

2024

The Record



HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Featuring-

Alumni profile:
Lesley J. Gordon
and her new book
Dread Danger

Welcoming our
new graduate stu-
dents!

The Athens Film
Project, with Cindy
Hahamovitch

Presidential Award
of Excellence:
Charlsie Wemple

Notes from the Head

Greetings, alumni, friends, and fans of history! I write you as the new head of the Department of History. I am extremely grateful to my predecessor, Stephen Mihm, for leaving the department in such excellent shape, and I look forward to continuing many of the initiatives that he launched. The department will also benefit from the excellent leadership skills of our new director of undergraduate studies (Ben Ehlers) and new director of graduate studies (Jennifer Palmer).

This has once again been an eventful and

productive year here in the Department of History. Our faculty have been productive, our graduate students have worked tirelessly, and our undergraduates have thrived in and out of the classroom. Our success has been facilitated by the generous support of donors and the hard work poured into our departmental initiatives by so many.

We are thrilled to announce the success of our campaign to honor our beloved retired professor John Inscoe with an endowed professorship. We celebrated

the establishment of the John Inscoe Chair in Southern History at the beautiful home of our longtime supporter Peggy Galis in October, and we look forward to hiring a new faculty to fill the chair in the near future.

The department continues to create new internship opportunities for graduate and undergraduate studies. On the heels of last year's new Sheffield Hale Fellowship to fund student internships at the Atlanta History Center, we established the W. Todd Groce Fellowship to fund a graduate student intern-



Cont'd from p. 1

ship at the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah through a generous gift from long-time donors John F. and Marilyn McMullan. A gift from anonymous donors led to the establishment of the Hargrett Library Fellowship to fund a graduate student Internship at the UGA Hargrett Library. Our indispensable patrons Greg and Amanda Gregory once again funded a graduate student internship at George Washington's Mount Vernon, along with a slew of student travel awards.

For undergraduate students, a generous gift from alumni Jeff and Doris Muir has allowed us to develop the Jeff and Doris Muir History Internship, which will fund summer internships for two undergraduate students interested in business and legislative opportunities in the greater Atlanta area. Thank you, to all our incredible donors!

One of our most important teaching initiatives over the past year has been the

creation of the interdisciplinary certificate in Applied History, a joint effort with the School of Public & International Affairs funded by a very generous gift from the Stanton Foundation. This grant will facilitate the development of new courses and fully funded student internships that promote the historical analysis of contemporary public policy issues for students enrolled in the certificate, which is expected to launch in Fall 2025.

Awards have continued to roll in. Montgomery Wolf was the recipient of the University Award for Excellence in Teaching, and Tim Cleaveland was the recipient of the Liobi Moshi Award for Service in African Studies. Matthew O'Neal was awarded the UGA Graduate Student Excellence in Research Award, and Charlsie Wemple received the University of Georgia residential Award of Excellence.

Despite this record of success, the culture of life in the Department of History has not been "all work and no play." In addition to our vibrant Lunchtime Time Machine lecture series, we have been excited to launch the new History Film Series, created by Chris Choe, and the new History Club for undergraduates, a social branch of the Phi Alpha Theta honors society that hosts historical lectures, films, debates, and "roasts" for undergraduate students.

I invite you all to stay in touch and visit if you ever make it back to Athens. You are always welcome to attend our events, advertised at <https://history.uga.edu/>. If you want to become more involved with the department, please do not hesitate to email me at kevjon@uga.edu.

Best wishes for the new year!

—Kevin Jones,
Department Head



Faculty Awards

Timothy Cleaveland has received the Lioba Moshi Award for Service in African Studies. The award is presented by the UGA African Studies Institute in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences for continued service to the field of African Studies at the University of Georgia.

Professor Emeritus John H. Morrow Jr. was the recipient of the 2024 Samuel Eliot Morison Prize, awarded by the Society for Military History. Thanking the Society for Military History, Morrow commented, “*this*

award is a marvelous capstone to a career that I could not have anticipated when I entered graduate school in Modern History at the University of Pennsylvania in 1966.”



John H. Morrow, Jr.

Steve Soper was awarded the UGA Libraries’ Fairchild-Holcomb Award for Innovation in the Humanities. Steve collaborated with Sarah Shannon in UGA’s Sociology Department on the winning proposal, entitled *Prison Unrest and Reform in the Deep South: Guthrie v. Evans and the Meaning of Incarceration*.

Steve Soper also received a Willson Center fellowship to support his book project, “The 66: Revolution, Imprisonment, Diplomacy and Escape”.

Andrew Walgren was awarded the Abigail Bowen Wright Fellowship awarded by the Massachusetts Historical Society.



Cindy Hahamovitch and Scott Nelson, 2024

Scott Nelson was named a fellow of the Charles Warren Center at Harvard University. He is working on a project about the historic Black bottoms in Georgia’s fall line towns of Columbus, Macon and Augusta. He and his wife Cindy Hahamovitch are geeking out in Harvard’s library where they have access to Harvard’s many collections of manuscripts and rare books.

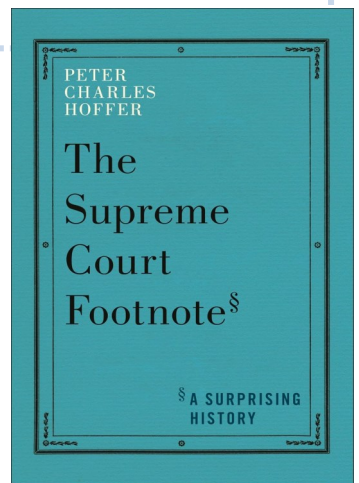
Faculty News and Publications

Cindy Hahamovitch’s article, “Profane Margins of the State: Florida Sheriff Walter R. Clark and the Local History of Crime, Policing, and Incarceration”, was published in the *Journal of American History*, Volume 110, Issue 4, March

2024, Pages 643–666.

Peter Charles Hoffer was renewed for another five years as distinguished research professor of history. In January, 2024, the Kent State University Press published his *The Radical Advocacy of*

Wendell Phillips and NYU Press published his *The Supreme Court Footnote: A Surprising History* in April of 2024. A review for *The Supreme Court Footnote* was printed in *Publishers Weekly*.



The Supreme Court Footnote: A Surprising History (NYU Press).

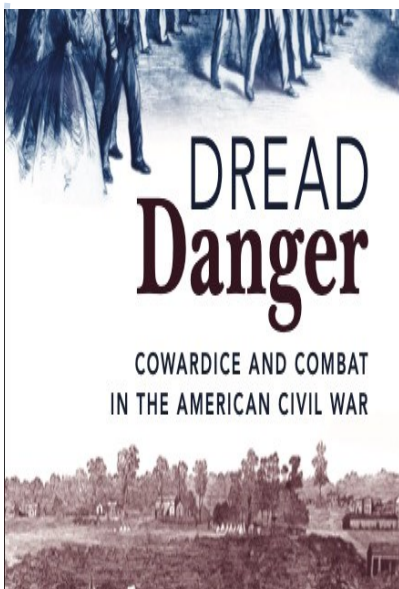
News and Publications, cont'd—

Congratulations to **Chana Kai Lee**, who retired in 2024 from the History Department after more than twenty-four years of teaching and research!

Stephen Mihm's article "[Recovering the Lost Aviators of World War II](#)" appeared in Smithsonian Magazine's March 2024 issue. Go inside the search for a plane shot down over the Pacific—and the new effort to bring its fallen heroes home.



March 2024,
Smithsonian



Alumni Profile: Lesley J. Gordon and her new book: *Dread Danger*

Lesley J. Gordon's (M.A. '91 and Ph.D. '95) book, *Dread Danger: Cowardice and Combat in the American Civil War* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press), was recently released in August 2024.

A prolific historian of the Civil War Era, Gordon presently holds the Charles G. Summersell Chair of Southern History at the University of Alabama and, during the 2024-2025 academic year, will hold the Charles Boal Ewing Chair in Military History at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. In 2022-2024, she served as the President

of the Society of Civil War Historians. Her other publications include *General George E. Pickett in Life and Legend* (1998), *Intimate Strategies of the Civil War: Military Commanders and their Wives* (2001), *Inside the Confederate Nation: Essays in Honor of Emory M. Thomas* (2005), and *A Broken Regiment: The 16th Connecticut's Civil War* (2014).

Dread Danger traces the wartime experiences of the 11th New York Volunteer Infantry and the 2nd Texas Infantry. The white men of both regiments—one Union and one Confederate—enlisted with expectations that they would perform bravely as heroic soldiers, bringing honor to themselves, their commanders, and their communities. Yet, under a hail of leaden bullets, those expectations sometimes suddenly vanished, transforming a man into

"I still remember fondly my advisor Emory Thomas, as well as John Inscoe, Jean Friedman, Laura Mason, Miranda Pollard, Eugene Genovese, among others, who helped mentor me. I really value my time at UGA and I'm proud to have gone there."

Dread Danger, with Lesley J. Gordon, cont'd—

a coward, a skulker, a poltroon, or a croaker. Composed of city firemen, the men of the 11th New York were tested at the First Battle of Bull Run in July 1861. And they failed miserably. The 2nd Texas Infantry, likewise, faltered at the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862. The charge of cowardliness cast a long shadow over both units. “The impact,” Gordon argues in her book, “was significant not only on battle plans and the war effort, but on soldiers’ subsequent lives—their well-being and their reputations, not to mention the effect it also had on their families and communities.”

Rather than a traditional “regimental history” steeped in battles and campaigns, Gordon re-envisioned this methodological

approach to emphasize the complex meaning of both cowardliness and heroism for nineteenth-century Americans. As Gordon explains in *Dread Danger*, “The idea of this book began years ago, originating with



Lesley J. Gordon

my continued interest in the anti-heroic, non-triumphant approach to war. Its early roots also stemmed from my exploration of wartime myths and the creation of historical narratives. I see it reemphasizing the complicated lived experience of Civil War soldiers that did not (and do not) always fit widely-held popular expectations, then as much as now.”

As a UGA alumna, Gordon has many fond memories of LeConte Hall: “taking classes, TAing and teaching for the first time. I also made lasting friendships with many of my classmates. I still remember fondly my advisor Emory Thomas, as well as John Inscoe, Jean Friedman, Laura Mason, Miranda Pollard, Eugene Genovese, among others, who helped mentor me. I value my time at UGA, and I’m proud to have gone there.”

—by Ph.D. Candidate Tracy Barnett

Welcome new graduate students!

This year’s matriculating class was truly award-winning, and we are happy to welcome the following new graduate students in our 2024-25 matriculating class—

- Presidential Fellow Constance Owl
- Ph.D. Fellow Jimmie Brown
- Ph.D. Fellow Dilan Bat-haee
- M.A. Fellow Monica Kincade
- M.A. Fellow Jacina Hollins-Borges,
- Graduate Assistant Maggie Sutherland
- Double Dawgs student Sarah Intidam. Intidam was awarded a Graduate Assistantship with the UGA Libraries.

The University of Georgia’s Presidential Graduate Fellow award is the University’s most prestigious fellowship award for incoming doctoral students.

Presidential Fellow Constance Owl is a Ph.D. student in the Department of History, working with Dr. Claudio Saunt. A member of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians from Marble, NC, Owl is passionate about the study of Cherokee history, as well as the preservation and revitalization of the Cherokee language. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Native American Studies with a minor in History from Stanford University.



The Athens Film Project, with Cindy Hahamovitch

For the past three years, the Athens Historical Society’s “Athens Film Project” has been creating short films about local history for 11th grade history classes with the help of History Department faculty and graduate students.

On July 17, 2024 the film project screened its first three films at Ciné before a packed house. The films are freely available on the Athens Historical Society’s YouTube site.

Peggy Galis, UGA History BA, 1968, came up with the idea of making 5-7-minute-long films for local classrooms. She enlisted Cindy Hahamovitch, the B. Phinizy Spalding Distinguished Professor of History, and Jane McPherson, a professor in the School of Social Work, to help make the idea a reality (McPherson works in a building that was a textile mill for 115 years, so she had become expert in its history).

“The idea behind the project is to make history meaningful to students by making it local,” Hahamovitch explains. “We started with the standards—the facts and con-

cepts Georgia teachers have to teach—and looked for interesting local stories to illuminate them.”

The project’s first film, “The Knox Institute,” is about Athens’ famous Freedmen’s Bureau School. Local filmmaker Jesse Freeman made the film largely independently, which proved to be an enormous amount of work for him, “and involved far more hours that we paid him for, no doubt,” says Hahamovitch.

Learning from that experience, the committee decided to separate the



research and writing of the scripts from the filmmaking itself. With financial support from UGA’s History Department and funds

raised for the Film Project by Galis, the committee hired History PhD student Bryant Barnes to write three film treatments.

Two of the films shown at the launch were products of Barnes’s work: “Emancipation,” directed by UGA graduate film student, Emani Saucier, and “Industrial Athens: Part I,” directed by Georgia Film Academy instructor Phil Bergquist.

The Film Project has been a true town and gown

collaboration. Three members of the Film Committee are UGA faculty, but it includes community members, teachers, the Social Studies Coordinator for the ACC school system, and the Archives and Special Collections Coordinator for the Athens Regional Library System. Peggy Galis has raised well over \$100,000 from local supporters, including the Langdale Foundation, Margaret Smith, Grady Thrasher, and Kathy Prescott (it costs about \$1,700 a minute to make these films, not including the graduate students’ pay!). Grants from Georgia Humanities and the National Society of The Colonial Dames of America in the State of Georgia helped jumpstart the project.

“The idea behind the project is to make history meaningful to students by making it local”

The Athens Film Project, cont'd—

History students at Cedar Shoals High School vetted the first two films and gave their stamp of approval. After watching the film on Emancipation by Emani Saucier, the first word out of one student's mouth was "amazing." Cedar Shoals teacher Montu Williams said students particularly liked the images, and the local stories they hadn't heard of before.

Ph.D. student Cole Wicker wrote the draft treatment for the current film in progress, "The Founding of Athens and the fight over the Oconee River," and will soon begin a new treatment on Athens and the New Deal. Ph.D. student Ariana Persico is working on "Athens during the Cold War."



Graduate Student News and Awards

Jared Asser was awarded a number of grants this past year: University of South Carolina, John L Nau III Centre for Civil War History (UVA), Virginia Museum of History and Culture, Massachusetts Historical Society, and the Southern Studies Doctoral Fellowship from the University of North Carolina.

Jared Asser also had a book chapter titled "Of Bells, Gramophones, and... Empire? Approaches to the Sonic Past" accepted for the *Routledge History of the Senses* collection.

Cal Bedenbaugh's article "Protecting the Community? Fallout Shelter Occupancy Studies at the University of Georgia, 1962-1968" was accepted for publication in the next issue of the *Athens Historian*, a journal of the Athens Historical Society.

Alexander Bowen's interview with the Florida Historical Quarterly Podcast was released and was featured as a segment on Florida Frontiers, the Florida Historical Society's weekly radio program. Check it out at the

[Florida Frontiers link](#), or the [FHQ Podcast](#).

Alexander Bowen received the Daniel Hollis Prize in 2024. The prize was awarded at the Annual Meeting of the South Carolina Historical Association, for an outstanding article published in *The Journal of the South Carolina Historical Association*, "Early Clemson Football: An Expression of Community Identity".

Graduate Student News and Awards, cont'd—

Alexander Bowen, Steven Krug and Patrick Sheridan received UGA Graduate School Summer Research Grants to support their respective dissertation works.

Maya Brooks received the Lee Roy B. Giles Encouragement Award, presented by the University of Georgia Institute for African American Studies.

Maya Brooks was also accepted to the FAS Research and Academic Exchange at Harvard University, hosted by Professor Tiya Miles.

Andrew Craig's article "Bigfoot Swims in the Garden of Eden: Hellbenders and Identity Formation in American History", was published in *Humanimalia* 14.2 (Spring 2024).

Lyn Hemmingway was awarded a Chase Family Travel Grant for 2025 from the University of Florida's Georgia A. Smathers Libraries Department of Special and Area Studies Collections, to support his dissertation research.

Nathanael Mickelson is the recipient of this year's Rovensky Fellowship in U.S. Business and Economic History. Provided by the University of Illinois

Foundation in honor of the late John E. Rovensky, the award is in support of his dissertation centered on exploring the links between the International Gold-Exchange Standard, the Interwar agricultural crisis, and the role played by Congress in the origins of the New Deal and economic recovery.

Nathanael Mickelson was one of just 10 finalists in the Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition this fall. UGA's Three Minute Thesis (3MT®) Competition challenges graduate students to explain their research to non-specialist audiences in the space of just three minutes.

David Kells Parker's article "Planning a Dance, Taking a Stance: The Committee on Gay



Education and the Gay Rights Movement at UGA" was accepted for publication in a forthcoming issue of the *Athens Historian*.

Ariana Persico was recently hired as the NAGPRA Coordinator at the University of Alabama.

Benjamin Prostine was accepted into a 3-day international summer school at the University of Glasgow in Scotland. Ben presented his research on the business of artificial insemination and how it transformed livestock breeding.

Patrick Sheridan received a Research Fellowship in Texas History from the Texas State Library and Archives Commission this past spring.

Additionally, Sheridan received the Overton Award from the Lexington Group in Transportation History.

Nathanael Mickelson

The Willson Center Graduate Research Award provides support toward research-related expenses for arts and humanities projects that are essential components of a graduate degree program. The following students received a Graduate Research Award from the Willson Center for 2024: **Steven Krug, Nathanael Mickelson, Maya Peters-Greno, Tedi Light, Ben Prostine, and Patrick Sheridan.**

In addition, **Nathanael Mickelson and Patrick Sheridan** were also each awarded the Janelle Padgett Knight Graduate Award for best proposal.

Congratulations to our 2023-24 Master of Arts and Doctorate of Philosophy Graduates

Jonathan Hepworth

Ph.D. 2024

"Obscured Genesis: Latter-day Saint Success in the Nineteenth-Century



William Kelson

Ph.D. 2024

"Empire Unraveled: Research on the Chinese Financial Crisis of 1883"



Roberto Arguedas

M.A. 2024

"The Change in Perceptions of Corruption in the Post-Civil War



Robert Shaw Bridges

M.A. 2024

"'To Be Considered As Salvors': Risk and Value in the Brokered World of the Early 19 Century American Whale Fishery"



Austin Coke

M.A. 2024

"The Jewish South: A Comparison of Jewish Integration into Southern Society"



Elyse Conley Elyaman

M.A. 2024

"Republican Nuns: Conventual Reform in Chile, 1840-1891"

Kudos to our Alumni

Alisha Cromwell (Ph.D. '17) was one of just twenty faculty at Historically Black Colleges and Universities who received the Inaugural ACLS HBCU Award to support outstanding research in the humanities and social sciences.

Sophia Dodd (A.B. '22) is the host of a new podcast, [1912: The Forsyth County Expulsion and Its Aftermath](#) produced by the Atlanta History Center, with award-winning journalist and WABE's "Closer Look" host Rose Scott. Dodd is the Digital Storytelling Research Coordinator for the Center, and a graduate of the History and the Certificate in Museum Studies programs.

Matthew Hulbert's (Ph.D. '15) book *Oracle of Lost Causes: John Newman Edwards and His Never-Ending Civil War* was published by Bison Books in 2022.

Luke Manget's (Ph.D. '17) recent book is *Ginseng Diggers: A History of Root and Herb Gathering in Appalachia* (University of Kentucky Press).

Tore Olsson's (M.A. '07, Ph.D. '13) article "Teaching History with Video Games" appeared in the December issue of *The American Historical Review*, Volume 128, Issue 4, Pp. 1755-1775.

Matthew O'Neal (Ph.D. '23) was awarded the 2024 Excellence in Re-

search by Graduate Students Award in Fine Arts & Humanities from the UGA Graduate School, for his dissertation "Home and Hell: The Great Migration and the Making of Sundown Towns in Appalachia". O'Neal recently accepted a tenure-track faculty position in History and Southern Studies at the University of Mississippi.

Sean Vanatta (M.A. '11, Ph.D. Princeton) guested this year on the Hagley Museum's History Hangout podcast. Listen to the podcast on "Plastic Capitalism: Banks, Credit Cards, and the end of Financial Control" [at this link](#).

Michael Weaver's (Ph.D. '95) new book is *The Air War in Vietnam* (Texas Tech University Press).

Alumni of Distinction: Theda Perdue



Theda Perdue (MA '74, Ph.D. '76) received the University of Georgia's Alumni of Distinction Award this fall. We were pleased to welcome Professor Perdue to campus for the event where in addition to accepting the award, she took time to meet with some of our faculty and graduate students.

Presidential Fellow Constance Owl with Theda Perdue

Support History at UGA!



Each year the Department of History actively supports students who need financial assistance to participate in Study Away programs and to conduct research, including those who are traveling to regional archives to complete research for their senior theses. If you would like to support our students, please consider donating to the History Undergraduate Student Support Fund. Your gift, no matter the size, opens doors for history students.

For questions about giving, please contact Alison Godley, Senior Director of Annual Giving & Alumni Relations: (706) 542-3581 or alison.godley@uga.edu.

YES! I would like to support History Undergraduate Students:

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

Make checks payable to:

UGA foundation with History Student Support Fund-91856000

Mail to: University of Georgia Foundation, Office of Gift Accounting, Athens, GA 30602

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Email _____



815977083)



Department of History

Franklin College of Arts and Sciences

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

220 LeConte Hall
250 Baldwin Street
Athens, GA
30602-1602

Phone: 706 542-2053
URL: history.uga.edu

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
P A I D
Athens, Georgia
Permit No. 165

Presidential Award of Excellence: Charlsie Wemple (A.B. '24)

Charlsie Wemple (A.B. '24) was the 2024 recipient of the University of Georgia Presidential Award of Excellence. This prestigious award is handed to undergraduate students in their final year of study who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement, heavy extra-curricular involvement, and participated in service/involvement with their respective school or college. Charlsie is one out of just 46 students across campus who have been selected for the award. Wemple also earned a minor in Transnational European Studies and a certificate in Museum Studies in addition to her history major. She has been active on campus in a number of student organizations, including the Museum Studies Society, Phi Alpha Theta, Phi Beta Kappa, the Literature Club, Chamber Music Society, University Philharmonic, and Knit and Crochet Club and has served as an officer in both the Chamber Music Society and Literature Club. She has also volunteered with Books for Keeps and has interned at the Georgia Museum of Art and the Museum of History and Holocaust Education.

