DAVID WELKY

Professor & Interim Chair Department of History University of Central Arkansas

University Contact Information

Department of History 105B Irby Hall University of Central Arkansas 201 Donaghey Ave. Conway, AR 72035-5000 (501) 450-3158

Email: dwelky@uca.edu

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

US History since 1877, Cultural History, Film History, the United States and the Middle East, Recent American History, History of Mass Media

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025-Present	Interim Chair, Department of History, University of Central Arkansas
2014-Present	Professor of History, University of Central Arkansas
2008-2014	Associate Professor of History, University of Central Arkansas
2002-2008	Assistant Professor of History, University of Central Arkansas
2001–2002	Instructor, Purdue University
1997–2000	Lecturer, Purdue University
1994–2001	Teaching Assistant, Purdue University

EDUCATION

- Purdue University, Ph.D. American History, 2001
- Purdue University, M.A. History, 1996
- Northeast Missouri State University (now Truman State University), B.A. History, 1993

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

- "Our Sons": Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt & Their Children in World War II (Manuscript currently under revision)
- Bamie and Teedie: The Extraordinary Roosevelt Siblings, Their Lifelong Partnership, and the Making of Modern America (Forthcoming, W. W. Norton, 2026)
- A Wretched and Precarious Situation: Deception, Survival, and the Hunt for the Last Arctic Land (New York: W. W. Norton, 2016).

- ➤ Selected as a Kirkus Reviews "best nonfiction book" for 2016
- Paperback edition released 2017
- Marching Across the Color Line: A. Philip Randolph and Civil Rights in the World War II Era (New York: Oxford University Press, 2014).
- The Thousand-Year Flood: The Ohio-Mississippi Disaster of 1937 (Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, 2011).
 - ➤ Winner, Booker Worthen literary prize for 2012
 - Selected as a Kirkus Reviews "best nonfiction book" for 2011
- *The Moguls and the Dictators: Hollywood and the Coming of World War II* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008).
- Everything Was Better in America: Print Culture and the Great Depression (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2008).

Readers and Edited Volumes

- *Hollywood's America: United States History through Its Films*, 5th ed. (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2016).
- America Between the Wars, 1919–1941: A Documentary Reader (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011).
- *Charles A. Lindbergh: The Power and Peril of Celebrity, 1927–1941* (New York: Brandywine Press, 2003) (with Randy Roberts).
- *The Steelers Reader* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2001) (with Randy Roberts); revised and updated second edition released as *One for the Thumb: The New Steelers Reader* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2006).

Other Books

- Pearl Harbor (Bellevue, WA: Becker & Meyer, 2016) (with Randy Roberts)
- Ronald Reagan (San Diego: Thunder Bay, 2015) (with Randy Roberts)
- John Wayne (New York: Metro, 2012) (with Randy Roberts).

Book Chapters

- "'A Reason Why, and a Way Out': Bestselling Novels of the 1930s," in Ichiro Takayoshi, ed., *American Literature in Transition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).
- "'There Will Be No Discrimination': Race, Power, and the Flood of 1937 in Memphis," in Aram Goudsouzian and Charles McKinney, eds., *An Unseen Light: Black Struggles for Freedom in Memphis, Tennessee* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2018).
- "Foreword," in Sir John Franklin, Thirty Years in the Arctic Regions (1859; reprint, New York: Skyhorse, 2017).
- "Sports, Politics, and Revenge: The Patriots' Strange Journey Home," in Randy Roberts, ed., *The Rock, the Curse, and the Hub: A Random History of Boston Sports* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2005).
- "Superman in Depression and War," in *American Experiences: Readings in American History*, vol. 2, 6th ed. (New York: Longman, 2004); and 7th ed. (New York: Pearson, 2007).

• "A Sacred Mission: Oliver Stone and Vietnam," (with Randy Roberts) in Robert Brent Toplin, ed., Oliver Stone's U.S.A.: Film, History, and Controversy (Lawrence: University of Kansas Press, 2000). Reprinted in 2000 Film & History CD-ROM Annual (2001); reprinted in American Experiences: Readings in American History, vol. 2, 6th ed. (New York: Longman, 2004); reprinted in Hollywood's America: Twentieth-Century America Through Film, 4th ed. (Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).

Articles

- "'You Will Have to Advise Me in Many Things': The Youthful Partnership of Bamie & Teedie Roosevelt," Theodore Roosevelt Association Journal (forthcoming, 2025)
- "'A World Film Fight': Behind the Scenes with Hollywood and Fascist Italy," Film & History: An Interdisciplinary Journal 47 (Summer 2017): 4-17.
- "Global Hollywood Versus National Pride: The Battle to Film *The Forty Days of Musa Dagh," Film Quarterly* 59 (Summer 2006): 35–43.
- "'We Are The People!': Idealized Working-Class Society in the *National Police Gazette*, 1880–1900," *Mid-America: An Historical Review* 84 (Winter/Summer/Fall 2002): 100–128.
- "The Great Depression and Film: John Ford and American Culture, 1934–1941," 1999 Film & History CD-ROM Annual (1999).
- "Culture, Media, and Sport: The *National Police Gazette* and the Creation of an American Working-Class World," *Culture, Sport, Society* 1 (May 1998): 78–100.
- "'Viking Girls, Mermaids, and Little Brown Men': U.S. Journalists and the 1932 Olympics," *Journal of Sport History* 24 (spring 1997): 24–49.
 - Selected as the *ISH* "best article of the year"

Newspaper and Online Publications

- (with Noel Murray) "Movie Studios are Abandoning Russia, a Far Cry from How They Handled Nazi Germany," *Washington Post*, 8 March 2022. https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2022/03/08/movie-studios-areabandoning-russia-far-cry-how-they-handled-nazi-germany/
- (with Wendy Lucas) "A Candidate-First Model of Faculty Hiring for Cruel Times," The Chronicle of Higher Education, 28 April 2021.
 https://www.chronicle.com/article/a-candidate-first-model-of-faculty-hiring-for-cruel-times
- "Blaming the Messenger: Trump, the KKK, and the War on Historians," *History News Network*, 8 November 2020. https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/178137
- "Roosevelt Lied about His Health during the 1944 Election With Stark Consequences," Washington Post, 13 October 2020.
 https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/10/13/roosevelt-lied-about-hishealth-during-1944-election-with-stark-consequences/
- "FDR's Final Speech has Lessons for Managing the Coronavirus Crisis,"
 Washington Post, 13 April 2020.

- https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2020/04/13/fdrs-final-speech-haslessons-managing-covid-19-crisis/
- "The President vs. The Epidemic: FDR's Polio Crusade," *History News Network*, 12 April 2020. https://historynewsnetwork.org/article/174983
- "A Long-Ago Christmas in the Most Remote Place on Earth," *Lithub*, 20 December 2016. https://lithub.com/a-long-ago-christmas-in-the-most-remote-place-on-earth/
- "A Wretched and Precarious Situation," *The Page 99 Test*, 3 December 2016. http://page99test.blogspot.com/2016/12/david-welkys-wretched-and-precarious.html
- "Writers Read: David Welky," Writers Read, 28 November 2016. http://whatarewritersreading.blogspot.com/search?q=welky
- "My Book, The Movie: A Wretched and Precarious Situation," *My Book, The Movie*, 20 November 2016. http://mybookthemovie.blogspot.com/2016/11/davidwelkys-wretched-and-precarious.html
- "The Thousand Year Flood," *The Page 99 Test*, 25 October 2011. http://americareads.blogspot.com.es/2011/10/pg-99-david-welkys-thousand-year-flood.html
- "When the Levee Doesn't Break," New York Times, 10 May 2011.
- "Guest Commentary: We Planned for 5,000, but 80,000 Showed Up," *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, 8 May 2011.
- "Guest Commentary: Rising Waters and an Interstate Battle," St. Louis Post-Dispatch, 4 May 2011.

Encyclopedia Articles

- "Sleeping Car Porters," in Nancy Quan-Wickham, ed., A Day in the Life of an American Worker: 200 Trades and Occupations in U.S. History (Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-Clio, 2019): 489-91.
- "National Police Gazette," in Steven Reiss, ed., *Sports in America from Colonial Times to the Twenty-First Century* (New York: M. E. Sharpe, 2011).
- "End Poverty in California," "National Youth Administration," "Newspapers and Magazines," "Share Our Wealth Society," in James Ciment, ed., *Encyclopedia of the Great Depression and New Deal* (New York: M.E. Sharpe, 2001): 1: 131–32, 198–201, 229–30, 354–55.
- "Buster Keaton," "Pink Floyd," "Stagecoach," in Tom Pendergast and Sara Pendergast, eds., *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture* (Farmington Hills, MI: St. James Press, 1999): 3: 10–11; 4: 58, 497–99.

Book Reviews

- Review of Steven A. Reiss, ed., *A Cultural History of Sport in the Modern Age*. In *Journal of Sport History* 50 (Spring 2023): 121-24.
- Review of Nancy M. Germano, *Indiana and the Great Flood of 1913*. In *Indiana Magazine of History* 118 (March 2022): 67-68.

- Review of Winton U. Solberg, Arctic Mirage: The 1913-1920 Expedition in Search of Crocker Land. H-Environment. https://www.hnet.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=55676
- Review of Susan Kaplan and Genevieve LeMoine, *Peary's Arctic Quest: Untold Stories from Robert E. Peary's North Pole Expeditions*. In *Arctic* 73 (June 2020): 266-
- Review of Michael Stamm, Dead Tree Media: Manufacturing the Newspaper in Twentieth-Century North America. In Journal of American History 102 (September 2019): 482-83.

67.

- Review of Patsy G. Watkins, It's All Done Gone: Arkansas Photographs from the Farm Security Administration, 1935-1943. In Arkansas Historical Quarterly 78 (Spring 2019): 94-95
- Review of Kenneth J. Bindas, *Modernity and the Great Depression: The Transformation of American Society, 1930-1941.* In *Journal of Southern History 84* (February 2018): 207-08.
- Review of Charles Leehrsen, *Ty Cobb: A Terrible Beauty* and Steven Elliott Tripp, *Ty Cobb, Baseball, and American Manhood*. In *Journal of Sport History* 44 (Fall 2017): 515-17.
- Review of Daryl A. Carter, *Brother Bill: President Clinton and the Politics of Race and Class* (H-FedHist: https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=49253)
- Review of Richard M. Mizelle, Jr., *Backwater Blues: The Mississippi Flood of 1927 in the African American Imagination*. In *Journal of Southern History* 132 (November 2016): 965-66.
- Review of David Lucander, Winning the War for Democracy: The March on Washington Movement, 1941-1946. In Journal of American Ethnic History 36 (Fall 2016): 115-16.
- Review of Norman L. Macht, *Connie Mack in His Final Years*, 1932-1956. In *Journal of Sport History* 43 (Summer 2016): 240-41
- Review of Steve Steinberg and Lyle Spatz, *The Colonel and Hug: The Partnership That Transformed the New York* Yankees. In *Journal of Sport History* 43 (Spring 2016): 140-42
- Review of Mort Zachter, *Gil Hodges: A Hall of Fame Life*. In *Journal of Sport History* 42 (Summer 2015): 464-65.
- Review of Ryan A. Swanson, *When Baseball Went White: Reconstruction, Reconciliation, and Dreams of a National Pastime*. In *Journal of Sport History* 42 (Summer 2015): 456-57.
- Review of Eric Allen Hall, *Arthur Ashe: Tennis and Justice in the Civil Rights Era*. In *Journal of Sport History* 42 (Summer 2014): 253-54.
- Review of John F. Kasson, *The Little Girl Who Fought the Great Depression: Shirley Temple and 1930s America*. In *Journal of American History* 101 (March 2015): 1313.
- Review of Gaylon H. White, *The Bilko Athletic Club: The Story of the 1956 Los Angeles Angels*. In *Journal of Sport History* 42 (Spring 2015): 153-54.

- Review of Mark S. Halfon, Tales from the Deadball Era: Ty Cobb, Home Run Baker, Shoeless Joe Jackson, and the Wildest Times in Baseball History. In Journal of Sport History 42 (Spring 2015): 130-31.
- Review of Thomas Doherty, *Hollywood and Hitler*, 1933–1939. In *Journal of American Studies* 48 (May 2014).
- Review of Pamela A. Bakker, Eyes on the Sporting Scene, 1870–1930: Will and June Rankin, New York's Sportswriting Brothers. In Journal of Sport History 41 (Summer 2014): 341-42.
- Review of Ethan Blue, *Doing Time in the Depression: Everyday Life in Texas and California Prisons*. In *Journal of Social History* 47 (Spring 2014): 1121-23.
- Review of Robert C. Cottrell, *Two Pioneers: How Hank Greenberg and Jackie Robinson Transformed Baseball*. In *Journal of Sport History* 40 (Spring 2013): 169–70.
- Review of Lisa Jarvinen, *The Rise of Spanish-Language Filmmaking: Out from Hollywood's Shadow, 1929–1939*. In *Journal of American History 100* (Spring 2013): 237.
- Review of Randy Roberts and Carson Cunningham, *Before the Curse: The Chicago Cubs' Glory Years*. In *Journal of Sport History* 39 (Fall 2012): 563–64.
- Review of Robert S. Lyons, *On Any Given Sunday: A Life of Bert Bell*. In *Journal of Sport History* 39 (Spring 2012): 185–86.
- Review of John Bloom, There You Have It: The Life, Legend, and Legacy of Howard Cosell. In Journal of Sport History 38 (Fall 2011): 495–96.
- Review of Robert Ruck, Maggie Jones Patterson, and Michael P. Weber, *Rooney:* A Sporting Life. In International Journal of the History of Sports 28 (December 2011): 2765–67.
- Review of Mark J. Noonan, Reading the Century Illustrated Monthly Magazine: American Literature and Culture, 1870–1893. In Journal of American Studies 45 (Fall 2011).
- Review of Lyle Spatz and Steve Steinberg, 1921: The Yankees, the Giants, and the Battle for Baseball Supremacy in New York. Journal of Sport History 38 (Spring 2011): 169–70.
- Review of Gerben Bakker, *Entertainment Industrialised: The Emergence of the International Film Industry, 1890–1940.* In *American Historical Review* 115 (December 2010): 1451.
- Review of Pearl James, ed., *Picture This: World War I Posters and Visual Culture*. In *Journal of American History* 97 (December 2010): 831–2.

MEDIA APPEARANCES

2024

• Interviewed on KATV (ABC-Little Rock) for segment on the history of presidential assassinations, 15 July 2024.

2020

• Featured on WYNC's "Fishko Files" episode "Hill of Beans, etc.," aired 28 August 2020.

2018

• Featured in BBC3 radio documentary "The Forty Days of Musa Dagh," aired 28 January 2018.

2016

- Radio interview for "Morning Edition," WILL (NPR-Champaign, IL), 12 December 2016.
- Radio interview for "The John Batchelor Show," WABC (New York, NY), 5
 December 2016.
- Radio interview for "Public Eye," WICU (NPR-Worcester, MA), 29 November 2016.
- Radio interview for "Think!" KERA (NPR-Dallas/Ft. Worth/Denton), 28 November 2016.
- Radio interview for "The Tom Porter Show," WBOC (Brunswick, ME), 17 November 2016.
- Interviewed by Dr. Alvin Jones for "The Dr. Alvin Jones Show," 14 November 2016
- Interviewed by Simon Worrall for "National Geographic Book Talk," 11 November 2016.
- Featured speaker at the Mountains and Plains Independent Booksellers' Association's "Buzz Books Breakfast" event, Denver CO, 7 October 2016.

2015

• Radio interview for "The Book Club @91.7," WVXU (NPR-Cincinnati), 17 January 2015.

2014

 Radio interview for "Cincinnati Edition," WVXU (NPR-Cincinnati), 24 January 2014.

2012

- Interviewed by Scarlett Sims for *Conway Log Cabin Democrat* feature on faculty research at UCA, 17 October 2012.
- Interviewed by C-SPAN2 "LCV Cities Tour: Book TV," 7 March 2012 (aired 29 March 2012).
- Interviewed by Rob Koenig, *St. Louis Beacon*, for an article on reconstructing the Bird's Point floodway, 22 January 2012 (article appeared as "First Bird's Point Breach and 'Levee Rebellion' Happened 75 Years Ago," 24 January 2012).
- Interviewed by Lydia Smith, *Portsmouth (OH) Daily Times*, for an article on the 1937 flood, 18 January 2012 (article appeared as "Author to Present 'Thousand Year Flood Today," 24 January 2012).
- Interviewed by Dr. Andrew Feight, Shawnee State University, for oral history project on the flood of 1937, 24 January 2012.
- Radio segment on *The Thousand Year Flood* for "The Jim Scott Show," WLW (Cincinnati, OH), 30 January 2012.
- Radio interview for "Cincinnati Edition," WVXU (NPR-Cincinnati), 28 January 2012.

2011

- Panelist for show on 2011 floods, "To the Point," KCRW (Santa Monica, CA), 12 May 2011.
- Radio segment on catastrophic flooding for "The Brian Moline Show," WDWS (Champaign, IL), 11 May 2011.
- Television segment on *UCA Spotlight* about Richard Nixon's trip to China, 27 January 2011.

2010

• Interviewed by Framework: The Journal of Cinema and Media on The Moguls and the Dictators: Hollywood and the Coming of World War II, 19 April 2010.

2009

 Radio segment on The Moguls and the Dictators: Hollywood and the Coming of World War II on the Sean Moncrieff show, Newstalk radio, Dublin, Ireland, 4 March 2009.

SELECTED CONFERENCES & PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

- "Writing History That's Stranger Than Fiction," Books in Bloom Literary Festival, Eureka Springs, Arkansas, 19 May 2018.
- "Arctic Struggle and Triumph," Arkansas Literary Festival, Little Rock, Arkansas, 29 April 2017.
- "Crocker Land: Journey to the Last Place on Earth," Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine, 17 November 2016.
- "Remembering the 1937 Flood," A Prized Evening Awards Banquet, Little Rock, Arkansas, 10 October 2012.
- "The Flood of 1937," Arkansas Literary Festival, Little Rock, Arkansas, 11 April 2012.
- "Recovering What Was Never Lost: A Historian's Journey Into the 1937 Flood," keynote address to Arkansas State Phi Alpha Theta Conference, Conway, Arkansas, 1 March 2012.
- "The Thousand-Year Flood," The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies Legacies & Lunch, Little Rock, Arkansas, 1 November 2011.
- "'Conforming with Tribal Taboos': Hollywood and Fascist Italy, 1933–1940,"
 Southwest/Texas Popular Culture Association-American Culture Association
 Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 27 February 2009.
- Comment on Panel on the History of Leisure, Missouri Valley Historical Association Annual Convention, Omaha, Nebraska, 5 March 2005.
- "History Through the Side Door," Phi Alpha Theta Symposium, Conway, Arkansas, 13 January 2004.
- "From 'Champion of the Weak and Helpless' to 'Patriot Number One': How the Middle Class Made Superman Safe for America, 1938–1941," Arkansas Association of College History Teachers Conference, Little Rock, Arkansas, 3 October 2002 (selected as the outstanding paper of the conference).

- "Everything That Americanism Stands For': American Newspapers and the 1936 Olympics," North American Society of Sport Historians' Convention, French Lick, Indiana, 25 May 2002.
- "Life in the Funny Pages: *The Gumps* and American Culture, 1929–1941," Indiana Association of Historians Conference, Indianapolis, Indiana, 3 March 2001.
- "Film and the Art of History: The Case of John Ford," Purdue University History Graduate Student Works in Progress Workshop, West Lafayette, Indiana, 14 November 1997.
- "'We Are the People!': Idealized Society in the *National Police Gazette*," Ohio Valley History Conference, Clarksville, Tennessee, 16 October 1997.
- "'The Leading Sporting Journal in Existence': The Working Class, Sports, and the National Police Gazette," North American Society of Sport Historians'
 Convention, Springfield, Massachusetts, 25 May 1997"The Emancipation Proclamation: For Military or Morals?" NMSU Undergraduate Research Symposium, Kirksville, Missouri, 30 March 1993.

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT

- American History to 1877
- American History since 1877
- Introduction to Historical Research
- American Thought and Life since 1865
- America in Depression and War, 1920–1960
- Recent American History, 1960–Present
- American Film History
- The United States and the Middle East
- Making a "Nation": The Western and American Identity
- Podcasting History
- History of Science in America
- Senior Seminar
- Graduate Seminar: History of American Film
- Graduate Seminar: The Depression and Its Legacies
- Graduate Seminar: The Early Twentieth Century
- Graduate Seminar: Twentieth-Century America
- Graduate Research Seminar: Twentieth-Century America
- Graduate Seminar: Research in History

HONORS & AWARDS

- 2022 Harvard University, Houghton Library Visiting Fellow (\$3,600)
- 2021 University of Central Arkansas University Research Council Faculty Development Grant (\$7,841)
- 2014 University of Central Arkansas Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity
 Award

- 2013 University of Central Arkansas University Research Council Faculty Development Grant (\$5,653)
- 2012 Booker Worthen Literary Prize
- **2008** Most Outstanding Faculty Member, University of Central Arkansas College of Liberal Arts
- 2007 Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Research Institute Travel Grant
- 2006 University of Central Arkansas University Research Council Faculty Development Grant (\$7,399)
- 2003 University of Central Arkansas University Research Council Faculty Development Grant (\$4,285)
- **2002** Outstanding paper of the conference, Arkansas Association of College History Teachers Annual Conference
- 2001 Purdue Research Foundation Summer Grant
- 2000 Purdue Research Foundation Summer Grant
- 1999 Purdue Research Foundation Summer Grant Harold D. Woodman Graduate Research Award
- 1997 Roberta J. Park Endowment Fund Travel Grant

SELECTED ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Department of History Faculty Affairs Committee, 2023 2025 (chair)
- External Review, B.A. program, Northeastern State University, 2024
- Undergraduate/Graduate Research Advisor:
 - directed eight undergraduate honors theses
 - > twelve M.A. thesis/oral exam committees (chaired three)
 - ➤ Ph.D. dissertation committee (Carson Cunningham, Purdue University)
- Department of History, B.A./B.S. New Curriculum Creation Committee, 2021 (chair)
- Department of History Graduate Committee, 2014 2022
- Department of History Ophelia Fisher Award Committee, 2018 (chair)
- College of Liberal Arts Diversity Committee, 2017 2018
- UCA Sabbatical Leave Committee, 2017 2019
- External Reviewer, B.A. program, Minnesota State University Mankato, 2017
- Department of History Tenure and Promotion Standards Committee, 2016 2017 (chair)
- UCA Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Award Committee, 2014 –
 2015 (vice-chair), 2015 2016 (chair)
- University Core (General Education) Committee, 2013–2015
- Department of History Tenure and Promotion Guidelines Committee, 2013
- College of Liberal Arts Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2012–2015
- External reviewer, M.A. program, Sam Houston State University, 2012
- Departmental Personnel Action Committee, 2009– (chair, 2010-11)
- College of Liberal Arts Research Committee, 2004–2008
- UCA Faculty Development Committee, 2005–2007

- History Department Search Committees: 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007 (chair), 2013 (x2), 2014 (chair), 2021 (chair), 2024 (chair)
- Department of History Undergraduate Committee, 2004–2013
- UCA Health and Wellness Committee, 2003–2006
- Chair, History Department Self-Study Committee, 2003

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

• Organization of American Historians