

NEHA Fall 2025
Friday, November 7, 2025

Samuel Slater Experience Group Tour

31 Ray Street
Webster, MA
3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

NEHA 60th Anniversary Celebration Banquet

Daniels Auditorium
Nichols College
124 Center Road
Dudley, MA

5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Reception and Cocktail Hour with light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Dinner

Welcome Remarks

Thomas Balcerski, Eastern Connecticut State University and NEHA President

Keynote Address

“What is to be Done?: The Challenges of Historical Work”

James Grossman, former Executive Director of the American Historical Association

Saturday, November 8, 2025

Hosted by Nichols College
Academic Building, Davis Hall, and Daniels Auditorium
124 Center Road
Dudley, MA

Fall Conference Program

Schedule at a Glance

Registration and Complimentary Breakfast	8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	Academic Building Atrium
Quiet Study/Relaxation Area	8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Academic Building Room 109
First Morning Sessions	9:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Academic Building & Davis Hall
Break	10:30 – 10:45 a.m.	Academic Building Atrium
Second Morning Sessions	10:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Academic Building & Davis Hall
Lunch	12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	Daniels Auditorium
Afternoon Sessions	1:45 – 3:15 p.m.	Academic Building & Davis Hall
Break	3:15 – 3:30 p.m.	Davis Hall Foyer
Plenary Session	3:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Davis Hall Room 205/207

First Morning Session – 9:00 – 10:30

Panel 1 – Academic Building Room 203

Perspectives on Public Discourse and Historical Narrative

Chair/Comment: Robert W. Smith, Worcester State University

‘Unnatural,’ Self-Imposed Dysfunction: Excessive Venery, Venereal Disease, and Sexual Modesty in Eighteenth-Century England

Michelle Henault, SUNY Albany

Profit over People and Planet: U.S. Corporate Influence and the Degradation of the Environment

Jeremy Lutton, Worcester State University*

Collaborative Partnerships in Public History Education

Joshua D. Koenig, Worcester State University

Addyson Steele, Worcester State University

Erika L. Briesacher, Worcester State University

Panel 2 – Academic Building Room 104

Adapting to the Natural World

Chair/Comment: David Evans, University of Connecticut

* Denotes Undergraduate Presenter

Indigenous Explorers in the Gulf of Maine: Historical and Archaeological Perspectives on Champlain's Voyage of 1604-1605

Arthur Anderson, University of New England

Jonathan DeCoster, University of New England

Exploring Emerson's 'Circles' in the Natural World

Rebecca Taylor, Siena University

Charlotte Molyneux Holloway's Take on Female Store Workers: A Reflection on Connecticut's Progressive-Era Working Class

Donald W. Rogers, Central Connecticut State University

New York City Hospitals and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic

Eric Cimino, Molloy University

Panel 3 – Academic Building Room 204

Europe in the Twentieth Century

Chair/Comment: Kathryn Lamontagne, Boston University

From Hope to Fear: Changes in Irish Jesuit Perspective Through the Eyes of Rev. Patrick J. Gannon, SJ

Richard Whitehead, Fitchburg State University

A Tale of Two Torches: Smoloskyp and the Olympics

Erin Redihan, Salve Regina University

Anatomy of Atrocity: Examining the Genocidal Process in Bijeljina

Emma Dashnaw, Somers (CT) Public Schools

Panel 4 – Academic Building Room 105

Slavery and Settlement in Antebellum America

Chair/Comment: Dominic DeBrincat, Missouri Western State University

Equines, Slavery, and Freedom-Seeking: A Case Study of *The Providence Gazette* in 1786

Richard M. McGee, University of Rhode Island

Colonialism's Shield: How Moral Debates over Removal Foreclosed on Critiques of Settler Expansion

Christian Gonzales, University of Rhode Island

Cotton Union: The Proslavery Political Economy of David Christy

Alex Kueny, University of Connecticut

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Panel 5 – Davis Hall Room 205/207

Domestic Politics of the Twentieth Century

Chair/Comment: Allison Lange, Wentworth Institute of Technology

World War I and the Limits of Gradualism: A Comparative Study of India, Ireland, and the United States, 1914-1924

Sharmishtha Roy Chowdhury, University of Connecticut-Hartford

JFK's Romantic Youth and the Catholic Church, 1917-1947

Thomas J. Carty, Springfield College

America 150: Nationalism and Museums in 1926

Heather Hole, Simmons University

Student Conceptions of Leftism and Communism: Harvard, 1948-1954

Amelia Gantt, UMass-Boston

Second Morning Session – 10:45 – 12:15

Panel 6 – Academic Building Room 104

Perspectives on Late-Nineteenth and Early-Twentieth Century Movements

Chair/Comment: Erika L. Briesacher, Worcester State University

The Inconceivable Weight of Perpetual Conflict: How Zionism Turned the Cultural Political and the Ethnic National

Zachary Rich, Worcester State University*

Near Beer, Cheese, and Soda Water: A History of Progressive Era Alcohol Companies Under the Shadow of Prohibition

Addyson Steele, Worcester State University

Understanding the Rise of the Second Ku Klux Klan and the Opposition to it Throughout Massachusetts

Nicholas Pettigrew, Worcester State University

Panel 7 – Academic Building Room 105

Urban Communities of Care: Stories from a Worcester Social Service Agency, 1910-1950

Chair/Comment: Ella Howard, Wentworth Institute of Technology

The Edward Street Temporary Home and Day Nursery, A Multigenerational Neighborhood Anchor

Tona Hangen, Worcester State University

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Using Archival Records to Understand Early-Twentieth-Century Urban Life
Tiernan O'Neal, Worcester State University

Documenting Worcester's Diversity in the Mid-Twentieth Century
Abby Rickert, Worcester State University*

Mental Health and Social Services in the Edward Street Temporary Home and Day Nursery
Archive: Social Stigma, the 'Deserving Poor,' and Coding Challenges
Kaylee Chen, Worcester State University*

Panel 8 – Academic Building Room 203

The Pen is Mightier: Print Culture in the World

Chair/Comment: Todd Gernes, Stonehill College

The Invention of the Steel Pen
Kim Richardson, University of South Carolina-Lancaster

The Business of Paper: Social Capital and Eighteenth-Century Philadelphia Printers
Rachel Hendrick, Independent Scholar

Jimmy Woo Fights Yellow Claw!: Perceptions of Chinese Americans in the 1950s
Emma Grayeb, University of Pennsylvania

Panel 9 – Academic Building Room 204

Living Off the Land in New England

Chair/Comment: Donald W. Rogers, Central Connecticut State University

The Age of Freehold: Land, Farming, and American History, 1750-1950
Christopher Clark, University of Connecticut

The Summer Crop: Urban Anxieties, Bucolic Tourism, and the New Hampshire State Board
of Agriculture, 1889-1910
Samuel Moore, Keene State College

From Deluge to Design: The 1936 Connecticut River Valley Flood and the Evolution of
Regional Resilience
Joshua Shanley, Independent Scholar

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Panel 10 – Davis Hall Room 205/207

Teaching Roundtable: Reflecting on “Reacting to the Past”

Chair: Michael E. Neagle, Nichols College

Discussants:

Victoria Breen, Nichols College*

Eric Fauss, CT State-Tunxis

Nathan Jedziniak, Central Connecticut State University

Hailie Marcioch, Nichols College*

Louise Blakeney Williams, Central Connecticut State University

Lunch – 12:30 – 1:30

Buffet Lunch – Daniels Auditorium

Presentation of the 2025 James P. Hanlan NEHA Book Award

Seth Rockman (Brown University) – *Plantation Goods: A Material History of American Slavery* (University of Chicago Press)

Committee Announcements

First Afternoon Session – 1:45 – 3:15

Panel 11 – Academic Building Room 104

Reexaminations of Historical Narrative

Chair/Comment: Joshua D. Koenig, Worcester State University

Reflections on Translating Tacitus

Spencer Bellarosa, Worcester State University

John Muir and his Legacy

Bogomil Tchangov, Independent Scholar

Fashion, Gender, and the Lesbian Experience in Weimar Germany

Nora Burnham, Worcester State University*

Historical Perspectives on a Life and Legacy: The 1994 Murder of Robert Mortell, Police Chief of Paxton

Barbara Driscoll de Alvarado, Anna Maria College

Panel 12 – Academic Building Room 203

Military and Society

Chair/Comment: Allen Horn, Independent Scholar

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Remembering and Commemorating Henry Knox and the ‘Noble Train of Artillery’
Ben Haley, Massachusetts Historical Commission

PTSD and the Vietnam War
Lissie Craig, Eastern Connecticut State University*

Luminaries of the Service: Primary Sources in Official Military Personnel Files “Persons of Exceptional Prominence”
Ryan C. Walker, University of Portsmouth (UK)

Panel 13 – Academic Building Room 105

Thinkers of America in the World

Chair/Comment: Caitlin Carenen, Eastern Connecticut State University

Expert from Moscow: One Diplomat’s Misunderstood Life and U.S. Intervention in Costa Rica’s 1948 Civil War
James Irving, University of New Hampshire

Expertise on the New Frontier: McGeorge Bundy, the National Security Council, and the Myth of the “Best and the Brightest”
Andrew David, Boston University

From Louis Powell to Project 2025: The Legacy of a Little-Known Memo
Troy Paddock, Southern Connecticut State University

Panel 14 – Academic Building Room 204

Food, Word, and Song

Chair/Comment: Tricia Peone, Congregational Library and Archives

Rusks and Mastic: How to Incorporate Cuisine into a Byzantine History Course
Andrew Drenas, UMass-Lowell

“All the Greatness in Goethe Belongs to the Proletariat!”: The Goethe Jubilee in the Soviet Union in 1932
Diego Benning Wang, Harvard University

Necessary and Sufficient: A Further Inquiry in the ‘Champagne Style’ of *The Lawrence Welk Show* in the History of American Popular Music, 1938-1977
Brian Peterson, Shasta College

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Panel 15 – Davis Hall Room 205/207

Women in the World

Chair/Comment: Kelly Marino, Sacred Heart University

She-Rebels, Amazonians, and Patriotic Ladies: Women's Vengeful Responses to Lincoln's Assassination

Bruce W. Eelman, Siena University

"Send Her Home": Maternal Containment and the Social Correction of the Nineteenth-Century Female Tramp

Daniela Lilly Rodiles, University of Connecticut

Anna Tillinghast and New England Immigration in the 1920s

Lorna Rinear, Wheaton College (MA)

Sunday's Women: Understanding the Influence of British Imperialism on Catholic Women Through Derry, 1972

Adriana Hazlett, Boston University*

Afternoon Break – 3:15-3:30

Coffee and Cookies – Davis Hall Foyer

Second Afternoon Session – 3:30-4:30

Plenary Session – Davis Hall Room 205/207

Past Presidents Reflect on NEHA at 60

Chair: Thomas Balcerski, Eastern Connecticut State University

Discussants:

Charlotte Gradie, Sacred Heart University

Tona Hangen, Worcester State University

Mark Herlihy, Endicott College

Paul Lambert, Nichols College

Troy Paddock, Southern Connecticut State University

Sean Perrone, Saint Anselm College

Laura Prieto, Simmons University

Don Wyatt, Middlebury College

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