



UNC CHARLOTTE
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

.....
: winter
volume 1 : **13**
issue 4 :



**Patrick J. Pelosi, Editor / Department of History / 224 Garinger Hall
704-687-4633 (phone) / pjpelosi@uncc.edu**

IN THIS ISSUE

- pg 3 Faculty Newswire
- pg 4 Passing the Baton
- pg 5 60 Seconds with an Alumna
- pg 6 Beating Heart of the Department
- pg 7 M.A. Program News
- pg 8 The University Outside the University
- pg 9 Terrorism in the Middle East: Roots, Responses, and Experiences
- pg 10 News from the Undergraduates Program
- pg 12 An Undergraduate's Perspective
- pg 14 A Graduate Student's Perspective
- pg 15 Message from the Editor

Message from the Chair



ddupre@uncc.edu

Greetings from the Department of History! It is my pleasure as interim chair to kick off our Fall 2012 newsletter. I am filling in this year for our regular chair, Jurgen Buchenau. After three years of service to the department, Jurgen has earned a well-deserved leave to pursue his research and writing interests before returning to his administrative duties next summer.

We welcomed some new colleagues this academic year. Erika Edwards, a specialist in Latin American slavery, joined our department as an Assistant Professor. She, along with Sonia Robles, a visiting lecturer in Mexican and Latino history, are a welcome support to our Latin American Studies program. Two other visiting lecturers, Chris Byrum and LaShonda Mims, are also with us for this year. Chris teaches classes in modern European history along with Liberal Studies courses and LaShonda teaches courses in sexuality in modern America in addition to Liberal Studies courses. Congratulations to LaShonda, one of our former graduate students, for completing her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia this summer.

continued on pg. 2

We also look ahead this fall to the hiring of new members of our department. One recruitment committee has been reviewing files and interviewing candidates to become our new Director of Public History. This position is vitally important to the future of our graduate program and the whole department will be busy in January when the finalists come to visit our campus. Another recruitment committee has begun the process of finding a new lecturer in Ancient World History to fill in gaps in our undergraduate curriculum. We anticipate that, come next fall, we'll have two great new colleagues.

Since I've just returned from one of our "brown bag" seminars I thought I'd tell you a bit about them. Each month, faculty members, and often graduate students as well, gather to discuss a work-in-progress of one of their colleagues, whether the manuscript for an article or a book chapter. This is one way we find out about each other's scholarly endeavors and receive necessary feedback on our writing. The newest faculty member organizes this program and this year Erika Edwards has done a superb job. In September, four faculty members presented drafts of short proposals for research fellowships to pursue various projects: Karen Cox, "Where the Old South Still Lives: Murder, Race, and the Southern Gothic"; Christine Haynes, "'Our Friends, the Enemies': The First Allied Occupation of France, 1815-1818"; Chris Cameron, "Liberal Theology in Early America, 1630-1880"; and Erika Edwards, "African Diaspora in Cordoba, Argentina, 1776-1853." In October, Gregory Mixon presented his conference paper, "Creating the Georgia Militia: Blacks and the Road to State Militia Companies, 1865-1880," followed in November by Jill Massino with one of her book's chapters, "It's a Family Affair: Reproductive Politics, Parenthood, and the Welfare State under Socialism." One glance at these titles demonstrates the diversity of our faculty's scholarship. After almost twenty-five years of teaching here at UNC-Charlotte I still appreciate the "brown bag" seminar as a place where I can be exposed to new ideas and new fields and, more importantly, to the collegiality of my fellow department members.

Best wishes,

Dan Dupre

25TH ANNUAL GRADUATE HISTORY FORUM

A new slate of officers, led by president Ali Wiedrich, is busy planning the 25th Annual GHA Forum, which will take place next April 19-20, at the Uptown Campus of UNC-Charlotte. The faculty speaker will be Dr. Heather Perry, and the featured guest speaker will be Dr. William Kilmer of North Carolina State University, who specializes in the history of science. The GHA Forum is always an interesting and informative event, so please mark your calendars!



MORE NEWS AND VIEWS!

Faculty Newswire

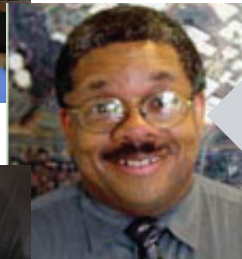
Dr. Jurgen Buchenau has assumed the position of Executive Secretary of the Conference on Latin American History. This organization of almost 1,200 members will continue to be headquartered in UNC-Charlotte's Department of History until June 30, 2017.

Dr. Karen Cox participated in a live discussion on HuffPo Live during the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte. The link to this timely discussion is:
<http://live.huffingtonpost.com/r/segment/503fd6c62b8c2a662a000035>

Dr. Erika Edwards' article titled "Mestizaje, Cordoba's Patria Chica (Small Nation): Beyond the Disappearance of the Black Population" is being published in the upcoming issue of *African and Black Diaspora: An International Journal* in a Special Issue titled "There are No Blacks in Argentina: Policing the Border."

Dr. Karen Flint published "The Impact of Globalization on Health, Food, Security, and Biomedicine in Africa" in *Globalization and the African Experience* (Carolina Academic Press: 2012) (with Dr. Bridget Teboh).

Dr. Shepherd W. "Shep" McKinley in association with Dr. Dan Morrill was quoted in an article highlighting the "Mec Dec" in the September 3rd issue of *CQ Weekly* devoted to the coverage of the Democratic National Convention in Charlotte.



Dr. David Goldfield's work title *America Aflame: How the Civil War Created a Nation* has been awarded the designation of "Seven Great Books for Your Summer Reading List" by *Google*. Dr. Goldfield's book was also mentioned in the Editor's Choice section of the *New York Times Book Review* on November 4th.

Dr. Gregory Mixon presented a paper at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History at organization's annual meeting in Pittsburgh on October 6, entitled "We deserve better treatment: Dismantling of Georgia Volunteers, Colored, 1896-1905". In addition Dr. Mixon presented a paper titled "The Atlanta Riot and Lynching" at the Without Sanctuary Conference at the Center City campus on October 11, 2012.

Dr. John David Smith was featured on an hour-long radio interview: "Lincoln's Preliminary Emancipation Proclamation," WPTF Radio on September 18. Dr. Smith also gave an endowed lecture: "Abraham Lincoln Emancipation and the U.S. Colored Troops, *The John Brown Russwurm Lecture*, Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME on September 26. On November 8, 2012 Dr. Smith presented a public lecture for the Georgia Humanities Council: "Dr. U.B. Phillips Shapes America's Understanding of Slavery," LaGrange College, Ga. Additionally, Dr. Smith's latest work entitled *Seeing the New South: Race and Place in the Photographs of Ulrich Bonnell Phillips* (Columbia: University of South Carolina Press, 2012) (with Patricia Bellis Bixel) has reached publication.



Lois Stickell (left) Amanda Binder (right)

Passing the Baton

The well-ordered world of the university library is rapidly giving way to a new era of promise and uncertainty, of technology, of new forms of engagement and redefined roles of learning. Indeed, the academic librarian is an educator who indirectly educates the student through the provision and prescription of the right research material.

For over a decade, the Department of History has had the honor of being associated with Lois Stickell (lstickel@uncc.edu) as our Research Librarian. Lois hails from Loogootee, Indiana, and received a BS degree at Indiana University after which she embarked on a career as an Engineering Geologist with the United States Corps of Engineers. Lois received an MLS degree from Indiana University in 1989 and joined the J. Murray Atkins Library at UNC-Charlotte in 2001. During her tenure, Lois has gained the admiration and respect of both students and faculty members for her never-ending devotion to student success and academic excellence. The next stage in Lois' career at UNC-Charlotte will witness her transition to part-time status as Government Documents librarian.

Spearheading the assignment as Department of History Research Librarian will be Amanda Binder (abinder3@uncc.edu). Amanda joined the staff of the J. Murray Atkins Library in June of 2012 after a successful career with the Chicago Community Trust, a 96 year old non-profit organization. She earned her BA degree at Bard College and an MLS at the University of Illinois-Champaign.

We wish Lois Stickell the best of luck in her new assignment and it is with great anticipation that we welcome Amanda Binder as a Department of History team member. Amanda is a vibrant professional librarian/educator dedicated to the academic wellbeing of each and every student and faculty member at UNC-Charlotte.



60 Seconds with an Alumnus

Hector Henry, III

Hometown:

Concord, NC

Degrees:

UNC Charlotte, BA in History, 1996;
Work completed toward MA in History
2004-2005

Current Position:

Attorney at Hector Henry, PLLC.

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

From my graduate school days when our GHA was fortunate enough to have distinguished US historian Dr. John Hope

Franklin as the keynote for the 2006 annual forum.

What is your favorite hangout on the UNC Charlotte campus?

My favorite hangout was Garinger building.

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

To never give up in the face of adversity.

What do you find never ending inspiration in?

People who look to what can be done, and who do not focus on what cannot.

What are three words that describe you?

Three words that describe me are: Determined, analytical and understanding.

What is your favorite part of your job?

Helping my clients reach their goals and be treated fairly.

What do you do when your not working?

Coaching a youth soccer team or reading with my two sons.

What do you still wish you could learn?

Speak French fluently.

What are five random facts about you?

- Five random facts about me:
- I have been writing a fictional historical novel based in Louisiana that I hope to finish in the next year.
 - I want to complete my M.A. in History at some point.
 - I was a police officer.
 - I started my law practice to focus on

personal injury and disability law.

- I was born in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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?



Lynnette.Deem@uncc.edu

The Beating Heart of the Department of History

Adjunct, or part-time, faculty members are employed by colleges and universities to work on a less than full-time basis. Some adjunct faculties teach a single course, while others teach more than one course per academic term. Adjunct faculty provide a variety of educational resources and represent an important component of the instructional work force at UNC-Charlotte's Department of History and in American higher education. Our adjunct faculty bring prestige to the Department of History and we are grateful for their dedication to teaching.

A respected and esteemed member of the adjunct faculty is Lynnette Deem. The 2011 recipient of the College of Arts and Sciences Part-time Lecturer Award for Teaching Excellence, Lynnette earned her B.A. and M.A. degrees in history at UNC-Charlotte. She is currently a doctoral candidate at Temple University having completed her dissertation entitled

"Persevering in War: the Influence of Propaganda Companies in the Wehrmacht." When not teaching, Lynnette enjoys spending time with her 15 year old son Roland, her 3 cats; Princess, Sandy, and Higgs, teaching fitness and volunteering at the Carolina Raptor Center in Huntersville.

Supreme Court Justice Felix Frankfurter (1882-1965) stated that; "Gratitude is one of the least articulate of the emotions, especially when it is deep." No words can express, no act of gratitude can represent what the dedication of Lynnette and our adjunct faculty has meant to the Department. The difference they make in the lives of students is monumental.



chaynes@uncc.edu

Christine Haynes, Director of Graduate Studies

This fall has been an exciting time for the MA program in History. We welcomed 18 new graduate students, from as far away as California, Wisconsin, and Delaware, as well as from closer to Charlotte. In addition, we have four students who were admitted to the MA program last spring as well as several pursuing coursework in history as post-baccalaureate students. Five of these new students joined seven veteran students as graduate teaching, editorial, and office assistants. They have all been a welcome addition to the intellectual and social life of the graduate program and department.

Over the summer, a number of students pursued thesis research and/or internships. Even before she began the program, new public history student Jillian Staurowsky

worked as a park aide at the Grand Canyon, where she helped to create the park's first Living History program, "Echoes from the Canyon," and researched and wrote a reference guide to the life of John Wesley Powell, who was the first person to raft the Colorado River through the Canyon. After completing her first year in the program, Ali Wiedrich interned at the Earl Scrogg's Center in Shelby, North Carolina, where she helped with preservation and exhibiting of collections for this new museum, which is slated to open next spring. Meanwhile, other students got a jump start on their thesis research. For example, Sarah Beckhart travelled to Mexico City for her thesis on the built environment in that capital, and Destiney Linker began her research for a thesis on the Black Power movement in global context.

To facilitate such research and encourage faculty-student interaction, we have several new initiatives in the graduate program. Thanks to one anonymous donor, we have launched a "take-your-professor-to-lunch" program, which pays for students and faculty to exchange ideas outside of the classroom, over a meal. Two other generous donations will make it possible for us to offer two research travel grants per year for the next five years. Finally, we have been developing opportunities for MA students to study abroad, especially with our partners in Heidelberg, Germany, and Limoges, France. If you are interested in any of these initiatives, please ask me for more information.

A new slate of GHA officers, led by president Ali Wiedrich, is busy planning the 25th annual GHA Forum, which will take place next April 19-20, at the Uptown Campus of UNCC. The faculty speaker will be Dr. Heather Perry, and the featured guest speaker will be Dr. William Kimler of

NC State University, who specializes in the history of science.

Since last spring, the following students have received their M.A. degrees: Meghan Kaylor, for a public history project entitled "Recollecting America's Past: Civil War Reenactments and American Memory"; Katherine Roberson, for her public history thesis "'Patriotism for the Blacks and Pleasure for the Whites': Fourth of July Celebrations in Charleston, South Carolina, 1867-1919"; and Marissa Johnson, with a thesis entitled "'Over There is Here': Arab Immigrants, Political Tensions, and Acculturation in New York, 1990-2001." We congratulate them all!

We continue to follow the accomplishments of our alumni, post-graduation. Donna Ward, who is in the Ph.D. program in American history at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, won an award from the UNCG Atlantic World Research Network. Nicole Moore was just hired as a museum educator for the history museums operated by the City of Virginia Beach; she also authors a blog "Interpreting Slave Life," at <http://www.interpretinglavelife.com/>. Bill Jeffers has been hired by the Chancellor's Office at UNC-Charlotte to research the history of the University under Chancellor James Woodward. LaShonda Mims recently received her Ph.D. from the University of Georgia, with a dissertation entitled "Drastic Dykes and Accidental Activists: Lesbians, Identity, and the New South," and is now a visiting lecturer in our department this fall. We are glad to have her back, at least temporarily.

If you are an alumnus of the MA program, please let us know where you are now. News and inquiries may be sent to Dr. Haynes at chaynes@uncc.edu.

The University Outside the University



Dr. James Hogue at the Bulgarian Tomb of the Unknown Hero, International Congress of Military History, Sofia, Bulgaria

From 25 August to 1 September 2012, Professor **James Hogue** attended the annual meeting of the International Congress of Military History, held in Sofia, Bulgaria. In addition to attending a full program of academic papers, Dr. Hogue served as a representative from the U.S. Commission on Military History to the meeting of the International Bibliography of Military History, which produces a world-wide annual survey of military history in a number of foreign languages. The conference was sponsored by the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense, which featured tours of the Bulgarian Military Museum, Rilla Monastery, and a number of cultural sites in and around Sofia.



Toni Rogers, second year graduate student has accept an "Einternship" position through the Virtual Student Foreign Service with the U.S. Department of State. She will be working with the Office of Information Programs and Services conducting research which evaluates nuclear weapons locations to facilitate a declassification policy risk assessment.

Jillian Staurowsky visiting a friend along one of the rim trails where she would rove and talk to visitors, the major part of her job.

Jillian Staurowsky was involved extensively in the creation and carrying out of Grand Canyon NP's first Living History event, "Echoes from the Canyon," where visitors could travel back in time and meet eight of Grand Canyon National Park's most influential people: right to left--Hopi woman, John Muir, John Wesley Powell, John Hance, Mary Elizabeth Jane Colter, Emery and Blanche Kolb and a fictional Park Historian from 1976.





Terrorism in the Middle East: Roots, Responses, and Experiences

The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict is complex in its causes and elusive in resolution. Over the last decades, fanaticism and violence have drowned out reason and compromise; entrenching positions and imperiling the fragile steps to a mutually acceptable and beneficial two-state solution. Within the Middle East, both the emergence of hardline movements and the downfall of dictatorial regimes have created shifting parameters of allies and adversaries, peace brokers and antagonists. Whereas the desire for equitable peace and security remains mutually understood cornerstones to regional stability, whether to attain these objectives by show of force or compromise remains the age-old adage of conflict resolution.

Terrorism, premeditated wanton acts of coercive violence for political purposes, can be both potent and paralyzing agents for change; its justifiability certainly in the eye of the beholder. Terrorist acts aided the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, as well as the Palestinian plight for statehood. It takes one bomb or bullet by opponents to conciliation on either side to shatter trust, legitimacy, and goodwill of those trying to bring the conflict to a resolution. Terrorism arrests the principles of equal and free society; the resulting security demands forging legal, physical, and social barriers at tension with the democracy it seeks to preserve. Whereas hardline views on either side will continue to resist a sustainable Israeli-Palestinian coexistent future – essential for the wellbeing of both peoples – an equitable security agreement is fundamental to any mutually satisfying arrangement.

In the summer of 2011, Oscar Lansen, a social historian of war and Director of the Department's History, Politics, International Affairs Learning Community Fellows program, traveled to Israel to study terrorism as part of a multi-disciplinary team of

thirty American and European academics. After several days of scholarly exchanges on the complexities of (in)security in the Middle East and Africa at the University of Tel Aviv, the group received briefings and insights on the psychological, technical, socio-idiopolitical, and human aspects of terrorism; as well as met with various high-ranking officials for spirited discussions of Israeli security policy, Israeli-Palestinian internal and external relations, and future Palestinian statehood. The final week was spent in the field. This included excursions to specialized police and military outfits, bomb squads, and high security prisons and checkpoints; as well as access to participants on either side of the issue. In addition, group members interviewed a variety of Israeli and Palestinian civilian stake holders, and obtained a good sense of the divergent conditions and outlooks.

It goes without question that Israelis and Palestinians desire an end of the conflict that has often marred their lives. History has shown that holding out for a solution is counter-productive; Palestinian leaders have expressed regret not engaging Israel on the green line proposal, while Israeli internal discord over how to engage at display during the visit has recently spilled over in the media. Public discontent is a powerful agent for change, even in light of terrorism. The hostilities in Northern Ireland did not cease because of terrorism, but because of public desire to end it. Key within this are mutually sustainable territorial safeguards and economic guarantees – Israeli and Palestinian society and wellbeing are interdependent. Although not all information and insights gleaned during the fellowship are public, Lansen will use his deepened understanding of terrorism, the Israeli-Palestinian Crisis, and life in the face of war and conflict, to enhance his Liberal Education courses on *Children in War and Conflict* and on the *Origins of Peace and War*, as well as develop a history course on terrorism in the near future.

**Dr. Oscar Lansen Director of Undergraduate and Honors Studies,
Director of History, Politics, and International Affairs Community
Fellows Program**



Oscar Lansen, Director of Undergraduate and Honors Studies

History Faculty wins Teaching Award

Dr. Oscar Lansen is this year's recipient of UNC Charlotte's Outstanding Faculty of the Year Award. This honor is bestowed annually by the University's student body via a nomination and campus-wide voting process on the faculty member who has shown exceptional skill in the classroom, and has made a major impact on student learning. Lansen was honored during Family Weekend after his public lecture on Children in War and Conflict.

Department honors three retiring faculty with named scholarships

In honor of their exemplary service to the department, the majors, and their field, the faculty of the Department of History is establishing three new scholarships. The Dr. Jane Laurent Undergraduate Scholarship in History honors the life and work of one of the most dedicated teachers and advisors of undergraduate

history majors. The Dr. Dan Morrill Graduate Scholarship in Public History celebrates the career of a long-term advocate of historical preservation and public history. The Dr. Lyman Johnson Graduate Scholarship in Latin American Studies recognizes the pioneer and visionary of our successful Latin American History and Studies Programs. [Contributions can be made by completing the 49er Historian's Scholarship Fund form on page 14.](#)

Department moves to new Advising System

Starting this fall, the Department of history has moved from its semi-professional walk in advisor system to the traditional faculty advisor model. This move was necessitated by the implementation of the Niner Advisor appointment system that requires dedicated advisors for all majors, and by the imminent retirement of Dr. Jane Laurent; one of the department's professional advisors. Each major has been assigned a dedicated faculty advisor, and now can use Niner Advisor to schedule appointments; Dr. Lansen advises all Freshmen. Students interested in the major/minor, and seniors in need of a graduation check can continue to utilize the Department's walk in advising hours.

From the Director of Undergraduate and Honors Studies

This spring, sixty students graduated with a Baccalaureate in history. Eleven majors received their degree Cum Laude, nine majors Summa Cum Laude, and one with History Honors. An additional twenty-three majors graduated over the summer and will participate in the December commencement. Several recipients have joined the ranks of our graduate students, pursuing a Masters in either our History or our Latin American Studies program. We would like to extend heartfelt congratulations to all our graduates and wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

This fall, the Department welcomed the first History, Politics, International Affairs Learning Community Fellows cohort to UNC Charlotte. This new iteration of the Department's successful one year residential freshmen transition program offers incoming majors in history and political science an integrated academic skill building curriculum in issues surrounding children in war and conflict, human rights, the Holocaust, American Politics, and African Relations. Thirteen history majors and eleven Political Science majors live together in Lynch Freshmen Hall and learn together under my direction. Extracurricular activities include visits with Holocaust and Vietnam War refugees, participation in Model United Nations and National History Day, shadowing professionals; as well as ropes courses, dinners at the residence of faculty, and humanitarian action. This is the eighth year the department organizes a learning community.

This semester, the Department also moved to a new undergraduate advisor system where each undergraduate major after their freshman year, receives a dedicated faculty advisor for the remainder of their studies at UNC Charlotte. The new system allows faculty and students to build a long-term rapport. It also takes pressure of the Department's dedicated advisor, Dr. McKinley, especially with the loss of Dr. Laurent as advisor. Over the summer, the Department prepared for the transition with the creation of advisor handbooks, equitable distribution of advisor assignments, and training sessions for faculty and staff. All faculty now advises students throughout the academic year, with Dr. McKinley serving as interim advisor for faculty on leave, and yours truly advising incoming freshman.

The Department continues to expand study abroad opportunities for its history undergraduates. Besides our successful direct exchange with the University of Heidelberg, Germany which is coordinated by Dr. Heather Perry, this summer Drs. Buchenau and Haynes visited the University of Limoges, France, to explore closer cooperation on educational exchanges and study abroad. This year, the Department will design a webpage to make its study abroad opportunities easily accessible to its undergraduates, including contacts for expert advice per country of study.

Finally the Department has readied the undergraduate course schedule for the spring of 2013. We will be offering a wide variety of topics, ranging from histories of women, experiences of war, and religious lives and morals in old and contemporary time, to courses on rape and seduction in art, resistance movements in the various parts of the world, and the ever changing life experience in the United States. Course periods range from social history of the early Middle Ages to sex in the 21st century, and many in between. Of course the Department will be offering a wide variety of non-western courses in Latin American, Middle Eastern, African and Asian history as well. The schedule is available on Banner starting October 15.



psharp@uncc.edu

Residential Historic Preservation

Patricia Sharp

Historic homes are typically seen as a large investment, and at times considered a money pit. However, this is a common misconception. Preservation of a historic home makes sense because it allows one to restore the house to its original integrity and character and improve a community without costing more than the average major home project. Residential preservation also helps to create jobs and income for citizens, increasing State revenue while benefiting those living in the community and their quality of life. Historic preservation, more specifically residential restoration, is economically viable.

In order to encourage homeowners to restore their historic homes to their original vigor, the state of North Carolina offers a thirty percent tax credit. There are three things that make your home eligible for this tax credit. The first requirement is that the home must be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or as a contributing building in a National Registered Historic District. Ninety-five buildings are listed in just Mecklenburg County. The second requirement is that the rehabilitation of the historic structure must be significant, in other words the expenses must exceed \$25,000 within the first two years of the project. The third requirement requires that work done on a building must

be approved by the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), according to The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. The purpose of this is to promote the use of historic materials and features on both the interior and the exterior of buildings as well as the environment and site surrounding the building.¹

The process a homeowner must complete is a simple documentation of the before and after of the restoration project. If the homeowner is approved for tax credits, then the homeowner will receive the credit in five equal annual installments.¹ This process may seem somewhat overwhelming when doing your first restoration project, but there are many architects and homeowners that have gone through the process and are willing to help. Sherri Harrison, a historic homeowner in the Dilworth Historic District recalls deciding to buy her home:

“Previously we lived in a home in the Plaza Midwood area that we had renovated. We were looking for a bigger home and we happened on this house. It wasn't exactly habitable, but it had some really great bones. We just took it from there. We had friends and family that had other historic homes – and a vague idea of how the tax credits worked. With the Historic [Districts] Commissions approval it was easy.”

Some of the process and requirements may seem very restrictive. Another historic homeowner, in Dilworth (a National Registered Historic District and Local Historic District), recalled a particular example – wishing to align the cedar shingles on the porch with the siding of his home but was denied permission to do so by the local Historic Districts Commission. As the project progressed Mr. Phares said, “At first I thought it was a ‘bit picky’ but in the end, I am thankful for the resourcefulness of the SHPO plan reviewer who counted the courses of siding in the original photograph and noted the two different materials could not have aligned originally. As a result, the half wall and the springing of the arch are at the correct heights and the restored facade is a more accurate representation of what was there in the beginning.” This is an example of why the design review process is so important to restoring a historic house.

The Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit program began in 1976 – the United States Bicentennial – with a Federal Tax Credit and was expanded in 1998 by the North Carolina State Legislature to include a thirty percent credit for non-income producing historic properties, which includes residential homes. Between 1998 and 2010 over 1,700 projects were completed with an estimated \$1.06 billion in private rehabilitation costs, while from 1976 to 1997 less than 700 projects were completed with only \$228

million in rehabilitation costs. This increase in restoration proves that the state tax credit was an incentive for homeowners to take advantage of in order to improve their homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

This increase in rehabilitation costs has improved more than just an individual's home. The money that was used to improve these buildings in the ten years immediately following the expansion of the tax credit program allowed for over 18,000 new full time jobs to be created and has added \$560 million to household incomes in North Carolina.² When I asked, "Ms. Harrison, what was one of your favorite aspects of your restored home", she replied, "The location; I can walk to over thirty restaurants..." A favorite aspect of all the homeowners spoken with for this article was the porch. "I love my porch. I had a deck before, but I never used it. It just has a great feeling – the ceilings are about twelve feet high," Kelly Thomas, another historic homeowner in Dilworth, stated while reflecting on her decision to restore her porch. Other homeowners spoke about how everyone in the neighborhood would sit on the porch and it just created a neighborly inviting atmosphere, allowing one to get to know ones neighbors. Historic restoration is growing and entire communities and neighborhoods are benefiting from this growth. Historic rehabilitation projects have occurred in ninety percent of North Carolina's counties.²

In Mecklenburg County there are nine National Register Historic Districts, seven of those are within Charlotte's city limits, and there is an overlap of three of these districts that have also been recognized by the City Council as Local Historic Districts. Being recognized at a national, state, and local level gives homeowners in Dilworth, Hermitage Court, and Wesley Heights more of an opportunity to create a better living environment.

Charlotte's Historic Districts Commission desires to revitalize the community and therefore will make sure that renovation occurs for the benefit of the neighborhood.³ Daphne Norvell, a homeowner in historic Dilworth, when asked what some of the benefits of living in a Historic District were, she stated, "We love the feel of it. We love the neighborhood, for the walking and the history. We can walk to so many places it's great! The greenway, restaurants, and my kids can walk to school." Living near so many historic districts gives one the ability to be involved with community events called the Historic Home Tour there is one in Dilworth and Fourth Ward. Hosted by historic homeowners, who allow the public to tour their homes, stirs community involvement and pride. Being part of a Local Historic District does not have direct beneficial incentives like the thirty percent tax credit that National Historic Districts can receive, but

there are immeasurable long term benefits that revitalization of a neighborhood can produce, such as creating local jobs, improving the economy through those jobs and reviving the neighborhood, increasing the population, and improving the reputation of the community.

John and Liz Phares bought their home twelve years ago with the intention of restoration. As an architect, John knew that it would be a time consuming effort to do the restoration properly, but as a team John and Liz researched the history of the home, including all of the prior homeowners and all of the alterations that had been made over the past century, well almost, as it was built in 1915. This information came in handy when it came time to do the paperwork for the state, but also allowed John and Liz to understand the home's character on a deeper level. John believes that the idea should not be to change the footprint of the house to fit you but to change your lifestyle to fit the home – that is just part of living in a historic home. He sees parking on the street and walking up to the front door of your home as a better life style advantage rather than walking in the back door and never having any interaction with your neighbors.

The historic districts of Charlotte, such as Dilworth, hold an impressive status such as being one of the safest neighborhoods in Charlotte, while existing in an urban area.⁴ Such status can only be gained by encouraging citizen involvement, through participating in Neighborhood Watch programs, working together to improve and restore homes and structures in their neighborhood, which helps create an environment each community member feels they have contributed to.

¹ North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office. *Residential/ Homeowner, Historic Preservation Tax Credits*. July 2011.

¹ *Residential/Homeowner, Historic Preservation Tax Credits*.

² "Tax Act Info." *North Carolina State Historic Preservation*. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 12 July 2010. <<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/ta90nc.htm>>.

² "Tax Act Info." *North Carolina State Historic Preservation*. North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, 12 July 2010. <<http://www.hpo.ncdcr.gov/ta90nc.htm>>.

³ "Historic Districts." *City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Official Government Website*. <<http://charmec.org/city/charlotte/planning/HistoricDistricts/Pages/Home.aspx>>.

⁴ "Safety." *Historic Dilworth Community Charlotte*. Dilworth Community Development Association (DCDA). <<http://www.dilworthonline.org/safety.php>>.



dnorby@unc.edu

A Graduate Student's Perspective

As I sit here bouncing back and forth between three separate projects as inspiration strikes (or as procrastination fails me), it occurs to me that graduate school really does broaden one's horizons. I had entered this first semester planning to fly into action on my thesis; instead, I sit here looking over a pile of books on subjects I had never even heard of six months ago. It is a fascinating experience, as my professors and their readings take my intellectual comfort zone, laugh at it, and force me to step well outside of it.

At the same time, the members of this department are very much encouraging of our individual interests. I am one of those graduate students who show up with a fairly clear idea of what subject to research, what to say about it, and how to find the sources upon which our

profession depends. The faculty seems to know this, as I have had several accost me in the hallway with suggestions for sources or tidbits of their own research that is relevant to my own. The same occurs with the professors who lead our seminars, with some actively pushing us to exceed the bounds of an assignment if we could instead get some advance work done for our research. This sort of personal involvement from the faculty is quite different from what I had expected when applying to various graduate programs.

I had expected graduate students to be in a constant struggling, not just to receive advice and attention, but simply to keep their names fresh in the minds of the faculty. I am unsure whether it is the change of venue (my undergraduate university had a far larger graduate population) or the change of region (I was on the West Coast), but the overall tenor of the department seems to be far more congenial than I had anticipated. Friendly conversation seems to be the normal mode of interaction, with faculty members frequently lunching together and the graduate students (at least those not huddled up working frantically upon their theses) forming a fairly close-knit body.

Or perhaps my perspective is skewed as a result of my location. As a graduate assistant, my office is smack-dab in the middle of the department, with people coming by to chat on a regular basis. My single officemate and the office furniture we were provided contrasts sharply with what I saw as an undergrad, where the 'graduate office' was an empty room with a card table and some folding chairs time-shared by all the TA's. While I hesitate to use the word troglodytes, it did require some spelunking to find that room down in the basement. Instead, I find myself

feeling like a fully-integrated part of the department.

This familial sense gives me confidence as I begin work on my thesis. I had feared being surrounded by an unapproachable group of professors without the time or the inclination to provide detailed or individual support, but I can see now that is not the case. This is excellent news, since my research on 18th-Century naval policy will be hard enough to explain as it is. I knew I would be answering questions like "What the heck is a carronade?", but I don't see myself having to answer "Who are you? Am I your advisor? Okay, remind me what your thesis is about."

DANIEL NORBY

Revisionism Gets a Bad Rap



pjpelosi@uncc.edu

Historical revisionism often gets a bad rap. Revisionism can be defined as the advocacy of a revision of an accepted, usually long-standing view, theory or doctrine especially concerning the review of historical movements and events. Often the term is used condescendingly to attack historical assumptions that are somewhat avant-garde, usually with the insinuation that they are false. Taken within the proper

context, this is a grave misinterpretation of revisionism as well as the study of history in general.

Revisionism is the task of all historians to rework or improve upon our perceptions of the past as new information surfaces. Old interpretations are amended as new resources arise; confirming that history is not a static discipline. New perspectives necessitate exploration as circumstances change and new theories and viewpoints offer valuable pathways to approach the past.

Discovering revisionist history is parallel to unearthing an entire new world of ideas. Personally, my first exposure to revisionist thought opened my eyes to a spectacular new tool in the intellectual battle against statism. Undeniably, since the inherent case for status quo thinking relies heavily upon conventional interpretations hence the study of history presents itself as an oracle of infinite possibilities.

If there were a universally accepted view of history that never changed, there would be no need for further research. Many historians who write revisionist expose's are motivated by a genuine desire to educate and to correct history. Many great discoveries have come as a result of men and women who have been curious enough to revisit certain historical events and explore them again in depth from a new perspective. For the historian, information is the power-the generator that drives all historical thought, research and opinion. However, information cannot substitute for insight, knowledge and understanding.

Patrick J. Pelosi, Editor

Designed by: Irina Bakalenko

Become a Supporter of the 49er Historian's 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 <https://www.uncc.edu/giving/>.
Make sure to designate your gift to History.
On the 2nd page under gift designation select "Other" and then type "History General Fund."

Thank you for your contribution!