

**JASON KENNEDY DUNCAN**

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Department of History  
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**FACULTY POSITIONS**

**AQUINAS COLLEGE, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

**AQUINAS COLLEGE, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN**

|           |                                |
|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 2013-2025 | Professor of History           |
| 2020-2024 | Chair of History Department    |
| 2008-2014 | Chair of History Department    |
| 2007-2013 | Associate Professor of History |
| 2002-2007 | Assistant Professor of History |

**EDUCATION**

**Ph.D., History 1999    University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa**

Dissertation: "A Most Democratic Class: New York Catholics and the Early American Republic."

**M.A., History 1992    University of Iowa**

**M.A., Russian Area Studies, 1987    Georgetown University    Washington, D.C**

Major field : Russian and Soviet History. Master's Thesis: "Martin Luther King, Jr., Through Soviet Eyes."

**B.A., Government, 1985    St. Lawrence University    Canton, New York**

**PUBLICATIONS**

**BOOKS**

*A Victory of Party: Martin Van Buren, the Democrats, and the Election of 1836*, Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas, American Presidential Elections Series, (forthcoming.)

*John F. Kennedy: The Spirit of Cold War Liberalism*, New York: Routledge University Press, 2014.

*Citizens or Papists?: The Politics of Anti-Catholicism in New York, 1685-1821*, New York: Fordham University Press, 2005.

## **ARTICLES**

“Plain Catholics of the North:’ Martin Van Buren and the Politics of Religion, 1807-1836,” *U.S. Catholic Historian*, Volume 38, No. 1, Winter 2020.

"John F. Kennedy and the Irish Catholic Political Tradition," *THE FORUM* 12 (2014), Issue 1, Article 8.

## **OPINION ESSAYS**

“Jimmy Carter and the Lost Political World of 1776,” *Ford Forum Observer*, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, Grand Rapids, August 2025.

“Alexsei Navalny and the Politics of Courage,” *Ford Forum Observer*, Gerald R. Ford Foundation, Grand Rapids, March 2024.

“How Hamilton Defended the Rights of Catholics in a Young America” *America: The National Catholic Review*, October 26, 2016

“What Does Russia’s Resurgence Mean for the United States?” *Grand Rapids Press/MLive* May 12, 2014

“What JFK Still Teaches Us” *DetroitNews.com* November 22, 2013

## **ARTICLES IN POPULAR MAGAZINES**

“A New Leader for a New Generation” in *Kennedy: His Life and Legacy*, I-5 Publishing, Fall 2013.

## **REVIEW ESSAYS**

“Lincoln and the Continuities of Midwestern History,” *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. 117, No. 4, (December 2021): 306-311.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

*History’s Erratics: Irish Catholic Dissidents and the Transformation of American Capitalism, 1870-1930* by David M. Emmons, *The Journal of American History*, (forthcoming.)

*Wisconsin For Kennedy: The Primary that Launched a President and Changed the Course of History* by B. J. Hollars, *Middlewest Review*, Vol. 11, No. 1, Fall 2024.

“Another Look: *American Catholics and the Quest for Equality in the Civil War Era*,” by Emmett Curran, *Civil War Book Reviews*, Summer 2024.

*The Imperial Church: Catholic Founding Fathers and United States Empire*, by Katherine D. Moran, *The Journal of American History*, March 2024.

“The Making of a Cold War President” Review of Fredrik Logevall, *JFK: Coming of Age in the American Century, 1917-1956*, *University Bookman*, March 2021. Posted also on Real Clear Books.com March 27, 2021.

*Anti-Catholicism in America, 1620-1860*, by Maura Jane Farrelly, *The Journal of Religion*, April 2019.

*In Rome We Trust: The Rise of Catholics in American Political Life*, by Manlio Graziano, *Review of Politics*, Spring 2018.

*Evangelical Gotham: Religion and the Making of New York City, 1783-1860* by Kyle B. Roberts, *American Historical Review*, February 2018.

*Once in a Great City: A Detroit Story*, by David Marannis, *Middle West Review*, Fall 2017.

*Bobby Kennedy: The Making of a Liberal Icon*, by Larry Tye, *The University Bookman*, Spring 2017, posted on Real Clear Books.com, May 2017.

*Excommunicated From the Union: How the Civil War Created a Separate Catholic America*, by William B. Kurtz, *The Journal of American History*, December 2016.

*Being Nixon: A Man Divided*, by Evan Thomas and *The Nixon Effect: How Richard Nixon’s Presidency Changed American Politics*, by Douglas Schoen, *The University Bookman*, Spring 2016. Posted on Real Clear Books.com May, 2016.

*Papist Devils: Catholics in British America, 1574-1783*, by Robert Emmett Curran, *The Catholic Historical Review*, Summer 2015, Vol. 101, No. 3.

*On His Own Terms: A Life of Nelson Rockefeller*, by Richard Norton Smith, *The University Bookman*, Summer 2015.

*A Brief History of the Cold War*, by Lee Edwards and Elizabeth Edwards Spalding, *The University Bookman*, Winter 2015.

*A Nice Little Place on the North Side: Wrigley Field at One Hundred*, by George F. Will, *Middle West Review*, Vol. 1, No. 1, September 2014.

*The Nativist Movement in America: Religious Conflict in the Nineteenth Century* by Katie Oxx, *American Catholic Studies*, Winter 2013.

*Khrushchev's Cold War: The Inside Story of an American Adversary*, by Alexandr Fursenko and Timothy Naftali, *The Historian*, Winter 2009.

*African or American? Black Identity and Political Activism in New York City, 1784-1861* by Leslie Alexander, 2008, *The Journal of American History*, December 2009.

*Jim Crow New York: A Documentary History of Race and Citizenship, 1777-1877*, David N. Gellman and David Quigley, (eds.) 2003, on H-LAW, September 2007.

*An Unfinished Life: John F. Kennedy, 1917-1963* by Robert Dallek, *The Review of Politics*, Spring 2004.

*The Lord Cornbury Scandal: The Politics of Reputation in British America*, by Patricia U. Bonomi, *The Review of Politics*, Spring 1999.

*Parades and Politics of the Streets: Festive Culture in the Early American Republic*, by Simon P. Newman, on H-SHEAR, March 1998.

## INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS

“Russia’s War on Ukraine, 2022-2025 and the Prospects Ahead,” Early Risers Breakfast Club, February 2025, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

“On the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Assassination of John F. Kennedy,” Early Risers Breakfast Club, November 2023, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

“Lunch and Learn With Gleaves Whitney,” Executive Director, Hauenstein Center, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 2020.

“Martin Van Buren and the Catholic Question in American Politics: An Introduction,” Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal, Mecosta, Michigan, December 2014.

“John F. Kennedy: The Spirit of Cold War Liberalism,” A Conversation with Gleaves Whitney, Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, February 2014.

“John F. Kennedy: The Spirit of Cold War Liberalism,” Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, December 2013.

“Postcolonial New York, a Catholic Minority and Emerging Jurisprudence,” Panel at *Religious Freedom in America, 1813-2013: Bicentennial Reflections on People v. Phillips*, New York

University, New York, New York, April 2013.

## **PUBLIC LECTURES**

“Plain Catholics of the North: Martin Van Buren and Religion in the Making of the Democratic Party” Aquinas Lecture Series, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids Michigan, April 2015.

“John F. Kennedy: The Spirit of Cold War Liberalism,” Aquinas Lecture Series, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 2013.

“John F. Kennedy and Catholicism,” Catholic Information Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 2013

“Rethinking Kennedy 50 Years After Dallas” Grand Forum, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 2013.

“Jacqueline Kennedy: Memories of Life with JFK,” Spring Lake District Library, Spring Lake, Michigan, March 2012.

“JFK Through Jackie’s Eyes” The Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 2011.

## **PAPERS PRESENTED AT ACADEMIC CONFERENCES**

“An Enemy of Western Interests?” Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison and the (Mid) West in the Presidential Election of 1836,” Conference of the Midwestern History Association, Des Moines, Iowa, May 2025.

“Mr. Van Buren: No Abolitionist’: The 1836 Presidential Campaign in the South,” 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society of Historians of the Early American Republic, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 2024.

“He has shamefully endeavored to mingle religion with politics,” Martin Van Buren, Religion, and the 1836 Presidential Election,’ Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life, Calvin University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2022.

“The False and Arrogant Claim of the Van Buren Party,” The Presidential Election of 1836 in Illinois, Meeting of the Midwestern History Association (Held Virtually) May 2021.

“Southern Influence and African Slavery,” Martin Van Buren, Party Building, and the Legacy of the Missouri Crisis, 1819-1836,” A Fire Bell in the Past: The Missouri Crisis at 200, University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri, February 2019.

“Plain Catholics of the North: Martin Van Buren and Religion in the Making of the Democratic

Party,” 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic, Cleveland, Ohio, July 2018.

“Reconsidering Martin Van Buren’s Victory, 1836,” 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference on American Political History, Lebanon Valley College, Annville, Pa., June 2018.

“Pope Martin I: Catholics and the Making of the Democratic Party, 1815-1841,” American Catholic Historical Association/American Historical Association, Washington, D.C., January 2018.

“The Privileges of the Humblest Individual:” Martin Van Buren and Religious Minorities in the United States, 1812-1840,” Henry Institute Symposium on Religion and Public Life, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2017.

“Pope Martin I: New York Catholics and their Alliance with Martin Van Buren, 1812-1830,” Researching New York: Conference on New York State History, Albany, New York, November 2016.

“Tammany Farmer:” The Al Smith Presidential Campaign and Midwestern Politics of the 1920s,” Conference of the Midwestern History Association, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 2016.

“Plain Catholics of the North: Martin Van Buren and Religion in the Making of the Democratic Party,” American Catholic Historical Association Spring Meeting, Notre Dame, Indiana, March 2015.

“Reading John F. Kennedy’s Cold War: The Books that Shaped JFK’s Foreign Policy” Society for U.S. Intellectual History Conference, , Indianapolis, Indiana, October 2014.

“Rethinking Kennedy 50 Years After Dallas: JFK and the Irish Catholic Political Tradition,” Symposium on Religion and Public Life, Paul Henry Institute, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2013.

"Catholics and Their Unknown American Revolution," American Catholic Historical Association, Princeton, New Jersey, March 2010.

## **ACADEMIC FELLOWSHIPS**

Associate, Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies, Grand Valley State University, 2015.

Visiting Scholar, Russell Kirk Center for Cultural Renewal, Mecosta, Michigan, Fall 2014.

Seminar on *The Creation of the Modern American City*, Newberry Library, Sponsored by the Council of Independent College and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois, June 2014.

Visiting Scholar, Center for Russian and East European Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor Michigan, May 2013.

Lilly Fellows Program in the Humanities and the Arts-  
“Teaching Peace and Reconciliation: Theory and Practice in Northern Ireland” County Antrim, Northern Ireland, July 2012

### **Academic Panels, Chair and Commentator**

“Russell Kirk’s *Roots of American Order* at Fifty,” Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics, 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium on Religion and Public Life,” Calvin University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2024.

“Conservatism and the Cold War,” Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2023.

“Midwestern Politics in the Progressive Era,” Third Annual Midwestern History Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, June 2017.

"Honor, War, and the Quest for Unity in the Early Republic," Great Lakes History Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, October 2010.

“Religion and Political Issues in Historical Perspective”  
Calvin College, Fourth Biennial Symposium on Religion and Politics, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, April 2008.

### **Academic Panels: Organizer and Participant**

Third Annual Aquinas College Interdisciplinary Panel on the Wars in Ukraine and the Middle East, Organizer and Participant, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2024.

“The War in Ukraine: An Interdisciplinary Panel Discussion,” March 2023, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2023.

“The War in Ukraine: An Interdisciplinary Panel Discussion,” Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, March 2022.

Post-Election Discussion of John Pinheiro’s *The American Experiment in Ordered Liberty*, Aquinas College, Grand Rapids, Michigan, November 2020.

“The War on Poverty 50 Years Later: Economic Inequality and Poverty,” Aquinas College,

Grand Rapids Michigan, April 2014.

## **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS**

Sabbatical, Spring 2020, Aquinas College.

Awarded Research Release for Fall 2019

Awarded Research Release for Fall 2014

Sabbatical, Fall 2012, Aquinas College.

The Council of Independent Colleges, Workshop for Department and Division Chairs,  
Cincinnati, Ohio, May 2010

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

University Press of Kansas, Referee for a Book Manuscript, 2019

*The Catholic Historical Review*, Referee for an Article Manuscript, 2017

*The Journal of American History*, Referee for an Article Manuscript, 2014

## **AQUINAS COLLEGE SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP**

Member, Men's Hockey Head Coach Search Committee, Spring 2024

Chair, Committee on Faculty Affairs, 2022-2023

Member, Presidential Search Committee, 2022

Chair, Rank and Tenure Committee, 2020-2022

Co-Director, Aquinas Ireland Program, 2005, 2011

Chair, Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics, 2017-2019

Co-Chair, Academic Master Planning Committee, 2016-2017

College Archivist Search Committee, 2012

Rank and Tenure Committee 2009-2010



Rank and Tenure Committee 2013-2014

Provost Search Committee, 2013-2014

Provost Search Committee, 2007-2008

Committee on By-Laws and Constitution, 2003-2007

Board of Trustees Committee on Enrollment, 2004-2009, 2024-2025

Faculty Advisor: Aquinas College Democrats, Knights of Columbus, Students for Life

Faculty Care Phone-athons, 2003-2016

Spectrum Scholarship Competition, 2003-2004, 2006-2007, 2009, 2016, 2019, 2021-2022, 2023-

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## **POLITICAL EXPERIENCE**

Gore for President, 1988 and 2000 (delegate to the Democratic National Convention, Los Angeles, California, 2000)

U.S. Representative Tom Sawyer, (D-Ohio), Legislative Assistant, 1988-1991, Washington, D.C.

UE-COGS 896 (Graduate Student Union) Chair of Political Action Committee, 1997-1998

## **ACADEMIC MEMBERSHIPS**

Society of Historians of the Early American Republic

## **OTHER MEMBERSHIPS**

Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum  
Friend of Ford

St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Grand Rapids

