

## A History of the Department of History

According to the North Carolina College (NCC) bulletins, the first mention of a "Department of History" at NCC was in the 1930-1931 catalog. At that time the only history professor listed was Dock Jackson Jordan, M.A., Columbia University, who taught at North Carolina College (NCC) from 1918-1939. In 1939, Joseph H. Taylor, Ph.D., University of California (1936), joined the history faculty and taught at NCC till 1963. He also headed up the summer school from 1946-1963. Until the early 1960s, Dr. Taylor, was chairman of the Division of Social Sciences. In that role, he presided over the faculty in history, political science, economics, geography, sociology, and social science.

In 1943, Dr. Taylor wrote to NCC President James E. Shepard and suggested that new courses be added to the "History-Social Science Department," and signed the letter, "Joseph H. Taylor, Department of History." Nonetheless, at that time, Dr. Taylor presided over an apparently informal Division of Social Sciences. In May 1953, the Division of Social Sciences was officially established with majors in History, Political Science, Social Science, and Sociology.

At the July 23, 1963 executive committee meeting, five new departments were created in the Division of Social Sciences. They were the Commerce and Economics Department, headed by Dr. Tucker; the Geography Department, headed by Dr. Theodore Speigner; the History and Social Sciences Department, headed by Dr. Helen G. Edmonds; the Political Science Department, headed by Dr. Violet Wurfel; and the Sociology Department, headed by Dr. Joseph Himes. This was the official breakup of the division of social science into five separate departments.

In 1939, in *Gaines v. Canada*, the US Supreme Court ruled that African American students were entitled to equal access to graduate and professional schools, either at segregated black institutions or, if there were no such programs available, at the all-white state university graduate and professional programs. In order to avoid integrating its white universities, the government of North Carolina authorized NCC (and North Carolina A&T) to establish graduate and law schools, including an M.A. program in history. According to the 1939-40 NCC catalog, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-Ch) faculty members Fletcher M. Green, Hugh T. Lefler, Albert Newsome, and William W. Pierson were hired to teach graduate history courses. For the first few years of the graduate program in history, the NCC catalogs indicate that all the graduate history professors were from UNC-Ch. After World War II, UNC-Ch took a diminished role and NCC professors taught the graduate history classes.

Helen G. Edmonds, Ph.D., Ohio State University, joined the history faculty in 1940, later serving as department chair and dean of the graduate school, and John Hope Franklin, Ph.D., Harvard University, taught at NCC from 1943-1947. After Dr. Franklin left for Howard University, Mr. Caulbert A. Jones, M.A., Columbia, joined the faculty.

Other prominent history faculty at NCC and NCCU include Dr. Earlie Thorpe, department chair, 1962-1972, Dr. David W. Bishop, Dr. Beverly W. Jones, Dr. Lydia Lindsey, Dr. Lolita Brockington, Dr. James Brewer, Dr. Arnold Taylor, Dr. Percy E. Murray, chair, 1979-1991, Dr. George Reid, Mr. Caulbert A. Jones, Dr. Sylvia Jacobs, Dr. Freddie Parker, and Dr. Carlton Wilson. The last six served as department chair.

In 1962-63, there were seven full-time graduate history students enrolled at NCC. Two M.A. students graduated in spring 1963. One M.A. student graduated in June 1963. Graduate assistants in 1962-63 were Mr. W. Sherman Jackson, Ms. Josephine Kyles, Mr. Jesse T. Moore, and Mr. Oscar Williams, Jr.

A thriving undergraduate history program established a chapter of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society in 1953-54. In the following year, 1954-55, the undergraduate program also established a chapter of Pi Gamma Mu International Honor Society in the Social Sciences.

Guided by visionary department chairs and professors, the history department continued to grow. In fall 1962, there were 46 undergraduate history majors and 40 majors in spring 1963, ten of whom graduated in May.

Despite their heavy teaching load of 15 hours per week during the 1950's and early 1960's NCC history faculty were active in scholarly and professional activities.

The annual conference of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), the premier professional association focused on African American studies, was held at NCC in October 1961 and again in 1987. The program was planned under the leadership of Dr. Joseph H. Taylor of NCC.

Again, in October 1987, the annual conference of the ASNLH was held in Durham. This program was planned under the leadership of Dr. Sylvia Jacobs of NCCU.

Many NCC and NCCU graduates of the history department have earned the Ph.D. in history and made important contributions as teachers and scholars.

As North Carolina Central University celebrates its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Department of History recognizes and acknowledges those who created and molded this University into a leading regional liberal arts institution. The Department of History has been at the center of this liberal arts tradition for nearly eighty years. Today we build upon the work and legacies of Dr. Joseph Taylor, Dr. James Brewer, Dr. Earlie Thorpe, Mr. Caulbert Jones, Dr. Helen Edmonds, and Dr. David Bishop. These historians believed in the vision of Dr. James E. Shepard. Our current faculty and students are working to carry this vision forward – a vision that encompasses the ideals of “truth and service.”

Through relevant programs and innovative teaching the Department of History will meet the needs of the “new generation” of learners who must be prepared to be leaders in our global society. The faculty, the foundation of the success of our students, is in a position to lead the Department and the University as it embraces future opportunities to improve learning through excellent teaching supported by research. The Department has embraced the University’s Quality Enhancement Plan, *Communicating to Succeed* and will play a major role in providing the programs and instruction that will enhance students’ communications skills. To be sure, for the Department of History, the next eighty years will not mirror the previous eighty. However, current and future students and faculty will lean upon the legacy of the past as we prepare for tomorrow.

Prepared by Jerry Gershenhorn, Ph.D. with  
Contributions from Carlton Wilson, Ph.D.  
Sources: NCCU Archives & History Department Records  
February 2009



The Helen G. Edmonds Classroom Building

## APPENDIX A

### Number of history faculty in selected early years:

1939-40: 2 (Jordan, Taylor)  
1943-44: 2 (Franklin, Taylor) Edmonds on leave  
1945-46: 3 (Franklin, Taylor, Edmonds)  
1947-48: 4 (Taylor, Edmonds, C.A. Jones, Theodore Speigner)  
1949-50: 4 same as above  
1950-51: 4 same as above  
1951-52: 5 (Taylor, Edmonds, Jones, Speigner, Arthur C. Banks)  
1953-54: 3 (Edmonds, Jones, Taylor)  
1955-56: 3 same as above  
1957-58: 3 same as above (Morton Keller listed as history instructor of one class in 1957).  
1960-61: 3 same as above (George Nixon listed as social science instructor in 1961).  
1961-62: 3 same as above

During the 1950s and early 1960s, faculty taught 15 hours per week.

## APPENDIX B

### Prominent Faculty:

#### David Bishop (1921-2004)

Taught at NCCU (1971-1991)

A.B., A.M., Howard University; Ph.D., Catholic University, 1962;

*Railroad Decisions of the Interstate Commerce Commission: Their Guiding Principles*. Washington, DC: Catholic University Press, 1961.

#### James H. Brewer (1917-1974)

A.B., Virginia State University; M.A., Ph.D., Univ. of Pittsburgh, 1949

Taught at NCCU (1963-1973)

Also taught at Fayetteville State College, 1946-1949; Virginia State College, 1949-1963; University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1973-1974.

*The Confederate Negro: Virginia's Craftsmen and Military Laborers, 1861-1865*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1969. Won Mayflower Award in 1970 as the best non-fiction book in North Carolina.

#### Lolita Gutierrez Brockington

M.A., UNC-Chapel Hill, 1976; Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill, 1982.

Taught at NCCU (1991-2001)

*The Leverage of Labor: Managing the Cortez Haciendas in Tehuantepec, 1588-1688*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1989.

*Blacks, Indians, and Spaniards in the Eastern Andes: Reclaiming the Forgotten in Colonial Mizque, 1550-1782*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006.

#### Helen G. Edmonds (1911-1995)

NCCU (1941-1977)

A.B., Morgan State College (1933); A.M. (1938), Ph.D. (1946), Ohio State University

*The Negro and Fusion Politics in North Carolina, 1894-1901*. Chapel Hill: UNC Press, 1951.

Chair, Department of History, 1963

Dean, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

Member, Interim Committee for the Administration of the University

Author of NCCU's Truth and Service ceremony

Distinguished Professor of History Emerita

Member, NCCU Board of Trustees

Trustee Emerita

O. Max Gardner Award, William Hugh McEniry Award, American Historical Association Award for Scholarly Distinction (1988)

Seconded nomination of Dwight D. Eisenhower for Republican presidential nomination at Republican National Convention in 1956

**John Hope Franklin (1915-2009)**

Taught at NCC (1943-1947)

A.B., Fisk University, A.M., Ph.D. (1941), Harvard University

Wrote first edition of *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans (1947)*, while at NCC. Author of numerous books and articles.

After leaving NCC, Dr. Franklin taught at Howard University, served as chair of Brooklyn University's Department of History, and taught at the University of Chicago and Duke University

**Sylvia Jacobs (1946 - )**

Ph.D., Howard University

NCCU faculty member, 1976-present

*The African Nexus: Black American Perspectives on the European Partitioning of Africa, 1880-1920*. Westport, CT: Greenwood, 1981.

Chair, Department of History, 1992-1999

**Caulbert A. Jones (1910-1977)**

A.B., Howard University, 1932; A.M., Columbia University, 1934

Taught at NCC (1947-1976)

Chair, Department of History, Shaw University, 1935-1947

Chair, Division of Social Science, Shaw University, 1948-1947

NCCU's Undergraduate History Club is named in his honor.

**Beverly Washington Jones (1948 - )**

A.B., M.A., NCCU; Ph.D., UNC-Chapel Hill, 1980.

NCCU (1973-2009)

*Quest for Equality: The Life and Writings of Mary Eliza Church Terrell, 1863-1954 (Black Women in United States History, Vol 13)*. Carlson Publishing, 1990.

Provost and Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, 2005-2008

Interim Chancellor, 2008

Dean of University College (1999-2004)

Director of Community Service Program (1993-1998)

Director of the Institute for the Study of Minority Issues (1987-1998)

Director of Saturday Academy, 1997-1999 (academic enrichment program for third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders in six Durham public schools)

She was the first African-American woman to earn a Ph.D. in American history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**Dock Jackson Jordan**

NCC (1918-1941)

B.S., Allen University (1892); B.S. (1925), M.A. (1928), Columbia University

First History professor at NCC

Taught at Morris Brown College, 1893-1904; Principal, Atlanta public school, 1904-1909; President, Kittrell College, 1909-1912; taught at North Carolina A&T College, 1912-1918.

Jordan House was named for him.

**J. Rinaldo Lawson**

Ph.D., Kent University

NCCU faculty member, 1982-present

**Lydia Lindsey**

Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

NCCU faculty member, 1978-present

**Anneliese J. Markus-Kennedy**

B.A., Mexico City College; M.A., University of the Americas (Mexico); Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

NCCU (1964- )

**Percy E. Murray**

B.A., M.A., North Carolina Central University; Ph.D., Miami University, Oxford, Ohio  
NCCU, 1979-present

*History of the North Carolina Teachers Association.* Washington, DC: National Education Association, 1984.

Chair, Department of History, 1979-1992

Interim Vice Chancellor, Development

Dean, Graduate Studies

**George S. Nixon** (1931- )

A.B., North Carolina College; A.M., Indiana University

Taught at NCC (1957-?)

**Freddie L. Parker** (1953- )

B.A., M.A., North Carolina Central University; Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
NCCU faculty member, 1978-present

*Running for Freedom: Slave Runaways in North Carolina, 1775-1840.* New York: Garland, 1993.

Chair, Department of History, 1999-2004

Interim Chair, Department of Modern Foreign Languages, 2008

**George W. Reid** (1945- )

Ph.D., Howard University

NCCU (1974-1990)

Chair, Department of History, 1974-1978

Founding Dean, University College, 1986-1990

President, Kentucky State University, 1998-2002

**Arnold H. Taylor**

NCCU (1965- )

A.B., Virginia Union College, 1951; M.A., Howard University, 1952; Ph.D., Catholic University, 1963

Taught at Benedict College, Southern University (chair of Division of Social Sciences) before NCC.

After NCC, he chaired Department of History at Howard University

*American Diplomacy and the Narcotics Traffic, 1900-1939: A Study in International Humanitarian Reform.* Durham: Duke University Press, 1969

**Joseph H. Taylor** (1898-1982)

A.B., Michigan State Normal College (1927); A.M., University of Michigan (1930); Ph.D., University of California (1936)

Taught at NCC (1939-1963)

Professor of History and Government; Professor of History;

Advised Social Science majors;

While Taylor headed the informal division of social sciences, the NCC Curriculum Committee approved a formal Division of Social Sciences with a major in history, among others, in 1953.

Under Taylor, increase in courses {notably in African history}, majors, faculty; 5 faculty members earned Ph.D.s during

Taylor's tenure; honor societies: Phi Alpha Theta (1953-54) and Pi Gamma Mu (1954-55) set up

He served as Chairman of Division of Social Sciences, 1939-1963

Before arriving at NCC, he taught at Lincoln Institute, Alabama State Normal School, Alabama State Teachers College

Dean, Alabama State Teachers College, 1930-1939

Taught at Bethune-Cookman, 1970-1976

Acting VP for Development, Bethune-Cookman, 1978-1979

**Earlie E. Thorpe** (1924-1989)

NCCU (1962-1989)

B.A., M.A., North Carolina College; Ph.D., Ohio State University, 1953

*Negro Historians in the United States*

*The Desertion of Man: A Critique of Philosophy of History*

*The Mind of the Negro: An Intellectual History of Afro-Americans*

*Eros and Freedom in Southern Life and Thought*

*The Central Theme of Black History*

*The Old South: A Psychohistory*

Journal Articles in *Quarterly Review of Higher Education Among Negroes; Negro History Bulletin; Negro Educational Review*

Department Chair, 1963-1972

NCCU's Graduate History Club is named in his honor.

**Carlton Wilson** (1956- )

Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

NCCU faculty member, 1982-present

Chair, Department of History, 2004-present

## APPENDIX C

### Notable Graduates

Dept. Chairs: Donnie Bellamy, Chester Gregory, Gossie Hudson, Percy E. Murray, Melvin Murphy, Freddie Parker, George Reid, Lawrence Thomas, Earlie Thorpe, Betty Verbal, Rubin Weston, Carlton Wilson, Oscar Williams, Jr.

Heads of Black Studies Programs: John Clemons, Lorenzo Davis

Julius Chambers (1936- ), NCC graduate, 1958. As a civil rights attorney, he won landmark cases before the US Supreme Court, including *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg* (1971), which authorized busing to integrate public schools, and *Griggs v. Duke Power Company* (1971), a precedent-setting case involving employment discrimination and Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. He led the NAACP Legal Defense Fund from 1984-1993. He served as NCCU Chancellor from 1993-2001.

Ivan Dixon (1931-2008): Actor, Director, Producer

## APPENDIX D

### NCCU students (History and Social Science) who have earned doctorates:

Armfield, Felix	Ph.D. Michigan State University, 1998
Battle, Lorenzo, III	D.A. Carnegie Mellon, 1973
Bellamy, Donnie	Ph.D. U. of Missouri, Columbia, 1971
Blackmon, Dexter	Ph.D. Georgia State University
Blackwell, Joyce	Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1998
Bryant, Sherwin	Ph.D. Ohio State University, 2005
Bunch-Lyons, Beverly	Ph.D. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, 1995
Cummings, Robert J.	Ph.D. University of California at Lost Angeles, 1975
Davis, Lenwood G.	Ph.D.
Gershenhorn, Jerry	Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2000
Gilmore, Al-Tony	Ph.D. U. of Toledo
Gregory, Chester D.	Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1969
Hammond Perry, Kennetta	Ph.D. Michigan State University, 2007
Harper, Jim C.	Ph.D. Howard University, 2004
Harris, Glen	Ph.D. Florida State University, 2003
Hemmingway, Theodore	Ph.D. University of South Carolina, 1976
Hudson, Gossie	Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1970
Jackson, W. Sherman	Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1969
Johnson, Charles	Ph.D. Howard University, 2004
Jones, Beverly W.	Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1980
King, Shannon	Ph.D. Binghamton University, 2006
Lawson, J. Ranaldo	Ph.D. Kent State University, 1976
Mack, Dwayne	Ph.D. Washington State University, 2002
Mack, Felecia	
Mason, Byron	Ph.D. Michigan State University, 2000
Mizelle, Richard, Jr.	Ph.D. Rutgers University, 2006
Moore, Jesse T.	Ph.D. U. of Pennsylvania, 1971
Muhammad, Baiyina	Ph.D. Morgan State University, 2004
Murphy, Melvin	Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1970
Murray, Percy E.	Ph.D. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, 1977
Parker, Freddie L.	Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1987

Reid, George W.	Ph.D. Howard University, 1974
Rubio, Phil	Ph.D. Duke University, 2006
Shaw, Stephanie	Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1986
Sims-Wood, Janet	Ph.D.
Smallwood, Arwin	Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1997
Suggs, Henry Lewis	Ph.D. University of Virginia, 1976
Thompson, Lawrence	Ph.D. U. of Missouri, 1973
Thorpe, Earlie	Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1954
Thomas, William H.	
Washington, Austin	Ph.D U. of Pennsylvania
Weston, Rubin F.	D.S.S. Syracuse University, 1964
Williams, Clarence G.	Ph.D. University of Connecticut, 1971
Williams, Henry	Ph.D. University of Texas, 1970
Williams, Melvin R.	Ph.D. Johns Hopkins University, 1976
Williams, Oscar, Jr.	Ph.D. Ohio State University, 1969
Windley, Lathan	Ph.D. University of Iowa, 1974
Wilson, Carlton E.	Ph.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1992
Verbal, Betty	D.A. Carnegie Mellon, 1971

## APPENDIX E

### Department of History - Hall of Fame established October 23, 2008

#### Faculty:

##### **David W. Bishop** (1921-2004)

NCCU (1971-1991)

A.B., A.M., Howard University; Ph.D., Catholic University, 1962

*Railroad Decisions of the Interstate Commerce Commission: Their Guiding Principles.* Washington, DC: Catholic University Press, 1961.

##### **Helen G. Edmonds** (1911-1995)

NCCU (1941-1977)

A.B., Morgan State College (1933); A.M. (1938), Ph.D. (1946), Ohio State University

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Many of her students earned M.A.s and Ph.D.s

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Wrote first edition of *From Slavery to Freedom: A History of Negro Americans* (1947), while at NCC. Author of numerous books and articles.

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A.B., Howard University, 1932; A.M., Columbia University, 1934

Chair, Department of History, Shaw University, 1935-1947

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A.B., Michigan State Normal College (1927); A.M., University of Michigan (1930); Ph.D., University of California (1936)

Taught at Lincoln Institute, Alabama State Normal School, Alabama State Teachers College

Dean, Alabama State Teachers College, 1930-1939

Taught at Bethune-Cookman, 1970-1976

Acting VP for Development, Bethune-Cookman, 1978-1979

Professor of History and Government; Professor of History;

Advised Social Science majors;

Division of Social Sciences was an informal division. NCC Curriculum Committee approved a Division of Social Sciences with a major in history, among others, in 1953. Taylor says that he was Thorpe's graduate advisor.

Under Taylor, increase in courses, notably in African history, majors, faculty; 5 faculty members earned Ph.D.s during these years while teaching at NCC; honor societies: Phi Alpha Theta (1953-54) and Pi Gamma Mu (1954-55) set up

Chairman of Division of Social Sciences, 1939-1963

**Earlie E. Thorpe**

NCC (1962-1989)

B.A., M.A., North Carolina College; Ph.D., Ohio State

University, 1953

*Negro Historians in the United States*

*The Desertion of Man: A Critique of Philosophy of History*

*The Mind of the Negro: An Intellectual History of Afro-Americans*

*Eros and Freedom in Southern Life and Thought*

*The Central Theme of Black History*

*The Old South: A Psychohistory*

Journal Articles in *Quarterly Review of Higher Education Among Negroes*; *Negro History Bulletin*; *Negro Educational Review*

Department Chair, 1963-1972

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