



UNC CHARLOTTE
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

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Message from the Interim Chair



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The academic year is winding down here and students and faculty members alike are scrambling, one group to finish papers and projects, the other, to squeeze in that last drop of wisdom in class. Both are pushing ahead with thoughts of summer and the coming changes in routines. One of the great pleasures of working in academia is the rhythm of beginnings and endings; semesters start with a sense of freshness and end, mercifully perhaps, just at the point when the students are tired of listening to the professor. Then the process begins anew. That rhythm is replicated within departments as well, as faculty come and go over the years, bringing both losses and excitement and energy. With that in mind, I'd like to take this space to say goodbye to one of our colleagues and hello to two new members who will be joining our department in the fall.

Jane Laurent came to our department in 1979 and is retiring this summer. She specializes in medieval Italian history and is known for several classes that were very popular with students, including Ancient Greece and Rome and her class on the Black Death. That last course was a mainstay of our History 2100 offerings (now numbered 2600), small seminars designed to introduce students to "doing history" by teaching them the nuts and bolts of historical research, analysis, and writing. Practically every day I would walk down the hall and see her in our conference room sitting side-by-side with a student going over a paper, essentially offering a tutorial on crafting historical arguments and writing strong topic sentences and coherent paragraphs and all the myriad other skills necessary to a well-rounded liberal arts education. That's a sight that I will miss. If you would like to honor Jane's many years of excellent teaching please take note elsewhere in this newsletter of the information on the 49er Historian Scholarship fund, which was set up to recognize her service as well as that of two other long-time members of our department, Lyman Johnson and Dan Morrill.

Jane's retirement left a gap in our curriculum that will be filled by our new colleague, Robert McEachnie. Robert recently received his Ph.D. in Ancient and Medieval History at the University of Florida and specializes in early Christianity in the Roman Empire. One of the courses he'd like to teach is "Crossroads of Empire: Europe and the World in the Seventh Century," which examines the political, cultural, and economic interactions of European and non-European peoples and empires at the end of the ancient world. Robert won the University of Florida's Graduate Teacher of the Year prize and we're excited that he'll be bringing his creative energies to our department.

We're also pleased that Aaron Shapiro will be joining us as an Associate Professor and as our new Director of Public History. Aaron received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago and recently published his first book, *The Lure of the North Woods: Cultivating Tourism in the Upper Midwest*, with the University of Minnesota Press. He is currently the director of Auburn University's public history program and has done extensive work with the U.S. Forest Service. Aaron brings with him interests and skills in a variety of fields, including tourism studies, environmental history, oral history, and digital history, that mesh well with our department and will carry our public history program forward.

Finally, we welcome back Jurgen Buchenau later this summer as he finishes up his research leave and returns to his position as chair of our department. I'd like to thank Jurgen for the support he has provided during my tenure as interim chair and I look forward to working with him next year as a regular faculty member.

Faculty Newswire

Dr. Christopher Cameron - Kent State University will publish his book *To Plead Our Own Cause: African Americans in Massachusetts and the Making of the Antislavery Movement* in 2014. Additionally, Cognella Academic Publishing will edit his collection of primary sources entitled *Early American History: Society, Politics, and Culture* in Fall, 2013.



Dr. Maren A. Ehlers - Awarded a Post-Doctoral fellowship from the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University for the academic year 2013-2014. While at the institute, she plans to work on her book manuscript, a local case study of poor relief and the status order in early modern Japan.



Dr. David Goldfield - Delivered several keynote addresses during the Spring, 2013 semester: "Still Fighting the Civil War" at The Aldrich Contemporary Art Museum, in Ridgefield, Connecticut; "The Emancipation Proclamation at 150" at the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community Relations at the UNC Charlotte City Center Building; and "North Carolina: The Progressive Plutocracy Revisited" at UNC Greensboro.



Dr. Christine Haynes - Gave a talk on "Remembering and Forgetting the First Allied Occupation of France (1814 and 1815-1818)" at the Institute for French Studies at New York University on February 13. In May, she has been invited to present on the topic of these occupations at the international conference on "War, Demobilization and Memory: The Legacy of War in the Era of Atlantic Revolutions" at King's College, London.



Crystal Moore - Gave several lectures during the Spring, 2013 semester: "The History of Minority Sexualities" at Wingate University's lyceum event; and "The History of Courtship/Dating in America;" and "Two-Spirit Peoples" at UNC Charlotte.



Dr. Shepard W. McKinley - Will be a seminar leader for the Charlotte Teachers Institute, April-December, 2013. The seminar will be "Charlotte as a New South City, Using the Collections of the Levine Museum of the New South." He is also looking forward to publication later this year of his chapter, "John W. Burgess, Godfather of the Dunning School" (in *Squaring the Past with the Present: The Dunning School and the Meaning of Reconstruction*, edited by John David Smith and J. Vincent Lowery, University of Kentucky) and his book, *Stinking Stones to Rocks of Gold: Phosphate Fertilizer, and Industrialization of Postbellum South Carolina* (University Press of Florida).



Dr. John David Smith - In 2012 Dr. Smith published *New Perspectives on Civil War-Era Kentucky*. The *Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* 110 nos. 3&4 (Summer/Autumn 2012): 231-647 [guest editor of special issue]; "'I was raised poor and hard as any slave': African American Slavery in Piedmont North Carolina," *North Carolina Historical Review* 90 (January 2013): 1-25, and "Two Stellar Reference Books on Slavery," *Slavery & Abolition* [London] 34 (March 2013): 166-72. Additionally he presented a lecture entitled "'I was raised poor and hard as any slave': African Slavery in Piedmont North Carolina," keynote address, From Slavery to Freedom in North Carolina Piedmont Conference, Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, North Carolina; "Ulrich B. Phillips: World War I YMCA Volunteer and Military Intelligence Officer," *The Julia Flisch Lecture*, Georgia College & State University, Milledgeville, Georgia; "George Washington Williams' *The Negro in the War of the Rebellion*," 13th Annual Symposium in Democracy, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio.



49er Historians Scholarship Fund

This year, the Department of History established the 49er Historians Scholarship Fund to honor three long-serving faculty members by offering scholarships in their names. *The Jane Laurent Scholarship* will be awarded to an outstanding undergraduate history major, the *Lyman Johnson Scholarship* will be awarded to an outstanding student who is pursuing graduate work in Latin American Studies, and the *Dan Morrill Scholarship* will be awarded to an outstanding graduate student in public history.

History alumni who have taken courses with these professors or friends of the department who know of their dedication to teaching and the study of history are invited to honor them through a donation to the 49er Historians Scholarship Fund. Please designate which scholarship you wish to support when making your donation.

Visit the UNC Charlotte Foundation online and make your donation by typing in "49er Historians Scholarship Fund" in

the box marked "Designation." <https://giving.uncc.edu/unc-charlotte-giving/giving-page>. From there, you may also assign your donation to the specific scholarship you wish to support. The page also provides a gift form if you prefer to mail in your donation.

Thank you for honoring Drs. Laurent, Johnson and Morrill by supporting this fund and our students!



60 Seconds with an Alumna

Nicole Annette Moore

Hometown:
Honolulu, HI

Degrees:
UNC Charlotte, BA in Psychology, 2004;
UNC Charlotte, MA in History Public
History Concentration, 2008

Current Position:
Museum Educator for the City of Virginia
Beach Department of Museums and
Historic Resources
Consultant & Blogger at
InterpretingSlaveLife.com

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

I remember and am deeply appreciative of the level of honesty the faculty had with the graduate students, particularly Drs. Cox and Kierner. They wanted the students to excel and helped push a lot of us to the next level.

What is your favorite hangout on the UNC Charlotte campus?

As a graduate assistant with Housing and Residence Life, I loved being around my colleagues in Scott Hall, catching up on what was going on around campus.

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

There is ALWAYS room for improvement.

What do you find never ending inspiration in?

I find inspiration in food. I love to cook and I love putting ingredients together that from the outside look like they won't work but they do. When it comes to life, some of the most unlikely combinations are the ones that work best.

What are three words that describe you?

Loyal, assertive and driven

What is your favorite part of your job?

Helping the public fall in love with history and truly enjoy it.

What do you do when your not working?

When I'm not working I like to cook, and go on random road trips.

What do you still wish you could learn?

I wish I could read sheet music.

What are five random facts about you?

Five random facts about me:

- In 2011, I coordinated a stop on The American Experience's Student Freedom Ride through Rock Hill and got to meet Dr. Rip Patton, Joan Mulholland, Helen and Robert Singleton who were Freedom Riders as well as Dr. Raymond Arsenault, author of *Freedom Riders: 1961 and the Struggle for Racial Justice*.
- I play the viola by ear and at the age of 16, I played in Carnegie Hall with my high school orchestra.
- I love gardening.
- I keep four calendars-- 2 paper and 2 electronic.
- I am related to renowned biologist, Ernest Everett Just.

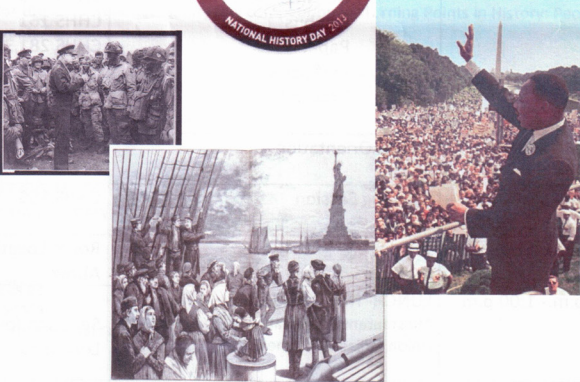
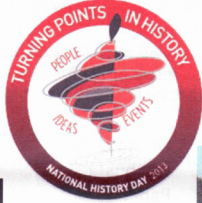
We would like to get to know our alumni better! In each edition of the Newsletter we will spend a minute (or so) with an alum from a random area of the world.

Will you be next?


National History Day

March 16, 2013

University of North Carolina at Charlotte



Sponsored by:
UNC Charlotte Department of History
and College of Education



National History Day

The Southwest Piedmont District National History Day competition took place at UNC Charlotte on Saturday, March 16, 2013. National History Day (NHD) makes history come alive for America's youth by engaging them in discovery of the historic, cultural and social experiences of the past. Through hands-on experiences and presentations, today's youth are better able to inform the present and shape the future. NHD inspires young students through exciting competitions and transforms teaching through project-based curriculum and instruction.





Interim Chair Dan Dupre delivers the forum's opening remarks



Dr. Heather Perry, Associate Professor of History at UNC Charlotte



GHA President Alicyn Widrich



GHA President Elect Daniel Norby

Graduate History Association Forum Celebrates 25 Years

This year the Graduate History Association (GHA) looked back with pride over the last 25 years, its achievements and the many who worked tirelessly to fulfill the organization's goals. The GHA has enabled scholars to learn and grow, leading to greater success and an enriched personal and academic life.

The GHA sponsors an annual forum highlighting historical research by advanced undergraduate and graduate students. This year's event took place at UNC Charlotte's City Center Campus and incorporated roundtable discussions by history faculty and public historians as well as individual presentations by students from UNC Charlotte and several other institutions.

The forum commenced with opening remarks by Interim Chair Dr. Dan Dupre followed by faculty member Dr. Heather Perry's captivating presentation entitled "*Mobilization, Militarization, and Medicalization: On the Genealogy of Medicine in World War I Germany.*"

• Photos courtesy of Andrew Hill



Keynote Speaker Dr. William Kilmer, Associate Professor of History at North Carolina State University

Saturday's assembly began with introductions from GHA President Alicyn Wiedrich. The attendees then embarked upon breakout sessions whereupon panels explored a wide range of topics including: "*Public Transportation in Charlotte, NC* (Documentary Video)," "*So Help Us God: The Role of Religion in the American Revolution in North Carolina*" and "*Westphalian Soldiers in the Napoleonic Years and the Myth of the War of Liberation.*"

The Keynote presentation titled "*In the Footsteps of Alexander von Hamilton: Art, Travel, and Tropical Ecology*" was delivered by Dr. William Kilmer, Associate Professor of History at North Carolina State University. The event ended with presentation of awards by Alicyn Wiedrich. The Best Undergraduate Paper was awarded to Elias Still of UNC Charlotte, Best Graduate Paper went to Jason Doom also of UNC Charlotte and Best Digital Historical Presentation to Sara Riva of University of Arkansas-Little Rock.



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Christine Haynes, Director of Graduate Studies

We have had a busy spring in the M.A. program in History. In addition to taking courses and preparing for theses and exams, our graduate students have been applying for summer internships and to Ph.D. and law programs. This summer, Amanda Elzey will be interning at the Earl Scroggs Center in Shelby, NC; Samantha Machalik will be interning at the Mercy Heritage Center in Belmont, NC; and Sarah Beaver will be interning at the Carolina Room of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Library in Uptown. Jillian Staurowsky and Byron Parker will return to their summer jobs as park rangers with the National Park Service at the Grand Canyon and Mesa Verde, respectively. Jason Doom has been accepted with full funding to pursue a

Ph.D. in diplomatic history at Ohio University in Athens, OH. Steve Roswold has been admitted to the Ph.D. program at the University of North Texas, to study Native American and Western history, again with full funding. Toni Riley has been awarded full tuition for the Ph.D. program in Urban Studies at the University of New Orleans. Destiney Linker, who is working on the civil rights movement in global context, has decided to attend the Ph.D. program in history at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, with full funding. Sarah Beckhart was admitted to Columbia University's Ph.D. program in Latin American History with full funding. We are so proud of all of these students!

Another student, Drew Hill, has obtained a position as a T.A. in the Anglophone Studies department at the Université de Limoges in France for 2013-2014, where he plans to gain fluency in French and pursue archival research on the development of national identity in colonial Saint-Domingue (Haiti). For his study abroad, Drew has also been awarded a Mundt Scholarship of \$2,000, on which we heartily congratulate him.

In March, Susan Mayer presented part of her thesis project, "From Rails to Roads: Public Transportation in Charlotte, North Carolina, 1890-1938," at the UAB Graduate History Forum, where she received second place for best paper.

To help fund their research for their theses, the following students received our first annual George Rawlinson Travel Grants: Maria Labbato, \$2,500 for research in Mexico City on women exiles from Spain after the Civil War of 1936-1939; Drew Hill, \$1,250 for research in archives in the United States related to his project on national identity in Haiti; and Daniel Norby, \$1,250 for research in Washington, D.C., on U.S. naval policy between the War of 1812 and the Civil War. A heart-felt congratulations to you all!

Meanwhile, the graduate committee has been busy reading applications to the program. In December, we admitted seven new students, who began their coursework in January. This spring, we admitted nineteen more. We hope many of them will join us in the fall! One of our new students, Michael Ervin, a graduate of UNC-Asheville, has already been awarded the Graduate School's Herschel & Cornelia Everett Foundation First-Year Graduate Fellowship. Congratulations to him!

The Graduate History Association has been working hard to plan this year's, twenty-fifth annual, GHA Forum, which will take place at the Uptown Campus of UNCC on April 19 and 20. In addition to the featured speakers, Dr. Heather Perry of UNCC and Dr. William Kimler of N.C. State University, the Forum will include presentations by thirty-some undergraduate and graduate students and professionals.

So far this academic year, the following students have completed the requirements for their M.A. degrees: Joe Purdy, who took his exams last fall; Jason Doom, with a thesis entitled "Restructuring the United States Information Agency for Dialogue and Human Rights"; and Mary Dominick, with a public history thesis and website on "The Original Concept and Design of Charlotte College, 1957-1965"; and Sarah Hinkey, who took her exams this spring. Best wishes to our new alumni!

On a sadder note, one of our former students, Ryan Johnson, who had gone on to earn his Ph.D. at Temple University and was Assistant Professor of History at Montgomery County Community College in Pennsylvania, passed away at the age of 32 in February. If you knew Ryan and would like to contribute to a memorial for him, a fund has been established in his name at the U.S. Holocaust Museum.

During the 2013-2014 academic year, I will be on research leave in Strasbourg, France. In my absence, Dr. Peter Thorsheim will serve as interim Director of Graduate Studies. Thanks in advance to Peter for his work with the graduate students next year.

If you are a former or current student, please keep us posted about your accomplishments. News and inquiries may be sent to Dr. Haynes at chaynes@uncc.edu or Dr. Thorsheim at Peter.Thorsheim@uncc.edu

The University Outside the University



Patrick Pelosi and students from his American History class examine a New Deal era artifact from his personal collection.



Dr. Crystal Moore with her Freshman Learning Community students a project in which the participants designed and implemented a program on contemporary issues in the history of sexuality.



Dr. David Goldfield appeared at the Nelson Mandela School in Hamburg, Germany. It is a school where almost all the students are immigrants and where German educators have generally low expectations. Dr. Goldfield gave a talk detailing the 2012 United States Presidential Election and received a tremendous response.





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specialists, exhibit designers or devotees of history in an enduring contribution to the public's knowledge and understanding of the past. Professor Dr. Karen Cox, founding director of UNC Charlotte's public history program, exhibited transformative vision and wisdom elevating the program to world-class status.

Dr. Cox was born in West Virginia and received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and a Ph.D. in United States History from the University of Southern Mississippi. In 2004 Dr. Cox was awarded the esteemed Julia Cherry Spruill prize from the Southern Association for Women Historians for the best work published in southern women's history for her book entitled *Dixie's Daughters: The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Preservation of Confederate Culture*. In 2011 Dr. Cox published a seminal work which investigates how non-Southern Americans came to understand the South in the period from the late nineteenth century through World War II titled *Dreaming of Dixie: How the South Was Created in American Popular Culture*. She is working on a new monograph titled "Where the Old South Still Lives: Murder, Race, and the Southern Gothic."

Dr. Cox is steadfastly committed to the study of history and has been a keynote speaker at countless events, authored numerous articles and is a prolific blogger. She is a gifted educator who has touched the hearts and minds of many students with her selfless devotion to the University and the entire community.

Beating Heart of the Department of History

By Karen Cox

UNC Charlotte's public history program utilizes the past to serve a variety of contemporary needs. It amplifies the application of the skills and methods of history to the study, management, preservation and interpretation of historical records and artifacts. As a profession, a public historian works with architects, librarians, business professionals, government policy



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Oscar Lansen, Director of Undergraduate and Honors Studies

News from the Undergraduate Program

The undergraduate program had an exciting semester. This May, seventy-five majors graduated with a BA in History and thirty with a minor in History. A record seven students achieved the University's highest accolade, the Honors Council-sanctioned *Honors in History* on their diploma. In the graduates' place, we will welcome sixty-eight freshmen admits and twenty-one transfers this fall; as well as seven early starters this summer. The recruiting for the Department's *History, Politics, International Affairs Learning Community Program* is virtually complete as well with eleven history, eleven political science, and three international studies freshman fellows spending their first year together under the tutelage of the Director of Undergrad and Honors Studies.

This spring the Department's undergraduate honors program was recognized as one of the founding and longest-running honors

programs on campus during a formal celebration of forty-five years of honors studies at UNC Charlotte. We are also proud that one of our fine undergraduate instructors won the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Part-time Lecturer Award for Teaching Excellence, as well as several of our undergraduates were honored for their academic and research achievements. Finally, we are excited to add a new undergraduate instruction line in ancient history to our regular curriculum. Read further.

Ancient Mediterranean History hire

We are excited to announce that Robert McEachnie of the University of Florida will join our faculty in August as Full time Long Term Lecturer in Ancient Mediterranean History. Robert's hire will address our current gap in early History course offerings. Dr. McEachnie's specialty is the History of Christianity in Late Antiquity. This fall, he will offer a history course on the Romans, Christians and Barbarians in Late Antiquity, as well as a liberal studies course on Peace, War, and Life in the Roman Empire.

History Instructor wins Teaching Award

Dr. Carol Alexander-Higham is this year's recipient of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Part-time Lecturer Award for Teaching Excellence. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the largest college on campus, bestows Teaching Awards yearly to one full time, and one part time instructor for their excellence in teaching. Dr. Higham teaches the American West and Native American History. Her courses are (in)famous for the heavy amount of reading, but our undergraduates swear by her instruction; especially her methods course on the American Frontier.

Honors in History Thesis Defenses

This fall, eleven outstanding undergraduates embarked on candidacy for Honors in History. To receive this highest honor, a candidate must successfully complete the Davenport Honors Seminar, and research and write an original scholarly article-length thesis grounded in substantial primary and secondary source evidence that receives a grade of A. So far seven candidates successfully defended their honors thesis before a committee of History faculty:

- Gregory Gann investigated how the British evacuees and evacuation policies during the Second World War would expose the grave social-economic disparities between urban and rural Britain, and change social identity between parents and their (evacuated) children in the United Kingdom. This discontent would in part affect both postwar elections and government social policy.

- Evan Graham investigated the impact of civilian surgical volunteers and field medical improvisation on US Medical Service Corps readiness during the Second World War, by means of a case study of the 38th Evacuation Hospital and conversion of the Jeep to battle front stretcher carrier. Dr. Sanger and the local Charlotte Hospital volunteers would serve admirably on the African and Italian fronts as well as pioneer blood banking. The jeep stretcher carrier would become a mainstay for rapid evacuation until helivacs took over this task.
- Grace Johnson investigated changing US perceptions of women imagery in Holocaust representation by tracking the evolution of female (lead) roles in American Holocaust feature films. Her case study on the representation of Anne Frank over time shows both the changing perceptions of femininity in the United States and the shift from entertainment for to historical accuracy in historical drama.
- Christopher Kinley investigated how social class, regionalism, and divergent identity contributed to a fractured perception of the Greek national State. Although expatriate socio-intellectual perceptions of revolutionary resistance created a catalyst for the Greek War of Independence, it were the actions of Western nations that created Greece; depriving its highly pluralistic population of a formative phase to national unity.
- Kate Moore investigated the social and legal position of single women in Antebellum Mecklenburg County. Using a wide variety of court, tax, census, and legal records, as well as family paper, Moore shows how unmarried or widowed women had more social-economic agency than previously perceived; as well as that many women were single by choice rather than circumstance. Furthermore her study illustrates and revolving perceptions and mores about sexuality in America.
- Andrew Morimoto investigated the impact of US alien policy and Firth Column fears on Japanese Americans during the Second World War, in particularly the impact of the Japanese Loyalty Questionnaire on the freedom of, and ability of Japanese-Americans to support the war effort. Whereas this properly conceived but ill-phrased and culturally insensitive document would allow Japanese-Americans to commendably serve the 442nd Regiment Combat Team on the Italian and German fronts, other loyal Japanese immigrants found themselves together with Japanese nationalists interned in Tule Lake Segregation Center.
- Elias Still investigated the role of religion in the rise of the American Revolution in North Carolina. Tracing in particular the movements, actions, and preaching of protestant patriot clergy in rural Carolina, Still showed that organization, religiously-anchored political activism, and resentment of (British) Anglicanism created a powerful

and well-received message of resistance to British subjugation.

History Major to be the Spring Commencement Speaker

UNC Charlotte has selected Andy Morimoto to give the commencement speech during the Spring 2013 graduation ceremony. Andy, a dual History Honors major and Political Science major, will focus his speech in part on the importance of history and memory. Having witnessed the effects of his grandmother's internment as an so-called Japanese "enemy alien" during the Second World War, Andy wrote his honors thesis on the fate of those caught in cultural misunderstanding, political calculation, and Fifth Column anxiety. Andy has been accepted to the Master Program in International Studies at the University of Chicago.

Research and Paper Honors and Prizes

History Honors student Kate Moore is the recipient of both the best history presentation and the best presentation in Arts and Humanities at the annual UNC Charlotte Undergraduate Research Forum. Kate presented research for her History Honors thesis on the social and legal status of single women in antebellum Mecklenburg County she is conducting under the guidance of Profs. Cheryl Hicks, Christine Haynes, and Crystal Moore.

Kate Moore and James Hardman are the recipients of the 2013-14 Sanford V. Davenport Scholarships. This competitive scholarship bestowed annually by the Department of history recognizes academic excellence in history. The Davenport Scholars each receive \$2,500 in tuition support and will participate this fall in the Davenport Honors Seminar with the Director of Undergraduate and Honors Studies.

This spring, Dr. Shep McKinley on behalf of the Department initiated eleven new members in the Chi Beta chapter of the Phi Alpha Theta International Honors Society in History. Phi Alpha Theta initiates are recognized for their excellent GPA in History and general studies, and will wear corresponding honors cords at time of graduation. Many members go on to Honors in History; the Department's highest accolade.



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A Return to College

By Debra Richard

As I sit here contemplating how to begin this article, I realize that some things never change. I have never been, nor ever will be, a writer. I struggle today, as I did in my first foray into college 30 years ago, with the beginning of a paper. Even after 3 semesters at UNCC and more than half a dozen papers under my belt that is still the same. But “struggle” is such an improvement over the abject terror that seized me in my first semester as I read my Geology Lab syllabus and saw on the schedule, not one but two 3-page papers were to be written during the semester. Yikes! How was I ever going to get through this class?

Writing a paper, although panic inducing, was at least a process that was semi-familiar to me. What was more intimidating about returning to college after such a long absence was the advancement in technology. The terms alone were mind boggling. Moodle? What’s that? (I’ve heard of a Labradoodle...is Moodle a cross between a Mastiff and a Poodle? And what does that have to do with college?) My daughter informed me that Moodle was like “Blackboard”...aha...a word I recognized, albeit my image wasn’t the same as hers! And what’s a clicker? That used to be a toy that you got at the 5 & 10, now it’s a device for answering

questions in class? What’s a hybrid class? What’s an LBST class or a WGST class? Add in terms like scantron and lock down browser and my head was spinning. At times I felt like Dorothy in the Wizard of Oz when she says, “Lions and tigers and bears, oh my!”

One change in college life that I have learned to embrace is the “classroom” experience. The variety of options for learning is amazing and so different than 30 years ago. On-line, face-to-face and hybrid are all terms I’ve become familiar with, partaken in and learned from. Each has its advantages and disadvantages but all of them give you more options to complete your college education. Having participated in each of these three styles, I admit that my favorite is the “old-fashioned” style of learning: face-to-face. For me, the interaction between Professor and student is the most enlightening and rewarding experience of college.

When I returned to college in January 2012, my intention was to get my Bachelor degree in Accounting. Having spent over 15 years in the business world in various accounting positions it seemed like the logical course of action. Imagine my surprise as I sat in an LBST class (yes, I now know what that is!) in the fall of 2012 and realized that I was much more interested in the revolutions of France, Russia and China than I was in my business classes! So, due to my new found interest, I have changed my major from Business to History. A change that I have thoroughly enjoyed and hope to continue to enjoy as I head toward the completion of my degree.

As I look back on the past 18 months since my return to college, I now see not only the difference in the college experience from 30 years ago, but also the difference in myself. I no longer ask myself weekly, “What in the world was I thinking?” as I confront another “change” in education. I have pushed myself beyond my comfort zone and learned to think outside the box. And learning is the one thing that has not changed about college.



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A Graduate Student's Perspective

By Toni Riley

Rummaging through notes, articles, books, and other collected sources it crosses my mind that my time as an MA graduate student has almost come to an end. Just a year ago I was engulfed in the process of finding my thesis topics, developing a proposal and assembling a committee. And a year before that... I was applying to graduate school. Now a short time later, I was receiving e-mails about setting formatting appointments, and picking graduation tickets. Where had the time gone?

Deciding to attend graduate school is a major decision all in its own right; deciding what to do after graduate school... a whole other obstacle. In

today's world, the job market and emphasis on education seems to push graduate school as the next logical step after one's undergraduate education. But what happens after this? In my experiences this year, I found myself and my colleagues struggling to answer this question. Do we strive for even more education? Law school? A Ph.D. program? Do we go out and try to find our place in the job market, competing with others who have more experience? Do we even get a job at all? All of these questions cross a graduate student's mind in their final months as a student. The overall question becomes what am I really doing with my life?

Luckily, although they might not have all the answers or the one answer, the one place I have found my most guidance is in the conversations I have engaged in with the UNC-Charlotte History Department Faculty. Being amongst such a diverse faculty, I found the answers to my questions every step of my educational career. Faculty members have been honest, forthcoming, informational, and resourceful. They not only possessed the knowledge of educational questions,

but of life questions. I never felt judged or beneath professors, instead, I was always treated as an equal, one of their colleagues.

As I embark on my new journey this is one element I will continue to look for in my new endeavors: inspirational mentors. Those that want you to do your best and are willing to guide you in any way that they can. Despite their own work load or class schedule they are eager to write you a letter of recommendation or meet with you outside of their office hours to discuss a concern you might have.

Why Study History?



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Historical inquiry is not simply the presentation of facts. Historians strive to discover patterns and establish meaning through the arduous study of historical data and artifacts left behind by people from another time and place.

The study of history is imperative to an education in the liberal arts. History is unique among the liberal arts in that it emphasizes historical perspective and context.

Historians insist that the past be understood on its own terms. Any historical phenomenon—an event, idea, edict, or doctrine for example must be interpreted in its context, within the complex systems of interrelated societies, ideologies, and philosophies that define a particular cultural paradigm or era. Among the liberal arts, history is the discipline most concerned with evaluating change. Historians seek not only to illuminate historical causality—how and why change occurs with cultures and societies. They additionally try to assess the durability of tradition, understand the complex interplay between continuity and change, and interpret the origins, evolution, and

decline of institutions and ideas. History is moreover singular in its broad scope. Virtually every subject embodies a history and can be analyzed within historical perspectives, the scope of which is only bound by the quantity and quality of surviving documents, artifacts and relics.

It is an implicit fact that an understanding of the past is fundamental to an understanding of the present. Historical analysis and interpretation provides an essential framework for evaluating modern-day institutions, cultures, and politics. Comprehending the present-day structure of society is not the only reason to study the past; history additionally provides distinctive insight into human nature and civilization. By demanding that we see the world through the lens of others, historians cultivate a sense of context and consistency. While recognizing the complexities and ambiguities of antiquity we confront the past not only from the standpoint of human success but also from the aspects of human failure, cruelty, and brutality. The study of history provides us with a richly-textured, utilitarian basis for the examination of the human condition and grappling with moral questions and problems. Indeed, history is indispensable to the traditional objectives of the liberal arts as well as the quest for wisdom and virtue.

Patrick J. Pelosi, Editor

Designed by: Irina Bakalenko

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