



UNC CHARLOTTE
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

.....
spring
issue 7 **16**

HISTORY newsletter

.....

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 **Message from the Chair**
- 4 **News from the Undergraduate Program**
- 6 **Faculty Spotlights**
- 8 **Dr. Jim Hogue**
- 10 **News from the Graduate Program**
- 12 **Alumni Spotlights**
- 13 **Graduate History Association Message**
- 14 **PAT Honors**
- 15 **Public History**
- 16 **A Student's Perspective: Noe Pliego Campos**
- 18 **The Dowd Initiative**



Norm the Miner Statue, UNC Charlotte

Message from the Chair



Dr. Jürgen Buchenau, Department Chair

.....

On behalf of the faculty and staff in the UNC Charlotte Department of History, I bring you warm greetings and a quick retrospective on the activities of our department in the calendar year 2015. The year was busy and productive, as usual, and I am happy to share our unit's progress with our students, alumni, and supporters in the Charlotte community and elsewhere.

As always, I will first report on transitions. After sixteen productive years at UNC Charlotte, Professor James Hogue initiated phased retirement, effective Fall 2015. Throughout his years in our department, Jim was the face of military history—a topic popular with both students and alumni. He is renowned for his excursions to battlefields and other historical markers, and his departure will leave a significant hole in our offerings in American history. Fortunately, Jim has agreed to teach three successive spring semesters as part of his phased retirement agreement, and we look forward to working with Jim over the coming years.

While Jim transitions into retirement, we welcome Professor Carol Higham, a specialist in Native American History, as Visiting

Lecturer for the period 2015-2018. We were also able to hire another Visiting Lecturer, Professor Brenda Tindal, for this year, but Brenda was able to find an even better position as the new staff historian of the Levine Museum of the New South. We also welcome Professor Shimon Gibson, the co-director of the Mount Zion dig in Jerusalem as Visiting Professor for the calendar year 2016 as well as Fall 2017.

In addition, last May, our Administrative Support Associate, Ms. Leigh Robbins, left UNC Charlotte after five years in our unit. After a long summer in which our Office Manager, Ms. Linda Smith, served as our only permanent staff person, we were able to hire Ms. Gloria Davenport, formerly an Administrative Support Associate in the Department of Languages and Culture Studies. Welcome, Gloria!

We celebrated several significant faculty achievements, among them the promotion of Professor Peter Thorsheim to full professor, and the award of promotion and tenure to Professors Chris Cameron and Ritika Prasad. In the preceding calendar year, faculty members published seven books, twelve journal articles,

and nine book chapters, and Professors Shep McKinley and Aaron Shapiro both won prizes for their recent books. History faculty edit eleven book series. *The Journal of Urban History*, *The Journal of First World War Studies*, and *The Latin Americanist* continue their editorship in our department and/or the Latin American Studies Program.

We are also proud of our student achievements. To note just a few, twelve History undergraduate students graduated with Honors. Two of these Honors students, Caitlin Hanafin and Noah Goode, won admission to M.A. programs at Columbia University and Indiana University, respectively. One of our graduates of the M.A. program in Latin American Studies, Xanda Lemos, won admission with full funding to the Ph.D. program in History at Emory University. History M.A. student Kyle McLain won a 2015 Summer Research Fellowship from the Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., and Public History graduate Layne Carpenter accepted a position in the East Carolina libraries. Two other students from the program, Chris Kinley and Marissa Nichols, won Pharr-Buchenau grants from the Department of History to do research in Greece and Mexico, respectively.

.....

“[The Dowd Program] ...does not propose a set curriculum; instead, it endeavors to enrich the existing Liberal Studies and History curricula by offering courses on its theme.”

.....

On that note, we are most grateful for the support of the donors from the Pharr salons that made those research trips possible. In 2015, the salon initiative continued by means of three offerings: *“The American Civil War,”* by Professor David Goldfield; *“Mind of a Terrorist,”* by Professor Oscar Lansen; and *“Reconstruction,”* by Professor John David Smith. We are

thankful for the time that these three colleagues spent in offering stimulating presentations in the home of Ms. Carol Pharr. We also made a new foray in the form of a single-lecture salon in Kings Mountain at the home of Mr. Gilbert and Ms. Jancy Patrick.

I would like to close by noting the implementation of the Dowd program, an undergraduate program in the history of capitalism supported by a generous gift of \$100,000 from the Dowd Foundation, Inc. The program features the development of a range of undergraduate courses dedicated to the study of capitalism in its many aspects, from general education (LBST) courses to upper-level History courses. It does not propose a set curriculum; instead, it endeavors to enrich the existing Liberal Studies and History curricula by offering courses on its theme. With the help of this program, the department hopes to better prepare its graduates in the area of quantitative and mathematical reasoning, as well as to provide training for those History majors who are interested in working in the private sector after their graduation. The program began in Spring 2016 with two courses: a) an LBST 2101 course on the global history of capitalism team taught by Professor John Smail, Associate Provost and Dean of University College and myself; and b) a HIST 3000 course on American business history taught by Professor Mark Wilson. Mark’s course featured the examination of local corporate archives available to the public—a significant area of future research for a department committed to forging closer ties with the Charlotte community. In Fall 2015, the Dowd program continued with an LBST 2101 on the history of food production taught by Professor Benny Andrés. This year, no fewer than four courses are being taught in the Dowd program, with topics ranging from African-American entrepreneurs through capitalism and slavery to the history of capitalism in the U.S. South.

Our best wishes for a happy and productive year 2016, and we look forward to being in touch!

Jürgen Buchenau,
Professor and Chair
jbuchenau@uncc.edu



Dr. Oscar Lansen, Undergraduate Director

.....

The essence of studying history is not only to discover the richly diverse past with its trials and triumphs that has led us to who we are today, but also to develop the analytical and contextual skills that allow historians to understand and explain life's complexities. As such, history is as much an art as a science. Thus the creative yet logical nature of historical inquiry with its complex syntheses and precise qualitative and quantitative expressions finds widespread application in life and work. Historians carry skillsets essential for the board room, courtroom, classroom, or frankly any room. Studying history is varied and fun; a craft one is neither too young or too old to learn.

To illustrate both the practical nature of historical discovery as well the joy of lifelong learning, allow me to highlight several non-traditional and applied undergraduate learning initiatives in this edition of the newsletter.

.....

"The essence of studying history is not only to discover the richly diverse past... but also to develop the analytical and contextual skills that allow historians to understand & explain life's complexities."

.....

The department is getting ready to welcome its youngest students to the classroom. This fall, the first cohort of Charlotte Engineering Early College High School located on UNC Charlotte's campus will join our undergraduates in our American History courses. These high school sophomores will take the US surveys as part of our regular scheduled courses. This spring I will give several modeling lectures and skill workshops to help ease the transition from the STEM team-learning setting to the large lecture liberal arts environment. In addition, these young college goers will 'intern' with my freshman learning community cohort in my large-lecture Children in War and Conflict course. Once seated in the fall courses, the Early College students will receive support from one of our graduate teaching students, who will help bridge the gap between high school and college learning.

One learns best by doing. Our program therefore offers multiple practical opportunities inside and outside of the classroom for our undergraduate to acquire and hone their analytical and expression skill sets. This upcoming fall, for example, the department will extend its hands-on practical training currently available only to its freshmen learning community in which they co-teach the Holocaust seminar with their instructor to all the incoming freshman majors. This empowering practicum has proven to be very effective in accelerating formative skills

News from the Undergraduate Program

for history and college learning at large. The history learning community experience will therefore become an integral part of our freshmen's first year curriculum. Upperclassmen will benefit from a planned expansion of our applied course offerings and internship opportunities in teaching, legal studies, public history, medicine & environmental studies, and business; the latter made possible in part through the Dowd Initiative. Finally, our seniors continue to have the opportunity to do advanced work one-on-one and in small group settings with our faculty. Please see Noe Pliego Campos' piece elsewhere in this newsletter [on] how this practicum has shaped his skills and aspirations as a historian.

However, the best and sometimes the most fun learning takes place outside of the classroom; whether these are public history field trips, historical simulations, study abroad, or eyewitness visits. Our department currently hosts British historian and archeologist Dr. Shimon Gibson, an authority on antiquities in Israel and Palestine. Dr. Gibson currently teaches courses on historical archeology and together with Dr. James Tabor, will offer a summer field trip to the Mount Zion archeological dig in Jerusalem. Likewise, Dr. Maren Ehlers currently teaches a course on the history of Tokyo, and will take her class over spring break to Japan to view this wondrous metropolis first hand. Our faculty routinely reaches out to the Charlotte community in offering applied courses and lectures. For example, I was privileged to lead the inaugural seminar of the Charlotte Teachers Institute, a creative, interdisciplinary approach to continuing education for primary and secondary school teachers. Our faculty has since contributed to this initiative with a host of courses. Currently, the department is offering a variety of Salons, bringing history to the living room of the Charlotte community with a variety of topics ranging from traditional discourses on nations, times, and events (Latin America, the Civil War, the US Constitution, etc); to insights in current problems (Terrorism in the Middle East); to historical reconstructions (The Mind of Adolf Hitler).

Finally, to show that one is never too old to learn, at our Fall 2015 commencement exercise I had the sincere pleasure to help 76-year-old Shella Hollowell to the stage. 54 years and six



schools later, Shella graduated at the hand of her loving husband with a BA in History. More importantly, she kept her promise of getting her college degree to her now-deceased father, Jake Strother, who during the Great Depression worked four jobs as he attended UNC-Chapel Hill. Reflecting on fulfilling this promise, Hollowell stated that her father would have been "the happiest man on the planet." Something great about UNC Charlotte is its outreach to attracting non-traditional students because it brings together students at various stages of life. In the classroom, she improved her computer skills with the help of the younger students, even as she provided them with wisdom from her personal experiences. Shella's graduation was also the result of the University's 49er Finish Program which since 2005 has reached out to students who did not complete their program and provided them with the options and tools, including financial aid, needed to re-enroll and complete their degree. The History Department proudly congratulates Shella Hollowell for earning her BA as well as four different honors and wishes her many successes. We also invite you or someone you know to reach out to us so that you can complete your degree.

Dr. Oscar Larsen,
Undergraduate History Director
oelansen@uncc.edu

Faculty Spotlights

In 2015, **Dr. Benny Andrés** published his first book *Power and Control in the Imperial Valley: Nature, Agribusiness, and Workers on the California Borderland, 1900-1940* with Texas A&M University Press. Dr. Andrés took four research trips to Arizona during a Spring semester sabbatical researching his second book project "*La Compañía de Terrenos y Aguas de la Baja California, S. A.: An Environmental Enterprise Shaping the Lower Colorado River Region, 1900-1962.*" To support his new book project, Andrés was awarded an Arizona Historical Society research grant and a UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grant. In addition, Dr. Andrés gave a presentation and moderated a panel titled, "*La Vida Latina: 21st Century Life in Charlotte*" at the Levine Museum of the New South. He also conducted a podcast interview for Latino Role Models & Success, submitted a blog essay to National Geographic, wrote two book reviews, and gave three book talks in California. Dr. Andrés also serves on the Alice Hamilton Prize Committee for the American Society for Environmental History and the Program Committee for the Western History Association conference. He also taught a new class: "*Food Production, Marketing, & Consumption in USA, Colonial Era - Present.*"

During the past year, **Dr. Peter Thorsheim** spoke at several academic conferences, gave an invited lecture to the Department of the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins, joined the editorial boards of Environmental History and the Journal of Urban History, and published *Waste into Weapons: Recycling in Britain during the Second World War* (Cambridge University Press). He made two research trips to the UK, funded in part by the Wellcome Trust, to study the environmental impact of weapons production in 20th-century Britain, and he was promoted to full professor.



Dr. Christine Haynes was the guest editor, along with colleagues Denise Davidson and Jennifer Heuer, of a special issue of the Journal of Military History on "*Ending War: Revisiting the Aftermath of the Napoleonic Wars,*" out in January 2016. For this issue, in addition to soliciting and editing the main articles, she helped to write an introduction, surveying the state of the historiography on the end of these wars. Her essay "*Making Peace: The Allied Occupation of 1815-1818*" was just published in a collection called *War, Demobilization, and Memory: The Legacy of War in the Era of Atlantic Revolutions*, edited by Alan Forrest, Karen Hagemann, and Michael Rowe (Palgrave Macmillan). At the end of February, she will give the opening lecture at the annual meeting of the Consortium on the Revolutionary Era, in Shreveport, Louisiana, on "*The Aftermath of War: The Allied Occupation of France, 1815-1818.*" Dr. Haynes was just invited to join the editorial board of French Historical Studies.

Dr. Heather Perry is hard at work on her current book manuscript entitled, *Feeding War: Gender, Health, and Mobilization in WWI Germany*. As part of that she gave a number of conference presentations in 2015 that were related to that book and its research: These were papers at the American Historical Association (AHA) in New York in January 2015; at the *Southeast German Studies Association Workshop* in February in Davidson; at the *American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM)* at Yale in May 2015; at the *German Studies Association (GSA conference)* in Washington, DC in October 2015.

She continued her work as Book Review Editor and Associate Editor of the journal *First World War Studies*. Dr. Perry also served on the *German Studies Association (GSA) 2015 Program Committee*.

On Oct. 22, 2015, Dr. Perry gave the opening plenary lecture for the University of Kansas's year-long WWI lecture series: *Everyday Lives on the Eastern Front* as well as a presentation on WWI Disability history and sources at the Bob Dole Institute of Politics. In terms of her other work: Dr. Perry taught the Fall 2015 UCLAS Freshmen Learning Community for the second year.

Faculty Spotlights

Dr. Shepherd McKinley In February, Dr. McKinley received the George C. Rogers Jr. Award (presented annually by the South Carolina Historical Society to the author of the best book of South Carolina history published during the previous year) for his book, *Stinking Stones and Rocks of Gold: Phosphate, Fertilizer, and Industrialization in Postbellum South Carolina* (University Press of Florida, 2014). Dr. McKinley (in collaboration with Dr. Sabol) spent much of the year editing *North Carolina During the First World War, 1914-1922*, an edited collection of 20 chapters.



Dr. John Cox published *To Kill a People: Genocide in the Twentieth Century* in February 2016 with Oxford University Press.

Dr. Christopher Cameron received a fellowship from Emory University's Manuscripts and Rare Books Library to conduct research for his project "*Black Freethinkers: African American Secularism, 1800-2000.*" His article "*Zora Neale Hurston, Freethought, and African American Religion*" was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Africana Religions*. Dr. Cameron was elected as the first president of the African American Intellectual History Society, a two year term that began on January 2016.

During 2015, **Dr. John David Smith** completed *Interpreting American History: Reconstruction* (Kent State University Press, forthcoming fall 2016) and also had "*As firmly linked to 'Africanus' as was that of the celebrated Scipio': Abraham Lincoln, Emancipation, and the U.S. Colored Troops,*" accepted for publication in *Democracy and the Civil War: Race and African Americans in the Nineteenth Century*, ed. Kevin Adams and Leonne Hudson (Kent: Kent State University Press, forthcoming Fall 2016). He also presented eighteen invited lectures and talks, nationally and internationally, including three salons at the Pharr Lecture series, and lectures at the University of Heidelberg, the University of Freiburg, Illinois State University, and the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He continues to edit nine monograph series for university and commercial publishers.



Dr. Gregory Mixon chaired the Minorities Committee of the Southern Historical Association and helped organize two panels sponsored by the committee for the Nov. 11-13, 2015 meeting. He served as a commentator for a panel at the *Association for the Study of African American Life and History* meeting, Sept. 30, 2015 - Oct. 4, 2015. Currently, Dr. Mixon, is serving as co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the annual meeting of the National Council For Black Studies convening in Charlotte, North Carolina March 17-19, 2016, at the Omni Hotel in Uptown Charlotte.

In Spring 2015, **Dr. Carmen Soliz** won two summer grants (one from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the other a UNC Charlotte Faculty Research Grant) to continue working on her book "*Fields of Revolution: Agrarian Reform and Rural State Formation in Bolivia: 1936-1971.*"

In an edited six-volume History of Bolivia, Dr. Soliz published "*Reforma agraria: Balances, perspectivas y nuevos enfoques*" In: *Tomo VI: Construcción del Estado y constitución de los actores sociales: 1952-2000*. La Paz: Plural, 2014. In other edited volume she published "*La transformación de lo público y lo privado en Bolivia: una mirada desde el área rural*" in *Lo público en la pluralidad: Ensayos desde Bolivia y América Latina* edited by Gonzalo Rojas. La Paz: CIDES, 2015.

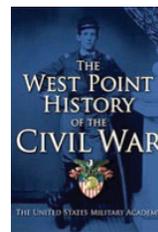
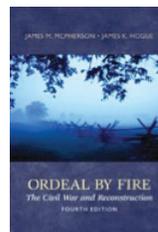
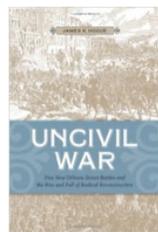
On top of her publications, Dr. Soliz attended the three following conferences: "*Indigenous Political Activism in Bolivian Revolutionary Nationalist Times*," *Ethnicity, Race and Indigenous Peoples (ERIP) Virginia*, October 2015; "*Datos y representaciones de la reforma agraria: El baile de los numeros*," *Bolivian Studies Association (AEB) Archivo y Biblioteca Nacional de Bolivia*, Sucre, 2015; "*Indigenous Citizens Before the Indigenous Movements*," *American Historical Association*, New York, 2015.

Dr. Jim Hogue

In 2015, Dr. Jim Hogue signed up for phased retirement after sixteen years in the UNC Charlotte History Department. After a career as an officer in the US Army, Jim completed his Ph.D. in American history from Princeton University under the direction of noted Civil War historian, James M. McPherson in 1998. He was appointed Assistant Professor of History at UNC Charlotte in 1999.

Among his published works are: *“Uncivil War: Five Street Battles in New Orleans and the Rise and Fall of Radical Reconstruction (2006)”*, *“Ordeal By Fire: The Civil War and Reconstruction (4th ed. 2010)”*, and a chapter on the end of the Civil War in *“The West Point History of the Civil War (2014)”*. His scholarship was made possible in part by a series of faculty research grants from UNC Charlotte.

Scholarship in the Civil War and Reconstruction



Left to right: Cover of *“Uncivil War (2006)”*, cover of *“Ordeal By Fire (2010)”*, and cover of *“West Point History of the Civil War (2014).”*

Dr. Hogue believes in moving learning outside the classroom or lecture hall whenever possible. He has organized a voluntary student field trip to the local Revolutionary War battlefield at Kings Mountain National Park ever since joining UNC Charlotte. He has also organized tours of

Reconstruction sites in New Orleans for fellow historians at the annual conferences of the Southern Historical Association (2008), Society of Military History (2013), and the American Historical Association (2013).

Learning Outside the University



Southern Historical Association-sponsored tour of Reconstruction sites portrayed in his book, *Uncivil War: Five Street Battles in New Orleans and the Rise & Fall of Radical Reconstruction*, in New Orleans, Louisiana (2008).



Annual Kings Mountain Battlefield National Park Field Trip (2007)

Dr. Hogue has served as an officer of the US Commission on Military History as chair of the bibliography committee, vice president, and member of the board of trustees. He has also served in a variety of offices with the International Commission of Military

History and traveled to its annual meetings all over the world, thanks in part to travel funding from the UNC Charlotte History Department, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the UNC Charlotte Office of International Programs.

**Internationalizing
the Field of
Military History**



Jim Hogue at the opening session of the ICMH, hosted by the Chinese People's Liberation Army in Beijing, China in 2015. The poster portrays one of the life-sized terra cotta warriors discovered near the burial site of the first Chinese emperor in Xian, China. Jim continues to serve as ex-officio officer for English translations for the Bibliographie Internationale d'Histoire Militaire (International Bibliography of Military History), published bi-annually by the ICMH.



Jim Hogue at the opening reception of the annual meeting of the International Commission of Military History (ICMH) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2011. Directly behind Jim is an early 20th century coastal artillery gun of the Copacabana Fortress manufactured by Krupp Arms of Germany. Jim served as U.S. representative to the ICMH Bibliography Committee for nine years.

Dr. Hogue's success in his career as an academic historian has come in no little measure from the active support of his wife, Pat, his daughter, Michelle, and his colleagues in the UNC Charlotte History Department. Pat is a retired nurse and US Air Force officer who served in a variety of assignments in the United States, Europe, and the Pacific. Michelle graduated with honors from the University of Chicago in 2010.

**The Historian in Pursuit of the
Good Life at UNC Charlotte**



Jim with wife, Pat, and daughter, Michelle, at Michelle's graduation from the University of Chicago in 2010.



Various UNC Charlotte History Department Colleagues at Lyman Johnson's First Citizens Award Dinner (2010).

News from the Graduate Program



Dr. Christine Haynes, Director of Graduate Studies

.....

On behalf of the faculty in History, I want to wish all of our current and former M.A. students a happy 2016!

As Director of Graduate Studies, much of my time is spent with current students, advising them on coursework, supervising their work as graduate assistants, and fine-tuning our graduate curriculum and assessment process, especially the historiography and writing seminars. During your time in the program, most of your contact with me is probably during the admissions and orientation process, then around registration time each semester, and finally when you are completing all of the paperwork for graduation.

But a lot of the work of the Director of Graduate Studies occurs behind the scenes. To continue to build the M.A. program in History for current and future students, I have over the last few years been pursuing a number of initiatives to attract, retain, graduate, and track students in our program.

In recent months, I am happy to report, a couple of these projects have come to fruition: First, with the help of graduate assistant

Jocelyn Westphal, we now have a relatively complete alumni database, with post-graduation education / work data as well as contact information for graduates of the program dating back at least to 2000. If you did not receive our emails asking for this information and are willing to share it with us, please get in touch with me at chaynes@uncc.edu. Second, we were selected by the Graduate School to pilot a new software program for tracking student progress toward graduation called "Degree Works," which went live this week. While we will not be using this widely for another semester or so, and while there are bound to be technical glitches along the way, this program should help M.A. students as well as their advisors to monitor their progress in the program, at a glance. Eventually, it will also streamline a lot of the paperwork currently required of graduate students.

Alongside these projects, during the last few years my main focus has been improving our recruitment of new students, to ensure that we enroll a strong, diverse, and numerous group of students in all of the main fields of our department, including public history, each year. Toward this aim, I have--with the help of some talented graduate

student assistants, including Solomon Franklin, Evan Faulkenbury, and now Jocelyn Westphal—revamped our publicity materials, including the Graduate Studies website and a new poster, which we have circulated to a number of undergraduate programs in the region and beyond. Each fall, using a list of GRE-takers in the southeast who indicate an interest in graduate study in history, I contact prospective students in the region directly about our program. I have also reached out to undergraduate directors in history departments at colleges and universities across North Carolina, via email and also in person, on trips to Duke University, Wake Forest University, Johnson C. Smith University, and UNC Chapel Hill. I have hosted workshops on applying to graduate school, at which I discuss our program, at Davidson College, Guilford College, and Winston Salem State University, as well as for the Davenport honors seminar and the Phi Alpha Theta honors society here at UNC Charlotte. With Dr. Lansen and Dr. Buchenau, I also instituted an “early entry” option for students pursuing a B.A. in History at UNC Charlotte who want to continue on for a master’s degree, which allows them to double-count up to six credits for both degrees. In recruiting good students from UNC Charlotte and other institutions, I also rely heavily on my colleagues to refer candidates to our program. Here on campus, Dr. Mixon and Dr. Smith have been particularly helpful with this.

Of course, getting students to apply to our program is only half the battle. Once they are admitted, we must then persuade them to come. In addition to corresponding personally with each admitted student, I have worked hard the last few years to try to improve the number and attractiveness of our funding packages for our strongest candidates, especially from outside the Charlotte region. In a context of limited and diminishing state resources, this has not been an easy task. However, with the assistance of some generous donors to the department, we have been able to introduce some new funding: in addition to the Pharr-Buchenau grants, which are given to at least two students completing their first year for summer research, the department is now able to offer two assistantships for first-year students in public history in Special Collections, in a cost-sharing arrangement between the department and Atkins Library which Dr. Shapiro helped to initiate last fall. After a successful first year, with the positions held by Natalie Copeland and Jordan Kojima,

these assistantships will be offered to two new students in 2016-2017. Thanks to funding from Roddey Dowd for new programming in the history of capitalism, we have also been able to award two “Dowd” graduate assistantships to help with speaker travel

.....
“Over the next few years, we will continue to work to increase the amount of funding for our graduate assistants, in our effort to attract the best students to our program.”
.....

arrangements and miscellaneous administrative tasks. In addition to helping to arrange these new assistantships, I have also been active in seeking and applying for other sources of funding on campus for our students, including Graduate School philanthropic awards, new assistantships for veterans, and work-study positions in the Center for Teaching and Learning, the Center for Graduate Life, and University College. Over the next few years, we will continue to work to increase the amount of funding for our graduate assistants, in our effort to attract the best students to our program.

As important as resources are, however, for recruitment our best tool is really word-of-mouth. A number of alumni have referred students to us, for which we are very grateful. If you are a current student or recent graduate, we encourage you to share your experience of the program with anyone who is considering advanced study in history—and to refer them to the Director of Graduate Studies.

Whether you are a prospective student, a current student, an alumni, or a donor we appreciate your interest in and support of our program, and we love to hear from you. Contact us anytime at history@uncc.edu.

Dr. Christine Haynes,
Director of Graduate Studies
chaynes@uncc.edu

Alumni Spotlights

Layne Carpenter

Following graduation, Layne Carpenter took a position in the Special Collections Division at East Carolina University's Joyner Library. For this position, she manages the North Carolina Periodicals Index (NCPI), a database that houses over 23,000 abstracts of articles that pertain to North Carolina history, tourism, economics, law, and more. In late 2015, Layne worked alongside the library's Lead Programmer to overhaul the index and create a new website, which greatly improved the site's functionality. Additionally, she provides reference assistance and research help to patrons using Special Collections material, is a member of the library's Social Media Group, and serves as the Exhibit Coordinator for art exhibitions in Joyner Library.

Michael Ervin

Michael Ervin is currently a member of the history faculty and the student life coordinator at the Alzar School. This is a small semester school focused on cultural exchange and experiential education in Idaho. His thesis "*Public Order is Even More Important than the Rights of Negroes: Race and Recreation in Charlotte, North Carolina, 1927-1973*"

won a UNC Charlotte Master's Thesis Award in the category of Humanities and Fine Arts for best thesis defended since Fall 2013. The history department has forwarded Michael's thesis as a campus nominee for the Conference of Southern Graduate Schools Master's Awards, to compete for a \$1,000 award and travel funds for the 2016 CSGS Annual Meeting in Charlotte, where the awards will be presented next February.

Ian Pasquini

Ian Pasquini won the UNC Charlotte's ETD Master's Thesis Award for his thesis, "*Tate Street, That Great Street: Culture, Community and Memory in Greensboro, North Carolina*" and its film adaptation. The film screened at Greensboro's Barefoot Bijou Summer Film Festival in 2015. As part of Ian's research, he conducted nearly 30 hours of video interviews with participants in the Greensboro alternative music scene dating from the 1960s to the present. Ian's research makes an important contribution to the field, helping historians consider how to connect work in visual and documentary media with more traditional written scholarship. By addressing the possibilities and limits of working in various media—from print to visual to new social media—Ian offers a clear analysis of many issues at the heart of public history scholarship and practice. His work is part of a growing but still nascent scholarship that effectively integrates digital technologies and social media into historical research and presentation.

Recent M.A. Theses

Twig Branch

- "*J.Z. Holwell and the Black Hole of Calcutta.*"

Layne Carpenter

- "*Live By The Spirit: Institutional Discipline For Crimes Against Order And Morals Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, 1767-1839.*"

Michael Ervin

- "*Public Order is Even More Important than the Rights of Negroes: Race and Recreation in Charlotte, North Carolina, 1927-1973.*"

Drew Hill

- "*Bastion of the Dispossessed: The Free People of Color's Fluid Identities Across the Haitian Revolution.*"

Andrew Pack

- "*Battle of the Press: The Nullification Crisis in South Carolina, 1828-1833.*"

Ian Pasquini

- "*Tate Street, That Great Street: Culture, Community, and Memory in Greensboro, North Carolina.*"

Alison R. Steigerwald

- "*Opposition and Reaction: The Union of Democratic Control, the Press, and the British Government's Suppression of Dissent During the First World War.*"

Eugene Stouse

- "*Bohemian Nationalism and the Impact of Czech and Slovak Nationals Abroad on the Emergence of Czechoslovakia.*"

Graduate History Association

Over the course of the past year (2015-16), the Graduate History Association (GHA) has rapidly expanded its membership and organized various professional and community events in Charlotte. Our current officers (Marissa Nichols, Kate Moore, Donald Ross Smith, Jr., Andrea Guzman, and Samantha Thompson) encouraged a full inclusion of the M.A. students in Latin American Studies. As a result, the number of active members is at an all-time high and only continues to grow. Additionally, our officers organized more events to build a community among graduate students and to encourage academic and professional success.

Following tradition, the GHA organized the 28th Annual Graduate History Forum (February 26-27, 2016). As our largest professional event, the forum exposes members to conference planning and provides a space for students to present original research. This year's program boasted an evening presentation by Dr. Louis A. Pérez, Jr., one of the foremost historians in Cuban history, followed by an entire day of student panels, faculty



2015-2016 Officers at the Welcome Picnic: Kate, Samantha, Andrea, Marissa, and Ross

roundtables, and a presentation by Dr. Cheryl Hicks from our department. Though the GHA seeks to encourage professional success, we also work to build a community in our department. In August 2015, GHA officers welcomed new students with our annual picnic. The incoming cohort met returning students and the department's faculty/staff. Later in the semester, we hosted our traditional Thanksgiving lunch to bring everyone together again before break. Various "First Year Workshops" encouraged success among first-year students and helped them stay on track with their theses and exams. Additional community outings to UNC Charlotte sporting events and renewed interest in our Facebook page made for a successful year for the GHA. Contact us at gha@uncc.edu and visit our Facebook page [facebook.com/UNCCGHA](https://www.facebook.com/UNCCGHA) to stay involved!

Marissa Nichols,
GHA President
gha@uncc.edu

Getting Into Graduate School

1. Recommendations: You will need 2-3 recommendations from professors depending on which schools you apply to. Ask professors you have had the most classes with, since they will be the most familiar with your work. Ask about recommendations in person if possible. Your professors may remember your face much better than a name in an email.

2. The GRE: This test is similar to the SAT. If you are applying to a graduate history program, the writing section will be particularly important. Much of it will consist of essay questions. Be sure to plan your essay out carefully and construct a concise argument. Many people choose to retake the GRE, so don't feel ashamed if your first scores aren't to your liking.

3. Personal Statement: You will need to write a "500-1000" word essay that describes why the program you are applying to will benefit your career goals. Explore the department website of each program you apply to. Look for the components they advertise about their program and incorporate them into your essay. Highlight any personal achievements or circumstances you have overcome that will make your application stand out. Ask your undergraduate advisor for advice if you can.

4. Writing Sample: Not all universities require a writing sample, but it can be helpful to include one anyway. Find an example of your work that stands out, and make any changes that may improve it. This can include a selection from a larger work depending on the limits placed on writing samples by each university you apply to. An example of a writing sample would be a paper for an undergraduate class, a section from an honors thesis, or a paper you presented at a conference.

PAT Honors

.....

The campus chapter of Phi Alpha Theta under the direction of Dr. Robert McEachnie and students Kurt Garfield, Anna Culbreth, and others took on a new life this year. They have taken the honors society mission to heart and worked to recognize students who achieved the highest levels of academic excellence. During the Fall of 2015, PAT sponsored and hosted a “How To Apply To Graduate School” workshop in October where Dr. McEachnie and Dr. Haynes spoke to students about useful tips for applying to any graduate school. In November, PAT recognized new initiates at a club sponsored Pizza Party, and PAT also ventured to Reed Gold Mine for a specialized tour given by current PAT member Evin Burluson. In December, PAT alongside numerous departmental staff, honored our senior members who graduated at the end of the semester.

The busy Fall semester only set high expectations for the Spring semester. They already embarked upon “A Roman Holiday” to Columbia, SC, in January to visit The South Carolina State Museum where they explored the Julius Caesar: Roman Military Might and Machines exhibit. As of now PAT plans to do several things to build community amongst current members and new ones. By the end of January, PAT plans to have the department’s first ever T-shirt, available to both members and non-members. PAT also plans to host a Colloquia Series throughout the semester, as well as our Spring Recognition of Initiates ceremony. PAT is most excited to host the department’s first ever “Meet and Greet” where majors and non-majors alike can come, meet a potential professor and learn about their class, in March so students could have that in consideration for Fall 2016 Registration.



PAT members along with Dr. McEachnie at the South Carolina State Museum.

Message from the Director of Public History



Public History

It is my pleasure to update you on our public history program and to add to the ongoing initiatives Professor Haynes has outlined elsewhere in this newsletter. When people ask me what is public history, I often tell them quickly that it is “history with prepositions”—that is, history of, by, for and with the public. Course projects and partnerships continue to prove vital in connecting students, faculty and community across the region, providing meaningful opportunities for students, local professionals and community members to explore the region’s rich history together. Last spring, students in Professor Cox’s Heritage Tourism elective undertook a three-day field school in Charleston, SC as part of their coursework, assessing historic and ongoing debates connected with the tourism industry in Charleston and other sites across the South.

This year, students in my Museum Studies course partnered with colleagues and undergraduates at Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) to develop four proposals for an upcoming exhibit highlighting materials from the James Peeler Collection. Each of the groups partnered with one undergraduate student from JCSU, producing proposals that included functional and graphic design, content labels and supplemental materials focusing on Peeler’s work as a photographer and his impact on and in Charlotte’s African American community. Peeler’s work as a photographer in Charlotte spanned almost half a century, and most of the collection dates from the 1950s to the 1980s. Peeler is perhaps best known as a portrait photographer

with exceptional retouching and hand coloring skills, but he also photographed community celebrations and major events in Charlotte. The student proposals were presented at a public event on December 3, 2015 and JCSU faculty and staff are integrating elements from the proposals into the exhibit build this spring with UNC Charlotte student involvement.

This spring, students in my Historic Preservation class are working with the City of Charlotte on an historic preservation and interpretation effort. Among their many projects, they are preparing a National Register nomination for Elmwood/Pinewood Cemetery. This nomination will be presented to the City of Charlotte Department of Engineering and Property Management, Division of Landscape Management (which oversees the city’s seven public cemeteries, including Old Settler’s Cemetery in Uptown). Students will also develop related project components (e.g. walking or audio tours, text for QR codes, documentary, research data for GPS-enabled tours) that the City is interested in developing further.

Internships remain a major part of our graduate program with students completing local internships with NASCAR Hall of Fame, Mercy Heritage Center in Belmont, James K. Polk Historic Site, Stanly County Museum, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Parks and Recreation, Second Ward High School Alumni Association, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Historic Landmarks Commission and further afield with Historic Germantown outside Philadelphia, the US Holocaust Museum and Memorial, the American University Nuclear Studies Institute, and Buffalo Gap Historic Village in Texas.

I also want to add that, with the assistance of Professor Larsen and the undergraduate committee, we are now offering a suite of three undergraduate public history offerings at the 3000-level and I look forward to teaching the Introduction to Public History course for undergraduates in Fall 2016 when my colleague Steve Sabol will also be teaching a course entitled, “*Genealogy: History and Practice.*” This will help expose undergraduate majors and minors to opportunities and research in public history.

Aaron Shapiro,
Director of Public History
ashapi10@uncc.edu

A Student's Perspective

Noe Pliego Campos



Presenting at the Genocide in World History Conference at Bryan University, Rhode Island.

I envisioned myself as a high school history teacher at a school where I could also coach soccer. I love history and soccer so why not teach others both, right? My plans, however, started to change when I met a tall German who spoke Spanish to me and made me re-evaluate my aspirations. That tall German happened to be Dr. Jurgen Buchenau, who proposed I excel at the undergraduate level and think about enrolling into the University's History or Latin America Studies M.A. programs. Yet, as the first in my family to graduate high school with honors and enroll into a four-year university, I asked myself, "Graduate studies, what is that?" Graduate school remained a puzzle; however, being a first generation college student, I made it my task to get the most out of the academic experience because I knew that these tangible opportunities would only be unimaginable dreams in my rural hometown in Mexico.

Soon enough, I left behind the idea of becoming a high school teacher thanks to professors, who understood what it meant to be a first generation college student and encouraged me pursue a Masters and even a Ph.D. After succeeding in one of Dr. Higham's infamous 2600 courses I turned to my academic adviser Dr. Oscar Larsen to understand what I needed to become a strong M.A. candidate. He advised me to do the History Honors program because it would test my abilities as a researcher, writer, and speaker and prepare me for graduate school since I would work on an article-length thesis during an academic year and defend it in front of a committee. Intrigued by the challenge and chance to work on a

research interest for a year with faculty I signed up for the History Honors program.

The Honors Program, however, ended up giving me much more than just time to work on a project. It provided me with the tools to become a strong applicant for M.A. programs, which led to an early entry acceptance into the University's Latin American Studies M.A. program. It also solidified that I truly enjoyed working with primary sources and other scholars. Working on a thesis that looked at the political significance of the 1986 World Cup hosted in Mexico, I turned to Dr. Buchenau as my thesis adviser alongside Dr. Higham and Dr. Gregory Weeks from the Political Science dept. to become a part of my thesis committee. Dr. Buchenau with his immense knowledge of Mexican history advised me on what scholars to read, but also who to reach out for insights. His immense help throughout the year enabled me to win the Avenir Foundation Scholarship given by the Honors College to honor a student, who developed strong relationships with a mentor. Dr. Higham spent a lot of time reading and placing comment bubbles and red typeface on digital copies of my thesis, which made me a better writer. The editing process also gave me an insight into what it means to go through an article submission process. Dr. Weeks on the other hand early on advised me to gather as many primary sources as possible in the early stages.

The program also gave me the opportunity to work with other bright students with different research interests, which gave me the opportunity to learn about different historical subjects and see other writing styles. For example, I worked on peer review outside of class with historian of China Caity Hanafin '15 who now attends Columbia University as part of the East Asian Languages and Cultures program. In addition, I presented at a conference for the first time after the Honors college invited students from the History Honors program to submit to the Regional Honors Conference hosted in Greenville, South Carolina in March of 2015. Because the History Honors program provided me the opportunity to work closely with faculty and other bright students as well as the ability to travel to present, it soon became clear to me that I wanted to work on becoming a strong applicant for a Ph.D. program after I completed the M.A. Yet, like for the M.A. process I needed guidance.

I found that guidance with Dr. Robert McEachnie, who encouraged me to apply for the Michigan Humanities Emerging Research Scholars Program at the University of Michigan. Due to his support,

A Student's Perspective: Noe Pliego Campos

along with Dr. Lansen, Dr. Buchenau, and Dr. Higham's I earned a spot at the weeklong program alongside 14 other students from around the nation. There I learned that the 15 of us earned a spot amongst 100 applicants. The week in Ann Arbor ended up being intensive as I learned about applying to a Ph.D. program, reading and writing for a research paper, while interacting with faculty and Ph.D. students there. An accomplishment like this boosted my confidence in my academic work and demonstrated to me that my successes as UNC Charlotte can match the success of students from universities around the country.

On May 2015, I walked across the stage at Halton Arena and became the first person in my family to get a degree from a four-year institution. Not only did I simply get by, but I thrived. I graduated with Honors in History, completed two minors, and earned credit towards my graduate studies as an early-entry into the Latin American Studies M.A. program within three years. As my first year of graduate studies ends I continue to strive to become a strong applicant for a Ph.D. so that I can become a professor. The lessons

from the History Honors program help me in the graduate courses, as I know how to look for a scholar's thesis and how to help others during their research process. I am currently working with Dr. Lansen, which has allowed me to develop my advising skills since I work with his freshman learning community made up of students from different majors who have an interest in History. I also learned a lot about what it means to be a professor outside the class after sitting in meetings to take notes and working on behind the scenes things like evaluations, semester activity-calendars, adding new courses, among many other skills. My near-future plans include travelling to Mexico City to dig into the archives and putting together a syllabus since I will finally get to teach! The biggest lesson I got from participating in the History Honors program is that people like me from marginalized communities not only create history, but also write it. This lesson is what I want to pass onto students whenever I become a professor and I would not be on this path without my family's support and the encouragement of the professors in the History department, who put me on the path of the History Honors program and guided me along the way.



In front of the Diego Rivera mural at the Detroit Art Museum with other students from the University of Michigan program.

The Dowd Initiative

The Dowd Initiative

The Dowd Foundation Inc. has donated money to fund classes and talks related to business and capitalism. Each semester, an instructor teaches an undergraduate course and invites speakers to speak with students in the class. These lectures are open to any interested students. Dr. Benny Andrés taught the Dowd sponsored class in Fall 2015 titled: "Food Production, Marketing, and Consumption in USA, 1900 to Present." Students learned about

the history and impact of capitalism on American food production, marketing and consumption from the colonial era to the present. Guest speakers from a variety of background presented on aspects of food production such as lobbying, labor activism, organic agriculture, and non-profit organizations. Students were invited to have lunch or dinner with the speakers to learn more about their careers and experiences.



Baldemar Velasquez,
Founder and President
of the Farm Labor
Organizing Committee
(FLOC)



Gavin Gibbons,
Vice-President of
Communications for the
National Fisheries
Institute (NFI)



Dr. Jeanine Davis,
Professor and Extension
Specialist, Dept. of
Horticultural Sciences
at North Carolina
State University



Robin Emmons,
Founder and Executive
Director of Sow Much
Good, Inc.



Dr. Benny Andrés

Become a Supporter of the 49er Historians Scholarship Fund

The History Department needs your help in fulfilling our core functions of providing excellent undergraduate and graduate education as well as outreach to the greater Charlotte community, and engaging in cutting-edge historical research. You may pay by check by printing, completing, and mailing this form along with a check payable to the UNC Charlotte Foundation.

Name _____ Address _____
Phone # _____ E-mail _____

*Please return to: History Department
Garinger 226
UNC Charlotte
9201 University City Blvd.
Charlotte, NC 28223

You can also give online at giving.uncc.edu. Under *Gift Amount and Designations*, select *One or More Colleges, Schools, or Units*. Scroll to bottom and select *Other Area Not Listed* and then *Continue*. In the box to the right of *Other Designation Not Listed* type in *49ers Historians Scholarship Fund #440033* and complete the form. **Thank you for your contribution!**

Reporting and editing by History Graduate Assistants: Noe Pliego Campos, Sammi Jo Thompson, and Jocelyn Westpfahl
Designed by: Irina Bakalenko with Ceci Peake, UNC Charlotte Fine Arts, Graphic Design major
Photographs courtesy of the History Department; Cover photograph: Ceci Peake