

History at Furman

Edited by Erik Ching and Savita Nair

FROM THE CHAIR

October 2014

Dear History Alumni,

Last weekend was homecoming, and once again it was delightful to see so many of you at our department drop-in and to catch up with your news. This past year has been a momentous one, as we welcome a new Furman President and add new dimensions to our history major. One important initiative is our Program for Excellence in History, an honors experience for our students. Those who qualify will have the chance to engage in an intensive study of historiography and to undertake an advanced research project with a faculty member. Participation in this program will be a superb way to prepare for graduate school in history, or just to have a taste of graduate-level research before heading into other career paths. Among other factors, comments from our graduates prompted the creation of this program: we are always grateful for suggestions from our alumni, who are well-positioned to provide us with an overview of the history experience at Furman.

The faculty of the History Department recently met with Furman's new President, Elizabeth Davis, who is already making her mark as a careful listener and strong leader. Our meeting with her has encouraged us to redouble our efforts to look at the study of history not only as a source of life-long intellectual stimulation, but also as a sound foundation for a wide variety of careers. We are in the process of helping our majors to become more aware of how the skills they learn in the classroom – research, analysis of data, problem solving, using evidence to back up arguments, and persuasive writing – will help them to be effective in the workplace. We're also starting to expand our internship offerings into fields that lie outside history, but where the historian's skills are very relevant. We are interested in hearing from any of you who can testify to the ways in which you've used the skills you acquired during your history major in your current field of employment. We'd also be interested in hearing if you have a possible internship opportunity for a Furman history major. I have joined LinkedIn in order to learn more about the professional lives of our alumni, and I would be happy to connect with any of you who use that particular social medium.



A new initiative to help support the History Department at Furman is the John Block Fund, which provides alumni with the chance to honor Professor John Block, who taught here from 1968 to 2005. This fund will provide assistance for history faculty who are conducting research that enhances classroom teaching. The fund can also be used to assist deserving history majors. We are grateful to David Shi for both conceiving and implementing this important means of nurturing young faculty and promising students. The generous response to this new fund in its first few months of existence has been a powerful testimony to the influence that John Block has had on many of our graduates. We are also, of course, still receiving and welcoming donations to our History Department Alumni Fund, which allows us to provide scholarships for deserving majors, to invite distinguished speakers to campus (see the list of these elsewhere in this Newsletter), and to support field trips and social gatherings for our students. I would urge any of you who wish to support either the John Block Fund or the History Alumni Fund to state your intentions as clearly as you can when you make your contributions, so that your donations are applied to the correct purpose.

All of us in the department thank you for your continuing support, and we welcome any correspondence – just a quick email, perhaps – that helps us to keep up with your lives and achievements.

All the best for the coming year,
John Barrington

History Department 2014: From left to right: Lane Harris, Steve O'Neill, Wendy Matsumura, David Spear, Jason Hansen, Erik Ching, Carolyn Day, John Barrington, Savita Nair, Lloyd Benson, Marian Strobel; Missing are Diane Vecchio, who is directing the Brussels study away program, Tim Fehler, Cengiz Sisman, and Courtney Tollison.
[Photo by Jeremy Fleming.]

For an online version of this newsletter, please see <http://history.furman.edu>.

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MYTH, MEMORY, AND COMMEMORATION AT FURMAN

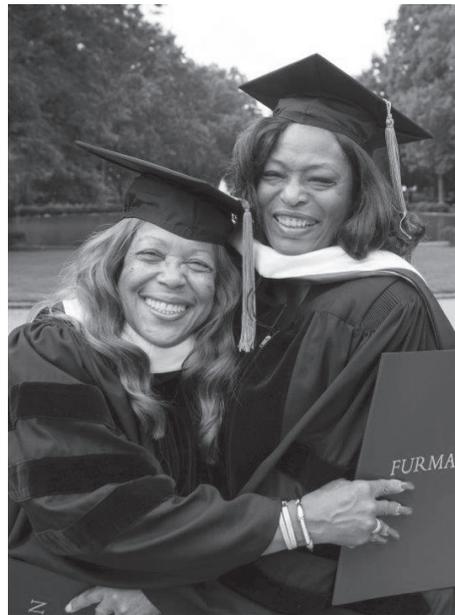
FURMAN COMMEMORATES FIFTY YEARS OF DESEGREGATION

By Stephen O'Neill

This January, 2015, will mark the fiftieth anniversary of Furman's desegregation. In January 1965, Joseph Allen Vaughn, an honor graduate of Greenville's Sterling High, enrolled as Furman's first black student. In the fall of 2013, the Furman administration asked Idella Glenn, Director of Diversity, and me to co-chair a committee to commemorate the events surrounding this milestone for Furman. The committee has been at work since December 2013 and has organized a dozen projects and programs for the 2014-2015 academic year. Several events have been held already with more scheduled for the new year. If you will be in the area during an event, please consider attending. The commemoration is targeted at current students, but also alumni and the Greenville community.

The commemoration kicked off in early September, at Furman's opening convocation, where the university's first two African-American women graduates, Sarah Reese '71 and Lillian Brock Flemming '71, received honorary doctorate degrees. New president Elizabeth Davis, in granting the degrees, acknowledged their roles as civil rights pioneers but also their extraordinary careers in the intervening years. Reese traveled the world as a renowned opera singer and now teaches music at Pendleton High. Flemming has served on Greenville's city council since 1981, taught mathematics in Greenville schools for twenty-four years, and now works as an administrator for the local school district.

At the end of September, the History Department and the Gilpatrick History Society sponsored "An Evening with Harvey Gantt" held in the Daniel Recital Hall on campus. Gantt, the first black student at Clemson, was interviewed on stage before a rapt audience of 250. Historian M. Ron Cox, who is also Dean of USC-Lancaster, conducted the interview, probing Gantt for details of his two year quest for admission to the school founded in 1890 expressly for the education of white men. Gantt responded with rich descriptions of Clemson's efforts to keep him out, despite his outstanding qualifications. In the end, a federal court order decided the issue, and Gantt was admitted in January 1963. Despite the fierce resistance to Gantt's appli-



Honorary doctorate recipients, Sarah Reese (left) and Lillian Brock Flemming (right), after 2014 Convocation. [Photo by Jeremy Fleming.]

cation for admission, Gantt and Cox both emphasized that, once the federal court had ruled, officials from Clemson and the state government worked carefully behind the scenes to keep the peace upon his actual enrollment on Clemson's campus.

Finally, as part of the commemoration, the committee has also published a booklet that tells the history of desegregation at Furman. The booklet includes two scholarly accounts of events, as well as a timeline, photographs, facsimiles of important documents, and the transcription of a speech that acting-president Frank Bonner made to the Board of Trustees in 1964 before its vote to admit black students. The two scholarly articles were written by history alumni, one by Dr. Courtney Tollison, a 1999 graduate and current professor in the department, and the other by Brian Neumann, a 2013 alumnus and history major. Courtney's article was previously published in a scholarly journal in 2005; the research and writing of Brian's article

were commissioned by the 50th Anniversary Committee specifically for the booklet. Brian has provided a summary of his findings here in the newsletter. Booklets are available at the scheduled events.

The remainder of the schedule is listed below, although a few events are pending and are not listed below. Please check the website for additional information. The web address is: www.furman.edu/50years



Paladin headline noting S.C. Baptist Convention's rejection of Furman's plan to desegregate. Weeks later the Board of Trustees, facing federal sanctions, defied the Convention.

50th Anniversary Commemoration Events

February 12, 2015

Panel Discussion on Breaking the Barrier, Joe Vaughn's admission to Furman

February 26, 2015

Panel Discussion: Athletics and Desegregation

March 18–19, 2015

Joseph Vaughn Oratorical Contest for Furman students and high school students

March 2015

Panel of professors who worked for desegregation in early 1960s

March 2015

Joseph Vaughn Scholarship Fundraising Gala with Keynote Speaker David Shi

MYTH, MEMORY, AND COMMEMORATION AT FURMAN

FURMAN'S STRUGGLE OVER DESEGREGATION

by Brian Neumann '13

On January 29, 1965, three months after the South Carolina Baptist Convention voted to keep its colleges segregated, Furman enrolled its first African-American undergraduate. Decades later, administrators spoke proudly of this act of defiance, insisting that desegregation was simply and self-evidently “the right thing to do.” Historians have largely echoed this interpretation, portraying desegregation as a “progressive” and “proactive” decision—“one aspect of a clearly articulated campaign to achieve academic excellence by national standards.” The evidence, however, suggests that those in power delayed and resisted until the issue could no longer be ignored. The greatest obstacle to Furman’s desegregation was not the resistance of the Southern Baptist Convention but the reluctance of the Furman community itself, and desegregation—when it came—was not a “progressive” statement of principle but a pragmatic, even reluctant, acceptance of national realities.

Furman had several decades in which to take a progressive stand. As early as 1942, President John Plyler began studying the changing dynamics of segregation. In 1953, after carefully outlining the legal limits of desegregation, Plyler developed a strategy that would allow the university to “operate on a discriminatory basis for years to come.” Two years later, as chairman of a Student Publications Committee, Vice President Francis Bonner confiscated the student literary magazine *The Echo* for supporting desegregation and criticizing Baptist social policy. Rather than confronting the issue itself, Plyler and Bonner framed the *Echo* incident as a simple matter of university policy and procedure. They insisted that their actions had been “right” and “under...similar circumstances would be taken again.”

Though support for desegregation slowly grew, the campus remained deeply divided. After the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, liberal editors used *The Furman Hornet* to call for desegregation. Though their editorials were eloquent and forceful, their convictions remained unpopular; in 1957, only seventeen percent of students favored “total integration,” while almost sixty-three percent wanted “absolutely no racial integration at Furman.” When a 1961 opinion poll revealed that students narrowly supported desegregation, Plyler again chose to ignore the issue itself. Alumni President Sapp Funderburk assured critics that “as long as the present trustees and administrators” were in power, there was “no fear of the university’s going against our Southern traditions.”

In 1963, Clemson and the University of South Carolina desegregated under court order, and momentum at Furman began to shift. While Wilbert Wood, chairman of the Board of Trustees, still believed that the “problem of integration” was “not decisive,” he admitted that the economic sanctions placed upon the university were becoming a “serious problem.” Trustee Alester Furman, Jr., wrote that desegregation was “not in agreement with our training and thinking,” but he understood that Furman could not long resist the “power of the federal government.” On October 8, 1963, therefore, the trustees agreed to open admission to “all qualified applicants.”

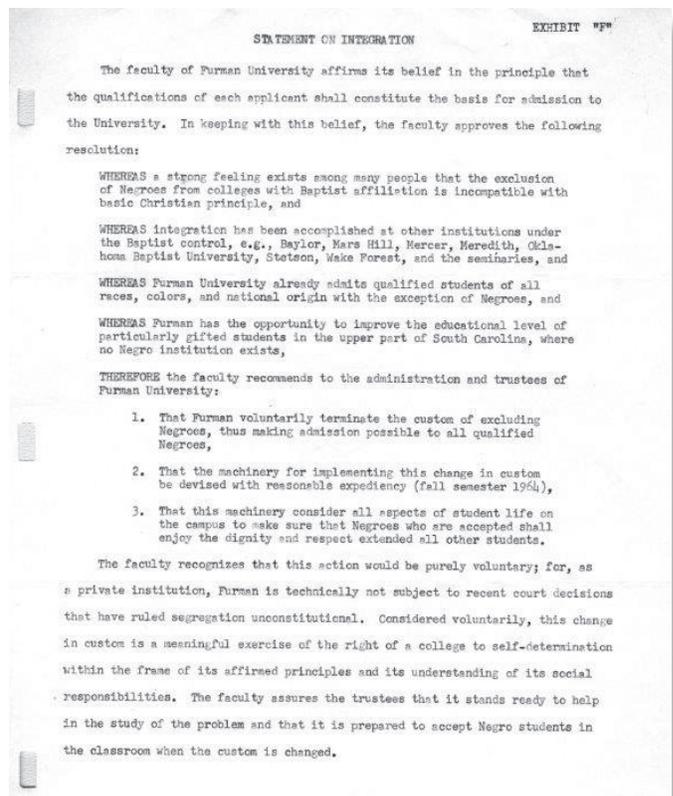
Though many accepted the decision as “practical” and “almost inevitable,” the South Carolina Baptist Convention asked the university to delay desegregation for at least a year. When LaBarbara Powell Sampson applied to Furman in May 1964, the trustees hurriedly agreed to comply with the Convention’s request. Despite the university’s promise to consider “all qualified applicants,” Sampson was denied admission. That November, by a narrow margin, the Convention voted to keep its colleges segregated. Though only the trustees had the power to decide university policy, they were reluctant to defy the Convention. Thirteen professors and four hundred students wrote letters urging the trustees to stand by their non-discriminatory admissions policy. While student leaders Robert Schaible and Curtis Vanadore believed that desegregation was “truly Christian principle,” many supported desegregation not for moral but for pragmatic reasons. They recognized that allowing the Convention to dictate university policy would be a “dangerous precedent,” and they urged the trustees to “assert [themselves] as the governing body of this institution.” Still, when the trustees met on December 8, 1964, they introduced a motion to delay desegregation yet again. Before they could vote, Vice President Bonner asked to speak. He passionately argued that desegregation was an academic and economic necessity. If Furman remained segregated, it could lose its accreditation, almost twenty percent of its faculty, and the federal and corporate funding upon which it depended. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 denied federal funding to any institution that discriminated on the basis of race, and Furman was therefore in danger of losing over \$2 million in loans and grants. Bonner believed Furman “could not recover from this calamity within two decades.” His practical arguments carried the day, and the trustees voted to reaffirm their non-discriminatory admissions policy.

On January 27, 1965, three African-American educators enrolled as graduate students, and two days later Joseph Allen Vaughn enrolled as Furman's first African-American undergraduate. By all accounts, Vaughn's time at Furman was "peaceful" and "surprisingly easy," and his humor and intelligence diffused much of the tension he faced. Many students accepted him as "just another regular guy," and he served in almost a dozen student organizations. Still, a year and a half passed before Furman enrolled another African-American student, and friends describe Vaughn's time at Furman as "lonely" and "stressful." He wanted simply "to be a student," but he became a symbol of the aspirations of Greenville's African-American community, and with everyone watching him he "couldn't allow himself to fail."

A Comment on Sources: Space constraints prevent us from including Brian Neumann's citations in their entirety. His longer article published in the booklet includes footnotes pointing to the sources of his evidence. In general Brian made extensive use of the university archives housed in the Special Collections section of Furman's Duke Library. He relied on both published and unpublished primary sources from the archive, the published sources including student newspapers (*The Furman Hornet* later renamed *The Furman Paladin*), *Furman Magazine*, and *The Echo* (which has evolved from a political journal to a literary one over the decades). His unpublished sources included presidential papers of Plyler and Blackwell; minutes of the Board of Trustees, faculty meetings, the Presidential Advisory Committee, and various Baptist Associations located around the state. Finally Brian employed oral history, both interviews he conducted himself and transcripts of interviews housed in Special Collections.



Joseph Vaughn displays his characteristic zest. (Bonhomie 1968).



The Furman faculty unanimously calls for desegregation, 1963.

FACULTY AND EMERITI ACCOLADES

Congratulations Wendy Matsumura and Jason Hansen

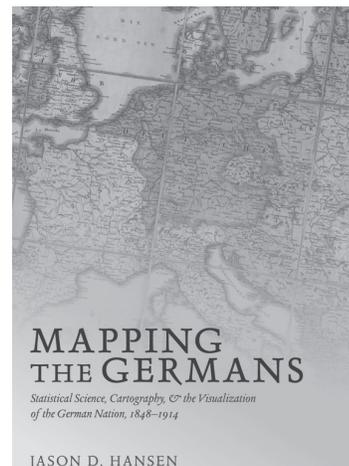
It is rare for academics to publish their dissertations; roughly ten percent of us achieve that feat. It is even rarer to do so with leading university presses in the first four years of one's career. In light of those realities, the history department extends its heartfelt congratulations to our two junior colleagues, Wendy Matsumura and Jason Hansen, both of whom have their dissertations coming out as published books in Spring 2015 with Duke University Press and Oxford University Press, respectively. Interviews with Wendy and Jason will appear in the Fall 2015 issue of the newsletter. Following are summaries from the presses.

Wendy Matsumura *The Limits of Okinawa: Japanese Capitalism, Living Labor, and Theorizations of Community*. Durham: Duke University Press, forthcoming in Spring 2015. Since its incorporation into the Japanese nation-state in 1879, Okinawa has been seen by both Okinawans and Japanese as an exotic "South," both spatially and temporally distinct from modern Japan. In *The Limits of Okinawa*, Wendy Matsumura traces the emergence of this sense of Okinawan difference, showing how local and mainland capitalists, intellectuals, and politicians attempted to resolve clashes with labor by appealing to the idea of a unified Okinawan community. Their numerous confrontations with small producers and cultivators who refused to be exploited for the sake of this ideal produced and reproduced "Okinawa" as an organic, transhistorical entity. Informed by recent Marxist attempts to expand the understanding of the capitalist mode of production to include the production of subjectivity, *The Limits of Okinawa* provides a new understanding of Okinawa's place in Japanese and world history and establishes a new locus for considering the relationships between empire, capital, nation, and identity.

Jason Hansen *Mapping the Germans: Statistical Science, Cartography and the Visualization of the German Nation, 1848-1914*. NY: Oxford University Press, forthcoming in Spring 2015. *Mapping the Germans* explores the development of statistical science and cartography in Germany between the beginning of the nineteenth century and the start of World War One, examining their impact on the German national identity. It asks how spatially-specific knowledge about the nation was constructed, showing the contested and difficult nature of objectifying this frustratingly elastic concept. Ideology and politics were not themselves capable of providing satisfactory answers to questions about the geography and membership of the nation; rather, technology also played a key role in this process, helping to produce the scientific authority needed to make the resulting maps and statistics realistic. In this sense, *Mapping the Germans* is about how the abstract idea of the nation was transformed into a something that seemed objectively measurable and politically manageable.



This postcard captures a scene from a temporary cane market in Naha that opened its doors during certain times of the year. These existed alongside more formal routes of buying and selling cane that were linked to large sugar capital. (Sugar cane market, Naha City Museum of History, photo no. 02003600)



Congratulations Savita Nair

At the May 2014 graduation, Savita was invited onto the commencement stage to receive the annual 2013-2014 Meritorious Teaching Award, given in recognition of exceptional teaching performance throughout the year. At the 2009 commencement, Savita won the 2008-2009 Meritorious Advising Award. It's a tremendous accomplishment to receive either of these awards; to win both in a single career is exceedingly rare. Of the current Furman faculty only Scott Henderson in Education and Laura Wright in Chemistry share this distinction with Savita. The History Department is proud to recognize its past winners of the teaching award, along with Savita: Marian Strobel, David Spear, Lloyd Benson and Tim Fehler, and our emeriti faculty: Jim Leavell, Bill Lavery and John Block. Savita is the only History faculty member, past or present, to win the Advising Award.]



Interviewed by Erik Ching

EC: It seems to me that the only way a person can excel at advising and teaching at an award-winning level is to devote exceptional amounts of time to it, when, ultimately time is finite. Did you ever articulate that commitment to yourself? Was there a moment in your career when you said, "I am going to devote an exceptional amount of time to advising and/or teaching?"

SN: No, I never thought it about it that way. I just did it. I believe Furman expects us to take advising and teaching seriously. I didn't know any other way to do my job. I think it's in my nature to do it as I have. I think that's where I can be productive and useful and listen and help students help themselves, which is what we are here for. But all of us do this, so I don't think I'm doing anything unique or exceptional. I don't separate advising and teaching. When I'm advising, I'm just teaching in the office, mainly to encourage students to engage their liberal arts education wholly. The most interesting meetings for me are not necessarily with my own advisees, but with students whom I happen to encounter who are searching for their lives and selves. I enjoy meeting them where they are. I often share my own life experience with them, because I was that graduating senior who didn't know what she wanted to do. I found it helpful to do jobs and pursue professions that allowed me to eliminate options, like working in a cubicle in New York City. I tried that and it wasn't for me.

EC: Did you have any inspiring advisers in your life?

SN: My graduate advisor. He was a single guy and he was livid when I told him I was getting married because he thought it would distract me from school, which is what his world revolved around. Subsequently, I had three children in graduate school. He ended up being an incredibly supportive part of my life and he eventually

accepted my choices. I watched him work through the process of seeing life in a broader way, beyond the university, and so watching him adjust to that and become a different kind of professional was inspiring to me.

EC: How about the costs and/or the sacrifices you've had to make to excel in these arenas. Do you ever think about it in those terms?

SN: Sure, there have been. But I don't think about it in that way. Let's just say that maybe it's easier to do the things that come easy instead of some other things that might not come so easily.

EC: Sure, but many others in the academic world don't find these things [advising and teaching] easy, to say nothing of excelling at them. They find them really hard.

SN: Granted.

EC: Ultimately excelling in these professional arenas boils down to genuinely liking people and enjoying their company.

SN: [Laughing...] Um, yes.

Congratulations Bill Lavery

Professor Emeritus of History, Bill Lavery, was honored by a gift to the Furman Standard from Lynn Hatcher-Totaro '75. Bill taught Russian and Middle Eastern history at Furman from 1968-2006.



Bill and Ava Lavery with Lynn Hatcher Totaro.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

HOW MY HISTORY MAJOR SHAPED MY PROFESSIONAL LIFE: CHIP WILSON '84

Interviewed by Erik Ching

Chip Wilson '84 is the Managing Partner/Principal of Dakota Ridge Real Estate Advisors, a hotel asset management and investment advisory firm that he founded in 1999 specializing in all things hotel related. This interview is part of an ongoing series in which we talk with history alumni to ask them about the relationship between their history major at Furman and the vocational/professional track they ended up taking. In our first installment in Fall 2012, we interviewed Keith Johnson '05 and last year we interviewed the father/daughter team of Ben Vereen '84 and Caroline Vereen Sexton '10.

EC: In preparation for this interview, I read your LinkedIn profile and the interview you did for the University of Denver alumni newsletter where you got your MBA. I have to admit, that despite reading all that, I'm not sure what you do for a living. It goes to show what different language circles we reside in. What is 'hotel asset management? Who are your clients? Why do they need you? What service do you provide for them? [Fortunately, this generated a chuckle from Chip.]

CW: Don't worry, I get that question a lot. My clients are primarily institutional real estate owners and developers, which means they raise their funds from diverse capital sources and invest in different real estate classes, one of them being hospitality/hotels. On the real-estate risk curve, hospitality is on the very high end because it's the most volatile...It tends to be a much more complex investment than a traditional real estate investment, like an office building, because hotels are operating businesses, with fifty percent of their operating expenses, more or less, being labor, and that's completely unique to any other real-estate class. People who do what I do tend to have a niche skill set in terms of trying to help the clients mitigate some of those risks and maximize the value of the assets. So I sort of manage the manager for my clients.

EC: Wouldn't the big firms or the big hotel brands have the equivalent of you in-house?

CW: They do. My clients tend to be very seasoned real-estate people who enter hospitality as a sort of niche investment and they don't have the expertise in-house. So for example, one of my clients is a large NYC commercial developer based in Queens with a very big hotel in Brooklyn and it's their only hotel. Those tend to be my clients. They know real estate, they just don't know hotel real estate and operations.

EC: Ok, and so from reading your interview in the University of Denver newsletter, you climbed up hotel work and hotel management through the ranks starting at the bottom, so you bring all that experience to the table, of actually having been in hotels, working into management, and then coming into the real estate side after that.

CW: I started at the very bottom. I started about as low as you can start. It's very easy for me when I sit with hotel or brand executives to gain credibility. Because a lot of people who do what I do took a hotel- prep track at a school like the University of Denver or Cornell and all of their operations experience was an internship on the front desk for six months or a summer before going to one of the big consultancies; they lack the breadth of knowledge about how to make the business really hum.

EC: So backing up a little bit, but not going all the way back to Furman yet, it seems like you took a circuitous route out of Furman and you didn't get into hotels until quite a number of years out of Furman.

CW: I did. Coming out of Furman I was set on going to Harvard or Middlebury or someplace like that to do Russian Studies. And so I went to Emory for a semester but dropped out and worked in a bookstore and a bank before ending up in hotels on a lark in 1987.



Chip Wilson (left) and FU Health Science Professor Scott Murr at the Elephant Rock Century Ride Castle Rock, Colorado, June 2012. Scott and Chip were roommates at Furman and have remained friends and cycling partners since.

It was fortuitous. I was tired of doing some of the other stuff I was doing and I was ready to work hard and do all the sort of stuff that I needed to do to take advantage of the opportunities. I didn't know where it would end up, but I knew it was the best thing that had come along since I got out of school.

EC: What happened to the Russian Studies?

CW: At Furman I had done some stuff with Lavery in Russian history and East European history and I came from a very academic family and I felt a lot of pressure to be studious and it probably wasn't the right fit. It took me a long time to give it up. I did enjoy it; I just didn't have the discipline at the time to do what it would take to go through a Ph.D. even though I really enjoyed it. I didn't have an idea what I would then do. I know a lot of kids through the teaching that I do who come out and don't know what they want to do. And sometimes it takes doing things that you realize that you don't like doing before you can take advantage of an opportunity when it comes around.

EC: Continuing to backtrack, as you look back on your history major at Furman do you think it was the right major for you in light of the path you took, or would you say 'I should have majored in something else?'

HISTORY IN THE NEWS

CW: I found a home in the History Department at Furman. I so enjoyed taking classes with A.V. Huff, Marian Strobel, David Spear and Bill Lavery. And I excelled in that home. One thing it taught me, i.e. coming through humanities and history, and it really gets discredited in businesses these days, but when I came out of school, my ability to think and communicate, orally, and particularly with the written word on paper, was a skill set that most of my peers at the time did not have. They couldn't think critically; they couldn't summarize something if they had to do that for a boss, or write a business plan or draft a marketing strategy. They came out of an accounting background and for me that was a big distinguisher.

EC: Going further with that, and perhaps we can close on this, is there anything else you might want to say about the transition from the history major to your professional life and going out into the world after graduation?

CW: I see it in my own case a little bit, I see it in the kids at school that I teach, especially the outgoing seniors [editor's note: Chip teaches pro bono each Spring at the University of Denver in the Hotel School] and this applies especially to graduates with a liberal arts degree who might not have a career track or a focus. They lack the recognition that you have to pay your dues, that you are going to have to try a couple different types of work to see whether you want to end up in advertising or hotel operations or real estate or whatever it is, and that's ok, but that can be a tough thing to swallow if you or your parents have taken out school loans and you've shelled out \$50k on a college education per year and you are not quite sure what you want to do. But you have to be prepared for those first couple years and you have to have a little bit less of a sense of entitlement. There's a disconnect there, and as a senior-level executive and business owner, when I look at that now and I think I had to sweep garages and clean toilets to get my training, I chuckle. And I think, if you aren't prepared to do that, then what are you prepared to do, because it's never easy?

Reviewed, Ridiculed, and Rescinded: *The Economist* and Historian Ed Baptist

by Savita Nair

In Spring 2014, Professor Ed Baptist (Cornell University) delivered a public lecture at Furman, "What's the Difference between Digital Humanities and Digital History?: The *Freedom on the Move Fugitive Slave Database*." [To explore the database, see: <http://freedomonthemove.org/>]

Invited by Lloyd Benson, Professor Baptist spent two days meeting with Furman humanities faculty, staff from the Center for Teaching and Learning, and students in Benson's First Year Writing Seminar, "Writing Freedom: U.S. Abolition." Baptist's visit to campus concluded with his public talk and a discussion about his forthcoming book, *The Half Has Never Been Told: Slavery and the Making of American Capitalism* (Basic Books 2014). This past summer, Baptist's book was released, the book signings had begun, and academic and journalistic reviews went to press. The very day that *The Economist's* online review ("Blood Cotton") appeared, readers flooded the comment section appalled by the review's criticism of Baptist being "too tough on slaveholders" and for including a photograph of Lupita Nyong'o, the actress who played Patsey in Steve McQueen's 2013 film *Twelve Years a Slave*, with what was considered an offensive caption, "Lupita was certainly a valuable property." In a rather unprecedented and surprising move, *The Economist* retracted its review and issued a public apology to Ed Baptist.

For Ed Baptist's commentary about *The Economist's* apology and decision to withdraw their anonymous review, see the following pieces in *The Guardian* and on CNN: <http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/sep/07/economist-review-my-book-slavery>

<http://www.cnn.com/2014/09/07/opinion/baptist-slavery-book-panned-economist-review/>

To read the original review *The Economist* <http://www.economist.com/news/books/21615864-how-slaves-built-american-capitalism-blood-cotton>

[Editor's Note: Ed Baptist and Savita Nair were in the same incoming class of the University of Pennsylvania's History PhD program. In the eyes of our cohort, Ed Baptist went from being a respected scholar to an international superstar.]

HISTORY EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

Solon: Lawgiver and Poet of Ancient Athens, a lecture by Professor Joe Jansen (Greek and Roman Studies, Rhodes College), invited by David Spear.

An Evening with Harvey Gantt (the first black student to attend Clemson University), interviewed by South Carolina historian Ron Cox, as part of Furman's commemoration of 50 years of desegregation, invited by Steve O'Neill.

OCTOBER

Blood-Stained Hands: Stories of Murder and Forensic Science, a lecture by Marlene Tromp (English/Women's and Gender Studies, Arizona State University), invited by Carolyn Day.

Ironies of Empire: War, Revolution, and the U.S. in Nicaragua, 1912-34 by Michael Schroeder (History, Politics, and Global Studies, Lebanon Valley College), invited by Erik Ching and Steve O'Neill.

NOVEMBER

Reaching Tibet: Anglophone Missionaries and the Chinese Civilizing Mission in Tibet, 1900-1949, a lecture by Jeff Kyong-McClain (History, University of Arkansas-Little Rock), invited by Lane Harris.



Historian Ron Cox interviews civil rights pioneer Harvey Gantt (right) in Daniel Recital Hall on September 18, 2014. Photo by Jeremy Fleming.

ALUMNI NEWS

Emily Bridges ('12) has been elected editor in chief of the South Carolina Law Review. Bridges is a second-year law student at the University of South Carolina's School of Law.

Keith Johnson ('05) was recently appointed as an associate juvenile court judge in Augusta, GA, but will still be maintaining his law practice. [Editor's note: this makes him one of the youngest judges in the state of GA.]

Lowe Kinman ('80) has been promoted to Professor of Geography and Earth Science, and also serves as Assistant Dean for Assessment and Program Improvement for the Cook-Cole College of Arts and Sciences at Longwood University, and will assume the role of Coordinator for the Virginia Geographic Alliance in January 2014.

Robbie Higdon ('94) as of August 2013, is a faculty member in the Department of Middle, Secondary and Mathematics Education at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, teaching General Instructional Methods and supervising practicum and student teachers at the secondary level.

Andy Foy ('00) and Kay Hill Foy welcomed their second child, Georgia Carolyn, on September 14, 2012. Andy recently started a new job with Iridium Satellite LLC as Director and Senior Corporate Counsel where he has overall responsibility for all intellectual property and litigation matters involving the company.

Jennifer Leynes ('93) recently completed the second phase of a project documenting African-American Historic Sites in New Jersey's capital for the Trenton Historical Society. The project included the creation of a web-based map displaying census data for a historically Black neighborhood and a publication highlighting significant sites and people in the African-American community.

Laura Putney ('92) is working as one of the writers on the NBC television series "The Mysteries of Laura," starring Debra Messing. [Editor's note: Laura is a Senior Counsel in the Los Angeles office of the Kauff, Mc Clain & Mc Guire law firm, and she specializes in employment law.]

Matt Teevan ('02) is a general manager at Da-LITE.

Brian Ticknor ('02) and his wife Peyton have moved to Knoxville, Tennessee, where Brian has accepted a job at Oak Ridge National Laboratory as a Research and Development staff scientist in the Chemical Sciences Division.

Chip Wilson ('84) returned for his 30th reunion this year, looking at schools with his 17 year-old daughter. He is working on five hotel development deals, and will return to teaching at the Daniels College, University of Denver in the spring.

A CALL TO ACTION: PARTICIPATE IN THE “HISTORY ALUMNI CAREER ADVICE AND INTERNSHIP PROGRAM”

As many of you know, each year in the donation sheet, we ask if you would be willing to “let us put any of our majors in touch with you for the purpose of internships, shadowing or career information.” We have received many responses from you and have created some valuable contacts for our majors and soon-to-be graduates. Your advice and guidance has proven invaluable. We want to draw upon your vast experiences to help our majors by enhancing this program and creating a larger and more robust database of contact information and careers. We are tentatively naming this the

“History Alumni Career Advice and Internship Program,” which is a little clumsy, but we’ll go with it for now. So, if you would ever be willing to be contacted by one of our majors or recent alums in regard to career advice and you haven’t responded to us in the last five or six years, would you please do so? Either drop us an email directly to Dr. John Barrington (john.barrington@furman.edu) or fill out that portion of the donation sheet (regardless of whether you donate or not) and we’ll compile the responses. In advance thanks so much for any willingness you can show to help our students.

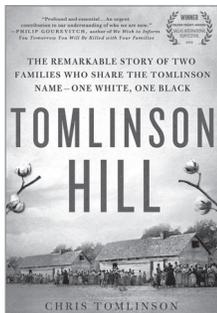
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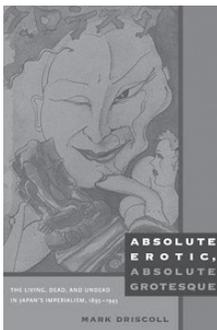
Thank You to Our Donors. We are grateful for your generosity and support. If you happen to donate through an alternative venue, be sure to stipulate specifically “History Alumni Fund” so the donation is placed in the proper fund.

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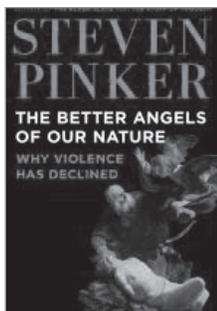
FACULTY BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS



Erik Ching recommends Chris Tomlinson *Tomlinson Hill: The Remarkable Story of Two Families who Share the Tomlinson Name - One White, One Black* (Thomas Dunne 2014). Tomlinson is a former war correspondent who turned his attentions inward, to his own family, drawing upon the stories he heard growing up about his home, Tomlinson Hill, a former cotton plantation in Texas. Tomlinson looks at the history and business practices of the plantation, and focuses on the history of race relations, from the time of slavery up to the present day. A penetrating insight into the complicated legacy of slavery and family identity. There is also a great interview available on NPR's website with the author by Fresh Air's Terri Gross. [See: <http://www.npr.org/2014/07/21/332607060/on-tomlinson-hill-journalist-seeks-truth-and-reconciliation>]



Wendy Matsumura recommends Mark Driscoll (UNC Chapel Hill) *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque: The Living, the Dead and Undead in Japan's Imperialism, 1895-1945* (Duke University Press, 2010). It tells a story of Japanese empire-building in South Manchuria through the lives of Japanese pimps and drug dealers turned colonial administrators, Korean tenant farmers and Chinese 'coolies' turned forced laborers, and other unruly characters who populated the region that came to be known as Manchukuo, the empire's crown jewel, in the early 1930s. His work completely shatters the dominant picture of the region as being ruled in an orderly and bureaucratic manner by the official agent of Japanese imperialism in the region, the South Manchurian Railway. It also integrates the stories of the metropole, Korea, Taiwan, Northeast China, and Russia by tracing the lives and legends of a colorful cast of characters - something that less creative scholars of empire have not been able to do.



John Barrington recommends Stephen Pinker *The Better Angels of our Nature: Why Violence has Declined* (Viking 2011). Pinker examines many types of violence – war, homicide, human sacrifice, torture, spouse and child abuse, and cruelty towards animals – and produces statistics to argue that the rate of all of these types of violence has declined dramatically over the course of history; despite what we read in the news, we are living in the most peaceful age of human existence. Pinker credits the rise of strong governments, the development of commerce, and the influence of the Enlightenment for this encouraging trend, and thus provides new grounds for looking at history as the story of human progress. Pinker's work is engagingly written, and it will stimulate, provoke, and perhaps make you feel more cheerful about our world.

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