

**M. Rhys Dotson**  
Department of History, University of Texas at Tyler  
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## EDUCATION

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**PhD in Modern American History** 2022  
Texas A&M University  
*Dissertation Title:* “Texas Pride: The Formation of Dallas’ Gay Community, 1966-2003”  
*Advisor and Committee Chair:* Dr. Albert S. Broussard  
*Comprehensive Exam Fields:* Early American History, Modern American History, History of Civil Rights, History of Women and Gender, and Women in Science (Sociology)

**MA in Political Science** 2014  
University of Texas at Tyler

**MA in History** 2009  
University of Texas at Tyler

**BA in History** 2006  
University of Texas at Tyler

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Associate Professor of Instruction** 2024 – Present  
University of Texas at Tyler

**Assistant Professor of Instruction** 2023 – 2024  
University of Texas at Tyler

**Lecturer** 2011 – 2023  
University of Texas at Tyler

**Adjunct Faculty** 2010 – 2011  
University of Texas at Tyler

**Adjunct Faculty** 2009 – 2011  
Kilgore College

## COURSES TAUGHT

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### Undergraduate (History)

United States History I  
United States History II  
Historical Methods and Research  
Industrial and Progressive America  
America Between the World Wars  
History of Modern America, 1932 to the Present  
America Since 1945  
History of Mexican Americans  
The Long Sixties\*  
Modern Conservative America\*

History of Texas  
History of African Americans

### Undergraduate (Political Science)

American Politics  
Texas Politics

### Graduate (History)

History of African Americans  
The Long Sixties\*

\*Denotes courses I formulated and introduced into the curriculum.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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### Manuscripts

*The Dallas Way: Gay Rights in a Conservative City* (under contract with New York University Press)

### Articles

“Hate Behind the Pine Curtain.” *The Activist History Review*, October 18, 2017.

<http://activisthistory.com/2017/10/18/hate-behind-the-pine-curtain/>

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & SERVICE

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“It Takes GUTS: AIDS Protests in a Conservative Southern City, 1987-1990,” The Southern Historical Association, St. Pete’s Beach, FL, November 2025.

“New Waco Histories: Queer and Women’s History,” (panel chair) The Alliance for Texas History, San Marcos, TX, May 2025

“Fighting the Pulpit: The Dallas Gay Community and Their Resistance to a Cultural Holy War,” The Texas State Historical Association, Austin, TX, February 2022.

“Fighting the Pulpit: The Dallas Gay Community and Their Resistance to a Cultural Holy War,” The Southern Historical Association. Virtual, November 2021.

“Phyllis R. Frye: The Transgender Menace Who Fought for Trans Equality, 1980-2015,” World History Association of Texas. Commerce, TX, February 2019.

## PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

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“Homophobia and Hate: The Murder of Nicholas West”

This article explores the use of homophobic rhetoric in public spaces and the impact it had on the three men who abducted and murdered Nicholas West in 1993 in Tyler, Texas.

“Barnstorming with the House of David”

In 1903, Benjamin and Mary Purnell established the Israelite House of David, a religious society, in Benton Harbor, Michigan. Almost immediately, young men from the group formed a traveling baseball club. Between 1903 and 1950, the House of David outfit wowed crowds with “the art of the ‘pepper game,’ a collection of Harlem Globetrotters-esque antics.” While this alone is amusing, it is essential to note that the House of David regularly played teams from various negro leagues.

Ultimately, my research aims to explore the multiracial connections formed within the context of baseball. Through this research, I believe we can gain a better understanding of the lived experiences of two marginalized groups: African Americans and members of a small, unorthodox religious sect—the House of David—prior to overt efforts at racial desegregation in modern American society.

## HONORS, AWARDS, & CERTIFICATIONS

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Effective Teaching Practice Framework, The Association of College and University Educators and the American Council on Education (certification)	2024
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Excellence in Teaching Award, The National Society of Leadership and Success, University of Texas at Tyler	2016
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## MEDIA AND JOURNALISM

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[“Bonus Episode: Dallas Gay Alliance v. Parkland Hospital, Part 2.”](#) Queering the Long Star State (podcast), July 18, 2025.

[“Bonus Episode: Dallas Gay Alliance v. Parkland Hospital, Part 1.”](#) Queering the Lone Star State (podcast), April 26, 2025.

[“Fashion Police, Legalized Homophobia & Preachers in Pursuit: A Discussion of ‘Morality’ in American w/ Dr. M. Rhys Dotson.”](#) Lady of the Lore (podcast), September 26, 2024.

[The History of Labor Day with UT-Tyler Professor M. Rhys Dotson.](#) ABC, KLTV (Tyler, Texas), September 1, 2022.

Quoted in [“The Remarkable Story of How a Teenage Runner Battled the Legacy of R.E. Lee,”](#) in *ESPN.com*, October 7, 2020.

## GRADUATE THESIS COMMITTEE

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“From the First to the Last: The 70<sup>th</sup> Ohio Volunteer Infantry Regiment in the Civil War, 1861-1865” Michael Allen Knous, Jr. (MA, 2024) University of Texas at Tyler (committee member)

## DEPARTMENT, UNIVERSITY, & PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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Member, Tenure-track Search Committee, Department of History	2024 – 2025
Member, Commencement Committee	2023 – Present
Advisor, Psi Alpha Chapter, Phi Alpha Theta National Honor Society	2023 – Present

## PUBLIC HISTORY, PUBLIC EDUCATION, & COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Guest Lecturer (Modern American History), Faculty Workshop – Tyler ISD	August 2025
Guest Lecturer (Texas History), Faculty Workshop – Tyler ISD	August 2024
AP Exam Reader, American History	2024 – 2025
Guest Lecturer, (Modern American History) Faculty Workshop – Whitehouse ISD	January 2023
Guest Lecturer (Modern American History), Faculty Workshop – Whitehouse ISD	August 2019

## LANGUAGES

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English (native)

Spanish (reading knowledge)

## PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

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Alliance for Texas History

East Texas Historical Association

Southern Historical Association