

Cheers from the fifth floor of Hamilton Hall! It's been a busy fall semester. As you'll read below, our classrooms are bustling

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Greetings from the Chair



W. Fitzhugh Brundage
Chair, Department of History

December 2015

Cheers from the fifth floor of Hamilton Hall! It's been a busy fall semester. As you'll read below, our classrooms are bustling, our undergraduates and graduate students are producing award-winning research, and our faculty are teaching exciting new courses and earning rave reviews for their new books.

Let me take this opportunity to highlight one important initiative that the department has been pursuing for several years now. We have ample evidence that our undergraduate and graduate students confront a job market that is changing in profound ways. The challenges our graduate students face are especially daunting. The largest percentage of them want academic jobs, and a majority—albeit a small majority—will receive tenure track appointments. Others will find some other kind of home in academia. But more and more our students are considering non-academic careers.

This shift in students' orientation, together with the very competitive job market, have inspired us to develop internships specifically for graduate students and

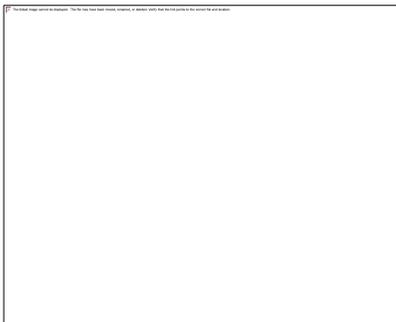
additional course content to broaden their career horizons. Thanks to the initiative of Dr. Anna Krome-Lukens, one of our recent graduates, the department was among the inaugural recipients of a Career Diversity for Historians Grant from the American Historical Association. We plan to use it to bolster our connections with alumni and to continue to better prepare our graduates for their careers. You can expect to see future news about this and other initiatives aimed at helping our students forge their futures.

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W. Fitzhugh Brundage
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Department News

This fall semester, some 3600 students were enrolled in History Department courses, nearly 500 UNC students were majoring or double-majoring in history, and another 350 or so were history minors. Although national trends point toward declining student enrollment in history courses, UNC's History Department continues to attract students in part through its excellent teaching, diverse and intriguing course offerings, and stress on vital skills of research, analysis, and communication. **Read more [here](#).**

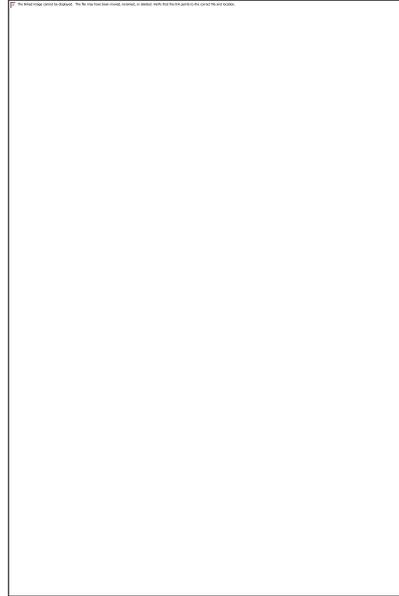


CommLands Brings North Carolina History to the Web

A mere class assignment four years ago, this project has grown into a valuable public resource on North Carolina history. The [COMMEMORATIVE LANDSCAPES OF NORTH CAROLINA](#) website, or "CommLands," reflects the History Department's commitment to the digital humanities, explains its director, department chairman Fitz Brundage. It is an evolving record of "what we choose to remember and how we remember" in this state. **Read more [here](#).**

Recent Graduate Wins Prize for History Journal Article

MICHAEL WELKER (B.A. 2014) has won the American Historical Association's Raymond J. Cunningham Prize for the best article published in an undergraduate history journal. His article, "Nothing without a Demand: Black Power and Student Activism on North Carolina College Campuses, 1967-1973," which appeared in the Spring 2014 issue of the department's journal *Traces*, began as an Honors thesis that Welker wrote under the supervision of James Leloudis. "Michael wrote a brilliant senior thesis on the rise of Black Power at UNC and the attendant struggle to develop an inclusive curriculum. In the process, he proved himself to be a masterful researcher," Leloudis said.



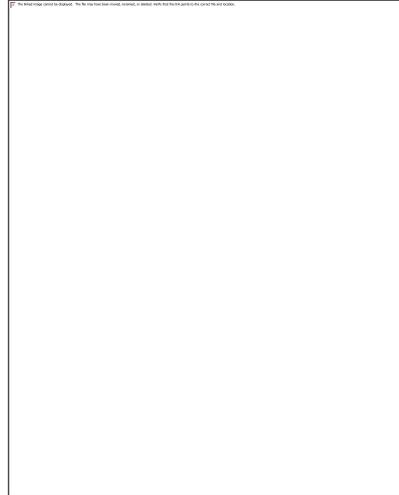
Undergraduate Journal Wins Another Prize

We were all pleased—but unsurprised—to learn that the undergraduate and graduate students who produce our department's journal, *Traces*, have once again won national recognition: the second-place prize for best student journal from Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society. Congratulations to Max Owre (chief faculty advisor), Mark Hornburg (editor), Maggie Howell, Eric Medlin, Augusta Dell'Omo, Peter Vogel, Burt Westermeier, Joel Hebert, Scott Krause, and Jeanine Navarette.

Alumni Spotlight

Alumnus Turns History Degree into Fantasy Fiction Career

After a career in the textile industry, UNC-Chapel Hill history alumnus **C. CRAIG COLEMAN** (B.A. 1971 & M.B.A. 1976) returned to his love of storytelling to embark on the adventure of writing an epic fantasy series. He has published six books in his *The Neuyokkasinian Arc of Empire* series, now available on [Amazon](#), Barnes & Noble, and in other e-book formats. **Read more [here](#).**



Faculty News

Welcome to our new faculty!

William Sturkey



More than fifty years after the passage of the Civil Rights Act in 1964, it's a poignant time to study African-American history in the United States. **WILLIAM STURKEY**, scholar of African-American and Southern history, began as an assistant professor at UNC in Summer 2015. **Read more [here](#).**

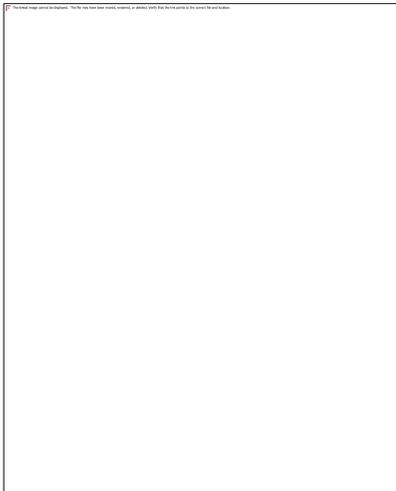
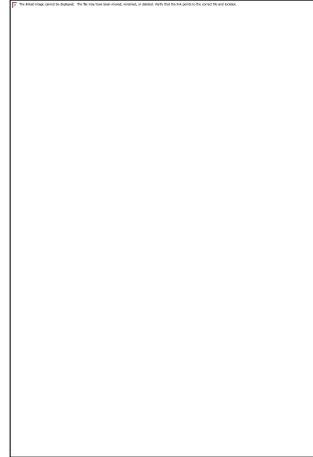
Lauren Jarvis



Her career has taken her to California, South Africa, and Utah. Now **LAUREN JARVIS** has come full circle to work as an assistant professor of African history and the history of religion at UNC-Chapel Hill, in the very town where she grew up. **Read more [here](#).**

William Leuchtenburg Explores the Rise of the American Presidency

Retirement never seems to stop our faculty from continuing the historian's craft. **WILLIAM LEUCHTENBURG**, William Rand Kenan, Jr. Professor Emeritus in the Department of History, will publish the first comprehensive study of the twentieth-century American presidency this winter. [*The American President: From Teddy Roosevelt to Bill Clinton*](#) (Oxford University Press, December 2015) traces the growth of the American presidency over a century—from William McKinley's assassination in 1901 to Bill Clinton's last night in office in 2001. **Read more [here](#).**

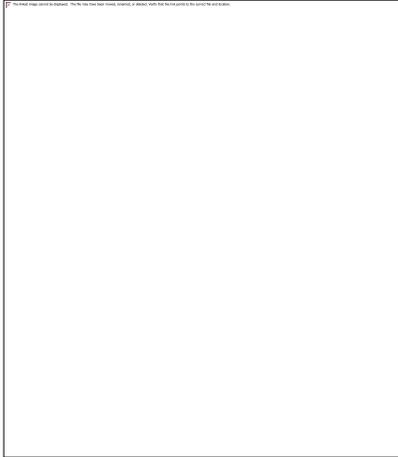


Kathleen DuVal Tells the Revolution's Unexpected Stories

It's been almost ten years in the making. Professor **KATHLEEN DUVAL'S** third book, [*Independence Lost: Lives on the Edge of the American Revolution*](#), was published by Random House in July 2015. The *New York Times* calls it "an astonishing story" that "will knock your socks off." **Read more [here](#).**

Graduate Student News

In the past year our graduate students have won prizes, published in leading academic and popular media, and secured a range of jobs inside and outside the academic world. **Read more [here](#).**



Prize-winning Dissertation Explores Activism in Appalachia

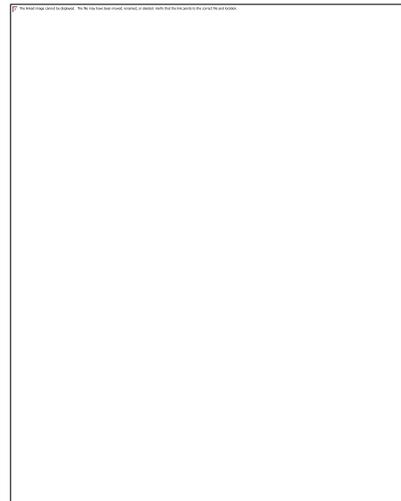
Her research on Appalachian women’s activism shines new light on the relationship between grassroots and national politics. **JESSIE WILKERSON** has won the Lerner-Scott Dissertation Award from the Organization of American Historians for the best dissertation in U.S. Women’s History, as well as the Herbert G. Gutman Prize for Outstanding Dissertation from the Labor and Working Class History Association.

Read more [here](#).

History Grad Students Excel in “Three Minute Thesis” Contest

Two of our graduate students, **NICOLE BAUER** and **EVAN FAULKENBERRY**, were among the finalists who competed in UNC’s first-ever Three Minute Thesis competition. The contest—which began in 2008 at the University of Queensland and has since spread to more than 18 countries and over 200 universities—asks graduate students across all disciplines to summarize their dissertations in no more than three minutes and without the use of props except for a single slide.

The ten finalists took the stage on November 4 before an eager crowd that included Chancellor Folt. Nicole Bauer took second place for her summary of her project, “In the Kingdom of Shadows: Secrecy and Transparency in 18th-century France” (supervised by Jay Smith). Bauer “practiced the speech many, many times with a timer, performing for my couch,” she said. “I learned so much about a variety of disciplines just watching the other participants. Also, the competition basically asks you to perform your elevator speech, which I think everyone is always trying to chisel into a polished form, so it was helpful for me.” Our PhD program requires students to develop a long and complex dissertation that excites specialists in their field, but this contest is a good reminder of the skill it



takes to succinctly sum up that masterpiece and command the attention of a lay audience!

Gifts to the History Department

The History Department is a lively center for historical education and research. Although we are deeply committed to our mission as a public institution, our "margin of excellence" depends on generous private donations. At the present time, the department is particularly eager to improve the funding and fellowships for graduate students.

Your donations are used to send graduate students to professional conferences, support innovative student research, bring visiting speakers to campus, and expand other activities that enhance the department's intellectual community.

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To make a secure gift online, please click "Give Now" above.

The Department also receives tax-deductible donations through the Arts and Sciences Foundation at UNC-Chapel Hill. **Please note in the "memo" section of your check that your gift is intended for the History Department.**

Donations should be sent to the following address:

**UNC-Arts & Sciences Foundation
134 East Franklin Street
CB# 6115
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Attention: Ronda Manuel**

For more information about creating scholarships, fellowships, and professorships in the Department through a gift, pledge, or planned gift please contact Ronda Manuel, Associate Director of Development at the Arts and Sciences Foundation: ronda.manuel@unc.edu or (919) 962-7266.

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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