

# DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



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

## Greetings from the Chair

Fall 2020



**Dr. Lisa Lindsay**

*Chair, Department of History*

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Chapel Hill and from the UNC History Department! Though UNC made a quick pivot to all-online operations this fall, we continue to pursue our linked missions of scholarship, teaching, and public outreach. Indeed, as our communities large and small face devastating challenges, it is more important than ever to understand the

histories that have brought us to our present and to hone the ability to gather, evaluate, and interpret evidence. It is therefore gratifying to share the Fall issue of *The Department Historian*, which details some of the efforts our faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates have been making in these extraordinary times. I heartily thank our faculty editor, Dr. Eren Tasar, as well as graduate student writers Fred Cochran and Luke Jeske, for this important work of public communication.

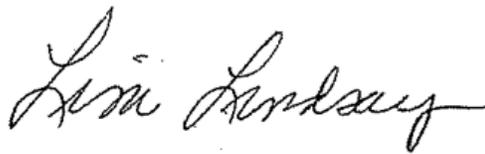
This issue of the departmental newsletter chronicles recent events and accomplishments of the History Department, including the major effort of transforming all of our courses to a remote format and the challenges of pursuing scholarship in COVID times. We welcomed a new faculty member, the Frank Porter Graham Distinguished Professor of global human rights history, Dr. Dirk Moses, who arrived this fall from Sydney, Australia. We mourned the passing of Dr. Beverly Washington Jones, the first African American woman to earn a PhD in our department. As you will read in a future newsletter edition, our department also participated with the other inhabitants of our campus building in an initiative to urge the administration to replace the name Hamilton Hall with a new name, Pauli Murray Hall. For

more on this effort as well as additional news of the History Department, please do keep an eye on our website, <https://history.unc.edu/>.

As we continue to maintain our mission through unprecedented challenges—from health and safety to the financial exigencies that affect public institutions like ours—we depend more than ever on the generous backing of our friends and alumni. 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.

With appreciation,

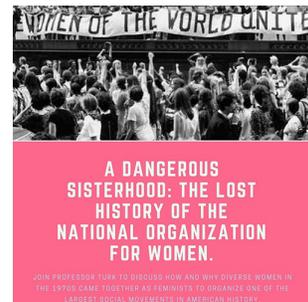



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## In The News

Gratitude, resilience, and pride are three words that come to my mind when considering my stint as acting Director of Graduate Studies this fall. This past semester, one of our most challenging, History graduate students collectively spent roughly 23,000 hours teaching UNC undergraduates. [Read more.](#)

Needless to say, as History continues to wrestle with the implications of COVID-19, many of the department's initiatives for supporting undergraduate research and travel remain temporarily suspended. Nevertheless, on 22 October, History celebrated the second annual University Research Week faculty lecture on research in progress ... [Read more.](#)



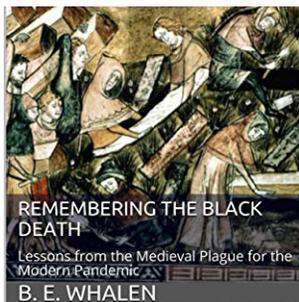
The passing of Dr. Beverly Washington Jones on July 19, 2020 presents the History Department an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of its African American alumni and to reflect on the important work that remains in promoting diversity, racial justice and gender equity within the department and beyond. [Read more.](#)

Here at UNC, a major topic on everyone's mind this semester has been Covid and its effects on academic life. Students have borne most of the brunt of transitioning to a virtual learning environment, but professors in the Department of History have also made significant adjustments. [Read more.](#)



Quarantine measures, widespread shutdowns, and barriers to travel have made the past year unlike any in memory. For UNC History graduate students, the coronavirus has created particular challenges. As four graduate students report, conducting dissertation research under these conditions presents unprecedented obstacles. [Read more.](#)

In July, the department welcomed a new faculty member, Dirk Moses, the Frank Porter Graham Distinguished Professor of Global Human Rights History. Hailing most recently from Sydney, Australia, Professor Moses completed his graduate work in Scotland and the United States and previously taught at the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. [Read more.](#)



Faculty in the UNC History Department have long produced timely and publicly oriented scholarship, and the tradition remains strong in 2020. Two recent publications aimed at general audiences explain historical links with both the pandemic and the current U.S. political climate. [Read more.](#)

As news emerged that a number of prominent history graduate programs across the country had suspended graduate admissions for the 2020-2021 academic year, the UNC History Department convened a virtual meeting on September 11, 2020 to discuss the future of the Department's graduate program. [Read more.](#)



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Undergraduates frequently praise introductory history courses as a formative part of their Tar Heel experience. Whether learning about colonial America, global history, the history of Islam, or the ancient world, history courses allow us to understand both our past and our present. [Read more.](#)

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

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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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