DEPARTMENT ADDS MAJOR CONCENTRATIONS

The Department added two new advanced concentrations to the major this year, each of which develops the intellectual and professional lives of our students.

The Legal History concentration, directed by Dr. Lawrence Cappello, develops students’ understanding of the intersection between law and society through specialized coursework, guided original research, and experiential learning.

Students also participate in professional workshops and receive personalized application coaching. “Law school is getting increasingly competitive,” said Dr. Cappello, “and this concentration gives our students a real edge in the process.”

The Public History concentration, directed by Dr. Margaret Peacock, provides cutting-edge training for our majors. “Alabama has a vibrant public history community,” Dr. Brock explains, “and this concentration will give students the foundation they need to become outstanding practitioners of public history.”

Students are immersed in rigorous methodological and professional preparation, and the concentration experience culminates with an independent internship to provide real-world experience in the field.

Together, these concentrations offer exciting new opportunities for our majors.

PROFESSORS DOCUMENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Now that a pandemic is our “new normal,” all of us have had to cope with extraordinary change. Two of our faculty members, Dr. Margaret Peacock and Dr. Erik L. Peterson, launched an ambitious project exploring how history can help us understand this moment.

Early in the year, both professors began independently collecting primary sources detailing daily reports of the virus’s spread. In April, they combined their efforts into what Dr. Peacock describes as a “collective chronological journal with heavy historical commentary.” The book, Journal of a Pandemic Year, is an homage to Daniel Defoe’s famous A Journal of the Plague Year.

Drs. Peacock and Peterson have also designed and programmed a digital humanities website in which readers can search any date within the Journal to investigate that day’s primary sources.

They’ve collected two thousand sources (and counting) of all kinds - from CDC dispatches to Bureau of Labor Statistics spreadsheets to murder hornet memes. To these primary sources they’ve added extensive coverage of the day’s events and interviews with front-line workers, epidemiologists, Black Lives Matter organizers, government officials, and stories of regular people just trying to make their way through the tumultuous year.

Their work led to the creation of new research courses this semester, wherein the professors use their findings to introduce undergraduates to professional historical research firsthand. Dr. Peacock’s “The Historian’s Craft,” applies social and cultural research to this year’s events, while Dr. Peterson’s IDMD 102 “Medical Foundations” walks students through the history of epidemiology, the American healthcare industry, and racialized structures of American labor and medicine leading to the crisis.

Intended to reach a wide national audience, the book will be published by Beacon Press in early 2022.
PROFESSOR DAVID BEITO TO RETIRE

This fall, Dr. David Beito is retiring after twenty-six outstanding years here at the Capstone. Beito earned his PhD at the University of Wisconsin in 1986 and joined UA’s department in 1994. Throughout his professional career Beito has authored three monographs, one edited volume, and countless chapters and journal articles.

When asked about some of his most memorable professional moments, Beito proudly recalled the time when he rode at the lead of a parade in the town of Mount Bayou, Mississippi, founded as an independent black community in 1887 and the home of civil rights icon T.R.M. Howard. Dr. Beito’s 2009 book, Black Maverick: T.R.M. Howard’s Fight for Civil Rights and Economic Power, reveals a compelling picture of this remarkable man and the world in which he lived.

Beito’s other works include Taxpayers in Revolt: Tax Resistance during the Great Depression (UNC 1989); From Mutual Aid to the Welfare State: Fraternal Societies and Social Services (UNC 1992); and The Voluntary City: Choice, Community, and Civil Society (Michigan 2002).

In retirement, Dr. Beito plans to publish his just-finished manuscript, “FDR’s War on the Bill of Rights: Mass Surveillance, Censorship, and the New Deal,” and to continue mentoring his students. We are grateful for his contributions and we wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

SISTERS AND REBELS

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall’s Sisters and Rebels: A Struggle for the Soul of America (W.W. Norton, 2019) was awarded the Frances S. Summersell Center for the Study of the South’s 2020 Summersell Prize for the best book on the history of the American South.

Sisters and Rebels is a masterful study of the three “estranged yet forever entangled” Lumpkin sisters as they wrestled with the complicated legacies of white supremacy, radical politics, and sisterhood in the early twentieth century. Forged through decades of research, including working with the family’s private papers, and interviews with Katharine and Grace Lumpkin, Sisters and Rebels is a sweeping narrative of the reconfiguration of race, gender, and class within the American South.

Jacquelyn Dowd Hall is currently the Julia Cherry Spruill Professor Emerita at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The winner was chosen by the Deep South Book Prize committee: Kari Frederickson, John Giggie, and Lesley Gordon; the award includes a $5000 prize and an invitation to deliver an address about the book at The University of Alabama.

EDITED VOLUME HONORS THE CAREER OF GEORGE C. RABLE

Emeritus professor George Rable left an indelible impact on our department when he retired in 2016.

Now, Dr. Lesley Gordon, Rable’s successor as Summersell Chair of Southern History, and two of Rable’s former UA doctoral students, Drs. Megan Bever and Laura Mammina, are honoring his contributions with American Discord: the Republic and Its People During the Civil War Era (LSU Press, 2020).

The volume was conceived as a way to acknowledge and honor Dr. Rable’s dedication as a writer, teacher, mentor, and historian. American Discord features essays from thirteen of Rable’s former PhD students, as well as contributions from other prominent scholars, including John F. Marszalek and T. Michael Parrish, as well as a forward by Gary W. Gallagher.

“My involvement in co-editing the book was my thank you to Dr. George Rable. He was like a mentor to me when I was a junior scholar, always helpful and extremely supportive,” Gordon recalls.

The volume, published by Louisiana State University Press, is available in hardback and electronic format.

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, perhaps now more than ever. Follow departmental news on our Facebook page, our Twitter feed, and on the department website. As always, we want you to be part of our future as we continue to explore our past!
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR MARGARET ABRUZZO is writing a book about changing conceptions of sin and wrongdoing—and what it meant to be a “good person”—in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century American moral thought.

PROFESSOR JOHN BEELER’s gave two scholarly presentations and he chaired and commented on two panels, at major conferences. He published two book reviews and is currently working on several book projects. His planned archival research (to have been conducted in Great Britain this past summer with funding from a UA Research Grant) was postponed owing to Covid-19.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JULIA BROCK Launched the Public History Concentration this fall which, along with other faculty initiatives in the department, offers training for History majors to enter an array of professions. She is co-editing a collection on public history pedagogy, completing manuscript research, and engaged in a collaborative environmental humanities and arts-based project on the Black Warrior watershed.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR STEVEN BUNKER presented at the annual conference of the Southeastern Council of Latin American Studies as well as established a cash award for Best Graduate Paper at SECOLAS in the name of deceased UA History Emeritus Professor Dr. Helen V. Delpar. He is currently finalizing a chapter with OUP on Street Entertainments in Nineteenth-Century Mexico.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR LAWRENCE CAPPESI was featured in The Economist regarding the history of surveillance in the United States, gave the 2020 President’s Day lecture at New York’s Federal Hall (where George Washington took the oath of office), and is now director of the Department’s new Legal History concentration.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR TERESA CRISELLA’s co-edited volume on nineteenth-century Brazilian newspapers, Press, Power, and Culture in Imperial Brazil, is forthcoming with the University of New Mexico Press in spring of 2021. She received a Collaborative Arts Research Initiative grant for a joint exhibition with photography professor Allison Grant. The exhibition will explore the visual culture of nineteenth-century progress and its link to present-day climate change.

PROFESSOR KARI FREDERICKSON received a publishing contract for Deep South Dynasty: The Bankheads of Alabama, 1845-1946 from The University of Alabama Press. The book is scheduled to appear in 2021. She was appointed to the Board of Directors and to the Executive Council of the Harry S Truman Library Institute. She also chairs the Institute’s Research and Grants Committee.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR JOHN GIGGIE published a historiographical review essay on religion and the American South, had another historiographical review essay on the study of lynching accepted for publication, and, with Dr. Huebner, finished revision to Dixie’s Great War: World War I and the American South, to be published in fall 2020.

PROFESSOR LESLEY J. GORDON co-edited American Discord: The Republic and its People in the Civil War Era (LSU Press,2020) and co-authored an essay in Reinterpreting Southern Histories (LSU Press, 2020). She was also an invited speaker at Northumbria University, UK; and a workshop participant at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SHARON GREN received the 2020 PEN/Jeann Stein Grant for Literary Oral History, which will enable her to complete her study on postwar migration in “black” Miami. Next spring, as an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow at Newberry Library, she will research Zora Neale Hurston’s understudied time in Honduras. Both projects figure into her larger interest in the complexities of postwar “black” life on the Caribbean Rim, especially as it relates to South Florida.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR HOLLY GROUT reviewed a book for The American Historical Review and her article, “‘Le Miracle et le Mirage’: Beauty Institutes and the Making of Modern French Women” is forthcoming in the Journal of Business History. She presented a paper at the annual Society of French Historical Studies conference, continued to serve on the society’s Koren Prize committee, and taught a course in UA’s Blount Program.

PROFESSOR ANDREW HUEBNER’s book Love and Death in the Great War won the 2020 President’s Book Prize from the Society for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era (SHGAGE). He put co-edited collections under contract with Cambridge University Press and The University of Alabama Press. He also served as interim department chair for the 2019-2020 academic year.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR LUCY KAUFMAN was awarded a visiting fellowship at Durham University in the UK (postponed due to the pandemic). She spent her year working on her book, A People’s Reformation, currently under publication review, and presented at several conferences. She was also named to the executive council of the Southern Conference on British Studies.


ASSOCIATE DEAN LISA LINDQUIST DORR continues to serve as an Associate Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR MATTHEW LOCKWOOD’s second book, To Begin the World Over Again, was named a Book of the Year by the Financial Times, a New York Times Editor’s Choice, and is a finalist for the Gilder-Lehrman Prize for Military History. He has started work on a new book on refugees to be published by HarperCollins.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR DI LUO signed a
contract with Brill for her book, *Beyond Citizenship: Literacy and Personhood in Everyday China, 1900-1949*, and she received a CARSCA grant from College of Arts & Sciences to support preliminary research for her next book project on cross-border information flows in China during World War II.

**Associate Professor Jimmy Mixson** conducted summer research at the Vatican Secret Archives, the Bavarian State Library, and the University of Dresden, (where he was a visiting fellow), related to his two ongoing projects on crusading in the later middle ages. He also served on the university search committee for the new Honors College dean.

**Associate Professor Margaret Peacock** published, *Documents from Modern Russia*, an annotated primary source reader. Her article, “This War of Nerves”: The UN Partition of Palestine and the Politics of Global Propaganda to the Arab world in 1947,” is forthcoming in the *Journal of Contemporary History*. She and Dr. Erik Peterson are currently writing a book, *Journal of a Pandemic Year* (Beacon Press, early 2022).

**Associate Professor Erik Peterson** helped launch the new McCollough Scholars Interdisciplinary Medical Studies course and became the A&S co-chair for UA's General Education taskforce. He’s currently writing *Journal of a Pandemic Year* (Beacon Press) with Dr. Margaret E. Peacock and working on another monograph on British eugenics.

**Assistant Professor Juan José Ponce-Vázquez** completed his first book, *Islanders and Empire: Smuggling and Political Defiance in Hispaniola, 1580-1690* (Cambridge University Press, Series in Latin American Studies, October 2020). He has started work on several new article and book-length projects.

**Associate Professor Dan Riches** submitted two essays for inclusion in collected volumes, served on the Program Committee for the German Studies Association annual meeting, and was the external examiner at a dissertation defense at Helsinki University in Finland. He also continued to serve as the department’s Director of Graduate Studies.

**Professor Joshua Rothman** spent the last academic year on fellowship leave, having received awards from the American Council of Learned Societies and Virginia Humanities. He completed his most recent book project, *The Ledger and the Chain: How Domestic Slave Traders Shaped America*, which will be published by Basic Books in April 2021.

**Associate Professor Harold Selesky** continues to investigate the morphology of mobilization in Massachusetts during the era of the American Revolution, and looks forward to the day when our departmental outreach to educate and inform the wider community about anniversaries of important historical events is not hampered by the pandemic.

**Associate Professor Jenny Shaw** presented work at ASWAD’s biannual conference. She published an essay on plantation life in the *Oxford Research Encyclopedia*, and an article, “In the Name of the Mother: The Story of Susannah Mingo, a Woman of Color in the Early English Atlantic,” in the *William and Mary Quarterly*. She is serving as interim Director of Graduate Studies during the fall of 2020.

**Associate Professor Sarah Steinbock-Pratt’s** *Educating the Empire: American Teachers and Contested Colonization in the Philippines*, was a finalist for the 2020 OAH Mary Nickliss Prize, for the most original book in U.S. Women’s and/or Gender History. She also contributed an essay on US Empire in the Progressive Era to *A Companion to US Foreign Relations: Colonial Era to the Present* (Wiley Blackwell 2020).


**Sarah Steinbock-Pratt** Promoted from Assistant Professor to Associate Professor **Awards**

2020 President’s Prize for Historians of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era

**TO BEGIN THE WORLD OVER AGAIN**

**Winner of the Joseph Spengler Prize, History of Economics Society**
UHS PERSEVERES DESPITE PANDEMIC

One year ago, the department celebrated the re-launch of the Undergraduate Historical Society. Since then, under the leadership of presidents Ava Ringhoffer and John Pace, the UHS has grown significantly. The society has hosted faculty talks on topics as diverse as Brexit, US-Mexican drug policy, and privacy in the age of coronavirus; held very popular history trivia nights; and engaged with students through collaborative effort and self-control in a world growing increasingly impersonal.

When the pandemic hit, the UHS went virtual. Recognizing that students crave community in a time of disconnection, they have hosted several online events and talks, bringing Alabama students closer together even when they are far apart.

SARAH WOOLFOLK WIGGINS, 1934 - 2020

Dr. Wiggins, the Department's pioneering first female professor, passed away at her Tuscaloosa home on April 12 and was laid to rest in Montgomery's Greenwood Cemetery.

Dr. Wiggins earned her PhD at LSU, where she was a student of the legendary T. Harry Williams, and joined The University of Alabama Department of History in 1961, specializing in the Old South, Civil War, Reconstruction, and Alabama history. She edited The Alabama Review for nearly twenty years. Wiggins retired from UA in 1995, after almost 35 years of service.


RECENT GRADUATE JOB PLACEMENTS & PhD MATRICULATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree</th>
<th>Placement Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>La-Kisha Emmanuel</td>
<td>MA, 2019</td>
<td>Accepted into PhD program at the New York University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abby Gibbons</td>
<td>MA, 2019</td>
<td>Accepted into PhD program at the University of Arizona</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kari Boyd</td>
<td>PhD, 2020</td>
<td>Instructor, Department of History, The University of Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Young</td>
<td>PhD, 2020</td>
<td>Assistant Professor of History, Amridge University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melissa Young</td>
<td>PhD, 2020</td>
<td>Associate Editor, The Register of the Kentucky Historical Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Burge</td>
<td>PhD, 2017</td>
<td>Coordinator of the Research Fellowship Program</td>
</tr>
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COVID-19 FORCES CHANGES TO ANNUAL POWER AND STRUGGLE CONFERENCE

The GHA Conference Committee, due to the coronavirus pandemic, cancelled plans for its annual Graduate Conference on Power & Struggle and instead decided to host a graduate paper contest centered on its perennial theme of power and struggle.

Twenty-one graduate students submitted papers for review by the conference committee and select UA History faculty. The winners are listed below.

- Best Paper in Phi Alpha Theta: William Billups, “War Against the Black Church.”

ALUM JOSEPH PEARSON PUBLISHES BOOK

Joseph W. Pearson (PhD, 2015) published The Whigs' America: Middle-Class Political Thought in the Age of Jackson and Clay with the University of Kentucky Press.

Pearson explores a variety of topics, including the Whigs' understanding of the role of the individual in American politics, their perceptions of political power and the rule of law, and their impressions of the past and what should be learned from it.

Pearson counters the long-standing belief that the Whigs were a party bereft of ideas by examining the writings of party leaders, contemporaneous newspapers, and other sources, demonstrating that the party attracted optimistic Americans seeking achievement, community, and meaning through collaborative effort and self-control in a world growing increasingly impersonal.
The extent and quality of the programming and activities sponsored by the Department of History depends in large measure on our available funds. The Department of History also has a number of specific development opportunities, where endowments or significant targeted donations can enable us to increase our national visibility and expand the range of scholarship and events we are able to produce and recognize. Naming opportunities are possible in conjunction with such gifts.

For more information about any of the opportunities to support The University of Alabama Department of History, please contact our Department Office Manager, Marla Scott, at scott076@ua.edu or 205.348.7104.

To make a general donation online, please visit https://history.ua.edu/giving/.

Your support enables the Department to:

- Fund endowed scholarships and awards for outstanding current and prospective students.
- Support the research travel and professional development of both faculty and graduate students.
- Fund student organizations such as Phi Alpha Theta and the Graduate History Association.
- Fund student publications, such as the department’s award-winning Southern Historian journal and the Crimson Historical Review.