

Dr. Thomas Balcerski to discuss his book "Bosom Friends" at Presidential Lecture Series.

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All events are camera friendly, and principals will be available for interviews.

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Scholar to join LancasterHistory to discuss new book on the relationship between bachelor politicians Buchanan and King

Dr. Thomas Balcerski to discuss his book "Bosom Friends" at Presidential Lecture Series.

Lancaster, PA (October 2, 2019) – On Thursday, October 17, 2019, Dr. Thomas Balcerski will join LancasterHistory to discuss his new book *Bosom Friends: The Intimate World of James Buchanan and William Rufus King*. The friendship of the bachelor politicians James Buchanan (1791-1868) of Pennsylvania and William Rufus King (1786-1853) of Alabama has excited much speculation through the years. Why did neither marry? Might they have been gay? Or was their relationship a nineteenth-century version of the modern-day “bromance?” In *Bosom Friends*, Dr. Thomas Balcerski explores the lives of these two politicians and discovers one of the most significant collaborations in American political history. His work demonstrates that intimate male friendships among politicians were—and continue to be—an important part of success in American politics.

Thomas Balcerski, Ph.D. is an assistant professor of history at Eastern Connecticut State University, where he teaches courses broadly in American history. Balcerski received his Ph.D. from Cornell University in 2014. His work has appeared in the *Civil War History*, the *Journal of Social History*, and *Pennsylvania History*, and in edited volumes pertaining to U.S. Presidents

and First Ladies. His recently published book *Bosom Friends: The Intimate World of James Buchanan and William Rufus King* (Oxford University Press, 2019) explores the personal and political relationship of those two nineteenth-century bachelor Democrats.

Tickets: The event *Bosom Friends* will take place on Thursday, October 17, 2019 in Ryder Hall at LancasterHistory, 230 N. President Avenue in Lancaster. A speaker's reception and book signing by the author takes place at 4pm, followed by the main presentation at 4:30pm. The event is free and open to the public. Due to the popularity of LancasterHistory's lecture series, **advance registration is required to guarantee a seat at the presentation.** Visit www.lancasterhistory.org/presidential to register online or call (717) 392-4633. Limited tickets still available. Questions and accessibility requests may be directed to info@lancasterhistory.org or (717) 392-4633.

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Image of Thomas Balcerski, Ph.D.

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