University of Mississippi

History Department

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University Enrollment Continues to Grow

During 2011-2012, the main theme of the University’s life and therefore that of the department was ongoing enrollment growth. The History Department has continued to contribute to the efforts of the College of Liberal Arts to manage the growing undergraduate enrollment, such as by providing opportunities for incoming freshmen to take courses led by tenured and tenure-track faculty members, which included sections of HIS 101 and HIS 102 designated for students in FasTrack, a program designed to help students make the transition from high school to college.

The department also offered a variety of courses on the history of the Modern Middle East for the first time as a result of the arrival of Dr. Vivian Ibrahim, and it increased the number of courses available on the history of the American Civil War era as a result of the appointment of Dr. April Holm to a position newly funded through a gift to support the Center for Civil War Research. Support from the Provost enabled the department to add an additional Visiting Assistant Professor through a national search, and also to increase the number of graduate students employed as teaching assistants.

University Enrollment Continues to Grow

At the end of the spring semester 2012, there were 313 History majors. Between August 2011 and August 2012, 68 students earned the BA in History. Of the students receiving a BA this year, 13 graduated with honors, 2 were Taylor Medalists, and 4 were members of Phi Beta Kappa.

Phi Alpha Theta induction

On April 25, 2012, the Kappa Alpha Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta at the University of Mississippi inducted six new members. The inductees are Henry Ian Davis, Brian Allen Anderson, Ray Charles Mays, Jr., William Lucas Flowers, Tiffany Swanson Webb, and Robert Liming Corban. These students have an average GPA of 3.7.

Elizabeth Ramsey Frey was named the recipient of the 2012-13 Larry D. Givens Award for Outstanding Junior History Major. The scholarship is awarded each year to the outstanding junior history major. The scholarship is named for Dr. Larry Givens who taught Latin American history in our department from 1970 until his death in 1991. Following his death, Dr. Givens’s parents established an endowment to support an annual award of $1,000.

Camille Lyn Lesseig won the 2011-12 Auvergne Williams Prize for Outstanding Senior History Major. The scholarship is named for a long-time benefactor of the University and provides an award of $1,000.

Sophia Blake and Franklin “Mac” Weaver shared the the Franklin Riley Prize, which is awarded to the best undergraduate paper. They each received $250.

A summary of events

Throughout the year, the Department of History co-sponsored several important lectures. The Gilder-Jordan Lecture in Southern History hosted Dr. David W. Blight, Professor of History at Yale, on November 16, 2011. Dr. Blight presented “American Oracle: The Civil War in the Civil Rights Era, and Our Own Time.”

Dr. Giancarlo Casale of the University of Minnesota spoke on “A View from the Ottoman Empire: What Did it Mean to be European in the 16th Century?” on February 27, 2012. On April 26, 2012, Daniel Sutherland, Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Arkansas, delivered the Burnham Lecture in Civil War History on “Terrorism and Counterterrorism in the American Civil War.”

On 8-10 March 2012, the Department of History hosted the 36th annual Porter L. Fortune, Jr. Symposium, “Science, Medicine, and the Making of Race.” The keynote speaker was Londa Schiebinger, the John L. Hinds Professor of History of Science at Stanford University and the author of Nature’s Biody: Gender in the Making of Modern Science and Plants and Empire: Colonial Bioneerspecting in the Atlantic World.
Letter from the Chair

You will notice some obvious changes to this year’s newsletter when you compare it with previous editions. Thanks to the creative and energetic work of Kelly Houston, we are making much better use of the available technology to present you with something that looks like a newsletter, rather than just a long email. We hope that the additional features will give you a fuller sense of what is happening in our department, and that you will feel even more strongly an ongoing connection to our department and to your fellow alumni. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook (facebook.com/umhistory) and Tumblr (tumblr.com/umhistory) and, if you are in the Oxford area, to participate in our many lectures, conferences, and other events throughout the year. We also thank you for your continued support of our current graduate students with your contributions to the Winthrop Jordan Research Fund (https://www.umfoundation.com/makeagift/online.php?p=winthrop). Finally, I should let those of you who have outstanding "I" grades with Sheila Skemp know that you had better hurry and take care of your business because she has announced that she will retire at the end of the upcoming spring semester.

Joe Ward

Betty Harness Retires

After nearly 15 years with the History Department, Betty Harness retired from the administrative coordinator position. She first joined the department in 1998 as the senior secretary. Betty will continue to live in Oxford and play the organ for St. John’s Catholic Church.

Kelly Brown Houston has replaced Betty as the administrative coordinator. Kelly has been the senior secretary for the department for the past two years. Prior to joining the History Department, Kelly served as the office manager for the Oxford Convention & Visitors Bureau and as the director of special events and promotions for PMQ-Pizza Magazine.

Glenna Bachman has joined the department as the new senior secretary. Glenna comes to us from Alton, Illinois where she served as the benefits specialist at Lewis and Clark Community College for the last 10 years.

Lastly, Maurice Hobson left at the end of the spring semester to take a position as assistant professor of African American Studies at Georgia State University.

Construction

The ongoing University enrollment growth is creating very serious space shortages on the third floor of Bishop Hall. As a result, during summer 2012 one new faculty office was built in the space formerly occupied by the department’s teaching assistants. Several other office spaces were remodeled to accommodate the new faculty. For the 2012-2013 academic year, teaching assistants and most instructors have relocated to the Old Athletics Building.
Introducing our new faculty

Mikaëla Adams, Assistant Professor of History

Mikaëla M. Adams is an Assistant Professor of Native American history. She received her doctorate from the University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill in 2012. Her dissertation, “Who Belongs? Becoming Tribal Members in the South”, explored how southeastern Indians developed citizenship criteria to maintain their political sovereignty and separate identity in the face of racial legislation and discrimination in the Jim Crow South. Adams is currently working on the manuscript of her first book based on her dissertation. Her research addresses questions of political identity and national belonging in southeastern American Indian tribes in the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. She examines how tribes repurposed older notions of kinship and culture to create new criteria of belonging that met the challenges of living in a world defined by racial classifications. In particular, her work focuses on the experiences of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians of North Carolina, the Pamunkey Indian Tribe of Virginia, the Catawba Indian Nation of South Carolina, the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida, and the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians. Adams joined the faculty of the Department of History in 2012.

Darren Grem, Assistant Professor of History and Southern Studies

Darren E. Grem earned his B.A. from Furman University and M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. He has held postdoctoral fellowships at Yale University and Emory University and joined the faculty at the University of Mississippi in 2012 as an Assistant Professor of History and Southern Studies. Dr. Grem’s research interests include religion, business, politics, and popular culture. He is developing a book “Corporate Revivals: A Business History of Born-Again America” (under contract, Oxford University Press), that details how evangelicals and fundamentalists used business leaders, organizations, money, and strategies to advance their religious crusades and political aspirations in twentieth-century America. The dissertation on which his book is based won the Southern Historical Association’s C. Vann Woodward Prize for “best dissertation” and the University of Georgia’s Robert C. Anderson Award for “outstanding dissertation in the humanities.” To date, he has published articles examining the “Christian” business practices and activism of fast-food chain Chick-fil-A and the role of religious marketing at Heritage USA, a now-defunct theme park once run by televangelists Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker. He has also published and given public talks on subjects ranging from southern music to contemporary politics to globalization.

Jesse Cromwell, Assistant Professor History

Jesse Cromwell is an Assistant Professor of Colonial Latin American history. He joins the history department at University of Mississippi from the University of Texas at Austin where he earned his Ph.D. in 2012. His current book project is entitled “Choppy Waters: Smuggling in the Development of Commerce and Community in Venezuela, 1701-1789.” It examines how conditions of material scarcity and the potential for profit thrusted Spanish American coastal inhabitants and their Dutch, English, and French business partners into vast networks of illegal, yet essential, commerce. The project explores how smuggling influenced the social fabric of Venezuelan colonial life by increasing transnationalism, altering slave labor and the slave trade, fomenting popular rebellion, and influencing community standards of criminality. Research for this topic has included investigations into prize court records, imperial correspondence, and print material regarding smuggling at archives in Venezuela, Spain, Colombia, Great Britain, and the United States. Professor Cromwell has given lectures and public talks on this research in addition to subjects as diverse as piracy in the Caribbean and the history of Colombia.

Antoinette Sutto, Assistant Professor of History

Antoinette Sutto is an Assistant Professor of History and specializes in the history of early America, focusing on political culture in the seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Her teaching interests include politics and religion, intellectual history and the relationship between America and Europe. She currently has two research projects. The first, based on her dissertation, is about Maryland in the seventeenth century. This project is about the fraught relationship between Catholicism and politics in this unusual colony and what that relationship tells us about religious controversy, authority and transatlantic structures of power and governance in the 1600s. The second project is about news and political rumor in seventeenth-century America. Professor Sutto earned her A.B from Harvard University in 2002 and her PhD from Princeton University in 2008.
Professor Elizabeth Payne named Mississippi Humanities Council Scholar of the Year

Elizabeth Anne Payne was recognized by the Mississippi Humanities Council for her outstanding contributions as a Mississippian to the study and understanding of the humanities. She was honored at a public ceremony and banquet Friday (Feb. 24) at the Hilton Hotel in Jackson.

“It is lovely to have worked in the nearby vineyard of Mississippi women’s history and have the Mississippi Humanities Council recognize my research,” she said.

Last year, Payne edited the volume “Writing Women’s History: A Tribute to Anne Frior Scott” (University Press of Mississippi, 2011), which includes essays by seven woman who are the forefront of contemporary scholarship on American women’s history. She is also the author of “Reform, Labor and Feminism: Margaret Dreier Robins and the Women’s Trade Union League" and coeditor of volumes one and two of “Mississippi Women: Their Histories, Their Lives.”

“Teaching women’s history for so many years has been a constant adventure of learning with my students,” Payne said. “Many of my undergraduates have interviewed their great-grandmothers as historical subjects. My Ph.D. students and I interviewed over 100 women in Union County.

“I had the privilege of interviewing Betty Rutherford Wilson in New Albany when she was 115 years old. At age 30, I had no way of knowing what exciting scholarship awaited me.”

The Mississippi Humanities Council also cited her work with oral histories, which was the basis for a documentary, and included lesson plans and other resources for teachers; and the expansion of that interest to numerous other areas of women’s lives. The council felt Payne’s wide interest and widespread and generous use of her knowledge to reach a wide and diverse audience are particular benefit to scholarship and support the Council’s motto that “the humanities are for everyone.”

The distinguished history professor was the founding director of the UM Honors College, and in 2008, she was the recipient of the Mississippi Historical Society’s Elbert Hilliard Oral History Prize and was a National Humanities Center Fellow in Chapel Hill, N.C.

The Mississippi Humanities Council is funded by Congress through the National Endowment for the Humanities to provide public programs in traditional liberal arts disciplines to serve nonprofit groups in Mississippi.

“We are pleased to pay tribute to the outstanding work of these award recipients,” said Pamela Fridgen, chair of the Mississippi Humanities Council. “Their achievements are examples of the importance of the work of the council as we advance appreciation for the humanities statewide and in widely diverse areas of human interest.”

Pictured with Professor Payne (second from right) are graduate students Wendy Smith, Dionne Bailey, and Katrina Sims.

In Other News

Mohammed Bashir Salau was promoted to Associate Professor of History

Charles Ross headed the Civil Rights Subcommittee—“Opening the Closed Society, 50 Years of Integration at the University of Mississippi”

John Neff was a guest speaker at the Antietam National Battlefield in Sharpsburg, Maryland for the dedication of a monument to the 11th Mississippi Infantry Regiment on August 19, 2012. Professor Emeritus David Sansing was the chair of the proceedings.
New Publications

At Home and Under Fire: Air Raids and Culture in Britain from the Great War to the Blitz
Susan Grayzel
Cambridge University Press, 2012

Although the Blitz has come to symbolize the experience of civilians under attack, Germany first launched air raids on Britain at the end of 1914 and continued them during the First World War. With the advent of air warfare, civilians far removed from traditional battle zones became a direct target of war rather than a group shielded from its impact. This is a study of how British civilians experienced and came to terms with aerial warfare during the First and Second World Wars. Memories of the World War I bombings shaped British responses to the various real and imagined war threats of the 1920s and 1930s, including the bombing of civilians during the Spanish Civil War and, ultimately, the Blitz itself. The processes by which different constituent bodies of the British nation responded to arrival of air power reveal the particular role that gender played in defining civilian participation in modern war.

Political Leadership, Nations and Charisma
Edited by Vivian Ibrahim and Manjit Wunsch
Routledge, 2012

This groundbreaking and innovative book examines the influence of charisma on power, authority and nationalism. The authors both apply and challenge Max Weber’s concept of ‘charisma’ and integrate it into a broader discussion of other theoretical models. Using an interdisciplinary approach, leading international scholars draw on a diverse range of cases to analyse charisma in benign and malignant leaderships, as well as the relationship between the cult of the leader, the adulation of the masses and the extension of individual authority beyond sheer power. They discuss idiosyncratic authority and oratory, and they address how political, social and regional variations help explain concepts and policies which helped forge and reformulate nations, national identities and movements. The chapters on particular charismatic leaders cover Abraham Lincoln, Kemal Ataturk, Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, Gamal Nasser, Jorg Haider and Nelson Mandela. Political Leadership, Nations and Charisma will appeal to readers who are interested in history, sociology, political communication and nationalism studies.

A Laboratory of Liberty: The Transformation of Political Culture in Republican Switzerland, 1750-1848
Marc Lerner
Brill Academic Publishers, 2011

Looking at a series of Swiss political debates, this book offers a case study of a revolutionary transformation to a rights-based society and political culture. Based on a tradition of political innovation and experimentation, Swiss citizens re-calibrated their understanding of liberty and republicanism from 1750 to 1848. The resulting hybrid political culture centered around republican ideas, changing understandings of liberty and self-rule. Drawing from the public political debates in three characteristic cantons, A Laboratory of Liberty places the Swiss transformation into a European context. Current trends in Revolutionary studies focus on the revolution in its global context and this book demonstrates that the Swiss case enhances our understanding of the debates over the nature of liberty in the transatlantic world during the Age of Revolution.

Writing Women’s History: A Tribute to Anne Firor Scott (Chancellor Porter L. Fortune Symposium in Southern History)
Edited by Elizabeth Anne Payne
University Press of Mississippi, 2011

Anne Firor Scott’s The Southern Lady: From Pedestal to Politics, 1830-1930 stirred a keen interest among historians in both the approach and message of her book. Using women’s diaries, letters, and other personal documents, Scott brought to life southern women as wives and mothers, as members of their communities and churches, and as active but rarely passive agents. She brilliantly demonstrated that the familiar dichotomies of the personal versus the public, the private versus the civic, which had dominated traditional scholarship about men, could not be made to fit women’s lives. In doing so, she helped to open up vast terrains of women’s experiences for historical scholarship. This volume, based on papers presented at the University of Mississippi’s annual Chancellor Porter L. Fortune Symposium in Southern History, brings together essays by scholars at the forefront of contemporary scholarship on American women’s history. Each regards The Southern Lady as having shaped her historical perspective and inspired her choice of topics in important ways. These essays together demonstrate that the power of imagination and scholarly courage manifested in Scott’s and other early American women historians’ work has blossomed into a gracious plentitude.

The West African Slave Plantation
Mohammed Bashir Salau
Palgrave MacMillan, 2011

The literature on Atlantic slavery is rich with accounts of plantation complexes in the Americas, but to date none have been produced for West Africa. In this valuable study, The West African Slave Plantation: A Case Study, Mohammed Bashir Salau helps to address this lacunae by looking at the plantation operations at Fansau in Hausaland, and in the process provides an innovative look at one piece of the historically significant Sokoto Caliphate. The case study calls into question the assumption that servile institutions in West Africa were “serf villages” and not “slave plantations,” and argues that manumission was less common, at least in the Caliphate, than generally believed. Also, it provides evidence on the key role of the emir of Kano (Abbas) and various merchants in the transition to groundnut cultivation and the significant use of slave labor by large estate holders in the early twentieth century.

The Making of a Patriot: Benjamin Franklin at the Cockpit
Sheila Skemp
Oxford University Press, 2012

On January 29, 1774, Benjamin Franklin was called to appear before the Privy Council—a select group of the King’s advisors—in an octagonal-shaped room in Whitehall Palace known as the Cockpit. Surrounded by jeers and applause from the audience in the Cockpit, Solicitor General Alexander Wedderburn unleashed a withering tirade against Franklin. Though Franklin entered the room as a dutiful servant of the British crown, he left as a budding American Revolutionary. In The Making of a Patriot, renowned Franklin historian Sheila Skemp presents an insightful, lively narrative that goes beyond the traditional Franklin biography—and behind the common myths—to demonstrate how Franklin’s ultimate decision to support the colonists was by no means a foregone conclusion. In fact, up until the Cockpit ordeal, he was steadfastly committed to achieving “an accommodation of our differences.” The Making of a Patriot also sheds light on the conspiratorial framework within which actors on both sides of the Atlantic moved toward revolution and it highlights how this event ultimately pitted Franklin against his son, suggesting that the Revolution was, in no small part, also a civil war.

London: A Social and Cultural History, 1550–1750
Robert O. Bucholz and Joseph P. Ward
Cambridge University Press, 2012

Between 1550 and 1750 London became the greatest city in Europe and one of the most vibrant economic and cultural centers in the world. This book is a history of London during this crucial period of its rise to worldwide prominence, during which it dominated the economic, political, social and cultural life of the British Isles as never before nor since. London: A Social and Cultural History incorporates the best recent work in urban history, accounts by contemporary Londoners and tourists, and fictional works featuring the city in order to trace London’s rise and explore its role as a harbinger of modernity as well as how its citizens coped with those achievements. This book covers the full range of life in London, from the splendid galleries of Whitehall to the damp and sooty alleyways of the East End. Along the way, readers will brave the dangers of plague and fire, witness the spectacles of the Lord Mayor’s Pageant and the hangings at Tyburn, and take refreshment in the city’s pleasure gardens, coffeehouses, and taverns.
Awards and Accolades

Evan Nooe has been selected as a Book Review Editor for the H-Net list H-AmIndian. He will be serving a two-year appointment from 2012-2014.

Otis W. Pickett won a scholarship to attend Duke Divinity School’s Summer Institute on Racial Reconciliation at Duke University in Durham, NC where he spent a week with scholars from around the world who are researching a variety of topics related to racial reconciliation and how that research has a lived impact on our society.

Joseph T. Richardson (pictured right) received the John W. Odom Memorial Prize in History for his paper "Discovering the Plain Folk: F. Lawrence Owsley and History from Manuscript Census Returns."

Recent Graduates

Noah Arnold (M.A. 2012) non-thesis

Matthew Milton Bailey (Ph.D. 2011)
"Games that Will Pay: College Football and the Emergence of the Modern South"
Advisor: Ownby, Ted

Nicholas Baugh (M.A. 2012) non-thesis

David Michael Hargrove (Ph.D. 2011)
"The Persistence of Corporal Punishment in Southern Public Schools"
Advisor: Ownby, Ted

Robert Edward Krause (Ph.D. 2011)
"An Environmental History of the New Deal in Mississippi and Florida"
Advisor: Wilson, Charles R.

Hannah McMahan (M.A. 2012)
"Rituals of Resistance: The Life, Legacy, and Lynching of L.Q. Ivy" Charles R. Wilson, Elizabeth Payne, Deirdre Cooper-Owens

Evan Nooe (Ph.D. 2012)
"Result of this Great Conquest: How the Southern Indians Made the Old South"
Advisor: Ownby, Ted

Rachel Smith Purvis (Ph.D. 2012)
"Maintaining Intact Our Homogeneousness: Race and the Reconstruction of the Cherokee Nation"
Advisor: Neff, John R. and Robbie Ethridge

Christine Rizzi (M.A. 2012) non-thesis

Justin Isaac Rogers (M.A. 2012)
"Religious and Spiritual Spaces in Antebellum Northeast Mississippi"
Deirdre Cooper Owens, Elizabeth Payne, Charles Wilson

Wendy D. Smith (Ph.D. 2012)
"The Industrialization of Northeast Mississippi and Its Effect on Women and the Family"
Advisor: Payne, Elizabeth A.

Adam P. Wilson (Ph. D. 2012)
"Deeds, Not Words: African American Officers of World War I in the Battle for Racial Equality"
Advisor: Neff, John R.

Steve Wallace (M.A. 2012)
"There is No Dishonor in Desertion: Army Racial Intolerance and African-American Soldiers’ Desertion"
Chiarella Esposito, Susan Grayzel, Joshua First

Rebecca Williams (M.A. 2012) non-thesis

Joel Alexander Wright (M.A. 2012) non-thesis

Interested in helping our graduate students? Make a contribution to the Winthrop D. Jordan Memorial Research Fund. Donations are used to help finance graduate student research trips. Please contact the University Foundation at 800-340-9542.
Conference Presentations


Evan Nooe presented "From the Great lakes to the Gulf Coast: Reassessing Tecumseh’s Impact on the Nineteenth Century South" at the Ohio Valley History Conference in Murray, Kentucky on October 8, 2011. He also presented "Keeping Order: Oppositional Systems of Justice and Native Authenticity in Creek Country, 1800-1814" at the Annual Meeting of the American Society for Ethnohistory in Pasadena, California on October 21, 2011. He was awarded a Helen Hornbeck Tanner Graduate Student Travel Grant by the organization. He presented a research poster at the University of Mississippi Graduate Student Council 2nd Annual Graduate Research Symposium on campus on April 5, 2012. Here he shared the honor of "Best Research Presentation in Arts and Humanities" with Otis W. Pickett. Lastly, Nooe presented "Half War, Half Peace: Reciprocating Violence and the Struggle for Indian Autonomy after the Creek War, 1814-1823." at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic in Baltimore, Maryland. Nooe organized this panel and it will include scholars from The University of Tennessee, Ohio State University, and UNCGreensboro.


Gregory Richard presented "Shocking the Conscience: Judge E. Gordon West and the Beginning of Federal Court Reform of Angola State Prison” at the Louisiana Historical Association Annual Meeting, March 2, 2012, in New Orleans, LA. He also presented "Lighting the 'Dark and Evil World’: Judge J. Smith Henley and the Beginning of the Federal Judiciary’s Reform of Prisons in Arkansas” at the Ohio Valley History Conference, October 7, 2011, at Murray State University in Murray, KY.

Publications

Kevin Harrell


Employment News

Evan Nooe—Adjunct Instructor of History at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN

Otis Pickett—Clinical Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Mississippi-Tupelo Center

Rachel Smith Purvis—Cassius Marcellus Clay Fellow at Yale University. This is a two year position with the Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition.
Former Student Helps Celebrity Trace Roots

In February, Dan Fountain (Ph.D. 1999) appeared on NBC's “Who Do You Think You Are?” The television program helps celebrities find their genealogical roots. Dan helped actor Blair Underwood (picture right).

You can read more about Dan’s experience in this article: http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/02/24/1879437/meredith-professor-helps-tv-star.html.

At the time of this publication, you could watch the full episode here: http://www.nbc.com/who-do-you-think-you-are/episode-guide/season-3/460306/blair-underwood/episode-303/469145/

Awards and Accolades

Chris Danielson (Ph.D. 2006) received the Distinguished Researcher Award by Montana Tech of the University of Montana.

Will Hustwit (Ph.D. 2008) has been named the winner of the 2012 Ronald T. and Gayla D. Farrar Media and Civil Rights History Award for his article “From Caste To Color Blindness: James J. Kilpatrick’s Segregationist Semantics” published in the August 2011 issue of The Journal of Southern History.

Brian C. Miller (Ph.D. 2006) won the 2012 Liberal Arts Teacher of the Year Award here at Emporia State University.

Greg Taylor (Ph.D. 2005) won the 2011-12 Chowan University McDowell Columns Scholar Prize and was awarded a research sabbatical for the Spring 2013.

Employment News

Marjon Ames (Ph.D. 2009)–Assistant Professor at North Carolina Wesleyan College

Nick Brown (Ph.D. 2008)–Visiting Assistant Professor of European/World History at Delta State University

Jay Gillispie (Ph.D. 2000)–Vice President of Academic Affairs at Sampson Community College in Clinton, NC as of August 2012

David Hargrove (Ph.D. 2011) Part time instructor of American History at the University of Memphis.

Leigh McWhite (Ph.D. 2002)–UM as Political Papers Archivist & Associate Professor

Sam Staggs (M.A. 2011)–Coordinator of the Hands on program at The Historic Arkansas Museum

Greg Taylor (Ph.D. 2006)—Earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of History at Chowan University

Greg Taylor (Ph.D. 2006)—Earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor of History at Chowan University

Assistant Professor of History, Dr. Toby Bates, Mississippi State University – Meridian recently spent some time in Hollywood, California consulting and starring in a forthcoming 1980s political/cultural documentary, Back To Our Future. Click this link to learn more: http://www.b2of.com/

Pictured are Rich Mayerick (Writer/Producer), Dr. Bates, and Nate Lipp (Director).
Books Released

No one disagrees that 1964–Freedom Summer—forever changed the political landscape of Mississippi. How those changes played out is the subject of Chris Danielson’s fascinating new book, After Freedom Summer. Prior to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, black voter participation in Mississippi was practically zero. After twenty years, black candidates had made a number of electoral gains. Simultaneously, white resistance had manifested itself in growing Republican dominance of the state. Danielson demonstrates how race—not class or economics—was the dominant factor in white Mississippi voters’ partisan realignment, even as he reveals why class and economics played a role in the tensions between the national NAACP and the local Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (an offshoot of SNCC) that limited black electoral gains. Using an impressive array of newspaper articles, legal cases, interviews, and personal papers, Danielson’s work helps fill a growing lacuna in the study of post-civil rights politics in the South.

The 18th North Carolina Regiment has the dubious distinction of firing the volley at Chancellorsville, Virginia, that mortally wounded General Thomas “Stonewall” Jackson. This tragic accident has overshadowed the regiment’s otherwise valiant service during the Civil War. One of Robert E. Lee’s “fighting regiments,” the 18th North Carolina was a part of two famous Confederate military machines, A.P. Hill’s Light Division and Jackson’s foot cavalry. This revealing history chronicles the regiment’s exploits from its origins through combat with the Army of Northern Virginia at Hanover Court House, the Seven Days' Battles, Cold Harbor, Petersburg, and other battles to its surrender at Appomattox Court House as a battered, much smaller shell of its former self. A roster of those surrendering officers and enlisted men and brief biographical sketches of those who fought with the regiment for most of the war complete this enlightening account.

W. Scott Poole (Ph.D. 2001) – Monsters in America: Our Historical Obsession with the Hideous and the Haunting, Baylor University Press, 2011
Salem witches, frontier wilderness beasts, freak show oddities, alien invasions, Freddie Krueger. From our colonial past to the present, the monster in all its various forms has been a staple of American culture. A masterful survey of our grim and often disturbing past, Monsters in America uniquely brings together history and culture studies to expose the dark obsessions that have helped create our national identity. Monsters are not just fears of the individual psyche, historian Scott Poole explains, but are concoctions of the public imagination, reactions to cultural influences, social change, and historical events. Conflicting anxieties about race, class, gender, sexuality, religious beliefs, science, and politics manifest as haunting beings among the populace. From Victorian-era mad scientists to modern-day serial killers new monsters appear as American society evolves, paralleling fluctuating challenges to the cultural status quo. Consulting newspaper accounts, archival materials, personal papers, comic books, films, and oral histories, Poole adroitly illustrates how the creation of the monstrous "other" not only reflects society's fears but shapes actual historical behavior and becomes a cultural reminder of inhuman acts.

The Rise to Respectability documents the history of the Church of God in Christ (COGIC) and examines its cultural and religious impact on African Americans and on the history of the South. It explores the ways in which Charles Harrison Mason, the son of slaves and founder of COGIC, embraced a Pentecostal faith that celebrated charismatic forms of religious expression that many blacks had come to view as outdated, unsophisticated, and embarrassing. While examining the intersection of race, religion, and class, The Rise to Respectability details how the denomination dealt with the stringent standard of bourgeois behavior imposed on churchgoers as they moved from southern rural areas into the urban centers in both the South and North. Rooted in the hardships of slavery and coming of age during Jim Crow, COGIC’s story is more than a religious debate. Rather, this book sees the history of the church as interwoven with the Great Migration, the struggle for modernity, class tension, and racial animosity—all representative parts of the African American experience.

Other Publications


We hope you have enjoyed our redesigned newsletter. It is the goal of our department to keep you informed and connected. The newsletter will continue to provide information on events that occurred from August to August. In order to provide relevant information, we need your help. If you have anything you wish to be included in the newsletter, please send it to kbhousto@olemiss.edu. You may send pictures, press releases, publication information, event happenings, or informal tidbits of professional information you would like to share. Information provided may be used on our social media sites throughout the year and/or in this annual newsletter.

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Find us on the web and suggest pages we should follow as well.

To submit information to be included in our newsletter or social media websites or if you want to be included on our mailing list, please email kbhousto@olemiss.edu

We are all over the web!

history.olemiss.edu
facebook.com/umhistory
twitter.com/umhistory
umhistory.tumblr.com
pinterest.com/umhistory

Upcoming Events

**October 2012**
- 19-20 Conference on the Civil War “The War at Home”
- 26 History Colloquium

**November 2012**
- 9 History Colloquium
- 28 Amy Singer Lecture
- 30 History Colloquium

**February 2013**
- 21-23 Porter L. Fortune, Jr. History Symposium “European Empires in the American South”

**April 2013**
- 4 Ron Chernow Lecture
- TBD Phi Alpha Theta Induction
- 25 Burnham Lecture in Civil War History

**May 2013**
- 3 History Department Picnic and Softball Game
- 11 Commencement and Reception

*History Colloquium dates for the spring are TBD.*