



# Fall 2022 Newsletter



## Department of History

From Left: Holly Pinheiro, Jason Hansen, Tuğçe Kayaal, Courtney Tollison, Amelia Spell (student), Steve O'Neill, Savita Nair, Lane Harris, Marian Strobel, Tim Fehler

## From the Chair

Greetings from the History Department! We've come through the pandemic hale and hearty, ready to engage another wonderful incoming class of students and carry on the great traditions of the department. You're hearing from us earlier than usual because we've decided to send out fall and spring newsletters each year to keep you fully updated on your alma mater. In the fall, we'll be emphasizing the many ways alumni contribute to the department, your notable accomplishments, and sharing a few student and faculty highlights. In the spring, we'll feature more faculty stories and events.

Late in spring 2022, Vernon Burton '69 and his wife, Georganne, committed the funds to establish the Vera B. Burton Lecture Series in honor of Vernon's mother, a tireless advocate of the transformative value of a liberal arts education. In this annual lecture series, distinguished scholars will speak on southern history with a focus on racial, social, or economic inequities, the role of religion in southern life, or rural history.

Last academic year, the department hosted a CLP series on *Women, Gender, and Sexuality in World History*. The series culminated in a packed crowd to hear Dr. Deirdre Cooper Owens present on her book, *Medical Bondage: Race, Gender, and the Origins of American Gynecology*. This year, we're very excited to continue our annual series exploring underrepresented histories by sponsoring several events around the theme *Queer Histories and Narratives*.

One faculty highlight that cannot wait until spring is the publication of Holly Pinheiro's already well-reviewed new book, *The Families' Civil War: Black Soldiers and the Fight for Racial Justice* (Univ. of Georgia Press, 2022). In the book, Pinheiro tells the stories of freeborn African American soldiers from Philadelphia who fought for the Union and the impact to their families in the aftermath of the war as they continued to battle racial injustice. Congratulations to Dr. Pinheiro, one of our newest members, on this signal accomplishment!

We're doing serious work and having a bit of fun, and we hope you are as well. As you can see in these pages, we're doing some wonderful things with your kind donations, but those donations understandably declined during the pandemic. If you haven't donated before, or it's been a while, we would ask you to consider donating to the History Alumni Fund. Your donations go directly to enhancing and furthering our ambitious goals as a department.



Standing L-R: Tim Fehler, Lane Harris, Savita Nair, Jason Hansen, John Barrington; Seated L-R: Erik Ching, Marian Strobel, Carolyn Day, Tuğçe Kayaal, Nadia Kanagawa, Steve O'Neill (not pictured: Holly Pinheiro, Courtney Tollison)



## ALUMNI FUND UPDATE

### *The Impact of Giving*

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In years past, the newsletter has featured a list of donors and a few brief words of thanks for the generosity of our alumni. Now that we are producing a bi-annual newsletter, we'd like to use this space in the fall newsletter to "show and tell." Never fear, the donor list will be back for the spring edition.

David Spear established the History Alumni Fund in the late 1990s. It has since been crucial to the development of innovative courses, aided in student and faculty research and publication, and assisted the department in numerous, important ways. When you give directly to the Alumni Fund, we receive 100% of your donation and use it to further the goals of the department.

Here are some of the ways we are spending your kind donations this year:

The **Cultural Life Program** requires students to attend approved educational lectures, performances, screenings, and other events. The typical student attends 32 CLPs during their time at Furman. As part of the program, history faculty invite notable scholars to present on important historical topics. To help bring these scholars to campus, we often use the Alumni Fund to help defray costs. We also help fund history-related interdisciplinary CLPs being planned by other departments.

Following our exceptionally successful CLP series *Race and Ethnicity in World History* (2020-21) and *Women in Gender in World*

*History* (2021-22), the History Department is hosting a four-part CLP series this year entitled *Queer Histories and Narratives*, organized by Drs. Tuğçe Kayaal, Savita Nair, and Nadia Kanagawa. The first two events will take place in November and will bring Dr. Nick Syrett (University of Kansas) and Dr. Evren Savci (Yale University) to campus. The last two events are scheduled for spring semester.

Dr. Steve O'Neill has invited Furman alumnus Dr. Brian Neumann, the managing director of the Nau Center for Civil War History at the University of Virginia, to speak about his new book *Bloody Flag of Anarchy: Unionism in South Carolina during the Nullification Crisis* (LSU Press, 2022).

We are also supporting visits by June Manning Thomas, who will speak on her new book *Struggling to Learn: An Intimate History of School Desegregation* in South Carolina; Medgar Evers daughter, Reena, who will discuss a new documentary about her family; and a summer 2023 workshop entitled *Reconstructing the Black Archive: South Carolina as Case Study, 1739-1895*.

In addition to programming, each year the department grants research and travel funding to History faculty. This year we had the unique opportunity to support the dissertation research of one of our alumni. Abigail Hartman '17 is completing her doctorate at the University of St. Andrews while teaching medieval European history at Furman. In August, she visited the private archives of the Alexian Brothers, a Catholic Lay Congregation in Aachen, Germany, whose medieval precursors are the subject of her dissertation. Holly Pinheiro and Tuğçe Kayaal, as junior faculty, also received funding to travel to professional conferences.

Finally, we used alumni funds this year to honor David Spear and Lloyd Benson, both of whom retired during the pandemic after serving in the department for more than thirty years. Artworks were purchased, framed, and hung in the department to acknowledge their many contributions to Furman and our alumni.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has generously given to the History Department Alumni Fund over the years, and we appreciate your continued support.



On the evening of April 29, after waiting two whole years, we held a party in honor of Dr. David Spear. Dr. Spear retired in 2020, but of course coronavirus prevented us from gathering until this spring. Members of the history faculty along with friends of David's from other departments congregated in the Garden Room of Daniel Chapel to hear David's reflections on his time at Furman, a witty and touching speech from Deb Spear, and to enjoy the camaraderie of friends long separated. The room was abuzz with laughter and high spirits. It was a wonderful way to end the spring semester and a hopeful start to the summer. We are fortunate that David continues to drop by campus from time to time and bring us historical tidbits such as old copies of the newsletter, magazines from the 1960s, and photos of everyone looking remarkably young! He is, as ever, the consummate archivist.

*Top: Dr. Spear gave an endearing speech about his 38 years at Furman.*

*Bottom: Harlan & Chantal Patton with Cherie Maiden*

# Time to Celebrate

On the evening of August 20, we were delighted to finally celebrate the long career of Lloyd Benson. Dr. Benson retired in 2021 after 31 years of service to the university. His party had been delayed due to pandemic restrictions and then scheduling conflicts. However, we made up for the lost time as members of the history faculty gathered with friends from across campus to fête our beloved colleague. Held in the Garden Room of Daniel Chapel, everyone enjoyed the food, wine, and great company! Dr. Benson's mom, LeGrace, kept us entertained with family lore and her own academic tales, and we were reunited with folks we had not seen in too long. It was a night to remember, with faculty and family talking well into the evening. We hope to see Lloyd often when he comes down from the mountain to skate on Greenville's rinks.

*Top: Lloyd Benson, John Barrington, and Linda Bartlett  
Bottom: AV Huff, Marian Strobel, Jim Leavell, Carolyn Sims, Kate Huff, and Judy Leavell*



# The Gilpatrick Historical Society is back!

After a temporary hiatus (thanks, coronavirus) a few of our current history majors have gone to great lengths to reestablish the Gilpatrick Historical Society as an active student organization at Furman. Led by Amelia Spell and Emily Anne Harris, Gilpatrick meets weekly on Tuesdays for "historical activities and entertainment." So far this semester, they have made Elizabethan ruff collars from coffee filters, modified famous war-era propaganda posters to recruit new history majors, played historical card games with instruction from Dr. Fehler, hosted a film viewing, and eaten depression-era Tomato Soup Cake. They have a few field trips planned and are working on a campus-wide scavenger hunt.



## SEEKING ALUMNI AMBASSADORS

No matter how many flow charts, infographics, or helpful brochures our department produces, nothing is quite so valuable to those considering the history major as speaking to someone who has done it. We are looking for individuals from various career paths whose names and contact information we can share with prospective history majors. Often first-year college or high school students, these history-majors-in-waiting are sometimes unsure about choosing History as a major. Our alumni are uniquely positioned to discuss the major and the opportunities it offers. You know the value of the history major and its benefits. Whether you are a recent grad or possess more life experience, your decision to pursue history at Furman provided valuable skills and perspectives.

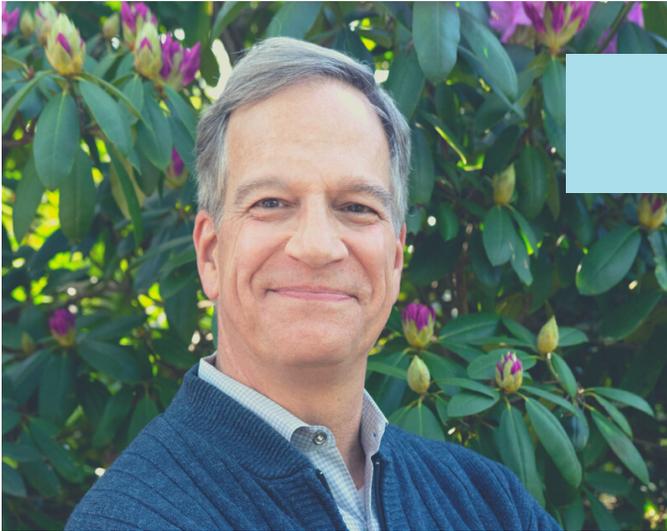
If you are willing to talk with prospective students about where your history major has led you, we want to hear from you! Send your name, job title, and contact information to [lilah.westmoreland@furman.edu](mailto:lilah.westmoreland@furman.edu).

## Join Us at Homecoming!

This year we will welcome alumni into the History Suite as well as at the History tent in the Reunion Village. Come visit the department from 11:30am-1:30pm on October 29 and see the new artwork we have hung in honor of Dr. Spear and Dr. Benson. We will have treats!

# ALUMNI UPDATES

Send your updates to [lilah.westmoreland@furman.edu](mailto:lilah.westmoreland@furman.edu)



## PHILIP BELCHER '82

Philip has just published a volume of poetry entitled *Gentle Slaughter*. His work explores memory, art, and the challenges of living with full awareness of decline. It is available from MadHat Press.

## JOHN WILSEY '92

This fall, John participated in an event at Princeton University showcasing his biography of John Foster Dulles. He is currently working on a book about religious freedom that is being published by Eerdmans and has another book forthcoming.



## ELIZABETH FOX '16

Elizabeth was recently named the Marcia Brady Tucker Fellow in American Decorative Arts at the Yale University Art Gallery. The two-year curatorial fellowship is designed to provide experience for an emerging scholar of American decorative arts who is considering the museum profession.

