

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



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

Greetings from the Chair

Winter 2024

Dear Friends, Alumni, and Fellow Historians,



Miguel La Serna

Chair, Department of History

Last spring, as our students, staff, and faculty convened in room 569 for our end-of-year reception, celebrating our achievements and reflecting on the year gone by, an interesting thing happened: the UNC-CH History Department felt normal again. It had taken three long years since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but that sense of comradery, collegiality, and community that has always defined UNC History was back on full display. Of course, it had never really left,

but simply took other forms—Zoom meetings, hybrid instruction, outdoor gatherings. But as we stood around eating finger food and honoring our exemplary students and staff, one couldn't help but sense that the History Department was going to be okay.

We have many people to thank for this, but one person deserves special mention. Lisa Lindsay, who last spring stepped down after completing her five-year term as department chair, ushered us through these difficult years with the perfect blend of compassion, determination, and creativity. Under

her leadership, this department not only endured, but thrived. This edition of the *Department Historian* offers just a glimpse of some the great work being done by our community of engaged historians. For more highlights, we invite you to follow us on Instagram and follow our Digital History Lab webpage.

The department extends its gratitude to Professor Eren Tasar for editing this *Annual Review* and to Sam Louie-Meadors, Corrinna Corrallo, and our wonderful team of undergraduate assistants for putting it together. We also thank the many generous donors whose gifts sustain the intellectual and scholarly work of the department. Please keep us informed about your professional accomplishments so we can share them in future publications!



Miguel La Serna
Chair, Department of History

In The News



Update from the Director of Undergraduate Studies

Our undergraduate program has thrived this year, and we are delighted to support and applaud our students' achievements. Our department celebrates our undergraduates' scholarship. The 2023 Joshua Meador Prize, which recognizes the best History 389 paper written in 2022, was awarded to Christiana Wayne. [Read More.](#)

Update from the Director of Graduate Studies

The 2022-2023 academic year was full of accomplishments for our graduate students. It was a recovery year for our graduate program. We admitted 15 new students for our class of 2022. They come from five countries, including China, Germany, Greece, and the United States. [Read More.](#)



A Summer with History and Olympic Games in London

Matt Andrews is an associate professor in the Department of History, specializing in American and sports history. He organized his first London: Olympics, A Burch Field Research Seminar in summer 2023 by offering the Olympic Games: A Global History (HNRS 390). He will continue to lead this program this summer. [Read More](#)

Meeting with a Promising Young Central Asianist, Winner of Newcombe Fellowship

Nurlan Kabdylkhak is a Ph.D candidate in History at UNC at Chapel Hill. His research focuses mainly on the social and cultural history of Central Asia. [Read More](#)





A Tar Heel in Bohemia

UNC History Ph.D Student Kevin Hoeper had an exciting journey to Czechia, where he attended a conference entitled: "Army, Society, and Warfare in the Bohemian Lands under the Habsburgs (1526-1918)." This conference was organized by an interdisciplinary team of European scholars working on different eras of Habsburg military history, focusing on what is modern-day Czechia.

[Read More](#)

Nationalism and the Power Grid

Zora Piskačová is a 5th-year Ph.D student in history at UNC Chapel Hill, where she studies interwar East-Central European history. In November of 2022, she received the Association of Slavic, Eurasian, and Eastern European Studies Beth Holmgren Graduate Student Essay Prize for her piece "A 'Common Enterprise?': The Role of Utility Infrastructures in the Divided City of Teschen, 1920-1938." [Read More.](#)



Highlighting Carolina Graduate Historians

Historians of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill took on the 2023 Annual Convention of the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) in exceptionally strong numbers. Presenting their work, chairing panels, and commenting on new research of their colleagues, nine Carolina historians participated in the total number of twelve panels.

[Read More](#)

Bret Devereaux, 2018, engages with history through a new book and a booming social media platform

Dr. Bret Devereaux graduated from the UNC History Department in 2018 with a specialty in ancient and military history. Since graduation, he has developed a career in history that blends traditional teaching and research, social media, popular culture, and current events. [Read More](#)



PhD Candidate Emily Taylor: History meets community in Chapel Hill and Guatemala

UNC Ph.D candidate Emily Taylor has learned a lot over the course of her doctoral studies. She is an expert in the history of the Civil War in Guatemala, a conflict that spanned from 1960 to 1996 and continues to have a ripple effect on the country to this day. [Read More](#)

Professor Lloyd Kramer Retires

Longtime chair of the department and a fixture of the history faculty, Dr. Lloyd S. Kramer, plans to retire this year. It is fitting, then, that we take a moment to appreciate someone who has had a profound impact on this department, this university, and beyond. [Read More](#)





Simulating the Cuban Missile Crisis with Dr. Morgan

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a major event in the Cold War, and it has also become a great teaching opportunity for Dr. Michael Morgan's course, The Global Cold War. Dr. Morgan introduced a simulation project into the course that gave students real-time experience with the difficult decision-making processes taking place behind the scenes. [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.



THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

UNC Department of History
%%Member_Busname%%
%%Member_Addr%%
%%Member_City%%, %%Member_State%%, %%Member_PostalCode%%,
%%Member_Country%%

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)