



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT GREENSBORO

HISTORIAN

UNCG Department of History

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Greetings from the Department Head, Greg O'Brien

Hello friends, alumni, and students of the History Department!

2019/20 was one of the most unique years in the history of this department. It was already busy as we conducted two successful tenure-track job searches, completed a department self-study and met with outside reviewers as part of departmental external review, and managed day-to-day operations in an ever-changing bureaucratic software environment. Then, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the university moved to all remote teaching in mid-March.

The History Department has taught some courses online for many years, but our programs are primarily face-to-face and at least half of our faculty had never taught an online course. The learning curve for everyone was steep as we quickly transitioned about two-thirds of our classes to remote learning to finish the semester (about a third of the courses were already being taught online). All in-person academic conferences and research travel halted or occurred only via virtual means (which is still the case in 2020/21). We all now know far more about Zoom, Webex, and other virtual meeting software than most of us ever hoped to understand.

Research agendas have been put on hold as travel is prohibited and archives shut



their doors, study abroad was cancelled, teaching preparation consumes much more of our time than usual, concern for our own and our students' health has dominated our thoughts, childcare has become far more demanding of our time because day-care centers and schools closed, and we have faced budget cuts in spring and fall 2020.

Yet, students still finished their coursework and earned their degrees in May and August, two of our colleagues published major research books over the summer, many of us spent several weeks of the summer learning how to teach via remote means effectively, and for the fourth year in a row the numbers of students majoring in History at UNCG has increased. We all hope for a quick return to something approaching pre-Covid-19 normality, and we are optimistic about the future of the department and UNCG.

We are thrilled to welcome two new tenure-track faculty members. **Teresa Walch** earned her Ph.D. (2018) in modern European history from the University of California, San Diego and is a specialist in modern German history. **Denisa Jashari** earned her Ph.D. (2020) in modern Latin American history from the University of Indiana. See page 3 for more about our new faculty members.

(continued on page 2)

Levenstein and Milteer Publish New Books

Dr. **Lisa Levenstein's** new book, [They Didn't See Us Coming: The Hidden History of Feminism in the Nineties](#) was named a *New York Times* "New and Noteworthy" book. Levenstein has been busy this summer writing columns and appearing on national news, including *The Washington Post*, *ABC News*, *Ms. Magazine*, and *NPR's "The State of Things."* Dr. Levenstein is director of women's, gender and sexuality studies and associate professor of history at UNCG.



Congratulations to Dr. **Warren Milteer** on the publication of his latest book [North Carolina's Free People of Color 1715-1885](#) by LSU Press this month. He presented a virtual book talk on the [Smithsonian Institution's African American History and Culture Museum website](#) on July 25, 2020. "This study offers a nuanced look into the lives of free communities of color who despite living under racial and legal constraints raised families, built communities and created distinct cultures in the Upper South."

(Department Head, continued from page 1)

In department administration, **Mark Elliott** is our associate department head, **Anne Parsons** is our director of public history, **Jill Bender** has taken over as director of graduate studies, and **James Anderson** assumed a new role as director of undergraduate studies. **Tom Jackson** and **Rick Barton** are representing us in Faculty Senate this year. **Lisa Levenstein** continues to direct the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program at UNCG, while **Charles Bolton** still serves as associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Our full-time instructors and visiting assistant professors this year are **Mandy Cooper** continuing to teach courses in U.S. and women's history, **David Wight** continues to serve as a visiting assistant professor in modern U.S. history and U.S. foreign relations, and **Mark Moser** teaches a variety of courses as our Senior Lecturer.

To summarize, good things are happening in History despite the current challenges, and I encourage anyone to reach out to us to find out more about our successes and plans.

~Greg O'Brien

GIVE TO THIS DEPARTMENT 

Jashari and Walch Join History Department Faculty

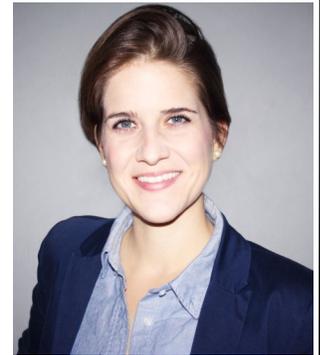
Dr. **Denisa Jashari** joined the department as an Assistant Professor in Latin American history.



Jashari received her Ph.D. in history of Latin America at Indiana University Bloomington in June 2020. She holds MAs in Latin American Studies and History from Indiana University and a B.S. in Biochemistry and Latin American Studies from Trinity College. She was a Visiting Fellow at the Kellogg Institute for International Studies at the University of Notre Dame during the fall 2020 semester.

Dr. Jashari is a historian of modern Latin America focusing on twentieth century Chilean urban and social history. She is currently working on her book manuscript tentatively titled, *Cartographies of Conflict: Political Culture and Urban Protest in Santiago, Chile, 1872-1994*. Using a spatial lens, the book traces the contested physical, conceptual, and geographical place of the urban poor through periods of social reform, revolution, dictatorship, and neoliberal democracy. Dr. Jashari teaches courses on colonial and modern Latin America, urban history, revolutions and counter-revolutions, and the Cold War.

Dr. **Teresa Walch** joined the department as an Assistant Professor of Modern European History.



Walch received her Ph.D. in history from the University of California, San Diego in June 2018. She joins us after spending two years as a postdoctoral fellow in Israel (at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 2018–19 and at Tel Aviv University in 2019–20). Her research and teaching interests include social and cultural history, urban history and urbanism, human geography, Holocaust studies, and world and transnational history.

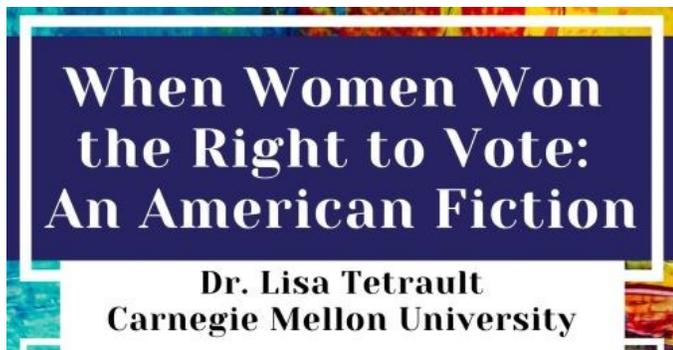
Walch's current research examines the politics of space and place in modern Germany. Her book project, *Degenerate Spaces: The Coordination of Space in Nazi Germany*, investigates the relationship between Nazi ideology and spatial practices between 1933-1945. It argues that Nazism itself should be understood as a spatial project to make Germany *judenrein* ("cleansed of Jews") and that antisemitic notions of a Germany infected by Jews immediately and forcefully inspired efforts to "cleanse" spaces of Jews and Jewish influences, instigating property confiscations and vandalism, urban renewal projects, and segregation policies.

Department Programs and Outreach Fall 2019-2020

The Programs and Outreach Committee, consisting of **Asa Eger**, put together several programs on a diverse range of topics this year, despite the arrival of the pandemic and the abrupt cancellation of several events in the spring.

In the early Fall of 2019, **Ayla Amon**, Curatorial Assistant at the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture gave a fascinating and very well-attended talk called, “Unintelligible Babel’: How Enslaved Muslims Used Arabic to Pursue Freedom in Early America” bringing in some newly translated Arabic documents from Muslim slaves such as Omar b. Sa’id.

Mark Elliott discussed his work-in-progress, “The Legacy of Reconstruction and the Humanitarian Interventions of the 1890s” for a chapter in an upcoming edited volume over a lunch talk.



The main event was **Lisa Tetrault's** (Carnegie Mellon) lecture on “When Women Won the Right to Vote – An American Fiction” which was a precursor to the campus-wide theme of She Can, We Can. This was an eye-opening, powerful presentation on the history of disenfranchisement and its continuing agenda.

Lastly, **Michele Lamprakos**, who was a fellow at the National Humanities Center and faculty at University of Maryland, gave a presentation on the deep history and multi-period reverberative and controversial monument of “The Mosque-Cathedral of Cordoba: Architecture, Memory, and the Future” to a packed room in the Faculty Center. All our Spring events were canceled due to COVID-19 but in the interim, we have several faculty who have published books and are looking forward to hearing presentations of their work next year.

~Asa Eger



Jessica Agbemavor, UNCG Democracy Fellow, **Mark Elliott**, Department of History, and **Watson Jennison**, Department of History led a faculty-student teach-in webinar on Zoom in September 2020. Participants discussed the logistics of voting in the 2020 election for UNCG students and addressed how to overcome potential obstacles to the exercise of the right to vote. Techniques of voter suppression were addressed and placed in a larger historical context.

Keep in touch with the History Department!

We'd like to share your accomplishments with others in future issues of the *Historian*. Please email your name, degree earned, year of graduation, and your news to Laurie O'Neill at lponeill@uncg.edu or mail to Editor, *Historian*, UNCG History Department, PO Box 26170, Greensboro, NC 27402-6170.

Department News

From the Desk of the Director of Graduate Studies

What an unusual year this has been! Despite the challenges that 2020 has wrought, our graduate program remains strong and vibrant. Last spring, we celebrated the graduation of 18 graduate students: three doctoral students and 15 MA students (both “traditional” MA students and those with a concentration in Museum Studies). We are exceedingly proud of all our graduates and their varied accomplishments.

In 2019-2020, four PhD students successfully defended their dissertations. In June, **James Hall** completed “The Last War of Honor: Manhood, Race, Gender, Class and Conscription in North Carolina during the First World War,” under the direction of **Mark Elliott**. Also under Dr. Elliott’s direction, **Christopher Davis** defended “Cross Purposes: American Missionaries and the U.S. Occupation of Haiti” in October. **Jason Stroud** received the 2019 History Department Outstanding Dissertation Award for “Crime, Justice, and Order in the North Carolina Piedmont, 1760-1806,” which he completed in October under the direction of **Greg O’Brien**. Finally, in February, **Justina Licata** completed “The Life and Death of Norplant: How Feminists and Class Action Lawyers Brought Down the Most Promising Birth Control Device in Decades” under the direction of **Lisa Levenstein**. We congratulate all four newly minted doctors on this momentous accomplishment.

Our graduate students have also continued to shine in the classroom. In particular, the History Department recognized **Carolyn McClure Lindley** as the winner of the 2019-2020 Junior Teaching Assistant Award and **Ethan Roy** as the recipient of the 2019-2020 Senior Teaching Assistant Award. In addition, we are pleased to congratulate **Justina Licata** on her acceptance of a two-year position as the Ainsworth Visiting Scholar in the American Culture Program at Randolph College in Virginia. Dr. Licata is a former recipient of teaching awards



at UNCG, and we wish her much luck as she settles into her new position.

As last year’s graduates moved on to exciting new ventures, we welcomed eighteen new students to the program in August.

This cohort includes three students pursuing a PhD, six students pursuing the MA in History, and nine students pursuing the MA in History with a concentration in Museum Studies.

As we are all aware, the spread of Covid-19 last March forced faculty members, graduate student instructors, teaching assistants, and graduate assistants to redesign their teaching methods nearly overnight. Graduate students faced additional challenges as many were also required to adapt their own studies and research to online or remote formats. In my first few months as Director of Graduate Studies, I have been consistently impressed by their flexibility and commitment. Even in this year of pandemic, our graduate students—both new and returning—have proven to be collegial, enthusiastic, and extraordinarily hard-working. I am honored to have assumed the role of Director of Graduate Studies, and I look forward to continuing to work with such dedicated individuals.

The 2019-2020 Graduate Studies Committee is comprised of the following faculty members: **Mark Elliott, Anne Parsons, Warren Milteer, Linda Rupert, Colleen Kriger**, and, ex officio, **Greg O’Brien**. Thank you to all of them and to Graduate Secretary **Laurie O’Neill**; I am grateful for their assistance.

We are accepting applications for Fall 2021, and the GRE will not be required for the application process this year. In addition, we will be holding a virtual Information Session at 5:30pm on Thursday, December 10th. Please spread the word and encourage anyone interested to contact me at jcbender@uncg.edu or RSVP at <https://go.uncg.edu/historyrsvp>.

~Jill Bender

From the Desk of the Director of Undergraduate Studies

The late historian Tony Judt was quoted in an interview as saying that “(the) historian’s task is not to disrupt for the sake of it, but it is to tell what is almost always an uncomfortable story and explain why the discomfort is part of the truth we need to live well and live properly.” Judt’s call for the historian to remind us of our uncomfortable truths has never been more important that it is in the present day with the challenges we face from a global pandemic, our long history of systemic racism and the impending global climate crisis. Denying the impact these deep-seated problems pose for the sustained health of our society only increases the harm and delays our search for lasting solutions. The historian, more than the banker or the politician, understands that a healthy society depends on a robust self-image as much as it does on a strong Federal Reserve. Such a society must come to terms with the shortcomings of its past, allowing a lasting sense of common purpose to be born from an honest reckoning with a national legacy that touches on all its citizens, not just the fortunate few. The historian understands this deeper truth, even as they witness others attempt to spin or gloss over these uncomfortable stories to the detriment of us all.

As the History Department’s new Director of Undergraduate Studies, I’m happy to welcome back our majors old and new for challenging but nevertheless historic year at UNCG. We’re working on new opportunities for our current students such as courses in Public History and undergraduate internships, and we’ll continue to innovate in our online and hybrid course offerings beyond the end of the coronavirus outbreak. When restriction are lifted, we’ll once again promote study abroad opportunities for our majors. Even before the end of the pandemic, you can get involved in the Lloyd International Honors College through our disciplinary honors program. As Director of Undergraduate Studies, I’m excited to tell the stories of your successes as undergraduates and later as graduates of the wonderful de-



partment. Please don’t hesitate to be in touch anytime! Should you have additional questions about the History degree or any of the opportunities mentioned above, please feel free email me at historyadvisor@uncg.edu.

~James Anderson



UNCG Project Tells Stories of Unsung Heroes

Excerpt from UNCG News, Oct. 15, 2020

UNCG’s [“Unsung Heroes of the Civil Rights Movement Project”](#) launched today with 14 video interviews with activists whose work, while not always recognized, had profound impacts on the civil rights movement and helped set the stage for today’s #BlackLivesMatter movement.

The project is a collaboration between the [Dept. of Media Studies](#), the [Dept. of History](#), and [University Libraries](#). “Unsung Heroes” dates back to 2009, when Professor Matthew Barr (Media Studies) and Dr. **Chuck Bolton** (History) collaborated on an interdisciplinary visual history course. In 2010, Dr. Curtis Austin of Arizona State University joined the project team.

Most recently, the project has expanded to include UNCG Libraries and undergraduate students. Thanks to funding from the Mellon Foundation, teams of students were trained to conduct visual history interviews, with guidance from Barr, Dr. **Torren Gatson** (History), and Professors Jennida Chase and Hassan Pitts (Media Studies). The student teams included Muhammad Karim and Atigre Farmer of Media Studies, and **October Kamara** and **Summer Kinney** of History...

[Read the rest of this article at UNCG News.](#)

From the Director of Public History

The MA in History/Museum Studies Program has had a challenging year along with the country. Still, the students and faculty have shown patience and grace in the face of virtual learning and extensive uncertainty. The Class of '20 all graduated in May and participated in a virtual rather than face-to-face celebration.

In response to the difficult job market, our program provided small group coaching to the graduates with assistance from museum professionals and Career Services.

The students worked tirelessly, and a number have secured positions: **Kate McDannold** – Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, **Melissa Knapp** – the Historic Magnolia House, **Drennan McLenigan** – the Museum of the Aleutians, **Maya Brooks** – the North Carolina Museum of Art, and

Kyle Booker – the President James K. Polk Historic Site. **Janet Hammond** enrolled in George Mason's PhD Program, having won a prestigious fellowship. Alumna **Lacey Wilson** ('18) became the Site Manager at the Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum ([Read more here](#)) and **Chelsea Stewart** ('19) became the Historic Landmarks Coordinator with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Our second-year students (Class of '21) navigated the ups-and-downs of the pandemic with maturity, taking lemons and making lemonade. Many conducted virtual internships, creating much-needed digital projects for museums such as the Greensboro History Museum. They also successfully completed the Community History Practicum Course under the direction of Dr. **Torren Gatson** and launched their

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Department News

(Museum Studies Cont. from page 7)



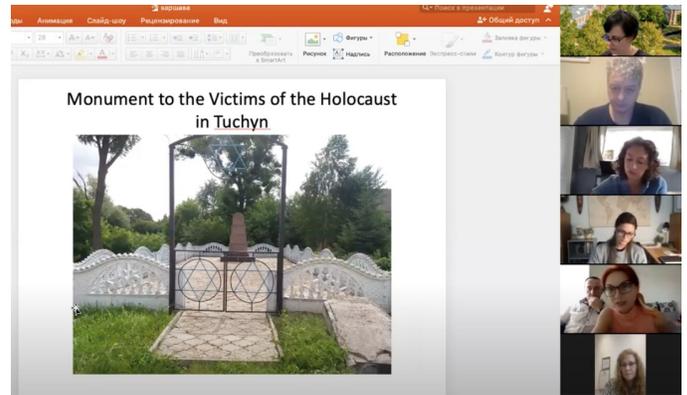
exhibit “More Than Just a Home” at the Historic Magnolia House. ([For News and Record coverage, see here.](#)) The exhibit vividly captures the complex and neglected history of the Green Book Motorist Guide and Greensboro’s role in this national movement. This project taught students exhibition design, the composition of crafting exhibit narratives, and a host of other skills necessary for museum professionals.

Finally, we welcomed our first-years (Class of '22) from across North Carolina and the country. I am

currently working with this talented cohort to curate an exhibition about a Jewish uprising in Tuchyn, a Ukrainian village during the Holocaust. The exhibit will travel around the state with the **N.C. Council on the Holocaust** and will then be translated and installed in Ukraine near the site of the uprising.

It has been a difficult year, but we have survived and in a number of ways even thrived. Here is to a better year in 2021.

~Anne Parsons



Teaching museum studies in a pandemic

LGBTQ History Course Embarks on Virtual Field Trips

Story by Alyssa Bedrosian, University Communications, published in UNCG News, Oct. 26, 2020

How can an in-person course be transformed into an exciting, engaging online experience? That’s the question that professors across the country have been grappling with this semester.

At UNC Greensboro, history professor [Dr. Anne Parsons](#) is taking a page out of her “aunt playbook.” Over the summer, Parsons created virtual field trips for her niece and nephew. They used Google Maps and Google Street View to “visit” Paris, London,



and Venice, participated in 3D museum tours, and had discussions about their virtual experiences.

As she prepared to launch a new LGBTQ History and Public Memory course this fall, Parsons decided to take the same “virtual field trip” concept she used with her family and adapt it for college students. She worked closely with **Anita Warford**, instructional technology consultant for the [College of Arts and Sciences](#), to frame the course – originally designed for face-to-face instruction ...

[Click here to read the rest of this article on UNCG News.](#)

History Club Activities 2020

Over the past year, the UNCG History Club has prevailed through the challenges of COVID-19. The goal we set for 2020 was to make the club member-centered with an abundance of activities. We were definitely on track in January, but February hit the club hard. Because of COVID-19, we could not participate in our annual History Club trip or do many of the activities that we planned in person. Luckily, we found a way to prevail through the challenges and connect more than ever. We continued our bi-weekly meetings over Zoom with a focus on club community and self-care.

We were so lucky to have the support of the History Department during this time. We had many speakers such as Dr. **Omar Ali** and Dr. **Greg O'Brien** who gave us excellent advice and truly made us feel at home. Whilst all of our in-person activities were canceled, our president, **Jessica Brooks**, worked closely with the club's members, officers, and advisor to offer virtual events such as movie nights, game nights, a tour of the UNCG

Archives, and a tour of UNCG'S famous Death Mask. Due to the impact of COVID, we also tried something new this year. Our beloved treasurer, **Azariah Journey**, was kind enough to continue meetings throughout the summer to help keep our spirits lifted and our community connects. They were such a huge help during this semester. Azariah was featured in the Greensboro History Museums exhibit titled, "Stories From the Front Lines: Resistance in North Carolina." (See story below.) We hope that the club will continue to be a place to connect and honor our history next year.

You can reach the History Club's president, **Jessica Brooks**, through her email (jlbrook4@uncg.edu) or through the club's email, (uncghistoricalsociety@gmail.com) for more information or if you have an idea for collaboration. To better understand the clubs activities and members, you can find us on Facebook at UNCG History Club, Twitter at UNCGHistSociety, and Instagram at UNCGHistoryClub.

~Jessica Brooks

Journey Participates in Greensboro History Museum Exhibit

Inside the Greensboro History Museum, you will find the exhibit "Pieces of Now-Murals, Masks, Community Stories and Conversations" which displays nearly 20 pieces of street art created after Greensboro started boarding up buildings during the Black Lives Matter protest. The images of boarded up buildings sparked fear in some, others it created an outlet to promote change.



"Pieces Of Now "is showcasing the community's stories, experiences, and objects related to the protests, pandemic and economic crisis. I am honored

to be a part of this exhibit that is promoting the ongoing work of the BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ community to be documented.

Each object, picture and sign is uniquely different, yet shows the deep connection of those who have been leading, marching and fighting for change in our community and country.

Watch the video of the exhibit here: <https://youtu.be/u96onVWc0yE>.

~ Azariah Journey

History major Azariah Journey is the recipient of the Sally and Alan Cone scholarship from the UNCG Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies program.

During a research assignment for the 2019-2020 academic year, Anderson completed a full manuscript draft of his second monograph project *On the Road to Dali: Trade, Security and State Formation on Imperial China's Southern Frontier*, and he is in the process of submitting the manuscript for publication. Although work on the monograph consumed most of his time while on leave, Anderson made final revisions for chapters in Jeffrey D Lerner and Yaohua Shi's *Silk Roads: From Local Realities to Global Narratives* and David C. Kang and Stephan Haggard's edited volume *East Asia in the World: Twelve Events that Shaped the Modern International Order*. Both books appeared in print in late 2020. In addition to these projects, Anderson wrote the draft chapter "Commerce and Economy in Southeast Asia within the Sinosphere (Laos and Vietnam)" for the forthcoming *Oxford Encyclopedia of Asian Commercial History*. Overseas research in Taiwan had been a large part of Anderson's leave during the spring, but COVID-19 reared its ugly head and squashed those plans (as it did for everyone else on the globe). In place of another book, Anderson issued his first full-length album "Life's Little Disasters," a project he is very happy to talk about with anyone willing to listen!

Richard Barton continues to work on his second book project, entitled *Representing Anger in Medieval France, c.1000-1200*. He has also largely completed his section of a proposed co-authored book on violence in Medieval Europe. Although three planned conference presentations in 2020 were canceled due to the pandemic, he delivered an adumbrated (seven minutes only!) Zoom version of his paper for a virtual version of the 43rd Battle Conference. Thanks to a research assignment in Fall 2020,

he was able to deliver the final version of the Battle paper to the editor in October; it is entitled "*Enquête, Exaction and Excommunication: Experiencing Power in Western France, c.1190-1245.*" During the research assignment he also completed the final version of his paper on Queen Berengaria, entitled "Remembering Female Lordship: the Case of Berengaria, Lord of Le Mans (1204-1230)"; it is due to be published in an edited volume in 2021. In Spring 2020, he finally taught the first incarnation of his new course on the Vikings. He finished a one-year term as Director of Graduate Studies in Spring 2020, and continued to serve on the Council of the Haskins Society as Past President.

Jill Bender thoroughly enjoyed her experience as the 2019-2020 Trustees' Fellow at the National Humanities Center in Durham, NC. While at the NHC, she drafted a chapter of her second book, provisionally entitled *Assisted Emigrants: Irish Female Migration Schemes and the British Empire, c. 1845-1860*, and completed a related article, "'The Marriage Force': Irish Female Emigration to Southern Africa in 1857," which has been accepted for publication in the *Journal of British Studies*. In November 2019, she presented her work at the Southern Conference for British Studies in Louisville, Kentucky and at the North American Conference for British Studies in Vancouver, BC. She was also scheduled to present at the European Social Science History Conference in Leiden, Netherlands, in March 2020, but sadly the conference was postponed due to Covid-19. As travel restrictions disrupted most summer plans, Bender turned her attention to the many wonderful activities available closer to home. More specifically, she has

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enjoyed exploring North Carolina's hiking trails with her husband (Adam), preparing meals based on delicious local produce, and cuddling her beloved, curmudgeon of a cat (Edith Rose).

Jodi Bilinkoff spent much of 2020 like every other educator in the world—learning how to teach remotely. She discovered whole new uses for words such as “host,” “cloud,” and “publish.” Not being able to travel this summer gave her time to write, and she completed another chapter of her book-in-progress *John of the Cross (1542-91): The History, Mystery, and Memory of a Spanish Saint*. Bilinkoff presented some of this research at a conference on Pre-Modern Masculinities held on 13-14 November 2020. Originally scheduled to meet in Toronto, this meeting “went virtual” and she delivered her paper from the kitchen of her home in Chapel Hill.

Asa Eger was to start a new excavation project, archaeological field school, and study abroad at Caesarea, Israel, but due to COVID-19, everything was canceled. As such he spent the summer at home, playing in the dirt with his mini urban-farm, growing lots of veggies and raising chickens. He also was writing up the main chapter on the stratigraphy and architecture of the book he is editing concerning the 1930s excavations of Antioch by Princeton University. The book is an archaeological final report that will finally publish a previously unpublished and ignored sector at the heart of the city. He also submitted his manuscript for the book *Antioch: A History*, a complete history of the city from foundation to the present day, co-authored with Andrea de Giorgi, and currently in production and due to come out in May 2021

with Routledge. As this was a summer to wrap things up while at home, he submitted the final version a journal article on methodological problems in Islamic archaeology that concern gaps in the ceramic record, co-authored with Tasha Vorderstrasse and to appear in a special issue of *HEROM* (Journal on Hellenistic and Roman Material). He also finished up the final version of a chapter on the Islamic settlement of the Mar'ash plain in southeast Turkey, based on analysis of a survey which will be published as a final report book.

Colleen Kriger has been working on several research projects while trying to keep up with the perpetual digital deluge known as online teaching. Over the past year she has been part of a collaborative project led by Henry Lovejoy, which contributes to the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade Database by adding the African regions from which the captives were taken. This rectifies a major omission in this ground-breaking and informative database and website. She had a paper presented *in absentia* at the virtual African Studies Association Meeting on Nov. 19, for a history panel focusing on Euro-African trade in luxury products during the slave trade. An AHA panel she was on – “Early Modern Currencies” – had to be canceled. Almost in press is her invited chapter for the *Cambridge Global History of Fashion*. It is a study focusing on a distinctive and prestigious indigo-dyed textile worn in West Africa by Muslim scholars, their wives, and associates from the 16th century and still in some areas there today. She is relieved to have the necessary permissions to publish her color illustrations from museums in Germany, The Netherlands, Mali, and Canada. It has been interesting and unsettling to be writing about the use

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of this cloth as a turban/veil by Muslim Saharan traders, who for centuries have used it for protection from weather and also for “social distancing”!

Greg O'Brien finished his first year as department head and learned that summers are no longer downtime from work responsibilities, especially in the midst of a pandemic. Even so, he published a newspaper editorial based on his grandmother's diaries describing the 1918 flu pandemic and parallels with today's Covid-19 outbreak, [“An Awful Epidemic,” TAP into Plainfield April 30, 2020](#). He was interviewed by the Choctaw Nation Historic Preservation Office on [“Pre-Removal Choctaw History](#).” He also created a new course for the department, HIS 348 Topics in Historical Memory, participated in interviews with the new Provost candidates, and helped create a new virtual monthly forum enabling new scholars of the Native South to share their work in a conference-like setting. As part of that new forum, the Morris Forum on the Native South sponsored by Florida State University, he commented on the paper “Gendered Commodities and Projections of Masculinity in Creek-British Diplomacy, 1763 - 1776.”

Anne Parsons recently guest curated the National Library of Medicine's exhibit Care and Custody: Past Responses to Mental Health, which will begin traveling nationally in June 2021. She has embarked on a new public history project, Remembering Resistance, that interprets and commemorates a Jewish uprising in Ukraine during the Holocaust. Finally, she continues to be the harried and happy parent of Sydney (1) and Etta (3).

Hands On History



Published in UNCG Research Magazine, Fall 2020

Most people see only the obvious at 442 Gorrell Street – a handsome, two-story frame house accented with lime green trim and encircled by a low wall of rough-hewn Mount Airy granite. **Torren Gatson**, an assistant professor of history, sees more. When he lays eyes on Greensboro's historic Magnolia House, he sees “a community vessel.”

As the Magnolia House Motel from the late 1940s through the 1970s, the property was a safe haven for African American travelers in the Jim Crow era. The Green Book Motorist Guide, the resource for Black travelers recently made famous by Hollywood, listed it in several editions.

Here, close by Bennett College and N.C. A&T State University, the author James Baldwin stayed the night. So did Satchel Paige, Ike and Tina Turner, and Louis Armstrong, who is said to have had a fondness for the innkeeper's ham biscuits.

Dr. Gatson, in addition to his position in the academy, is a public historian. He revels in engaging with the community to learn the people's stories, history in the first person.

[Read the rest of this article.](#)

Donors and Alumni News

Donations 10/31/2019 to 10/31/2020

Alexandria Endowed Program Spending Fund
Mrs. Emily Williams Soapes and Mr. Thomas Soapes

Betty Crawford Ervin Fellowship in History
Mrs. Betty Crawford Ervin
Ms. Betsy Ervin and Mr. Kenneth Anthony Razza

Clarice H. Redding Endowment Fund for History
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Converse Clowse Student Award Fund in History
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Hilda Burton Fountain Fellowship in History
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Lessons from the Past at Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum

Alumni Sonya Laney, M.A. 2017, Leslie Leonard, M.A. 2017, and Lacey Wilson, M.A. 2018 are featured [in this article published in UNCG Magazine on Oct. 9, 2020 by Elizabeth Keri.](#)

Sarah Cunningham, M.A. 2009, is Superintendent for Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, National Park Service, Missouri.



Scott Hinshaw, M.A. 2004, B.A. 1997, is an Archivist at UNCG's Special Collections and University Archives. He works primarily in accessioning and processing university

records, as well as managing the UNCG Institutional Memory Collection, which documents the history of the university through oral histories. He is now in his 22nd year at Jackson Library, and has worked in Special Collections and University Archives since 2013.

Jamie Mize, Ph.D. 2017, received the Outstanding Teaching Award for the 2019-2020 academic year at UNC-Pembroke, where she is an assistant professor of History.

Purvi Sanghvi, M.A. 2020, and Dr. **Omar Ali** co-authored "The Indian Ocean World in Five Lives," published August 12, 2020 as the cover story on [Live History India](#).

Virginia Summey, Ph.D. 2017, was a keynote speaker about her research on North Carolina native Judge Elreta Alexander at a Columbia Law School celebration of Alexander's life on December 9, 2020.

Monica Ward, Ph.D. 2019, is a visiting assistant professor at Lenoir-Rhyne University.

Degrees Awarded 2019-2020

Doctoral Degrees	Baccalaureate Degrees	
<p>Christopher William Davis "Cross Purposes: American Missionaries and the U.S. Occupation of Haiti" (Advisor: Mark Elliott)</p> <p>James W. Hall "The Last War of Honor: Manhood, Race, Gender, Class and Conscription in North Carolina during the First World War" (Advisor: Mark Elliott)</p> <p>Justina Carmela Licata "The Life and Death of Norplant: How Feminists and Class Action Lawyers Brought Down the Most Promising Birth Control Device in Decades" (Advisor: Lisa Levenstein)</p> <p>Jason Michael Stroud "Crime, Justice, and Order in the North Carolina Piedmont, 1760-1806" (Advisor: Greg O'Brien)</p>	<p>Matthew McGrath Abbott Nereyda Agaton* Troy Christian Austin* Andrew Bitner-Glindzicz Cameron Austin Blake* Dalton Lee Brown Ryan Christopher Bullard Douglas Roy Burns* Alvin James Cartell Bethony Ellisia Causby Amanda G Crede Janelle Anne Crubaugh* Bret M. Dang* Corey S Daniel Josee Giovanni Davis Betty Louise Davis Angelic Shyasia Edwards Dare Vogue Monroe Edwards Noah Lawrence Egerton Morgan Shay Fadely Juan Guadalupe Garcia Cruz Nicolas Carmine Gonnella Blake T Hancock Katlyn Dawn Haney* Matthew Austin Haynes Jasmine Simone Hines+ Zachary Dale Hoots Iyanna Ziear Huffington Jawearia Ilyas Montana Leigh Joyce* DeAsia N Kamara Douglas Lee Kelly* David Andrew Kerrigan Summer Dominique Kinney Autumn Paige Landry* Candice Arin Liles* Arturo Mururi Lisa Perry McClain*</p>	<p>Michael Corey McCord Jackson Patrick McCutcheon* Benjamin Smith Mitchell* Mariah Rose Murphrey* Leslie Shirelle Garrett Norman+ Rebecca Kathleen Paschall Zacchary Eric Riddle Alec Lloyd Rieder Harrison William Riley Elizabeth Padgett Robertson* Catherine L. Rooney+ Raven Yasmine Sanders+ Abigail Leigh Schleifer Corey Lamar Shields Terry Taylor Shoe Kevin Andrei Sifuentes-Ibarra+ Joshua Kermit Siler Irene Silva Jayson Smith Johanna Grace Sullivan Jesse Lance Summers* Breanna Nicole Sweat Olivia Grace Alvord Tarpley Courtney Le'Shay Taylor Gabrielle Ann Tesoro Fillmon Kidane Tewolde* Michael Elliott-James Thompson Victoria Ann Tomb* Daniel Lee Turnbull Joshua Caleb Tyre Sabrina Faith Valitzski* Hunter Travis Wade Robert Reid Walls Alec Jeffrey Widmer+ Spencer E Wieland* Zoe Alice Windsor Jacob Ashbrook Wingfield</p>
Master's Degrees		
<p>Kyle Wilson Booker Natalie Celeste Branson Maya Angela Brooks Kimberly Dawn Cassidy Sarah Anne Love Grahl Janet Katelyn Hammond Evan Brandon Jaynes Melissa Lin Knapp Kate Elise McDannold Thomas Drennan McLenigan Emilee Noel Koshak Robbins Purvi Sanghvi Aaron F. Scheuermann Christopher Wayne Simpson Morgan Layne Tedder</p>	*December 2019 Graduate	+August 2020 Graduate

Scholarships and Honors

Graduate Awards

Allen W. Trelease Graduate Fellowships

Robert Andrew Bedingfield
Travis Byrd

Betty Crawford Ervin Fellowship in History

Melissa Huggins

Draper-Gullander-Largent Graduate Fellowship

Saskia Lascarez Casanova

Gayle Hicks Fripp Museum Studies Internship

Sarah Maske

Hilda Burton Fountain Fellowship in History

Katherine Lowe

History Department Outstanding Dissertation Award

Stroud, Jason
"Crime, Justice, and Order in the North Carolina Piedmont, 1760-1806" (Advisor: Greg O'Brien)

History Department Junior Teaching Assistant Award

Ethan Roy

History Department Senior Teaching Assistant Award

Carolyn McClure Lindley

Kathryn Cobb Preyer Fellowships in History

Ronald Adams
Maizie Plumley

Moore Fellowships

Ashley Low
Emilee Robbins

Rebecca Chambers Wright Scholarship

Rebecca Doss

Richard G. Lane Memorial History Scholarships

Dannette Sharpley
Jasmin Zamora-Cuna

UNCG Inclusiveness Award

Liz Torres Melendez

UNCG Public History Fellowship

Elizabeth Kanopka

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Teaching Assistants 2020-2021

Jonathan Baier	Stuart Marshall
Jon Baird	Jewel Parker
Andy Bedingfield	Emilee Robbins
Travis Byrd	Ethan Roy
Felton Foushee	Abigail Shimer
Ashley Gilbert	Robert Skelton
Connor Harney	Richard Smith
Brittany Hedrick	Andrew Turner
Carolyn Lindley	Kaitlyn Williams
Ashley Loper-Nowak	

Graduate Assistants 2020-2021

Comiska, Sade	Marten, Sharon
Crews, Summer	McCarthy, Matthew
Doss, Rebecca	Munster, Christopher
Gordon, Jared	Waldie, Emma
Kay, David	Whitfield, Clifford
Landolf, Casey	Williams, Evan
Low, Ashley	

Scholarships and Honors

Undergraduate Awards

Anna Shaw Scholarship

Annabel Cannoy

Bobbie Carter History Enrichment Award

Jennifer Neary

Converse D. Clowse Award

Abigail Schleifer

Ethel Stephens Arnett Scholarship

Rebecca Rymer

Hilda Burton Fountain Scholarship

Abigail Raig

History Department Book Award

Josée Davis, "'Us Delta Girls': Mississippi Black Women and the Fight for Civil Rights," HIS 411A (Dr. Thomas Jackson)

Kathrine Robinson Everett Award

Luiz Osorio

Oliver Perry and Betty Carol Clutts Scholarships

Kaleb Allen

Jessica Long

Outstanding History and Education Major

Ariel Brown

Sadie Adeline Barineau Shipman Endowed Scholarship in History

Curtis Kenchel

Sophomore Recognition Award

Kylie Houston

Vera Largent Scholarships

Madelyn Fogleman

Ethan Washington

Congratulations to the UNCG History Graduates and Award Winners of 2020! Special thanks to history major **Azariah Journey** for putting together our online ceremony. [In this combination video and slide show](#), you'll see addresses from department head Dr. **Greg O'Brien**, 2019-20 director of graduate studies Dr. **Richard Barton**, 2019-20 director of undergraduate studies Dr. **Jeff Jones**, a presentation from honors and social studies licensure liaison Dr. **Lisa Tolbert**, and many photos of our newly graduated historians. We are proud of all of you!

Initiation of Phi Alpha Theta Gamma Delta Chapter

Josée G. Davis

Paul Thomas McLaughlin

Joni J. Meinert

Paul T. Romano

Adam K. Simerson

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