

THE RECORD

The Newsletter of the University of Georgia History Department

FALL 2017



Notes from the Department Chair

The History Department had a busy and productive 2017. Some of you may have seen that UGA was in the news for uncovering slave burials during Baldwin Hall renovations, as was reported in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* and elsewhere. Naturally, the burials piqued our interest. Here was a piece of history, long-neglected and much in need of recovery, coming to the surface right next door to LeConte Hall. The discovery was not a complete surprise to us. Scott Nesbit, jointly appointed in the History Department and in the College of Environment and Design, had already had his undergraduate students curate an enlightening exhibit at the Russell Library on the history of UGA and slavery, and Steve Berry and Chana Kai Lee had undertaken related work in their classes. (Our outstanding undergraduates continue to be at the forefront of the humanities at UGA!)

Nonetheless, we took the discovery of the burials as an opportunity to delve more deeply into the subject and, with the generous support of our alumni and of Franklin College Dean Alan Dorsey, have launched a three-year UGA and Slavery project, modeled after similar programs at UVA, the University of Mississippi, and the College of William and Mary. The UGA and Slavery project is designed to support public history exhibitions, visiting scholars, and an annual

symposium, as well as to build a permanent electronic archive of relevant materials. We are excited to have this opportunity to dig into local and public history.

Our faculty and students remain extraordinarily productive, as you can read in the “News and Notes” section inside the newsletter. This year, the History Department promoted and tenured two outstanding young scholars, Jamie Kreiner and Jennifer Palmer, both of whom are award-winning authors and exceptional teachers. We hope to add to our ranks in spring 2018, when we will search for a new scholar in modern East Asian history. This position has long been one of our top priorities, given that we currently have a total of one historian who studies the world east of the Ural mountains, where the vast majority of the world’s population lives. (I refer to the indefatigable Ari Levine, who has single-handedly covered all of Asian history for the last fifteen years!) By hiring in this area, we can continue to diversify our undergraduate and graduate course offerings, a necessity in our increasingly global world.

Our students continue to excel on campus, in our D.C. summer program, and abroad, and every year I am amazed by their accomplishments. Many of them hold down part-time jobs, even while studying a second language, writing award-winning papers, and visiting regional archives to undertake primary research. If you wish to support them in their endeavors, they and we would be grateful, and you may do so using the form at the back of the newsletter.



Finally, I would be remiss in not mentioning the Department’s first-ever hype video, inspired by the football team’s own pregame videos. (Please see “History Goes Hollywood” for a description of this hilarious production, which is available for viewing on our homepage or on YouTube.) We are delighted to see that the football team is finally catching up with the History Department in earning national recognition!

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2018 -

Claudio Saunt
Richard B. Russell Chair in American History,
and Department Head



BASEBALL, APPLE PIE, LINCOLN AND THE SMITHSONIAN: GEORGIA’S PUBLIC HISTORY INTERNSHIP PROGRAM.

Bryant Barnes interviewed Akela Reason about the Public History Program in Washington, D.C., September 2017. *(This interview has been edited for length.)*

Barnes is a doctoral student in history and recipient of UGA’s GREAT Georgia Research Education Award Traineeship (GREAT) Program. GREAT Fellows are selected from among applicants to UGA doctoral programs, and are chosen from the most outstanding nominees who demonstrate superior potential that complement/ support the research and scholarships strengths of the university.

*Akela Reason is the author of **Thomas Eakins and the Uses of History** (U. Penn Press, 2010), which won the 2011 Southeastern College Art Conference Award for Excellence in Scholarly Research and Publication. In addition to teaching, she has worked at the Smithsonian Institution, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and the High Museum of Art. She is currently preparing a study of the politics of Civil War monuments in New York City during the Gilded Age. In summer 2016, she founded the department's first Public History program in Washington D.C.*

What is the Public History Program?

The Public History Program is a summer program in its third year in 2018 where I take students to Washington to learn about public history, which is

the work that historians do outside of universities in museums, archives, libraries, and historic sites. We spend the first part of the program during May visiting museums, parks, monuments, historic sites, and meeting with people and finding out what they



do and how they got their jobs. In June and July students intern at a public history site.

What kinds of internships have students had in the past?

There are a few institutions that have been working with us for the past two years: The Library of Congress Chronicling America Newspaper Project, the National Archives; we've had this year, for the first time, a student at the new Smithsonian Museum of African American History & Culture; we've had students at Tudor Place, which is a historic house in Georgetown. We had a student at Woodrow Wilson's Home, which is a National Trust Property. We have had students at other Smithsonian entities; the Postal Museum and at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Marjorie Merriweather Post's house - the Hillwood Mansion - Isabel Mann did an internship there. I don't think I've got all of them, but that's a good chunk.



How much does the program cost?

The program costs...it's a six-credit program, so the tuition and fees apply, although there are a handful of fees that don't get charged to students off UGA's campus. And then there is a program fee which is almost entirely for housing. And then the students end up being housed together on Capitol Hill, not in UGA's dorm, but in housing provided by Washington Intern Student Housing... It's right in the heart, it's two blocks from the Capitol.

Is financial aid available to students?

There are a number of funding sources. The [History] department has funds to offer some

support for the majority of the students who are attending the program. The Office of Experiential Learning also has a scholarship program that they run in October and February, so students applying to this program would be eligible for the February deadline. And then our study abroad fellowships can also be applied for within the department for support from this program.

What liberties do students have when they aren't fulfilling their responsibilities to the program?

They get to explore Washington. They often end up doing things together. A lot of times they'll visit...go to a baseball game, visit historic sites. They go to Arlington Cemetery; they go to any of the sites that we don't get to visit. They tour the monuments at night. There are also programs that are not quite part of my program. Washington Semester Program has a few alumni events that the students get invited to, and there are sometimes offers of private tours from different Congressional offices.

You mentioned field trips. What kind of field trips have you done?

On one, we go to Washington's Mount Vernon. The other, we go to the Gettysburg Battlefield, which is a long trip, so we spend the entire day, dealing with Gettysburg. But on a more day-to-day schedule, we usually start with some kind of tour of the U.S. Capitol, and a behind-the-scenes meeting with the curator of the Capitol. And we've visited the Museum of American History and met with curators and registrars there. The registrar is actually really entertaining and they have over a million objects, so he has great stories about trying to keep track of all those things. The National Trust has been really supportive because there are a lot of UGA Alums at the National Trust and their headquarters is in the Watergate Complex and we've met with them a couple times, and the view is spectacular. They usually give a talk. The Lincoln Cottage, which is not a site on everyone's radar... it's up in northwest Washington and it's a place where Lincoln spent a



quarter of his presidency during the Civil War. It's a cottage that tries to innovatively tell the story of Lincoln's time there, using media and audio clips, and smells. They actually use smell in some of the rooms; they have an apple pie smell and a wood fire smell they use to try to create a response in visitors.

Why does public history matter to you and why should students consider this program?

I love old stuff, so I like to have opportunities to look at how things can tell stories about history, so that's my own personal interest. But for the students, I think they are unaware of how much they can do with a history degree. It's not just a teach or go to law school major; there are many, many things they can do, and still remain in a field that they love. So they can become an archivist and work with historical documents, or they can become a librarian, or museum professional and still have an experience where they are working with history. And in some cases that history is really pretty exciting. You get to actually touch Lincoln's hat or read letters by Queen Elizabeth I as part of your job, and that is pretty cool!

As the program is "growing up," are organizations reaching out to the Public History Program?

Actually the National Trust contacted me. Because there are several alums at the National Trust, they had a press release when the program started and they reached out to me. They've been super supportive. They've hosted interns, they've provided programming for us and talked to the students at length. The other place, this year, that was a kind of fun UGA connection is...there is an office full of historians at the US State Department. One of the historians, Elizabeth Charles, is a UGA grad, so she was interested in getting involved with the program. She gave a talk to my students. She remembered [our faculty] and it was kind of interesting to see a person in the State Department having a UGA pedigree. The other thing that I

learned is that Washington has more UGA alumni than any other city outside of Georgia and there are over 1500 UGA history majors in D.C. They're doing all kinds of things.



Are you anticipating a rise in interest in public history, given recent events?

I think there definitely has been. A lot of people have contacted me out of the blue, students, just asking questions about Confederate monuments or other events in the public history sphere. When we were there the first year, there were articles in the *Washington Post* almost daily about the Georgetown Slavery Project, so I contacted Adam Rothman at the Slavery Project and he was able to add a quick talk to my students as those events were unfolding.

HISTORY GOES HOLLYWOOD

Did you see our new video? Inspired by Georgia Football's Friday hype videos that are released before each game to inspire and fire up fans, the history department video is less a parody than a celebration of the energy and creativity of our faculty and students and of the research, teaching, and learning opportunities we have at Georgia. You can view the video right on the history main web site www.history.uga.edu, on our YouTube channel, or on our Twitter page.

This entertaining video was put together quickly and was the bright idea of assistant professor Steve Soper, who brought on other students and faculty, including professors Jennifer Palmer, John Morrow, and Akela Reason to realize his idea. The video was



brought to life by a talented sophomore Journalism major, Reagan Jones. The legendary Jim Cobb, against his best judgment, volunteered to do the voiceover. Please check it out!

DID YOU KNOW...? THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT IS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Not just old school! You can follow [@UGAHistory](#) on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. You can also view our new hype video on YouTube on the UGA History Department page.

ON THE RECORD... NEWS AND NOTES FROM 2017

Our first two students in the combined bachelor’s-master’s honors program are both due to graduate in 2018. **Isabel Mann**, who also co-founded the Friends of Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery student service organization, plans to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in history and religion, along with a master’s degree in history. Mann, who interned both in Washington, D.C., as a participant in our summer public history internship program, and in Athens with the Athens Land Trust, plans to continue to pursue public service after graduation. **Paloma Carroll** will be graduating with a dual B.A. in history and B.S.E.D. in Social Studies Education and a master’s degree in history. Carroll also just completed her year of student teaching and will also be graduating with teaching certification.

Our student programs in history continue to expand. **The Double Dawgs program** was created to give ambitious and motivated students a competitive advantage in today’s economy by earning both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in five years or less. We now offer a combined B.A. degree in history along with a M.A. in Middle School Education (A.B. /M.A.T) available to all eligible UGA undergrads. With continued support from the university, we hope to

continue to add more applicable degree opportunities for our students.

History faculty **John Short, Steve Soper, and Kirk Willis** were all named Special Collections Libraries Faculty Fellows for 2018. Triple Dawg (history) and *Professor emeritus James Cobb* inducted into the Georgia Writer's Hall of Fame.

James Cobb discussed the issues surrounding the removal of the confederate flag in *Time* magazine online July 6. Cobb's most recent book is *The South and America Since World War II*.

Stephen Mihm has a regular column on Bloomberg View (Bloomberg.com) where his articles give a historical perspective to current events in business.

History alum **Keri Leigh Merritt’s** opinion letter about the importance of historians weighing in on the national news appearing in the *New York Times*. She is the author of the new book *Masterless Men: A New Book on Poor Whites and Slavery* (Cambridge UP, 2017).

Ph.D. candidate **Alex Nordlund** has been accepted to the UGA-Liverpool Doctoral Fellowship for 2018, with Dr. Mark Towsey in the Liverpool Department of History serving as a local mentor. Alex's dissertation focuses on the impact of censorship, trauma, and prewar identity within British letter-writing from the First World War

Master’s student **Zachary Allen** was the first graduate student to participate in our summer Public History Internship program in Washington. Allen interned for the American Historical Association at their D.C. headquarters and worked on website and blog postings **and online projects**.

His opportunity was made possible with the support of a Gregory graduate student travel award and Public History Scholarship. Allen was the first graduate student to participate in this summer program.



Ph.D. candidate **Kate Dahlstrand's** oral history project on female veterans was recently featured in the media. The UGA Special Collections Library, the SVRC, and the SVA partnered to initiate a Student Veteran Oral History Program. The purpose of this program is to record and preserve the unique perspectives of our diverse student veterans as they transition to civilian life and the university. A US Army veteran herself, Dahlstrand is currently teaching her course, "The American Veteran: Revolutionary War through the Great War."

Scott Nelson's book, *Steel Drivin' Man* (2007), about the life and legend of John Henry, was used as the basis of the play "JH: Mechanics of a Legend," performed in February at the August Wilson Center for African American Culture in Pittsburgh.

RECENT DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS

Berry, Stephen. *Practical Strangers: The Courtship Correspondence of Nathaniel Dawson and Elodie Todd, Sister of Mary Todd Lincoln*. UGA Press, 2017.

Hoffer, Peter C. *Rutgers v. Waddington: Alexander Hamilton, the End of the War for Independence, and the Origins of Judicial Review*. University Press of Kansas, 2016.

Hoffer, Peter C. Co-author, *The Federal Courts: An Essential History*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Inscoe, John C. "Feeling Awful Southern . . . Or Not?" in Orville V. Burton and Eldred E. Prince, Jr. eds., *Becoming Southern Writers: Essay in Honor of Charles Joyner*. University of South Carolina Press, 2016.

Kreiner, Jamie. "Pigs In The Flesh And Fisc: An Early Medieval Ecology." *Past & Present* 236 (2017): 3-42.

Levine, Ari D. "Court and Country: Discourses of Socio-Political Authority in Northern and Southern Song China." *The Medieval History Journal* 19.2 (October 2016), pp. 351–393. Special issue "Command versus Consent: Representation and

Interpretation of Power in the Late Medieval Eurasian World," edited by Thomas Ertl.

Rood, Daniel. *The Reinvention of Atlantic Slavery: Technology, Labor, Race, And Capitalism In The Greater Caribbean*. Oxford University Press, 2017.

Winship, Michael P. Chapter on the various early forms of English church establishments in the Americas, "British America to 1662." *Oxford History of Anglicanism*, vol. I. Oxford University Press, 2017.

NEW AND NOTABLE BOOKS BY OUR ALUMNI

Are you an alumnus of the History Department? We would like to feature recent (within the last 12 months) books by alumni in a new building display in LeConte Hall. If you have a new or forthcoming book release, please keep us in mind—we would love to receive a copy for display and promotion.

Breen, Patrick H. *The Land Shall be Deluged in Blood: A New History of the Nat Turner Revolt*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Grem, Darren E. *The Blessings of Business: How Corporations Shaped Conservative Society*. Oxford University Press, 2016.

Hulbert, Matthew C. *The Ghosts of Guerilla Memory: How Civil War Bushwackers Became Gunslingers in the American West* (UnCivil Wars Series). UGA Press, 2016.

Merritt, Keri Leigh. *Masterless Men: Poor Whites and Slavery in the Antebellum South*. Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Oki, William Thomas. *The Georgia Peach: Culture, Agriculture, and Environment in the American South*. Cambridge University Press, 2016.

Olsson, Tore. *Agrarian Crossings: Reformers and the Remaking of the US and Mexican Countryside*. Princeton University Press, 2017.



Commit to History at the University of Georgia



Department of History
Franklin College of Arts and Sciences
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UGA Students in Washington, D.C.

Kaitlin Dotson interned at the Library of Congress American Folklife Center, and had the unique opportunity just the other day of meeting Carla Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress and first African American Librarian of Congress. "It was very exciting," Kaitlin said, "and I was quite nervous. She is very nice, and we spoke briefly. It was a great experience; I remember watching the live stream of her swearing in on my phone last fall right before your Museums class began".



Students who attend the History Department's Washington Program must pay for room and board in addition to standard tuition. To help support one of our majors in Washington, please consider donating to the Student Support Fund, which funds need and merit-based scholarships.

Yes, I would like to support study in Washington, D.C. with a gift of:

- \$1,000 _____
- \$500 _____
- \$100 _____
- Other \$ _____

Make checks payable to: THE UGA FOUNDATION – History Student Support Fund
Mail to: UGA Foundation, Gift Accounting, 394 S. Milledge Avenue, Athens, GA 30602

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