



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

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Chancellor Carol Folt
UNC Chapel Hill
103 South Building, CB 9100
Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Dear Chancellor Folt:

In light of the recent and welcome removal of Silent Sam from its place of privilege on our university campus, we, the undersigned 35 faculty members of the UNC History Department, wish to affirm our support of all UNC undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, and community members who undertook this act of civil disobedience. We are proud of the ways in which graduate students, faculty members, and alumni of UNC's History Department have led and contributed to public discussions surrounding Silent Sam and other Confederate monuments, using evidence-based methods to illuminate the white supremacist historical contexts of these artifacts from the Jim Crow era, and to advocate for their removal.

Civil disobedience, particularly among students, has a long and storied history in the United States, especially in the American South. The hyperbolic characterization of Silent Sam's toppling as "lawlessness" and "mob actions" demonstrates a purposeful, obdurate disregard for historical and social context. In your joint statement with other UNC System leaders, you claim to have the "safety and security of the students and community" as a "top priority," but have consistently ignored the voices of students and faculty alike who felt decidedly unsafe and insecure on a daily basis, under the shadow of Silent Sam. When legal restraints and the status quo are unjust, as Martin Luther King, Jr. reminded us, then civil disobedience is an act of moral responsibility.

Now that Silent Sam has been removed from his pedestal on our campus, let him remain on the ground: he should be displayed as a contextualized, historical artifact within an appropriate educational space, not in a position of honor. The monument is undeniably a part of UNC's past, but he no longer needs to be part of UNC's future.

Signed,

Michelle King, Associate Professor

Sarah Shields, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies

Matthew Andrews, Associate Teaching Professor and Undergraduate Advisor

Donald Reid, Professor

Karen Hagemann, James G. Kenan Distinguished Professor and Adjunct Professor of the Curriculum in Peace, War and Defense

Susan Pennybacker, Chalmers W. Poston Distinguished Professor of European History

Lisa Lindsay, Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professor

Cemil Aydin, Professor

Daniel Sherman, Lineberger Distinguished Professor of Art History and History

William Sturkey, Assistant Professor

Malinda Maynor Lowery, Associate Professor and Director of the Center for the Study of the American South

Melissa Bullard, Professor

Kathleen DuVal, Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professor

Chad Bryant, Associate Professor

Emma Flatt, Assistant Professor

Max Owre, Department Lecturer

Iqbal Sevea, Associate Professor

Raúl Necochea López, Associate Professor of Social Medicine and Adjunct Associate Professor of History

Benjamin C. Waterhouse, Associate Professor

Kathryn Burns, Professor

Morgan Pitelka, Professor of History and Asian Studies and Director of the Carolina Asia Center

William Barney, Professor

Louis A. Pérez Jr., J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor and Director of the Institute for the Study of the Americas

Lauren V. Jarvis, Assistant Professor

Jay M. Smith, Professor

Konrad H. Jarausch, Lurcy Professor of European Civilization

Miguel La Serna, Associate Professor

Erik Gellman, Associate Professor

Katherine Turk, Associate Professor and Adjunct Associate Professor of Women's and Gender Studies

Karen Auerbach, Associate Professor and Stuart E. Eizenstat Fellow

John W. Sweet, Associate Professor

Emily Burrill, Associate Professor and Director of the African Studies Center

Lloyd S. Kramer, Professor

Louise McReynolds, Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor

Flora Cassen, Associate Professor and Van der Horst Fellow in Jewish History and Culture