

FALL 2018



UNIVERSITY OF
GEORGIA
Department of History
*Franklin College of
Arts and Sciences*

The Record

**The Newsletter of the University of Georgia
Department of History**

Notes from the Chair

As always, we had a busy year in the History Department, but one activity stands out among others. We launched a new Summer History Fellows Program, a four-week summer residency to introduce undergraduates from underrepresented groups to the study of history at the graduate level. Think of it as a kind of history boot camp. We admitted five fellows into our inaugural class, drawn from Morehouse, Tuskegee, and other universities around the South. Under the direction of Dr. Chana Kai Lee, they took part in workshops with various faculty, dug into the Russell Library's archival collections, participated in digital history projects, and learned more generally about graduate school and the kinds of work that history graduate students pursue.

John and Kay Parker have made a three-year commitment to the program, and they hosted a celebratory reception for the history fellows and participating faculty. We are grateful to them for their truly generous support. The program has the potential to change the lives of the participants. One of the Department's alumni, Dr. Herbert Denmark, who graduated as a history major thirty-five years ago, writes that at UGA he "got a chance to explore and learn more about Black history." He went on to receive a doctorate and says that he could not have done so without a UGA education. We hope that our summer history program will have a similarly transformative effect on the participants and that it will inspire them to pursue a graduate degree in the humanities or, even better, in history.

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Foundation Fellow

Emma Hale

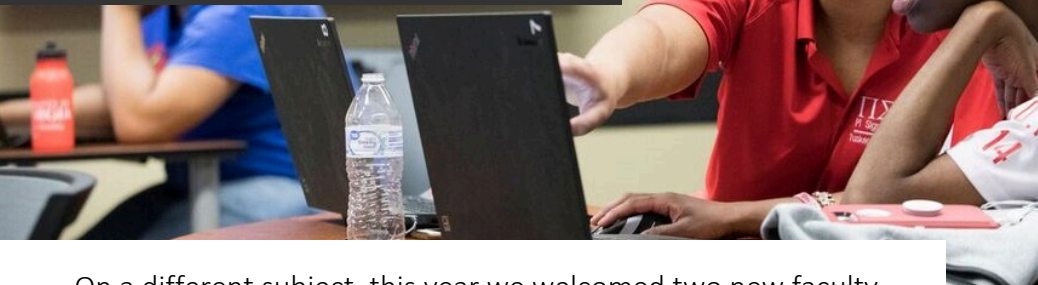
History is proud to welcome new Foundation Fellow Emma Hale to Georgia. An honors history student, women's studies minor and UGA orchestra member, Hale is also involved in the local community. She participates in the Athens Prison Tutorial program and the Roosevelt Institute and will be Communications Director for the Backpack Project.

The Foundation Fellowship is UGA's premier academic undergraduate scholarship.





Notes from the Chair,
continued -



On a different subject, this year we welcomed two new faculty members to the Department, Cassia Roth and Tim Yang. Dr. Roth, a specialist in Brazilian history, arrived from UCLA via Edinburgh, where she spent last year as a Marie Curie fellow. Dr. Yang, a graduate of Columbia University, was an assistant professor at Pacific University before joining our Department to teach East Asian History. These two stellar additions to our faculty are both profiled inside the newsletter.

As we continue to expand and diversify our undergraduate and graduate offerings, we would be grateful for your support. We use donations to aid students who pursue archival research, participate in our Washington Summer Program in Public History, and attend our new History Summer Fellows Program. Finally, I should note that this will be my final year as Department Head. We mercifully have term limits, and next year the Department will welcome new leadership.

Wishing you a healthy and happy holiday season –

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

“This certificate could not have been more perfect...I will be able to follow my original path of teaching history, and now have the opportunity and ability to follow my passion of museum work one day.” (Emily Whittier, history major)

New Museum Studies Certificate Program Finds a Home in History

The University of Georgia is pleased to announce a new interdisciplinary museum studies certificate program. Open to undergraduate and post-baccalaureate students alike, this innovative program will prepare students for careers in museums, public history, education, non-profits, and graduate education in a wide range of disciplines.

The museum studies certificate has been under development for several years. While initiated by the Georgia Museum of Art, the program is housed in UGA’s Department of History and advised by an interdisciplinary steering committee: Dr. Akela Reason, an Associate Professor of History; James Reap in Historic Preservation; and Callan Steinmann from the Georgia Museum of Art.

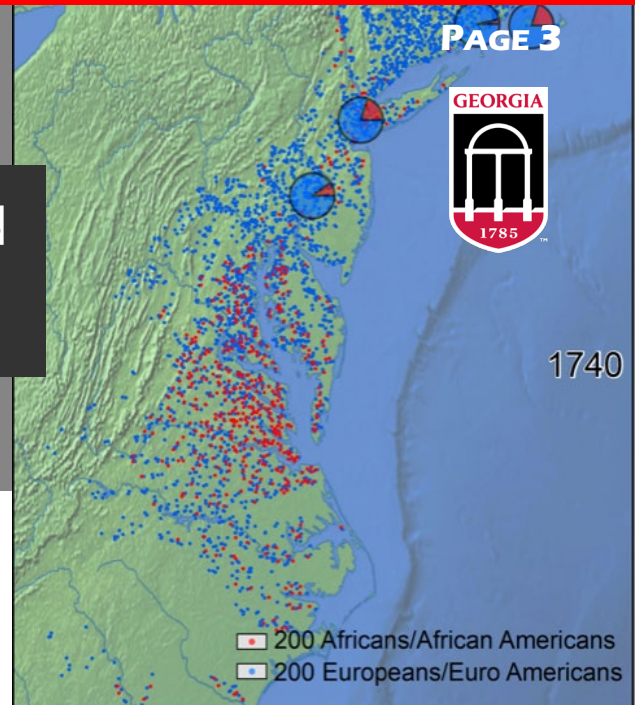
Students have already expressed their enthusiasm for the new museum studies certificate, and the certification’s interdisciplinary elements have attracted students from a wide range of backgrounds and majors. Interested in both historical preservation and museums, history major Caitlyn McSwigan is pursuing the certificate “to continue taking historic preservation classes, and also learn more about how museums and historic preservation are interconnected” in order to better understand the “role and function of museums.” Emily Whittier, an undergraduate student majoring in Social Studies Education, hopes this new certificate will help her fulfill her dreams to teach and work in public history.

Georgia's History Faculty Awarded Prestigious NEH Grants

Faculty in the History Department continue to receive national recognition for ground-breaking research conducted over this past year. Dr. Stephen Mihm, Associate Professor of History, and Dr. Claudio Saunt, Richard B. Russell Professor in American History and Department Chair, were each recently awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities for current research projects.

Stephen Mihm's project probes at the foundational structures and systems around which all of our twenty-first century lives revolve. Standards governing the most seemingly quotidian items – from average paper dimensions to uniform screw threads – illustrate a broader movement to apply method and order to national and even global concepts and industries. Standardization represents an order, method, and stability which allows governments, multinational corporations, and the average consumer to operate with confidence and ease in a world which is growing ever more connected by the day. The project outlines an increasing societal obsession with organization in the late nineteenth century driven by engineers and experts—the “forgotten visionaries”—seeking to bring order to chaos.

Claudio Saunt's newest project, “Mapping the People of Early America,” continues the Department's well-noted and celebrated association with Digital History. Saunt seeks to map the demographic transformation in early America that remade the continent and shaped the modern world.



The decline of the indigenous population from war and disease, the enslavement and transportation of Africans across the Atlantic, and the influx of tens of thousands of European colonists transformed the demography of the Americas. Yet even after a century of professional scholarly research, this great transformation remains unmapped. Saunt asks a simple and fundamental question: “Who lived where and when did they live there?” Until now, historians have only been able to work with rudimentary numbers and crude approximations, and our inability to visualize this transformation has limited our understanding of early American history and stifled the pursuit of deeper historical questions.

Saunt's project, developed in collaboration with scholars from both the University of Georgia and the Georgia Institute of Technology, builds on a comprehensive demographic database and presents years of archival research in a searchable mapping website. Site visitors will be able to model trends over a particular period of time in a specific place. Saunt's research is supported by a two-year NEH Humanities Collections and Reference Resources grant of \$185,000.

- Special thanks to the students and faculty in history who contributed their writing to the 2018 newsletter, especially Tracy Barnett, Jeffrey Jones, Matthew O'Neal, Terrell Orr, and Lauren Titley.
- Did you graduate from UGA with a history degree? Tell us what you're doing now. Visit our website and complete the alumnus/a update form at <https://hist.franklin.uga.edu/alumnusa-update-form>, or find a link to alumni profiles on our 'Why Study History' page on the site.
- Did you know we are on social media? Follow us, like us, RT us @UGAHistory on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.



Welcoming New Faculty and Graduate Students

Introducing: Timothy Yang, Assistant Professor in History. *Yang's teaching and research interests include East Asian history, imperialism, the history of science and medicine, the history of business and capitalism, and the relationship between history and memory.*

Tell us about your research. I'm presently working on a book project tentatively titled "Drugs and the Business of Empire in Modern Japan." It is a microhistory of a Japanese drug company in the early twentieth century. I use this company as a way to analyze how the drug industry developed globally, outside of the research laboratory when medicinal production depended on natural resources rather than synthetically produced derivatives that became increasingly common after World War II. I examine how its development depended on the expansion of the Japanese state and its empire and how this industry helped spread the idea of modern medicine, as a matter-of-fact, humanitarian good. Sometimes the industry was successful, but often it was not. It's a combination of a history of business and capitalism and a history of medicine. Most of the chapters are organized around medicines as commodities. It examines medicines such as patent medicines, morphine, and quinine, and it traces not only how they were produced but also how they were distributed, marketed, and consumed.

How does your research inform your teaching? Although the book focuses on modern Japan, it's really a global history of pharmaceuticals that explores various connections across Japan's empire as well as, transnationally, to places in South America, to Europe, to the United States. When I teach, I always try to emphasize interconnections. For example, when I'm teaching a survey, like a history of modern Japan, I always stress the commonalities that exist. So when I teach Japan's industrial revolution in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, I have students think about places that are undergoing similar sorts of phenomenon. There are classes that I plan to offer that are related directly to my research as well. "Imperialism in Asia" is a class that I hope to have on the books soon. Another is a commodity history of drugs and medicine in the modern world, which hopefully could be an upper-level undergraduate seminar or a graduate course. And I'm interested, of course, in developing a more cohesive and comprehensive Asian studies curriculum.

How do you see UGA helping to advance your research? I really appreciate that there are a lot of scholars at UGA that have overlapping interests, such as the history of capitalism, the history of medicine, and the history of imperialism and colonialism. They might work on different regions or even different time periods, but they work on similar themes, and interacting with them and their work will help me improve my own work.

Victoria Do, LEADing our new 2018-19 graduate class!

Victoria Do is a first year doctoral student, awarded a competitive Graduate School Research Assistantship, and selected to participate in the Graduate Scholars Leadership, Engagement, and Development Program (GS LEAD) sponsored by the National Science Foundation.

Why history—have you always had a love for it? No, actually. I struggled with it, and I'm not really sure why, but I was always better at math and science. I think part of it... is that my parents immigrated to this country from Vietnam in 1975. My dad was military personnel, and he has this fantastic story of flying out of a base in a C-130 under gunfire.

(Continued on the next page)



Welcome to History, continued -

Introducing: Cassia Roth, Assistant Professor in History and Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Tell us about your research. My research broadly looks at gender, medicine, and slavery in Brazil and the larger Atlantic World. My current project, which is called “Birthing Abolition: Enslaved Reproduction and the Gradual Abolition of Slavery in Brazil,” looks at enslaved women’s reproductive health and practices and how slave owners’ and politicians’ views of those practices and trends informed the legal maneuvering to end slavery.

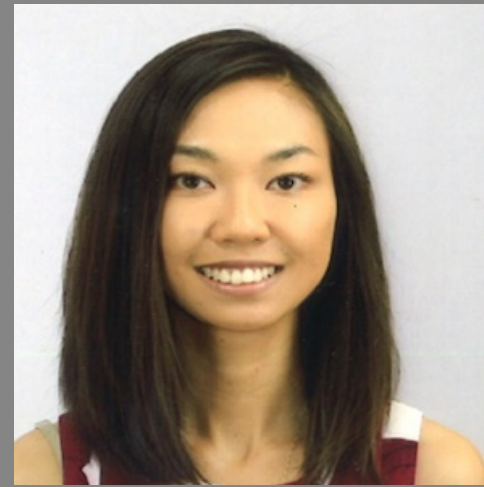
How does your research inform your teaching? I would say that all of my classes, whether the History of Brazil, or Introduction to Latin American Studies, which I’m teaching in the spring, include these lenses of gender, race, and, to a lesser extent, medicine. I’m really of the mindset that we have to stop looking at gender as if it’s separate. It doesn’t necessarily need to be in a separate class or defined separately in the title of the class to include it as a main component of the course. When teaching the History of Brazil, I can teach about the politics of liberalism and then also talk about how abolition was a gendered process, and that doesn’t have to be called “Gender and the History of Brazil.” Even for classes without a title naming them, this idea of gender and race and their intersection are very much a core



part of the reading, the assignments, and the discussions.

How do you see UGA helping to advance your research?

Concretely, I’ve been accepted for the UGA/Liverpool faculty exchange. I have a colleague who works on emancipation and post-emancipation in Jamaica in the history department there, and we are interested in understanding emancipation and abolition in the long nineteenth century as not a “before and after,” but as a longer, messier process. Where there was emancipation and abolition, what did that mean for formerly enslaved people and how did that affect other countries? So we’re trying to connect actions in the British Caribbean to later developments the British take in Brazil and how that effected the lives of enslaved people in both places. Liverpool was a huge slave trading port, and it has the international slavery museum, and the fact that UGA has this exchange is amazing.



Victoria Do, continued -

Within a span of a week, my mom left, then my dad left, and then the capital fell. So with things like politics, or the typical American culture or experience, even though we read some really powerful books in school, I couldn’t engage with them because I didn’t have the background to know why they were so important.

You mentioned your research interests, what are they? Vietnamese immigration to the U.S. South is the tagline. I’m looking at, ultimately, immigration history, while incorporating elements of cultural, legal, and transnational history. As far the timeline goes, I plan to start after the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, but recently I am finding that I need to push it back to the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965. I’m starting from scratch since my master’s thesis was on a different topic, so I feel like I’m still figuring things out.

Why did you choose UGA? I knew that UGA had a strong Southern history program, which was something I wanted my research to have. I really wanted that component to my research. And then, Cindy Hahamovitch was here. Reading her work convinced me that I could combine my interests in immigration with Southern history.



Jamie Kreiner, Awarded 2017-2018 Institute for **Advanced Study Mellon Fellowship for Assistant Professors**, and two article prizes (**Wayne D. Rasmussen Award** from the Agricultural History Society, and **William Koren, Jr. Prize** from the Society for French Historical Studies).

Stephen Mihm's new book is *The Life of P.T. Barnum, Written by Himself* (Bedford Series in History and Culture) Bedford/St. Martin, October 2017.

Mihm received the **Arthur Molella Fellowship at the Smithsonian** in 2017 and an **NEH Public Scholar Grant** for his project *Industrial and Technical Standards in Modern Life*.

Scott Reynolds Nelson is at work on a coauthored multi-volume history of the South for UNC Press. He has completed a long chapter on the Bourbon South, from 1877 to 1910. In March 2018, he was visiting professor at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales in Paris. He presented four chapters of his forthcoming book about the effect of cheap American wheat on the Ottoman, Qing, and Russian Empires. The tentative title is "From Lincoln to Lenin."

Cassia Roth has a number of new articles published recently, including "Policing Pregnancy: Poverty, Reproduction, and the Law in Early Twentieth-Century Rio de Janeiro," *Journal of Women's History* 27, no. 4 (2017): 85-108; and "From Free Womb to Criminalized Woman: Fertility Control in Brazilian Slavery and Freedom," *Slavery & Abolition* 38, no. 2 (2017): 269-286.

Roth received a **2018 Honorable Mention, Humanities Article Prize**, Brazil Section, Latin American Studies Association (LASA), and the **2018 Berkshire Conference on Women Historians' Article Prize** in the Field of Gender, Women, and/or Sexuality.

Kaitlin Dotson (M.A. student) received a paraprofessional grant from the Georgia Library Association to attend the Georgia Libraries Conference and a one-year membership in GLA. Dotson also received The Anthony R. Dees Pre-Conference Workshop Scholarship from the Society of Georgia to attend the Pre-Conference workshops hosted by SGA.

Jeffrey C. Jones (M.A. student) used the Gregory research award to work in the British Library and the Society of Antiquaries of London in May and early June.

Laura E. Nelson (M.A. '18) received the 2018 Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records, Graduate Level from the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council (GHRAC) for her M.A. Thesis, "A 'Miserable Creature' or 'Remarkable Man': Wilkes Flagg and the Ambiguity of Race in Nineteenth-Century Middle Georgia."

James Owen (Ph.D. student) received the Newberry Library-American Musicological Society Fellowship for his project "Singing the Holy Ghost: Hymn-Singing and Hymn Interpretation at Moravian Missions." Owen also received a 2018-19 Graduate School Completion Award.

In the spring of 2018 **Ben Ehlers** was appointed **Director of Franklin Residential College**, a living-learning community housed in Rutherford Hall. He works with the Academic Adviser in Residence and student leaders to organize academic, service learning, and social events for residents. Activities in fall 2018 included a trip to the Theatrical Outfit in Atlanta to see *The Book of Will*, a play about Shakespeare's First Folio; and a reenactment of the 1862 Royal Society debate over whether to award a prize to Charles Darwin for his *Origin of Species*.

Claudio Saunt's project "Mapping the People of Early America" was recently awarded a NEH grant (outright: \$185,176) for the completion of a database and web platform that maps the African, Native, and European populations in North America 1500 to 1790.

Montgomery Wolf received a \$7,500 grant to participate in the six-week 2018 UGA Active Learning Summer Institute through the Center for Teaching and Learning.

Derrick Angermeier (Ph.D. student) received a Graduate Fellowship of the Berlin Seminar in Transnational European Studies, May 2018. Angermeier also received a 2018 Graduate School Summer Doctoral Research Fellowship, April 2018, and a Virginia Historical Society 2018 Mellon Research award.



**COMMIT TO
OUR FUTURE.**

The History Department actively supports undergraduate students who need financial assistance to attend our Public History Internship Program in Washington, DC, and who are traveling to regional archives to complete research for their senior theses. If you would like to support our students, please consider donating to the History Undergraduate Student Support Fund.

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**Public History students
add to the Georgia
experience as DC summer
interns**

Madison Immel will complete her history major this year along with an English minor and legal studies certificate. A recipient of the history department's 2017-18 Drew and Dorianne Norwood study abroad scholarship, Madison interned at the United States Capitol Historical Society as a student in the Public History Summer Internship Program in Washington, DC. As a history intern, Madison spent her days researching the Capitol building and Congress.

"I find 'on this day' historical facts for every day of the year, which will be used in the Society's fundraising calendar. I love working on this interesting project and have enjoyed other fun aspects of the internship, such as touring the Capitol!"

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