

# DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



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

## Greetings from the Chair

Spring 2022



**Dr. Lisa Lindsay**

*Chair, Department of History*

Dear Friends, Alumni, and Fellow Historians,

Greetings from the UNC History Department! As those of us who work on an academic calendar transition to summer pursuits of research and less regular teaching, I hope this finds you healthy and engaged in something similarly restorative.

Our university's spring commencement speaker this year was *New York Times*

columnist and author Frank Bruni, who graduated from UNC, as he put it, "back in the Mesozoic era, by which I mean 1986." Bruni "did many questionable things, many foolish things" as a UNC student, he said in his speech; and in an interview with the *Daily Tar Heel*, he specified: "I wish I'd taken more history courses."

This late spring issue of *The Department Historian* gives a sense of why even someone as accomplished as our commencement speaker might wish to have taken better advantage of our department's offerings. You can read here about faculty and graduate student research, undergraduate achievements, teaching, and public 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 Craig Gill and Madeleine McGrady.

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. 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 connections to 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



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

Thankfully, as COVID recedes enough to allow student travel again, our majors have begun to study abroad and embark on research trips to libraries and archives. This has enabled History to resume some of its grants and celebrate our undergraduate accomplishments. [Read more.](#)

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

Our graduate students are remarkably resilient! After a year of challenges just getting to the libraries and archives they need for their work, almost 20 were off campus doing research on a variety of grants and fellowships. See the whole list in the Annual Report coming your way this summer. [Read more.](#)



### **Celebrating Louise McReynolds**

On Friday, May 6th, members of the History Department and colleagues across campus gathered in the lounge of Graham Memorial Hall to celebrate the career of Louise McReynolds, Cary C. Boshamer Distinguished Professor of History. [Read more.](#)

## Schwarzman Scholar Reflects on Studying History at UNC

As a traveler and an intellectual, Sam Zahn '22 is always on the move. After graduating from UNC with a double major in history and political science on May 9, he headed to southern Utah for a real-life adventure in the wilderness. [Read more.](#)



## New Initiative Offers a Fresh Perspective

For Prof. William Sturkey, historical education can never be a top-down affair. Central to the mission of a public university is the responsibility to give students the tools to think critically about their surroundings and to reach their own conclusions. [Read more.](#)

## Fulbright-Hays Recipients to Resume Research

After navigating almost three years of a global pandemic, two graduate students of the History Department, Laura Cox and Abby Warchol, received the Fulbright-Hays fellowship and are finally able to resume their research in Africa. [Read more.](#)



## UNC Supports Ukraine

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Eastern Ukraine and catalyzed a war. Individuals and communities internationally mobilized to support Ukraine and its people in any way they could, including at UNC. [Read more.](#)

## Russia and Ukraine

Dr. Raleigh has written extensively on the Russian Revolution and Civil War, focusing particularly on its local and regional aspects. We talked with Dr. Raleigh in mid-April to get his perspective both on Russia's war in Ukraine both as a historian and as someone who has spent time in both countries. [Read more.](#)





## Cristian Walk Receives Award for Graduate Teaching Assistant Excellence

Beyond their research, publication activity, grant proposal writing, and the challenge of staying on top of an ever-burgeoning historiography, graduate students in UNC's history department are, first and foremost, training to become educators. [Read more.](#)

## Researching Religion in Russia

In January of this year, Luke Jeske left for a year-long research trip in Moscow and St. Petersburg. Shortly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine began the following month, however, he returned to the United States. [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.



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