

# Past Times

2013

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 1



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### POINTS OF INTEREST:

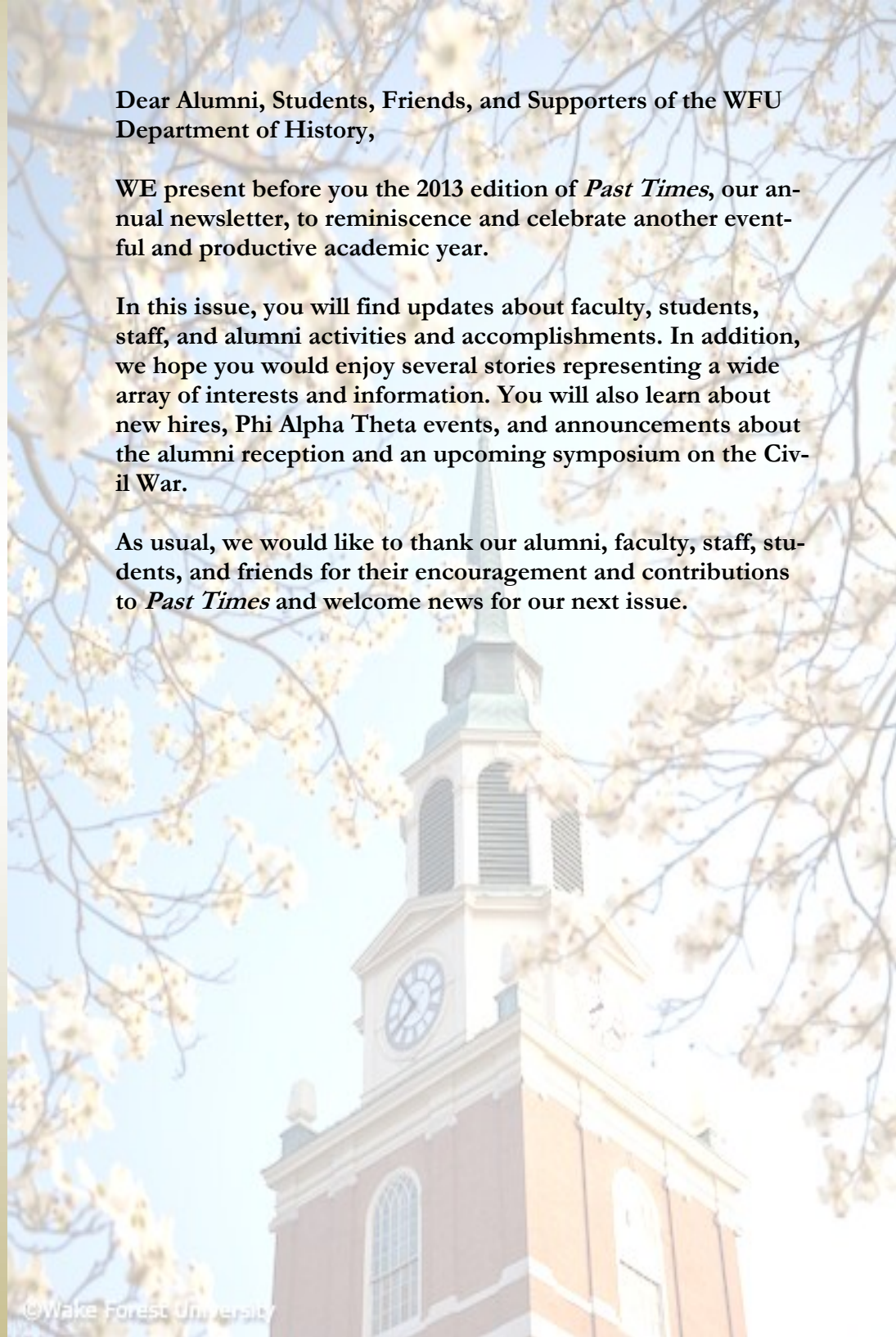
- Upcoming Symposium on Civil War (p. 23)
- Alumni Homecoming Reception (p. 23)
- Online Giving (p. 24)

Dear Alumni, Students, Friends, and Supporters of the WFU Department of History,

WE present before you the 2013 edition of *Past Times*, our annual newsletter, to reminiscence and celebrate another eventful and productive academic year.

In this issue, you will find updates about faculty, students, staff, and alumni activities and accomplishments. In addition, we hope you would enjoy several stories representing a wide array of interests and information. You will also learn about new hires, Phi Alpha Theta events, and announcements about the alumni reception and an upcoming symposium on the Civil War.

As usual, we would like to thank our alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends for their encouragement and contributions to *Past Times* and welcome news for our next issue.



**Mir Yarfitz** will join the department this fall as



an assistant professor of Latin American History. He recently received his Ph.D. from UCLA and has taught at UCLA, California State University, Long Beach, and Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. His interest in Latin America grew from his college study abroad experience in Nicaragua, a Ful-

bright in Argentina, and work with migrant farmworker labor unions. His research focuses on gender and sexuality in modern Latin America, and he is currently revising his dissertation into a book manuscript about the role of Ashkenazi Jews in organized prostitution in Buenos Aires between the 1890s and 1930s. He says, "I am excited about getting to know Wake Forest students through the intimate seminar structure, which was also the intellectual core of my undergraduate experience. Seminars provide a unique space for creative engagement with sources and ideas. This year I look forward to teaching a two-semester introduction to Latin American history as well as the Americas in the World. These courses will emphasize the cross-border circulation of peoples and ideas, resistance to Conquest and adaptation to Contact, the variety of slave and colonial systems, and the emergence of modern racial, class, gender, and sexual identities. I like to use a range of primary sources to introduce students to historical analysis, including *castas* paintings, political cartoons, slave narratives, native language texts, revolutionary communiqués, speeches, and declassified CIA documents."

## NEW HIRES

**Anna Henley** joined the History Department in July 2012 as an Administrative Assistant, a position that she shares with the Department of Religion. She graduated from UNC Wilmington in May 2010 with a BA in English, concentration in Professional Writing, and minors in Journalism and Leadership Studies. After college, Anna moved to Greensboro and took a job in Guest Services at Proximity Hotel. Although she no less enjoyed working in the hotel industry, she has been extremely excited ever since she joined Wake Forest: "It is such a great pleasure to get to work in such a supportive and active community. Getting to come to work every day and do exactly what I love, lending a helping hand, for the people who need it so much, our students and faculty. It just means the world to me to make someone else's day a little bit easier." When she is not taking care of her two academic departments, Anna can be found taking care of her family. She married Sam, the man who brought her to Winston Salem, on March 23, 2013. With his help she navigates the new waters of being a stepmom to his five-year-old son, Aiden. In her spare time she is a serious foodie who is constantly seeking out new culinary experiences and kitchen challenges.







## FACULTY UPDATES

**Lisa Blee**, Assistant Professor. See *Faculty on Leave*.

**Ronald P. Bobroff**, Visiting Senior Lecturer, presented his research at two conferences. The first paper on Franco-Russian tensions over the fate of the Ottoman Empire during World War I was given at the national meeting of the Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies, in New Orleans in November, 2012. The second presentation on Russia's role in the origins of the First World War was made in a workshop at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association in San Francisco in April 2013. While Bobroff is working toward publishing two articles in edited volumes out of the presentations made, he won a grant from the Archie Fund for the Arts and Humanities. Over this summer, he plans to work in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense in Paris, France for his monograph on the Franco-Russian Alliance. He also helped with the local arrangements for the annual convention, in Greensboro, NC, of the Southern Conference on Slavic Studies. Bobroff will serve as the Interim Chair of the Department during 2013-14.

**Ben Coates**, Assistant Professor, taught three new courses: *Americas & the World* and a two-part history of the *United States and the World*, covering the years between 1763-2003. He published "Strategists and Rhetoricians: Truman's Foreign Policy Advisers," a chapter in the *Blackwell Companion to Harry S. Truman*, and entries on Richard Olney and John Bassett Moore for the *Oxford Encyclopedia of American Military and Diplomatic History*. He also wrote a series of posts for the Legal History Blog and looks forward to spending the summer on his book, *Legalist Empire*. Coates will be presenting his research this summer at the Law & Society conference in Boston and the annual meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations in Virginia.

**Steve Duke**, Executive Director of Global Student/Faculty Development, Research and Risk Management, and Instructor in History, chaired the

conference committee, WISE (Workshop on Intercultural Skills Enhancement) Conference held during January 31-February 2, 2013 in Winston-Salem. He was a presenter, co-presenter, and a panelist on several panels and workshops organized at UNC-Greensboro, Wake Forest University Schools of Business, Elon University, and at NAFSA Annual Conference held in Houston. Duke also organized and participated on panel entitled "Cross-Cultural Engagement Training for Faculty: A Model for Faculty Preparation," with David Taylor and Michael Vande Berg at CIEE Annual Conference in Shanghai, China on November 16, 2012 and participated on webinar panel entitled "Academic Expectations," with Jennifer Ison, IES Abroad, March 20-21, 2013.

**Paul Escott**, Reynolds Professor of History, taught a new First Year Seminar titled *The Sectional Crisis, 1820-1860*. His next book, "Uncommonly Savage: Civil War and Remembrance in Spain and the United States" is now in production to be published by The University Press of Florida. Along with his colleagues Michele Gillespie and Tony Parent in the History Department and with staff of North Carolina's Office of Archives and History, Escott has been planning a symposium on the Civil War to be held on October 18, 2013 on our campus.

**Thomas E. Frank**, University Professor, was recipient of the Nathan and Julie Hatch Prize supporting a week of research in the libraries of Oxford University in England during the summer of 2012. His topic of research for this project was the origins of the principle of voluntarism in religion, and the impact of American denominational polity and practices on the formation of American democracy. He continued to expand and develop resources for teaching *Historic Preservation* as a regular course offering by including several new site visits. Frank lectured at Perkins School of Theology, SMU, on the recent past of American Protestant denominations with particular focus



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on United Methodism, one of the largest of these national bodies. In December 2012, he completed a 5-year term as chair of the national board of directors of Partners for Sacred Places, a non-profit non-sectarian advocacy agency for historic houses of worship across America and continued to serve as a board member of Preserve Historic Forsyth here in Winston-Salem.

**Monique O'Connell**, Associate Professor. See *Faculty on Leave*.

**Michele Gillespie**, Kahle Family Professor. See *Faculty Focus*.

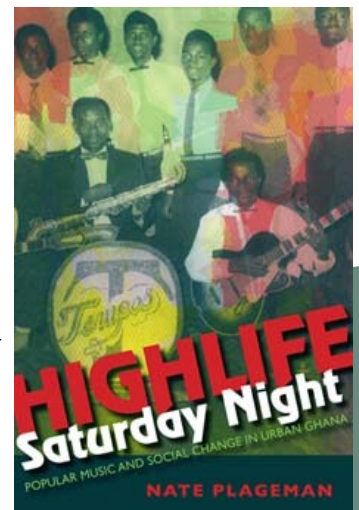
**Robert Hellyer**, Associate Professor, received a National Endowment for the Humanities fellowship during the 2012-2013 academic year to conduct research at the Newberry Library in Chicago for his in-progress book, "An American Cup of Green Tea: Made in Japan." He also received a fellowship to continue that research during the summer of 2014 at the Sainsbury Institute for the Study of Japanese Arts and Cultures in Norwich, England. The *Journal of Global History* will publish his article on the history of the Pacific Ocean entitled, "The West, the East, and the Insular Middle: Trading Systems, Demand, and Labour in the Integration of the Pacific, 1750-1875." In the last year, he also presented at conferences in Germany, Japan, and South Africa. In teaching, he continues to work with the Office of Personal and Career Development to facilitate enhanced student acquisition of "job skills" in History courses. In that endeavor, he welcomes suggestions from alumni! Please write him at: [hellyer@wfu.edu](mailto:hellyer@wfu.edu)

**Michael Hughes**, Professor, published an article titled "Reason, Emotion, Pressure, Violence: Modes of Demonstration as Conceptions of Political Citizenship in 1960s West Germany" in *German History* 30:2 (2012), pp. 222-246 and presented a conference paper "Criminalizing Dissent in the Federal Republic? The State, the Anti-Atomic-Energy Move-

ment, and Citizens' Rights" at German Studies Association meeting held in Milwaukee on Oct. 7, 2012. In addition, he gave a talk on "Civil Disobedience: Expression of or Threat to Democracy" at UUFWS Forum on February 3, 2013 and introduced the Film Screening, of *Sophie Scholl: The Final Days* at the ZSR Library Auditorium on February 19, 2013. Hughes also won the Bryan/Groves Faculty Fellowship which he will hold for two years, from July 2013 through June 2015.

**Anthony Parent**, Professor, co-edited a book (with Ulrike Wiethaus) titled *Trauma and American Indian and African American Resilience in Southern History* (The Peter Lang Group, 2013). He also published two authored chapters in this volume: "'House' and 'Home' in Harriet Jacobs's Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl" and "Slave Songs as Public Poetics of Resistance." For his work in bringing attention to Harriet Jacobs' connection to the museum's Edenton rooms and for his leadership, Parent was honored by the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA). Thomas A. Gray donated a generous gift of a first edition of *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl Written by Herself* in his honor to the museum. This summer, Parent will be presenting his research in Montpellier, France and at Oxford University.

**Nate Plageman**, Assistant Professor, published his book *Highlife Saturday Night: Popular Music and Social Change in Urban Ghana* (2012), included in both the "African Expressive Culture" and "New Approaches to Ethnomusicology" series of the Indiana University Press. The book is enhanced with audio





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and visual material on the Ethnomusicology Multimedia website (<https://ethnomultimedia.org>). This summer, he will be presenting his research at the Africa-Europe Group for Interdisciplinary Studies-European Conference on African Studies (AEGIS-ECAS), Lisbon, Portugal; 2013 Ghana Studies Association Conference at Kumasi, Ghana; and at the *Archives of Post-Independent Africa and the Diaspora Conference*, The Goree Institute, Goree Island, Dakar, Senegal. Plageman won an Archie Fund for the Arts and Humanities Grant which he will use to travel to Ghana in May-June to conduct additional research on the British colonial government's decision to construct a deep-water harbor, railway station, and "modern tropical town" at Takoradi over the course of the 1920s: an extremely costly venture which they claimed would revolutionize the colony's economic prospects.

**Rais Rahman**, Assistant Professor, presented two conference papers: "Education and Literary Culture as Sources of Eminence among Muslims of Colonial India" at the annual meeting of Association for Asian Studies (AAS), March 21-24, San Diego, CA and "Identity, Genealogy, History: Family and Community in Colonial North Indian Qasbahs" at The Annual Conference on South Asia, October 17-20, Madison, WI. His article "We can leave neither: Mohamed Ali, Islam and Nationalism in Colonial India," which originally appeared in *South Asian History and Culture* in April 2012 was reprinted twice in fall 2012 by Routledge London and Routledge New Delhi in an edited volume titled *Minority Nationalisms in South Asia*. Rahman also won an Archie Fund for the Arts and Humanities Grant which he will use to travel to India in July-August to conduct research on the city of Bombay and its Muslim residents in order to examine the history of diversity in modern India and trace links among Islam, liberalism, and cosmopolitanism. He has been awarded CRADLE fellowship for 2013-15 by the Office of the Provost and the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. During his visit to India this summer, Rahman will also present his research at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi.

**Jake Ruddiman**, Assistant Professor, See *Faculty on Leave*.

**Penny Sinanoglou**, Assistant Professor, offered two new courses this year: a research seminar on *Decolonization in the Twentieth Century* and an upper-level course on *European International Relations Since World War I*. She chaired a panel at the Wake Forest conference on Minorities in Islam/Muslims as Minorities in October 2012, and presented new research on contested British nationality at the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies, Berkeley, CA and at the Britain and the World Conference, Austin, TX, both in March 2013. She also attended a conference on Reacting to the Past (RTTP), an innovative model for teaching historical texts, at Duke University in January 2013. She later presented about her experiences through the Wake Forest Teaching and Learning Center and began consulting on the revision of a module on British mandate on Palestine. With the support of a Wake Forest junior faculty leave, Sinanoglou will spend next year researching her new book entitled *Legally Subject: Contested Nationality and Subjecthood in the British Empire, 1870-1950*. In the fall, she will conduct archival research in Malta, Israel, India and Hong Kong, and for the spring semester she has been awarded a visiting fellowship at the Remarque Institute at New York University.

**Charles Wilkins**, Associate Professor, presented a paper titled "Beyond Jizya: The Administration of Extraordinary Taxes (Avariz) Among the non-Muslim Population of Ottoman Aleppo" at the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Conference, Denver, Colorado, November 17-20, 2012 and at conference, "Minorities in Islam, Muslims at Minorities" held at Wake Forest University, October 18-20, 2012. He is currently conducting analysis and writing for his book project entitled, "Lives In Between: A Social History of Ottoman Aleppo." Organized as a series of contextualized biographies spanning over four centuries, this



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book will explore the way in which the inhabitants of the Syrian city of Aleppo worked as trans-regional intermediaries – political, economic, social, and cultural – within the Ottoman Empire and, more broadly, Afro-Eurasia. Aleppans led lives “in-between” because they witnessed the arrival and departure of empires, whether Mamluk, Ottoman, or French. In that temporal sense they negotiated what were difficult political and social transitions. Wilkins was honored with Stroupe Award for Excellence in Research, History Department, Wake Forest University, 2012-13. He gave a talk on April 16, 2013 at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church titled “The Popular Uprising in Syria: Local Roots, Regional Implications” as part of the Great Decisions lecture series organized by the Shepherd’s Center, Winston-Salem.

**Qiong Zhang**, Assistant Professor, will be taking a semester of leave in fall 2013 on a research fellowship from "Templeton Science and Religion in Traditional East Asia Project," hosted at Seoul National University, South Korea. She will be in Seoul from the end of May till December to work on her book manuscript entitled “Taking the New World in Stride: The Jesuit Mission and Chinese Cultural Renewal in the Seventeenth Century.”



## FACULTY FOCUS

### Demonstrations and Democratic Citizenship

Michael Hughes

*Michael Hughes has been awarded the Bryan/Groves Faculty Fellowship for 2013-2015, in recognition of his outstanding record of teaching and scholarship. The following write up is part of his larger project titled Demonstrations and Democratic Citizenship in Germany, 1888-1993.*

Joseph Schumpeter, the Austrian-American economist, wrote that democracy should mean that every four years you vote for your leaders, then go home and “shut up,” allowing the “experts” you’ve elected to do their job. He even implied that it should be a felony to write your Congressman because if you did you’d surely be trying to suborn your Congressman to advance your private interest instead of the public interest he was supposed to advance. Yet Schumpeter’s view of democracy is a narrow one, one that contradicts the US constitution, with its rights of speech, press, assembly, and petition, that he swore to uphold when he became a citizen.

Given Germany’s brutal early 20<sup>th</sup>-century past, historians constantly debate when and how it became democratized. Yet many people in Central Europe shared Schumpeter’s narrow view of democracy and continued to do so into the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. Before we can understand Germany’s democratization, we must then understand how Germans have conceptualized democracy across the decades and across the society.

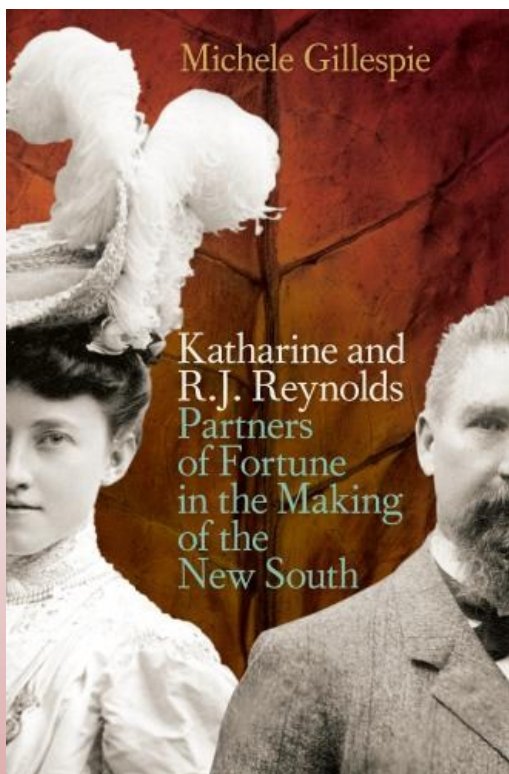
People seldom discuss explicitly their ideas of democracy, but political demonstrations embody conceptions of democracy. To demonstrate is to reject Schumpeter’s definition of democracy. Moreover, different forms of demonstration imply different concepts of

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democracy. And demonstrations elicit comment not only from the demonstrators but also from by-standers and vocal opponents of demonstrating. So they illuminate how broad segments of the society have thought about democracy.

My current research project, then, is an exploration of demonstrations and conceptions of democracy in Germany, 1888-1993. In 1888, the government let subjects watch but not participate in Emperor Wilhelm I's funeral, while in 1900 socialists welcomed citizens to participate in the funeral of socialist leader Wilhelm Liebknecht—but only as members of socialist organizations. The student demonstrations of 1967/68 in West Germany elicited a broad, vehement public debate about permissible forms of protest, revealing that most Germans had come to define democracy as an opportunity for all citizens to participate in reasoned public discourse, even as they rejected emotional or provocative demonstration tactics. Demonstrations against nuclear power plants after 1974 often involved civil disobedience, and they sparked a vigorous discussion of whether demonstrators had only a right to provoke rational discussion of an issue or if they were entitled to “pressure” or even to “compel” the government to change its policies.

Germans are not the only ones who have to grapple with these issues. Every people that seeks to establish a democracy has to decide, implicitly or explicitly, what they mean by democracy, just what role the citizens, and each citizen, may play.



### Katharine and R. J. Reynolds Michele Gillespie

*Michele Gillespie recently published a book on Katharine and R. J. Reynolds and the role they played in the making of the New South. In her own words:*

“My latest book, *Katharine and R.J. Reynolds: Partners of Fortune in the Making of the New South* was released by the University of Georgia Press last October,” writes Gillespie. “In it I tell the story of a unique marriage between a powerful husband and wife who together shaped the success of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company and transformed the market town of Winston into an industrial city. I seek to put each of these people's ambitions in the context of the Jim Crow South, analyzing their leadership in progressive reform movements and business innovations, and their roles in shaping politics and race relations. I have given over two dozen talks or readings on the book since its publication, and have been humbled by the eagerness of people of all ages and backgrounds to learn more about this complex southern past.”

For a detailed review of the book in the Wall Street Journal, [click here](#).

#### Book Description

Separately they were formidable—together they were unstoppable. Despite their intriguing lives and the deep impact they had on their community and region, the story of Richard Joshua Reynolds (1850–1918) and Katharine Smith Reynolds (1880–1924) has never been fully told. Now Michele Gillespie provides a sweeping account of how R. J. and Katharine succeeded in realizing their American dreams.

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From relatively modest beginnings, R. J. launched the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, which would eventually develop two hugely profitable products, Prince Albert pipe tobacco and Camel cigarettes. His marriage in 1905 to Katharine Smith, a dynamic woman thirty years his junior, marked the beginning of a unique partnership that went well beyond the family. As a couple, the Reynoldses conducted a far-ranging social life and, under Katharine's direction, built Reynolda House, a breathtaking estate and model farm. Providing leadership to a series of progressive reform movements and business innovations, they helped drive one of the South's best examples of rapid urbanization and changing race relations in the city of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Together they became one of the New South's most influential elite couples. Upon R. J.'s death, Katharine reinvented herself, marrying a World War I veteran many years her junior and engaging in a significant new set of philanthropic pursuits.

*Katharine and R. J. Reynolds* reveals the broad economic, social, cultural, and political changes that were the backdrop to the Reynoldses' lives. Portraying a New South shaped by tensions between rural poverty and industrial transformation, white working-class inferiority and deeply entrenched racism, and the solidification of a one-party political system, Gillespie offers a masterful life-and-times biography of these important North Carolinians. (Courtesy: UGA Press)

### Historical Justice and Memory

Lisa Blee

*Lisa Blee was on her junior research leave this past year and writes about her current as well as next projects and activities:*

This has been a varied and productive year of conference presentations, writing, and research. Shortly after the end of classes in 2012 I traveled to Uncasville, Connecticut to present a paper at the meeting of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. The paper concerned the politics of indigenous place naming, specifically places named "Leschi" in Seattle. My research examines the opportunities and pitfalls for indigenous people as they seek to re-appropriate Native names in places where they are otherwise rendered invisible, particularly urban settings.

Immediately following the conference, I set to work on the revision process for my book manuscript. The book, *Framing Chief Leschi: Narratives and the Politics of Historical Justice*, will be published in the spring of 2014. The book is based on a case study: the 2004 Washington Historical Court

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Justice, a public history event created to review the criminal trial of Chief Leschi. A century and a half earlier, territorial settlers and Nisqually Indians clashed in a war led by Chief Leschi. At the war's conclusion, territorial officials put Leschi on trial for murder. The jury convicted him on questionable evidence and he was hanged in 1858. From that day forward, the conviction continued to be a point of anger and frustration for Leschi's descendants. In 2004 Nisqually activists, public historians, politicians, and members of the state Supreme Court discussed the possibility of granting Leschi a posthumous exoneration. In the one-day quasi-legal event, a panel of judges heard expert testimony about military and legal history, and Native people talked about their own stories of Leschi passed on through families for generations. The judges unanimously agreed to symbolically exonerate Leschi. I ask questions in the book that approach the problem of historical justice from different angles: What compels perpetrators of historical injustices to admit wrongdoing, and why do so in a courtroom setting? How do such tribunals contribute to both remembering and forgetting, and empower both victims and



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perpetrators?

In addition to work on this book, I have also begun research on a new project involving statuary. This fall, my co-author and I completed an article titled "What's a Statue of Massasoit Doing in Kansas City?" Massasoit was the sachem of the Pokanoket people (of present-day Rhode Island) who famously brokered a peace treaty with the Pilgrims in 1621. While the statue memorializing Massasoit in Plymouth, Massachusetts seems logical, in the course of research we discovered at least five other copies of the statue scattered around the country. What makes the story of Massasoit so mobile as to fit in places thousands of miles distant from one another? If memorials are supposed to fix histories in place, why is the memorial to this Indian man exceptionally flexible? This spring I traveled to Utah because the sculptor of *Massasoit*, Cyrus E. Dallin, was born there and donated the original plaster cast to his home state. In Salt Lake City I looked through letters in the Latter-Day Saints Church History Research Library, building records and newspaper clippings in the state archives, and toured the capitol grounds where the statue now stands. An hour to the south is Springville, Dallin's hometown, which now houses the original plaster of *Massasoit*. Just down the road, in Provo, I found the third *Massasoit* and examined the Brigham Young University Museum of Art records, which detailed the process by which additional bronze copies of the statue were cast. I discovered that the people of the state gradually grew attached to the statue; in the 1950s, when a state official removed the statue from the capitol rotunda, he spurred a public protest. Some people argued that Massasoit belonged in Utah because the sachem protected religious emigrants - Pilgrim and Mormon alike. This claim is specific to Utah and I look forward to writing more about the many *Massasoits* in the coming months.

The summer promises to be a busy travel time. In May, I will present a paper at the annual meeting of the Western Association of Women Historians in Portland, Oregon. A few days later I will participate in an interdisciplinary conference on storytelling in Prague, Czech Republic. In July I will travel to Poland and Germany to join an international faculty development seminar on the theme of "memory and the nation." In addition to lectures and discussions of assigned reading, the participants travel to several sites of memory, including Auschwitz and the Topography of Terror Museum in Berlin. In each location we will think about how personal memories, group identity, and nationalism have shaped memorials and commemorations.

### Of Narratives, Empires, and Republicanism

Monique O'Connell

*Availing a Reynolds Leave, Archie fellowship, and Gladys Krieble Delmas Fellowship, Monique O'Connell spent a year filled with research activities and travels. In her own words:*

This year, thanks to a Reynolds Leave, I have been pursuing my research full-time. My principal project is entitled *Constructing Narratives, Building Empire: Renaissance Republicanism and Venetian Expansion*. It explores a previously overlooked group of Venetian thinkers and politicians who crafted a narrative presenting Venice as a specifically republican empire. The Venetian republic's imperial moment came during the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, when the city-state's program of expansion over cities and peoples in north-central Italy, on the eastern shores of the Adriatic, and in Greece coincided with the

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intellectual ferment of the humanist movement. In 1497, Venetian nobleman Domenico Morosini began composing *De Bene Instituta Re Publica*, a description of an ideal republic that closely resembled Venice. The treatise sharply criticized Venetian territorial expansion in the previous century, pointing to its pernicious effect on government institutions and arguing that a “republican empire cannot defend liberty”; a republic’s role is “not to spread empire but to protect its own liberty.” A generation later, the Florentine political theorist Niccolò Machiavelli wrote, “a city that lives free has two ends: one to acquire, the other to maintain itself free.” While both cite defense of its liberty as a primary characteristic of a republic, they differ sharply on the role territorial expansion should play in that defense. The distance between Morosini and Machiavelli’s conceptions of republican liberty and imperial expansion goes to the heart of the problem that Venetian politicians and authors faced in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. These authors were proud of their city’s independence from foreign domination, representative political institutions, and general concern for liberty but struggled to accommodate policies favoring territorial expansion and domination.

Part of the base for this book project is a database, *Rulers of Venice*, an online edition of the election registers of the Venetian republic which I co-authored. I am now the project director, and this fall I worked on a new user interface and faster search results, which can be seen at the new site [rulersofvenice.com](http://rulersofvenice.com).

I have spent a good part of the year traveling to special library collections. Thanks to an Archie fellowship, I visited the Newberry Library in Chicago this November, where I used their rare books collection. In February and March, I traveled to Venice, Italy, where I used collections at the Biblioteca Marciana and the Archivio di Stato. I also presented a paper at “*The Venetian ‘Commonwealth’ between 1204 and the end of the Republic – identity and specificities*,” a conference sponsored by the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere e Arte and the Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften. Thanks to a Gladys Kriebel Delmas Fellowship, I will return to Venice this summer and continue my research, focusing on a series of humanist histories and ceremonial orations held at the Biblioteca Marciana and some legislative acts held at the Archivio di Stato in Venice.

Between March and June, I am working at the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington, DC. While, as one might guess from the name, the primary focus of the collection is William Shakespeare’s world, there are a significant number of early modern Italian printed books in the collection as well. I have also crossed paths with several recent Wake Forest history graduates, all of whom are enjoying life in the nation’s capital and putting their Wake Forest history degrees to good use!

### Young Men in the Revolutionary War

Jake Ruddiman

*Here’s what Jake Ruddiman writes about his book project and his junior research leave during the year 2012-13.*

Stepping into an archive is like setting foot on a bridge that connects present and past – though sometimes the distance between our world and a distant history can be strikingly short. Last summer, I started my sabbatical leave with a trip to one of my favorite collections – the library of the Society of the Cincinnati in Washington D.C. In the last days of the Revolutionary War, George Washington’s lieutenants established a fraternal society for the officers of the Continental Army. Part political lobbying group, part dinner club, they took their name from the Roman general Cincinnatus, the victorious soldier who laid down his arms and returned to his plow, rejecting further rewards out of republican simplicity. These veteran American officers saw themselves as part of an aristocracy of virtue and talent and proposed that membership in

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their order would descend from father to his eldest son. After generations, the Cincinnati therefore persist – a patriotic and history-minded group who have pulled together a singular collection of manuscripts from the Revolutionary War.

In libraries and archives like this up and down the eastern seaboard, I have sought the relationship between the broad social and political transformations of the American Revolution and the specific experiences of the War for Independence. Early in my research I realized soldiering might offer a key to unlock the question. My book, tentatively titled *Becoming Men of Some Consequence: Youth and Military Service in the American Revolution*, thus explores the choices and experiences of young men in the Revolutionary War. Their elders sowed the wind in 1775 when they chose to fight Britain to defend their liberties, but it was these youths who reaped the whirlwind of war. For this generation, the reality of “going for a soldier” – whether by choice, necessity, or coercion – proved inextricably bound up with their coming of age and pursuits of personal independence. Like the Revolution as a whole, their experience with soldiering both reinforced traditional assumptions and broke open new and radical expectations. On one hand, these young soldiers wanted nothing more than to return to homes and farms of their own, yet on the other they also expected the respect and rewards accorded to citizens.

My book also confronts a common assumption that all soldiers across time and place must be essentially alike – whether before the walls of Troy, on the muddy field at Agincourt, or in the mountains of Afghanistan, the experience and meaning of war boils down to something shared and universal. In fact, my time researching war in early America has convinced me that the meanings that surround taking up arms, experiencing battle, and (ideally) returning home are heavily contingent, and a society’s particular values and structures define their significance.

After all, they say the past is a foreign country. To get there, we have to build bridges and chart passages with the stories, documents, and collections that generous and diligent friends of history have endeavored to preserve and share, from generation to generation.

## STUDENT NEWS

**Emily Bachman** ('13) will be serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA for the next year with Rebuilding Together New York City.

**Blake Briggs** ('13) will be attending Lincoln Memorial University Osteopathic School of Medicine this fall.

**Caroline Culp** ('13) will be interning in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of the Art under the curator of American sculpture, Thayer Tolles. Working as a curatorial intern, she will be helping with various projects for an upcoming exhibition opening this fall, called "The American West in Bronze: 1850-1925." In addition to developing new skills and gaining

valuable work experience, she will attend ongoing programming by the Met's Internship Program, which aims to introduce interns to various facets and issues related to museum professions.

**Timothy Dembo** ('13) will be attending American University Washington College of Law to pursue a J.D. in international law.

**Mandy Emery** ('13) will attend the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Wake Forest University in the Bioethics-MA program beginning this fall. Prior to that, she will be interning with the YMCA of Greater Charlotte as a part of the Intern Leaders School (ISL) Program.

**Brittany Forniotis** ('15) received a Wake Forest Arts & Humanities Research Fellowship to work with Professor Anthony Parent this



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summer. She will be investigating pregnancy narratives of slave women in the American south.

**Yidan Fu** ('14) completed an Internship in History in fall 2012, during which she assisted the director of Museum of Anthropology Dr. Stephen Whittington to construct a permanent exhibition entitled "Chinese Ceramics from the Changsha Kilns: Reflections of Tang Dynasty Openness and Tolerance." In addition to helping the museum put up this exhibition, her internship also involved much historical research on Tang dynasty ceramic manufacture and global trade, jointly directed by Dr. Whittington and Dr. Qiong Zhang.

**Audrey Hite** ('13) will be attending the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia to pursue Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction in Social Studies.

**Mark Huffman** ('13) will be working for Teach for America next fall in Alabama.

**Christopher Iskander** ('13) will be attending Wake Forest University School of Medicine.

**Meenu Krishnan** ('13) will be attending the University of Cambridge to pursue an MPhil in International Relations and Politics.

**Sanders McNair** ('13) will be traveling and working on farms in Israel and in parts of Europe after which he plans to return to U.S. to seek employment in the renewable energy sector or in the food/environmental/energy policy sector.

**Gerard Neely** ('13) will be pursuing M.Sc. in Political Science and Political Economy at the London School of Economics.

**Cana Noel** ('12) will be attending law school in fall 2012 at Temple University as a Conwell merit scholar. Since her graduation in December, she worked as an intern at World Relief in High Point, NC, an organization that works to combat human trafficking,

and at the Center for International Studies at Wake Forest where she assisted in increasing enrollment in summer programs in non-traditional areas.

**Nicholas Reichert** ('13) will be attending the Newhouse School of Public Communications of the University of Syracuse to pursue a Masters degree in Arts (Journalism).

**Margaret Rodgers** ('13) was awarded the English Teaching Assistantship by the Austrian Fulbright Commission and will be relocating to Wels, Austria for one year to teach English.

**Andrew Rodriguez** ('13) will be attending the MA in Management program at Wake Forest University.

**Jeff Shirley** ('13) will be working in Cincinnati with GE aviation in their FMP program. He will also be attempting to thru-hike the Appalachian trail, starting at the very end of June in Maine and hope to be done with it by homecoming so he can come back for the game.

**Jim Simpson** ('13) has accepted a scholarship to attend Duke University School of Law next year to pursue a joint JD/LLM in international law.

**Kevin Sullivan** ('13) will be working in a sales position as a Business Development Associate for CEB (Corporate Executive Board) in Washington, D.C.

**Angela Weaver** ('13) will be interning at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC for six months, working in their Project on Nuclear Issues program. After the internship ends in December, she plans to work in government intelligence agencies.

**Tianchen Wei** ('15) received a Richter Scholarship for summer 2013. She will be visiting several universities in Beijing, Shanghai and Xiamen, China, in May and June to conduct research on the cultures of learning in contemporary Chinese universities. Dr. Qiong Zhang serves as her mentor.



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**Mia Wohl** ('13) presented her senior thesis on resistance and identity among Union prisoners at Andersonville Prison during the Civil War and subsequently revised and expanded it to include prisoner of war experience across time and space under the direction of Dr. Gillespie. After graduating this May, she plans to move to the D.C. area to pursue a career in Public Relations for museums.

## STUDENTSPEAK

### History and Journalism

**Meenu Krishnan ('13)**

*Meenu Krishnan writes about how her background in History helped with her journalistic endeavors and interdisciplinary studies. She published her first single-author piece in July 2012 as part of her internship at The New Republic. You can read her article [here](#).*

Last summer, I interned with *The New Republic*, a politics and arts magazine based in Washington, D.C. As a history major with a strong interest in journalism, I was thrilled to be able to spend three months working alongside some of the best writers in the field. Each day, I would work on a range of projects – research for articles, archival work, and on a few occasions, even conduct some fieldwork for senior editors. The lessons I learned within my history classes – to ask questions, to directly visit the sources, to never view documents as gospel truth – proved useful throughout my internship as I sharpened my journalistic skills. While working on an article about the NRA and gun control, I was thankful for the history department's emphasis on clear and persuasive writing. My history training allowed me to sift through sources, build historical context, and craft a narrative in my story that was ultimately published on *TNR's* website.

History and journalism, as I have come to learn, share significant overlap. Apart from the practical skill set that history has contributed to my journalistic endeavors, I was also able to explore the connections between these two fields in my senior thesis.

The thesis focused on the Mariel exiles, a group of Cuban emigrants to the U.S. in the 1980s, and in particular, on a small band of intellectuals and artists who established *Revista Mariel*, a literary and arts magazine. These individuals used journalism to affirm a group identity and articulate a political message, one that lay counter to popular history's depiction of them. In this way, I saw how journalism could provide a fascinating counter-history; further, the thesis research allowed me to combine my multidisciplinary interests in history, politics, the arts, and journalism. I am thankful to the history department for not only the invaluable classroom

### Researching Lobster Fishery

**Sanders McNair ('13)**

*Based on his research on the lobster fishery in Maine, New England, Sanders McNair shares his experiences of visiting archives on a scholarship and what his project was all about:*

Coming into college, I did not have any intention of majoring in History. But my first History courses at Wake Forest during my sophomore year were so good that I decided to become a major. I can say without hesitation that I made the right move to do so. The professors in the department have really set the history department apart from others on campus. They are truly focused on teaching and I've had the pleasure of getting to know so many of them. Taking history classes has allowed me to explore so many regions of the world, as I've focused much of my study on African and Latin American history. Additionally, this year's History Department book club has been really enjoyable, as both professors and students read biographies of Malcolm X and Marie Curie, which translated into conversations about a variety of topics.

A particular highlight for me was my summer abroad experience in Peru with Wake Forest, where I studied Latin American environmental history in some of the most amazing natural landscapes, from the Amazon rainforest to Machu

## STUDENTSPEAK

Picchu. My passion for environmental history led me to explore the conservation efforts in the Maine lobster fishery under Dr. Emily Wakild, which ultimately led me to my honors thesis under Dr. Simone Caron, entitled “A Crustacean Stuck in the Past: Time and Place in the Maine Lobster Fishery.” The History Department provided funding for me to travel to Maine, where I was able to do archival research at the University of Maine at Orono and the Maine Maritime Museum and was even able to stop by some lobster shacks on the coast of Maine. After graduation, I will be traveling and working on some farms in Europe for an undecided amount of time. I’m currently undecided about a career, though I know it will in some way be related to environmental protection or clean, renewable energy. Throughout my time as a History major, I have grown to appreciate the discipline more and more. I know that all I’ve learned will prepare me for any career that I choose, as historians always have a unique perspective on any subject.

### Understanding Diversity Cana Rose Noel (’12)

*Cana Noel shares how researching a small minority group in India prepares her to better relate to diverse populations and potentially become a better advocate of human rights.*

**I** feel that both of my majors – History and Religion – have significantly prepared me for a career in law. One of the most challenging and rewarding experiences at Wake Forest as a History major was writing my thesis paper in Dr. Rahman’s History 390 course. The research seminar required us to pick a topic in postcolonial South Asia that I had no prior knowledge of and write a thirty page analytical paper. As a Religion major, I studied multiple religions predominantly existing in South Asia, but I had no knowledge of Sikhism. My introduction to the Sikh community in India led me to conduct research on their history. I found that throughout history the Sikhs have

had many altercations with the Indian government and always struggled to solidify their identity, as a minority community. My paper was titled “Tracing the Evolution of Sikh Identity: The Effects of India’s Political Transformation on the Sikh Community,” which I was later able to present at the undergraduate research day sponsored by URECA.

On August 5, 2012, a man in Wisconsin stormed into a Sikh temple and murdered six people and injured several others. When I heard about the incident, I immediately reflected on all my research on the injustice faced by the Sikh community. I was surprised when friends and family members reached out to me for more information. I had told them about my research project and with most people knowing very little about Sikhs, I became a source of information. I never would have imagined that something I did as an undergraduate History major would have so much contemporary significance.

This one experience made me realize that my work as a History major would help me to excel in the legal field, especially in a career in International law and human rights. The Wake Forest History major encourages its students to take courses centered on diverse regions of the world, which as a lawyer, will help me better relate to my clients and their situations. I also have gained valuable analytical skills through researching topics and trying to piece together a narrative of how events occur and why; taking into account various perspectives, facts, and even contradictions. I feel that I now have the necessary tools to interpret facts and make a strong argument, which will be beneficial to my career in Law. Through my major, I have been pushed to understand the history of people and societies around the world that undoubtedly affect contemporary events and my surroundings. I feel that I am now able to better relate to diverse populations and through understanding their history and hardships, I can better advocate for their rights.



# Phi Alpha Theta

The Phi Alpha Theta Honors Society has had a banner year under the supervision of PAT faculty advisor Michele Gillespie and the leadership of Meenu Krishnan and Josh Garrett last fall, and Meenu and Hunter Gay this spring. PAT inaugurated a *Secret Lives of History Professor Series* and a *History Book Club*. In October, Drs. Escott, O'Connell, and Plageman shared their stories and in March, Drs. Caron, Rahman, and Rudiman discussed their road to being a historian. In the Book Club, students read Manning Marable's Manning's *Malcolm X* and Lauren Redniss's graphic book, *Radioactive: Marie and Pierre Curie*.

Four history majors Caroline Culp, Mandy Emery, Ivie Myntti, and Robert Wilson presented their research papers at the regional PAT Conference at Furman University in March, and each paper won its section. Caroline Culp's paper won best overall undergraduate paper prize.

**Caroline Culp** won the Best Undergraduate Conference Paper Overall as well as the best paper in American colonial history with “‘Face Painting’ and the Formation of Feminine Identity: Women Artists of Charleston, South Carolina, 1690-1825.”

**Robert Lewis Wilson, III**, won the best paper in Chinese history with “United States East Asian Foreign Policy and the Potential Beginning of a Transformation of the Republic of China into a Taiwanese State: 1949-1979.”

**Mandy Emery** won the best paper in global history with “West Papua Past and Present: The Effects of the Act of Free Choice on West Papua, Papuan Identity and the Struggle for Freedom.”

**Ivie Myntti** won the best paper in Identity and the South with “‘His Place in Our Social Order’: Stanley Harris and the Interracial Committee of the boy Scouts of America, 1926-1947.”

At the fall induction ceremony, award-winning George Mason Historian Cynthia Kierner talked with students about her new book on Martha Jefferson, and this spring best-selling author and Wake Forest alum Doug Waller discussed how he researches and writes non-fiction books.

WFU History majors and winners of paper prizes at the regional PAT Conference held at Furman University in March 2013: Ivie, Mandy, Caroline, and Robert (from left to right)



## STUDENT AWARDS

The History Department gives numerous competitive prizes to students each spring. Here's the list of this year's winners and the titles of their papers:

**1. The David W. Hadley Prize for Historical Writing at the 100 Level**

**Robert E. Maloney**, "The Role of the Observer in *Germania* and *Ibn Battuta in Black Africa*."

**2. The W.J. Cash Award for Research in Southern Studies**

**Ivie M. Myntti**, "His Place in our Social Order': Stanley Harris and the Interracial Committee of the Boy Scouts of America, 1926-1947."

**3. The C. Chilton Pearson Prize in US History**

**Meenu Krishnan**, "The Decantation of 'Truths': Recasting the Mariel Generation, 1980-1985."

**Sanders S. McNair**, "A Crustacean Stuck in the Past: Time and Place in the Maine Lobster Fishery."

**4. The Forrest W. Clonts Research Prize in European History**

**Joshua S. Garrett**, "Patronage, Cultural Appropriation and Collective Identity: State Sponsored Projects of Urban Renewal in Sixteenth-Century Lisbon and Venice."

**5. The Forrest W. Clonts Award for Excellence in History** (This award is given to an outstanding history student each year )

**Meenu Krishnan**



Joshua Garrett and Meenu Krishnan with Dr. Michele Gillespie at the annual Honors and Awards Banquet, May 1, 2013.

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**Rebecca Adams** ('09) will be graduating with an MA in history from UNC-Greensboro in May and will be attending George Mason University to get her PhD starting this fall.

**Beverly Beal** ('68) recently retired as a North Carolina Superior Court Judge. She is now an emergency superior court judge and continues to work as a member of the Pattern Jury Committee for judges, composing and editing jury instructions given by judges to juries throughout the state. Beal has also been appointed to the State Bar Disciplinary Hearings Commission. In addition, she volunteers at the Caldwell Heritage Museum.

**Jeannie Blake** ('07) graduated from Campbell Law School in 2010 and has opened her own law practice in her hometown of Troy, NC.

**John Walter Bryant** ('76) practices law in Raleigh and is the principal in his own firm.

**Jessica Carlton** ('10) is a Research Associate at CoStar Group, an IT consulting and services company in DC. The firm she is working for is a real estate research and information firm, and she has earned a Masters in History from American University.

**Carolyn H. Carter** ('74) retired from a career as Assistant City Manager - Operations for the City of Raleigh, NC and currently serves as Adjunct Professor in the School of Public and International Affairs at North Carolina State University.

**Barry Clendenin** ('67) will teach for the fifth summer as an adjunct faculty at George Mason University's School of Public Policy. His summer course is titled "Health Reform's Policy Challenges in the 21st Century" and in the fall 2013, he will teach "U.S. Financial Policy, Processes and Procedures."

**Thomas A. Cloud** ('05) is an attorney with GrayRobinson in Orlando, FL. He represented seven municipalities that fought to have purchase

options included in their power company agreements.

**Pete Daniel** published his most recent book, *Dispossession: Discrimination against African American Farmers in the Age of Civil Rights* (University of North Carolina Press) in April. He is retired from the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

**Frederick Michael (Mike) Davis** ('71) has been named one of the top ten political "influencers" in North Carolina by Campaigns & Election magazine. Davis has been involved professionally in Tar Heel politics for more than 40 years and since 1994 has been President of his own strategic communications and political consulting firm in Raleigh. He has worked on, managed or consulted with Democratic campaigns for Governor, Lt. Governor, US Senate, US House, NC Council of State offices, state judicial and legislative races, and local government.

**Sidney Eagles** ('61) is a retired Judge of the NC Court of appeals (1983-2004) and now heads the Smith Moore Leatherwood LLP North Carolina Appellate practice group in Raleigh. Eagles has been notified of his selection as a Fellow in the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers. He is one of four North Carolina members in the 200 member national organization.

**Anne Marie Goslak** ('90) left her position as the Executive Director for The First Tee of the Triad in June last year to return to teaching golf full time at Oak Valley Golf Club.

**Lauren Hales** ('08) is graduating this May with a Masters of Public Administration from North Carolina State University.

**Dave Hartley** ('70) retired three years ago after teaching history and theatre for 38 years at the high school and college level. He volunteers at Paynes Prairie Preserve State Park, outside Gainesville, FL and tries to make it to Wake home games and occasional basketball or other



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events. Drs. Smiley, Zuber, McDowell, Hadley, Schoonmaker, and Mullen continue to inspire his love for history, and always will.

**Kyle Haney** ('08) is graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill with a Masters of Public Administration this May and will be moving into a job in local government management.

**Elizabeth Betts Hickman** ('90) joined in February 2013 the Nashville, TN law firm of Callahan Witherington, PLLC ([www.cwfirm.com](http://www.cwfirm.com)) where she focuses on estate and trust administration and estate planning.

**Mark Hofmann** ('74) recently marked his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Crain Communications. He is currently senior editor of Business Insurance magazine in Crain's Washington DC bureau. He and his wife Laurie live in North Potomac, MD.

**Larry Ingle** ('58) published an article "Richard Nixon, Whittaker Chambers, Alger Hiss, and Quakerism," in the Spring 2012 issue of *Quaker History* and is working on his book project tentatively entitled, *The First Cover-up: Richard Nixon's Evangelical Quakerism*.

**Joseph LaMountain** ('89) is a Vice President of Reingold, a strategic communications and marketing firm in Alexandria, Virginia. He also serves on the faculty of Georgetown University where he teaches a graduate-level course on grassroots communications and word-of-mouth marketing. The course examines social movements throughout history and how candidates, companies and causes can use their best practices to achieve their business objectives.

**Sam Marrero** ('06) works for the Department of Defense as a Research Analyst at the Conflict Records Research Center (CRRC) in the National Defense University, where he focuses primarily on the Al-Qaeda captured document collection. After graduating from Wake Forest, he received his master's

degree from the Monterey Institute of International Studies in International Trade Policy and spent the summer of 2009 in Cairo on a Critical Language Scholarship and held the US Government's Boren Fellowship in Egypt and Jordan during 2010-11. Presently, Marrero also does Arabic Cultural consulting with the De Beaufort Group. In addition, he volunteers as a bicycle tour guide with the National Park Service, helping to give historical-themed tours of the monuments on the National Mall. In 2013, he was elected to be the District 1 Representative for the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, where he focuses his civic efforts on environmental and educational initiatives.

**Robert B. McCormick** ('86) is an associate professor of history and serves as the chair of the Department of History, Political Science, Philosophy, American Studies, and Religion at the University of South Carolina Upstate.

**Joe Millsaps** ('57) graduated in the class that was the first on the "New Campus." After a brief six months of active duty with the U.S Army, he pursued law at Wake Forest and has recently completed 50 years of law practice in Charlotte (in 2011). He focuses primarily on Wills and Trusts, Estate Administration, and Residential Real Estate.

**A.J. Morton, Jr.** ('59) has been actively involved with the North Carolina Jaycees and was honored with its JCI Senatorship. He has compiled a History of NC Jaycees and will be happy to share it with anyone interested.

**Anna (Nicodemus) Newman** ('10) is teaching eighth grade in New Mexico on an Indian reservation.

**Will Norton** ('03) currently teaches History at a High School in Nashville where he also serves as Dean.

**Dawn Opel** ('99) is currently pursuing a PhD in Rhetoric, Composition, and Linguistics at

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Arizona State University.

**Kara Peruccio** ('11) is completing her first year as a MA student in Middle Eastern History at the University of Chicago. She has just been awarded a highly competitive Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship for her second year.

**Jamey Peters** ('93) was recently named Partner of Ketchum, a leading global communications firm. He lives in Dallas, TX with his wife and four children.

**Edward F. Pincar Jr.** ('05) was selected as a Syracuse University Graduate Fellow for the 2013-2014 academic year and will begin to pursue a Master in Public Administration at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs this July.

**Robert J Ramseur, Jr.** ('92) has been elected President of the Real Estate Lawyers Associations of North Carolina, Inc. (RELANC), a trade association of over 350 real estate lawyers from across the state. Ramseur's practice at Ragsdale Liggett focuses exclusively on residential and commercial real estate transactions. He is a partner and chairs the Residential Real Estate Law section at the firm which has been named the best real estate law firm in the Triangle by Metro magazine for eight consecutive years.

**Scott Reiter** ('90) was recently promoted to Vice President, RPAC and Political Affairs, at the National Association of Realtors. Scott has worked at NAR for the last 14 years after working on campaigns and on Capitol Hill. He lives in North Potomac, MD with his wife Leah and daughters Maddie and Ellie.

**Roscoe Roberts** ('75) attended Marshall-Wythe School of Law at the College of William and Mary in 1978 and began practicing. For nearly 30 years, he has served as an Assistant Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Virginia practicing law at various times as a litigator, health lawyer and higher education attorney, serving as legal counsel for James Madison University, George Mason University,

Christopher Newport University and Virginia State University. Currently, he is general counsel for Virginia State. Last fall, he was inducted into the Class of 2012 for Virginia's "Leaders in the Law" by Virginia Lawyers Weekly.

**John I. Sanders** ('07) and his wife (Jessica, '07) will be returning to Winston-Salem in the fall to attend the Wake Forest School of Law.

**Jim Schafer** ('67) is retired and enjoys visiting battlefields and rekindling his interest in History. He loves taking friends and family who visit Gettysburg to the battlefield. This summer, he plans to visit the battlefields in Chancellorsville and Fredericksburg himself.

**Karl P Sondermann** ('03), a Major in the U.S. Army, will receive his Masters of Science in Historic Preservation (MSHP) from the Clemson University/College of Charleston Joint Historic Preservation Program located in Charleston, South Carolina. Sondermann has been on temporary assignment over the past two years with the U.S. Army after being awarded the opportunity to pursue his advanced degree with the U.S. Army's Advance Civil Schooling award. After graduating, Karl is being reassigned to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas to attend the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College.

**Virginia Spofford** ('11) is a Masters student at the Bard Graduate Center in New York, NY. She will be interning in Washington, DC this summer at the State Department Diplomatic Reception Rooms.

**Craig A. Taylor** ('98) was hired as General Counsel of Kisco Senior Living, LLC in October.

**Roshan R. Varghese** ('03) is serving as a teacher of the United States History and World History and Sociology in David W. Butler High School, Matthews, NC.

**Hall Wang** ('08) is serving at the Combat Outpost Honaker-Miracle in Kunar Province,

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Afghanistan (near the eastern Afghan/Pakistani border) as an Intelligence Officer with the 101st Airborne Division.

**Beth Ann Williams** ('10) will attend the University of Illinois to pursue a Ph.D. in African History in the Fall of 2013. Her admission and receipt of a prestigious five-year Illinois Distinguished Fellowship, which carries a \$25,000 stipend, full tuition, and insurance, will enable her to study the how women's religious organizations in urban Kenya conceptualized, and contributed to, the context of political independence from British colonial rule.

**Jeff Williams** ('94) is a program evaluator for several U.S. federal non-proliferation efforts, and is nearing the end of his PhD work in Science and Technology Policy at The George Washington University. He and his family live in Arlington, VA.

**John Wood** ('74) was appointed the chairman in 1989 and the CEO in 1996 of Sally Corporation, a dark ride and animatronic manufacturing company based in Jacksonville. Wood has long been a director of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions, Themed Entertainment Assn. (TEA), a governor of the prestigious Applause Award and a member of the International Association of Fairs and Exhibitions. Currently, he serves on the IAAPA Service Award Committee and as a member of the TEA International Board. Wood is also a director and past president of the Greater Jacksonville Fair Association and is active in the Boy Scouts of America.



## ALUMNISPEAK

### **Living History** **Elizabeth Betts Hickman ('90)**

*Estate and trust attorney Hickman reminisces her time at Worrell House in London and how History helped her through different careers and how it continues to matter – every day.*

**M**y mother, a retired history teacher, is fond of the term 'living history,' since we all 'live history' every day in our own lives, our communities, and indeed the world at large. As usual, she's totally correct.

I truly love history – loved it the minute I figured out what it was, loved it in AP U.S. History in high school, loved it at Wake Forest. Now that I've recovered from law school I enjoy reading biographies for fun - and if you haven't read Sally Bedell Smith's biography of Queen Elizabeth II or the biography of William Randolph Hearst, by all means get them – and enjoy a brilliant overview of the twentieth century.

While so many History majors choose to go straight to law school, I took a scenic path that involved a short stint abroad in England after graduation, an 11-year journalism career in Fortune 500 magazine publishing, and more recently, banking and estate and trust law. In every instance, my History degree from Wake Forest opened doors. It's true – it's never too late. Don't be afraid to change horses. I knew all along I'd end up in law, but it just took me awhile to get there, and I enjoyed every step along the way. I encourage others to do the same.

During the fall 1989 term of my senior year at Wake Forest I was fortunate to join the history department and study at Worrell House in London, which was a life-changing experience. Travel is so crucial to understanding our world, and with Wake having a gorgeous 'home base' in London, how could I resist? I remain indebted to my



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parents for encouraging my study and travel abroad and allowing this luxury. Studying British history while living in Great Britain brought my studies into focus, and I'll never forget hours spent in the National Portrait Gallery, the inspiring library/dining room at Worrell House, and in my favorite house museum in the world, the Sir John Soane Museum. It was truly a highlight of my academic experience and my life, and sharing this experience with a smart and fun group of fellow Wake Foresters meant the world.

My many hours spent studying History provided the perfect training for my journalism and legal career. Writing? Of course. Research? No problem. Distilling complex documents into manageable pieces? Bring it on. I believe studying history lends a certain fearless quality, which definitely comes in handy along the way.

History is indeed happening every day, everywhere. Pay attention and don't miss it. As the journalism cliché goes, "it's all about the story," and indeed, the true stories of history are the best...every day.

### A Career in Research

Sam Marrero ('06)

*Marrero shares his story of what sparked his initial interest in a History class eventually turned into a full-fledged career as a research analyst:*

**M**y freshman seminar class on the North Atlantic slave trade with Dr. Anthony Parent convinced me to pursue a History major at Wake Forest. That was the fall of 2002, just one year after 9/11. In his erudite and encouraging manner, Dr. Parent taught me about the experiences of the earliest West African Muslims coming to the Americas. In my junior year, I took Kent McConnell's class "Islam in America," which touched on similar themes. Professor McConnell's class looked at the educational and political-organizing power of the Nation of Islam of the twentieth-century America. Coincidentally, Wake began offering Arabic as an elective around the same time. Many of my peers were so inspired by what we had learned from "Islam in America" that we decided to sign up for "Arabic 111" together.

When I applied for the federal government's Critical Language Scholarship to go to Cairo, Egypt in the summer of 2009, I drew upon the socio-political themes from Professor McConnell's class. Egypt had just suffered the effects of the Global Food Crisis of 2008, and Egyptians were beginning to show signs of political organization. The Critical Language Scholarship transformed my Arabic ability from classroom practice to the immediacy of street interaction. I began to really master the Egyptian dialect.

The following year, I received the federal government's Boren Fellowship, which seeks to advance Americans' aptitude of "Critical Languages" by sending students abroad to study languages and research topics that affect American security. By 2010, labor unrest, unemployment and increasing food prices in Egypt had reached a critical point. With an impending "election" in November 2011, I argued in my application that I should be in Egypt to address political stability considering Egypt's role as America's most important ally in the Middle East.

Six months into my one-year fellowship, the very issues I had identified in my application snowballed.

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Following the spark from the Tunisian revolution, Egypt erupted into political unrest. I lived with an Egyptian family in the Saad Zaghloul neighborhood a five minute walk south of Tahrir Square. I was right in the middle of the action. The rest is history.

Now I am a researcher at the Conflict Records Research Center (CRRC) at the National Defense University, which is a Department of Defense institution located on Fort McNair in Washington, DC. I steward the Al-Qaeda captured document collection, which allows me to do independent research to unearth our most valuable seized documents. Much of the CRRC's mission is to release important seized documents into the academic community in a secure way, and part of my job is to review documents to make sure they pass various checks prior to release.

Wake Forest's "Pro Humanitate" motto has guided me as I seek to become a well-rounded young professional. I volunteer as a bicycle tour guide with the National Park Service, helping to give historical-themed tours of the monuments on the National Mall. In March 2013, I was elected to be the District 1 Representative for Washington DC's Southwest Neighborhood Assembly (SWNA), where I help direct civic efforts to environmental and educational initiatives. Lying along the Potomac River and south of the National Mall, Southwest is perhaps the most historic of D.C.'s four quadrants. Additionally, I consult on Arabic language, culture and history with the Washington D.C.-based strategy firm de Beaufort Group LLP.

### Public History and Museums Virginia Spofford ('11)

*As an emerging museum professional, Spofford writes about how to capitalize on your passion for objects of the past and work on building a career out of it:*

**A**s a History major, I was told that I could utilize my degree to go into virtually any career since the learned skills of researching, writing, and analyzing are valuable in many different fields. However, I realized that what I enjoyed most was the actual subject matter and learning about the people, places, and events of the past. This has led me to a career path in public history and museums in particular. Participating in Professor Blee's 2011 Public History course the spring of my senior year along with completion of internships at various institutions solidified this decision and today I would consider myself what the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) defines as an "Emerging Museum Professional (EMP)."

I quickly learned that the main difference between history in academia and history in museums is the focus on gaining information from print sources vs. objects. As a result, I am now supplementing my historical studies at Wake Forest with a graduate degree in decorative arts and material culture. These subjects construct the past through the consideration of artifacts from a large variety of approaches ranging from art history to anthropology to sociology. Thus, I consistently use my liberal arts education and in a sense continue it in a more focused manner.

If you are interested in applying your discipline to objects, I would highly suggest stepping out of Wake Forest and volunteer or intern at one of the many cultural institutions minutes away in Winston-Salem and the surrounding community, or in any part of the country or world for that matter. I was also able to mix history and anthropology in my Thesis Seminar and this is a wonderful opportunity for stu-

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-dents to explore interdisciplinary approaches or to incorporate object analysis into a historical argument.

As there is no one, definitive “right way” to go about it, the best way to maneuver your own career path is to seek advice from people working in the field. As a recent alumnus, I myself am figuring things out as I go, but in general it is understood that the field has recently become more professionalized. This means that museums are hiring candidates preferably with a masters or doctorate degree as well as practical experience. My particular program at Bard Graduate Center comprises mostly of students in their 20’s coming from many academic backgrounds and with 0-5 prior years in the work force.

There is also a wide range of graduate degrees including museum studies, public history, and decorative arts, not to mention traditional history and art history programs offering museum certificates. I suggest doing your own research and possibly taking time to intern in the field for an extended period of time in order to be sure of the direction you would like to take. The AAM is a great source of information and an EMP blog (<http://emergingprofessionals.wordpress.com/>) publishes program reviews provided by students themselves. While this may all seem a bit daunting, public history is rewarding for people following their passion and who embrace life-long learning. If you have an interest in objects of the past, I strongly encourage incorporating decorative arts and material culture into your future.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING SYMPOSIUM ON CIVIL WAR

Professors Paul Escott, Michele Gillespie, and Tony Parent in the History Department, along with the staff of North Carolina's Office of Archives and History, are organizing a symposium on the Civil War to be held on **Friday, October 18, 2013** on our campus.

The symposium is titled, “Lay My Burden Down:” Freedom and the Legacies of the Civil War.” Distinguished speakers will include Ira Berlin, Thavolia Glymph, Heather Williams, Bill Link, Susan O’Donovan, David Cecelski, and Tim Tyson. The first day of events in Winston-Salem will include an address by Hari Jones, Assistant Director and Curator of the African American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C. Vital support for the symposium comes from our Department, from the Dean's office and the Provost's office, and from the Wake Forest Humanities Institute and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

### ALUMNI HOMECOMING RECEPTION

The History Department will hold an Alumni Reception during Homecoming this coming Fall.

**Date:** Friday, October 18, 2013

**Time:** 4:30 - 5:30 pm.

**Location:** Tribble Hall Lobby





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