

# HISTORY AT FURMAN

Fall 2016

Edited by Erik Ching and John Barrington



## From the Chair

Dear History Alumni,

We've had a busy and exciting year on campus. In October, President **Elizabeth Davis** announced a \$47 million dollar Duke Endowment Award to implement The Furman Advantage, which will provide research opportunities to every student at Furman University.

Since our last newsletter, Middle Eastern specialist **Hilary Falb Kalisman** joined the department. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Brown University, Hilary earned her Ph.D. at the University of California Berkeley and was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard. She will be teaching classes on Islamic Empires, the Modern Middle East, and the Arab-Israeli Conflict. We are happy to welcome Hilary, her husband, Philip, and their son, Aaron, to Furman University and the Greenville community.

If you visit the department you may be startled to see someone new at the front desk.

After 53 years in the history department,

**Carolyn Sims** retired. We will miss her friendly and cooperative spirit, her wonderful sense of humor, and her compassionate ear for students. Our new department assistant is Greenville native **Lilah Westmoreland**. Welcome to the department, Lilah!

Our faculty have been engaged in exciting projects. **Lloyd Benson** led a group of students on a culinary tour through Italy as they learned about the Slow Food movement on farms and in villages during May X. **Marian Strobel** and I paraded through trenches on the Western Front in France and Belgium with twenty students studying World War I. **Lane Harris** published articles on the Chinese postal

system in *Ming Studies* and *The Journal of Early Modern History*. He also delivered a paper at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. **Jason Hansen** spent part of his summer in Europe with support from the John Block Research Fund for his latest project on postwar memory in the former Yugoslavia. **Savita Nair**'s research took her to Ireland, where she presented a paper at the National University of Galway entitled "India and Ireland: Old Connections and New Initiatives." **Tim Fehler** delivered a paper at the Sixteenth Century Studies Conference in Bruges. **Carolyn Day** published an article in *Eighteenth-Century Studies* and, always the intrepid traveler, delivered papers in Ottawa, Italy, and England. We are proud to report that Carolyn was also awarded the Alester G. Furman, Jr., and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Advising at the 2016 commencement. **Steve O'Neill** was the first recipient of Furman's Meritorious Award for Diversity and Inclusion. **David Spear** contributed an article to the October 2016 issue of *Perspectives on History* that examined the impact of the extremely popular and sensationally

written Landmark series of history books. Finally, we congratulate **Erik Ching** on yet another fine book: *Stories of Civil War in El Salvador: A Battle Over Memory*, published by the University of North Carolina Press.

Our students continue to amaze us with their accomplishments. We are especially excited that **Sami**

**Strickland '16** won a Fulbright research grant to study in the digital humanities program at Leipzig University in Germany. **Abigail Hartman '17** presented a paper on Christian Astrology during the English Revolution at the Sixteenth Century Studies conference in Bruges, Belgium.

We are so thankful for your continued support of the John Block Research Fund and the History Alumni Fund. Next month the Gilpatrick Historical Society, with support from the History Alumni Fund, will visit historic sites in Savannah, Georgia.

—Diane Vecchio



The History Department in late spring 2016. (SEATED, L-R) Savita Nair, Steve O'Neill and Diane Vecchio. (STANDING, L-R) Marian Strobel, Jason Hansen, Carolyn Day, Lane Harris, Erik Ching, David Spear, John Barrington, Tim Fehler and Lloyd Benson. Not pictured: Courtney Tollison

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## MEET OUR NEW COLLEAGUE IN MIDDLE EASTERN HISTORY

### *Hilary Falb-Kalisman*

*Interview by Erik Ching*

**ERIK:** Hilary, our goal here of course is to give our alumni a chance to get to know you a little better, so how about if we start out with basic questions like these: What's your background? Where do you come from? Where did you go to school, and why there?

**HILARY:** I grew up in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and went to Brown University for my BA. I really wanted to take art classes at the Rhode Island School of Design, to choose my own courses, and to go to a really good school, so Brown was basically my first choice. Ironically, I really didn't want to take any more languages after really hating Spanish, and then I took three years of Arabic in college. I went to graduate school at UC Berkeley, again because it's a really good school and it has a great history program, but I also wanted to try living on the West Coast for a change.

**E:** Before we move on to the next logical question from there, how about telling us what you like to do outside of academe, or is

there something about you that readers might find interesting, like "I'm a closet watcher of Mexican telenovelas?"

**H:** When I have the time I paint or draw, I like to play the piano, I also like to run, frequently but slowly. No Mexican telenovelas.

**E:** Your answer to the first questions leads us into the next natural question. How did you come to Middle Eastern Studies?

**H:** I became interested in high school, because I had a half-Israeli friend and was always wondering what he was shouting at his parents over the dinner table, but then, during my first week of college, 9/11 happened. I had been debating studying international relations and switched to Middle Eastern Studies. I really wanted to learn more about what had happened and about the region in general.

**E:** By the way, when and how did you come to know that you wanted to be a college professor?

**H:** My father was a college professor, but he got tenure in the 1960s, so by the time I was aware, he was slowing down, but it paid for my college tuition. I thought it seemed like a pretty great job. By my senior year in college I was essentially sure I wanted to be a professor but thought I would give a little time to try out journalism, with an internship, and I had one interview with the CIA but decided that being a professor was a way better fit.

**E:** What's it been like to be in Middle Eastern Studies in a post 9/11 world or in a time of ISIS and terror attacks? I know it's impossible for you to compare it to pre-9/11, but you know what I mean, compared, perhaps to what it was like to be a China scholar before the economic takeoff.

**H:** Well, my freshman year at Brown I think enrollment in Arabic classes tripled after 9/11. I think there's also a new assumption that if you study the Middle East your research is very relevant and contemporary, or that you have

the answers to current conflicts in the region (which is sometimes true and sometimes not so much.) I would say that the Arab Spring actually really blew a lot of people's minds in Middle Eastern Studies. No one I talked to had seen these revolutions coming. You might have actually predicted it in Tunisia, but in Egypt, Mubarak and his son seemed permanent. Historians would teach about the rise of presidential dictators without even thinking they might fall. That was a big change. Also with the Arab Spring, issues of religion and secularism in terms of people's demands, who drove different movements, etc. became blurred. Moreover, physically being able to conduct research has become much more difficult. You can't go to places you used to go to safely which makes a big difference in the type of topics researchers can even try to pursue.

**E:** What's the state of Middle Eastern Studies these days? Are there big divisions? I'm thinking back here to what I remember of the Edward Said vs. Bernard Lewis sort of factional clashes.

**H:** There are really big divisions. Bernard Lewis lives! No seriously he does, he's still alive. There's actually two conferences. One is the big Middle Eastern Studies one that's more left-leaning, and then there's a separate, right-leaning conference. Plus debates over Israel studies, divides over the Boycott Divestment and Sanctions movement, and even academic terms like Settler Colonialism, and different types of nationalism. Middle Eastern Studies is a pretty big divided mess. But interesting!

**E:** Tell us about your dissertation. What's the topic? What's the evidence base? How did you arrive at that topic? Were there any particular logistical challenges to doing the research?

**H:** My dissertation (and now book manuscript) examines how the professionalization of teaching in the 20th century Middle East shaped not only education but also how governments functioned, who became part of those governments, and how those states interacted with their societies. When education (and qualified educators) were scarce, the lucky few who possessed an education also had a lot of bargaining power. Basically, a high school degree guaranteed a post in the civil service, regardless of whether you were competent, or if you had anti-government political leanings. Actually about 1/3 of Iraq and Jordan's prime ministers in the early post-independence period were former public school teachers, as well as former rabble-raising nationalists. This meant education functioned as a site of incorporation into the government, but also a key arena of anti-government protest. Moreover, educators moved around a lot. If they didn't like one government, they could find a job with another

one. By the time you get mass education, however, public school teachers in particular lost their elite status, as well as their ability to protest without permanent consequences.

My project focused on the areas of Britain's Mandates in the Middle East: Iraq, Transjordan/Jordan and Palestine/Israel. This meant I could compare the three areas under British rule while analyzing people who lived or worked across the region. I used a lot of different types of evidence from a lot of different places. I followed educators' life and career paths, traveling from Israel/Palestine to Lebanon, to Jordan, to the United Kingdom, the United States and back again. I used teachers' personnel files, statistics from the Jordanian Ministry of Education, memoirs, diaries, official documents, fictional works and oral histories. There were some logistical hurdles involved, getting a second passport to travel to Lebanon, and a lot of time hanging around trying to get access to documents or archives or to make contacts with individuals willing to be interviewed. Also I had to juggle varying amounts of information between the three areas. I couldn't go to Iraq safely, which meant I

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*"... I've been working hard to make the Middle East ... more familiar to my students and to break down some general stereotypes"*

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didn't have the same kinds of government sources I had for Mandate Palestine or for Jordan. I supplemented the statistical information I could get on Iraqi education with fictional works: Iraq had a booming literary culture, which meant I got to read fun satirical works, and even some poetry. Also, because of the creation of the State of Israel, it became very difficult to follow Arab Palestinian teachers as a collective group after 1948. This meant I had to try to find representative individuals that I could trace, and statistical information on the remainder.

**E:** I know you've spent some time living in the Middle East. Where have you been? For how long? And what were the experiences like? Any stand out moments, for better or worse?

**H:** I visited Tunisia and Israel while in college, and spent a summer in Syria in graduate school (when things were very calm). From August 2011 until November, 2015 I lived abroad. I was actually in England for the fall of 2011, but then lived in Lebanon, Jordan and Israel, then just Israel, with some stints back in the U.S. and Jordan from fall 2012 until last November. I would say I had a lot of

wonderful experiences, as well as many where I wondered how on earth I'd gotten myself into this one. For example, I did a relay race from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea in Jordan with the Amman Baccalaureate School, and one of the biggest race sponsors was KFC. I ran with expats and Jordanians all night, and then got to lounge around Aqaba for a day or so afterwards. I interviewed Iraqi/Israelis who corrected my Arabic while telling me about their schooldays. I went to an amazing crusader castle (with food poisoning). I also remember being in a taxi cab in Syria, which was um, really decked out. There was an electric campfire inside it, furs, other baubles, and when we told the driver we were tired and wanted to make it to our destination he started flying over speedbumps and I ended up with a bunch of fake grapes in my lap.

**E:** What are your future professional aspirations? I assume publish your dissertation. Have you looked into your crystal ball to see what's next?

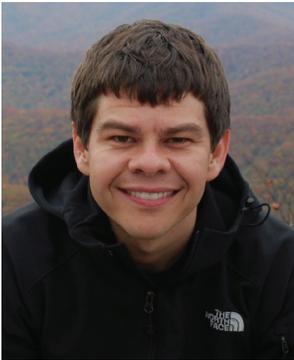
**H:** I have two book chapters I'm hoping will come out this year, one on educational policy in Iraq and another on foreign and local educational expertise in Iraq, Jordan and Palestine. I'm also working on an article discussing the colonial origins of standardized testing in the Middle East. I'm interested in questioning why historical actors (and people today) separate "Western" cramming, or memorization from "Eastern" or even Muslim recitation or rote learning. However, I'm mainly hoping to submit my book manuscript by the end of August, 2017. It's in writing, now I should do it!

**E:** To close, what do you find to be the biggest misconception that average Americans or college students have about the Middle East? I would think that it might be something like a failure to understand the tremendous diversity of views and beliefs within the broad umbrella of the Islamic faith.

**H:** I think the main misconception I've run into is the idea that the way things are now is the way they've always been, that Islam has always been a region that's filled with conflict, been splintered, fractured, etc., and that Islam has always been the same: you could just read the Qur'an and you know what all Muslims do/believe/think. Clearly as a historian you can understand my frustration with these views. A huge portion of the globe was under the control of the Ottoman Empire, relatively peacefully (at least for the time). The Islamic faith is just as dynamic and diverse as any other. In my teaching I've been working hard to make the Middle East, and in part different sects of Islam, more familiar to my students and to break down some general stereotypes while I'm at it. ●

# Southern Conservationism?

WILL BRYAN '07 SAYS “YES”



The History Department gladly welcomed back one of its alumni in spring 2016 to deliver a public address entitled “‘Do not uglify the earth’: Tourism and American Environmental Politics.” Will Bryan '07 received his M.A. and Ph.D. in history from Pennsylvania State University. Will works currently at Georgia State University and is in the process of converting his dissertation into a book titled *The Price of Permanence: Nature and Business in the New South*. The text is under contract with the University of Georgia Press and due out in early 2018. We asked Will to summarize his research and his talk at Furman.

When I began researching the relationship between nature and economic development in the American South, I did not expect to find Southerners advocating what sounded a lot like sustainability. I had spent my entire life in the region, and the legacies of environmental degradation were still evident in deep gullies cutting through once-productive fields, the familiar smell of chemicals spewing from paper mills, straight rows of slash pine in industrial forests, and even the heavy metals at the bottom of Greenville’s Lake Conestee.

This also did not square with what I had read about the South—a region that historians claim was bypassed by the conservation movement in the early twentieth century. For more than six decades scholars have caricatured Southerners as so desperate for economic growth after the Civil War that they rapaciously consumed the region’s resources. Historians see development at any cost as the New South “credo” and argue that the need for jobs overrode stewardship of the natural environment.

By reading corporate records, lawsuits, and trade publications, however, I found that Southerners were preoccupied by the idea that there could be sustainable ways of using their resources. They worried that valuable resources were being depleted, and desperately looked for more efficient ways of using them in the hope that this would fuel long-term economic growth. Southerners called this idea “permanence.” Their logic was simple: industries could be permanent if they managed natural resources instead of exploiting them to depletion.

The best explanation of permanence came from Robert Lowry, an Atlanta businessman. As the president of a bank that depended on economic growth, Lowry did not want public officials to cut off access to valuable natural resources. Instead, he promoted private uses of resources that would leave the land in “better shape” for later generations. In 1913 he urged Southerners to adopt a more “conservative use of natural resources” through “constructive and not destructive development.” With this strategy, Lowry believed that “the natural resources of this wonderful section...can be turned into permanent productive sources of wealth for this and all future generations.”

Lowry was vague about how to achieve this, but by the first decade of the twentieth century municipal officials and businessmen were using permanence to weigh which enterprises were best for the South. This was always a private impulse. Rather than using state power to cordon off land, force businesses to change their ways, or establish conservation commissions, Southern leaders used permanence as a yardstick to decide which private enterprises were best for the region. Boosters and public officials looked for industries that would manage resources by using them



Cottonseed being unloaded at a Mississippi Rail Station, 1880s. Photographer: William Henry Jackson, published by the Detroit Publishing Co.

more efficiently—what they called “waste industries”—and pulled out all the stops to lure these businesses to the South.

The best example was the pulp and paper industry. After researchers developed a method of producing cheap paper from yellow pine in the 1890s, pulp and paper companies began eying Southern forests. Paper mills provided markets for timber with no other commercial use, and corporations that planned to spend millions on a paper mill could not afford to move once the timber supply had been cut out. Paper companies needed reforestation, and relied on fast-growing slash and loblolly pine to keep forests available indefinitely. All of these qualities sounded like permanence to Southern boosters, who praised the industry for its “permanent nature,” and worked hard to lure paper manufacturers to the region using tax breaks and subsidies.

As paper manufacturers moved into the South, they adapted their strategies to keep mills continuously supplied with pulpwood. For instance, Louisiana’s Great Southern Lumber Company added a pulp mill to its operations in 1919 to avoid a potential timber famine. The company owned more than 400,000 acres of yellow pine, but officials still worried that their days were numbered. After touring paper facilities overseas, the firm’s president proposed paper manufacturing as a

way to maintain a “perpetual undiminished forest,” and started work on a pulp mill that ran off waste generated by Great Southern’s sawmill. When the pulp mill began operating, the company converted the five hundred cords of “slabs, edgings, branches and trees too small for saw logs” that were burned every day into profitable raw materials.

Great Southern officials also developed a reforestation program by hiring corporate foresters, establishing nurseries, implementing fire control protocols, and planting pines on cutover lands. Company lobbyists pressed the General Assembly of Louisiana to make tax codes more favorable to reforestation, and foresters taught local farmers how to grow loblolly pines to sell to the company. This was expensive, but the firm’s president explained that pulp production and reforestation were “not the product of impractical idealism” but “the healthy offspring of business necessity,” and he concluded that they would allow the company to operate indefinitely.

By the twentieth century permanence was an important consideration in all New South development efforts. Boosters made great strides convincing businesses to adopt conservation measures and promoting supposedly permanent activities like commercial fertilizer use, cottonseed oil production, and tourism. But these efforts never went as far as most boosters hoped, and the region has become a cautionary tale about the consequences of unchecked development.

The biggest issue was that permanence was narrowly conceived. Businesses may have tried to use resources more efficiently or reduce their production of wastes—and many succeeded—but their efforts never went far enough to avoid environmental problems. Permanence allowed business leaders to ensure the long-term availability of resources without having to radically rethink their operations. Permanence sometimes even made environmental problems worse by intensifying resource use or creating unexpected environmental problems. By defining conservation as the permanent use of resources, then, New South leaders found a goal that they could work toward without checking development or addressing other pressing environmental issues.

To me, permanence sounds a lot like sustainable development. Popularized in the 1980s, sustainable development is the newest strategy for balancing economic growth with the limits of nature. Sustainability and permanence share a faith that environmental problems can be solved with developmental solutions. Although we are a century removed from the South’s search for permanence, the lessons from this experience should spark optimism that businesses can and will make aspects of their operations greener. Yet the experience of the South also suggests that unless we conceive of environmental quality in broad terms and fundamentally rethink the relationship between business and the environment, we will have little success in heading off major environmental problems. ●

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*“Sustainability and permanence share a faith that environmental problems can be solved with developmental solutions”*

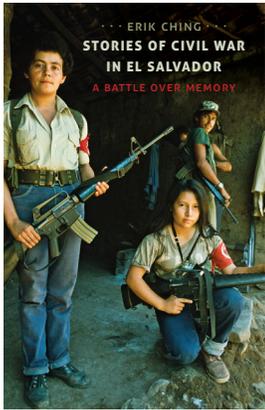
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**(LEFT)** Conestee Mill Building and Dam, 2006, photo by Will Bryan.

**(BELOW)** Pulp Plant of Champion Fibre Company (south side) Canton, N.C., 1910. Photographer: Herbert W. Pelton.



## ERIK CHING PUBLISHES NEW BOOK ON EL SALVADOR



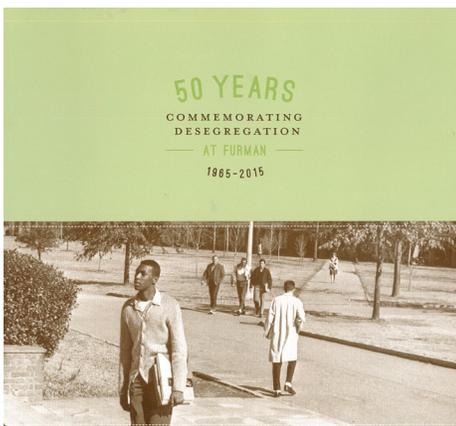
Congratulations to **Erik Ching** for the publication of *Stories of Civil War in El Salvador: A Battle Over Memory* with the University of North Carolina Press in September 2016. From the back cover:

El Salvador's civil war began in 1980/81 and ended twelve bloody years later. It saw extreme violence on both sides, including the terrorizing and targeting of civilians by death squads, the recruitment of child soldiers, the death and disappearance of more than 75,000 people. Through a systematic reading of the life-story literature—memoirs and testimonials—Erik

Ching seeks to understand how the war has come to be remembered and rebattled by Salvadorans and what that means for their society today.

Ching identifies four memory communities that dominate national postwar views: civilian elites, military officers, guerrilla commanders, and working class and poor testimonialists. Pushing distinct and divergent stories, these groups are today engaged in what Ching terms a “narrative battle” for control over the memory of the war. Their ongoing publications in the marketplace of ideas tend to direct Salvadorans’ attempts to negotiate the war’s meaning and legacy, and Ching suggests that a more open, coordinated reconciliation process is needed in this post-conflict society. In the meantime, El Salvador, fractured by conflicting interpretations of its national trauma, is hindered in dealing with the immediate problems posed by the nexus of neoliberalism, gang violence, and outmigration.

## STEVE O'NEILL WINS MERITORIOUS AWARD FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION



The History Department is proud to recognize **Steve O'Neill** as the recipient of the inaugural Meritorious Diversity and Inclusion Award for a faculty member. The award is given in recognition of having “demonstrated an emerging or sustained commitment to advance Furman’s value of diversity and

inclusion, and multiculturalism on campus.” Throughout his career, but especially over the past couple years, Steve has been an active

and vocal proponent of Furman’s need to engage with diversity. Not the least of his activities was his leadership on Furman’s 50 Year Celebration of Desegregation, which Steve recognized not only as an opportunity for celebration, but also for as a time for needed reflection upon Furman’s troubled history with diversity. One of the products of his efforts was the booklet published by Furman, *Fifty Years: Commemorating Desegregation at Furman 1965–2015*.

## CAROLYN DAY WINS MERITORIOUS AWARD FOR ADVISING, RECOGNITION FOR HER RESEARCH ON TUBERCULOSIS AND FASHION

### How Tuberculosis Shaped Victorian Fashion

The deadly disease—and later efforts to control it—influenced trends for decades



The History Department is proud to recognize **Carolyn Day** as the recipient of the 2016 Alester G. Furman, Jr. and Janie Earle Furman Award for Meritorious Advising. Carolyn received the award at the May 2016 commencement ceremony. Anyone who knows Carolyn and the seemingly endless hours she devotes to meeting with students knows that she fits the following description

of the award to a tee: “long-term commitment to advising, rapport with students, concern for advisees’ career goals and future plans, willingness to seek answers to advisees’ questions, knowledge of university regulations and curriculum, and effectiveness in directing students toward productive college experiences.”

Beyond her stellar advising, Carolyn is making a national mark with her research on the intersection of disease and fashion in nineteenth-century England. Carolyn was a primary interview source in an article by Emily Mullin in the online *Smithsonian Magazine*, “How Tuberculosis Shaped Victorian Fashion,” in May 2016. Response to the *Smithsonian* article was widespread. Among other outcomes, it resulted in Carolyn being interviewed nationally by Dr. Katherine Albrecht and Dr. Ira Breite, and internationally on the BBC’s Live Up All Night with Rhod Sharp. In an article in the online magazine *Hello Giggles*, author Channing Sargent provides explanatory context for why this disease/fashion nexus is drawing so much attention: “[Day’s] article in the *Smithsonian Magazine* describes how modern standards of beauty (i.e., rail-thin figures) were actually originally shaped by tuberculosis, a deadly disease, and honestly, we’re not at all surprised.”

# Student Accolades

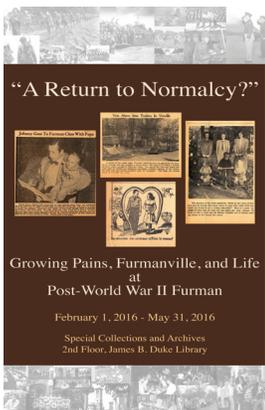
## SAMI STRICKLAND '16 WINS FULBRIGHT RESEARCH GRANT TO STUDY IN GERMANY



Congratulations to **Sami Strickland** for winning a rare and prestigious Fulbright research grant to study in Germany. Sami will spend 2016/17 in Leipzig, where she will, "pursue methods and techniques for identifying and documenting instances of text-reuse in ancient Greek

literature." Because so much evidence from Ancient Greece has been lost over time, one approach to make up for the gaps is to study "text reuse," which looks for "paraphrases of, or references to lost works in the works of other, later, authors." Specifically, Sami will be tackling this undertaking through the use of digital data. She will be working with a professor at the University of Leipzig, whose project, *Digital Athenaeus*, seeks new ways to document text-reuse. Sami says that many Germans have told her that going to Leipzig, which is in eastern Germany, would be a disappointing change from the west. When asked to comment on this, Sami told us this: "My history background trained me to see the big picture, not to focus on a narrow period of history, and [thus] I have the pleasure of immersing myself into the culture of a city with an incredibly rich 1000-year history."

## HISTORY MAJOR CURATES WWII EXHIBIT IN FURMAN'S SPECIAL COLLECTIONS LIBRARY



As part of her internship in Furman's Special Collections and University Archives for History 316: Making the Past Public, senior **Tyler Edmonds** curated an exhibit on Furman in the post-World War II era. Titled "A Return to Normalcy? Growing Pains, Furmanville, and Life at Post-World War II Furman," Edmonds captured the experience of young veterans returning to Furman. She examined their efforts to obtain a college degree and move forward with their lives. She also offered a glimpse into the impact of the war on Furman. Her exhibit featured three-dimensional artifacts, images, newspapers, yearbooks,

and other ephemera. The exhibit opened this past February with a reception attended by trustees, Furman administrators, faculty, and fellow students.

## CONGRATS TO OUR STUDENT PRESENTERS AT THE NATIONAL PHI ALPHA THETA CONFERENCE

The History Department proudly sent three students to the annual Phi Alpha Theta (History Honor Society) conference in Orlando, Florida, in January 2015.

- **Leah Barngrover**, "Female Perpetrators in Nazi Germany: Evil or Ordinary?"
- **Abigail Hartman**, "Witches, Prodigies, and Apparitions During the English Revolution."
- **Sami Strickland**, "Reading Between the Lines: Use and Abuse of Language in Colonial Africa."

## CONGRATS TO ABIGAIL HARTMAN: LONE UNDERGRADUATE PRESENTER AT THE SIXTEENTH CENTURY STUDIES CONFERENCE

Congratulations to **Abigail Hartman**, for delivering a conference paper at the Sixteenth-Century Studies Conference in Bruges, Belgium, in August 2016. It is rare for graduate students to present at this professional conference, and it is almost unprecedented for undergraduates to do so in the roughly fifty-year history of the conference. In fact, there is an actual policy against undergraduate presenters. The title of Abigail's paper was: "These Troublesome and Distracted Times': Prodigies, Prognostication, and Christian Astrology during the English Revolution." In Abigail's words, "this project has used the question of supernatural explanations as its focal point for collecting and analyzing newspapers and pamphlets about the political, religious, and social upheaval of mid-17th-century England." She says that the fantastical images found in those sources, "far from being random freaks spawned by an uncontrolled universe," were instead, "'strange and true events' that carried deep significance, embodying the fusion between human affairs and divine providence in a particularly dramatic way."



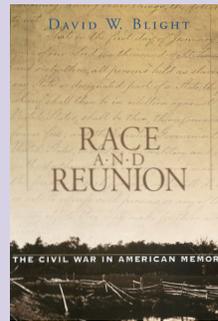
Abigail Hartman presenting her paper in the Provincial Palace in Bruges, August 2016.

## THE 2015/16 TINDAL LECTURE: *David Blight, Yale University*



The participants at the Tindal dinner: (L-R) Steve O'Neill, Sean Hartness, David Blight, Courtney Tollison, Marian Strobel and David Shi

Amongst the thousands of history majors who have attended Furman University, **George Tindall** '42 (1921–2006) stands out as one in whom the department takes unusual pride. After graduation from Furman and service in the U.S. Army Air Forces during World War II, Tindall earned a Ph.D. in History from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and embarked on a 30+ year career there. He served as president of the Southern Historical Association and authored many books, including *America: A Narrative History*. In the 1990s, Furman President Emeritus David E. Shi '73 began co-authoring the text, and continues to author it today.



Tindall passed away in 2006. In 2008, the Dr. George B. Tindall '42 Lectureship at Furman University was established in his memory. It seeks to bring our nation's eminent historians to campus, not only to offer public lectures, but also to interact with students and faculty informally and in the classroom. The inaugural speaker was former Tindall student Dan T. Carter. Subsequent speakers have included Glenda Gilmore of Yale, Hannah Rosen of the University of Michigan, and the Reverend Jesse Jackson.

This past March, Professor **David Blight** of Yale University delivered a talk entitled "How Does the Civil War Still Have a Hold on Our Historical Memory?" His visit also included conversations and meetings with students and a two-hour seminar with faculty and students that focused on his book, *Race and Reunion: The Civil War in American Memory*.

The next Tindall Lecturer will be Professor **Doug Egerton** of Le Moyne College in March 2017. His talk will focus on themes and arguments featured in his book, *The Wars of Reconstruction: The Brief, Violent History of America's Most Progressive Era*.

The department considers this lecture our most significant event. We are pleased to be stewards of this important lectureship and through this lecture, are fortunate to have the support to expose our faculty and students to such high caliber teachers and scholars.

—Courtney Tollison

## *Inaugural Recipients of the John Block Fund*

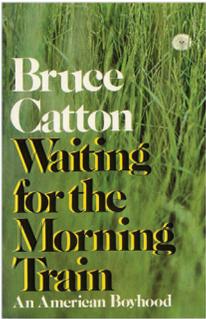
Three faculty members made use of the first installments from the John Block Fund to support research-related travel.

**Jason Hansen** spent a month in Belgrade, Serbia learning Serbian for work on his new book project, "After Genocide: Post-conflict Memory in Germany, Bosnia, Croatia and Serbia." The project is a comparative look at atrocity memory between World War II (Germany) and several former Yugoslav states. Jason's preliminary conclusion is that there are strong similarities between the two, suggesting that the failure to come to terms with genocide is less a product of national or ethnic culture and more a universal norm in dealing with such situations.

**Carolyn Day** traveled to England and Italy where she presented two conference papers and conducted research. The first paper was given at the York Castle Museum for its "Shaping the Body" exhibition. It was this presentation that led to Carolyn being interviewed for the *Smithsonian Magazine*. Carolyn presented a second paper at a conference in Prato, Italy, and conducted research in the Royal Library of Windsor Castle.

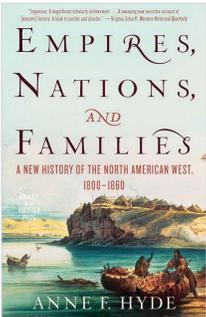
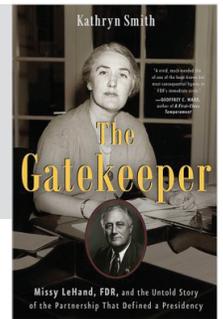
**Erik Ching** traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with someone about a privately-held collection of documents relating to the civil war in El Salvador. This trip established the initial contact for what Erik hopes to be a long and fruitful collaboration. We'll see.

# Faculty Book Recommendations



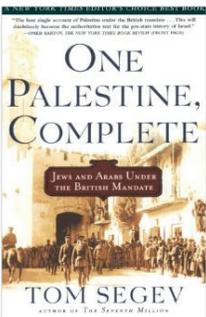
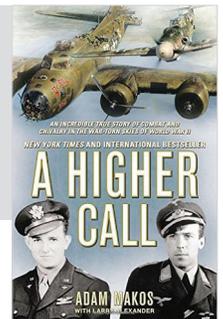
**David Spear** recommends Bruce Catton's *Waiting for the Morning Train: An American Boyhood* (1972). Catton earned fame as the author of some fifteen books on the Civil War, but his best work might be his memoir. He grew up in northern Michigan at the turn of the twentieth century. The sentimental title, leads one to expect something boring or treacly. Instead, the book is utterly engaging. Catton's writing is stellar; his memories are vivid, his thoughtful analysis of the so-called march of progress leaves you reeling, and his insights into human nature are at once steely-eyed yet sympathetic.

**Marian Strobel** recommends Kathryn Smith's *The Gatekeeper; Missy LeHand, FDR, and the Untold Story of the Partnership That Defined a Presidency* (2016). Smith is a journalist from Anderson, South Carolina, and she has written a revealing biography of Marguerite ("Missy") LeHand, the fun-loving and highly competent private secretary/executive assistant who worked closely with Franklin Roosevelt from the 1920's until her own death in 1944. Through meticulous primary research, Smith has provided an intimate look at the private FDR and his working and social relationships, not only with LeHand, but also with Eleanor and many other New Deal luminaries.



**Erik Ching** recommends the latest installment of his 'reading history books to his dad.' This year's selection is Anne Hyde's *Empires, Nations, and Families: A History of the North American West, 1800-1860* (2012)—winner of the 2012 Bancroft Price (top prize for U.S. history by the American Historical Association) and a finalist for a Pulitzer in 2012. Hyde combines close detail with expansive overviews and has written a book that is gripping in a subtle way. Some of its content bears remarkable similarity to the film "The Revenant," namely the fur trade in the upper Missouri, and the importance of family ties and ethnic mixing.

**Courtney Tollison** recommends Adam Makos's and Larry Alexander's *A Higher Call: An Incredible True Story of Combat and Chivalry in the War-Torn Skies of World War II* (2012). It's the story of damaged American bomber flying over wartime Germany as a Messerschmitt fighter pulls up behind it, flown by the German ace Franz Stigler. But instead of destroying the bomber, Franz....well, you'll just have to read the book, which Courtney describes as "an unlikely, riveting history of the relationship between a Luftwaffe pilot and USAAF pilot who find each other once again later in life. If you enjoyed *Unbroken*, you will really enjoy *A Higher Call*."



**Hilary Falb-Kalisman** recommends Tom Segev's *One Palestine Complete: Jews and Arabs under the British Mandate* (2000). Trained as a historian, but working as a journalist, Segev offers a panoramic view of the Mandate for Palestine, from British, Jewish and Arab perspectives. Under Britain's tutelage, sanctioned by the newly created League of Nations, the Mandate lasted from 1922 until 1948. Meant to ease the transition from empire to nation-state, while advancing Britain's interests, the Mandate for Palestine had the added hurdle of different national aspirations: only the Jewish national home was required by the Mandate's charter. Segev's book is not the easiest introduction to historical events, or controversies. However, it's a wonderfully entertaining book that makes this period come alive in a way few histories, particularly histories of the Middle East, manage to do.

# Alumni Notes

**Jonathan Baddley** '13 has completed a law degree at George Washington University, and has been accepted into the History of Christianity Ph.D. program at Yale University, which he will start in Fall 2017.

**Virginia Cain** '10 is in a doctoral program in history at the University of Alabama. Her dissertation will focus on prostitution, feminism, and respectability and identity politics in southern urban spaces around the turn of the twentieth century.

**Michael Dodd** '07 completed his law degree at the College of Charleston, with a specialization in Maritime Law. He has moved back to Greenville to open his own legal practice, but teaches law part time at the College of Charleston.

**Elizabeth Fox** '16 is enrolled in a decorative arts graduate program at George Mason University.

**Morgan Fox** '16 is enrolled in an art and museum studies graduate program at Georgetown University.

**Will Hall** '07 has now finished his medical studies at Virginia Commonwealth University and is applying for residencies.

**Hannah Mooney** '15 has been working as the Educational Assistant for the Historic Charleston Foundation and is applying for graduate programs in public history and museum studies.

**Carys O'Neill** '15 is in a public history/historic preservation graduate program at the University of Central Florida. She recently incorporated her internship experiences at the Travelers Rest Historical Society (completed as part of HST 316: Making the Past Public) into one of her graduate courses.

After spending a year teaching English in China, **Donny Santacaterina** '15 is now enrolled in a doctoral program in history at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Assistant Professor Courtney Tollison '99 and her husband visited with Donny in Beijing during spring break.



*Sean Hartness, Courtney Tollison and Donny Santacaterina in Beijing*

**Daniel Sanders** '16 is enrolled in law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Morgen Young** was recently featured in the National Council on Public History's "History @ Work" blog. Morgen owned her own historical consulting firm for seven years and now works as a project historian in Portland, Oregon.

## Carolyn Sims Retires after 53 Years of Service



With fondness and a hint of melancholy, the History Department reports that department assistant **Carolyn Sims** retired after a career of 53 years at Furman—surely a record for longevity. Every day, rain or shine, snow or sleet, Carolyn provided a shining and welcoming presence in the History Department. In terms

of faculty needs, she would stay late to complete projects on tight deadlines, would type and retype manuscripts in the days before computers, and was always willing to assist in planning social events for our students or for the department faculty. Carolyn took care of countless matters about which faculty understood little. She also knew everyone on campus, be it other departmental assistants, folks in the business office, or staff in Facilities Services: all essential components of daily life at Furman and people whose friendship and assistance we often needed. Most importantly, Carolyn lovingly mentored generations of students with her kindness, generosity, superb listening skills, and compassion. She had the knack of being able to figure out how to befriend the lonely, to uncover the problems of students in crisis, and to instill confidence where it was lacking. **Marian Baker** '17, our current student assistant, has written the

following in tribute to Carolyn: "Ms. Carolyn is one of the sweetest, friendliest people I will probably ever be lucky enough to know. Every day when I came to work in the History Department I would look forward to her warm smile and enthusiastic greeting. I once told her that my grandmother always made pizzelles, a type of Italian cookie. She remembered this story and later gave me boxes of pizzelles as a present! Ms. Carolyn was like having another grandmother, and I will forever cherish her and her generosity." Such a statement well sums up the gifts that Carolyn Sims gave to Furman and its students, faculty, and staff. She will be sorely missed, and we hope to see her on campus often. In the meantime, Carolyn is in good health, and is busy with her real estate career as well as with visiting with her grandchildren and many friends.

—*Marian E. Strobel*

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Check here if you are willing to let us put any of our majors in touch with you for the purpose of internships, shadowing, or career information.

M13.AG16

(over)

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*The History Department in 1999 (BACK ROW, L-R) Bill Lavery, Erik Ching, Tim Fehler, John Barrington (FRONT ROW, L-R) Demarie Faitler, Jim Leavell, Marian Strobel, David Spear, Diane Vecchio, Ron Granieri, Lloyd Benson, Steve O'Neil*