

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

The Newsletter of The University of Alabama Department of History

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Fall 2017



College of
Arts & Sciences
Department of History

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA*

FROM THE CHAIR

UNDERGRADUATE CHARLOTTE WATTERS WINS JOHN FRASER RAMSEY AWARD



Charlotte Watters, a May 2017 UA History graduate and incoming MA student, is the latest recipient of the John Fraser Ramsey Award, which is named after long-time History faculty member John Fraser Ramsey. The award is The University of Alabama's oldest, university-wide endowed award and the most prestigious of the University's Premier Awards. The Award honors "the versatility of gifts and attainments, as well as the breadth of excellence in mind and character, that have traditionally been the goals of a liberal education." Recipients enjoy the "Great Ideas Tour" of Western Europe, in honor of Dr.

Ramsey's legendary interdisciplinary courses in Western intellectual history.

Watters is from Tucson, Arizona and credits her experience in Dr. James Mixson's class with her decision to pursue a career in a history-related field. "I basically went up to him and I said, I really like this. What else can I do?," Watters said. Mixson explained the many programs offered within the program, such as the peer mentor program, encouraged her to participate, and introduced her to other faculty and students.

Travel is one of Watters's favorite experiences because she says it makes her "wholly myself. I feel like I am entirely Charlotte when I'm out and traveling, and totally receptive to new experiences, new cultures." Consequently, Watters says that she is "incredibly excited to take the great ideas tour, which I know is inspired by Doctor Ramsey's class, *The Great Ideas of Western Civilization*. I think it's going to be an unprecedented, amazing opportunity for me to take my own tour of the great ideas of Western civilization this summer."

SUMMERSELL CENTER SPONSORS PUBLIC HISTORY INITIATIVE INTERNSHIPS

Drs. Giggie, Mixson, and Riches have teamed up to create a track for both undergraduate and graduate students interested in public history. The Public History Initiative is a year-long program. Each fall, students attended an introductory lecture series featuring speakers from campus institutions -- such as Gorgas Library, Hoole Special Collections, and UA Press, as well as community groups such as local churches, museums, and organizations. Speakers share insights into their personal career path, their institution, and their field in general. In the Spring semester, the students have the

opportunity to intern with one of these institutions, helping them to translate their histories into a narrative that is accessible to the public. Dr. Giggie is excited about the program because of the student involvement: "students cooperate with other dimensions of the university...pulling together things in a different way," and in a student-led environment.

The goal is to also increase the multidisciplinary and multimedia exposure of the students involved to prepare them for the increasingly diverse and digital world of humanities.



It gives me great pleasure to present to you the Fall 2017 newsletter from The University of Alabama Department of History. The 2016-2017 academic year was

an exciting and productive one for the Department that saw the number of History majors rise for the first time in several years, the admission of the largest class of graduate students in some time, and course enrollments that were near capacity.

We now have nearly 400 History majors and more than 225 minors. Nearly 8,000 students took classes in the Department last year, and we are very much looking forward to what the future holds. We have recently introduced a series of public history internships that let students put the skills they have acquired in their courses to work, and we hope to bring a full-time public historian onto the faculty this year. We will also be searching for a new faculty member in American legal and constitutional history, which we hope will attract additional majors and help us keep pace with the remarkable recent growth of the University.

Our graduate students continue to produce excellent scholarship and develop their abilities in the classroom, and we have had a solid recent track record of our doctoral students landing jobs at colleges and universities and beyond.

We hope you enjoy being kept up to date on everything going on in the Department. Please do not hesitate to contact us, and we encourage you to stay in touch. Follow departmental news on the department website, our Facebook page, and our Twitter feed. We want you to be part of our future as we continue to explore our past!



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DR. LESLEY GORDON: SUMMERSELL CHAIR



Dr. Lesley Gordon joined the faculty of the History Department last year, as the new Charles G. Summersell Chair of Southern History. Dr. Gordon

is originally from Connecticut, but she earned her B.A. at the College of William and Mary and her Ph.D. at the University of Georgia. For the past 20 years, Gordon has been a professor at the University of Akron. "I'm absolutely thrilled to be here," Dr. Gordon exclaimed. "This is a wonderful time to be at The University of Alabama."

Dr. Gordon's current research focuses on the motivations of common soldiers and how combat affected them and their families. Her current book project focuses on the notion of cowardice in battle during the Civil War. She's been studying a Texas regiment accused of cowardly behavior at Shiloh. "It was devastating for this regiment," Dr. Gordon says. "They seemed unable to shake that shameful charge, no matter how well they performed in subsequent battles."

DR. ANDREW HUEBNER APPOINTED DISTINGUISHED LECTURER



Associate Professor Andrew Huebner has been appointed a distinguished lecturer of the Organization of American Historians.

As a speaker for the Distinguished Lectureship Program, Huebner agreed to a three-year renewable term in which he will travel the country, speaking about U.S. history in museums, libraries, universities, community centers, churches, and other forums.

"I'm honored to be included in this program, which offers a great way to support the OAH and deliver talks about one's research," said Huebner.

Huebner is one of only thirty-one lecturers from around the country to join its Distinguished Lectureship Program this year. Nominees were appointed to the program based on their engaging lectureship and prominent work in the field.



Dr. George Rable with several of the doctoral students he has advised while at UA.

DR. GEORGE RABLE RETIRES

The History Department came together on October 7, 2016, to celebrate the career of Dr. George C. Rable, who retired as the Charles G. Summersell Chair of Southern History at the end of the Spring 2016 semester. Dr. Kari Frederickson introduced the speakers, and moderated the symposium. Speakers included Dr. T. Michael Parrish, the Linden G. Bowers Professor of American History at Baylor University, Dr. John F. Marszalek, the Giles Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Mississippi State University, and Dr. A. Wilson Greene, the Executive Director of Pamplin Historical Park and the National Museum of the Civil War Soldier, and our own Dr. Lawrence F. Kohl. Drs. Parrish, Marszalek, and Greene spoke both about Dr. Rable's impressive contribution to the fields of antebellum, Civil War, and Reconstruction history, and reminisced about their decades-long friendships and intellectual partnerships. Dr. Kohl emphasized Dr. Rable's history of dedicated academic service, as well as his unselfish devotion to his students, and to our department. The common theme throughout the event was the high bar that Dr. Rable has set, as a scholar, teacher, and colleague. The History Department dearly misses his daily presence in ten Hour, but we count ourselves lucky to know such a historian, and such a friend.

DR. LAWRENCE KOHL DELIVERS RETIREMENT ADDRESS



Jonathan, Larry, Maureen, and Christopher Kohl

After thirty years of teaching at The University of Alabama, Dr. Lawrence Kohl celebrated his retirement with a lecture entitled, "On Life, History, and Teaching: Reflections on Retirement." Kohl's moving speech spanned from his serene childhood in Michigan, to his lifelong obsession with time, to the importance of teachers and students. Following the lecture, the department held a reception in the Gorgas House for Dr. Kohl's family, friends, and colleagues.

A video of Dr. Kohl's lecture can be viewed at <https://goo.gl/U6U3E1>

DR. SHARONY GREEN PRODUCES DOCUMENTARY



Assistant Professor Sharony Green completed work on her documentary on the late jazz guitarist Grant Green, *The Grant Green Story*, which was screened at the 2016 Harlem Film Festival.

The film explores life of the late jazz guitarist Grant Green, her former father-in-law. Green is best known for his work with Blue Note Records, during the company's heyday, where he was among the label's most recorded artists. He died at the age of 43 in 1979. Since his death, he has become one of the most sampled jazz musicians.



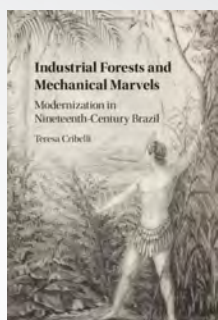
Artists such as Kendrick Lamar, A Tribe Called Quest,

and Madonna have used his music. Among the individuals interviewed in the film are Grammy Award-winning musician and vocalist George Benson; alto saxophonist Lou Donaldson; legendary sound engineer Rudy Van Gelder; and record producer Michael Cuscuna.



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THE YEAR IN PUBLICATIONS

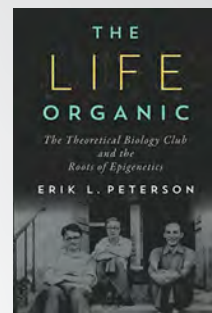


Teresa Cribelli, *Industrial Forests and Mechanical Marvels: Modernization in Nineteenth-Century Brazil* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2016).

Dr. Teresa Cribelli's book presents an account of modernization and innovation in nineteenth-century Brazil. Unlike previous scholarship, which described these transformations as a North American or European import, Cribelli's work places Brazilian actors at the center of her narrative, illuminating a distinctly Brazilian view of modernization.

Erik Peterson, *The Life Organic: The Theoretical Biology Club and the Roots of Epigenetics* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2017).

Dr. Peterson's book tells the story of scientists in the late 19th and early 20th century who pursued a middle road of investigation between mechanists, those who argued that living beings were simply complex machines, and vitalists, who believed that animals and humans possessed an ineffable essence that separated living and nonliving things. These researchers formed the Theoretical Biology Club in the 1920s and 1930s, pioneering a "third way" of understanding life that they termed epigenetics.



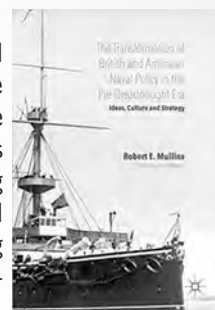
Howard Jones, *My Lai: Vietnam, 1968, and the Descent into Darkness* (Oxford University Press, 2017).



Dr. Jones explores the events and legacy of the 1968 My Lai massacre, during which nearly 500 unarmed Vietnamese villagers were murdered by US forces and 30 US officers, including Lt. William Calley, were charged with war crimes. My Lai polarized American sentiment and the atrocity intensified opposition to the war, devastating any pretense of American moral superiority. As Jones demonstrates, its effect on military morale and policy was profound and enduring.

John Beeler & Robert Mullins, eds. *The Transformation of British and American Naval Policy in the Pre-Dreadnought Era: Ideas, Culture and Strategy* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016).

This volume examines the transformation of British and US naval policy from 1870 to 1889, which resulted in the British Naval Defence Act (1889), the construction of the first modern US battleships, and began the naval arms race which culminated in World War One. In examining the development of strategic thinking in the Royal and US Navies, it overturns conventional wisdom regarding genesis of the Naval Defence Act and the US Navy's about-face from a defensive to an offensive strategic orientation.



DR. JAMES MIXSON RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING COMMITMENT TO TEACHING

Dr. James Mixson is the winner of the 2016 Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award. This award is given by the National Alumni Association annually to four full-time faculty members whose work with students demonstrates an exceptional commitment to their students' success, both inside and outside the classroom.

Dr. Mixson is the department's Undergraduate Director and beloved by undergraduate and graduate students alike. He is the History Department's eighth faculty member to be so honored. Previous winners include Dr. Larry Kohl and Dr. John Beeler. In discussing the award, Dr. Mixson used the occasion to highlight the work of his dedicated and excellent colleagues within the department. "Everybody needs to know what great teachers we have here!," he said.

Margaret Abruzzo, Associate Professor, (Early U.S. Cultural & Intellectual) is working on a book on changing concepts of sin and sinners in eighteenth and nineteenth-century American moral thought. Her essay “The Sins of Slaves and the Slaves of Sin: Toward a History of Moral Agency” appeared in *The Worlds of American Intellectual History* (Oxford University Press, 2016).

John F. Beeler, Professor, (Naval & Military; Modern Britain & Europe) edited Dr. Robert Mullins’s *The Transformation of British and American Naval Policy in the Pre-Dreadnought Era: Ideas, Culture and Strategy* (Palgrave, 2016). He spent six weeks in Edinburgh, researching a current book project, “Alexander, Effie, and their Worlds: Life, Love, and Work in a Victorian Scots Gentry Family.”

David T. Beito, Professor, (20th-Century U.S. Social; African-American History) along with his co-author, Linda Royster Beito, won first place for a screenplay, which is based on their book, *Black Maverick*, from the Alabama Writers Conclave, the oldest and most prestigious writers’ organization in the state. His article on the Black Committee, “New Deal Mass Surveillance,” was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Policy History*.

Steven B. Bunker, Associate Professor, (Latin America; Mexico) served as the Director of the Latin American, Caribbean, & Latino Studies Program, which put on a number of events, including a conference on Latin America and the US South. Also served as the faculty advisor for the new UA Hispanic Latino Association.

Charles Clark, Instructor, (U.S. Military) began teaching the History of Games class. Also began working with the Peer Mentors on a recruiting and retention program aimed at keeping students in the survey classes and adding new majors.

Teresa Cribelli, Assistant Professor, (Colonial & Modern Latin America) published her first monograph, *Industrial Forests and Mechanical Marvels: Modernization in Nineteenth-Century Brazil*, which won an honorable mention for best book on Brazil at the Latin American Studies Association. She is presently researching her new project on comparative frontiers in the U.S. and Brazil.

Kari Frederickson, Professor, (U.S. South)

is finalizing her book, *Deep South Dynasty: The Bankhead Family and the Creation of the New South, 1865-1945*, which tells the story of the New South through the activities of one remarkable political family from Alabama. She also published two articles from this research in 2016 and delivered a paper at an academic conference.

John M. Giggie, Associate Professor & Director of the Summersell Center, (African-American History; U.S. South; American Religion) published articles on the American Missionary Society and its early civil rights work and on the history of the black religious press. Was named to a national team of historians charged with identifying civil rights sites for recommendation as World Heritage Sites by the United Nations.

Lesley J. Gordon, Professor & Charles G. Summersell Chair of Southern History, (U.S. South) was an invited speaker at the University of Southern Mississippi & Mississippi State University; participated in the Civil War Governors of Kentucky Symposium. Spent a week in May at the National Archives and Records Administration, researching her current book project on cowardice and the Civil War era.

Sharon A. Green, Assistant Professor, (African-American History) continues research looking at racial and spatial politics in or near the Atlantic, particularly in South Florida. Her first article on the subject was published in the *Journal of Urban History*. A recent residency in Iceland permitted her to bring artistic approaches into her query.

Holly Grout, Associate Professor, (Modern European Cultural & Intellectual; Modern France; Gender) spent the past academic year on sabbatical. Participated in the Cambridge University Politics of Beauty Program (Cambridge, England); conducted archival research in Paris; presented papers at the IHTP/CNRS *Séminaire de mode* (Paris) and the Queen Mary French Forum, Institute for Historical Research (London).

Andrew Huebner, Associate Professor, (20th-Century U.S. Cultural and Intellectual) submitted his manuscript, *Love and Death in the Great War*, to Oxford University Press. Also published an essay, “Gee! I Wish I Were a Man: Gender and the Great War,” in the new *Routledge History of Gender, War, and the US Mili-*

tary.

Lucy Kaufman, Assistant Professor, (Early Modern British History) is delighted to join the department, moving from a fellowship at Keble College, University of Oxford. She’s currently working on a book about how people built a new society in the face of the wrenching changes of the English Reformation. She’s teaching the Tudor History survey this fall.

Heather M. Kopelson, Associate Professor, (Race & Gender in the Atlantic World; Early American Religion) spent last fall on research leave, visiting archives in France & Spain, for her book on communication and exchange through music and dance in the early modern Atlantic world. Short-term fellowships enabled the study of Spanish paleography at the Newberry Library, research at the Folger Library, and the purchase of spinning wheels for class demonstrations.

Lisa Lindquist-Dorr, Associate Professor & Associate Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, (20th-Century U.S. South; Women) completed revisions on her book, “A Thousand Thirsty Beaches: Cuba, Smuggling and the South during Prohibition,” which explores the smuggling of liquor and other contraband from Cuba to the southern coast.

Matthew Lockwood, Visiting Assistant Professor, (British History) joined the department this year, moving from the University of Warwick. His book, *The Conquest of Death: Violence and the Birth of the Modern English State*, was recently published by Yale University Press. He is currently working on a book about the unexpected consequences of the American Revolution in the British Empire and beyond.

Di Luo, Assistant Professor, (Chinese History) is currently working on a book about literacy education in China in the early 20th century, for which she received an RGC grant and a travel grant from Stanford East Asian Library. She also has one article published and one book chapter forthcoming on this subject.

George W. McClure, Professor, (Renaissance & Reformation Europe; Medieval) had his manuscript, “Doubting the Divine in Early Modern Europe: The Revival of Momus, the Agnostic God,” accepted by Cambridge University Press for pub-

lication in 2018.

James D. Mixson, Associate Professor & Undergraduate Director, (Medieval Religious and Intellectual) is working on the digitalization of two 15th-century Franciscan libraries in collaboration with the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library. He is also researching and writing a book on the Italian friar John of Capistrano and the Crusade of 1456.

Margaret Peacock, Associate Professor, (Russian & Soviet; The Cold War; Semiotics & Visual Culture) researched her new book, *Frequencies of Deception: How Global Propaganda Lost the Middle East*. She visited archives in Russia, Cuba, Germany, Israel, Egypt, and England; completed a primary source manuscript, *Documents from Russia*, with Cognella Press, and published a book chapter in *The Oxford Companion to Diplomatic History*.

Erik Peterson, Assistant Professor, (History & Philosophy of Science) published essays in *History & Philosophy of the Life Sciences* and *American Historical Review*. Also launched a podcast, "Speaking of Race," with three anthropologists (<http://speakingofrace.ua.edu>), which will be accompanied by the book, *One or Many: Race & Science from Christopher Columbus to James Watson*.

Juan Ponce-Vazquez, Assistant Professor, (Latin America; Spanish Caribbean) regularly teaches courses in the history of the Spanish empire in the Americas and early modern Spain. He is currently working on a book manuscript provisionally titled "Smuggling at the Edge of Empire: Social and Political Defiance in Hispaniola, 1580-1697."

John H. Ratliff, Instructor, (U.S. South) delivered departmental courses to 300+ students nationwide through UA Early College. He maintains and develops all online survey courses for the department, as well as the websites for the department and the Summersell Center. He was selected to serve on the digital pedagogy working group with the College of Continuing Studies. Designed and produced this newsletter.

Daniel Riches, Associate Professor & Director of Graduate Studies, (Early Modern Europe; Diplomatic & Military) completed two chapters for inclusion in collected volumes and entries on the Peace of Augsburg and Leopold von Ranke for

the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Diplomacy* (for which he serves as Contrib. Ed.), in addition to concentrating on graduate recruitment in his capacity as Director of Graduate Studies.

Joshua D. Rothman, Professor & Chair, (19th-Century U.S. South) put his forthcoming book on domestic slave traders and their business, entitled 'The Ledger and the Chain: The Masterminds of the Domestic Slave Trade,' under contract with Basic Books.

Harold E. Selesky, Associate Professor, (U.S. Military; Colonial & Revolutionary America) His project, 'Morphology of Mobilization,' continues to investigate how Massachusetts went to war in the colonial and Revolutionary periods. He organized an event on the centennial of US entry into WW I, intending to launch a continuing series of public talks by faculty about significant historical anniversaries.

Jenny Shaw, Associate Professor, (The Atlantic World; Caribbean) spent 2016-2017 on sabbatical, conducting archival re-

search in Barbados and London; gave a plenary address at the Ireland in the Caribbean Symposium (Dublin); and presented papers at the University of Edinburgh's Global Seminar, the University of Illinois's Premodern Workshop, and the BGEAH Annual Conference (Cambridge, England).

Sarah Steinbock-Pratt, Assistant Professor, (The U.S. & the World) recently finished her manuscript, "Educating the Empire: American Teachers and Contested Colonization in the Philippines," and is sending it out to publishers. She also did research this summer for her second book project on Filipinos in the Pacific World in Seattle, Oakland, and Honolulu.

Janek Wasserman, Associate Professor, (Modern Europe; Germany) is currently a Fellow at the Center for the History of Political Economy at Duke University. In the past year he began teaching with the Auburn Prison Arts & Education Program in the Alabama state prison system.

HISTORIAN WILLIAM C. HARRIS'S CAREER BEGAN IN OUR DEPARTMENT



Alabama's Department of History.

A native of Mount Meigs, Harris earned his BA from Alabama in 1954 and, after four years of military service, returned to Alabama for graduate school. Harris was drawn to the Civil War because of the influence of Dr. Thomas B. Alexander. He recalls how Alexander taught him to be objective in his writing and research. Alexander was known to spend long hours with Harris, reviewing his work. "He was that dedicated to his students," he recalls. Harris also studied under other department notables such as John Ramsey and Charles Summersell — who they called "Chuckles," he says, because of his "sunny

Alu m n u s
W i l l i a m C .
H a r r i s , p r o f e s s o r e m e r i t u s a t N o r t h C a r o l i n a S t a t e U n i v e r s i t y , b e g a n h i s f i f t y - y e a r c a r e e r a s a C i v i l W a r h i s t o r i a n a t T h e U n i v e r s i t y o f

disposition." Harris earned his PhD in 1965 and moved to North Carolina State University in 1969, where he was Department Chair from 1990 to 1995. He published two books on Reconstruction and North Carolina politicians, before turning his professional attention toward Abraham Lincoln. Harris's *With Charity for All: Lincoln and the Restoration of the Union* (1997), placed second in the 1998 Lincoln Prize. Harris retired from NCSU in 2004, but he continues to research and write. His *Lincoln's Last Months* won the 2004 Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award. He also received the Henry Adams Prize in 2007 for *Lincoln's Rise to the Presidency*. His most recent work, *Lincoln and the Border States: Preserving the Union* (2012), won both the Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize and the Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award.

"I am so grateful to The University of Alabama and people like Thomas Alexander," Harris says, "for setting me on this path."

7,740 students were enrolled in department courses last year.

ALUMNUS INSPIRES STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MOBILE



Department alumnus Matthew L. Downs is carrying on the University's tradition of teaching excellence and leadership at the University of Mobile, where he is Assistant

Professor of History and Chair of his Department. Downs completed his PhD in History at UA in 2010, where he worked with Dr. Kari Fredrickson, studying southern history, focusing specifically on the South's modernization during the mid-20th century.

Downs says one of his favorite experiences as a graduate student was working with the Teaching American History Program at local high schools. He says that the opportunity "really prepared me for what I do now, in a weird way." At the University of Mobile, Downs is a teaching professor. His primary job responsibility is to teach and assist students, so the hands-on teaching experience has proved invaluable. He also worked at the *Southern Historian*, which prepared him for his upcoming role as editor of the *Alabama Review*. Working on the *Southern Historian*, he says, helped him understand the business of "selling, editing, and publishing journals."

Dr. Downs' role as chair isn't just "boring admin stuff." He helps students and professors plan for upcoming terms. Though he spends most of his time in the classroom, he continues to research. At the moment, he's researching Mobile's economic growth during the World War I era.

Downs advises history students to "be prepared for what you're doing" and to be creative in their use of history. Regardless of their path, he tells students not to get discouraged but to have resilience. "Be ready to fail and try again and again, and you will succeed."

DONNA COX BAKER BUILDS CAREER IN HISTORICAL PUBLISHING



Dr. Donna Cox Baker, a 2014 graduate of the University of Alabama's History PhD program, is the editor-in-chief of *Alabama Heritage* magazine, serves as the acquisitions editor for UA Press, and co-chairs the Statewide Initiatives Committee for the Alabama Bicentennial Commission.

Baker says that students should not feel overly pessimistic about finding work. "You've got to look for jobs, but you never know what elements in your particular experience might fill a need in the end."

As an undergraduate, Baker had no interest in history or publishing, but by her late 20s, she had developed an "addiction to genealogy" and found herself wanting to understand the world her ancestors inhabited. She began

working on her history MA at UAB, while building a communications career at a computer corporation.

Eventually, the opportunity for a career in history presented itself at *Alabama Heritage*, though she had no magazine background, her various professional experiences made her well equipped for the job. Twists and turns in life shouldn't be worrisome to undergraduates, she says. "You milk the value you can get out of every experience. Everything can be of value."

"Working on the PhD opened doors for me that would not have otherwise been opened." Baker suggests that undergraduates broaden the scope of their job search to include public history fields such as museums, genealogical projects and societies, libraries, and other places that end up being "unexpected fits" for students of history.

DEPARTMENT HOSTS GRADUATE VISIT DAY



In March 2017, the Department of History hosted its first-ever Graduate Visit Day, where prospective graduate students were able to learn more about the program and talk with professors, faculty, and current students.

Dr. Riches, Director of Graduate Studies, said that the event gave the department the chance to welcome to campus 22 appli-

cants who had been accepted into the UA graduate program for Fall 2017, giving the applicants the chance to see our campus, meet our faculty, talk with current students, and, perhaps most importantly, meet each other.

Riches organized the event with the understanding that those invited were in the process of making a very important educational choice, with broad ramifications for their future lives and careers. With that in mind, this event was designed to offer these prospective students as much information as possible about what Department of History's graduate program has to offer, enabling them to make informed decisions about whether or not our department would be a proper place for them to continue their studies.

Last year, Department of History faculty won a combined \$64,820 in research grants and fellowships; put 5 book projects under contract; published 6 articles, 8 book chapters, and 21 book reviews; and presented 30 conference papers and 24 invited lectures.

Graduate students presented 14 conference papers; published 7 articles, 2 encyclopedia entries, and 8 book reviews; and won 4 research grants.

THREE STUDENTS PRESENT AT THE 2017 URCA CONFERENCE

Three History Department students - Hilary Jones, Leif Midgorden, and Charlotte Watters - participated in UA's 2017 Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity conference (URCA), which offers undergraduates the chance to present original research or creative activities. The most outstanding undergraduate researchers from across the campus present their work in both poster and oral formats. Oral presentations offered students 20 minutes to explain their research, followed by questions from professors and students. A judges panel drawn from University faculty evaluated the presentations and conferred awards.

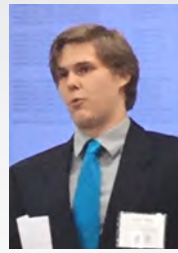
Charlotte Watters



Charlotte Watters has served for 2 years as a Peer Mentor in the department. She is an A&S Ambassador and the 2017 winner of the prestigious John Fraser Ramsey award. In a session that included presentations on topics from creative writing and photography to political science, Watters presented on a topic she researched extensively in HY 430, under the direction of Dr. James Mixson.

Leif Midgorden

Leif Midgorden is a 2017 graduate who served the department as a Peer Mentor, recently won the Summersell Scholarship, and is a current UA Law School student. He also worked



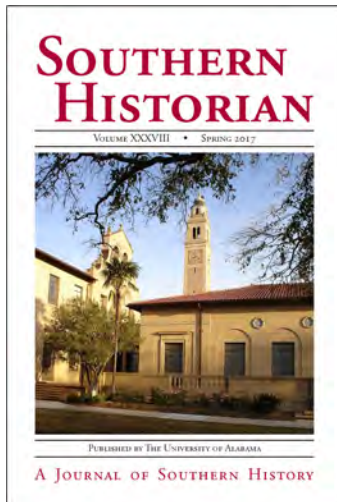
with Students for Fair Labor on campus and with Move-to-Amend Tuscaloosa. His undergraduate research passion has long been the study of the fall of the Roman Empire and the civilizations of early-medieval Western Europe. Under the direction of Dr. Sean Laffery in HY 430, Midgorden pursued that passion with a project entitled, "An Attempt to Identify Identity and Relations Rather Than Obfuscate," which examines relations between the Ostrogoths and a declining Roman Empire between the 3rd and 5th centuries.

Hilary Jones



Hilary Jones is a 2017 graduate, former Peer Mentor, and winner of the Undergraduate Honors Thesis Award. The project, "Unwelcome in God's House: White Evangelical Churches and the Limits of Racial Integration in Jackson, MS," completed under the direction of Professor John Giggie, is the culmination of a year-long research effort in the Honors Thesis sequence. Hilary Jones was awarded the first place prize, the Dr. Laura Busenlehner Award, for her oral presentation.

SOUTHERN HISTORIAN SEEKS SPONSORS



Established in 1980, the *Southern Historian* is the longest running graduate history journal in the country.

Over the years, many successful historians have started their writing careers with the *Southern Historian*, including: James Downs, Connecticut College; Kari Frederickson, The University of Alabama; Lesley Gordon, The University of Alabama; Chandra Miller Manning, Georgetown University; Brian Craig Miller, Connecticut College; Christopher J. Olsen, Indiana State University; Natilie J. Ring, University of Texas at Dallas; Bryant Simon, Temple University; and Chad Williams, Brandeis University.

In 2018, we will publish our 38th issue, which will include at least 2 articles and 19 book reviews produced by students representing 12 universities.

As is our tradition, we will also feature an interview with a prominent southern historian.

Purchase an advertisement in our 2018 Issue and support our mission to provide the up-and-coming generation of southern historians with a platform where they can gain publishing experience and showcase their work. Half Page - \$75; Full Page - \$150.

For more information, contact Sarah Craddock, ed.,: sacraddock@crimson.ua.edu

southernhistorian.ua.edu

Ruth Marshall Kibbey 1920 - 2017



Ruth Marshall Kibbey, long-time secretary in the Department of History, passed away on August 11, 2017. She was 96.

Ruth and her husband moved to Tuscaloosa in 1962, where he worked at Bryce Hospital. Ruth came to the department in 1969, following her husband's death.

Ruth Kibbey worked in the department for 24 years, retiring in 1993, counting many of the faculty and students among her dearest friends.

In 1993, the department recognized her contributions with an award for outstanding service to the department given in her name, each year.



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