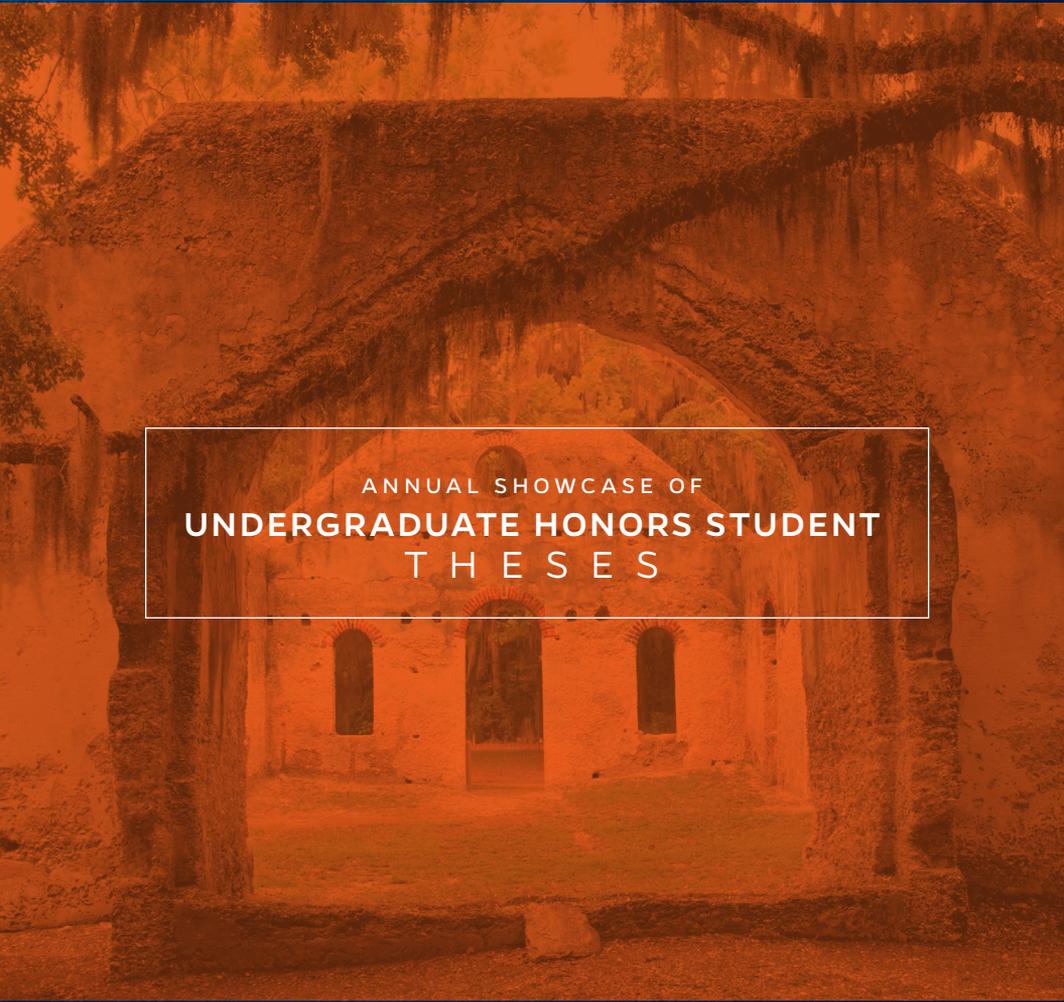


# HISTORY HONORS CONFERENCE



ANNUAL SHOWCASE OF  
**UNDERGRADUATE HONORS STUDENT  
THESES**



**DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY**  
— Liberal Arts *and* Sciences

APRIL 16, 2023 | SMATHERS LIBRARY EAST | [HISTORY.UFL.EDU](https://history.ufl.edu)



## WELCOME!

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For students and faculty in the Department of History, the annual History Honors Conference is a time of celebration, when some of our most talented undergraduates present the fruits of their year-long research projects. These young scholars have identified excellent topics, visited archives, patiently sifted through documents, and produced well-written narratives that put them at the top of their craft. No research, moreover, takes place in isolation. The support of faculty mentors, family and friends, program director Sandy Chang, and graduate assistant Jeffrey Jones is crucial to our students' success.

Research and teaching are at the heart of the historian's enterprise. In our department, faculty and students challenge each other daily to think, write and speak more clearly about the past and its impact on us. Without that constant questioning, knowledge ossifies, and a society loses a sense of who it is. That's why we do what we do.

*Jon Sensbach*

*Jon Sensbach*

# SCHEDULE

[INTRODUCTION / WELCOME | 9 - 9:15 A.M.](#)

**JON SENSBACH & SANDY F. CHANG**

[SESSION 1 | 9:15 - 10:15 A.M.](#)

## **WWII AND POSTWAR LEGACIES**

**The Futile Search for Home: Spain and the ‘Rescue’ of Ladino Jews in Salonika from Diplomacy to Testimony**

HARPER SELF

**Black Heart of a Mass Psychologist: Hitler’s Nazi SS in the American Psyche at Nuremberg**

CONNOR ETHERIDGE

**Imposing Democracy: Lessons from the American Occupation of Japan**

LANCE LAWSON

**Japanese War Responsibility and Victim Consciousness After World War II**

CAROLINE RODRIGUEZ

*Faculty Discussant:* SETH BERNSTEIN

[SESSION 2 | 10:15 - 11:15 A.M.](#)

## **RETHINKING HISTORIES OF GENDER AND SEXUALITY**

**‘Designs of the Divine Mind’: Religiosity, Honor, and Self-Worth Amongst Colonial Afro-Peruanas**

ASHLEY PATRIQUIN

**Klanswoman: The Ku Klux Klan in American Feminine Consciousness**

SAMANTHA JOHNSON

**The Admired and the Despised: Queer Women, Gender-Non-Conforming Women, and Trans Men in Weimar German Periodicals**

SHANNON SCOTT

**Queering Miami Politics: The Impact of the LGBTQ+ Community in Magic City, 1940-2000**

BRIAN MARRA

*Faculty Discussant:* LOUISE NEWMAN

[COFFEE & TEA BREAK | 11:15 - 11:30 A.M.](#)

[SESSION 3 | 11:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.](#)

## **THE POLITICS OF NATIONALISM: MYTHS, MEMORY, AND BELONGING**

**Irish History as World History: John Mitchel, Nationalism, Slavery, and the Crisis of Modernity**

RONAN HART

**More Than Mortal Grief: The Evolving Nature of Folklore in the Irish Nationalist Movement**

SOPHIA DELEON

**Pursuing a Medical Utopia: The Revolution Against Cancer in Cuba 1980-2000**

HOLLY SMITH

**Presidential Elections and the Intergenerational Divide Within South Florida’s Cuban Community**

MASON LICHSTRAHL

*Faculty Discussant:* ANTON MATYTSIN



[LUNCH | 12:30 - 1:45 P.M. - FLAVORFUL CATERING](#)

**BENJAMIN WISE (AWARD CEREMONY)**

[SESSION 4 | 1:45 - 2:45 P.M.](#)

**RETHINKING THE ARCHIVE: CULTURE, REPRESENTATION, AND IDENTITIES**

**'American Gibraltar' and the 'Eighth Wonder': Exploring the Role of Flagler's Overseas Railroad in the Socioeconomic Development of Key West**

NEIL STRAYER

**Wives, Workers, and Writers: Italian-American Women's Shifting Identities and Histories of Resistance in Twentieth Century New York City**

EMILY CANAMELLA

**Subverting the Stereotype: Deconstructing Negative Archetypes of Asian and Asian American Women in Cold War American Media**

KAITLYN STROUD

**Cypher to Cyber: The Digitalization of Rap Spaces and the Evolution of Hip Hop Culture**

ALEXANDER BLUTH

*Faculty Discussant:* PHILIP JANZEN

[SESSION 5 | 2:45 - 3:45 P.M.](#)

**IMPERIAL NETWORKS, POWER, AND IDENTITY**

**Misnomers and Misconceptions: Native American Historical Misinterpretation through Compounding Bias**

KENNETH TANT

**A Witch's Word? The Eurocentric Narrative within the Spanish Inquisition's Witchcraft Trials Against African Women in 17th Century Nueva Granada**

JACQUELINE VANEGAS

**Gender, Power, and Marriage in British Colonial Florida: A Historical Analysis**

OLIVIA TYLER

**Chiang Kai-shek's Industrial Intermediaries: Examining the Influence of German Foreign Advisors during the Nanking Decade**

ANDREW PREUSSER

*Faculty Discussant:* JESSICA HARLAND-JACOBS

[COFFEE & TEA BREAK | 3:45 - 4 P.M.](#)

[SESSION 6 | 4 - 5 P.M.](#)

**NEW APPROACHES TO LEGAL AND LABOR HISTORY**

**Coal Minors: Adolescent Life, Community, and Labor in a Company Town**

LOGAN ARNE

**Fool's Errand: Theodore Roosevelt's War on Vice in a Reluctant New York**

DIXIE BOHR

**What is a Second Class Citizen: A Legal Examination of the Afro-American Community in the American South from 1865-1941**

ROBERT SMALLS

**Mass Shootings Targeting Asian American Women: What the Cases of Atlanta and Dallas Can Teach Us About Hate Crimes, 2021-2022**

ANGEL TSENG

*Faculty Discussant:* STEVE NOLL

# BRIDGET PHILLIPS AWARD

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Every year our department awards the Bridget Phillips Scholarship to students traveling for study or research. Bridget Phillips finished her BA degree in History at UF before starting a PhD at Johns Hopkins University in 1988. Tragically, she was murdered in her apartment in 1989 in an unsolved case. To honor her memory, her parents established this scholarship. In 2021 one of Bridget's friends, Tim Dean, now James M. Benson Professor of English at the University of Illinois, made a generous contribution to increase the fund.

## 2022 RECIPIENTS

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### EMILY CANAMELLA

*Emily spent five weeks on a language program in Seville, Spain.*

Her trip was a “whirlwind of incredible experiences.” Beyond classes, Emily engaged with Spanish culture in trips to Gibraltar and Tangier, by dancing Flamenco, and in conversations with her host family. Returning to UF, she was more confident in real-life Spanish and ready to complete a language minor.



### HARPER SELF

*Harper went on a twelve-week program in Valencia, Spain.*

A major goal of the trip was research for her Honors Thesis, so Harper traveled to an archive outside Madrid to work with Spanish diplomatic documents about the Holocaust. Living in Spain, she drew upon her UF experiences. “Finding the architecture I learned about years before was so exciting,” she explained.

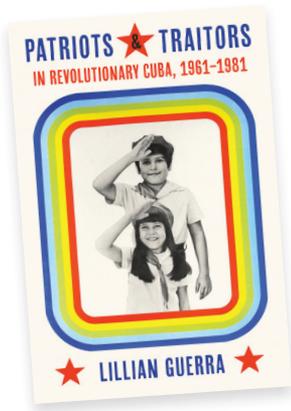
READ THE FULL STORY

[history.ufl.edu/bridgetphillips](https://history.ufl.edu/bridgetphillips)



# RECENT BOOKS

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## PATRIOTS AND TRAITORS IN REVOLUTIONARY CUBA, 1961–1981

*Lillian Guerra, University of Pittsburgh Press, 2023*

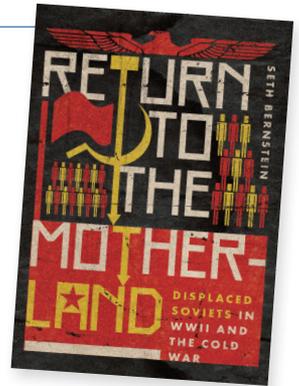
Postrevolutionary Cuba worked to establish a binary society in which citizens were either patriots or traitors. Yet the lives of many Cubans were somewhere in between. This book looks at the duality of an existence that contains elements of both support and betrayal of a nation and of an ideology.

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## RETURN TO THE MOTHERLAND: DISPLACED SOVIETS IN WWII AND THE COLD WAR

*Seth Bernstein, Cornell University Press, 2023*

During World War II, millions of people from Eastern Europe were taken to Nazi Germany as forced laborers. When they returned to the USSR in 1945, Stalin's regime was unsure whether they were victims to be pitied or traitors to be imprisoned. Based on KGB records, this book reveals their formerly secret history.

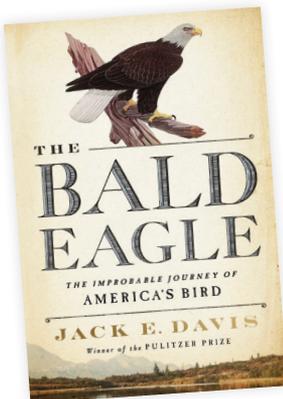


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## THE BALD EAGLE: THE IMPROBABLE JOURNEY OF AMERICA'S BIRD

*Jack E. Davis, Liveright Press, 2022*

Filled with stories of Founding Fathers, rapacious hunters, heroic bird rescuers, and the lives of bald eagles themselves—monogamous creatures, considered among the animal world's finest parents — *The Bald Eagle* shows how this bird's journey may provide inspiration in the fight against environmental peril today.



# RECENT ALUMNI

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AIMEE CLESI

In 2022 History major Aimee Clesi received the Rhodes Scholarship, becoming the thirteenth UF graduate and first ever woman from UF to win the prestigious award.

Aimee is a first-generation college student from Branford, Florida. Through classes in Florida history and an internship with the state attorney's office, she discovered how historical research can make a difference in the present. Her History Honors thesis in 2022 explored racial disparities in death penalty sentencing.

On the Rhodes Scholarship, she will take a doctorate in law at Oxford University. After Oxford, she plans to use her research skills to investigate wrongful sentencing to the death penalty.



RACHEL HUJSA

Rachel Hujsa graduated with a History major in 2021 and entered the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.

In her time at UF, Rachel became deeply involved in the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, where she served as project coordinator for the Joel Buchanan Archives of African American History. Rachel was also a performing oboe player at UF. She was able to combine her historical and musical interests in her honors thesis, which explored the influence of African religion in opera of the 1900s.

As a future lawyer, Rachel still draws on her education as a historian: "While litigators have to argue, they tell stories, too."

