

Lisa R. Withers

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Education

Doctor of Philosophy in Public History, North Carolina State University, May 2019 (Expected)

Master of Arts in History, Museum Studies Concentration, UNC-Greensboro, May 2015

Bachelor of Arts in African-American Studies, History Minor, UNC-Chapel Hill, May 2011

Professional Experience

Seasonal Interpreter, Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum at the Historic Palmer Memorial Institute, Sedalia, NC, June-August 2017.

- Provided interpretive tours of Palmer Memorial Institute, school founded by Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown, to site visitors. Interpretation included African American history, education, and 20th century US history.
- Opened and closed museum following standard operating procedures, transacted gift shop sales, recorded visitor statistics, and performed administrative tasks.

Graduate Assistant, Special Collections Research Center, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, January 2016-present.

- Processed, rehoused, created metadata, and wrote/updated finding aids in ArchivesSpace for the Earl E. Berkley, Winter Simulation Conference, and Wim de Kok Animal Rights Collections.
- Assisted patrons with materials and reference questions.

Oral History Researcher, African American Institutional Memory Project, Martha Hodges Blakeney Special Collections and University Archives, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, May-August 2015.

- Conducted research and oral history interviews with African American alumni regarding the student experience during university integration from 1956-1973. Expanded the project to incorporate sixteen additional interviews.
- Transcribed, indexed, and created metadata to integrate interviews into the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS).

Intern, Museum of the Cape Fear Historical Complex, Fayetteville, NC, May-August 2014.

- Inventoried, photographed, researched, and created a database of approximately 496 objects in the 1897 Poe House Collection. Collection included ceramics, glass, metal, wood, plastic, paper, and mixed media objects.
- Provided interpretive tours of the 1897 Poe House and the Poe Family. Interpretation included early 20th century US history, local history, domestic service and race.
- Assisted with the daily operation of the museum's summer camp for youth ages 9-12.
- Co-led education workshop at a day camp for autistic children.

Volunteer, Nature Chronicles, Various Locations, September 2013, April 2014.

- Facilitated oral interviews with project participants about their experiences with nature.
- Shared information with visitors to participate in the project during community events.

Intern, Körner's Folly Historic Site, Kernersville, NC, August-December 2013.

- Inventoried the site's artifact collection and created object barriers as a member of an eight-person team.

Graduate Assistant, Martha Hodges Blakeney Special Collections and University Archives, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, August 2013-May 2015.

- Rehoused, created/updated metadata, and entered finding aid information into Archon for the Robert Hansen Performing Arts Collection, Fisher Park Neighborhood Association Collection, and an artificial collection of 19th and 20th century diaries.
- Processed new acquisitions for the George Darden Music Collection, Rare Book Collection, American Trade Binding Collection, and Juvenile Collection.

Intern, Museum & Archives of Rockingham County (MARC) & Wright Tavern Historic Site, Wentworth, NC, May-August 2013.

- Accessioned artifacts into the museum's permanent collection and completed condition reports.

Docent, Blandwood Mansion, Greensboro, NC, May 2013-May 2015.

- Provided individual, school, and group interpretive tours. Interpreted the home and antebellum holiday traditions for live segments of WFMY News 2 *Good Morning Show*. Interpretation included 19th century US and NC history, slavery, women's history, and the Civil War.
- Assisted with collection management, historic housekeeping, and special events.
- Trained new docents and developed a new scheduling system.
- Opened and closed the site following standard operating procedures, provided guest services, recorded visitor statistics, and sold gift shop merchandise.

Office Manager & Volunteer Coordinator, Museum & Archives of Rockingham County (MARC) & Wright Tavern Historic Site, Wentworth, NC, August 2012-May 2013.

- Provided individual, school, and group interpretive tours of exhibits and historic site. Coordinated logistics for school and group tours. Interpretation included various topics in the county's local history spanning the 18th-20th centuries including slavery, the natural environment, transportation, tobacco, and textiles.
- Created handbook for the Office Manager & Volunteer Coordinator position. Updated volunteer manuals.
- Coordinated volunteer schedule for museum operation and special events. Assisted the Executive Director with volunteer training.
- Assisted with installation of exhibit, *Remembering Chinqua Penn*, focusing on business owners and philanthropists Jeff and Betsy Penn and their iconic home located in Rockingham County.
- Opened and closed museum and historic site according to standard operation procedures. Managed the visitor services desk and gift shop during business hours.
- Conducted inventories of gift shop merchandise. Processed phone and online gift shop orders.
- Helped plan and implement the museum's Halloween and Christmas at Wright Tavern community events.

Public History Projects

Researcher & Co-Author, *Historic Oak View County Park Interpretive Plan*, Raleigh, NC, January-May 2017.

- Conducted archival research on individuals and families who lived at Oak View. Incorporated research into a collaboratively authored interpretive plan for the site.

Research & Teaching Assistant, [*Claiming the Past, Directing the Future: An International Public History Research Practicum*](#), Crooked Tree, Belize, Central America, May-July 2016.

- Conceptualized, designed panel templates, co-curated, and directed installation of the exhibit *Crooked Tree Then & Now* examining Crooked Tree & Biscayne Villages as the home of a rich cultural heritage providing unique visitor experiences in Belize.

- Developed relationships with community members and project stakeholders, conducted ethnographic interviews, and incorporated community input during data collection and curation.
- Co-supervised four undergraduate students on community engagement project components.

Curator, *Charlotte Hawkins Brown & Palmer Memorial Institute*, Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum at the Historic Palmer Memorial Institute, Sedalia, NC, August 2014-May 2015.

- Created a visitor orientation film examining the African American boarding school as part of Dr. Brown's advocacy work in the 20th century South.

Co-Curator, *Pieces of the Past: The Art of Gwendolyn Magee*, High Point Museum, High Point, NC, January 2014-February 2015.

- Exhibit analyzed how personal experiences influenced the work of activist Gwendolyn Magee who used narrative quilts to depict African American history from slavery to the present.
- Member of the gallery layout, panel design, and installation teams.

Curator, [*In High Demand: Afro-American Faculty at UNCG, 1968-1970*](#), University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, August 2013-January 2014.

- Digital exhibit investigating how the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and student protest led to faculty desegregation at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro as a component of the exhibition *Everyday Change: Stories of UNCG, 1963-1973*.

Co-Curator, *Everyday Change: Stories of UNCG, 1963-1973*, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, August 2013-January 2014.

- Exhibition analyzing key campus events from 1963-1973 during the university's transition from a women's college to a desegregated, co-educational university. Topics included the Neo-Black society, social changes on campus, and Vietnam War student protests.

Oral History Researcher, *From WC to UNCG: A Decade of Change, 1963-1973*, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, October 2013.

- Conducted archival research and an oral history interview with one of the first African American faculty members at UNCG. Interview processed as part of a larger project to collect stories about the university as it transitioned into a co-educational, desegregated campus. Interview deposited at the Martha Hodges Blakeney Special Collections and University Archives at UNCG.

Assistant Exhibit Fabricator, Museum & Archives of Rockingham County (MARC) & Wright Tavern Historic Site, Wentworth, NC, August 2012-May 2013.

- *From the Field to the Bed: A Look at 18th Century Textile Production*-A temporary exhibit on cloth production in Rockingham County from planting seeds to harvesting and processing fibers into cloth for household use.
- *Snapshots of Rockingham County Mills*-A temporary exhibit on textile mills in Rockingham County.
- *From WWII to Today: The Women of Rockingham County*-A temporary exhibit featuring the accomplishments of Rockingham County women in various careers including military, law, and entrepreneurship during Women's History Month.

Presentations, Publications, and Seminar Papers

"Claiming the Past, Directing the Future: An International Community-Based Public History Field Experience in Belize." *Research Reports in Belizean History and Anthropology: Papers of the 2016 Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium*. Belmopan: Institute for Social and Cultural Research. (Co-author, paper currently under review).

“Meeting in ‘the Middle’: Using Public History and Anthropology in an International Community-Based Field Experience.” International Federation of Public History Annual Meeting, Ravenna, Italy. June 2017.

[“Foodways in African American History from the Slave Trade to the Civil Rights Movement \(Bibliography\).”](#) *The Department of Cultural References*. April 2017.

[“Soul Food.”](#) *The Department of Cultural References*. April 2017.

“Meeting in ‘the Middle’: Using Public History and Anthropology in an International Community-Based Field Experience.” National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Indianapolis, IN. April 2017. (Co-presenter).

“Student Experience in International Public History.” College of Humanities and Social Science, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC. March 2017.

[“The Jemima Code \(Project\).”](#) *The Department of Cultural References*. March 2017.

[“The Greensboro Sit-Ins \(Greensboro, North Carolina\).”](#) *The Department of Cultural References*. February 2017.

[“Slave in a Box: The Strange Career of Aunt Jemima. M.M. Manning. Charlottesville and London: The University of Virginia, 1998.”](#) *The Department of Cultural References*. February 2017.

[“Michael W. Twitty.”](#) *The Department of Cultural References*. January 2017.

“Claiming the Past, Directing the Future: An International Public History Research Practicum.” Belize Archaeology and Anthropology Symposium, San Ignacio, Belize, Central America. July 2016. (Co-presenter).

[“Tweeting NCPH.”](#) In “Public History Graduate Students Attend the 2016 NCPH Annual Conference.” *Department of History News*. North Carolina State University. April 2016.

“In Their Words: UNCG African American Institutional Memory Collection, Summer 2015.” Martha Hodges Blakeney Special Collections and University Archives, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC. August 2015.

“Pieces of the Past: Activist Art as Civic Engagement.” National Council on Public History Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN. April 2015. (Co-presenter).

[“Pieces of the Past: Gwendolyn Magee Quilting for a Better Future.”](#) *Spartan Stories: Tales from the University Archives at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro*. Martha Hodges Blakeney Special Collections and University Archives, University of North Carolina at Greensboro. February 2015. (Co-author).

[“Good Night and Sleep Tight: Re-Stringing a 19th Century Rope Bed.”](#) *North Carolina Connecting to Collections*. May 2014.

“Educating the Mind and the Hand: African American Education at the North Carolina Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race, 1891-1910.” Directed by Dr. Watson Jennison, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC. January-April 2014.

“Between Black and White: An Examination of the Mulatto Slave Experience.” Directed by Dr. Heather A. Williams, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC. January-April 2011.

Teaching Experience

Instructor, HI 254: Modern America, History Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, August 2016-present.

- Developed and taught course on American history since Reconstruction using inquiry-based learning techniques. Focused content on engagement with difficult history, the various ways non-historians interact with history, and the relevancy of history to current events. Incorporated the use of podcasts, museum exhibits, commemorative landscapes, scholarly works, and popular culture in course materials. Worked with students of varying demographics to develop analytical skills.

Teaching Assistant, HI 254: Modern America, History Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, January-May 2016.

- Engaged students of varying demographics in discussions on modern American history since Reconstruction with a focus on diversity as related to historical actors and events. Facilitated exercises on historical analysis and the use of primary and secondary sources.

Teaching Assistant, HI 251: Early American History, History Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, August-December 2015.

- Engaged students of varying demographics in discussions on American history from the pre-Colonial era to the Civil War with a focus on diversity as related to historical actors and events. Facilitated exercises on historical analysis and use of primary and secondary sources.

Student Reflection Leader, Office of Leadership and Service-Learning, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, August-December 2014.

- Served as a peer mentor to first-year museum studies students completing an oral history project.
- Provided feedback on student reflection essays concerning experiences participating in a community oral history project.
- Facilitated class discussion about the process of community engagement and the use of oral interviews in public history.

Awards and Grants

University Graduate Fellowship, Office of the Provost and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Studies, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, August 2015-May 2016.

Teaching Assistantship, History Department, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, August 2015-May 2016.

Graduate Assistantship, Languages, Literatures, & Culture Department, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, January-May 2015.

North Carolina Museum Council Southeastern Museum Conference Student Scholarship, October 2014.

North Carolina Humanities Council Mini-Grant, August 2014. (Co-author).

Rebecca C. Wright Scholarship, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, August 2014-May 2015.

Lula McIver Graduate Scholarship, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, August 2013-May 2014.

UNCG Graduate School Inclusiveness Award, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC, August 2013-May 2014.

Professional Service

Reviews Editor, *The NC State Graduate Journal of History*, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, August 2015-May 2016.

- Worked with the editorial staff to establish protocols for receiving submissions for the new “Reviews” section of the journal.
- Coordinated process of receiving and reviewing of submissions for the journal.
- Coordinated process of organizing accepted reviews for publication.

Member, History Graduate Student Association, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC, August 2015-Present.

- Worked with committee members to review submissions and to develop panels for the annual student-led conference.
- Assisted with registration, greeting prospective students, and served as a member of the prospective student panel during the annual graduate conference.
- Assisted with planning and social media for Teach-In event. Event included screening of the PBS documentary, *Klansville, USA*, followed by panel discussion.

Member, Professional Development Committee, National Council on Public History, July 2015-July 2018.

- Worked with committee members to review workshop proposals for the annual meeting and to make recommendations to the Program Committee.
- Worked with committee members to plan and facilitate the Speed Networking Event at the annual meeting.

National History Day, Regional & State Competition, March 2014, March 2015, April 2017.

- Served as a judge for the regional competition at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Greensboro, NC.
- Served as a judge for the state level competition at the North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh, NC.

American Alliance of Museums, Museum Advocacy Day, Washington, D.C., February 2014.

- Spoke to members of Congress and staff members about legislation concerning museums and historic sites.

Professional Affiliations

American Alliance of Museums

American Association of State and Local History

American Historical Association

Association for Living History, Farming, and Agricultural Museums

National Council on Public History

North Carolina Museums Council

North Carolina State University History Graduate Student Association

Organization of American Historians

Society for Visual History & New Media, Charter Member
Southeastern Museum Conference