

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



A NEWSLETTER OF PEOPLE AND EVENTS
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

Greetings from the Chair

Spring 2021



Dr. Lisa Lindsay

Chair, Department of History

Dear Friends, Alumni, and Fellow Historians,

Greetings from the UNC History Department! As I write this, the university and its wider communities are cautiously emerging from over a year of crisis. As historians, we endeavor to understand the present in a longer context; as individuals and members of communities, we are worn out but looking forward to brighter days.

This spring issue of *The Department Historian* details both the ongoing, impressive work of our faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates as well as some of their extraordinary initiatives in the face of our challenging times. These include grappling with historical legacies of inequality, embracing new possibilities for international collaboration through online teaching, and promoting a name for our building that reflects the value we place upon scholarship in the service of the public. For more news of the History Department, please do keep an eye on our website, <https://history.unc.edu/>, which is ably maintained by graduate students **Emma Rothberg** and **Craig Gill**.

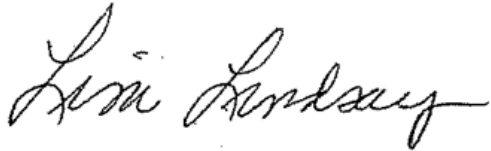
For producing this newsletter while engaging in his own research and teaching, I deeply appreciate our faculty editor, Dr. **Eren Tasar**. He was ably assisted by graduate student writers **Fred Cochran** and **Mira Markham** and undergraduate **Jona Bocari**, whom I thank as well for this important work of public communication.

As we continue to maintain our mission through this tumultuous era, we depend more than ever on the generous backing of our friends and alumni—

like Dr. **John Britton**, featured in this edition of the newsletter. Private contributions enable us to fund research opportunities for undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty; participate in and coordinate national and international conferences; and maintain our commitment to engaging the general public. Thank you for your continued interest and support.

I hope you will consider [making a gift](#) today and help us continue our tradition of excellence that is History at UNC. And please [stay in touch](#)—we'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,



In The News



Update from Professor Sarah Shields, Director of Graduate Studies

Spring 2021 was challenging for many of our graduate students. They took time out to care for family, to learn to be effective remote teachers, to balance the demands of the varied activities that make up lives under lockdown. [Read more.](#)

Undergraduate News

On one hand, it was business as usual in the History department undergraduate program, teaching classes, carrying out research, and recognizing the excellence of our History majors. [Read more.](#)



History Department Receives High Ranking in US News and World Report

UNC-Chapel Hill ranked eleventh among all graduate programs in history in *US News and World Report's* most recent rankings, published in March 2021. It also received high rankings in a number of individual subfields... [Read more.](#)

Six History Majors Successfully Complete Senior Honors Theses

The 2020-2021 academic year has presented unprecedented challenges, from a global pandemic to social turmoil, for faculty and students alike. Yet, despite these disruptions and disturbances, six History majors were able to successfully complete Senior Honors Theses. [Read more.](#)

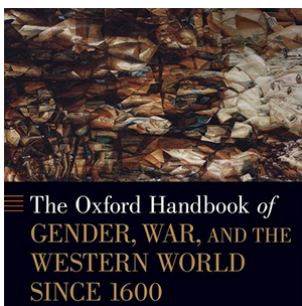
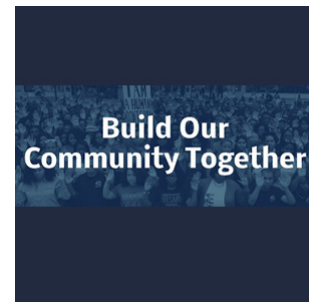


Bailey White '16 Founds Mentorship Group

Anyone considering a degree in history who has been asked the question, "What for?", need only look up Bailey White '16. A Senior Consultant at Deloitte Consulting, Bailey studied History and Business Administration at UNC. [Read more.](#)

Working Group on Equity and Inclusion Hosts "Courageous Conversations about Race in the Academy: A Roundtable with UNC History PhDs"

This Spring semester, the department's Working Group on Equity and Inclusion hosted a virtual roundtable featuring six alumni from the Ph.D. program who all engage in diversity, equity and inclusion work in their scholarship, teaching and service. [Read more.](#)



Spotlight on Scholarship: Historicizing Gender, War and the Military

Faculty in the UNC History department have consistently produced scholarship that not only engages with timely issues, but can also offer new perspectives for understanding the historical developments of these issues in different contexts. [Read more.](#)

History Seminar Fosters Global Collaborations over Zoom

Zoom has opened up exciting possibilities for international collaborations in the History Department. This year, Professor **Chad Bryant's** HIST

783 Colloquium on Russian and Eastern European History included a component the students in the course had not encountered before. [Read more.](#)

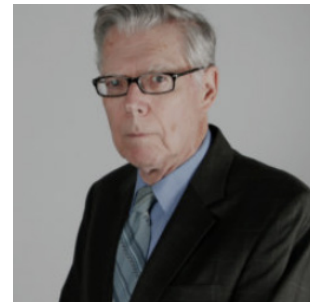


Building Renaming Marks Reckoning with Racism in UNC's Past

Visitors to UNC's campus may have trouble finding Pauli Murray hall on Google Maps—that's because it isn't there. Instead, one will find directions to Hamilton Hall, the building's official name, honoring a past department chair and founder of Carolina's famed Southern Historical Collection. [Read more.](#)

Reflection from John A. Britton '65 on time at Carolina and motivation for recent gift to support student research in the department of history

Dr. John Britton '65, has made a generous gift to the history department in support of undergraduate and graduate research. [Read more.](#)



Writing and Researching an MA Thesis in the COVID era

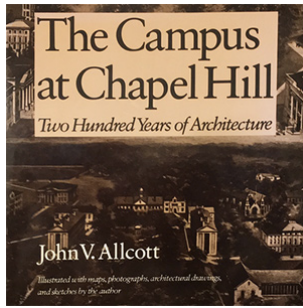
In March 2020, Kaela Thuney was in the middle of her second semester as a graduate student, and beginning to develop plans for her MA thesis. She hoped to spend her summer break at the National Archives in Senegal, looking into the themes she planned to explore in her work. [Read more.](#)

"The Enduring Value of Historical Education"

I'm honored to represent the UNC history department faculty as we celebrate the achievements of the department's talented students who are graduating today. I know that your families and friends are also celebrating, but I can assure you that your professors



take a special pride in all of you who chose to major in History... [Read more.](#)

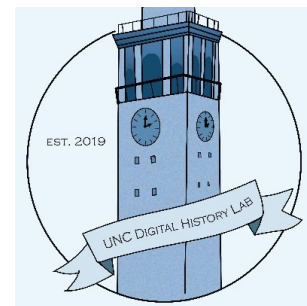


The History of Pauli Murray Hall

On one side of campus, venerable old nineteenth-century edifices provide a sanitized image of the university's past and its place in a local history of slavery, racial hierarchy, and exploitation. On the other, new buildings with bright, open spaces and mechanisms for rainwater collection evoke a 21st-century ideal... [Read more.](#)

2020-2021 Digital History Lab Annual Report

The Digital History Lab's second year has been a productive and rewarding one. With a staff of four, the DHL has continued one podcast and started another, offered tutorials and workshops, produced a weekly newsletter highlighting tools and events relevant to digital history. [Read more.](#)



You can read these stories and find back issues at
[*The Department Historian*](#)

This email is for friends of the UNC Department of History, through the Arts and Sciences Foundation, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



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