

# HISTORY AT FURMAN

2019

Edited by John Barrington and Erik Ching



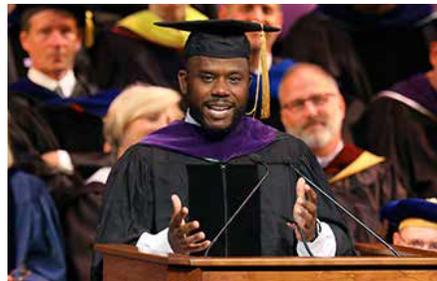
## From the Chair

Dear History Alumni,

The 2018-19 academic year started out with a new tradition at Furman University. Opening Convocation was held Aug. 27, the day before the start of fall classes. The Faculty Processional into McAlister Auditorium featured a history major leading faculty behind the history banner. It was a festive occasion made even more poignant by the guest speaker, the Honorable **Keith Johnson** '05. **Johnson**, a history major, talked about the impact Furman faculty made on him as an undergraduate and how they influenced his future. He credited our own **Marian Strobel** for having a major impact on his life. It was a proud moment for the History Department.

Recently, there have been several changes in the History Department. We are delighted to welcome **Nadia Kanagawa**, a specialist in Japanese history, to the department. We are also happy to welcome **Jedediah Anderson** (Middle Eastern History) and **David Harrisville** (European History) for one year. **Hilary Kalisman**, who held the position of Middle Eastern historian for the past two years, left Furman for the University of Colorado. Finally, with the hire of Kanagawa, we say farewell (again) to the indefatigable **Jim Leavell**, who had continued to teach Japanese history whenever needed since his official retirement in 2006. We cannot thank him enough for his devoted service to the department, and we look forward to continuing to see him on campus. He is co-leading a MayX this spring, so he will be around!

As always, history faculty have had a very productive year: publishing books and articles, presenting papers at professional conferences, traveling, and mentoring history majors in research projects – an important part of our commitment to The Furman Advantage. During his sabbatical last year, **Lloyd Benson** worked on “Travel and Tourism in Six Atlantic World Cities during the Age of Nation-building, 1830-1880.” **Savita Nair** published “Despite Dislocations: Uganda’s Indians Remaking Home,” in *Memory and Migration in Africa and the Diaspora*, a special issue of *Africa: The Journal of the International African Institute* by Cambridge University Press. **Nair** also presented a paper at the American Conference for Irish Studies in Cork, Ireland. **Carolyn Day** published “Dying to be Beautiful: Fragile Fashionistas and Consumptive Dress in England” for the Fashion and Illness issue of the *Journal of Eighteenth Century Studies*. She also presented papers on 18th century fashion and illness at events in London, Oxford, and St. Louis. **Nadia Kanagawa** presented “What’s in a Name? Eighth Century Immigrants and Networks of Status in the Japanese Court” at the Asian Studies Association in Sydney, Australia. **Lane Harris** published *The Peking Gazette: A Reader in Nineteenth-Century Chinese History* (Leiden: Brill, 2018); a translation with Mei Chun of Luo Zhitian’s *Shifts of Power: Modern Chinese Thought and Society* (Leiden: Brill); an article in *The Qiaopi Trade and Transnational*



Honorable Keith Johnson '05

*Networks in the Chinese Diaspora*; and an article in the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*. **Steve O’Neill** published “For the General Good of the Churches: Furman University and Slavery” in *Seeking Abraham: A Report of Furman University’s Task Force on Slavery and Justice*.

**Diane Vecchio** published “The Scourge of the South: Poverty and Pellagra in Spartanburg’s Mill Villages,” in *Recovering the Piedmont Past, Vol. 2* (University of South Carolina Press, 2018) and “Max Moses Heller: Patron Saint of Greenville’s Renaissance,” a chapter in *The Jewish Role in American Life, Vol. 12* (Purdue University Press, 2018). **John Barrington** presented a paper on “Religion, Race and Revolution: Creating a Bi-Racial Church at Welsh Neck, South Carolina” at the British Society for 18th Century Studies Conference at Oxford University. He also gave a lecture on Alexander Hamilton to the Greenville chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. **Tim Fehler** published “Coexistence and Confessionalization: Emden’s Topography of Religious Pluralism” in *Topographies of Tolerance and Intolerance: Responses to Religious Pluralism in Reformation Europe*. He also presented “The Impact of Protestantism on Social Welfare Policy: The Case of Calvinist Emden” at the XVIII World Economic History Conference in Boston. **Fehler** and

his former student, **Abigail Hartman** (History, '17) edited a Sourcebook titled *Signs and Wonders in Britain’s Age of Revolution*. The sourcebook is the result of a research project mentored by **Fehler**. We would also like to congratulate **Jason Hansen**, who

was awarded a **Fulbright Award** to teach and research at the University of Zagreb in Croatia for the spring 2019 semester.

This will be my last newsletter as Chair of the Department of History. At the end of the 2018-19 academic year I will retire and devote my time to writing two books: a text on Jews in Upcountry South Carolina and a study of the 1919 Red Scare in Central New York. I will miss this wonderful institution and all the students I have had the joy of teaching since 1996.

Keep in touch! We look forward to hearing about your activities, accolades and life events!

—Diane Vecchio

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## NEW FACULTY PROFILE: *Nadia Kanagawa,* Assistant Professor of History

*B.A. in History with distinction, Yale University; Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa;  
M.A. University of Southern California; Ph.D. University of Southern California;  
Dissertation: Making the Realm, Configuring the People: Foreign Subjects in  
Eighth-Century Japan, expected 2018*

### Interviewed by Savita Nair

**SAVITA NAIR:** For the past seven years, you have been studying and teaching in southern California. Describe your initial impressions of the southeastern United States since you moved here. What has surprised you? What particular experience helps to capture your transition from SoCal to GVegas?

**NADIA KANAGAWA:** I love being back in a lush, green place and how friendly and welcoming people have been. One experience that really let me know I was in a different place was driving around downtown on Main Street, where I was excited to see all these great shops and restaurants. I managed to park on Main Street and then spent several minutes walking up and down the street trying to find a meter. I couldn't find one because there are none [it's free]. I just had to laugh at myself. In the same way,

I love being able to walk to the downtown Saturday Market, it is delightful.

**SN:** I have been impressed by how quickly you've discovered and delved into Greenville's restaurant scene. So far in your culinary adventures, what is your favorite restaurant and why? What is on the top of the list of ones you want to try next?

**NK:** The best restaurant so far is Husk. I also discovered The Bake Room, which sells baked goods at Methodical Coffee and has a small shop in the Village of West Greenville. I had one of their blueberry ginger scones at Methodical and thought it was the Platonic ideal of a scone. They always have a huge line at the Saturday market. Finding bakeries has been particularly fun because LA isn't a bread town, but the South has biscuits! What can be better than that! In LA you can sub in lettuce for bread at any restaurant, but it's hard to find a great baguette.

**SN:** What was the critical confluence of arguments, scholarly gaps and your own interests that developed into your dissertation work?

**NK:** My entry point was reading about how important and influential immigrants were in classical Japan, especially because there is still an idea of Japan as an isolated island nation. I was first struck by the contributions that immigrants made and then started thinking, "Wait, but what makes them immigrants? Why are we calling them Korean if they had been in Japan for hundreds of years?" I became fascinated with examining how people at the time thought of belonging and considering how court lineages that traced their descent to foreign states fit into the larger picture of the court.

Part of my connection to this research is personal. I grew up in between three distinct cultures. I am half German and half Japanese and was born in the U.S. Neither of my parents were U.S. citizens even though they lived here for 30 years. Looking back, I always enjoyed being in between cultures, but I recognize now that it was a great privilege to feel special instead of marginal. So, I connected to this research because my background lends itself to recognizing that people can belong to more than one place and to seeing a range of possibilities.

Beyond that, I've always loved ancient history. What I love is the iteration between familiar, human moments, and those that are really foreign. There are so few texts for this time period that you really have to spend time meditating on them and working to get as much as you can get out of each source. It can be frustrating not to be able to ask certain questions because we don't have the sources to answer them, but I do like the fragments. I guess I prefer working within those limitations to the challenges faced by early modern or modern historians, who have so many sources that it must be like drinking from a fire hose.

**SN:** Whether an oral historical source, a piece of propaganda advertisement or a folk song, all historians have a moment when they realize that they've unearthed a window into the past, complicating that seemingly standard narrative – a past that has to be dusted off a bit and attended to and then shared. What was the most exhilarating moment of discovery while you conducted research?

**NK:** I can't really point to a new text that I discovered, but I did find some surprises when I went to read the classical texts. In particular, reading the accounts of one

figure from the time really helped frame the issue at the core of my dissertation. The mother of one of the famous emperors from the time period I study is clearly described in the records as being descended from Korean royalty. Her descent, and the emperor's connections to Korean lineages, are very deliberately highlighted in the official histories. I found this striking because there could hardly be any person more "Japanese" than the emperor, so what did it mean that there was seemingly no issue at the time with a half-Korean emperor? There have been scholars who suggested that this emperor had a sense of inferiority because of his descent, but when I looked at the sources I could not see any trace of hesitation or insecurity. Instead, it was clear that he saw his connection to Korean royalty as advantageous, and went out of his way to reward and recognize his maternal relatives. Reflecting on that figure really helped me understand that we have to shift our ideas on what it meant to be "Japanese" in this time period.

**SN:** Could you talk a little bit more about the kinds of sources you work with?

**NK:** The sources I work with range from official chronicles produced by the Japanese court, to court genealogies, and law codes and legal commentaries. The legal commentaries in particular have been overlooked. They aren't as dry and boring as they might sound! They're actually incredibly rich sources in which you can see the scholars of the time working to understand what individual words in the law codes meant and how they should be interpreted. Another exciting source for the time are wood/bamboo documents – they were kind of the Post-it notes of the age. Wood and bamboo documents have been discovered in huge caches (hundreds of thousands of them!) in archaeological sites across Japan and can contain everything from writing practice to shipping tags, poetry, administrative notes and drawings. They are exciting because they represent new written sources for the time, and because they can help us confirm the existence of other texts, or to confirm that certain laws were actually enforced, among other things.

**SN:** Please describe the trope of "the immigrant" and how it figures in your work.

**NK:** Honestly, talking about immigrants is a bit of a bait and switch. I'm really arguing that we should stop thinking of eighth century Japan in terms of "native" versus "immigrant" people, but starting with "immigrants" draws people in and gives me a starting point for a conversation.

**SN:** Does this have salience in contemporary U.S. notions of "the immigrant?"

**NK:** I think it does. Part of what I'm considering is who gets called an "immigrant" and for how long, or for how many generations. In the U.S. today, we also label some groups of people immigrants for generations, while others quickly become American. There are lots of other examples from around the world. I found one that had to do with my research when a senior scholar of classical Japan, who used the word *allochthon* to describe immigrants and their descendants in eighth-century Japan, tried to convince me to do the same. He was inspired by the term *allochtoon*, which was used in the Netherlands to refer to the descendants of immigrants who were citizens but still somehow distinct from the rest of the population. Right around the time that he and I were debating whether I should use the term, a series of articles came out in a major newspaper in Amsterdam declaring that they were going to stop using the word *allochtoon*. The headlines were very dramatic – "Amsterdam city council drops the A word" – and the articles explained that city officials had realized that because the word was only used for descendants of immigrants from "non-Western" nations like Morocco or Turkey, it was divisive and discriminatory. I thought it was incredible that they were facing the same problem of definitions that I had seen in eighth-century Japan. And I decided not to use the term *allochthon*!

*"I hope that these experiences will help me in advising students who are also struggling with figuring out what they want to do with their lives."*

**SN:** You worked for a time at Google Japan. How did you end up there?

**NK:** It all felt very random, or perhaps fortuitous. After college I went to a Japanese language program in Yokohama because I had a fellowship. I intended to go to grad school, but I eventually realized that I didn't have a pressing question that I knew I would want to pursue for 10 years. Then I was faced with the idea of getting a job, and I had no idea what to do. Someone at my language school was related to the head of staffing at Google, and he mentioned that they were looking to hire an entry level recruiter in the Japan office. They really wanted someone who could work in both English and Japanese, and I thought recruiting would be a good place to start because I could get to see a lot of different jobs and what they did. I sent my resume to him

and eventually did about eight interviews. I was lucky enough to get the job. I then spent three years there, first as a recruiter for various teams (ad sales, legal, business development, communications, etc.), then as the assistant to the new president of the Japan office, and finally as the internal communications lead for Asia Pacific.

**SN:** What prompted you to transition from corporate work to graduate school? How might this serve you as you mentor Furman students?

**NK:** Google was a great place to work, and I learned a huge amount there, but I was surrounded by people who were totally in love with their work. That made me realize that I was not. I enjoyed the challenges and new experiences I had there, but knew there was something missing. I remembered that I had planned to go to graduate school and started reading around to see if I could come up with a topic that I thought was interesting enough to pursue. I was lucky to have a great library near my office – the International House in Roppongi – which happened to have one of the best collections of English-language scholarship on Japan in the country. While reading there on weekends I found the beginning of my current project, and I became really inspired to return to a world where my job was to think deeply. My co-workers were pretty surprised when I said I was leaving Google to study ancient history, but it made sense to me. I hope that these experiences will help me in advising students who are also struggling with figuring out what they want to do with their lives.

**SN:** When you're not writing or preparing for classes, what are some other ways you spend your time?

**NK:** I like cooking to unwind. I think it's a great balance with research and writing. You go home and make something with your hands, and then you get to eat it! One of my favorite things to make is gyoza. It's a long process to make the filling and then fold all the dumplings, but I used to do it with my dad and have great memories of the conversations we would have as we stood there for hours, folding away. I also sew and knit, which I learned to do as a child but picked up again during grad school. I love how tactile those activities are and that I can produce a tangible physical object. Sometimes after a day of writing and deleting sentence after sentence, it is great to be able to sew a seam or knit a few rows of a sweater and see the progress I made. I particularly like taking an existing garment and unraveling it or re-making it into something I can use. There's too much stuff already out there! ●

# PALADINS AROUND THE WORLD: *History in Europe, Asia and Latin America*

*Erik Ching's trip to Costa Rica*

**H**istory faculty were busy traveling in spring 2018! **Jason Hansen** led an alumni trip to Vietnam and Cambodia in March and a MayX to Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia. **Steve O'Neill** and **Erik Ching** helped lead a semester study away program in Latin America, **Carolyn Day** led a MayX to the UK, and **Diane Vecchio** led a MayX to Italy. While these countries are in very different parts of the world and have distinct cultures, our history scholars found some common threads in their experiences.

One of the prominent themes for travel study is the idea that education isn't limited to the classroom, nor does it end when you graduate. Jason Hansen's journey to Vietnam included a wide range of participants, from a current Furman student to alumni of all ages. For one traveler, a Vietnam War veteran, it was an opportunity to revisit a place full of memories and experiences. Other visitors, including those who grew up in the 1980s watching films like *Apocalypse Now* and *Platoon*, were surprised by the difference between how they imagined Vietnam and what they actually encountered. Gone is past hostility to the United States that marked the war era, replaced by a genuine warmth and affection for Americans. The trip highlighted the multiple ways that wars can be remembered, as well as how these memories can change over time as circumstances evolve.

Steve O'Neill traveled to another country that bears the marks of more lasting

and lengthy U.S. involvement: Nicaragua. Students examined its long history, from William Walker's aggressive takeover in the 1850s, to the failed attempt by transportation magnate Cornelius Vanderbilt to build a shipping canal across the country, to the Contra War of the 1980s and Daniel Ortega's current move toward dictatorship. The journey included a five-day tour along the San Juan river, visiting several historical sites



*Jason Hansen's alumni trip to Vietnam.*

as well as some of the most untamed land in the Western hemisphere. The group spoke with an Afro-Caribbean guide at San Juan del Norte about how his family and community have been displaced from their original village to areas that the government deems more convenient, uprooting them from their homes and disenfranchising them.

The displacement of such groups is not uncommon. In Costa Rica, Erik Ching's class visited a refugee camp that grew out of the

1979 Sandinista revolution in Nicaragua. It has since expanded into a larger immigrant community of nearly 50,000 that has faced persistent disregard, such as having a landfill located close by. The group feels marginalized by a nationalistic trend within Costa Rican politics that mirrors similar movements around the globe. A fierce political debate is now taking place in a country once known for its democratic equilibrium, which allowed

Furman students to explore how xenophobia and discrimination can cause social and political upheaval.

Jason Hansen's MayX to Croatia, Bosnia and Serbia focused on the Yugoslav Wars of the 1990s, which examined similar negative constructions of otherness. The trip emphasized that history is not simply a recording of events that have taken place, but is an active act of remembrance that involves choices about what to remember and what to forget. In the Balkans, the close proximity of peoples and the immediacy of the war memory presents a fantastic opportunity to study this phenomenon.

During the trip, students met with representatives from all three

communities, including the family of a current Furman student. Perhaps the most powerful moment of the trip was hearing from a Bosnian genocide survivor in the actual location where he was imprisoned.

Participants in Carolyn Day's Medical Mysteries and Histories MayX also got up close and personal with history. They went behind the scenes at the Edinburgh Anatomy Museum and were allowed to handle skeletal remains from London's 14th century plague



Steve O'Neill's trip to Nicaragua.

pits at the Museum of London. The bones visibly demonstrate trauma and illness and are irrefutable evidence of how societies historically dealt with sickness and death. Preconceived notions of the medical profession, how physicians worked in the past and how medicine has changed with time were challenged. However, it wasn't all bones. At Oxford's Magdalen College, the librarians allowed their visitors to touch 16th and 17th century texts, and at the York Castle Museum the class handled 19th century clothing and medical instruments. All of these interactive experiences brought centuries of history to life for students who live in very different times to those they studied.

Diane Vecchio's MayX to Italy likewise supplied ample opportunities to walk through history, from exploring Roman sites related to the lore of the Catholic Church to cave dwellings in the 8,000-year-old Greek community of Matera, deep in the Basilicata region of Southern Italy. Many of the hillside caves, once housing for only the poorest residents, have now been converted into luxury accommodations. Students visited caves that remained in their original state and stayed overnight in refurbished ones. The passage of time was easy to document, from the caves to the simple "peasant"

food of the region, which has resisted the influence of globalization but remains part of inhabitants' modern lifestyles. Most importantly, if you're ever in the area, Diane claims the best pizza in the world is to be found at a small eatery in Matera!

History faculty have more travel planned in the near future. In spring 2019 David Spear will be in Brussels, Carolyn Day will be in Edinburgh and Jason Hansen will return to Croatia on a Fulbright grant. Marian Strobel is working on MayX plans to visit WWI sites in Western Europe, and the ever-busy Jim Leavell will return to Native American sites in the American West. There will be plenty of material for next year's newsletter!

*"All of these interactive experiences brought centuries of history to life for students who live in very different times to those they studied."*



Jason Hansen's May X in Bosnia.



Diane Vecchio's May X in Italy.

## ALUMNI INTERVIEWS:

# Hannah Mooney '15, Jon Baddley '13

**H**annah Mooney, a history major who graduated in 2015, is currently pursuing a master's degree in the public humanities program at Brown University. Her interest in public history began at Furman, where she interned at the Upcountry History Museum in downtown Greenville, and then at Rosslyn Chapel (featured in the Da Vinci Code) outside Edinburgh, Scotland, while participating in a Furman study away program. She rounded off her undergraduate internship experience by working at the Historic Charleston Foundation and at the Children's Museum in Greenville during her senior year. One of her focuses at Brown has been on the intersection of history and memory, and she co-curated a project at the John Nicholas Brown Center that invited prominent artists to submit their own personal monuments to people, places or events that they considered "monument worthy." After obtaining her M.A., Hannah hopes to continue educating the public to think about the significance of how we commemorate the past in monuments and other historic sites.

John Barrington asked Hannah to comment on how she had developed an interest in public history.

**JOHN BARRINGTON:** How did your studies at Furman lead you to your current graduate work and career goals?

**HANNAH MOONEY:** I initially took an American history class to satisfy a GER, but I liked it so much that I decided I wanted to major in history. Though I had loved museums my whole life, it wasn't until taking history classes and completing my first internship at the Upcountry History Museum that I

saw public history as a career option. I completed two more museum internships while at Furman, one while studying abroad in Scotland and another back in Greenville, and knew that I was for sure interested in museums and other history nonprofits. Studying at Furman allowed me to try different types of museum work and provided me important internship opportunities that have shaped my personal interests in public history.

**JB:** In what ways has your study of history at Furman helped you to face the challenges of graduate school?

**HM:** While my grad school course load is certainly demanding, I've never felt completely overwhelmed by it. I credit this to the work I did at Furman. Studying history also pushed me to become a much better and smarter writer, and that has been incredibly helpful across all of my graduate courses.

**JB:** What have been the most serious challenges you've faced as you've pursued a career in public history? What have been the highlights of your post-graduate experience?

**HM:** One of the biggest challenges I've faced was realizing that the world of public history is highly competitive and that I would need to get at least a master's degree to work the types of jobs I want to work. However, grad school has been full of such amazing resources, opportunities and connections that I'm glad to be back in school.

I'm lucky to feel like I've had several highlights so far in my post-grad experience. This past summer, I worked at a contemporary art nonprofit, which was very out of my comfort zone. However,

it turned out to be one of the best work experiences and environments of which I've been a part. I had the opportunity to develop and workshop some programming that focused on monuments as both public art and public history. These programs were based on an exhibit I curated last spring semester, so it was exciting to tie several major projects together. Other highlights have been the interactions I've had with kids. After giving a field trip tour of a historic house, a third-grader stopped me to thank me and tell me I was a "great scientist!"

**JB:** Do you have any advice for current Furman history majors who are thinking of a career in public history, museum studies or related fields?

*"Take advantage of the opportunities both Furman and Greenville have to offer while you can."*

**HM:** Try different things and hold different positions while you can! I've worked in a number of departments in local history museums, a children's museum, a medieval chapel, historic house museums, a contemporary arts nonprofit and a special collections library. I initially assumed my interests were in archives, but through my undergraduate internships and post-Furman work I learned I am most passionate about education, interpretation and engaging more directly with the public. Take advantage of the opportunities both Furman and Greenville have to offer while you can! ●



*“I found myself drawn to the normative questions of the law – the persistent, yet elusive, ‘why’ that stood behind every legal principle but was often left unaddressed in the coursework.”*

**J**onathan Baddley graduated from Furman with a B.A. in history and political science in 2013. He received his J.D. from The George Washington University in 2016, but decided to return to academia instead of practicing law. He is now working toward his master of theological studies degree at Harvard Divinity School. Although his new course of study is in the field of religion, he is to all intents and purposes working on a historical project, set in England during the period of the Civil War. In the course of his work toward his master’s degree, Jonathan has started exploring the ways in which parish churches used exclusion from communion as a means of encouraging godly behavior; he hopes to expand on this project when he moves on to pursue his Ph.D.

**JOHN BARRINGTON:** After leaving Furman, you first attended law school and obtained a law degree. What made you decide to head to graduate school instead of practicing law?

**JONATHAN BADLEY:** Well, first, I have always had a deep and abiding interest in history. Law, however, seemed the more practicable career field. While in law school, I found myself drawn to the normative questions of the law – the persistent, yet elusive, ‘why’ that stood behind every legal principle

but was often left unaddressed in the coursework. During my summer working in international human rights law in the Netherlands, I began to trace the genealogy of the normative discussions that surrounded trans-national legal norms. Inevitably, this took me to back to Grotius and, more broadly, the Protestant Reformation. This roundabout return to my interest in history was underscored by my own personal examination of objective religious truth at the time. The ethical and theological claims emanating from the Reformation seemed to offer a satisfying answer on both fronts. As a result, I wanted to immerse myself in the history of the Reformation and the early modern period, so the move into a graduate program in the history of Christianity seemed to make sense.

**JOHN B:** Have your legal studies helped you in any way with your graduate work?

**JON B:** My legal education has served me well in graduate school. Law school trained me to think in a way that has enabled me to deconstruct historical arguments and evaluate them against the historical evidence. Studying the law stretched my analytical abilities and prepared me to handle the often-ambiguous nature of extant primary source material in a responsible manner. I was equipped by my legal education to engage in sustained,

reasoned historical analysis and for that I am grateful.

**JOHN B:** Is your experience of studying history at Furman still helpful after all these years?

**JON B:** The years I spent studying history at Furman absolutely remain helpful. My history professors at Furman offered courses that were simultaneously fascinating and academically rigorous. Seeing that balance modeled well has encouraged me as I think about how to best orient my own teaching in the coming years. My time in the History Department broadened my methodological horizons, and afforded me the opportunity to develop foundational skills that have supported well my growth as an aspiring historian.

**JOHN B:** What are your plans for the immediate future?

**JON B:** I will finish my master’s program at the end of the current academic year. I am hoping to continue my studies of religious practices at parish level in 17th-century England in a doctoral program, perhaps at Cambridge or the University of Chicago. ●

## FACULTY INTERVIEW: *Dr. Carolyn Day*

**D**r. Carolyn Day joined the Furman History Department in 2012. She teaches Modern Europe, Modern Britain and the History of Western Medicine. Her recent book, *Consumptive Chic: A History of Beauty, Fashion and Disease* (London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2017) has been attracting a lot of positive notice in both the United States and Great Britain. John Barrington asked her to talk about the origins and impact of her project.

**JOHN BARRINGTON:** How did you stumble on a project that brings together such disparate fields as disease and fashion?

**CAROLYN DAY:** I can recall the precise moment when I decided to pursue this topic. While I was doing my M.Phil. at Cambridge on the history and philosophy of science and medicine, I came across contemporary portrayals of the heroines of *La Traviata* and *La Bohème*, both of whom died a romanticized and beautiful death from tuberculosis. Since I had earned a bachelor of science in microbiology as well as a bachelor of arts in history, I had enough medical training to know that death from TB is far from beautiful, and so I became curious as to why it was portrayed in that manner. When I went on to do my Ph.D. in British history, I decided to focus on tuberculosis and fashion for my dissertation.

**JB:** What were the biggest challenges that you faced while doing this research? What were your biggest triumphs?

**CD:** Since my project was interdisciplinary, and there were no existing works that brought TB and fashion together, I had to train myself in a number of different fields before I could proceed. I discovered that little work had been done on the history of women's fashion for the period 1820-1850.

At first, it was hard to find either written documents or artifacts – I was particularly looking for 1840s corsets – that would help me reconstruct how people

viewed TB and how TB might have shaped fashion. My epiphany came when I found the collected letters of the Siddons family, famous in theatrical circles. Their story is interesting for many reasons. Two of the Siddons sisters fell in love with the same man. This man settled his affections on one of the sisters, but when she became ill with TB, or “consumption” as it was often called, he transferred his affections to the other. This complex love triangle generated a significant correspondence, in which I found close friends and family members using literary tropes to describe the appearance and death of the consumptive sister. Reality had been overwritten with expected romantic conventions.

From that starting point, I found further examples of romanticized representations of tuberculosis, as well as evidence that it was fashionable for perfectly healthy women to make themselves look as though they were suffering from TB. I found that they used corsets to give themselves a thin frame with wing-backed shoulders, in order to imitate the “wasting” appearance of the TB sufferer. They used cosmetics to make their skin pale and translucent, with unnaturally rosy cheeks and lips, pronounced blue veins, and glossy hair, just as an actual sufferer would have. I discovered that even medical professionals discussed the disease in poetic terms, though they knew the harsh reality of consumptive deaths, which involve diarrhea and the coughing up of blood. People suffering from consumption were supposed to be enjoying heightened sensibility, a kind of uplifting spiritual state. Deaths from the disease were rationalized by saying that the victims were “too good,” too ethereal, to live in this world. While consumption was seen in this romanticized way, it was a socially respectable disease, and that's why it was fashionable to ape its symptoms. All of that changed when mid-century public health reports started to expose conditions in Victorian slums, and it became clear that consumption was particularly prevalent among the poor – and that it was in no sense edifying. The same literary works

that alerted me to this topic actually helped to kill the fashion for consumption: both *Scènes de la Vie de Bohème* (Henri Murger) and *La Dame aux Camélias* (Alexandre Dumas, fils), the novels that inspired *Bohème* and *Traviata*, portrayed poor and “fallen” women dying of consumption. Respectable people had no wish to use such figures as role models.

**JB:** Your book has attracted a lot of attention. What are some of the recognitions that have particularly surprised or pleased you?

**CD:** It has received some strong reviews from leading scholars in the field; for example, Clark Lawler, who is the authority on tuberculosis, said, “This is an important book.” *Smithsonian Magazine* included an article about my book back in 2016; that brought it a lot of attention. It was named a “Book of the Week” by *Times Higher Education*, the UK's main periodical on what's happening in universities. More recently, *History Today* featured my book on its cover. It has also found its way into more popular forums: for example, the fashion website “Jezebel” has recognized it.

**JB:** What is your next project?

**CD:** I'm exploring a highly romantic, real-life story about a young woman from a good family, who fell in love with their local vicar. Her family didn't approve. The couple tried to elope, but were caught, and she was imprisoned in an upper room of the family home for five months. Finally, she was given the choice between her inheritance and the vicar; she chose the vicar, and was able to marry in late 1770. Within four months, she had died of consumption. Her husband blamed her death on the ill-treatment by her parents, and published a scathing account of their actions. My book will be a “microhistory” that will use this story to explore social interactions and medical treatment. The manuscript is due this December, so I'm scrambling to get it finished! ●

## Faculty-Student Research

Faculty-student research in the History Department will bear fruit this December in the form of a book about Baptist history and race relations in Revolutionary South Carolina. *Baptists in Early North America: Welsh Neck, South Carolina* is a study of one of the earliest Baptist congregations in the state to open its doors to African and African American members. Covering the period 1738-1798, the volume examines the personalities, doctrines and practices of this community and focuses particularly on its decision in 1779 to open its doors to the enslaved. One contribution of this study is to explore in detail the motives of the different parties involved in the transformation of the Welsh Neck Church: Rev. Elhanan Winchester, the white church members, and the black men and women who accepted the invitation to join in large numbers. The alacrity with which enslaved blacks responded to the preaching of Rev. Winchester was an important influence on his rapid evolution from hardline Calvinism to the position that salvation is open to all mankind. Winchester ended up becoming one of the most prominent spokesmen for the new Universalist movement, now part of the Unitarian Universalist Church. Welsh

Neck's decision to admit non-white members impacted the Regular Baptist denomination across South Carolina, including Richard Furman's Charleston congregation. Letters written by Rev. Edmund Botsford, one of Welsh Neck's pastors, to Rev. Furman are included in this volume.

**JASMINE HWANG**, a history major who graduated in 2014, carefully transcribed the surviving section of the Welsh Neck Church Book, one of the documents included in this volume. Working with John Barrington, she also identified references in the Church Book to enslaved members, the starting point for reconstructing the racial history of this community. Her work on this project during the summer of 2013 was supported by a Waco-Childers Award. It has taken a few years to make it into print, but Jasmine's meticulous work on this project is deeply appreciated!

This study is the fifth volume in a series that focuses on Baptist congregations in the colonial and early national periods. It is published by Mercer University Press.

## The 2017-18 Tindall History Lecture

University of South Carolina Associate Professor of History Bobby J. Donaldson presented "The Evidence of Things Not Seen: Remembering & Reconstructing the African American Past" on April 4, 2017. With attention to museums, monuments and memoirs, his presentation examined the determined efforts of African Americans to challenge longstanding narratives that excluded and silenced "black voices" in the Palmetto State.

A scholar of southern history and African American life and culture in the 19th and 20th centuries, Dr. Donaldson's research

and writings explore African American intellectual thought, print culture, education and religion. Additionally, he has served as a consultant for museum exhibitions, archival collections, oral history initiatives, documentary films and historic preservation projects, including the renovation of the Booker T. Washington High School in downtown Columbia, SC. The Tindall Lecture honors Furman alumnus George Tindall '42, who taught history at UNC Chapel Hill for more than 30 years, served as president of the Southern Historical Association and authored numerous important history books.

## Student Accolades



**Quincy Mix '19** was one of two Furman students selected to be a 2018 *Furman Metropolitan Fellow*. The FMF is an alumni-led grant program established in 2015 to create a bridge between Furman students and internship connections in New York City. The fellowship includes support in finding a summer internship, networking opportunities, mentorship and financial assistance.

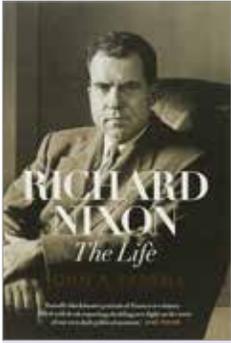
Quincy spent 10 weeks living and working in Manhattan as an intern at Sloane & Company, one of NYC's leading communications firms, where he performed research and serviced client accounts across a diverse spectrum of industries. Reflecting on his

experience, Quincy praised the robust network of alumni support and mentors who made his time in the Big Apple a success:

*"From my very first day in NYC to my very last night, my FMF mentors made our relationship a priority, and never once did I doubt that they would do everything they could to see me succeed professionally and thrive personally."*

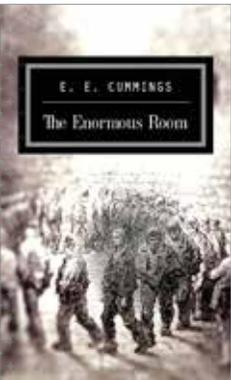
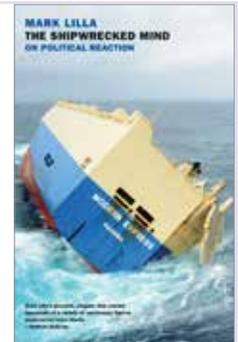
Never one to miss an opportunity, Quincy just completed a study away in Brussels, Belgium. He has participated in the Shucker Leadership Institute and the Furman Community of Scholars, won recognition as a former Waco Childers Research Fellow, and served on the Task Force on Slavery and Justice as its Operations and Publicity Manager. He also volunteers with Life for the Innocent, a nonprofit organization dedicated to rescuing children from human trafficking in Southeast Asia.

# Faculty Book Recommendations



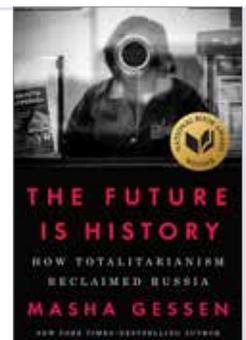
**Marian Strobel** recently read John A. Farrell's *Richard Nixon: The Life*. Richard Nixon proved to be one of the most controversial of U.S. Presidents. In his probing and carefully documented biography, journalist John Farrell explores the life and career of the only Chief Executive to ever resign from the highest office in the land. The author is at his strongest when describing the early political career of Nixon before he vaulted into becoming Dwight Eisenhower's running mate in the election of 1952. Indeed, almost half of his volume is devoted to Nixon's political apprenticeship. In a period of just seven years, he emerged from his Navy service of World War II to being elected to the U.S. Congress and then to the Senate from California. In his analysis, Farrell carefully documents the ways in which the Red Scare furthered that remarkable career yet at the same time marked Nixon with the intensity, moodiness and ruthlessness that would characterize the rest of his life. To Farrell, the Hiss case and the "Checkers" crisis were turning points in changing Nixon's personality for good. As he puts it, henceforth Nixon "withdrew, trusted less and looked with suspicion upon the world." Habits learned early on would shape Nixon in less than positive ways and ultimately lead to the downfall of his presidency.

**John Barrington** recommends Mark Lilla's *The Shipwrecked Mind: On Political Reaction*. In our polarized political times, Lilla sets out to explore the history of various reactionary philosophies that have shaped political discourse in recent decades. He is in no sense an adherent of these ideologies, but believes that it is important to understand how and why these extreme positions have evolved. For those who enjoy the History of Ideas, Lilla's book provides a short and accessible survey of philosophies that may be disturbing, but that nevertheless enjoy a significant influence in today's world.



In tandem with **David Spear's** First Year Seminar on World War I, he has been reading memoirs. The most curious has been that of E. E. Cummings (he of poetic fame). Cummings enlisted as an ambulance driver. Working in Paris, he suddenly found himself under arrest by French authorities. He, along with a close American friend, experienced a bizarre series of twists and turns, until finally he was in a large, but obscure prison. This communal cell gave its name to the published memoir, *The Enormous Room*. It was a plot that could well have been devised by Franz Kafka. Fortunately, E. E. keeps his spirits up, engaging with his fellow prisoners, mostly other foreigners, and loves writing about their personality traits, ties, and tribulations. In the end Cummings was released and sent back to the States, possibly through the direct intervention of President Wilson. It wasn't quite the war Cummings thought he was getting into.

**Jason Hansen** says that Masha Gessen's *The Future is History: How Totalitarianism Reclaimed Russia* is an interesting look at the collapse of democracy in Russia at the start of the 21st century. It focuses on the lives of four Russians who come of age during the collapse of Communism. Following the work of Russian sociologist Lev Gudkov, Gessen shows how the Soviet mindset (Homo Sovieticus) never really disappeared in the 1990s but persisted, laying the groundwork for Putin's authoritarian government. By undermining the study of history and sociology, she argues, Soviet citizens learned to believe simultaneously contradictory ideas, building the foundations of the current government. What is particularly impressive about the book is the way it humanizes this story of frustration and contradiction through the stories of real people.



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## Thank You Donors

**John Block** taught in the history department from 1968-2005 and served as chair for several years, amongst his other extensive service to the university. We are incredibly grateful for his generous and continued support of the history department. We also extend our sincere thanks to those whose support allows us to provide students and faculty with opportunities we might not otherwise be able to offer. Contributions to the Alumni Fund support student-oriented initiatives. Support of the Block Fund helps offset the costs of faculty research-related travel. For all donations, please be sure to specify "History Alumni Fund" or "Block Fund."

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**O**n November 1-2, 2017, the History Department and Furman's Task Force on Slavery and Justice hosted a campus visit by filmmaker Felicia Furman. Felicia, a direct descendent of university founders Richard and James C. Furman, visited history classes and made a public presentation based on her film "Shared History: Families Linked Through Slavery."

Her film tells the story of the descendants of the slaves and masters who resided on the Woodlands Plantation in midlands South Carolina. Woodlands was owned by William Gilmore Simms, a leading poet, novelist and historian in the antebellum South. Felicia Furman is descended from Simms on her mother's side, but more recently has turned her research and writing toward the legacy of slavery in her Furman family.

