



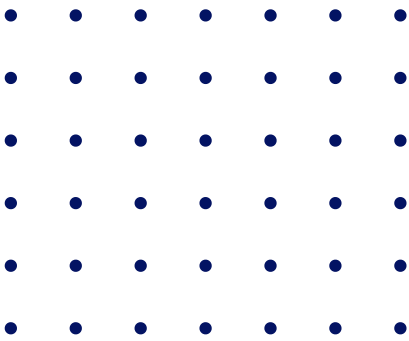
# DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

## NEWSLETTER 2024-2025



### DIVE INTO HISTORY AT UNT

*From classes abroad to academic accomplishments at home the department had many adventures in 2024-2025 that we are excited to share with you in our first ever newsletter!*





# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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Dear UNT History Community,

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the UNT History Department of newsletter! We are excited to share the year's accomplishments with our community of students, faculty, alumni, and friends.

2024-2025 has been an outstanding academic year. We have kept very busy hosting events for students and the community. Highlights include the Military History Center's annual Hurley Seminar and Annual War Studies Symposium, and our first annual D. Harland Hagler event and reception this spring. We have also hosted an array of talks on historical subjects throughout the year, on topics ranging from the French Enlightenment to Black history in Dallas.

Our faculty have been actively engaged in academic and public scholarship. Faculty members published books on subjects ranging from the Vietnam War to sex in Revolutionary England and received attention in venues such as *The New York Times* and *The New Yorker*. They have also contributed to the department's impressive profile in other ways: one, for instance, curated a permanent museum exhibit on Indian domestic workers in Victorian British homes, another is organizing an upcoming Humanities Texas teacher's institute for public school teachers, and another is producing new episodes of his popular history podcast on LGBT Texas.

The heart of our department remains our teaching. The past year has seen innovative new classes ranging from war and society to history through video games. Meanwhile, our instructors have introduced exciting new activities into their classrooms, from visits to the UNT Texas Fashion Collection, to local hikes that integrate environmental history, to Ancient Roman mock trials (conducted in togas!).

Looking ahead, we see great things ahead for UNT history in the upcoming 2025-2026 academic year. We are welcoming a new public historian, Dr. Greta Swain, who will develop an internship program to help our students apply what they are learning in the classroom. Our faculty will of course continue to win prestigious grants, publish groundbreaking books and articles, and teach and inspire our incredible UNT students.

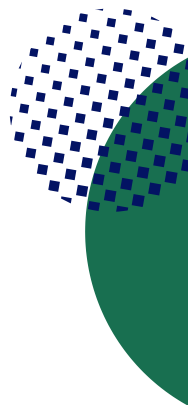
I am excited to see the UNT History community grow and thrive. This newsletter is just one of many ways we can stay connected, share our successes, and support one another. Engage with us: join us on social media, attend our events, and celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty, students, and alumni!

Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the UNT History Department. We hope you will stay in touch!

Warm regards,

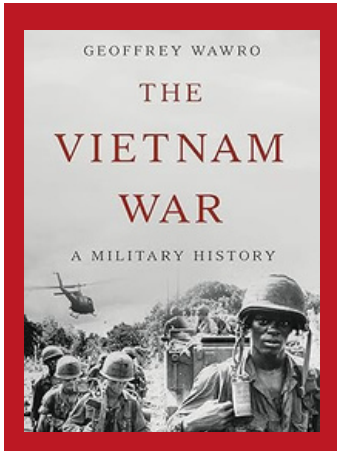


Rachel Louise Moran  
Chair, History Department  
University of North Texas

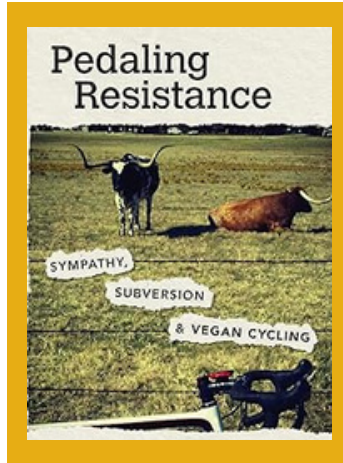


# FACULTY BOOKSHELF

Faculty members released several new books in 2024-2025



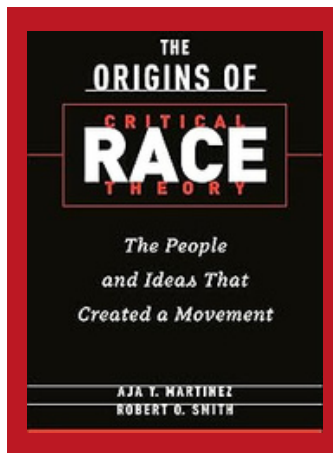
Dr. Geoff Wawro released a new book called The Vietnam War: A Military History.



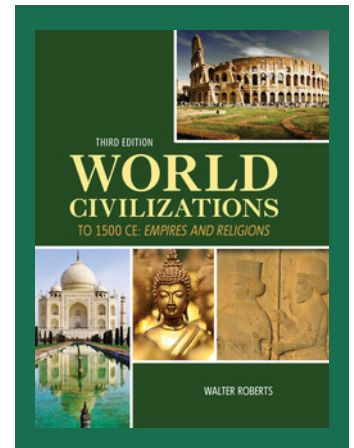
Dr. Michael Wise edited a new book titled Pedaling Resistance: Sympathy, Subversion, and Vegan Cycling.



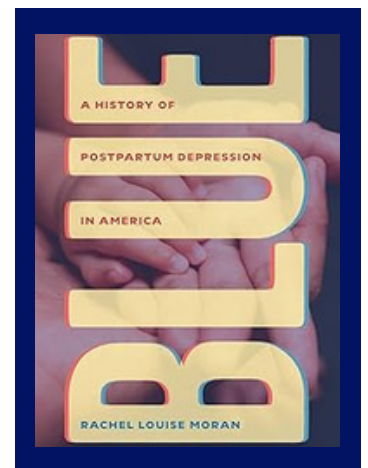
Dr. Sam Fullerton wrote a book titled Sexual Politics in revolutionary England.



Dr. Robert Smith co-wrote a book titled The Origins of Critical Race Theory: The People and Ideas That Created a Movement with Aja Y. Martinez



Dr. Walter Roberts released a new edition of his text World Civilizations to 1500 CE: Empires and Religions.



Dr. Rachel Louise Moran wrote a book on postpartum depression called Blue: A History of Postpartum Depression in America.





# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

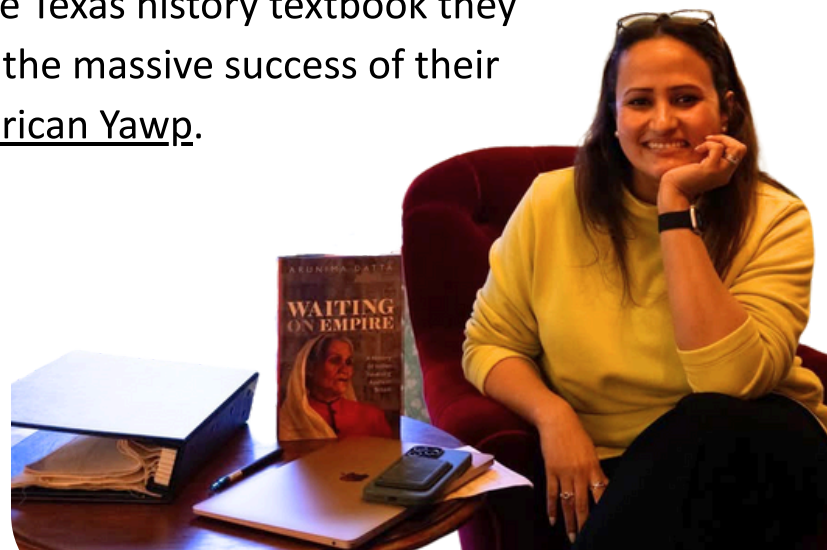
Dr. Katy Beebe is on a Fulbright Fellowship in Austria, where she has been leading students in a collaborative digital research project, The Gebetsbuch Project, based on a fifteenth-century prayer book. Over the next two years, UNT graduate students will contribute to this ongoing project by transcribing and publishing the remaining 220 manuscript folios.

Dr. Arunima Datta was awarded two fellowships in 2024-2025: Queen's University, Belfast and Queen Mary University of London to collaborate with faculty and centers of research on histories of migration, home and consumption.

Dr. Samuel Fullerton's book, *Sexual Politics in Revolutionary England*, has won the annual book prize from the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies.

Dr. Manuel Grajales was awarded the Margaret W. Moore and John M. Moore Research Fellowship, which will support two weeks of archival research in the Swarthmore College Peace Collection.

Dr. Joseph Locke and a collaborator received a \$35,000 grant from the Summerlee Foundation for the open-source Texas history textbook they are designing, The Texas Yawp. It builds on the massive success of their US history open-source textbook, The American Yawp.





# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Todd Moyer consulted on the production of the Apple TV+ miniseries *Masters of the Air* and was a talking head (alongside Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks!) on its accompanying documentary film *The Bloody Hundredth*.

Dr. Chad Pearson published a new article in the journal *Civil War History* called “The Open-Shop Movement and the Long Shadow of Slavery, the Civil War, and Reconstruction.”

Dr. Zoe Ortiz was invited to present a paper, “By the Example of Remarkable Women: The Urban Revival of Gabii,” for the Archaeological Institute of America Speaker Series at the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Wesley Phelps published a new article in *The Journal of Social History*. It is called “Gay Student Services v. Texas A&M University: A Social History of the First Amendment in the Struggle for Equality.”

Dr. David Rex Galindo is happy to announce that baby Mateo was born in August 2024. He also published a book chapter called “Doctor Navarro in the Americas: The Circulation and Use of Martín de Azpilcueta’s Work in Early-Modern Mexico” in *Legal Books and Beyond in the Iberian Worlds*.



# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Dr. Nancy L. Stockdale co-led a study abroad class to London with PhD candidate Lauren Jacobsen-Bridges, called "Food in London: Tastes of an Empire," in Summer 2024. Eighteen UNT students explored historical sites over a two-week period in the British capital,

Dr. ToniAnn Trevino was a 2024-2025 Summerlee Fellow for the Study of Texas History at SMU's Clements Center for Southwest Studies.

Dr. Olga Velikanova won a grant to do research in Germany on Soviet Surveillance in a European Context. It will allow her to continue cooperating with German scholars on a project previously supported by other international foundations.

Dr. Geoff Wawro has been making many media appearances related to his new book *The Vietnam War*. You can catch his appearance on the Reed Morin Show [here](#).



# TEACHING AWARDS



Dr. Michael Wise won the Excellence in Graduate Teaching award. From the CLASS Advisory Board, the award recognizes a CLASS faculty member for a record of graduate teaching excellence at the University of North Texas over at least a five-year period.



Dr. Kerry Goldmann won the J.H. Shelton Excellence in Teaching award. This award, named for UNT alumnus Joe Houston Shelton, recognizes a faculty member for a record of outstanding teaching for at least a five year period.



Dr. Wesley Phelps won the President's Council teaching award and the TAMS and Honors College Outstanding Teacher award. These awards recognize his long record of teaching excellence.



Dr. Rachel Louise Moran won the Teacher Scholar award. The UNT Teacher Scholar award is given by Research and Innovation to the mid-career faculty member who has demonstrated excellence in research or creative productivity while also performing in an extraordinary manner as a teacher.



# STAFF AND STUDENTS AWARDS



Administrative Coordinator Miranda Leddy won the Steve Miller Outstanding Employee award. This award is named in memory of Steve Miller, Assistant Vice President of Human Resources. The award recognizes extraordinary staff members.



Juliana Jefferson won the Outstanding Student Ambassador award. This award recognizes student ambassadors for their excellence in encouraging spirit in the college and the university as a whole by assisting prospective, new and continuing students through various activities.



# INNOVATIVE CLASSES

Engaged students and creative professors keep out course offerings exciting.



Dr. Zoe Ortiz's HIST 3303 course, The Roman Republic and Augustus, had some fun with their final presentations! Their final project was a court trial to determine who was really responsible for the fall of the Roman Republic, with many of the students dressing up and getting into character.

Dr. Manny Grajales's innovative HIST 4260 course, History Through Video Games, looks at the historical themes, topics, and moments within video games and how the medium introduces gamers to historical content while providing a narrative entry into the study of class presented posters to display their historical video game portfolios. Students created a pitch for a historical game with their own choice of era, topic, and gaming genre. They presented their work on the second floor of Willis Library, close to the Media Library. The Media Library facilitated Lab Day on Fridays, where students got to play through the processes of history through some of the games they discussed that week.





# STUDY ABROAD HIGHLIGHTS

## FOOD IN LONDON: TASTES OF EMPIRE

Dr. Nancy Stockdale and PhD candidate Lauren Jacobsen-Bridges taught students the British Empire through a food-centric lens. Then students traveled to London for historical tours and visits to several restaurants where they sampled cuisine from countries previously under British rule. Food experiences included a traditional English tea service and a meal at the Michelin-starred Veeraswamy, the oldest Indian restaurant in the city.





# STUDY ABROAD HIGHLIGHTS

## HOLOCAUST AND WORLD WAR II IN BERLIN

Now the center of democratic Germany and Europe, Berlin was once the heart of the Third Reich. As a result of the war that the Nazis unleashed, Berlin ended up under Soviet and German Communist control. Students read primary texts and watched acclaimed German movies then in Berlin they took nine field trips that bring history to life. Some of the highlights of the trip included visits to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial, the site of the notorious Nazi concertation camp that later became a Soviet secret police prison.





# STUDY IN AMERICA HIGHLIGHTS



## HISTORY OF AMERICAN COUNTRY MUSIC IN NASHVILLE

Drs. Phelps and Dumaine opened the course with lessons on the history of country music, beginning with its roots in the early 20th century. Once they arrived in Nashville, students visited museums and historic venues like the National Museum for African American Music, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum and the Ryman Auditorium. The class also attended live music events including a bluegrass jam, a songwriter night at the historic Bluebird Café and even a performance at the Grand Ole Opry.



# GRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Annette Becker presented two research papers, "Accessioning the Eighteenth Century" at the Symposium on Historical Dress at Colonial Williamsburg and "'Making Play Lovelier': Fitness, Fashion, and the Sports Illustrated Awards" at the Fashion/Media: Power and Possibility symposium at SMU.

Gretchen Bullock is working as a Visiting Instructor of History at McMurry University. She has also been actively researching and has presented at the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) Conference, the Society for American Music Conference, and the Dance Studies Association Conference.

Evelyn Du Bon presented her paper, "The British Empire Imagined," at the Pacific Coast Conference on British Studies 50th anniversary conference at Stanford University.

Deah Berry Mitchell, a doctoral student in UNT's Department of History, created the [Deep Ellum AR Experience](#) app in partnership with the city of Dallas. The app, which is free and available on all platforms, aims to educate users on the lesser-known history of the Deep Ellum neighborhood, an area significant to local Black history.

Andrew Heubner was awarded a prestigious Predoctoral Fellowship with the Clements Center for National Security at the University of Texas in Austin, where he has spent the year in residence.





# GRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Nick Kramer received a Massena Society Dissertation fellowship, which is awarded to select Napoleonic Scholars. He also recently presented his work at the Consortium of the Revolutionary Era and the Society of Military History conferences.

Hayden Murphy received the Medieval Academy of America Summer Research and Professional Development Workshop Grant to support writing his dissertation, *Political Autonomy in the Territorial Cities of the Hansa: An Examination of the Cities of Anklam, Kiel, and Stade from 1400 to 1522*.

Stephanie Murphy published a book review of *Making and Unmaking Ancient Memory* in the journal *Rhea Classical Reviews*.

Avery Powell received a 2025 UNT Graduate Research Experiences Abroad Travel (GREAT) Grant to conduct research in Norway this summer for his doctoral project, *"Seek Her Counsel": Queens, Nuns, and Work in the Norwegian Civil Wars*.

Nathalie Ross was chosen as an American Sephardi Federation Broome and Allen Fellow, a prestigious international award.

Lauren Jacobsen-Bridges received both a Schlesinger Fellowship from the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and a Moody Research Grant from the Lyndon Baines Johnson Foundation. These will support archival research for her dissertation *"We Only Served American Wines: First Ladies, State Dinners, and Defining a National Palate."*

# CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations on Dr. Constance Hilliard's retirement! She earned her PhD in African history from Harvard University in 1977. She worked in foreign policy after graduation and then joined the UNT history faculty in 1991. She published four books, on topics ranging from precolonial African intellectual history, to middle eastern politics, and to the history of craniometry and craniology. More recently, her research moved to histories of genomics, race, and evolution, including her 2024 book *Ancestral Genomics: African American Health in the Age of Precision Medicine*.



Welcome Dr. Greta Swain to the Department of history! Dr. Swain is historian of early America who specializes in digital history and public history and will begin teaching in Fall 2025. She earned her PhD from George Mason University and is currently a postdoctoral fellow at SMU.



Congratulations to Dr. Richard McCaslin for gaining emeritus status! Teaching not only thousands of students, and mentoring dozens of graduate students, Dr. McCaslin has written or edited nineteen books. Some of his books include *The Great Hanging at Gainesville, Texas, October 1862*, *Lee in the Shadow of Washington*, and *Fighting Stock: John S. "Rip" Ford of Texas* to name a few, with many winning multiple awards.



Congratulations to Dr. Gus Seligmann for gaining emeritus status! Dr. Seligmann joined the UNT Department of History in 1967, where he contributed substantially to department life through his service and teaching. He received large grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to support curriculum development at UNT and a grant from the US Department of Education to support teacher training at Denton ISD. Dr. Seligmann is an expert in the history of New Mexico, and published a number of journal articles and several edited collections during his career.



# UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

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Kate Burchnell was awarded the Warren & Spector Fellowship for Future Teachers. She will spend a full week in Houston attending an institute for the development of pre-service teachers who plan to focus on the Holocaust in their future careers.

Sofía Stevens-García won the 2024-2025 University Writing Award for undergraduate non-fiction for her paper “Que ladino... - Cultural Intermediaries and Cartography in Colonial Mexico.”

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW MA AND PHD GRADUATES!

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### PHD

Dr. Brittany Huner

*“Soldier Girls, Minus Frills, Minus Curls:” Creating the American Military Woman in Media Portrayals and Servicewomen’s Self-Representations During World War II*

Dr. Nathalie Ross

*Kome! Beve! Bive: Eat! Drink! Live! How Cookbooks Recreated Sefarad in the American Diaspora and Inspired a National Identity, 1805-1994*

Dr. Peter Sutherland

*In the Shadows of Great Men: Physical and Mental Rehabilitation of Great War Veterans*

### MA

Sarah Dixon

Noah Warrick

Amber Ada

Caeden Cooley

Gracie Franklin

John Martin

May O’Shea





# PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT



Dr. Arunima Datta collaborated with the Museum of the Home in London to curate a new permanent exhibit in the museum. The exhibit, titled *A Townhouse in 1878*, depicts a home built to accommodate London's fast-growing middle class population. It showcases the typical home that often employed the ayahs present in Dr. Datta's book *Waiting on Empire: A History of Indian Travelling Ahays in Britain*. Dr. Datta has been hosting events in conjunction with the exhibit including public talks, “cook and taste the past” sessions, archival healing sessions, family days, school visits, and more.

The Milpa Agricultural Placemaking Project (MAPP) is a four-year initiative based in the Department of History at the University of North Texas, funded by the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture. Led by Dr. Michael Wise and Dr. Sandra Mendiola García, the project introduces traditional agricultural practices to the UNT campus and surrounding community. MAPP focuses on implementing the milpa concept—an ancient Mesoamerican agricultural approach that transforms small, underutilized spaces into productive food-growing areas. Their work includes establishing edible landscapes across campus, developing a food studies curriculum, creating a seed library, collecting oral histories, and hosting community events like seedling giveaways.



# DEPARTMENT EVENTS

Throughout the year, we had so many amazing events! These included a symposium on inter-community dialogues in Britain, a Native history month talk on media representations of the Comanche, and a series of talks on cutting-edge ideas in military history. Keep in touch with UNT History to hear of upcoming events!





# ALUMNI AND FRIENDS RECEPTION FEATURING THE HARLAND HAGLER MEMORIAL LECTURE

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This year we hosted the first History Alumni and Friends Reception featuring the Harland Hagler Memorial Lecture.

This event is for alumni, current students, faculty members, and friends of the department. We came together, heard engaging scholarship, and participated in lively discussions. The event included two historical talks, a Q&A session, and a reception.

The event is named after former UNT professor Dr. Harland Hagler (1937-2023). Dr. Hagler taught southern history at UNT for 51 years before retiring in 2017. He created the first course at North Texas dedicated to the study of African American history in 1969 and was a beloved professor and colleague. His son, Dr. Anderson Hagler, gave the inaugural lecture.



# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Sharon Lowry graduated from UNT in 1980 with a PhD in History. She worked in corporate communications for Texas Instruments for sixteen years. She says her “history PhD checked all the boxes” for the skills she needed in that position: oral and written communication, research, analysis, and the ability to organize and synthesize vast amounts of data. She is now an attorney in her own law office in Denton. When she followed her dream to become a lawyer, she found her history background positioned her well for the new challenge. It helps her look at issues from all sides and also helps her better understand the law because she knows how to think about the historical context for why specific laws and procedures exist.



Mark Followill graduated from UNT in 2021 with a BA in history. He appreciated the breadth of unique elective classes in the department, and took classes in medical history, African American history, and Latin American history. Now he is a broadcast journalist, doing television play-by-play for the Dallas Mavericks. “The study of history has been beneficial for me in broadcast journalism,” he says, “because as is often said, journalism is a first draft of history.” His journalism is so strong in part because he is always working to contextualize how modern athletes, performances, and games relate to the past. He also says that “being able to tell compelling stories to sports broadcast audiences” builds on the “core historian skills of ... effective communication and critical thinking.”

# ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS



Molly Joyce graduated from UNT in 2014 with a BA in History. At UNT, she enjoyed courses in US environmental history, borderlands history, and antebellum America. Her favorite part was learning to think in more complex ways and analyzing the sources of information. She is now a Product Manager for Hawley Lambert Cycling. The company is a distributor in the cycling industry that provides a catalog of manufacturers to independent bike shops and companies across the United States and Canada. Molly has found that her training as a historian helped prepare her for interdepartmental communications, marketing strategies, and information analysis. She says “that understanding trends, quantifying consumer behavior, and predicting likely outcomes in business and manufacturing, are skills... in a historian’s tool belt.”



Rashid Eldoma earned his BA from UNT in 2019. He majored in theatre and integrative studies, with a field in history. He especially enjoyed history courses on the British Empire and in African American History. Assignments in African American History, he says, combined history, literature, and contemporary social issues in ways that complemented his love of interdisciplinary thinking. After UNT, Rashid attended the Texas A&M School of Law. Now he is a criminal defense attorney for Dunham & Jones, Attorneys at Law, P.C. Rashid says that a history education helped prepare him for his next steps. He used historical thinking and research in law school, including writing a research paper on the history of the US census and how racial categories evolved. History continues to inform his work. “History is everything,” he says. “It provides context whenever I’m researching case law or when I’m dealing with clients.”

# STAY IN TOUCH WITH UNT HISTORY



Alumni! Do you have any news to share?  
Are you interested in being spotlighted?  
Reach out to [History@UNT.edu](mailto:History@UNT.edu)