

# DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



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

## Greetings from the Chair

Winter 2021



**Dr. Lisa Lindsay**

*Chair, Department of History*

Dear Friends, Alumni, and Fellow Historians,

Greetings from the UNC History Department! I'm writing at the end of the semester in which UNC returned to semi-normal operations and in-person instruction. We did it! Though many challenges and heartaches remain, I'm delighted to report that students were taught and inspired, research resumed, and historians cautiously carried on with our mission of public education. Hearty

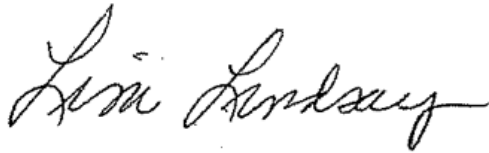
congratulations and thanks to all who participated in this effort.

In her memoir *Song in a Weary Throat*, **Pauli Murray** wrote, "What is often called exceptional ability is nothing more than persistent endeavor." With those words, the brilliant Murray—the subject of one of this newsletter's articles and the hoped-for namesake of our campus building—surely sold herself short. But I'm inspired by the sentiment, particularly after nearly two years of COVID hardships. This late fall issue of *The Department Historian* offers glimpses of both persistent and exceptional endeavors, involving our graduate program, faculty research and achievements, public outreach, and alumni engagement. For more news of the History Department, please do see our website, <https://history.unc.edu/>, which has been 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 **Mira Markham** and **Nicole Harry**, 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 the Sallie Markham Michie Trust and the impressive **Alex Hodges**, both 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.



## In The News



### **The Sallie Markham Michie Trust Legacy Continues for 2021**

For the past six years, the Sallie Markham Michie Trust has awarded funding to a graduate student within the University of North Carolina's History Department. [Read more.](#)

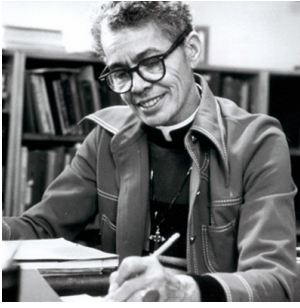
### **Professor Chad Bryant publishes *Prague: Belonging in the Modern City***

This spring, Professor Chad Bryant published his second book with Harvard University Press. *Prague: Belonging in the Modern City* has received favorable reviews in *The Economist* and the *Times Literary Supplement*, bringing his work to a broader public. [Read more.](#)



### **Pauli Murray's Powerful Legacy**

Anna Pauline "Pauli" Murray (1910-1985) was one of the most remarkable intellectuals and human rights advocates of the 20th Century. She also had strong personal ties to North Carolina, to UNC, and to the intellectual work carried out in this building. These



reasons support the proposal to rename our building in Pauli Murray's honor. [Read more.](#)

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### **Alumnus Alex Hodges advocates for the value of historical training**

When asked how he would advise parents who want their children to major in something other than history, Alex Hodges '90 needs no time to respond: "I'm happy to talk to the parent." [Read more.](#)



### **Sarah Shields Receives Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Undergraduate Education Award**

Professor Sarah Shields has received this year's Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Undergraduate Education Award. The award, which was announced at MESA's Annual Meeting (held virtually) in December, recognizes "outstanding scholarship on teaching or other material contributions to undergraduate education in Middle East Studies." [Read more.](#)

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### **Professor Lloyd Kramer Receives Thomas Jefferson Award**

This September, History Department professor Lloyd Kramer received UNC-Chapel Hill's Thomas Jefferson Award, a yearly award recognizing faculty members who "best exemplify the ideals and objectives of Thomas Jefferson" through their scholarship and teaching. [Read more.](#)



### **Update from the Director of Undergraduate Studies**

Our majors are an impressive bunch. The faculty see this in the classroom every semester, as our students progress through their years at Carolina. It is not



always easy, however, to keep track of their persistent excellence outside the halls of Pauli Murray (aka Hamilton) Hall. [Read more.](#)

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### **Update from the Director of Graduate Studies**

Most of our graduate students returned to campus this fall. Others who had put their research on hold were finally able to begin their travel and take up their fellowships. Because they will need extra time to complete their degrees after pandemic-related delays, the History Department did not admit a new class.

[Read more.](#)



### **History Graduate Students establish European History Seminar**

A shared pivotal experience in every early-graduate school career, it seems, is one's first seminar. The professors know each other, older graduate student ask insightful questions, and first and second years don't know where to begin. [Read more.](#)

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*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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at CHAPEL HILL

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