WYATT EXPLORATION PROGRAM
London: World City 2015-2016
2015-2016 Wyatt Events

- Kick-Off: Friday, September 11, 4pm 251 French Hall
- UM-Flint Faculty Lecture: Vickie Larsen Wednesday, September 23, 4pm 251 French Hall
- Guest Lecturer: Robert Blyth Friday, October 9, 4pm 251 French Hall
- UM-Flint Faculty Lecture: John Ellis Thursday, October 29, 4pm 251 French Hall
- Romeo & Juliet: October 30, 31, November 1, 6, 7, 8 UM-Flint Theatre
- Guest Lecturer: Finbarr Whooley Friday, November 13, 4pm 250 French Hall
- UM-Flint Faculty Lecture: Peggy Kahn Wednesday, November 18, 4pm 251 French Hall
- London Pub Sing: Mr. Meredith Wednesday, December 9, 5:30-9:00pm Churchill's Food and Spirits, 340 S. Saginaw Street

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Department of History

Dr. Bruce A. Rubenstein, Professor      Dr. Mohamed Daassa, Lecturer
Dr. Roy S. Hanshiro, Professor         Dr. Michael B. Kassel, Lecturer
Dr. John S. Ellis, Professor           Mr. Wade Merrill, Lecturer
Dr. Thomas Henthorn, Assistant Professor  Mr. Matthew Thick, Lecturer
Dr. Christopher Molnar, Assistant Professor  Ms. Kathy Bitz, Secretary
Mr. Gregory M. Havrilcsak, Lecturer
Ms. Lacey Faulkner, Administrative Assistant

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Wyatt Exploration Program

About the Program
Each year, the Wyatt Exploration Program will provide a unique and exciting opportunity for students and faculty to join together in the intellectual exploration of the human past. Organized by the Department of History with financial support from the Wyatt Endowment, the program focuses on the history and culture of a specific place or on a particular historical topic. This theme will change on an annual basis, allowing our explorations to span the history of our country and the world beyond. The department’s Wyatt Fellow, a faculty member who is an expert in the field under exploration, will plan and organize the program. Featuring affiliated course offerings, special extra-curricular events on campus, and a competition to participate in a university-funded student travel expedition, the Wyatt Exploration Program will enrich and deepen our understanding of the world and its history.

The Department of History is thrilled with this unique opportunity for learning and enrichment that the Wyatt Exploration Program will provide at the University of Michigan-Flint. The department’s faculty looks forward to sharing these incredible experiences with our students and hopes that all of you will share in our excitement as we explore the history of the world around us.

Wyatt Travel Expedition
The culmination of each year’s exploration will take place in either the spring or summer semester with a student travel expedition led by our Wyatt Fellow. Selected from our history majors (including TCP and Honors), a group of students will be invited by the History Department to participate in this trip. Most student travel expenses will be fully funded by the Department of History. Selection will be based on several factors, including the student’s academic record and coursework in the field under study. However, the primary factor to be considered will be active participation in that year’s on-campus Wyatt Exploration events. You don’t need to have the highest GPA or to have taken courses in the subject under exploration to be selected. Rather, we are looking to assemble a diverse team of students who have demonstrated their enthusiasm and engagement with the on-campus exploration activities, who are most likely to benefit from the travel experience and who will work together most effectively as a group. Every history major is truly a potential candidate for selection and we encourage all of our students to participate and apply. Students will complete and submit an application form to be considered for the selection process in winter semester, 2015. Students must be a currently enrolled history major at the University of Michigan-Flint during the 2016 winter semester.

Guest Lecture Series
A central part of the Wyatt Exploration Program is our guest lecture series. During the course of the fall and winter semesters, the program will bring celebrated scholars from around the nation and world to our campus to speak on that year’s theme. This is a great opportunity to meet and learn from acknowledged experts in their field while developing a sense of history as an intellectual community, endeavor, and discipline. For history majors, participation in the guest lecture series is expected of all potential candidates for the travel expedition. Although we understand that students may not be able to attend all of these sessions, please try to attend as many of these events as possible to maximize your potential as a travel expedition participant.

Coursework and Extra-Curricular Activities
A list of affiliated courses will match the subject of exploration for that year. Although primarily history courses, this list may also include courses in other disciplines that complement the theme. Students will have the opportunity to take some of these courses during the academic year. If students have already taken any of these courses in previous years, this will also be recognized in the selection process for the Wyatt Travel Expedition. The exploration program provides a wonderful opportunity for additional depth of instruction and experience for those students who are taking or have taken one or more of these courses. However, history majors are still viable candidates for the travel expedition even if they have not taken any of these affiliated courses and they are encouraged to participate in other on-campus exploration activities instead. In addition to the guest lecture series and formal coursework, the Wyatt Fellow may organize co-curricular activities and discussion sessions devoted to the year’s theme. All students are invited to these activities and participation will be considered in the selection process for the travel expedition.

Wyatt Exploration Passports
To chart student participation in Wyatt events, history majors will receive a Wyatt Exploration Program Passport. Bring this passport to any Wyatt Exploration Program event or activity, and you will receive a stamp that verifies your attendance. Students will then submit this passport along with their travel application, and the number of stamps they have collected will be considered in the selection process for the travel expedition. Be sure to retrieve your passport each year from the history department after the competition is over, as you can continue to use it for the following year. Stamps collected in previous years will be considered in the travel expedition selection process. So, start collecting stamps!

For more information on the Wyatt Exploration Program visit us online at: www.umflint.edu/history/wyatt.htm
London: World City

From its inception, London has been a world city. Londinium was founded by the Romans as an outpost of a far-away empire and a gateway to the world. The city’s global and imperial links have continued to run through its two thousand year history. The capital of England, the city has drawn people from across the British Isles. The Norman Conquest brought with it renewed connections with the population of northern France and the Jews of Europe. London became a multilingual town of seamen, merchants, and immigrants. Trade and industry grew along the Thames and the Port of London, waterways which reached out across the globe. The origins of the British Empire during the reign of the Tudors brought new commodities, peoples and places within the orbit of the great city. By the mid-18th century, London was at the center of a global network of commercial and military interests that included colonies in America, India, and the Caribbean. British, Irish and European migrants converged on the ravenous city, a hive of activity and money-making known as ‘Modern Babylon.’ In the early 19th century, shipping demanded more space than the Thames could provide and vast new docks and warehouse districts were built to accommodate the commerce of an increasingly interconnected British world. The 20th century witnessed the end of empire and multiracial immigration, introducing communities from South Asia, the Caribbean and Africa. Today, new waves of immigrants from Poland look for work and wealthy Middle Easterners settle in the luxurious neighbourhoods. All are a part of the historical and cultural mix that is London.

London grew and developed in relation to its global connections. The Romans built their walled city with an eye to access, selecting a narrow spot on the Thames that could be bridged near a deep pool in the river where ships could be anchored. These sites would become London Bridge and the Port of London. If all roads lead to Rome, in Britain the Roman roads all lead through London- the basis of the British highway system to this day. Built upon communication and trade, London was one of the largest cities in Europe by 1300. As trade and commerce expanded, the population grew exponentially, settlement became ever denser and the physical size of the city increased. By the Stuart period, the rich had begun to drift to the west of the city while the poorer communities became associated with the east. By the 18th century, new resources were being built to feed, house and move a rapidly growing population. In the early 19th century, the population doubled to over 3 million. The growing volume of shipping demanded more space than the Thames could provide and vast new docks and warehouse districts were built in the hard scrabble East End to accommodate the commerce of an increasingly interconnected British world. Roads were widened, gas lighting installed and a tunnel was even dug under the Thames. With the development of department stores and high end shopping districts along Regent’s Street and Piccadilly Circus, the West End became a distinctive place of conspicuous consumption, high fashion and entertainment. The expansion of manufacturing, the railway and the introduction of steam ships continued to fuel the growth of the Victorian economy. The home of the Bank of England, the square mile “City” once walled by the Romans became the center of global finance. Like the wealthy, working class costermongers, flower girls and Cockneys have all squeezed money from the streets of London. Hundreds of stage coaches, omnibuses, Hansom cabs and other horse drawn vehicle thronged London’s teeming streets. By the end of the century, the ‘tubé’ was moving Londoners through trains underground. In 1851, the Great Exhibition was held in Hyde Park declaring London’s status as a confident and expanding imperial capital. Following the First World War, London doubled in physical size as new roads and railways opened up the suburbs of ‘Metroland’ and left the city center to the very rich and the very poor. A new focus on cleanliness, efficiency and public services left its mark on the city in the form of red phone booths and its iconic map of the underground.

The later 20th century was a difficult time for London. The subject of an intensive bombing campaign, the city was devastated by the global conflict of World War II as its population declined and over a million buildings were destroyed. The end of the war brought optimism, massive rebuilding, a welfare state to address social injustice and a new youth culture that redefined ‘Swinging London.’ However, this was cut short by a major economic recession and massive unemployment. With the dismantling of empire, the 70s and 80s brought doubt, decline and punk rockers perched on the steps of Piccadilly Circus. The dismantling of the welfare state and deindustrialization hastened by the controversial policies of Margaret Thatcher immiserated many but renewed prosperity for the “City” through international finance. A new wave of building began, as the old docklands and southern London were transformed by dizzying skyscrapers like the “Shard,” the “Gherkin,” and the “Walky Talky.” The London skyline is dominated by numerous cranes as development stretches further and further down the Thames. With a population of 8.6 million, London today is one of the world’s most dynamic cities.
Through the ages, London has projected an image of imperial power and might. To the west, Edward the Confessor erected a royal palace and built Westminster Abbey, the famed burial place of English kings. To the east, the Normans built the Tower of London to secure their power over the unruly city, its population and activities. By the late Middle Ages, royal London had become a center of power, fashion, wealth and civic pride. The Tudors and the Stuarts continued to build fine palaces in and around the city to assert royal power and control over the brash and often defiant city. With the defeat of Napoleon, Britain had conquered its major rival for global power and its victory was suitably commemorated across the city. New statues, monuments and public spaces like Trafalgar Square hailed Britain’s zenith as an imperial power. Government buildings along Whitehall were rebuilt in grand, classical style to link London with the imperialism of the Romans and the democracy of the Greeks. The construction of the magnificent Houses of Parliament at the end of the 19th century proclaimed London as a great capital of the world. The terror and destruction of the Blitz brought a powerful image of London’s strength, its endurance reflected in the famous photograph of St. Paul’s Cathedral, standing defiantly amidst the smoke and flame.

At the confluence of global currents and their own urban traditions, Londoners have been distinct, diverse, creative and unruly. The size and density of their population has brought shining opportunities and serious problems. London is a city of art, writing, entertainment and diversions of all sorts. By the Tudor period, its dense and lively population provided a thriving market for commercial theatre and the plays of William Shakespeare. In the 18th century, it was known for its many coffee houses, societies and gentleman’s clubs. Music halls and today’s theatre district in the West End provided for Victorian Londoners while Soho offered more risqué entertainments for the 20th century. The city has become known for its culture, housing some of the world’s finest art museums. Yet London has also been known for its mean streets. By the Tudor period, overcrowding, poor sanitation, food shortages and disease had earned London a sinister reputation and endemically high death rates. 18th century growth overwhelmed the old medieval system of poor relief and London became infamous for its crime, begging, prostitution and feral children, like those portrayed in Dickens’s *Oliver Twist*. In the late 19th century, the dark figure of Jack the Ripper came to personify the fears of outcaste London. The London “Bobby” and waves of social reform were called upon to impose order on the chaotic and disorderly streets. Glamouring for freedom and justice against the power of wealth and class, the mass demonstration and street protest is a venerable tradition still very much evident in London today. A city of imperial power, London is also a city of the masses- a plebeian, multicultural and boisterous world city.

**Tales of the Thames: London’s river and the British World**
Dr. Robert Blyth, National Maritime Museum
Friday, October 9 @ 4pm, 251 French Hall
Dr. Robert Blyth is senior curator of world history at the National Maritime Museum, London. In this role, he has curated galleries and exhibitions covering the maritime history of London, the history of the British East India Company, the transatlantic slave trade and its abolition, and the ceremonial use of the River Thames. He is currently working on major exhibition on the famous seventeenth-century London diarist Samuel Pepys, who was also a naval administrator.

**Collecting the City**
Dr. Finbarr Whooley, London Museum
Friday, November 13 @ 4pm, 250 French Hall
Dr. Whooley is the Director of Content at the London Museum. The museum has recently declared its ambition to move to new premises within the historic heart of the city at Smithfield General Market. Dr. Whooley will play a crucial role in helping to shape the content of this exciting new museum. Finbarr has worked in London for all his professional life and is fascinated by the history of the city and its people. He joined the Museum of London in 2014 from the Horniman Museum and Gardens, where he was Assistant Director. Dr. Whooley is a historian by training having studied history at the National University of Ireland and Museum Studies at Leicester University. He has researched and written on the history of the Irish community in London.
UM-Flint Faculty Lecture Series

Mapping Medieval London
Vickie Larsen, Associate Professor, Department of English
Wednesday, September 23 @ 4pm, 251 French Hall

Like today, medieval London was a bustling hub of citizens, visitors, and immigrants jostling to make their way in England’s richest and most populous city, the center of commerce and government. The city’s two landmarks—the Tower of London and Old St. Paul’s Cathedral—rose into the sky above narrow winding streets of shops and houses, and it was all snugly packed between the Thames River and a set of 20-foot tall ancient Roman walls. This talk will examine period maps, court records, literary descriptions, and archeological evidence to revisit medieval London, paying particular attention to how the city organized and used its spaces. There will be much to celebrate: Gothic architecture, royal processions, luxury goods, trade guilds, libraries, and literature. But if you were to have lived in London in the 14th-century, no doubt these pleasures would be eclipsed by the horrifying effects of a single bacterium, Yersinia Pestis. Half of the city died between 1348 and 1350. This talk promises a report on recent research on the skeletal remains of plague victims unearthed in 2013 during construction work under the Charterhouse, a rural monastery outside the city walls during the Middle Ages, and as it turns out, a massive burial ground.

The Hell Fire Club
John S. Ellis, Professor, Department of History
Thursday, October 29 @ 4pm, 251 French Hall

Join Dr. Ellis for a Halloween treat from merry old England. In a small bucolic town just outside of London in the 18th century, the aristocratic hedonist Sir Francis Dashwood founded a secret society that would become infamously known as the Hell Fire Club. A potent brew mixing the fraternal rituals of Freemasonry with popular English anti-Catholicism and fanciful paganism, the Hell Fire Club was a salacious aspect of the rebellious, iconoclastic and secular culture of the Enlightenment. Men of high society, including powerful politicians, participated in the club to engage in gluttony, drunkenness, sexual debauchery and blasphemy. Dressed in monks’ robes, they held mysterious rituals and hosted feasts of pleasure with prostitutes. On one memorable occasion with hilarious consequences, they even summoned the devil in the form of an ape. Benjamin Franklin was amongst Dashwood’s famous guests. Wealthy beyond avarice, Sir Francis Dashwood would transform the family estate, remodeling the gardens so as to represent the anatomy of the female body. Even more shocking, he had an elaborate system of tunnels and caves dug into a hill upon which stands the village church. Deep below the earth, the Hell Fire Club would hold its rituals and raucous parties.

Coal Not Dole: Thatcherism and the British Miners’ Strike
Peggy Kahn, Professor, Department of Political Science
Wednesday, November 18 @ 4pm, 251 French Hall

Thatcherism (Thatcher was prime minister from 1979-1990) is now widely recognized as a multi-layered form of neo-liberalism that aimed to withdraw the state from the economy and public provision, strengthen forces of private business and the capitalist market, and move British culture in the direction of individualism, “traditional family values,” and “Britishness.” Unions and the coal union in particular were key targets. Coalminers were unionized, worked in an industry nationalized after World War II, controlled a strategic resource, and had historically been adversaries of Conservative governments. The coal union in 1984 was led by a militant national leadership and had a history of militancy. However, the coalfields were regionalized: different areas had different union and political traditions and pits that varied in economic viability. In all coalfields, coal jobs were the basis on which family and community life were built. This lecture will explore the confrontation between Thatcherism and the coalfields during the year-long coal strike of 1984-5.

Affiliated Courses:
- HIS 325: History of the British Isles to 1606
- HIS 326: History of the British Isles 1606-1919
- HIS 374/574: History of the British Empire since 1790
- HIS 382: History of the British Isles since 1919
- ENG 303: Medieval Literature
- POL 345: European Politics
**Events**

**London Pub Sing with Mr. Meredith**
Wednesday, December 9, @ 5:30pm – 9:00pm
Churchill's Food & Spirits, 340 S. Saginaw Street

*REGISTRATION REQUIRED* (please contact the History Department to register)

Derived from the music hall tradition, London is famous for its pub sing-alongs. As a piano player calls out the tunes, the whole pub joins in singing the familiar refrains and choruses in an avalanche of music and good cheer. Mixing old standards, Cockney ballads, WWII anthems, West End hits and current pop favorites, the tradition features well-loved songs from London’s past and present.

Once a staple across the city, it is now featured in only a handful of pubs like the famous Coach and Horses of Soho. Don’t worry if you don’t think you know the songs— we will teach you! Don’t worry if you are a bad singer— there is no such thing in a sing-along! Come join us at Churchill’s pub for a night of tradition, humor, spirited singing and a bloody good time!

Our leader for the sing-along is “Mr. Meredith”, a London pianist and cabaret entertainer who is an expert on the tradition. Mr. Meredith studied music, drama and dance at Birmingham University and has since worked in all three fields, particularly through cabaret. His love affair with sing-along goes way back, having sung and played piano for most of his life. He has been ‘bashing the keys’ at the Coach and Horses for 8 years, holds a WWII themed sing-along at the George Tavern every Sunday and performs for many private and corporate events. In 2013, he took a sing-along show to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival where it received 5 star reviews:

“Mr M keeps the spirits high throughout, generating a wave of bonhomie from the sheer pleasure of a room united in song that he surfs with finesse” *Time Out*

“Singalong? Yes, yes, yes! Honestly, Mr Meredith and his organ should be available on the NHS such is the pure, unadulterated, joy that they provide.” *The Girl With The Edinburgh Tattoo*

“I loved this sing-a-long show so much I’ve since been back for a second time...Everyone was singing along. Even me. And it wasn’t just the drink.” *ScotsGay*

**Romeo and Juliet**
By William Shakespeare
Directed by Janet Haley

October 30, 31, November 1, 6, 7, 8
UM-Flint Theatre

Romeo and Juliet risk their lives to marry in secret, as the ancient grudge between their families ignites passionate actions of destructive violence. The UM-Flint Theatre stage will be transformed in a new way to thrust the play’s “violent delights” and their “violent ends” in explosive new ways for our audience.

*Bring your ticket stub or program to the History Department to receive a Wyatt passport stamp*

Tickets are $8.00 for students and $10 for the general public
Wyatt Travel Expedition
London 2016

We will explore many neighbourhoods and areas of London through hikes and walking tours. Amongst others, we will visit the following sites:

**Museum of London:** Featuring wonderful galleries from prehistory to the present, this museum will give us a broad overview of the history of London and its people. Its walkthrough reconstruction of a Victorian cityscape and the elaborately decorated golden coach of the Lord Mayor are among its fascinating exhibits and artefacts.

**Tower of London:** Erected by William the Conqueror in 1066, the White Tower was only the first fortification in this massive stronghold of royal power. It is the home of the 'Beefeaters', the ravens, the Crown Jewels and more than a few ghosts. The Tower of London is a UNESCO World Heritage site.

**Westminster:** The site of a royal palace and the British Parliament, Westminster is the seat of royal and democratic power in Britain. The royal court has resided at Westminster since 1049 and is today the site of Buckingham Palace. Pall Mall forms a processional way uniting the palace with the military headquarters and parade ground at Horse Guards. There, it joins with the magnificent Houses of Parliament, renown for that London icon Big Ben, and Westminster Abbey, the medieval monument to royal power and the burial place of kings. The Palace of Westminster is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**Covent Garden & London Transport Museum:** We will visit Covent Garden, the site of a famous vegetable garden since the 17th century. Today a fashionable shopping and entertainment center occupies its iconic 19th century neo-classical market sheds. Nearby is the London Transport Museum, where we will explore the history of such London icons like the Hansom cab, the double decker bus, and the 'tube'.

**Royal Palaces:** There are a whole series of historic palaces in and around London. A magnificent mansion and extensive gardens, Hampton Court was the residence of Henry VIII and remained an important royal palace through the Tudor and Stuart monarchies. Kensington Palace became a royal residence in the 17th century and is best known as the home of a young Victoria.

**Greenwich Maritime Museum / Cutty Sark:** We will take a river journey from Westminster down the Thames to Greenwich, the home of the Maritime Museum, the Cutty Sark and Greenwich Mean Time. The Maritime Museum explores the story of Britain's connection to the sea. Through its naval and mercantile power, Britannia ruled the waves. The nearby Cutty Sark allows visitors to explore the famed and restored clipper ship built in 1869.

**St. Paul's:** St. Paul's Cathedral was built in the late 17th century by Sir Christopher Wren, the third cathedral to be built on the site. It dominates the skyline and is one of London's most recognizable sites. Inside, its soaring dome, marbled spaces and expansive crypt are a virtual monument to those who made the British Empire.

**Soho/China Town:** Soho has long been known for its nightlife and clubs. China Town is its boisterous neighbour, known for its historic community, many restaurants and Chinese shops.

**London Theater:** London has long been a center of entertainment and diversion. We will visit Leicester Square, the site of many film premieres, and London's current West End theatre district. We will also visit the entertainment district during the Tudor period on the south side of the Thames. The reconstructed Globe Theatre is located there, featuring a museum and daily performances of Shakespearean theatre.

**Imperial War Museum:** The London spirit during the Blitz has become legendary. With a focus on Britain in the world wars, this museum explores the experience of ordinary people in modern war. It features galleries and incredible artefacts from the First and Second World Wars, including planes and a V1 rocket hanging in the atrium. The museum also examines Britain's current military engagements across the world. The museum is the caretaker of the prime minister's war rooms in Westminster during World War II, which houses the Winston Churchill Museum, a fascinating exhibition of that iconic British Prime Minister.

**Camden Market:** We will spend a day reflecting on London in the swinging sixties through a visit to Camden Market, a series of colourful markets specializing in popular culture and fashion. Stalls sell food from around the world. Camden is also the site of a famous canal and lock system which we will explore.

**London Art Museums:** There are several world class art museums in London that students will have the opportunity to visit. The National Portrait Gallery tells the story of British history though the individuals portrayed in hundreds of painted portraits. We will also visit the famous Victoria & Albert Museum, a collection of global art that has its roots in the imperial power and reach of the Victorian empire.
As Wyatt Fellow for 2015-16, I am thrilled with this opportunity to explore the history and culture of this fascinating world city with my students and colleagues. As an undergraduate studying abroad, London was the site of my own first international adventure. Since then, I have been a regular visitor to the ‘Big Smoke’, doing research in places like the National Archives, the British Library, the Parliamentary Archives, the Imperial War Museum, and even the College of Heralds. I am fascinated by the immensity, complexity and cultural richness that is London. I have marvelled at how the city has changed socially, culturally and physically just over the few decades I have known it. Those changes are of course minute compared to the transformation of centuries that has shaped and reshaped urban life in London. I am excited by our program of speakers and activities and am eager to learn more about this amazing city with all of you. I am honoured to be leading the study-group to London itself next spring. There are places in London where it seems like you can almost step into the past and I am eager to share them with the group.

I have greatly benefitted from and believe in the power of international education. Beyond my own undergraduate semester in London, I attended the University of Wales-Aberystwyth in the United Kingdom as a Fulbright Scholar. As a professor, I received a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to study Indian history and culture at a summer institute held in Shimla and New Delhi, India. I serve on a variety of study abroad committees since I first began teaching here and frequently serve as a reviewer for the US Fulbright Program. I have led UM Flint students on a study abroad course to the British Virgin Islands, a Wyatt Exploration to Wales and have been fortunate enough to assist with Wyatt Explorations in Poland and Japan. I have been impressed and humbled by the transformative impact that the Wyatt Exploration Program has had on students and colleagues alike and am very proud to be contributing to that tradition again this year.

Professor John S. Ellis received his bachelor’s in education at Eastern Michigan University, his master’s in Welsh history at the University of Wales-Aberystwyth and his doctorate in British and Irish history at Boston College. Professor Ellis came to the University of Michigan Flint in 2002. He is an expert on British national Identity, imperialism, Welsh and Irish history. His work includes Investiture: Royal Ceremony and National Identity in Wales, 1911-1969 and his forthcoming biography of Welsh mercenary, nationalist and author Owen Rhoscomyl.

The generous bequest of Dr. Dorothea E. Wyatt has made the Wyatt Exploration Program possible. A stalwart supporter of her university and her discipline, Dr. Wyatt made this extraordinary gift to further develop and improve the program in history here at UM-Flint.

A graduate of Stanford University, Dr. Wyatt was one of the original sixteen faculty members of the Flint College of the University of Michigan when it was founded in 1956. She was the first chair of the Department of History and she served as the University’s Counselor to Women, the Secretary to the Governing Faculty, and on countless university, college, and departmental committees throughout her career. An adored teacher, Dr. Wyatt specialized in American cultural and women’s history. She was an unflagging advocate for the humanities and women’s issues. In 1989, the UM-Flint recognized her dedication to the university and these issues by creating an award in her name for faculty and staff members who work to better the status of women on campus. In 1974, Dr. David M. French spoke of Dr. Wyatt’s uniquely personal contribution to the university, writing, “Her greatness of spirit, her generosity, her sincere interest in students young and old… and the uninhibited way she has always shared her joy in learning and scholarship with those around her have run like a golden thread through the eighteen years since the Flint college was founded.” As a scholar, Dr. Wyatt is primarily known for her biography of Julia S. Tutwiler (1841-1916), an early advocate for women’s rights and educational reform in Alabama.

Dr. Wyatt was active in the local community and served a variety of organizations, including the American Association of University Women, the Zonta Club, Delta Kappa Gamma, and the Genesee County Library Board. She retired as a Professor Emeritus in 1975. Shortly before her retirement, Dr. Wyatt wrote:

What has brought us together as students and faculty in our University of Michigan-Flint College has been an abiding faith in education. We have all been seekers after knowledge: of ourselves, of the world about us, and of the ideas and ideals that have stirred and enriched mankind… For the true object of a college education is not to learn all that one will ever want to know but to acquire the ideas, habits, and methods needed in the continuous process of educating oneself during the years to come.

The Department of History at the University of Michigan-Flint is proud to be the heir of that spirit and philosophy. We believe that the Wyatt Exploration Program and other opportunities provided by Dr. Wyatt’s generosity will be a fitting testament to the life of this fine teacher, scholar, and advocate.
The 2014-2015 Wyatt Exploration: Japan and Hawaii focused around the themes of history, immigration and war. The three invited speakers gave presentations to give the students an insight on these themes. Mr. George Kosho Finch, an ordained Shingon Buddhist priest, spoke on enlightenment in Buddhism and also gave a workshop on meditation. Dr. David Tōbaru Miller of Gustavus Adolphus College described the complex history of Okinawa and analyzed the US-Japan relations on this island. Dr. Franklin Odo, founding director of the Asian Pacific American Center at the Smithsonian Institution, gave an informative lecture that was infused with humor on Japanese immigration to Hawai‘i and mainland US. Furthermore, the Nagata Shachu gave a heart-pounding taiko (Japanese drums) performance at the UM-Flint theatre. This was first ever taiko performance in Flint.

In 2015 May, six students participated in the Wyatt Exploration tour to Japan and Hawaii. Following the themes of exploration, the Wyatt travelers visited Kyoto, Mt. Kōya, Hiroshima, Fukuoka, Okinawa and Honolulu. These travelers saw the historic sites that they studied and engaged in interesting activities. At Kyoto, they went to a pottery workshop and produced their own pottery ware. They all attended the 6:00 a.m. Buddhist service at Mt. Kōya, had vegan meals and discussed Buddhist approach to life with Priest Ishii. The travelers spent a day at Itoshima in Fukuoka, where they visited the Bōrui (sea wall) that was built in the 13th century for the Mongol invasion. They visited other historic sites and were thoroughly entertained by the youth taiko performance. The cultural experience continued at Kurume in Fukuoka where the travelers participated in events that were arranged by the Kurume Japan-America Society. In Fukuoka, travelers spent a day with the students from Kitakyūshū University that included a visit to the university and historic city of Chōshū. At the university, the travelers engaged in a discussion on the idols in US and Japan.

This Wyatt Exploration tour coincided on the 70th anniversary of the ending of WWII in the Pacific. The travelers were aware of this when they visited Hiroshima, Naha and Honolulu. The effects of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was evident when the travelers visited the Hiroshima Peace Park, but their visit was enhanced with lectures by an atomic bomb survivor and the director of the Hiroshima Peace Park. At Okinawa, the travelers saw a number of WWII sites; they realized how the last battle of the Pacific, Battle of Okinawa, totally devastated the island. They came to understand the complex relationship between the Okinawans, mainland Japanese and Americans. The travelers had a fun and fruitful evening at an event that was hosted by the US Consul-General of Okinawa. They had a discussion with the consul-general and later had joyful chat with students from Naha in Okinawa.

The Honolulu stay was more than a visit to Pearl Harbor. The travelers were exposed to Hawaiian history at the Bishop Museum and during the one-day tour of Oahu. This was a historic tour that included the Pali lookout, which was the battle site that resulted in the conquest of Oahu by King Kamehameha. Also, a narrated tour of Plantation Village gave the travelers an insight on the plantation life that has impacted present-day Hawaii greatly.

It was a pleasure being the 2014-2015 Wyatt scholar. I hope that the 2015 tour to Japan and Hawai‘i was an enriching experience for the Wyatt travelers.