

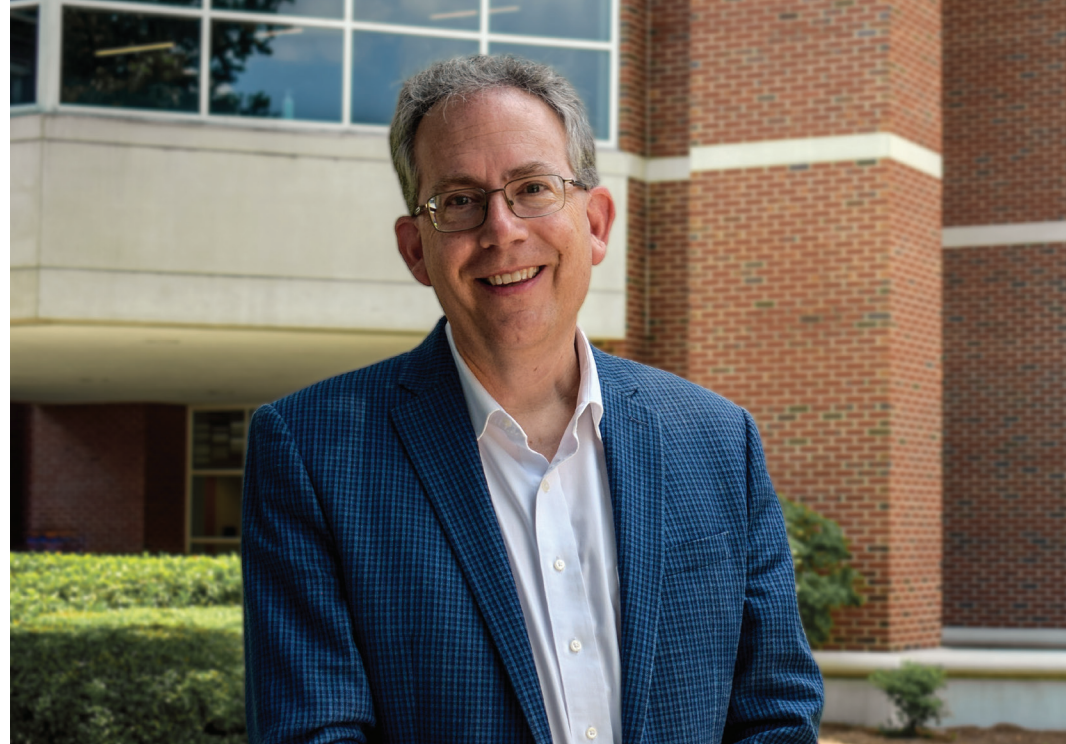
HISTORY HONORS CONFERENCE

ANNUAL SHOWCASE OF
**UNDERGRADUATE HONORS STUDENT
THESES**

UF | **Department of History**
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

APRIL 12, 2026 | SMATHERS LIBRARY EAST | [HISTORY.UFL.EDU](https://history.ufl.edu)

Cover Image: "Oliver W., the famous trotting ostrich, Florida Ostrich Farm, Jacksonville, Florida." Detroit Publishing Company, 1900-1910. Library of Congress, LC-D4-33097.



Welcome to the 2026 History Honors Conference!

For two decades, this conference has served to showcase the remarkable accomplishments of our most talented undergraduates. These scholars-in-training have worked diligently to identify interesting historical questions, sort through available evidence and produce engaging narratives to detail what they have learned.

The honors conference rightly highlights the ability and hard work of individual students. It also is a tribute to faculty mentors, Honors Program Director Sandy F. Chang, Graduate Program Assistant Danielle Gibbs Barrientos, student peers, alumni and donors, family members and friends. Everyone gathered here today has provided crucial support to our honors students. So today is a moment to celebrate both individual accomplishment and the power of community.

To our student presenters today: good luck, and thanks for all you do to help keep the University of Florida Department of History a vibrant home to creative and important scholarship!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Spillane'.

*Joe Spillane,
Professor and Department Chair*

Introduction & Welcome | 9:00 AM

JOE SPILLANE and JESSICA HARLAND-JACOBS

Session 1 | 9:15 AM

NEW APPROACHES TO FLORIDA'S URBAN HISTORY

A City Transformed: British Loyalist Refugees of the American Revolutionary Era and the Expansion and Reshaping of St. Augustine, Florida

BRANDON WALL (Jack Davis)*

Selling Paradise: The Influence of Land Boom Tourism on Jim Crow in Fort Lauderdale

TAMIA CANDELARIA AGUIRRE (Paige Glotzer)

How to Spot a Cat: A Georgist Look at the Development of Jacksonville, Florida 1890-1920

CEDAR COLE (Sean Adams)

Starving in Eden: Poverty in Alachua County, Florida, 1865-1877

AVERY PARKER (Paige Glotzer)

Faculty Moderator: PAIGE GLOTZER

Session 2 | 10:15 AM

IMPERIAL NETWORKS, KNOWLEDGE, AND COLONIAL AFTERMATHS

“The Men of the Trees”: Masculinity, Maturation, and Metaphors of Development in Colonial Kenya

REBEKKAH HUDSON (Phil Janzen)

From Plantation to Pageantry: Japanese Labor Advocacy and Cultural Self-Making on the Road to Hawaiian Statehood, 1900-1959

LIZANNA BONDESSON (James Gerien-Chen)

Economies of Faith: Mercantile Trust and Patronage in the Ilkhanid City of Tabriz

ARJUN ANAND (Florin Curta)

The Courtier and the Poet: Power and the Construction of Elite Jewish Identity in Medieval Al-Andalus

SOFIA IZQUIERDO (Jessica Harland-Jacobs & Nina Caputo)

Faculty Moderator: JAMES GERIEN-CHEN

Coffee Break | 11:15 AM

Session 3 | 11: 30 AM

BIOGRAPHY, MICROHISTORY AND MEMORY

Black Rule and Conditional Democracy: Disfranchisement, Election Fraud, and Newspapers in Richmond, Virginia, 1890-1902

MADELINE GARDENER (Sean Adams)

Preserving ‘Freedom’s Living Flame’: Honor, Identity, and Family Advancement in New England, 1861-1976

NINA PROUTY (Alyssa Cole)

Go West, Young (White) Man: John Wesley Powell and the Eugenics of American Ethnology

HANNAH ALFIERI (Steve Noll)

‘G-Man Marcuse’: Herbert Marcuse’s Hidden Years in U.S. Wartime Intelligence as the Groundwork for Postwar Critical Theory, 1942-1950

MARY CANDELARIA (Joe Spillane)

The Secular Apostolate: Journalism and Anarchist Hagiography in Victor Méric’s *Trois Hommes de la Révolution*

BRIANNA MENDEZ (Gayle Zachmann)

Faculty Moderator: STEVE NOLL

Lunch & Award Ceremony | 12:30 PM

Session 4a | 1:45 PM

WAR, MEMORY, MYTHMAKING

“The Ground of Carnage and Despair”: The Failures of the United States Military during the Second Seminole War

RYAN SCOTT (Steve Noll)

Forged in the Reconquista: Castilian Warrior Ideology in the Conquest of Mexico

ANDRES GARCIA (Max Deardorff)

“God Wanted It”: General Vilas and the Ideology of State Terror in Argentina

FIGORELLA RECCHIONI (Leslie Anderson)

Rural Resistance and Recollection: How Guerrero’s Rural Communities Preserve Memory of State Violence

ALEXANDRA HERNANDEZ-FLORES (Heather Vrana)

On the Straits of Nostalgia: Cuban Collections in Florida University Archives

JOANN ALMONTE (Heather Vrana)

Faculty Moderator: HEATHER VRANA

Session 4b | 1:45 PM (KF Conference Room)

WORLD WAR II AND POST WAR LEGACIES

Sex with Nazis: The Treatment of Women in Post-WWII Soviet Secret Police Files

SABRINA FORTNEY (Seth Bernstein)

The Propaganda of a Divided State: Agrarian Issues in Soviet Print Media During Stalin's Consolidation of Power

JACK BAPTIST (Seth Bernstein)

Fighting on to the End: Soldiers, Civilians and Fear of the Red Army in the Eastern Reich, 1944 to 1945

JOSEPH COATES (Christopher Goodwin)

A Vote for Weimar? Political Propaganda Posters and Voter Mobilization in the Weimar Republic

EMILY CRESPO (Natalia Aleksion)

Faculty Moderator: SETH BERNSTEIN

Coffee Break | 2:45 PM

Session 5 | 3:00 PM

RETHINKING HISTORIES OF WOMEN, GENDER, AND SEXUALITY

A Recipe for Resistance: The Sindicato de Culinarias in Bolivia, 1930-1950

PAULA FRANCO (Meg Weeks)

The Revolutions of Women: Female Activism, Suffrage, and Socialism in Paris, Vienna, and Hamburg during the Revolutions of 1848

LINDSAY WILSON (Christopher Goodwin)

Girls on Film and Women at the Movies: Etiquette, Censorship, and Creating an Ideal American Woman, 1928-1934

SAMANTHA PEREZ (Steve Noll)

Working Under the Influence: How Nurses Used Narcotics to Negotiate and Negate the Postwar Domestic Revival, 1945-1985

KATHRYN BLACKBURN (Joe Spillane)

Painting Politics: Women, Art, and the French Revolution in Adélaïde Labille-Guiard's Career

ZOEY ANDERSON (Melissa Hyde)

Faculty Moderator: CHRISTOPHER GOODWIN

Session 6 | 4:00 PM

RELIGION, IDENTITY AND BELONGING

Looking Back at the Evil Eye: How a Pagan Tradition Survived Italy's Christianization

ISABELLA TROCCOLI (Jennifer Rea)

Casting a Long Shadow: The Legacy of Saint Brigit of Cell-Dara

ANNA-SOFIA DEUPI (Florin Curta)

Religion and Identity in the 10th century Byzantine Empire

NICHOLAS PEREZ (Florin Curta)

The Magna Carta and the Church: The Influence of Canon Law and Stephen Langton on the Great Charter

RICHARD WILLIAM SCHENCK III (Florin Curta)

Faculty Moderator: JENNIFER REA

Program Director: SANDY F. CHANG

Program Coordinator: DANIELLE GIBBS BARRIENTOS, *PhD Candidate*

Undergraduate Coordinator: JESSICA HARLAND-JACOBS

BRIDGET PHILLIPS AWARD



Each year, our department awards the Bridget Phillips Scholarship to students traveling for study or research. Bridget Phillips completed her BA degree in history at UF before starting a Ph.D. at Johns Hopkins University in 1988. Her life was cut tragically short in 1989. To honor her memory, her parents established this scholarship. In 2021, Tim Dean, a friend of Bridget's who is now James M. Benson Professor of English at the University of Illinois, made a generous contribution to increase the fund. At last year's honors conference, Professor Dean announced a new initiative to establish the Bridget Phillips Term Professorship, aimed at supporting the department's research and teaching efforts.

2025 RECIPIENTS

ISABELLA TROCCOLI

Isabella Troccoli began her travels in England where her brother (a history professor at the University of Manchester) introduced her to his colleagues and then brought her to libraries, universities and museums in four different cities. She then moved on to Italy where she researched at the American Academy, Sapienza University, and a number of museums. In Rome she "couldn't have been happier" as she explored the Ancient City. Her research project examines how the superstition of the evil eye survived the Christianization of the Italian peninsula mostly intact, while most other pagan traditions were either eradicated or fully assimilated.

FIGORELLA RECCHIONI

Fiorella Recchioni's project centers on an unpublished memoir by Argentine military general Acdel Edgardo Vilas during the rule of the military junta in 1976 through 1983. He discussed his leadership in the first campaign of what the military would eventually call the "Dirty War" against subversion and provides valuable insights into the mindset of a military leader during a time that is reflected on as among the most cruel and tragic in Argentina's history. Because of the Bridget Phillips award, Fiorella had the opportunity in December 2025 to travel to Argentina and do archival research in both Buenos Aires and Bahia Blanca.

READ THE FULL STORY

history.ufl.edu/bridgetphillips



NOLL FAMILY FUND

Undergraduate members of Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honors society, are provided funds for travel and research through the generous support of the Noll Family Fund. Students broaden their intellectual horizons through off-campus research projects, said Steven Noll, instructional professor in the Department of History. Noll and his wife, Beverly, have established a fund that supports Phi Alpha Theta students, allowing them to conduct off-campus research on their own history projects. As the Phi Alpha Theta advisor since 2005, Noll said he feels it is important to provide financial support for students to work on their research.



HANNAH ALFIERI

Hannah Alfieri is a history and geology major with a minor in anthropology. She is greatly interested in Western American and environmental history, especially the history of the geosciences. Hannah's research is on John Wesley Powell, the first white man to successfully lead an expedition down the Colorado River. Though known as an influential explorer and geologist, Hannah delves into Powell's little-known research into human evolution and eugenics. Due to the support of the Noll Family Fund, she traveled to Washington DC this summer to view the Powell collections at the Smithsonian Institute Archives, National Anthropological Archives and the Library of Congress.



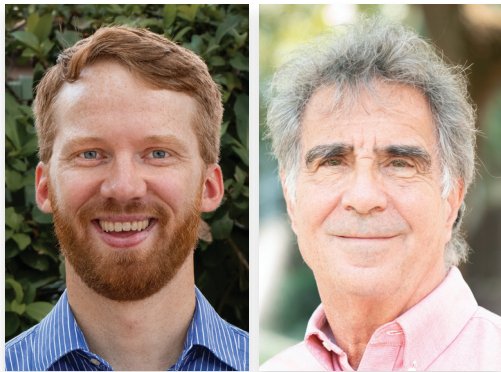
REBEKKAH HUDSON

Rebekkah Hudson will be visiting the archival collections on Kenya, housed at Northwestern and Syracuse universities. Rebekkah has noted: "Thanks to the Noll Family Fund, I am able to advance my goal of tracing the intellectual trajectories, as well as the cultural changes within the Gikuyu community throughout the early to mid-20th century."

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS



On June 26, 2025, Leanna McClellan won the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Staff Excellence Award in the category of administrative excellence! Created by the CLAS Staff Council, these awards recognize those who demonstrate merit and dedication in supporting the mission and goals of the college.



Both Assistant Professor Phil Janzen and Master Lecturer Steve Noll won the John Mahon Teaching Award that recognizes distinguished teaching in the undergraduate program in history. The award was established in 1990 by John R. and Martha Kirkland, in memory of John K. Mahon, to recognize distinguished teaching in the undergraduate program in History. Mahon led a distinguished career at UF from 1954 until his retirement in 1982.



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