

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



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

Greetings from the Chair Spring 2023

Dear Friends, Alumni, and Fellow Historians,



Dr. Lisa Lindsay
Chair, Department of History

Greetings from the UNC History Department! I am delighted to share with you some updates about the activities of our faculty, graduate students, alumni, and off-campus colleagues. For me, this is a bittersweet moment: I'm writing this on graduation day, at the end of my term as department chair, which began in 2018. Since then, we have all confronted multiple challenges—not least, the members of the class of 2023, whose undergraduate years were unexpectedly and dramatically altered. I congratulate the graduates, whose achievements and spirit are an inspiration; I commend my faculty colleagues, whose scholarship and teaching keep the lessons of history alive; and I appreciate our university administration and staff for maintaining this vital public institution.

For more news of the History Department, please do see our website, <https://history.unc.edu/>, which is ably maintained by graduate students and Digital History Lab coordinators, Madeleine McGrady and Sarah Miles.

It is no small feat to produce biannual editions of *The Department Historian* while engaged in teaching, scholarship, and extensive service; yet Prof. Eren Tasar (who is also the department's Director of Graduate Studies) does so with aplomb. I sincerely thank him, as well as the graduate student contributors to this edition: Burak Bulkan, Oskar Czernize, Dani McVoy, and Mark Thomas-Patterson. More broadly, our Department Manager David Culclasure has organized our finances, staff, and much more for the past two years. We thank him heartily and wish him well as he moves on to a new position.

We remain deeply grateful for 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. Crucially, they allow the our department to enhance the minimum stipend that UNC pays to graduate students, which makes our program more attractive to the best future historians, who in turn help to stimulate faculty research and enrich undergraduate education. Thank you, truly, for your continued interest and support.

I hope you will consider [making a gift today](#) to help us continue our tradition of excellence in History at UNC. And please [stay in touch](#)—we'd love to hear from you.

Sincerely,

In The News



Update from the Director of Undergraduate Studies

Our undergraduate program has thrived this Spring, and we are delighted to support our students' endeavors and honor their achievements. In the coming months, many of our majors will study abroad and travel for research with History Department funding. [Read More](#)

Update from the Director of Graduate Studies

The graduate program rounds out the academic year with a list of impressive scholarship and awards. Even more significant are our students' accomplishments in the classroom: as Teaching Fellows and Teaching Assistants, graduate students in the department taught hundreds of UNC undergraduates. [Read More](#)



John Sweet's New Book Wins Prestigious Awards

John Wood Sweet has received the distinguished honor of the 2023 Bancroft Prize for his book *The Sewing Girl's Tale*, becoming the first UNC faculty member to receive the coveted prize since the 1960s. The Bancroft Prize is one of the highest honors in the field of American history, reserved for exceptional academic work in the discipline. [Read More](#)

Stephanie Pierson '24: History Major and "Jeopardy" Semifinalist

Students often confront us historians with the question: what are the benefits of getting a degree in history? Obviously, there are many, from understanding the present to mastering writing and communication skills. But now we can add even another: Jeopardy! [Read More](#)



Inaugural Genna Rae McNeil Lecture

February 22, 2023 marked the inaugural Genna Rae McNeil lecture event for Black History Month. While the lecture series has taken place for almost two decades at UNC, this year's event is the first under a new name – honoring the History Department's own Genna Rae McNeil. [Read More](#)

History Department Marks Lisa Lindsay's Momentous Tenure as Chair

Professor Lisa Lindsay surely got more than she bargained for upon becoming department chair in summer 2018. Right before the first day of classes, student protestors toppled the "Silent Sam" monument. [Read More](#)



Alumni Profile: Professor Christina B. Carroll

Christina B. Carroll earned her BA in English and History at Vassar College, NY, in 2006. After her graduation, she started her Ph.D. study in the History department at UNC Chapel Hill. [Read More](#)

Samuel Dolbee: A Glimpse into the Academic Journey of An Unconventional Historian

Samuel Dolbee '08 is a history alumnus who has broken new ground in the profession. As editor in chief of the Ottoman History Podcast, he steers a prominent venue for showcasing cutting-edge scholarship in Ottoman and Middle Eastern history to a broader audience. [Read More](#)



Ph.D. candidate breaks new ground in holocaust studies

UNC Ph.D. student Alison Curry has had a busy year of research and traveling as a Saul Kagan Holocaust Memorial Fellow. Curry, who studies Jewish cemeteries in Poland between 1918 and 1945, lectured last October at Clemson University as part of a conference studying cemeteries. [Read More](#)

Ousmane Power-Greene '95: A Scholar, Novelist, Educator, and Sports Coach

Ousmane Power-Greene, Associate Professor of African American History at Clark University, very vividly remembers his time as a Carolina student and major in History. Disputes between a coalition of students, faculty and staff, and the UNC Chancellor Thomas Hardin over a freestanding Black Cultural Center dominated life on campus. [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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