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Message from the Chair



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It is once again time to reflect on the end of a productive academic year in the History Department. Amidst ongoing economic uncertainty, we have much to celebrate. This was a particularly strong year with regards to graduate student achievements, and another banner year for our undergraduate program. We congratulate Karen Cox on her promotion to the rank of Professor, and Ritika Prasad, on her successful reappointment as Assistant Professor. As the home of three scholarly journals and twenty-seven historians with active research and publication agendas, our department is proud of its accomplishments in historical scholarship. As highlighted in the "Faculty Newswire," Mark Wilson won a prestigious fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities. With a funding rate of only 6 percent and only approximately 80 fellowships awarded nationally per year, an NEH Fellowship is a rare and remarkable achievement. Notably, Mark's is the fourth such award in the last seven years in our department. Ritika Prasad was awarded a Junior Faculty Development Award from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and will be able to spend Fall 2012 working on her book manuscript.

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Whereas our History program directors will update readers elsewhere in this newsletter on the curricula that they supervise, I am happy to report on the continued growth of the interdisciplinary Latin American Studies program housed in our department. The undergraduate program currently has 38 majors, and the M.A. program, 17 students. Two M.A. graduates who have taught part-time in our department earned acceptance to Ph.D. programs, with funding. Dan Cozart will pursue a Ph.D. in History at the University of New Mexico, and Amy Kennemore will enroll in the Ph.D. program in Anthropology at the University of California-San Diego. Another graduate student, Erin Fiorey, had an article accepted for publication. I appreciate the efforts of the current Director of Latin American Studies and Professor of Political Science, Greg Weeks, in continuing to build up the profile of the program, as well as the recruitment efforts of our current undergraduate coordinator and Associate Professor of Spanish, Carlos Coria. Greg just accepted a new position as Chair of the Department of Political Science and Public Administration, and the department is pleased to welcome Carlos as the new Director of Latin American Studies. Congratulations to both Greg and Carlos!

While we are on the subject of transitions, our department will face a few, as usual. Next academic year, Dan Dupre will once again serve as interim chair while I am on sabbatical leave. Thank you for your willingness to serve us again in that capacity, Dan! We also welcome two new faculty members: Erika Edwards, an assistant professor with a specialization in colonial Latin American history, and Sonia Robles, a visiting lecturer who will teach Liberal Studies courses as well as upper-level courses in U.S. and Latin American history. Unfortunately, it is also time to say goodbye to Jerry Dávila, who has received an appointment as the Jorge Paulo Lemann Chair in Brazilian History at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. During his ten years here at UNC Charlotte, Jerry has been one of the architects of our Latin American Studies program; a prolific scholar and caring teacher who will be missed by faculty and students alike. Good luck and thank you, Jerry!

I wish you all a happy and successful summer!

Jurgen Buchenau

MORE NEWS AND VIEWS!

Faculty Newswire

As a result of the publication of **Dr. Karen Cox's** book; *"Dreaming of Dixie: How the South Was Created in American Popular Culture,"* she has been interviewed on C-Span, Charlotte Now, and Charlotte Talks (WFAE Radio). Additionally, her work was featured in the New York Times, Sunday Review "The South Ain't Just Whistlin' Dixie."



Dr. Oscar Larsen spent the summer in Israel studying perceptions of peace and security. He was granted access to many classified, secure, and fortified installations by the Israeli Government.



Dr. Mark Wilson won a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) fellowship for 2012-13, to work on his book, *"Destructive Creation: American Business and the Winning of World War II."*



Dr. John David Smith, delivered several public speaking engagements in March and April. He delivered the key note address at the "Slavery and Freedom in the Piedmont" conference at Johnson C. Smith University; the Julia A. Flisch Lecture at Georgia College, State University, Milledgeville, GA; and he lectured on race and the Civil War at the 17th Annual American Democracy Symposium at Kent State University in Ohio.



Dr. Steve Sabol published an article entitled *"Comparing American and Russian Internal Colonization: The 'Touch of Civilization' on the Sioux and Kazakhs,"* was published in *Western Historical Quarterly* XLIII (Spring 2012), 29-51.



Dr. Karen Flint published "Reinventing 'Traditional' Medicine in Postapartheid South Africa," in *Indigenous Knowledge and the Environment in Africa and North America*. (Ohio University Press: 2012)



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M.A. Program News

This spring has been a busy and exciting time for the students in our M.A. program. In addition to organizing a fabulous 24th annual Graduate History Forum, they have been presenting papers at conferences, working in public history internships, defending theses, passing comprehensive exams, and gaining acceptance to Ph.D. programs.

Particular congratulations go to the following students:

The retiring officers of the Graduate History Association—Evan Faulkenbury, Steve Roswold, Marissa Johnson, Ali Wiedrich, Katie Roberson, Elizabeth Rohan, and Kelly Summerow—for their excellent leadership of the organization this year.

Steve Roswold, Sean Whittaker, and Sarah Beckhardt, who all presented their work at the UNC-Charlotte Graduate Research Fair in February.

Evan Faulkenbury, for presenting a paper entitled “‘Telenegro’: Reginald Hawkins, Black Power, and the 1968 North Carolina Gubernatorial Race” at the Triangle African American History Colloquium in February.

Jason Doom, for presenting a paper entitled “Restructuring the US Information Agency for Dialogue and Human Rights” at the Society for History in the Federal Government Annual Conference held at National Archives II in College Park, MD, in March.

Susan Mayer, for being awarded the position of Special Collections Exhibits and Outreach Graduate Assistant, in which capacity she has created two exhibits, one on Charlotte’s identity through sports (on the 10th floor of the library and on-line at <http://charlottesports.omeka.net>) and another on Charlotte democratic activity through community activism, now on the first floor of the library.

Kurt Geske, for defending his thesis, “Where Johnnie Got His Gun: One American City’s Experience with Military Mobilization During World War I—Charlotte and Camp Greene, NC,” in February.

Evan Faulkenbury, for defending his thesis, “Telenegro: Reginald Hawkins and the 1968 North Carolina Gubernatorial Race,” in March.

Kyle Cox, Samantha Bible, and Brenna Ralston for passing their exams in April.

Evan Faulkenbury, for his acceptance with funding to the Ph.D. program in history at UNC-Chapel Hill.

Ben Smith, for his acceptance with funding to the Ph.D. program in history at Georgia State University.

Former student Jim Harris for his acceptance with a university scholarship to the Ph.D. program in history at the Ohio State University.

The graduate program is also excited to welcome 20 new students (and counting) entering this spring and fall. We look forward to seeing you all in August!



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UNC Charlotte Concentration in Public History:

**From: Dr. Karen Flint,
Department of Public History**

Dan Morrill is teaching the Public History elective Video Production and Editing for the first time since we updated and expanded our public history media lab. In 2011, public history won a UNC Charlotte Faculty Scholarship of Teaching and Learning grant. This grant and some help from the history department enabled us to purchase up to the date semiprofessional cameras, tripods, microphones, lights, computers, and professional editing software. Our program’s new media focus (creating websites, CD-ROMs, digitizing images and collections) means that students not only learn historical skills but software programs that allow them to make multimedia presentations of their work and increase their competitiveness on the public history job market. Video

production has become an increasingly important aspect of new media and necessary for our students’ professional development. We realized that if students were to really gain exposure to this innovative publication tool, they needed access to better video production equipment that would allow them not only to create high quality footage, but to edit it and place it within a larger video narrative. Morrill’s students have had the opportunity to master these new skills this semester interviewing scholars on World War One and videotaping the recent Native American Symposium on campus.

A number of new historical organizations and hence internship possibilities have come to the Charlotte region, these include the Earl Scruggs Center in Shelby to open in fall of 2012, the Mercy Heritage Center to house the national archives of the Sisters of Mercy of America, and the NASCAR Hall of Fame.



**Evan Faulkenbury, President,
Graduate History Association**
Photos Courtesy of Susan V. Mayer

24th Annual Graduate History Forum

Each year the Graduate History Association (GHA) and the History Department sponsor a forum featuring historical research by advanced undergraduate and graduate students. This year's event took place on April 13th and 14th at the Barnhardt Student Activity Center and included round-table discussions by history faculty and public historians as well as individual presentations by students from UNC-Charlotte and several other institutions. The forum commenced Friday evening

with opening remarks from Dr. Christine Haynes, Director of Graduate Studies. Dr. John David Smith, the Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History at UNC-Charlotte represented the faculty with a fascinating talk entitled "Piedmont Pastoral: Race and Place in Thomas Dixon's *The Flaming Sword*."

Saturday's session began with introductions from GHA President Evan Faulkenbury. The body adjourned to salons where upon panels analyzed a variety of topics including: "The Struggle for Rights," "Women and World War II," and "War and Peace."

The keynote presentation titled "My Heart Jumps Happy When I... Hear That Music: Powwow Singing and Indian Identities in Southeast North Carolina" was given by Dr. Clyde Ellis, Professor of History and University Distinguished Scholar at Elon University. To end the festivities, Faulkenbury and Steven Roswold awarded the Best Overall Paper Award to Bradley Dickson of NC State University for his work titled "In Search of the *Ancient Dwellers of the New-World: Antiquarianism, Sacred History, and the Indian Subject in John Lawson's A New Voyage to Carolina*"; the Best Graduate Paper Award for "Cultural Diplomacy of the Carter Administration" to Jason Doom of UNC-Charlotte, and Best Undergraduate Paper Award entitled "My own people have a name for me": *Two Spirit, From Tradition to Identity*" to Katherine MacDonald of Elon University.



Dr. Clyde Ellis, Professor of History and University Distinguished Scholar, Elon University,
Photo Courtesy of Susan V. Mayer



Dr. John David Smith, Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History at UNC Charlotte,
Photo Courtesy of Susan V. Mayer



Skype Round-Table Panel Discussion



60 Seconds with an Alumna

Patricia Ann Cotham "Tricia", 2001

Hometown:
Matthews, NC

Degrees:
UNC-Charlotte, B.A. History,
UNC Master of School Administration
Current Legislative Position:
House Member

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

My fondest memory is how History was brought to life in class.

What is your favorite hangout on the UNC Charlotte campus?

My favorite hangout was the Prospector.

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

The most important academic lesson I learned at UNC Charlotte was to ask tough questions.

What do you find never ending inspiration in?

My former students inspire me.

What are three words that describe you?

Three words that describe me are: confident, informed and kind.

What do you do when your not working?

When I'm not working I'm playing with my toddler.

What do you still wish you could learn?

I still want to learn how to play golf.

What are five random facts about you?

- Five random facts about me:
- I am the youngest woman to ever serve in the NC General Assembly
 - I was CMS Teacher of the Year in 2001
 - I used to be the Chick Fil A mascot - my first job!
 - I still have a good jumpshot.
 - I am on President Obama's Truth Squad.

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 Beating Heart of the Department of History

Dr. John David Smith
The Charles H. Stone
Distinguished Professor of American History

Many distinguished historians of the American South have acted as lightning rods in reshaping their profession. They did so by contributing to the storehouse of information about how people and societies behave. Duke University's John Hope Franklin exposed and challenged the insidious nature surrounding the history of human oppression. Yale professor C. Vann Woodward fought valiantly for the cause of social justice and rebelled against pretentious jargon and scholarly obscurantism. Columbia's Eric Foner outspokenly criticized the times our nation has fallen short of its ideals. UNC-Charlotte's Dr. John David Smith's academic career exemplifies the strength, courage, and tenacity of these extraordinary historians.

Dr. John David Smith, the Charles H. Stone Distinguished Professor of American History, was born in Brooklyn, New York and spent his formative years in Bergen County, New Jersey. He originally intended to be a professional percussionist and enrolled in the prestigious Baldwin-Wallace College Conservatory of Music near Cleveland. Eventually, he succumbed to the "siren song" of history and the American South thus dedicating his academic life to the study of the Civil War, African American Slavery and emancipation.

In 1977, Dr. Smith earned his doctorate in Southern History from The University of Kentucky. Subsequently, he spent twenty-two years at North Carolina State University being named the Graduate Alumni Distinguished Professor of History in 1992. In 2000 his seminal work, *Black Judas: William Hannibal Thomas and "The American Negro"* won The Mayflower Society Award for Nonfiction. This historical biography chronicles the moral mendacity of a Black man's racial self-hatred and his free fall into pariah status within African American society.

Firmly committed to history in its various guises, Professor Smith has authored, edited, or co-edited twenty-one books and has published more than 150 scholarly articles in journals such as *Journal of Negro History*, *Civil War History*, and *American Archivist*. His criticism has appeared in the *London Times literary Supplement*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education* as well as newspapers, magazines, and scholarly journals throughout Australia, The United Kingdom, Europe, and the United States. Additionally, he has appeared on the History Channel as an authority on the U.S. Colored Troops and on National Public Radio and Voice of America discussing conservative racial thought during the Age of Jim Crow.

Professor Smith lives in the Myers Park neighborhood of Charlotte with his wife Sylvia, an attorney and Senior Lecturer of German at UNC-Charlotte, and their Panamanian Terrier, Max. Generations of students are indebted to Dr. Smith for his integrity, informality, irreverent sense of humor, glittering research and his altruistic pattern of hard work.

The University Outside the University

PROFESSOR JAMES MCPHERSON HONORED



Professor James Hogue (UNC Charlotte History Dept.), Patricia McPherson, Professor James McPherson, and Patricia Hogue at the Union League Club in Chicago, IL on Jan. 7, 2012. The flag in the background was carried by Illinois troops in the Civil War. They emblazoned Lincoln's name on the flag after his assassination and the return of his body to Illinois in 1865.

James Hogue, associate professor of history at UNC-Charlotte took part in a special session at the American Historical Association in Chicago in January 2012 to celebrate the scholarship of his dissertation advisor, James M. McPherson of Princeton University. Professor McPherson's works on the Civil War have won numerous awards, including the Pulitzer Prize, the Lincoln Prize, and the Pritzker Prize in Military History. He is also past president of the American Historical Association and has been a well-known champion of the preservation of Civil War sites and the National Park System. Professor Hogue, who received his Ph.D. in history from Princeton in 1998 under McPherson's direction, contributed an article, "The Strange Career of Jim Longstreet: History and Contingency in the Civil War Era," to a volume of essays by McPherson's graduate students entitled *The Struggle for Equality: Essays on Sectional Conflict, the Civil War, and the Long Reconstruction*. Video of the academic session discussing Professor McPherson's multifaceted contributions to the study of American History is available at the AHA website and on the History News Network website.

"STAKE YOUR CLAIM"

Chancellor Phil Dubois with Dr. Karen Cox's graduate course in Museum Studies



Provost Joan Lordan with graduate students Jennifer Pluck and Susan Mayer with the showcase they developed.

This event was a public reception held at the City Center Campus of UNC-Charlotte showcasing the work developed by the students of Dr. Karen Cox's Graduate Class in Museum Studies. The students utilized the special collections in Atkin's Library at UNC-Charlotte.

MILITARY HISTORY FIELD TRIP



Kings Mountain National Battlefield Field Trip, 4.1.2012. Jim Hogue's American Military History elective, HIST 2120.



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An Undergraduate Student's Perspective

"Seek a path in life you truly love and you will be happy, healthy, wealthy and wise." I have heard this advice many times but it took eons to convince my heart of hearts. Ascertaining a life's path has definitely taken a good bit of trial and error. I believe, beyond doubt, I finally found the passageway at UNC-Charlotte.

Originally, my academic career took me to North Carolina State University where I majored in communications. As many young students, I followed in the footsteps of many family members. During my freshman year I worked tirelessly to achieve a 4.0 GPA. I felt that my hard work would be rewarded with both a career and a secure future. But as the year progressed, a dispassionate feeling toward my field of study surfaced. I realized I had to choose the road less traveled rather than the well-beaten

path. "Why not study history?" I kept hearing over and over in my head. After all, throughout high school I excelled in the field and loved pontificating historical data to the disdain of my family and friends. Accordingly, a new direction brought me to UNC-Charlotte to major in history.

Currently, I am trekking through my sophomore year developing social, academic and professional experiences. The study of history has enlightened me as to how to view and contemplate the world, its inhabitants, and the timeline of events. I have learned that as a historian one cannot view historical events through a single lens, lest to remain biased to the cause and effect phenomenon. My studies during my Modern Japan Non-Western class, has afforded me the opportunity to focus upon Japan's rationale for entering World War II. The underlying cause of competition for land and natural resources is a causality often disregarded by many students in the field. Thus, focusing upon the entire historical episode has given me depth and understanding of the events that led to our present relations with the Japanese. These breakthroughs have made the research phase of my studies more invigorating whereby I read dozens of history books and monographs for mere enjoyment.

I have recently joined several honor societies to help prepare my way toward my ultimate career and to enhance my professional status. I have been accepted for membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Tau Sigma National Honor Society for transfer students, and the Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society. My goal is to support and participate in a variety of community service events and workshops.

Subsequent to my transfer to UNC-Charlotte as a history major, my future seems more tangible, focused, and unambiguous. I will complete my history studies after my junior year and then declare a second major in criminal justice. I plan to integrate the two fields and enhance my career options which are government and law enforcement. The study of history will provide me with a greater level understanding of the causes and effects of human events. Currently, I am not certain how the twists and turns of life will relate to my study of history. I am working diligently, searching for the appropriate internship as well as part-time employment that will improve my chances to secure a position in law enforcement or government. Nevertheless, I want to do something great with me knowledge and experience. Despite unforeseen uncertainties, I have confidence in both my academic and career choices. I take comfort in the fact that I have found a home at UNC-Charlotte. This fine institution has given me the strength and courage to continue down my chosen path and ponder life alternatives I have never considered. My choice to study history at UNC-Charlotte was the best choice I ever made.

NICOLE GERMANO



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A Graduate Student's Perspective

Today is Sunday, February 26, 2012. Less than four weeks from today, I will defend my thesis before my committee, one of the final steps before earning my master's degree in history. To say that I am a little nervous is a vast understatement. I still have to write my conclusion, incorporate loads of new evidence I have recently discovered, and polish each chapter before the final submission. At the same time, I am excited to finish this project and move on to the next phase of my academic career in pursuit of a PhD in History. After two years of hard study, the History Department at UNC Charlotte has prepared me well for such a future.

When I arrived at UNC Charlotte in the fall of 2010, I was "green" in the truest sense of the word. I knew I wanted to study history and pursue a career as an academic, but I was unclear about what

subject to choose, undecided on whether or not I wanted to focus on public history, and ungrounded in historiography. I grew up in Concord, North Carolina just down the road from UNC Charlotte, but I was unsure about what to expect during my first semester in the program. Fortunately, my doubts soon left as I immersed myself in three courses that demanded my full attention. During this semester, I benefitted from the direction of Dr. David Goldfield, Dr. Steve Sabol, and our former Special Collections librarian Katie McCormick in three very different, yet instructive courses. At that time I also became more interested in the civil rights movement in the United States and decided to pursue a thesis that explored this theme. By the semester's end, I felt much more confident in my ability to think historically.

I came to UNC Charlotte without any promise of funding or an assistantship. While I was happy to devote all my time to my own courses, I knew I wanted to gain some practical experience within the historical profession. Fortunately, in October 2010, I received an assistantship in the Special Collections Unit of the J. Murrey Atkins Library. Over the span of nine months, I put together two physical and digital exhibits in the library highlighting the unique features of the archive that explored Charlotte's past. The following year, I secured another funding opportunity in the History Department as Dr. David Goldfield's editorial assistant for the Journal of Urban History. In this role, I gained valuable experience working with a prominent historical publication. As a history graduate student at UNC Charlotte, not only did I benefit from my classes, but I was also privileged to work alongside professionals in unique opportunities.

The History Department at UNC Charlotte has also been a supportive environment

to conduct original research. For my master's thesis, I chose to write on a militant civil rights leader from Charlotte named Reginald Hawkins, who became the first African American to run for governor of North Carolina in 1968. I decided to focus on his 1968 bid for governor as a civil rights protest and Black Power political campaign. His papers reside in the Special Collections Unit on campus, allowing me easy access to all the primary sources I needed. My advisor, Dr. Sonya Ramsey, as well as Dr. Gregory Mixon, Dr. John David Smith, and Dr. Mark Wilson have each provided invaluable support by asking questions and pushing me to become a better writer. My friends and fellow graduate students in the Graduate History Association have also played a key role in my development as a historian as we proof each other's work and engage in endless historical debates. After months of discussions, research, and writing, I am finally nearing the end of my thesis paper and on to the next stage of my career in history.

Months ago, I began applying to various doctoral programs in search of a similar department to UNC Charlotte. I received admission to several excellent universities, but when my top choice admitted me with full funding, I knew the decision-making process was over. In the fall, I will begin working on my PhD in U.S. History at UNC Chapel Hill. To be admitted into a highly ranked program was very gratifying, and I have to thank the History Department at UNC Charlotte for making it possible. The professors, the close community of graduate students, and the course structure enabled me to achieve my goals and put me on the path for a successful career as a professional historian.

T. EVAN FAULKENBURY

Historians are egomanics.....REALLY?



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Several weeks ago, while meeting with a colleague, he offhandedly commented that; "there are many who feel that historians are egomaniacs." This assertion cut through me like a Centurion's sword and I immediately began obsessing about my chosen profession. First, let us define the term *egomaniac*. According to *The Free Dictionary* an egomaniac embodies an "obsessive preoccupation with the self." Attempting to interpret this definition was the basis for a new obsessive preoccupation with both me and

the people around me. So I began by asking myself "Am I actually an egomaniac and are all historians egomaniacal?"

Let's face facts; the public rarely understands what historians do or why they are necessary. We've often been asked, "What do you really do?" Inevitably, in a social setting or cocktail party, we hear the gibe, "You historians don't do anything important. You don't produce anything. You don't save lives or contribute to the national economy." However the question is worded or the idea implied, we are often asked what is the point is of spending our energies on historical research, teaching, and study, especially regarding the far-flung, distant past.

A suitable retort to questions about our alleged usefulness is this: "Is our collective memory irrelevant? Meaningless? Nonexistent?" Historians are the engines that drives long-term social and cultural memory. We continually hammer home the points of who we were, who we are, how we got here, and the progress we have made, even the progress we haven't. Throughout the centuries, historians like Josephus, Carter G. Woodson, and Arnold Toynbee have questioned all the answers and answered all the questions that haunt mankind. As a culture and society we need to know what has been tried, worked, and not worked if we are to avoid mistakes of the past, benefit from past successes, and to a mass depository of realistic models from which to inspire new innovations and solutions to new problems.

Mythology, legends and folklore will not serve as a substitute: for to deal effectively with reality, we need to understand our reality, and not view it through the lens of fantasies and idealizations. Of course there always will be ideologues, demagogues and mythmakers in our midst. There are also pseudohistorians who mimic the work of true historians and care not about facts or accuracy. They do not benefit society but real history can, and it requires well-trained and experienced historians. We cannot do without them. Are these the rantings of an egomaniac? Maybe...

Designed by: Irina Bakalenko

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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.

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