NEW INTERNSHIP PROGRAM FOR BOTH GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Though internships are traditionally associated with degree programs outside of the humanities, they are increasingly crucial for students of all backgrounds, including History. To help our students succeed in the world beyond ten Hoor, our faculty are hard at work establishing a new internship program for our department. Several students have already taken advantage of the initiative:

PhD candidate David Ferrara traveled to archives in Florida and Mississippi, gathered records related to the history of the Gulf Islands National Seashore (GINS), conducted oral histories, and wrote the first chapter of an administrative history of the park in partnership with the GINS Reconnaissance Study.

Last summer/fall, MA student Genesis Ranel, with Drs. Bob Riter and Julia Brock, consulted with staff of the Federation of Southern Cooperatives as they consider how to manage archival material housed at the Epes Rural Training and Research Center.

Katherine Friday continues the partnership between the Department of History and the Friends of Rickwood Field by serving as a collections management intern at Rickwood. She is organizing and accessioning a large collection of material culture and archival materials related to the history of Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island, a part of the GINS...continued on page 2

Congratulations to Olivia Ricche, who has been named the winner of the 2023 Alumni Student Award.

Each year, The University of Alabama National Alumni Association recognizes just two students from the entire graduating class who have demonstrated exceptional achievement and personal character and whose contributions to the University exemplify the spirit of the UA tradition.

The Oak Ridge, Tennessee native is a Randall Research Scholar triple-majoring in history, mathematics, and Spanish. She interned at the American Historical Association and used her computational brilliance to help create an athlete management and injury prevention system for the Alabama football team (Roll Tide!).

The managing editor of the Capstone Journal of Law and Public Policy, Olivia will be attending law school in the fall. The managing editor of the Capstone Journal of Law and Public Policy, Olivia will be attending law school in the fall. The managing editor of the Capstone Journal of Law and Public Policy, Olivia will be attending law school in the fall. The managing editor of the Capstone Journal of Law and Public Policy, Olivia will be attending law school in the fall. The managing editor of the Capstone Journal of Law and Public Policy, Olivia will be attending law school in the fall. The managing editor of the Capstone Journal of Law and Public Policy, Olivia will be attending law school in the fall. The managing editor of the Capstone Journal of Law and Public Policy, Olivia will be attending law school in the fall. The managing editor of the Capstone Journal of Law and Public Policy, Olivia will be attending law school in the fall.

We have hosted several exciting presentations on a wide range of subjects from visiting speakers this semester, including Sacred Heart University’s Professor David Thomson, who spoke on the financing of the American Civil War, and Wingate University’s Professor Steven Hyland, who delivered a talk on the history of the “green finance” movement in Latin America. In addition, in February our graduate students organized the Thirteenth Annual Power and Struggle Conference. Attracting graduate...continued on page 5

SENIOR OLIVIA RICCHE WINS 2023 ALUMNI STUDENT AWARD

I hope that everyone has had a peaceful and productive beginning to the 2023 calendar year. Welcome to the Spring 2023 newsletter from the Department of History. As usual, it has been a busy semester in which time has flown by. As I write, we are preparing for our Honor’s Day Celebration, which means that summer will soon come into view as well.

Nearly all classes in the Department this semester are once again full, and with the University still anticipating ongoing growth in its incoming classes we expect healthy enrollments even as changes to the core curriculum will start getting implemented over the years to come. Fortunately, our faculty and graduate students remain up to the task of carrying out the teaching mission of the Department, and we are looking forward as well to a newly hired faculty member with expertise in the history of Asia joining us in the fall.
GRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

2022-2023 AWARD-WINNING GRADUATE STUDENTS

Tagen Haga
Frank Lawrence Owsley Memorial Scholarship for Superior Competency in American History

Jessica Brodt
Gary B. Mills Endowed Dissertation Support Fund

Katherine Friday
Masters Student Teaching Award Awarded to the most outstanding MA student teacher in the department.

Stephen Boutwell
Albert Burton Moore Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate Student in European, Latin American, or Asian History

Luke Voyles
Christopher G. Swindle Teaching Award Awarded to the most outstanding graduate student teacher in the department.

Andrew Deaton
Fulbright U.S. Student Scholar - Czech Republic

MA Graduates
A.J. Blaylock
August Byrd
Tanner Corley
Andy Davidson
Katherine Friday
Trayce Hockstad
Ethan Legrand
Daniel Leon

Genesis Ranel
Milum Richardson
Filipe Robles
Sarah Schansberg
Jana Venable
McKenzie Wilbourne
Alyssa Wise
Gray Wood
Elisabeth Burke Strozensky

PhD Graduates
David Ferrara

Directed by
Professor Kari Frederickson

FROM THE CHAIR

...continued from page 1

students from across the country who presented their work in a series of panels, the conference was also kicked off with a keynote address on the historical politics of America’s culture wars delivered by Professor Daniel Williams from the University of West Georgia. Notably, this year’s event was the first entirely in-person Power and Struggle conference in several years, but the organizers carried things off without a hitch.

Other news and information about the goings-on in the Department of History can be found throughout this newsletter, as well as on our Facebook page, our Twitter and Instagram feeds, and the departmental website. We would love to hear from you, and hope some of you in the Tuscaloosa area were able to make it recently to the latest in our series of alumni happy hours. Keep an eye out for announcements of more of those to come. As always, we want you to be part of our future as we continue to explore our past!
GRADUATE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Saturday, March 4 was the 12th annual Night at the Museum community event hosted by the Graduate School at The University of Alabama.

The Department of History sent six volunteers: Joey Dykes, Brian Martin, Brianna Meyer, Genesis Ranel, Milum Richardson, and Filipe Robles.

This year’s theme, “Around the World,” provided a great opportunity to get children interested in history by playing a game and coloring maps related to the stories of famous travelers like Hernando de Soto, Leif Eriksson, and Hasekura Tsunenaga.

KRISTINA MULLINEX JUDGES ALABAMA HISTORY DAY PROJECTS

On Friday, March 3, PhD student Kristina Mullinex participated in the annual statewide Alabama History Day, an opportunity for students from grades six through twelve to conduct year-long research and create exhibits on historical subjects.

Kristina served as a judge for senior high school projects on the theme of “frontiers.” She was very impressed on multiple levels, including the participants’ creativity and the level of scholarship. The winning exhibit dealt with the frontier of women’s fashion in the 1960s, specifically the miniskirt, and all of the competitive submissions made use of both primary and secondary sources and were accompanied by annotated bibliographies.

Kristina herself is a Tuscaloosa native whose interests lie at the intersection of public history, genealogy, and archival research.

MA STUDENT JANA VENABLE NAMED VIVIAN MALONE FELLOW

MA student Jana Venable began working with the Summersell Center as an undergraduate in January 2020, when she enrolled in Dr. John Giggie’s “The Long Civil Rights Movement” course.

While a student in that course she began researching lynching and racial violence in her home community of Elmore County, Alabama. Over the last three years Jana has continued that research, working alongside Dr. Giggie and her student colleagues to create a partnership with the Elmore County Black History Museum, to support the museum’s efforts documenting the history of Black domestic life in their community.

This spring, Jana is taking on a new role in the Summersell Center as the Vivian Malone Fellow, where she co-teaches HY 406: Southern Memory, Lynching in Alabama with Dr. Giggie. Jana was herself a student in the course as an undergraduate. Co-teaching allows her to continue her work with Dr. Giggie researching the lives of lynching victims from Elmore County.

“The Vivian Malone Fellowship has allowed me the unique opportunity to focus deeply on the collaborative and community-based practices of history that originally propelled me to pursue a graduate degree in history at UA,” Jana said. “Working with the Summersell Center over the last three years has been a transformative experience in my life. It is a privilege to continue building and shaping the courses and projects that have been so important to me.”
Alumni Fred Brugge, Class of 1981, recently visited the University’s campus for the first time in twenty years.

Wandering around the halls of ten Hoor (nearly identical to when he had been a student), he wondered if the students today might sit in the exact chairs he did. They sure look the same, he thought. He wondered if his favorite professor might still teach classes and host dinners for his students.

When Brugge attended the Capstone, the student population numbered 17,000 – under half of what it is today. Paul “Bear” Bryant was well into his coaching career at Alabama, although Brugge did not see a national championship as a student.

Brugge came to Alabama as an unlikely attendee. He did not decide to go to college until his senior year of high school, and had no idea what he would do with a college degree. But, under advice from his coworkers, he came to Alabama to pursue a History degree. While here, Bruggee met one of the most significant mentors of his life, Dr. F. Russell Bryant.

Dr. Bryant taught Modern British History at The University of Alabama for thirty years. Brugge remembers him as an entertaining teacher who treated all his students as equals, no matter their social status. Towards the end of the semester, Dr. Bryant would host a dinner for his students, usually a small group, where each student would be given a task based on their current grade in the class.

“If you had a C, you had to bring breadsticks or wine. But if you had a D or an F, you had to make the meal!” Brugge said. “He would have some pretty elaborate meals.” Brugge always made sure to have an A or B by the time the dinner came around. “He was the greatest teacher... I want to say, coach in my life,” Brugge said.

Regardless, his degree in, and passion for, history have carried him far. He used the research skills he learned to forward his career in sales and today, he continues to research his local history.

“People nowadays downplay the Bachelor of Arts. They think it all needs to be technical, but you still need the ability to go into those classes and learn how to learn. Those professors can teach you to learn how to love what you’re doing,” Brugge says as advice for current undergraduates. “You’re young, you’ve got a lot of career ahead of you. College... just absorb as much as you can.”
A new initiative spearheaded by Assistant Professor Lucy Kaufman allows undergraduates to earn credit for their research efforts with a professor in their field of interest.

“Our students have huge amounts of curiosity and energy,” Dr. Kaufman said. “I think of [them] as historians” and we want to give them “the ability to make history their own; to train them in essential skills that it takes to be a researcher, not just in history, but also more broadly.”

Students are involved in all types of research, from paleography to digital history to public engagement. “The vast majority of people who major in history go on to do different things. It’s a really flexible major in that regard,” Dr. Kaufman said. “What we wanted to do was develop the kind of research skills that would serve them in whatever job they’re looking for, but also allow them to take history into their own hands.”

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The Summersell Scholars Program is a leadership initiative that offers both undergraduate and graduate students the chance to develop new community history programs as well as work in existing ones, enabling them to lead ongoing programs and perform high-level historical research. Scholars share their experiences with each other through a weekly seminar class and the creation of structured reflections on their research.

This semester's Summersell Scholars are Brooklyn Coleman, Molly Elliott, Gavin Jones, and Carson Silas.

One current project is the archiving and cataloging effort for the Tuscaloosa Lesbian Coalition (TLC) Collection, held in the W. S. Hoole Special Collections Library. This collection documents the TLC’s efforts to bring popular lesbian artists and related cultural events to the Tuscaloosa area from 1986 until the early 2000s. Summersell Scholars are working with UA SafeZone and UA’s Intercultural Diversity Center to design an exhibit on the history of the TLC, which they expect to open in June.

In May, Dr. John Giggie and PhD Student Isabella Garrison will lead Summersell Scholars on a visit to multiple academic and community-based queer archives in Atlanta.

In just a few weeks, the SCSS will host a roundtable discussion on History and Community Work at the Undergraduate Historical Society’s Capstone Research Symposium. The roundtable will feature former and current students from classes sponsored by the SCSS who will engage in conversations on the practice of history and the practitioner’s obligations to the communities around them. The Capstone Research Symposium will be held on April 15, 2023.
Get back, Paul McCartney: there’s a new band in town!

On March 1, the Department of History held its first (but not last) Alumni Happy Hour. Alums from across generations took over the back patio at Loosa Brews to see old friends and make new ones—all while enjoying the fabulous music of the department’s new band, 603.

Led by Dr. Jimmy Mixson on keyboard, and named after his legendary graduate reading seminar, 603 pulled together the musical talents of Dr. Erik Peterson, PhD candidate Dan Holtsberry, PhD student Trace Brusco, and honorary historian-for-the-evening Dr. Bill Worden of the Department of Modern Languages & Classics. As the night wore on and the music flowed, new connections and friendships were made amongst our faculty and alums, reminding us that, in the end, history is a story of community—and how grateful we are to be part of this remarkable community of UA History Alums.

For those of you who were there, keep in touch! And for those who couldn’t come this time around, fear not: we’ll be hosting another event soon. In the meantime, if you’d like to be kept informed of future departmental alumni events, drop a quick note to history@ua.edu, and we’ll make sure that you are on our list.

**UA HOSTS 15TH ANNUAL SOUTHEASTERN GERMAN STUDIES CONFERENCE**

On February 23-24, The University of Alabama and the Department of History hosted the 15th annual Southeastern German Studies Conference.

The event, held in cooperation with The University of Alabama at Birmingham, The University of Alabama at Huntsville, and Spring Hill College, brought together scholars and students from across the Southeast in all disciplines who share interest in the language, literature, history, culture, music, film, and political structures of the German-speaking lands.

The workshop focused on three large themes: “The Holy Roman Empire: History and Legacies”; “Visions of the Future in German Culture and History”; and “Germans in the South: Migrations, Science, Manufacturing, and Culture.” At each panel, instead of listening to formal presentations, participants engaged in extended discussion of short, pre-circulated position papers.

The event also included a plenary address by Jonathan Wiesen of The University of Alabama at Birmingham, “US Racial Violence in the Modern German Imaginary,” delivered in the stately environment of Smith Hall’s Alabama Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Dan Riches, who led a team of colleagues in charge of the local planning efforts for the event, praised its diversity and vibrant exchange of ideas. “Our discussions stretched from the medieval period to the present day across the breadth of the history, literature, and culture of German-speaking Europe as well as Germans in the American South,” Riches noted. He also suggested that the great strength of the conference is its unusual form, a “free-flowing discussion” that “pays no heed to distinctions between disciplines and academic rank. Our participants ranged from distinguished senior professors to advanced undergraduates, and all were able to participate on an equal footing.”

Alabama will host the conference again in 2024 as well, so we can look forward to another great exchange of ideas about all things German on our campus!
Last month, Associate Professor Sharony Green signed a book contract with Routledge for *Teaching Public History in Alabama: About (Public) Face*, a work that intends to build upon her students’ responses to her efforts to help them reenvision our shared historical spaces, as well explore the ways in which Green was unintentionally and intentionally taught history using the public spaces around her. In the work, Green will reflect upon how that push for a more immersive historical experience not only spurred her students’ creativity but how their creativity lead her to modify her overall approach to teaching, too.

The project took root last summer, while Green was teaching in London as part of the Alabama at Oxford Program. An editor for Taylor & Francis, Routledge’s parent company, noticed her social media posts about the experience and began a discussion regarding the possibility of such a work.

Kathryn Haynes, a Fall 2022 UA graduate in English and American Studies, was a student in Green’s class that summer, where she was assigned Toni Morrison’s short story, “Recitatif,” a work that probes the complexities of race and class in American society. Instead of requiring a traditional, essay-style assessment, Green empowered students to develop their own evaluative assessments, a process some professors, including Green, call the “unessay.” Haynes, an accomplished musician and songwriter in her own right, journeyed to the chapel at Oxford’s Worcester College to record “Kathryn’s Song,” which recasts the “Recitatif” story in musical form (bit.ly/3ztubGV).

Students in previous classes set the Great Migration story to music, developing an original beat mix that emphasizes many of the themes from that movement (bit.ly/40XfIq). This semester, Green’s students are creating interpretive panels centered on the theme “Of Canals, AfroFuturism & Empire” for Slow Art Day 2023, an international event involving museums and galerie. The installation features a digital mash up of the first sci-fi motion picture, *Metropolis* (1927), along with recast student haikus in tribute to our shared past and future based on the works of science-fiction author Octavia Butler. The exhibit will be on display at the Gorgas House Museum on April 14 and online the follow day.

A digital overview of Green’s many public-facing projects can be found at bit.ly/3zrGu6z.

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For more information about any of the opportunities to support The University of Alabama Department of History, please contact Jay McPhillips, Associate Director of Development for the College of Arts & Sciences, at (205) 348-7007 or jay.mcphillips@ua.edu.

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- Fund student organizations such as Phi Alpha Theta, the Undergraduate Historical Society, and the Graduate History Association.
- Fund student publications, such as the department’s award-winning *Southern Historian* journal and the *Crimson Historical Review*.

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