

American Heritage Center Announces 2021 Fellowship Recipients

The American Heritage Center at the University of Wyoming is proud to announce recipients of its 2021 fellowships. Each fellowship supports a 20-day research stay at the AHC. Academic scholars at any level, from graduate students to tenured faculty, are encouraged to apply.

Outstanding scholars receiving fellowships this year are Assistant Professor Jennifer Helton, PhD candidates Zephaniah Fleetwood, Rob Konkel, and master's student Matthew Brown. Their research foci are detailed below.

AHC Director Professor Paul V.M. Flesher notes, "This year we are excited to award the first joint fellowship between the American Heritage Center and the Buffalo Bill Center for the West in Cody, WY, to Kathryn McKee. The fellowship is named for Peter Simpson, who has been an important influence on AHC and the BBCW—and of course on UW and on Cody."

Peter K. Simpson Fellowship on the American West

Professional historian Kathryn McKee will use collections at the American Heritage Center and the Buffalo Bill Center of the West in Cody, Wyoming, to conduct research on several topics related to the mythology of the West to advance her knowledge and understanding about the history and myths of the American West. She plans to submit articles to the *North Carolina Historical Review*, *Journal of Southern History*, and *Montana: The Magazine of Western History*.

Alan K. Simpson Fellowship in Western Political History

Zephaniah Fleetwood, a PhD candidate at the University of California-Davis, will explore the papers of former U.S. Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt for his dissertation in which Watt as represents an emerging variant of anti-environmentalism. Fleetwood explains that he will analyze how Watt used evangelical and populist rhetoric to justify and promote his particular understanding of environmental and public land policies.

Bernard L. Majewski Research Fellowship

Rob Konkel, a PhD candidate at Princeton University, is charting a global history of the liberal international order (LIO) and US power in the world through the lens of strategic minerals between the World Wars. He argues that rivalries and anxieties over resource interdependence not only drove the creation of interwar trading blocs, but also shaped the form and structure of post-1945 geopolitical entities and international institutions. He will work with the Anaconda Company geological documents.

George A. Rentschler Fellowship on the Study of the American West

Matthew Brown, a master's student at the University of Wyoming, is writing his thesis on the production of botanical knowledge within institutions of higher education from 1890 to 1930 using Aven Nelson, the Rocky Mountain Herbarium, and the University of Wyoming as a case study. Brown will explore a variety of collections including the papers of botanists Aven Nelson, E. B. Payson, and W. G. Solheim as well as the records of the University of Wyoming's Department of Botany.

Women in Public Life Fellowship

Jennifer Helton, an assistant professor of history at Ohlone College, is writing a book-length history of women and Wyoming politics from the 1850s through the New Deal. She notes that, despite the fact that Wyoming was the first territory and state to grant full political equality to women, no systematic

scholarly book on the role of women in Wyoming politics, and the role of Wyoming in the national and international suffrage movement, has ever been written.

“The American Heritage Center holds important collections for the study of the American West, in both the long-ago past and recent decades,” observes Director Flesher. “We are pleased to award fellowships and travel grants to these excellent scholars and students to help bring researchers back to the AHC after our Covid-imposed restrictions.”

In addition to the five fellowships, the AHC also awarded eight grants of \$750 each to assist with expenses for scholars traveling from locations throughout the US researching on a wide variety of topics including American national parks, antitrust efforts, FBI investigations into the film industry, the eugenics movement, careers of composer Walter Scharf and geographer Edward Ackerman, and the use of musical theater to create a multilayered and often contradictory view of history.

The Center awards travel grants and fellowships annually. Next application due date is in March 2022.

For more information about the AHC’s travel grant and fellowship program, please see our website at <http://www.uwyo.edu/ahc/grants/>. For questions, contact AHC Simpson Archivist Leslie Waggener at lwaggen2@uwyo.edu or 307-766-2557.