

# DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



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

## Greetings from the Chair

Spring 2017



**W. Fitzhugh Brundage**  
*Chair, Department of History*

We in the History Department, like most academics I suspect, are cynical about departmental and college rankings. Unless, of course, they confirm our prejudices. So when *U.S. News and World Report* ranked our doctoral program as the 11th best in the country our prejudices were confirmed. (The magazine ranked our African American history doctoral concentration the second best in the country and our colonial American history concentration

the sixth best.) Whatever reservations we may have about such rankings, they nevertheless testify to the lofty reputation of our department. It is worth noting that all of the more highly ranked programs have far more financial and institutional resources at their disposal. Since long before I joined this department or even the Great Recession we have been "doing more with less." Indeed, this department would not enjoy its current standing without the support of generous donors, large and small, that, without exaggeration, enables us to "do more" than would ever be possible with state funds alone. The stature of the department, in short, is a testament to the hard work of our faculty, the creativity of our graduates, and, equally, the abiding support of our donors.

The strength of our graduate program ensures that UNC trained historians will continue to play a formative role in the study of the past for the foreseeable future. Often underestimated, however, is how important our graduate program is for the undergraduates at Carolina. Arguably the symbiotic relationship between graduate and undergraduate education has never been more apparent

than at present. Just as our students study with leading scholars in the present, they are also participating in discussion groups with graduate students who will be leading scholars in the near future. Because we are able to recruit some of the most talented, creative, and dedicated doctoral students, we can teach history with greater attention to the craft of writing and the methods of research than would otherwise be the case.

These departmental newsletters provide a small opportunity to acknowledge some of the people who burnish the reputation of this department in the classroom, in their life's work, and in their research. Even for those of us who stalk the halls of Hamilton every day it is easy in the hurly-burly of the semester to lose sight of the creativity and passion of our colleagues and our students. It is also easy for the historical memory of the department to atrophy, leaving in its stead an institutional past bereft of the personalities who gave the institution life. This newsletter reminds us of the community of people -- students, alums, and faculty -- who have both shared a passion for history and been Tar Heels.

***W. Fitzhugh Brundage***  
***Chair, Department of History***

Make A Gift

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## Department News

### [The Undergraduate Program](#)



This year the University is rolling out a new "Quality Enhancement Plan" called "Creating Scientists: Learning by Connecting, Doing, and Making." But it is not only in the sciences that UNC students learn through experience, conduct research, and create their own analyses. These are key elements of the practice of history and the education students receive in UNC history courses. [Read More](#).

*Lisa Lindsay, Director of Undergraduate Studies*

## **Graduating History Majors**

This month, we say goodbye to our seniors, who are heading off to a wide range of professional opportunities and graduate programs. And students who are returning to Carolina in the fall have exciting summer plans. What has a history major prepared them to do? They can tell you themselves. [Read More.](#)

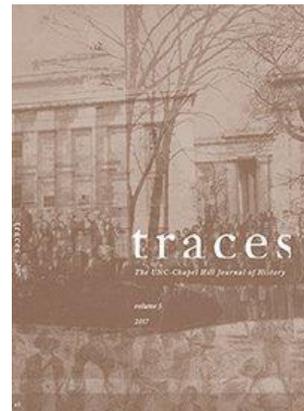
## **Prizes, Honors, Accolades**

Recipients of Honors and Highest Honors, accolades, teaching and faculty awards. [Read More.](#)

## **New Issue of Traces Explores Memory and Southern History**

The 2017 issue of our students' prize-winning journal, *Traces*, explores the theme of Memory and Southern History. This volume includes articles by UNC undergraduates on gender and marriage during the Civil War, infanticide in the antebellum South, depictions of the Revolutionary War at historic sites, and much more. [Read More.](#)

*Sarah Miles and Garrett Wright, Editors-in-Chief*



## **Quiz Bowl Challenges Local High Schoolers**



The Phi Alpha Theta chapter of UNC, with support from the UNC History Department, hosted its fourth annual history quiz bowl for high school students on Saturday, April 1st, in Hamilton Hall. [Read More.](#)

*Ellie Edwards '17, President of UNC Phi Alpha Theta*

## Faculty Spotlight

### [Cemil Aydin on The Idea of the Muslim World](#)

**Professor Cemil Aydin** asks, "If the American government had instituted a Muslim ban 120 years ago, which countries' passports would it ban? It would actually be the British Empire, which was the greatest Muslim Empire; forty percent of the world's Muslims were ruled by Britain before World War I."

[Read More.](#)



*Danielle Balderas*

### [Flora Cassen Asks Tough Questions about Antisemitism and Race](#)



The legal profession's loss was history's gain. When **Professor Flora Cassen** went to college in Belgium, she entered the law school program. But it did not take long before she fell in love with her history courses and made the transition.

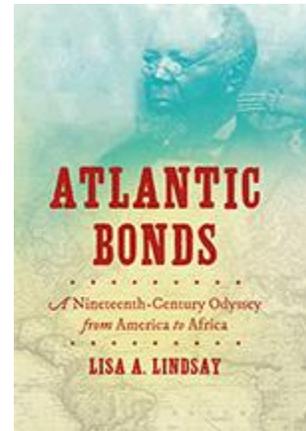
[Read More.](#)

*Danielle Balderas*

### [Professor Lisa Lindsay's New Book is a Truly Transatlantic Biography](#)

**Professor Lisa Lindsay's** new book, *Atlantic Bonds: A Nineteenth-Century Odyssey from America to Africa* (University of North Carolina Press, 2017), tells the fascinating story of James Churchwill "Church" Vaughn, a Black man born in South Carolina who left the United States for Africa a decade before the American Civil War to fulfill his father's dying wish. [Read More.](#)

*Aubrey Lauersdorf*



### [Benjamin Waterhouse takes us through The Land of Enterprise](#)



It is not surprising that **Professor Benjamin Waterhouse** has made such a success of his career as a young historian. He remembers thinking historically as a child—whether it was about big ideas or daily life. "I always tried to make sense of things in terms of what came before," Waterhouse reflected. [Read More.](#)

*Danielle Balderas*

## Alumni Spotlight

### [UNC History Ph.D. appointed National Security Adviser](#)

In February 2017, President Donald J. Trump appointed **Lt. General H.R. McMaster**, who received a Ph.D. in History from UNC in 1996, as national security adviser. McMaster is the first national security adviser with a Ph.D. in History and, according to his former colleagues, his academic background has informed his career since he graduated from UNC. [Read More.](#)

*Garrett Wright*



## [Phillip England '67 Reflects on How Studying History at UNC Influenced His Life and Career](#)



Since growing up in Camden, S.C., and attending UNC, **Phillip England '67** (J.D. '70) has enjoyed a remarkable career in New York City, from counseling high-profile clients in tax law and being honored as a Captive Review magazine "Power 50" to working for former President Bill Clinton. [Read More.](#)

*Erin Kelley '13*

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## History in Our World

### [Boris Ruge: From UNC to the German Embassy](#)

For **Boris Ruge**, Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission for the German Embassy in Washington, D.C., an M.A. in History from UNC was an important step to a career in the foreign service. [Read More.](#)

*Aubrey Lauersdorf*



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## Out of the Archives

### [Henry Owl: Cherokee Historian & Carolina's First Native American Student](#)



In 1929, **Henry M. Owl** received a master's degree from the Department of History. Owl is one of many distinguished graduates of the program, but he is particularly important to department and campus history: Owl was the first student who publicly identified as Native American to receive a degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. After completing his studies, Owl used his master's thesis to challenge the disenfranchisement of Cherokee

people in North Carolina. [Read More.](#)

*Aubrey Lauersdorf*

### [A Japanese Student at UNC During World War I](#)

**Kevin Cherry** received his MA in History at UNC in 1993, before going on to earn a Ph.D. in Library Science at UNC. He is now deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources and director of the Office of Archives, History and Parks. [Read More.](#)

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## 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.

[Give Now](#)

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The Department also receives tax-deductible donations through the Arts and Sciences Foundation at UNC. **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  
Buchan House  
Attn: Ronda Manuel  
523 E. Franklin Street  
Chapel Hill, NC 27514**

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](mailto:ronda.manuel@unc.edu) or (919) 962-7266.

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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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*of* NORTH CAROLINA  
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