



Fall 2016

### Introducing Dr. Alistair Maer

Spending the first few years of life in Highcliffe, England, Dr. Maer moved to Broken Arrow, Oklahoma when he was nearly five years old. His education includes a B.A. in History from William Jewell College, which included study at Oxford. His M.A. is from the University of Toronto and Ph.D. in Transatlantic History from the University of Texas at Arlington. He was the Helen Wallis Fellow at the British Library in 2003 and a Fellow of the Yale Center for British Art in 2004 and has published articles discussing the development of English mapping in the Age of Exploration and Empire. He has 16 years of teaching experience, 2 at St. Alcuin Montessori School, 1 at Eastern Kentucky University, 8 at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, as well as years as an Adjunct Professor across the DFW area. He now lives in Fort Worth with his wife, Jessica, son, Ari and daughter, Isabella. Whenever there is wind and time, he can be found sailing on a nearby lake. Between watching the British Premier League as an avid supporter of Liverpool Football Club and sailing, he hopes to renew his travels to see new places and try new foods.

In his own words, "I focus on themes that connect peoples and places across the Atlantic, highlighting the shared histories of the Americas, Africa, and Europe; specifically how historical cartography—via its 'real' connection to the events of the past and its interpretative value—can be used to illuminate and better understand historical attitudes and realities since the Middle Ages. I blend social, political, intellectual and cultural histories to emphasize the multitude of perspectives and experiences that exist in any society. Ultimately, I see the teaching experience as an open dialogue in which free discussions give everyone involved a new perspective on the subject."

### Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference @ Stephen F. Austin University on 31 March 2017

SFA will host the 2016 Phi Alpha Theta Northeast Texas Regional Conference in March. This all-day event is an opportunity for students to present a paper at an academic conference. If you have a research paper from a past or current class that you would like to present, consider submitting it. Undergraduate conference participation is an excellent way to build your resume and looks very good when applying to graduate school.

Watch your email for the official  
Call for Papers.



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### Important Dates

5 September – Labor Day Holiday (University closed)  
7 October – Fall Break (University closed)  
11 October – Mid-semester  
17-21 October – Advising for Spring 2017  
1 November – Last day to apply for May graduation  
15 November – Last Day to Drop a Class  
23 November – University closes at noon  
24-25 November – Thanksgiving holiday  
29 November – Last day of class  
1-6 December – Final examination  
9 December – Robing Ceremony  
10 December – Graduation

Check out the **new grading rubrics on the history web page:**  
<https://txwes.edu/history>

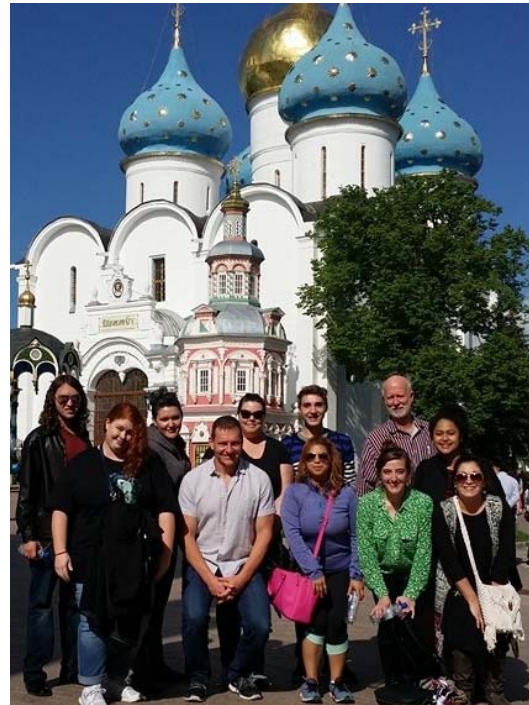
## History Students Travel to Russia

Students and faculty from Texas Wesleyan's history and music programs spent 10 days traveling in Russia from May 18–29. The group was led by music professor John Fisher and Chris Ohan.

The trip included five days in Moscow where participants toured the Kremlin, Red Square and saw the still-preserved body of V. I. Lenin. They traveled around the city by means of the Moscow Metro and visited museums, such as the Tretyakov Gallery. The group heard Rimsky-Korsakov's opera "A Bride for the Tsar" in the same Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory where Fort Worth's Van Cliburn (1934–2013) won the first international Tchaikovsky Competition in 1958. Several in the group experienced a visit to the Russian banya and its regime of alternating hot steam and icy cold pools. After a day trip to the spiritual center of the Russian Orthodox Church, the monastery of Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius, the group traveled to St. Peterburg for another five days.

In Russia's "Venice of the North," the group visited the Peter and Paul Fortress and saw the former Winter Palace, now the State Hermitage Museum as well as Russia's version of Versailles, the Peterhof Palace. On a day-trip to Pushkin, students toured the Catherine Palace with its famous Amber Room and saw the Alexander Palace, last official residence of Tsar Nicholas II and his family before they were moved and eventually killed by the Bolsheviks following the Russian Revolution of 1917. The group also visited the sumptuous Yusupov Palace, the location of the assassination of the Grigory Rasputin in 1916. In addition to palaces, participants visited the Monument of the Heroic Defenders of Leningrad and toured its museum commemorating the most traumatic episode in the city's history – Nazi Germany's 900-day Siege of Leningrad during World War II. Finally, the group saw a ballet performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Mariinsky Theatre on the eve of their return to Texas.

The trip was an optional component of several courses in music and history offered during the spring 2016 semester. At sites such as Novodevichy, where Russian leaders deposited unwanted wives, and the Cathedral of the Resurrection of Christ, known as the "Church on the Spilled Blood" where Tsar Alexander II was assassinated in 1881, music students gave oral presentations based on research conducted before the trip. Additionally, history students recorded video at locations like the Moscow's St. Basil's Cathedral and the cabin of Peter the Great in St. Petersburg, from which they created mini-documentaries.



## Pate Scholarships

These merit-based awards range from \$1,000-\$3,000 per academic year and may be renewed based on reapplication. Recipients are selected for their academic performance at the University and for their current and potential contribution to the University community and society.

This scholarship is not based on financial need, but applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Sophomore standing by the beginning of 2016/2017 Academic Year/New Transfer student
- Declared History Major
- Cumulative GPA of at least 3.0

Selection is also based on performance and attendance in History courses at Texas Wesleyan.

This year's Pate Scholarship recipients are:

McKayla Harwell  
Bailey Dozier  
Richard Burnett  
Sherry Newton  
Clark Williams

The Pate Scholarship is named in honor of the late Fort Worth businessman and philanthropist A. M. Pate. "Aggie" Pate was involved in many history-related activities including the founding of the Pate Museum of Transportation and the Fort Worth Civil War Round Table.

He was committed to encouraging research and scholarship and supported a number of institutions of higher learning including Texas Wesleyan University.