. This conference proved a smashing success and with over 600 military historians from 42 states and 12 countries attending the four-day meeting (March 30-April 2, 2017). This meeting also demonstrated the abilities of our best and brightest undergraduates to take on major leadership role. Virtually every aspect of the meeting, from managing the book exhibit, producing the catalogues, arranging public events, and developing press releases was undertaken by undergraduates. Lead by Jordan Bolan, these students demonstrated, again, that much can be expected from young people. After all, many who stormed ashore, who flew heavy bombers, manned gun batteries on battleships, and stormed ashore beaches at Normandy were GIs and teenagers.

We live in a time when the ranks of the World War II are inexorably shrinking. The youngest World War II veterans are now in their early 90s, and as we create online finding aids, we find out that individuals who donated collection in the late 1990s and 2000s have passed away. In this report, we want to mourn the recent death of Duane Bohnstedt, who served in Army Air Force in the Mediterranean. Duane Bohnstedt, and his wife Betty Bohnstedt, left an enduring legacy for future generations of historians, students, journalists and the descendants of the men who served with the 460th Heavy Bombardment Group. Not only did the Bohnstedt’s take a leadership role through the 460th Heavy Bombardment Group Society to create a comprehensive archive of the unit’s history in the Second World War, they also made sure this collection would find a permanent home in the Institute. To ensure the Institute had the resources to safeguard the collection, they established a permanent endowment, the Duane and Betty Bohnstedt 460th Bomb Group (H) Collection Endowed Fund.

Even those who were children during the Second World War are now of retirement age. This inexorable fact was brought home to the Institute staff with the passing of Dorothy “Dot” Whittle, a long-time volunteer with the Institute. When I arrived at the Institute in August 2011, I met Dot and her friend Inez Manuel, who once a month spent two days in residence working on processing our collections. Dot and Inez, a member of the last graduating class of 1954 of the Florida State College for Women, regaled me with stories about the transformation of FSCW into Florida State University. One day in a casual conversation, I learned that Dot, prior to coming to FSU, had spent a good part of her childhood in an internment camp in the Philippines (1941-1945) run by the Japanese soldiers. Dot did not speak much about her experiences, but the Institute is fortunate to have her war-time diary to inform future generations.

How to keep alive the memory of the World War II generation? One way we seek to do this is have undergraduates read the letters and diaries they left behind. Students come away from this experience not only gaining new insights into historical methods, but they come closely connected with individuals through the words left behind. As director and professor, I enjoy cultivating and watching these experiences happen first hand.

Sincerely,

G. Kurt Piehler

Director/Associate Professor of History

Institute on World War II and the Human Experience

Department of History

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# **THE ARCHIVES**

The archival collections and applications required to process collections and, importantly, create finding aids for the collections, constitute a key component of the Institute. Moreover, with the indispensable assistance of high school, undergraduate, and graduate students, the Institute continues to progress in cataloguing collections in the FSU online access finding aid database through Archon archival software. Archon is maintained by the Special Collections at Florida State University Libraries. Since January 2016, the Institute has created 136 finding aids on the database for Institute collections, where none previously existed. The Institute has been fortunate to recruit some of the best and brightest students at FSU. The students either complete internships or Directed Individual Study for academic credit. Furthermore, the Institute through endowment funding hired five students as paid staff. Finally, the Institute also attracted Work Study and UROP students to assist with creating finding aids.

In addition to creating finding aids, the Institute further exploits the opportunity to teach the students information literacy and critical research methodology that will assist them further during their present, and future studies, as well as beyond their FSU experience. Students grasp the importance of conducting searches with Library of Congress Subject Headings which constitutes a key feature of the finding aid. Reviewing primary sources, students also learn to effectively negotiate an archive or repository for their future research pursuits. Finally, students learn to work effectively in an online environment, as well as learning about the components of, and how to create, a finding aid in an online major archival database that utilizes a standard called “Describing Archives: A Content Standard”.

Each semester students meet with Dr. Piehler to establish their goals and course of learning through processing Institute collections and creating finding aids. New students are provided Archon software training by FSU Special Collection Digital Librarian Krystal Thomas. The new students are also assigned “veteran” peer student mentors. Based upon the students’ particular area of World War II interest, a collection list from the closed, previously inaccessible, Microsoft Access database is compiled. They then choose collections of interest, then research and learn from the collection contents. Lastly, all relevant information is entered into the Archon software database. As an added bonus, the student’s name appears in the online finding aid record as a published record.

Of the twenty-six collections donated to the Institute during this time period, several are noteworthy (please see Appendix for the full list):

**Alexander Schmidt, accession #16.0018**, enlisted in the United States Navy in September 1942. He attended training in Rhode Island and Jacksonville, Florida and was assigned aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Natoma Bay in June 1943. He served aboard the Natoma Bay until his discharge in December 1945. Initially, he served as gunner on a Grumman Avenger torpedo bomber until he was grounded due to an ear infection. Subsequently, he continued serving by performing maintenance on aircraft aboard the Natoma Bay, where he saw much combat in the Pacific, namely in the Philippines, New Guinea, and other major Pacific Island battles such as Okinawa and Iwo Jima. Along with Pacific battles, his ship also survived a direct Kamikaze attack. Schmidt wrote a memoir entitled *Between Here and There* that details his life experiences. His collection includes uniforms, a Torpedo bomber jacket, personal papers, medals, awards, and a plaque made from remains of a Kamikaze plane.

**Monte Allen, accession #16.0019**, served aboard the U.S.S. Kwajalein in the U.S. Navy from its commissioning in June 1944 until November 1945. The extensive records collected by Monte Allen since World War II pertain to the Casablanca Class Escort Carrier U.S.S. Kwajalein, and contain detailed photocopies of and notes on ship records, including war diaries, daily logs, muster rolls, and reports of changes amongst the crew and aboard the ship. This aircraft carrier’s primary mission served by transporting U.S. Navy aircraft and pilots to combat zones in the Pacific Theater. Direct annotations from Monte Allen within the photocopies provide notes on such things as the living status of crewmen at the time of his writing. Other materials include miscellaneous photographs, copies of photographs, film recordings, naval sheet music, and related publications. These publications describe the lives of sailors and the status of destroyed marine vessels.

**Shirley and Joe Gould, accession #16.0028**, collection centers on the extensive detailed letters written between a husband and wife during World War II. Joe Gould served in the intelligence section of the 25th Bomb Group and 325th Photographic Wing in England and his wife remained in Chicago, IL. The collection includes letters, photographs, newspaper clippings, event brochures, various personnel records, and ephemera from the service and the home front, as well as drawings, decorative dog tags, and ration cards. Joe Gould enlisted in 1942, declined to attend officer school, and instead was assigned to the Intelligence service. Shirley and Joe lived in Chicago, IL. Shirley worked various secretary jobs before and during the War, one being connected with the Manhattan Project under Stagg Field at the University of Chicago. She was also a leading part of a group of women in Chicago called the Servicemen's Wives Club. After the war, she received her Master's degree in Social Work and became a private counselor. Joe and Shirley married in 1940.

**Wilson Averre Koontz, accession #16.0031**, was born in 1912 in Eunice, Louisiana. He served as an artillery forward observer information relay radio operator in the United States Marine Corps in the 1st Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. Prior to his overseas experience, he trained in Quantico, Virginia, until he transferred to California and Hawaii to serve with the 1st Battalion, 14th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division. Koontz experienced extensive combat action in the Pacific campaign in the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. His collection documents the life of U.S. Marine Wilson Koontz in the Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1945, as well as the stories of his ancestry, children, and grandchildren. The collection is mainly comprised of personal papers, letters, and documents, as well as a published scrapbook memoir of the family's history. The scrapbook details his post-war experiences through various documents and writings from his daughter, as well as the lives of his descendants. The most important letters in the collection include a series that were written by Koontz during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

**Charles F. Pfeifer, accession #17.0010**, was born September 9, 1926, and raised in Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey. In July 1944, at the age of 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and attended boot camp at Parris Island, South Carolina in November 1944. After training, Charles was assigned to the newly forming 5th Marine Division at Camp Pendleton, California. Charles' unit was Alpha Company, 1st Battalion of the 26th Regiment. He served as a rifleman in a .30 caliber machine gun squad and was soon promoted to Private 1st Class. The 5th Marine Division was formed for the invasion of Iwo Jima. The Division landed on Iwo Jima the first day on February 19, 1945. The only battle in which he participated, Charles fought on Iwo Jima until the island was secured, and was relieved on March 29, 1944. Pfeifer’s collection represents one of the best collections held at the Institute relating to materials gathered as part of the memory of a veteran from the time of World War II to the present. The collection contains documents, photographs, postwar memorabilia, veteran memorabilia, Marine Corps memorabilia, Iwo Jima captured Japanese weapons, and Iwo Jima Honor Flight materials. Of particular note, the collection contains lava sand from Iwo Jima which Pfeifer gathered during a recent Honor Flight to Iwo Jima.

## **COLLECTION HIGHLIGHT: BOHNSTEDT COLLECTION**

The massive 30-box collection of the 460th Heavy Bombardment Group Society contains a unit history of this B-24 U.S. Army Air Corps Group, 55th Wing, 760th, 761st, 762nd, 763rd Squadrons and Group Headquarters, which served in the Italian Campaign. This collection primarily focuses on the memory of the war and those who served in the 460th. Included is a listing of the airmen who were held as prisoners of war, including their squadrons, positions on the plane (e.g. pilot, gunner), the date, mission, and what country or stalag in which they were held. Also included is a booklet, "Remembering the 460th Bomb Group (H)," which contains photographs, personnel lists, and maps, and was prepared as a gift from Duane and Betty Bohnstedt to their members. There are mission lists, target details, flight records, and crew searches. The collection includes issues of the society's veterans' association magazine, "Black Panther" from mid-1990 to their final issue, December 2005. Additionally, there are copies of diaries, personal files, memoirs, and wartime letters assembled and sent to Bohnstedt by various crew members. An oral history of Bohnstedt is included. Correspondence is included with members that gave to his collection, as well as his accounts of personal research and travel while assembling this collection.

The collection was assembled by Duane and Betty Bohnstedt, who conducted extensive research on the 460th Bombardment Group from the end of World War II up to the present time by contacting its members and traveling to original station sites. Duane ("Sparky") was part of the 460th, a B-24 group, which was part of the 55th Wing, Fifteenth Air Force, stationed in Spinazzola, Italy, from February 1943 until May 1945. Duane was 19 when he joined and served with ordnance.

Duane and Betty Bohnstedt combined their skills and experiences to thoroughly preserve the history of the 460th. Duane has a degree in Art, and Betty was an experienced writer. Together they became historians and archivists of their own collection. They published a history of the 460th, along with editing and publishing a newsletter for the 460th Bomb Group Society.

## **INSTITUTE STAFF**

**Michael Kasper - Archivist**

Michael came to us in February 2016 as a retired, 28-year veteran Drug Enforcement Administration Special Agent. He is an alumnus of Pennsylvania State University, where he graduated in 1985 with a degree in Business Management. Prior to retiring, Michael completed his Master’s Degree in Library Science from Clarion University of Pennsylvania in 2012. He subsequently volunteered at the Hagley Library and Museum archives in Wilmington, DE, which serves as DuPont Corporation’s archive. Michael also served as the Archivist for the Cranbury, NJ History Center. Michael has studied U.S. military history, and collected memorabilia, his entire life.

**Anne Marsh - Administrative Assistant**

Anne Marsh has worked at the Institute on World War and the Human Experience since 1999 in many different capacities. She earned undergraduate degree in Library Science in 1988. She has assisted and trained students in collection arrangements and minor preservation work. In the past, she has overseen and assisted with the Institute on WWII website. She oversees and assists researchers in the Institute’s reference room. Anne also oversees and manages the Institute’s budgets. The managing of the budgets has become a bigger role in the last several years with all the programs that the Institute on WWII has hosted such as Society for Military History conference that was hosted in Jacksonville, Florida this past Spring with about 600 attendees, the annual Veterans Day event that we host in New York at Fordham University, our annual Fall and Spring guest speaker program hosted here in Tallahassee and other programs.

**Jordan Bolan - Institute’s Supervisor of Students and Senior Assistant to the Director**

Jordan was the Institute’s Supervisor of Students and Senior Assistant between 2013 and 2017, overseeing the 22 undergraduates working at the Institute. She graduated in the Spring of 2017 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Political Science and Editing, Writing, and Media. In the past, Jordan interned in the Florida Commission on the Status of Women, FSU’s Department of Political Science, and in Senator Bill Nelson’s constituent’s office. She worked for the Institute since her freshman year and assisted with archival work, donor outreach, writing and editing media material, and organizing events for guests of the Institute. She served as floor manager for the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History. Shortly after graduating, Jordan was hired at the Woman in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, D.C.

**Jill Szaroleta - Senior Assistant to the Director**

Jill is the Senior Assistant to the Director at the Institute. She graduated from Fleming Island High School in 2014, and is entering her final semester as a history major at FSU. She joined the team at the Institute in the Fall of 2015 through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP) at FSU, and began a project on a set of letters written by a Union soldier in the American Civil War. The project continued into a Directed Individual Study, and Jill is now in the beginning stages of publishing the letters and memoir. She processes collections and oversees training and day-to-day tasks at the Institute, and plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Library Sciences and a career in archival and museum work. She is particularly interested in American Civil War and Cold War history.

**Christina Armes – Assistant to the Director**

Christina began her academic career at Florida State University at the young age of sixteen years old. With her Associate's Degree already under her belt, along with her high school diploma, she jumped right into upper division courses for her History and Spanish majors. She joined the team at the Institute on World War II as an Undergraduate Assistant over Summer 2016 when she met, and was recruited by the Institute Archivist, Mike Kasper. Over the course of her employment, she has processed many notable collections, including the Carl Johnson letters and the Alexander Schmidt collection, as well as published finding aids for collections on the online database. Christina continues to process and digitize incoming collections and assisted the Institute’s team in hosting the Society for Military History Conference in Jacksonville Spring 2017. Christina currently serves as an Assistant to the Director for Research and Public Relations, and focuses her research on Guatemalan history and the impact of foreign propaganda in Latin America. In the summer of 2017, she traveled to Peru to work with a nonprofit that sought to empower Andean women and preserve traditional Quechua culture through economic access to the global market for their textiles.

**Jeffrey Scott Henley – Assistant to the Director**

Jeffrey is a re-admitted student to Florida State University. He graduated from FSU in 1989 with a BS in Marketing. After a successful 26-year career in sales and account management, including the last 11 years with C.H. Robinson Inc., a Fortune 250 third party logistics provider, he decided to leave his career and return to the academic world to pursue his long-time passion of studying history, with hopes of a second career passing along this love of history to others. He is studying History with a minor in German. His interests include Weimar Germany, World War II and the American Civil War.

**Brianna McLean – Assistant to the Director**

Brianna is a senior pursuing a B.A. in History with a minor in French. She has enjoyed working at the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience since the summer of 2016, after taking Dr. Piehler’s WWII class in the spring of 2016. After she graduates in Summer 2018, she plans to pursue a Duel Masters of Library Science and Public History, in preparation for a career as an archivist, and eventually plans to pursue a PhD in History. Her interests include World War II, Women's Military History, American Military History, Home Front History, and Military History in general. During her time at FSU, she has enjoyed membership in the World-Renowned Florida State University Marching Chiefs and Seminole Sound Pep Band.

**Emily Woessner – Assistant to the Director**

Emily is a senior at Florida State University. She graduated from Satellite High School in Satellite Beach, Florida in the spring of 2013 and enrolled at Florida State University in the fall as an international affairs major. She studied abroad in Berlin, Germany at the Free University Berlin. On her return to the United States that summer, she moved to Queenstown, New Zealand where she spent the next year living and working. She then re-enrolled at Florida State University in the fall of 2016 and continues her international affairs major with a focus in history, as well as minors in German, museum studies, and art history. She has worked at the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience since the fall of 2016 and intends to continue to do so until graduation. She will be graduating in the spring of 2018 and then hopes to work abroad in Australia.

## **INSTITUTE’S INTERNS AND VOLUNTEERS**

**Liesa Abel - Intern**

Liesa graduated from St. Petersburg High School in 2011, and spent a gap year living in Israel and studying at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem before beginning her studies at Florida State University in 2012. At the Institute, she has conducted research and processed collections related to her honors thesis on American Military Physicians in immediate Post- World War II Germany, and served as an assistant coordinator at the Society for Military History Conference in March 2017. Her interests broadly include modern Europe, World War II, Holocaust Studies, and the history of Medicine. She earned dual degrees in International Affairs and History from Florida State in 2017, and will begin her Masters in History: Holocaust in Genocide Studies at the University of Amsterdam in Fall 2017.

**Caroline Bowers – Intern**

Caroline is a senior at FSU working on a double major in History and General Music, as well as a minor in Museum Studies. Her research interests focus on feminist and Civil Rights music history. She began her work with the Institute through a DIS, during which she processed collections specifically related to military musicians and USO performers. Outside her work at the Institute, she is involved with the Honors program, she plays cello in the University Philharmonic Orchestra, and she is a member of the executive board for the Sigma Alpha Iota professional music fraternity.

**Lorenzo Bright - Intern**

Lorenzo studied History at Florida State. His research interests broadly include African American history, World War II, and space history. After serving as a Conservation intern at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History, he dreams of one day working for a museum and educating the next generation of historians. At the Institute, he worked to process and create finding aids for collections related to African American involvement in the Second World War and the social, political, and economic effects of the atomic bomb.

**Eleanor “Nell” Clark - Intern**

Nell is an International Affairs and Creative Writing double major from Saint Petersburg, Florida. During her time at Florida State, she has been a Resident Assistant in Wildwood and Salley Halls, a 2016 Orientation Leader, and she currently performs research and public relations duties for the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience at FSU; her research focuses on food crises in post-World War II Nazi Germany. In the future, she hopes to work as an analyst for National Public Radio and combine her passions for writing and international affairs.

**Grant Cooper - Extern**

Grant is a Senior at Lawton Chiles High School in Tallahassee, Florida. He plans to apply to Florida State University, and attend starting in the 2018-2019 year. He works to process collections and create finding aids to better allow scholars across the world to access the Institute’s holdings. His research interests focus on American History, specifically during the Civil War, World War II, and the Cold War, and he plans to major in history and minor in criminology.

**Amelia Cross - Intern**

Amelia is majoring in International Affairs and Public Relations at Florida State. Her involvement with the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience began after taking an honors course with Dr. Piehler. Amelia then began working as an Undergraduate Assistant focusing on general publicity for the Institute and for the upcoming Society for Military History Conference. She plans to relocate to Washington D.C. after graduation with the hopes of working in government or for a non-profit organization.

**Connor Doke - Volunteer**

Connor is a senior at FSU from Inverness, Florida. He is a history major and plans to complete minors in both Spanish and Psychology. In the Fall semester of 2014, Connor was introduced to the Institute when he completed a project as a part of Dr. Piehler’s class titled, The American GI in War and Peace in World War II. Connor is currently dedicated to building an online timeline on World War II to help develop the online presence of the Institute. The timeline will help students and researchers learn more about the great amount of collections and artifacts that are present at the Institute.

**John Eubanks - Intern**

John grew up in Bonifay, Florida, where he lived until transferring to Florida State University from Chipola College in the fall of 2015. He graduated with a degree in history with a minor in philosophy in the Spring of 2017. John’s projects at the Institute focused on the GI and the Law in World War II. This project allowed him to explore the relationship between military and legal history. John was the Vice President of Risk Management for the Beta Psi chapter of Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity and was an active member of the Sailing Club at FSU.

**Olivia Foley – Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP)**

Olivia is a pre-med student studying biology. Olivia participated in the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) studying the history of medicine at the Institute. Olivia contributed to the Institute by processing collections and entering data into the FSU Archon database. She is also an active member of the Delta Zeta sorority, Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society, National Society of Colligate Scholars, Student Alumni Association, Student Boosters, Fundamentals of Research and Career Education (FORCE), Health and Educational Relief Organization (HERO), and a First Responder in the Medical Response Unit. Olivia is very interested in world cultures. In fact, Olivia and her family have hosted over 30 foreign exchange and because of these relationships, Olivia was able to travel to France for 7 weeks in the summer of 2014, and Germany and Austria for 3 weeks in the summer of 2015.

**Jacob Groh - Intern**

Jacob graduated in Spring 2017 with a major in history and a minor in philosophy. His interests in World War II include topics related to armored warfare and the European Theater of Operations. Jacob processed raw collections and worked with fellow student, Connor Doke, on a comprehensive World War II timeline for the Institute’s website. He worked to process the Institute’s largest collections, the Anne and Wayne Coloney collections, specifically focusing on the World War II-era materials.

**Destinee Haller – Work Study Student**

Destinee is a sophomore from Miami, Florida majoring in History and African American Studies. She is currently involved with the Black Female Development Circle and Southern Scholarship Foundation. In the future, she would like to pursue higher education within the realm of history. At the Institute, she is working on entering African American collections into various archival databases and hopes to increase the Institute’s African American collections.

**Michelle Ibarra - Intern**

Michelle studied Art History at Florida State with minors in History, Museum Studies, and Anthropology. She has a broad interest in material culture as well as visual and social histories. She intends to become a curator focusing on Native American art, history, and culture. She previously worked with the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, helping to document material culture from their Folklife Festival. She has worked with the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience in a Museum Studies class that put together an exhibition using the Donald Kupfer collection. During her time as an undergraduate assistant at the Institute, she helped to document collections and assist with outreach.

**Christopher Kapustin - Intern**

Chris Kapustin studied History with a minor in Museum Studies and he graduated summer 2017. He is originally from Indianapolis, Indiana, but moved to Jacksonville, Florida in 2001. He graduated from Bishop Kenny High School in 2011 and attended Florida State College of Jacksonville where he received an Associate’s Degree. Then he transferred to Florida State University, where he was an intern at the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience.

**Gillian Morton - Intern**

Gillian is a sophomore at Florida State University with a double major in History and International Affairs. Her interest in history comes from her father, who received his PhD in military history from FSU and is an active duty Colonel in the United States Army. Having grown up an Army Brat, Gillian has no hometown, but has lived in six US states (LA, FL, NY, VA, PA, SC) and two German cities. Gillian is particularly interested in World War II history, having visited many important European battlefields and landmarks. She enjoys focusing on the role of women in the military during WWII because of the inspiration of her own mother, who was an Army helicopter pilot.

**Megan Quinn - Intern**

Megan is a junior at FSU with a double major in History and Editing, Writing, and Media. She has taken many classes pertaining to World War II, and is currently in her second semester as an editorial assistant at the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience. She is interested in writing and would like to work in publishing as an editor once she graduates. Last summer, Megan spent two months in Ghana volunteering in a rural village as a teacher's aide. In the summer of 2017, she traveled to Peru to work at a wildlife rescue center.

**Lyndee Rose - Intern**

Lyndee grew up in Orlando, Florida and graduated from The First Academy. She attended Florida State University, majoring in Social Sciences with a minor in Professional Communications. She actively participated in the Direct Individual Study program at the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, served as a member of Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity, and interned for the State of Florida Lottery. Passionate for politics, Lyndee worked as the Executive District Secretary for Senator Hutson of District 7. Lyndee aspires to pursue a career as a lobbyist for the Americans with Disabilities Association.

**Hannah Shapiro - Intern**

Hannah is an Editing, Writing, and Media Major at Florida State University. Though she graduated from Satellite High School in 2015, she is in the midst of her junior year and plans to graduate next summer. In addition to her rigorous course work, Hannah is an active member of the Florida State Honors Program. She is currently a Colloquium Leader for the Honor’s Freshman Class and will be teaching her first classes this semester. Hannah is an executive member of her sorority Alpha Omicron Pi and the President of one of the five Florida State University A Cappella groups, Coda A Cappella. Last semester, Hannah completed a Directed Individual Study at the Institute on World War II studying the impact the Merchant Marines had on the war effort.

**Julianna Witt - Intern**

Julianna is a Junior at Florida State University majoring in History, with a minor in Museum Studies. She has been an intern with the Institute since Spring 2017, and is focusing on Holocaust studies. She hopes to work with Holocaust related objects and/or archives at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C. or the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York.

## **DR. PIEHLER’S GRADUATE STUDENTS**

**Kyle Bracken**

Kyle is a doctoral candidate in History at Florida State University. His research investigates the influence of the natural world on World War II operations in the Southwest Pacific, with specific regard to the expanding use of chemical agents by Allied forces. Kyle’s work has been funded by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, and he is the History Department Walbolt Research Fellow for Spring 2017. Portions of his project have been presented at annual meetings of the Society for Military History and the Organization of American Historians.

**Paul Clemans**

Lieutenant Colonel Paul Clemans earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Engineering from the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy. Since then, he has been serving as an U. S. Air Force officer in support of various acquisition, operational analysis, and academic instruction efforts. Paul is currently pursuing a doctorate degree in U. S. History at Florida State University which will culminate with his dissertation entitled, "America's Foreign Airport Development Program." The dissertation will explore the effectiveness of the U. S. government's efforts to build airports in South America immediately prior to World War II.

**Richard Davis**

A native Kentuckian, Davis enrolled as a PhD graduate student in the Department of History at Florida State University in the Fall of 2013, with 20th Century US History as his major field. Prior to enrolling at FSU, he retired from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet Department of Highways after more than 27 years of public service. A US Army veteran with three tours of duty in direct support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, Davis retired from the United States Army Reserve in 2007 with the rank of Major. He holds an MA degree in US History (2013) and a BS degree in Environmental Engineering Technology (1992) from Murray State University, as well as an AS degree from the University of Kentucky (1988). Davis’ dissertation topic focuses on the life and contributions of renowned oral historian and World War II Combat Historian, Dr. Forrest Carlisle Pogue.

**Jeremiah Fisher**

Jeremiah is a full-time employee of Florida State University, as well as a doctoral student of History. He graduated Summa Cum Laude from Louisiana State University (B.A., 2003), and holds M.A. degrees in International Affairs (2005) and History (2015). His areas of interest are War and Society, Anglo-Irish history, diplomatic history, Atlantic history, and twentieth-century intellectual history of Europe and the United States. His dissertation focuses on the transatlantic diplomatic history of Ireland in the period of the Second World War (known in Ireland as “The Emergency”). A native Cajun from Lafayette, Louisiana, he enjoys good food shared with good friends, his husband, Scott, and his schipperke, Dexter.

**Allyson Gates**

Allyson is a Ph.D. candidate working with Dr. Piehler. She is currently writing a dissertation entitled, "Bickering Brass: Interservice Rivalry, Defense Unification, and the Pacific War," which looks at the interservice conflicts during the Second World War and attempts to understand how these led to the creation of the Department of Defense in the early postwar period. In support of her research and writing, Allyson has received such awards as the Dorothy P. and Margaret A. Johnsen Graduate Fellowship in American History from Florida State University, the Bernard M. Rosoff Memorial Master’s Thesis Fellowship from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, the Edward S. Miller Research Fellowship in Naval History from the Naval War College Foundation, and most recently the Society for Military History ABC-Clio Research Award. Allyson also had the privilege to attend the West Point Summer Seminar in Military History in 2015. Having already presented her work at the American Historical Association and the Society for Military History, Allyson looks to finish writing and graduate in the spring of 2018.

**Takahito Moriyama**

Takahito studies modern American history, working with Dr. G. Kurt Piehler since the fall of 2012. After receiving a B.A. from Osaka University and a M.A. from Kyoto University in Japan, Taka was awarded the Fulbright Graduate Study Grant and he entered the Ph.D. program of history at Florida State University. With research interests in modern conservatism, political advertising, and political consultants in American democracy, he is writing his dissertation on direct mail fundraising in right-wing politics.

**Hillary Sebeny**

Hillary is a doctoral candidate in US History working with Dr. Kurt Piehler, having received her MA from Florida State in 2014. Her dissertation concerns the Antarctic expeditions of Rear Admiral Richard Evelyn Byrd and their impact on mid-century America and the history of science. Since starting graduate school with Dr. Piehler, her research has been awarded funding from the Rockefeller Archives, the Eisenhower and FDR Presidential Libraries, and she will be serving as the Department of History’s Walbolt Fellow during the Fall 2017 semester.

**Jason Ratcliffe**

Jason is a first year PhD student under Dr. G. Kurt Piehler, and is working on the relationship between the United States and the Philippines. He graduated from the University of Utah in 2013 with a BA in History, and has been at Florida State University since Fall 2014. His master's thesis focused on religion in the Philippines and American missionaries operating in the early years of the twentieth century. His dissertation will highlight the experience of the Philippines and the Filipinos in the Second World War. A mastery of multiple Philippine languages and dialects will benefit Jason in bringing this narrative to light. Jason worked as an archival assistant for the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience in the Spring semester of 2016. As a graduate assistant, Jason was responsible for several projects. He sorted incoming collections, while also monitoring and aiding undergraduate students who were digitizing portions of multiple collections, including our noteworthy Edward Sidote Collection. As his primary task, Jason edited the online transcription of the Bill Bailey Collection, and wrote its headnote. As one of Dr. Piehler's graduate students, Jason continues to be an asset to the Institute whenever he is needed.

## **RESEARCHERS**

Every year, the Institute eagerly reaches out to and hosts researchers. We are always open to students, faculty, and staff of FSU; however, we are always pleased when a researcher from another institution shows interest in our collections. Once we receive a research request, our archivist, Mike Kasper, works with the researcher and staff to create a list of collections which pertain to the researcher’s work. As we detail more of our collections onto Archon, through the university’s Special Collections, the researchers are now able to view our virtual catalogue and contact us with the specific collections with which they would like to work.

With the generous Cundy Fund for World War II Era Research, we are able to offer a $500 travel grant to one worthy scholar or graduate student researcher annually to the archives at the Institute on WWII to do research. The applicants must send a research proposal along with other documentations. To find out more at about applying, go to our website at <http://ww2.fsu.edu/research/travel-grant>.

This year, we had our first recipient, Anna Anderson, from the University of Houston. For her dissertation, “Brother in Arms? Racism and Anti-Semitism in the Prisoner of War Camps of World War II Europe,” she looks at African American and Jewish American prisoners of war in German concentration camps.

With the help of Mike Kasper and the other staff during her stay, Anna was able to use eighty-three of the Institute’s collections pertaining to prisoners of war, the Nuremburg Trials, War Correspondence, and many of our oral histories. Whenever researchers come to the Institute, it is mutually beneficial for the researchers and the staff. The student staff has the opportunity to work one-on-one with graduate students, and other professionals.

One of our researchers this year was Kaete O’Connell from Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In the widest context, her study will foster a better understanding of how American occupation policies evolved from an emphasis on punitive actions against Germany to one focused on national rehabilitation.  Ms. O’Connell promises to offer a more nuanced understanding toward the evolution of American attitudes and policies toward humanitarian relief.  For example, President Franklin D. Roosevelt envisioned a hard occupation and opposed Germany receiving outside food aid.  Attitudes only gradually shifted after V-E Day but as Ms. O’Connell’s preliminary research indicates, it should not be simply told as a response to Cold War exigencies.  In 1945, the ban on outside food aid distressed many American humanitarian workers and their supporters.  In response to these concerns, the Administration of Harry S. Truman softened policies with regarding food imports.  As Ms. O’Connell’s work will argue, the Berlin Blockade and worsening relations with the Soviet Union further promoted a reorientation of food policies to a vital tool of soft power to promote American interests.   Germany served as a test case for the use of food aid by the United States as one more tool to counter the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Although the Institute was unable to name Ms. O’Connell as the first recipient of the Cundy Award, her application was a strong one, and funds were found to defray part of the expenses for her first visit to Florida State University to consult our collections.  During her first visit to the Institute in 2016, and subsequent one the following year, Ms. O’Connell surveyed over a dozen collections, including several oral histories of German civilians recounting their postwar experiences.  One of things that was impressive about Ms. O’Connell’s temperament was her willingness to engage my undergraduate assistants who assisted in locating collections relevant to her work.

# **HOSTING THE 84TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR MILITARY HISTORY**

On March 30-April 2, 2017, the Institute had the honor of hosting the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History (SMH), “Global War: Historical Perspectives,” at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. Planning and organizing a conference is a multi-year project; the Institute bid to host the 2017, and received the endorsement of the Board of Trustees of the SMH in 2013. The SMH depends on host institutions to organize virtually every aspect of an annual meeting, from determining the Call for Papers, collecting proposals for sessions, organizing the book exhibit, finding financial patrons to underwrite receptions, collecting registration fees, and a myriad of other details. Institute staff, especially Anne Marsh, worked closely with the Program Committee to ensure that they had copies of all the proposals for the sessions.

In conjunction with the SMH president, the Institute encouraged papers focusing on Global War, particularly the two world wars. Over the four–day conference, about 266 papers were presented by scholars from 42 states and 12 countries. The Institute organized about 85 sessions that covered the breadth of military history from Ancient Rome to the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Over a dozen panels focused on the conference theme of the Global World Wars. Serendipitously, the conference coincided with the centennial of America’s entrance into the First World War. At this year’s meeting, there was research presented by graduate students, professors, and many other prominent military historians.

Hosting the SMH meeting facilitated the participation of FSU faculty and graduate students. Among those presenting papers included Kyle Bracken, Allyson Gates, Chris Juergens, Jan Ruth Mills, and Sarah Patterson. Lt. General Jay Garner (U.S. Army, Retired) delivered the keynote address for the conference following the society’s annual banquet. General Garner graduated from FSU with a bachelor’s degree in history over the course of his distinguished career that included two tours of duty in Vietnam and service as the director of the Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance for post-war Iraq. General Garner continued a long tradition of the key note speaker addressing current issues.

Virtually the entire conference was managed successfully by a team of 25 undergraduate students and 5 graduate students. Jordan Bolan, a graduating senior, served as floor manager and led the team in managing all aspects of the four-day meeting. This created a rare opportunity for the students to add to their resumes, but more importantly to give them a real-world opportunity to apply their classroom skills. The Institute boasted a wide realm of opportunities for students to gain practical skills through the planning, production, and post-production administrative processes of the conference. With guidance from Dr. Piehler, Mike Kasper, and Anne Marsh, our staff and interns had the opportunity to effectively engage the professional world.

The SMH greatly increased the visibility of the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience, the Department of History, and the entire university, especially our efforts to meet the needs of today’s veterans. Among the most immediate impact of this visibility would be Allentown Productions, based at Universal Studios in California, reaching out to the Institute for assistance with a Netflix production focusing on the Medal of Honor recipients from the Second World War. We at the Institute, feel very fortunate for the many opportunities this event created and has continued to create for the students, for scholarship, and for the promotion of the Institute’s goals and ideals.

## **REACHING A BROADER PUBLIC**

In hosting the annual meeting of the SMH, the Institute wanted to engage the general public with the research of military historians and important questions they seek to address. To inaugurate the 84th Annual meeting, Dr. Rafe Blaufarb, director of the Institute on Napoleon and the French Revolution at Florida State University, spoke to an audience made up of members of the SMH and from the broader community. To increase the visibility and recognition of scholars who received the SMH Distinguished Book Prize, the Institute sponsored a book signing at Barnes and Noble Bookstore in Jacksonville. Michael Livington and Kelly DeVries, editors of *The Battle of Crecy: A Casebook* participated in this signing.

On the Saturday of the conference, we sponsored three public programs, including the screening of **The Great War** (WGBH-Boston) for the **American Experience Series** on PBS, which featured a question and answer session with series producer, Stephen Ives. The Institute also organized, for the first time at an SMH meeting, a special outreach to pre-collegiate teachers on the Saturday of the conference. This was a special part of the conference, as it allowed for an intimate, round-table discussion about the importance and promotion of history education in a K-12 setting. A combined event with undergraduate students, K-12 teachers, and college professors, it was a wonderful opportunity for members of the Institute’s undergraduate staff to discuss history in our schools and network with professionals.

To build broader interest in the SMH in the Greater Jacksonville community, Dr. Piehler gave a public lecture at the Cummer Museum and Gardens on January 17, 2017. In inviting Dr. Piehler to speak, the Cummer sought to highlight the opening of a new exhibit focusing on the art of WWI. Piehler spoke on the relationship of war and art. Along with this public lecture, the Institute supported the publication of “rack” cards highlighting collections at the Cummer centered around war and society. This “rack” card was distributed in the registration packet given to all conference attendees.

## **SMH FIELD TRIPS**

In hosting the annual meeting of the SMH, the Institute wanted to support cultural tourism to the State of Florida. Conservatively we estimate the 600 attendees fostered 500,000 dollars of economic activity for the Sunshine State. As part of the meeting, the Institute organized several field trips to highlight distinctive historical and cultural sites distinctive to Greater Jacksonville. Our field trips included:

**Fernandina Beach Tour, Kingsley Plantation, Karibo Café Restaurant, and Fort Clinch**

Tuesday, March 30, 2017

This field trip featured a guided tour of Kingsley Plantation at the Tumucuan Ecological & Historical Preserve in Jacksonville, built by influential Second-Spanish Period merchant and planter Zephaniah Kingsley and his Senegalese wife, Anna Madigine Jai. The tour included Amelia Island, an iconic sea island located less than an hour north of downtown Jacksonville, and Fort Clinch, a masonry coastal fortification first constructed in the decade after the Second Seminole War.

**Walking Tour – Top to Bottom**

Friday, March 31, 2017

A 10-block walk, lasting an hour and 50 minutes, the “Top to Bottom” tour explored seven buildings in downtown Jacksonville. While gazing on a rooftop and exploring the secret underground tunnels beneath downtown, guests heard the stories of the River City from the Great Fire to the First Hollywood.

**Museum of Contemporary Art**

Friday, March 31, 2017

The Museum of Contemporary Art is a private, nonprofit visual arts educational institution of the University of North Florida. MOCA Jacksonville works to serve the community and emphasize modern and contemporary art from 1960-present. MOCA Jacksonville creates more than 95% of its exhibition, along with catalogs and scholarly commentary.

**Cummer Museum and Lunch**

Saturday, April 1, 2017

The Cummer Museum of Arts & Gardens, located on the banks of the St. Johns River, houses nearly 5,000 objects in its permanent collection of world-class pieces from 2100 B.C. to the 21st Century. Its century-old history bears the design of the first names in landscape design and horticulture. The 2.5 acres of historic gardens exemplifies the 20th Century garden design compromised of fountains, reflecting pools, and sculptures.

**St. Augustine Tour: Ft. Castillo De San Marcos, Conch House Restaurant, and Flagler College**

Sunday, April 2, 2017

Unique to North American architecture, the Castillo de San Marcos is the oldest masonry fortress in the United States. With the “bastion system” of fortification, the fort displays the culmination of hundreds of years of military defense and engineering. It is one of only two fortifications worldwide built from a semi-rare limestone called coquina. Guests were also taken to Flagler College, which is a small, private residential university displaying stunning Spanish architecture. Tours highlighted the architectural heritage of the former Hotel Ponce de Leon, built by Henry M. Flagler. The world’s largest collection of Louis Comfort Tiffany, stained-glass windows can be found in Flagler’s dining hall.

You can find more information about the 84th Annual Meeting of the Society for Military History at <http://ww2.fsu.edu/smh-conference>.

# **TEACHING**

The History Department at Florida State University is recognized as one of the leading institutions for the study of war and society, with special strengths in the study of Napoleonic Era and Twentieth Century Europe. The Institute on World War II and the Human Experience offers a distinctive contribution to this wider program by offering unique collection of primary sources available for research. Since the Institute’s founding, graduate students at Florida State have drawn on our collections for seminar papers, master’s theses, and doctoral dissertations. Graduate students in the public history program, and other fields of study, have an opportunity to gain valuable practical experience in archival processing as paid assistants. Since the Institute founding in 1997, the History Department has generously funded at least one graduate assistantship within the Institute.

As a member of the History Department, Dr. G. Kurt Piehler served as a major professor in 2016-17 for nine graduate students and as a member of the doctoral committee of five students. The training of graduate students is an important mission for a research university of the caliber of Florida State University. At the same time, graduate students play a pivotal role in the life of the university, especially as apprentice undergraduate instructors. Attracting the “best and brightest” from not only Florida, but also Ohio, New Hampshire, Kentucky, Colorado, Utah, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Japan strengthens the quality of instruction undergraduates receive in the classroom. During the past academic year, Dr. Piehler’s doctoral students taught the following courses:

* Kyle Bracken AMH 4542 War and American Society (Fall 2016)
* Allyson Gates AMH 2020 U.S. History since 1877 (Fall 2016 & Spring 2017)
* Takahito Moriyama ASH 3100 History of Asia (Fall 2016 & Spring 2017)
* Hillary Sebeny AMH 4542 War and American Society (Spring 2017)

One of the signs of the strength of the graduate program is the ability of students to outside fellowship and grants. These awards include:

**Kyle Bracken**

ORISE Fellowship, Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency

**Allyson Gates**

Eisenhower Foundation Research Grant

U.S. Army Center of Military History’s Dissertation Year Fellowship

Society for Military History ABC-Clio Research Award

**Takahito Moriyama**

Alvin Achenbaum Travel Grant, Duke University

**Hillary Sebeny**

Travel Grant, Rockefeller Archives Center

Travel Grant, Franklin D. Roosevelt Library

Pre-doctoral Fellowship, Smithsonian Institution

Presenting scholarship is an important component of the professional development of younger scholar in training. Students working with Dr. Piehler made the following scholarly presentations:

**Kyle Bracken**

“A New Phase of Gas Warfare: the Oro Bay Chemical Warfare Conference 10-13 October 1944, Society for Military History, Jacksonville, Florida, March 30-April 2, 2017.

**Allyson Gates**

“JANFU: The Joint Foul Up at Pearl Harbor and Postwar Consequences” presented at the Society of Military History, Jacksonville, Florida, March 30-April 2, 2017.

“Reducing Duplication and Overlap: The Process of Military Unification and Overlap in the Second World War and After,” American Historical Association, Denver, Colorado, January 5-8, 2017.

**Takahito Moriyama**

“Multicultural Conservatism and Latino/a in the 1970s,” in the Society of American History,” Kansai University, Kansai, Japan, July 9, 2016.

"Power of Political Consultants: Right-Wing Fundraising in New York, 1946-1968," in the University of Alabama Graduate History Association Conference on Power and Struggle,” Tuscaloosa, Alabama, October 6, 2017.

“Advertising Conservatism: Political Consultants and Media from the 1950s to the 1970s,” Japanese Association for American Studies, Tokyo Woman’s Christian University, Tokyo, Japan, June 4, 2016.

**Jason Ratcliffe**

“Savior from Civilization: Bishop Brent and the Role of the Protestant Missionary in Affecting Social Change and Protecting Traditional Religion in the Philippines, 1901-1918, " 5th Annual Ways of Knowing Graduate Conference on Religion at Harvard Divinity School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 27-29, 2017.

“Savior from Civilization: Bishop Brent's Attempt to Define the Role of the Protestant Missionary in the Colonial Philippines, 1901-1917,” 8th Annual Graduate Student History Conference on Power and Struggle at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, October 8, 2016.

The nurturing of undergraduates is an equally important component of Dr. Piehler’s duties as professor and Institute Director. Dr. Piehler regularly offers an upper-division course on World War II that focuses on the global history of this conflict. He last offered this course in Fall 2016 and in Summer 2017, and taught a joint undergraduate and graduate student class focusing on U.S. History between 1920-1945. These courses have served as a recruiting ground for undergraduates to work in the Institute, undertake honor’s theses related to the Second World War, and complete independent studies under Dr. Piehler’s direction.

Like many of the current staff at the Institute, Brianna McLean, one of the current assistants to the director, started her experience with the Institute through the World War II class she took with Dr. Piehler. One of the assignments Dr. Piehler had his class complete was a crowdsourcing project. This assignment focused on the preservation and study of history through the interaction with letters sent by GIs to their loved ones at home. The classes read the handwritten letters of Sydney Rochelson Collection, transcribed the letters, annotated specific details to provide contextual knowledge, and posted them onto the Scripto platform for public viewing. These activities provided an important look into the work that historians do in preserving and presenting the distinct perspectives of the individuals who participated in some of the most important events in history and present them to the public in an accessible manner. Not only were the activities important for sharpening writing, research, and critical thinking skills, but to interact with such historical documents was uniquely engaging in that it allowed a small window through which to understand the varied experiences of different American GIs and provided access to a primary resource that would not have been available to undergraduate students.

Several history majors enroll in the internship course offered by the History Department in order to participate in the work of the Institute. Developed by Professor Jennifer Koslow, who directs the History Departments public history program, students undertake a range of duties for the Institute, most often the processing of archival collections and cataloguing them in Archon. The Institute also host interns from the Editing, Writing, and Media housed in the English Department, and Museum Studies minor coordinated by the Art History Department. In 2016-17 Megan Quinn, Editing, Writing, and Media major and intern at the Institute, served as an editorial assistant for the World War II series that Dr. Piehler edits for Fordham University Press. In this capacity, Ms. Quinn reviewed manuscripts for possible publication, identified potential peer reviewers to vet reviews considered for the series, and developed publicity materials for the Institute’s annual joint Veteran’s Day Lecture held at Fordham’s Lincoln Center Campus in Manhattan. We are proud to have students from many different majors conducting internships here. Not only have they processed collections, they have had, and continue to have many opportunities to edit Dr. Piehler’s work, manage events, and serve in many other aspects of running the Institute.

One of the strengths of the Institute is the placement of Institute students and alumni. In the summer of 2017, two Institute interns, Michele Ibarra and Emily Woessner. were recipients of Smithsonian internships. Jordan Bolan, who began at the Institute as a UROP intern her first year in Fall 2013, started a position as program officer with the Woman in Military Service for America Memorial in Washington, D.C. in September 2017.

# **OUTREACH**

## **UNIVERSITY OUTREACH**

The Institute sponsors an annual spring and fall lecture aimed at both the Florida State University community and the broader public. The fifth annual fall lecture was held on November 1, 2016 with John Kinder, Associate Professor of History and American Studies at Oklahoma State University. One of his areas of study includes disabled veterans in modern American society. His book, *Paying with Their Bodies: American War and the Problem of the Disabled Veteran* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), examines the history of disabled veterans in modern America, with a special emphasis on the decades surrounding World War I. Kinder’s other area of study focuses on how zoos, both in the United States and around the globe, have been transformed during periods of military conflict. His lecture was titled “Open Wounds: Disabled Veterans and the American Century.” During his visit, Dr. Kinder not only consulted the Institute’s holdings, he met individually with interns and graduate students about their research.

Since 2003, Dr. Piehler has edited a book series with Fordham University Press, New York, NY, that has published over twenty books on the Second World War. In 2012, he initiated a collaboration with the Press to sponsor an annual Veterans Day program, at the Manhattan campus of Fordham University, featuring the distinguished veterans of the Second World War. For the 2016 lecture, Dr. Panteleymon Anastasakis, an independent scholar who specializes in twentieth-century Balkan history, World War II, collaboration and resistance in times of war, and church-state relations, presented his recently published book, *The Church of Greece under Axis Occupation in World War II*. It examines how the Church of Greece responded to the economic, political, and social troubles in Greece during the interwar period, including the Greek-Turkish population exchange, the rise of communism and fascism, and the Great Depression. He earned his BA and MA in history from Florida State University, and his Ph.D. in modern European history from the University of Minnesota.

In co-sponsoring this event with Fordham University, the Institute was able to benefit by presenting programs at venue, free-of-charge, that was next to Lincoln Center and only a few blocks from midtown. Audiences for the Veterans Day lecture have been diverse, with a conducive amount of local college students, FSU alumni, and readers eager to learn more about the Second World War.

This year, the Institute also continued to provide tours to individuals and small groups. Dr. Piehler continues as a resource to middle and high school students completing National History Day projects. At this year’s History Day, two local high school students, Creed King and Kate Powell, used our archives for their project, *Law, Not War: Benjamin Ferencz’s Lifelong Stand on Peace Through Justice.* We are proud to say that they won first place in the Senior Group Exhibit. Frequently, Dr. Piehler is called upon to speak to the media and in 2016-17, he had several appearances on Chinese television networks, based both in Washington, DC and Beijing.

The Institute received an invitation from the FSU Foundation in 2016-2017 to make a presentation at the annual luncheon of the members of the James D. Wescott Society. Many of our undergraduate staff were able to work and mingle with professionals. The Westcott Society honors those who committed to making an estate gift to Florida State University.

## **INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH**

In September 2016, Dr. SATO Yoichi, a leading urban historian from Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan came to FSU to examine the physical slides from the Oliver Austin Collection (13.0075) and helped to order the slides in the proper chronological order and subject order, using his expertise as an expert on historical photography. He kindly gave two lectures and interacted with students in Dr. Culver's “The History of the US and East Asia" undergraduate survey course and "War and Home Front in East Asia" graduate course.

In November, three representatives from the Tokyo-based Showa-kan, Japan's leading museum of wartime and the immediate postwar period, came to discuss with Dr. Culver the possibilities for an exhibition in Tokyo of select images from the collection.  They were also interested in having it available in databases in computer terminals in their audio-visual archiving room, which attracts researchers from all over Japan and the world.  Plans have been made to hold the exhibition in March 2018, for which Dr. Culver will write the introduction.  Her introduction will also become part of the exhibition catalog published by the Showa Museum.

In December 2016, Dr. Culver was invited to give a presentation about her digital archive at the invitation-only symposium 'Bodies and Structures:  Deep-Mapping the Spaces of Modern Japanese History' at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH).  Leading Japan studies specialists from all over the country were invited. These specialists work with spatial schemes and maps to engage with history, and will create a linked meta-data digital space in a future large-scale digital humanities project.

Since Spring 2016, when Dr. Culver received a Grant in Engaged Learning (GEL) for her History of the US and East Asia diversity course, students have been researching individual images in the collection and writing professional captions for them.  They have worked with GEL graduate mentors Kyle Bracken and Hillary Sebeny, who shepherded them through the process and uploaded their captions after editing by Dr. Culver.  The process of uploading the captions has continued with Dr. Culver's UROP student assistant Katie McKenzie.

In Fall 2016, students in Dr. Culver's senior seminar on Japanese Imperialism and War, and graduate seminar on War and Home Front in East Asia also chose a material object from the WWII Institute Collection to research and write a museum caption.  They enjoyed interacting with archivist Mike Kasper, who pointed them towards resources, and helped them choose objects.  These captions were also later uploaded to the Institute's online digital collections.

# **FUTURE PLANS**

The Institute would like to continue the great progress we have made in the past year in scholarship, student opportunities, and fundraising. Securing a permanent endowment for the Institute’s Archivist is our top priority. A bequest from the state of Earl “Bill” Bailey has allowed the Institute to hire Mike Kasper to serve as half-time archivist with funding through June 30, 2019. The Institute also seeks to increase funding in order to hire additional undergraduate assistants who have completed unpaid internships and have demonstrated exceptional leadership abilities.

Assisted by our archivist, Mike Kasper, we would like to continue cataloguing our collections into an online open accessible database through Florida State, Archon, which allows users with access to WorldCat to discover our holdings. Approximately five percent of our over 6000 collections are currently catalogued, much of which was accomplished this year. Online finding aids along with other publicity efforts have increased research inquiries from the United States and abroad.

We would also like to increase campus visibility for the Institute by sponsoring an annual movie night at the Askew Theater. The Institute’s hosting of Casablanca on Monday, April 3, 2017 attracted an audience of over 160 students. The Institute will sponsor a free showing of the *Best Years of Our Lives* this fall. This event will also serve to recruit undergraduates for the lecture course on the history of the American Veteran, offered by Dr. Piehler in Spring 2018.

As we expand our team of undergraduate and graduate students, we want to continue to encourage them to apply for external grants and fellowships. In Summer 2017, two of our undergraduate staff served as interns at the Smithsonian Institution (National Museum of American History and National Museum of American History). Also, a graduate student studying with Dr. Piehler was in residence as a pre-doctoral student at the Smithsonian Institution Archives. Additionally, another graduate student received from the U.S. Army Center for Military History, the Dissertation Fellowship for 2017-18.

The Institute is also proud to be affiliated with, and would like to continue to build relationships with the military academies and postgraduate schools of the U.S. Armed Forces. In fall 2017, three air force officers will be earning doctorates under the Institute Director and an army officer will be enrolled in the master’s program slated to teach at West Point after completing his degree.

As the Institute continues to grow and expand our university and public outreach, we are striving to forge formal and informal partnerships with other non-profit institutions including the Cummer Museum and Gardens (FL), Jacksonville Public Library (FL), and the Intrepid Museum in New York City. In the upcoming year, we are participating in a multi-institutional consortium that includes scholars from Cornell, Texas Christian, and Muhlenberg College which seeks to digitize records related to the social history of American GI in World War II. This effort is being led by Professor Ed Gitre of Virginia Tech and the initial efforts have received a planning grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

This upcoming year’s currently planned university partnerships will include a one-day conference focusing on Austria and the Second World War. Professor Suzanne Sinke of the History Department is conference convener and has submitted a grant application to the Bostiber Foundation to fund the bulk of this conference that will include scholars from both sides of the Atlantic.

Presently, a documentary is being produced, with Institute student intern, Patricia Singletary, on the life of war photographer, Charlotte Mansfield. The Institute houses her massive collection of war photographs. In addition, we are supporting Professor Brian Graves, of the FSU School of Communications, and his efforts to encourage his undergraduate students to use Institute holdings for student-produced documentaries.

# **FINANCIAL SUPPORT**

As part of Florida State University, the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience receives budgetary support from the History Department and College of Arts and Sciences. However, in order to properly fund our scholarly activities, we rely on private philanthropy to preserve and catalogue our collections. Only as result of a bequest from the Estate of Earl “Bill” Bailey was the Institute able to hire Mike Kasper as an archivist on a 12-month stipend for three years. Mike works with a team of undergraduate assistants, also supported by private funding, and over the past year we have succeeded in cataloguing about 163 of the 7000 collections in our holdings. The Institute has been fortunate to attract some of the best and brightest students Dr. Piehler has encountered in his career to work on this vital project. Many of these students complete internships for academic credit, but we are eager to find additional funds to retain them on the Institute staff until they graduate from FSU.

The Institute has made great strides since our founding in 1997, and Dr. Piehler and his dedicated assistants would like to keep the momentum. We hope you will consider including us in your philanthropic plans. Not only will you be ensuring that the Institute can make our collections more widely available, you will be providing funds that benefit deserving undergraduates. If you would like to learn more about the Institute or would like to consider making a gift, please contact the Institute Director, Professor G. Kurt Piehler at [kpiehler@fsu.edu](mailto:kpiehler@fsu.edu), or visit our website at <http://ww2.fsu.edu/support-us>.

## **ENDOWMENTS AND CHARITABLE GIFTS**

The Institute would like to acknowledge the support it receives from the following permanent endowments:

**Duane and Betty Bohnstedt** 460th Bomb Group (H) Collection Endowed Fund

**Harold Baumgarten and Samuel M. Gibbons** Endowed Fund

**Thomas C. Cundy** Fund for World War II Era Research

**Anne and John Daves** Archival Fellowship

**George and Marian Langford** Endowment in the Department of History

**Pearl Tyner** Endowment for the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience

**Harold and Kay Ronson** Endowment

**Rintels** Professorship of the Humanity at the Institute for World War II and the Human Experience

**TBUF (Tallahassee Branch of the University of Florida)** Memorial Endowed Graduate Fellowship for the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience

**TBUF** Memorial Endowed Acquisition Fund for the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience

**Wayne and Anne Coloney** Endowment for the World War II Institute

We also want to recognize the following individuals for their charitable gifts to the Institute in 2016-17:

**Mr. Earl “Bill” Bailey\***

**Duane and Betty Bohnstedt\***

**Kevin M. Dougherty**

**Mr. and Mrs. William Eichenberg**

**G. Kurt Piehler and Susan G. Contente**

**Major R.A. Simler**

**Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Lee Szaroleta**

\*Estate Gift

We also want to recognize the support offered to the Institute on World War II and the Human Experience to host he annual meeting of the Society for Military History in 2017:

**The College of Arts and Sciences, Florida State University**

**The Veteran Legacy Center, Florida State University**

We regret in advance any omissions in our annual report; please bring any to the attention of the Institute Director, Dr. G. Kurt Piehler, at [kpiehler@fsu.edu](mailto:kpiehler@fsu.edu).

Respectfully submitted,

G. Kurt Piehler, Director & Associate Professor of History

Michael Kasper, Archivist

Anne Marsh, Administrative Assistant

Jordan Bolan, Institute’s Supervisor of Students and Senior Assistant to the Director

Jill Szaroleta, Senior Assistant to the Director

Christina Armes, Assistant to the Director

Jeffrey Henley, Assistant to the Director

Brianna McLean, Assistant to the Director

Emily Woessner, Assistant to the Director

Liesa Abel, Intern

Caroline Bowers, Intern

Lorenzo Bright, Intern

Eleanor Clark, Intern

Grant Cooper, Extern

Amelia Cross, Intern

Connor Doke, Volunteer

John Eubanks, Intern

Olivia Foley, UROP

Jacob Groh, Intern

Destinee Haller, Work Study Student

Michelle Ibarra, Intern

Christopher Kapustin, Intern

Gillian Morton, Intern

Megan Quinn, Intern

Lyndee Rose, Intern

Hannah Shapiro, Intern

Julianna Witt, Intern

# **APPENDIX: COLLECTIONS RECEIVED**

*We would like to thank all of the service members and their families who donated collections between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017.*

16.0017 Edward Davis Wynot Collection

16.0018 Alexander Schmidt Collection

16.0019 Monte Allen U.S.S. Kwajalein Collection

16.0020 Raymond Morton Borgman Papers

16.0021 James Rice Spinks Collection

16.0022 FSU Museum of Fine Arts

16.0023 Fred L. Kagan Jr. Collection

16.0024 Francis Mirigliano Collection

16.0025 Morris Horowitz Collection

16.0026 William Timmes

16.0027 Richard G. Power Papers

16.0028 Shirley and Joe Gould Papers

16.0029 Raphael "Ray" Edward Cavanaugh Collection

16.0030 Simeon C. Sparkman Papers

16.0031 Wilson Averre Koontz Collection

17.0001 Bruce Swope Goodyear World War II Scrapbook

17.0002 Friedhelm Radant

17.0003 Pete Reader Collection

17.0004 Clyde Campbell Beaver

17.0005 Leigh Jamison Gifford Papers

17.0006 James R. Hancock Oral Interview Transcript

17.0007 E. Thomas and Margaret Fitzell Tifft Gilliard collection

17.0008 George L. Davis Photographs

17.0009 Henry Fremont Blake Collection

17.0010 Charles F. Pfeifer Collection

17.0011 Philip Sperling Letters