

For Immediate Release: 2024 History Symposium Showcases Undergrads' Original Research

Tucson, AZ – April 20, 2024 – Forty-one Undergraduate students from across the University of Arizona gathered on Saturday at the main library to present their original historical research to an audience of their peers, university faculty, and friends and families at “Prospecting the Past: The Arizona Undergraduate History Research Symposium.”

Conference panels were grouped by shared themes, such as “Chronicles of Community: Food, Immigration, Censorship, and Activism in Arizona;” “Connecting China and the West: Conflict and Collaboration in Art and Science during the Modern Era;” “Homeland and Hegemony: Accounts of Struggle, Identity, and Resilience in Central Eurasia;” and “From Tournaments to Trials: Immersive “Maker Projects” on Medieval Europe.” Panel chairs, such as Drs. Beth Plummer, Fabio Lanza, and Susan Crane from the Department of History, asked questions of presenters and guided audience discussion to facilitate further exploration of student projects.

Dr. David Pietz, speaking on behalf of the Symposium Steering Committee, reflected on the event by saying that “we couldn't be more thrilled with the success of the inaugural year of our symposium. The quality of the research projects and the enthusiasm of both participants and attendees exceeded all our expectations.”

During the keynote dinner the previous night, guest scholar Dr. Trevor Getz from San Francisco State University had offered words of inspiration to the undergraduate presenters in a speech, encouraging them to explore alternative ways to engage with the public when sharing historical research. Using his graphic history book, *Abina and the Important Men*, along with his work with high school students in Ghana as examples, Getz showcased various possibilities for democratizing knowledge and connecting with different audiences.

The AZ Undergrad History Research Symposium is a professionally organized conference that offers undergraduate students an opportunity to present original research that explores the historical dimensions of virtually every topic – science and technology, food, migrations, environmental change, racial/gender/sexual identities, politics, animal, economics, and more. This event is made possible by a grant from the UA Provost's Investment Fund.

The next symposium will be held during the 2025 Spring semester. Undergraduate students from any department who are engaged in historical research are encouraged to follow the UA History Department on social media for future information on how to apply.

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