



UNC CHARLOTTE
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

HISTORY

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'Men congregate in Washington Square Park, New York City' (Circa 1940)



Greetings from the UNC Charlotte Department of History! Our fall semester was a productive and busy one. We graduated more than one hundred students in the four degree programs we offer (M.A. and B.A in History, and M.A. and B.A. in Latin American Studies), and department faculty enrolled more than 3,400 students in their courses. As always, we could only do so due to the dedicated work of our 28 full-time and 12 part-time faculty members as well as the help of our office staff: Office Manager Linda Smith, Office Assistant Leigh Robbins, and Student Assistant Amanda Elzey.

The fall is always a time of new faces, and this year, we were happy to welcome two new faculty members to our department. Dr. Aaron Shapiro, our new Director of Public History, comes to us from Auburn University, and we look forward to his contributions in the administration and teaching of the Public History program, as well as his expertise in twentieth-century U.S. history. Dr. Robert McEachnie, our new Lecturer and an expert in ancient Roman history, graduated from the University of Florida; like our two other permanent lecturers, Dr. Oscar Lansen and Dr. Shepherd McKinley, Robert will make significant contributions to the operation of our undergraduate History program, a program that maintains steady enrollments in the 400s while the History major is in numerical decline nationally. We also welcome (or welcome back) three Visiting Lecturers: Dr. La Shonda Mims, Dr. Sonia Robles, and Bethany Johnson.

The teaching faculty missed some familiar faces this year because of our colleagues' unusual ability (and fortune) in procuring funding for research fellowships. Dr. Christine Haynes won a Fulbright Fellowship, which she is spending in Strasbourg, France; Dr. Mark Wilson is on a visiting appointment at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, and both Dr. Christopher Cameron and Dr. Maren Ehlers won research fellowships at Harvard University.

We congratulate our colleagues on their success, which reflects the significant research output of the department more generally. This fall, the department was honored as the unit within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences that had published the most books (nine) within the 2013 calendar year, including five by Dr. John David Smith alone. 2014 will see a continuation of this trend, as several faculty members are putting finishing touches on their own book manuscripts.

Best,
Jurgen



Peter Thorsheim Interim Director of Graduate Studies

I have greatly enjoyed teaching and mentoring graduate students in History ever since I arrived at UNCC in August 2000, but this is my first time overseeing our master's program. During the 2013-14 academic year I am serving as interim director of graduate studies in the absence of our regular program director, Dr. Christine Haynes, who is spending this year in Strasbourg, France through the Fulbright Program.

This has been a busy semester for graduate studies in the Department of History. In August we welcomed nine new students to the MA program in History, and several others plan to begin their graduate studies in January. In Fall 2013 the department offered a wide range of graduate courses focused on the history of the US, Latin America, African, and Europe, public history, and the history of gender and sexuality. In addition to these seminars and colloquia, many of our students took part in directed readings, thesis work, and internships.

The department continues to graduate large numbers of MA students from both the exam track and the thesis track. Recently completed master's theses include Scott Parker's analysis of Anthony Eden's role in the 1956 Suez Crisis, Joshua Weese's study of the Balfour Declaration.

In addition to a wide range of more traditional courses, the department's spring 2014 schedule includes courses in environmental history, video production for historians, and the history of war and medicine. Additionally, the Graduate History Association Forum will be held at the Cone Center on Friday and Saturday, March 14 and 15. This year's faculty speaker will be Dr. Benny Andres followed by keynote speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Crow, Retired Deputy Secretary of the North Carolina Office of Archives and History on Saturday.

Faculty Newswire



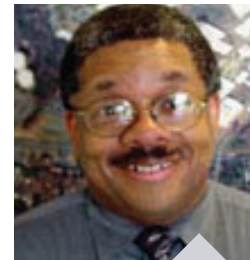
Dr. Amanda Pipkin, published *Rape and the Republic, 1609-1725: Formulating Dutch Identity* (Leiden: Brill, 2013).

Dr. John David Smith, published *Seeing the New South: Race and Place in the Photographs of Ulrich Bonnell Phillips* (with Patricia Bellis Bixel) (Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press, 2013); and *Lincoln and the U.S. Colored Troops* (Carbondale: Southern Illinois University Press, 2013). Dr. Smith also gave a talk at Mississippi State University on Stephen Spielberg's "Lincoln" and "Integrating Racial Themes into Public History Programs," at the Kentucky Historical Society, Frankfort, Kentucky.

Dr. Jurgen Buchenau, published Mexico, *The Once and Future Revolution: Social Upheaval and the Challenge of Rule since the Late Nineteenth Century* (with Dr. Gilbert M. Joseph) (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2013).



Dr. Cheryl D. Hicks, presented research at two professional conferences: Black Sexual Economies Conference at the Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, Missouri and; at the Association for the Study of the Worldwide African Diaspora (ASWAD) in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. Additionally presented a book talk at Carnegie Mellon University for the Center for African American Urban Studies and the Economy (CAUSE).



Dr. Carol Higham, published *The Civil War and the West: The Frontier Transformed* (Westport, CT: Praeger Publishing, 2013)

Dr. Gregory Mixon, served as commentator on the panel: "Jim Crow and the Law: Addressing Disfranchisement" at the 98th Annual Conference of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History in Jacksonville, Florida on October 5, 2013.



Maria Labbato, History M.A. Candidate

This past summer, I was fortunate to have received the George Rawlinson Travel Grant. This scholarship enabled me to visit Mexico City over two and a half weeks to conduct research for my Master's thesis. It was a wonderful and enlightening trip, both academically and personally. While in Mexico, I was able to visit three archives: the Archivo General de la Nación, the Biblioteca del Museo Nacional de Antropología, and the Ateneo de Españoles de México. I obtained presidential correspondence, journal publications, organizational mission statements, newspaper articles, event programs, and more. I was able to consult the journal from the Sinaia (the first and one of the largest expeditions carrying Spaniard exiles from Europe to Mexico), photographs, examples of exiles' writings, and records of activities conducted at the Ateneo. These primary sources constitute the documentary backbone of my thesis.

While in Mexico, I also took advantage of seeing the beautiful historic sites and experiencing the country's rich culture. The stream of street vendors with their various tortas and tacos are a sight to see. I enjoyed the views of the mountains encircling the expansive city from the Castillo de Chapultepec. My day trip to Puebla was especially amazing, as the city is colorfully decorated with Talavera ceramic tiles, and the volcanic views outside the city are breathtaking. In addition to enjoying this dynamic country, I obtained upwards of 2,000 images of documents. I am extremely appreciative of this experience, which has benefitted my thesis research. I also believe the familiarity with archives outside the United States will strengthen my prospects as I apply to PhD programs for Fall 2014. I truly thank the grant donors for making this enriching trip possible!



60 Seconds with an Alumnus

Doug Stacker

Hometown:
Charlotte, NC

Degrees:
Bachelor of Arts, History, 1977

Current Position:
Producer for WTVI PBS Charlotte

What is your fondest memory at UNC Charlotte's Department?

My classes with Drs. Dan Morrill and Harold Josephson

What is your favorite hangout on the UNC Charlotte campus?

The Mine Shaft

What was your most important academic lesson learned at UNC Charlotte?

The importance of historical facts and research still applies to my work today.

What do you find never ending inspiration in?

My family and friends

What are three words that describe you?

Diligent, creative, energetic

What is your favorite part of your job?

Producing, videography, and editing various projects.

What do you do when your not working?

Spending time with our horses and swimming.

What do you still wish you could learn?

The violin

What are five random facts about you?

Five random facts about me:

- 35 years in broadcasting
- I am a big baseball fan
- In my younger days I did triathlons
- I shot film for UNC Charlotte Basketball Show with coaches Bill Foster and Lee Rose
- While on assignment in Germany I brought home a piece of the Berlin Wall

We would like to get to know our alumni better! In each edition of the Newsletter we will spend a minute (or so) with an alum from a random area of the world.

Will you be next?

The University Outside the University



Graduate Student **Juan Pimentel-Otero** conducts a session highlighting Puerto Rico during the "Harvest of Empire" Forum in coordination with UNC Charlotte's International Office.



Dr. David Goldfield, Robert Lee Bailey Professor of History, captivates a gathering of students at Wenzhou University, Wenzhou, China in May.



HPIA Fellows visit with Holocaust survivor Manfred Katz.

The Fine Arts Palace in downtown Mexico City. Photo taken by Rawlinson Grant recipient Maria Labbato.



The pyramid at Teotihuacan photo taken by Rawlinson Grant recipient Maria Labbato.





Dr. Goldfield delivers the Presidential Address at the Southern Historical Association Conference in November.

The Beating Heart of the History Department

Dr. David Goldfield **Robert Lee Bailey Professor of History**

Dr. David Goldfield, Robert Lee Bailey Professor of History, is well known by his students as an intellectual model and an educator/mentor with extraordinary knowledge, judgment, and patience. His influence upon multitudes of UNC Charlotte students is immeasurable. Dr. Goldfield is a historian of the U.S. South of worldwide renown. Reviewers have praised his work for its provocative insights into the Civil War and its legacy as well as for its clear, straightforward prose. An immensely gifted lecturer, Dr. Goldfield has been honored with lecture invitations at universities around the world. In 2013, Dr. Goldfield served as president of the Southern Historical Association.

Dr. Goldfield delivers the presidential address at the Southern Historical Association Conference in November.

Dr. Goldfield was born in Memphis, Tennessee, and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. Since leaving the confines of College Park, he has published sixteen books highlighting various aspects of Southern and American history. His most recent work, *America Aflame: How the Civil War Created a Nation*, won nationwide critical acclaim. The *Los Angeles Times* praised the book as “a monumental new appraisal of the war.” Dr. Goldfield confesses to few hobbies outside of history, but during interludes between teaching, writing, and researching, he enjoys the music of Buddy Holly, the Crickets, and Gustav Mahler, and he is an avid jogger and baseball fan. He has been teaching at UNC Charlotte since 1982.

Dr. Goldfield’s integrity and his infectious and irreverent sense of humor have made him much loved and admired by his colleagues and students alike.



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Oscar Lansen, Director of Undergraduate Studies and Honors

News from the Undergraduate Program

The undergraduate program had a great fall semester. We welcomed sixty new freshmen and transfer student to the program; and with our traditional mid semester declares have now 470 undergraduate majors and 115 minors enrolled. The Department's *History, Politics, International Affairs Freshmen Fellows* Program had to turn away applicants and started with a twenty-five member cohort. Eleven honors candidates engaged in preliminary research and thesis development in the Sanford V. Davenport Honors Seminar. Finally, the department revised its curriculum for the minor, and is actively involved in the reorganization of the University Honors curriculum. Read further.

Eyewitnesses to War and Conflict

The *History, Politics, International Affairs Learning Community* cohort visited this fall with Holocaust survivor Manfred Katz,

as part of their fellows seminar on the Holocaust. The HPIA fellows program is organized by the Department of History in cooperation with the Department of Political Science and Public Affairs. Themed around the experience of children and young adults in war and conflict, the fellows research and co-teach with honors director Dr. Oscar Lansen the roles and issues their contemporaries face in combat, occupation, and oppression. Mr. Katz welcomed the cohort to Temple Emanuel in Statesville, where he relayed his life, deportation, ghetto and camp survival as a sixteen year old at the hands of the Nazis. The HPIA cohort will visit the spring semester with a boat refugee from Vietnam, and child soldiers from the African continent.

History Honors

The Department of History allows their strongest undergraduates to closely collaborate with our distinct faculty on a major research project as part of their senior capstone experience in History Honors. Candidates must have passed the initial history methods course with a grade of A to be eligible for this opportunity; as well as maintain a 3.5 GPA in history throughout their senior year. This fall, eleven candidates developed research proposals and authored preliminary drafts of what ultimately will develop into an article-style, publishable honors thesis. The current projects range from Jazz in New Orleans, to refugees in the Dominican Republic; from Scots and Cherokees joining surprising sides of conflicts, to women in the French Revolution; from reinvestigations of North Carolina History, to evangelism in the Cold War. Candidates must defend their thesis before a committee and achieve a grade of A to be awarded the Department's highest distinction.

Focusing the Minor

As History develops analytical research and oral/written communication competencies, the history major and minor have become increasingly popular with majors in other disciplines like business, Political Science, and Criminal Justice seeking to complement their skill sets. To better serve this constituency and to provide minors a diverse experience, the Department will modify the minor to require at least one course in non-western history. Additionally it is opening up its celebrated history skills seminar to minors who have shown competency in history, and would like to acquire research and writing skills.



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Lerin Tusing

Ever since I can remember history has been my favorite course of study. I harken back to sixth grade when I first learned about America and was assigned to memorize the state capitals which I can recite to this very day. Early on, I was fooled into believing that majoring in history was a degree that was worthless on the open market. Upon graduating from high school, I came to the realization that I had no earthly idea what I wanted to do with the rest of my life so I took some valuable time to ponder this monumental question.

Subsequently, I enrolled at the University of North Carolina Charlotte one full year behind the rest of my high school class. Initially, I chose to major in international business but it proved much more difficult than I had anticipated. I then sojourned to major in international studies since it required fewer math and several electives which could be filled with history courses. Since economics remained a requirement for this major I

changed majors, still again, to study anthropology. This seemed to be a good fit from an occupational standpoint especially if I concentrated biologically on animals. However, I disliked the wide-ranging subject matter and felt disconnected from my primary educational objectives.

I finally did something I should have done in the beginning of this academic quest-I sat down with my parents and discussed the fact that I have always been fascinated with history and even concentrated my elective course selection on the history courses available. I explained that history had always been a subject I had excelled in and engendered a feeling of excitement going to class and listening with bated breath to my professors.

Finally I came to realization that it did not know what my future occupational potential would hold. All I know is that majoring in history gave me a firm foundation in topics including economics, business, politics, culture, and law. The vastness of these issues will endow me with the latitude to explore a myriad of occupations and graduate studies.

Although I have spent a year, or two, in the process of self-discovery, I now have pinpointed an occupational course I would like to follow. Upon graduation I would like to enter the field of museum or historical site management. I know in my heart that making my livelihood in these professions would not be simple a "job." It would be a profession in the field I love and aspire to excel in.

University life can sometimes be challenging but it can be less problematic if you chose the appropriate course of study in your first semester. I am thankful that I discovered the wonders of history and plan to make it a main component of both my personal and professional life.



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Protests, whether in the form of boycotts, demonstrations, riots, occupations, labor strikes, local activism, or works of art have shaped America's identity and defined its generations.

Our nation was founded upon the ideological scaffolding of dissent and protest. Dissent is thinking or feeling differently about something, and protest is taking action based on dissent. Not all protests are wise, of course, and not all protesters are righteous in character. Taken as a whole, however, these are the

voices of the great American human pantheon, greater than the kings and sultans and emperors, greater than the Trumps and Rockefellers.

It is easy to dismiss protests as the undertakings of zealots and "kooks," but the history of the U.S. is largely one of protest: the Boston Tea Party, the Revolutionary War, the Declaration of Independence, the massive protests against the Vietnam War all the way to the Occupy Wall Street Movement of the 21st century are quintessential examples of protest and the foundations of our freedoms in America.

Yes we have a responsibility to speak up and voice our discontent during times of egregious circumstances in the world, but there are better and worse ways to accomplish our goals, from both ethical and practical perspectives. The objective of any protest is a moral one: to make things better. However, this concern must be balanced against the ethical obligations to do no harm, respect others, and be fair. If these tenets are not adhered to our protest will have no lasting impact regardless of the justice of our cause. It was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who said so often that the arc of the moral universe is long but that it bends toward justice.

Patrick J. Pelosi, Editor

Designed by: Irina Bakalenko

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