

SPRING 2026

UAH History Department Newsletter

History student Spotlight

Gloria Sipper, a graduating senior, was accepted into the University of Florida in Gainesville, where she plans to focus on museum studies. At UFG, she will build on her UAH public history minor at UFG. She's well on her way to her dream career in public history!

Currently, Glory is completing a capstone paper on prosthetic limbs during and after the Civil War.

Glory's advice to current students: take advantage of the opportunities offered at UAH.



Alumni stay in touch--

Drop us a note at
history@uah.edu

Follow Us!



DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

SPRING 2026

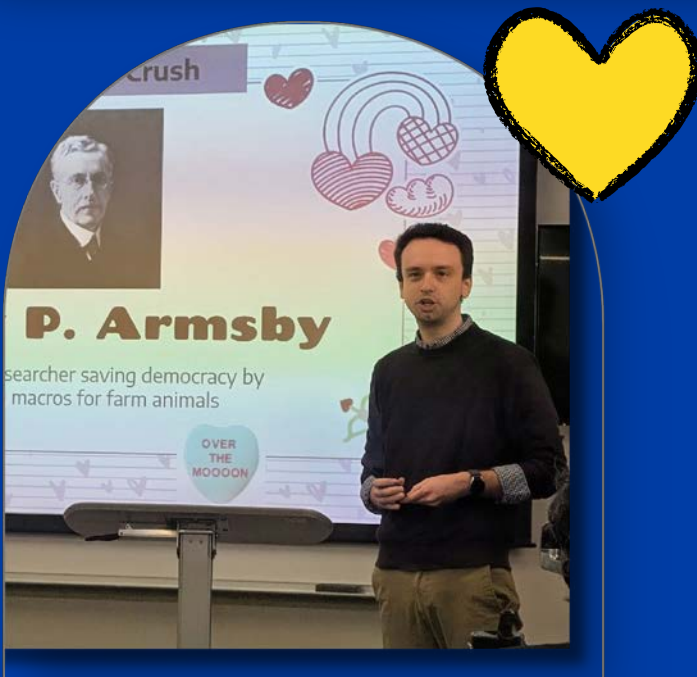
UAH HISTORY DEPARTMENT

John O'Brien (MA, '23) is a historian, researcher, and Preservation planner with Tennessee Valley Archeological Research (TVAR). At TVAR, he uses deed books and other archival resources to give historical context to TVAR's projects. His UAH MA thesis examined the Federal Housing Authority's housing policy and city planning in Huntsville.



Who's your historical crush?

Dr. Tonkel crushed on Henry P. Armsby, whose work with cows' nutrition inspired Dr. Tonkel's research. Welcome to UAH Dr. Tonkel.



Faculty Book Alert!

Dr. Baun new book uses the life of Imad Nuwayhid to explore radicalism during the Lebanese Civil War. Dr. Baun used oral history h interviews with Nuwayhid's family long with archival documents like letters between Nuwayhid and his family and friends. Dr. Baun's book explores how people are remembered and how politics affects that memory. Congrats to Dr. Baun on his second book!



Trivia night was organized by the History Department and The History Club. Join the History Club by contacting Summitt Stallings at srs0066@uah.edu.

Fellowship

Dr. Sears was awarded a New England Regional Fellowship Consortium (NERFC) to do research on the maritime world between 1780 and 1830 at two Harvard libraries, the Vermont Historical Society, the Rhode Island Historical Society, and the Phillips Library of the Peabody Essex Museum. Some of her research appears in the article she's working on, "Love "Love, Such as a Landsmen Never Knew': Jack Tar as a Family Man."



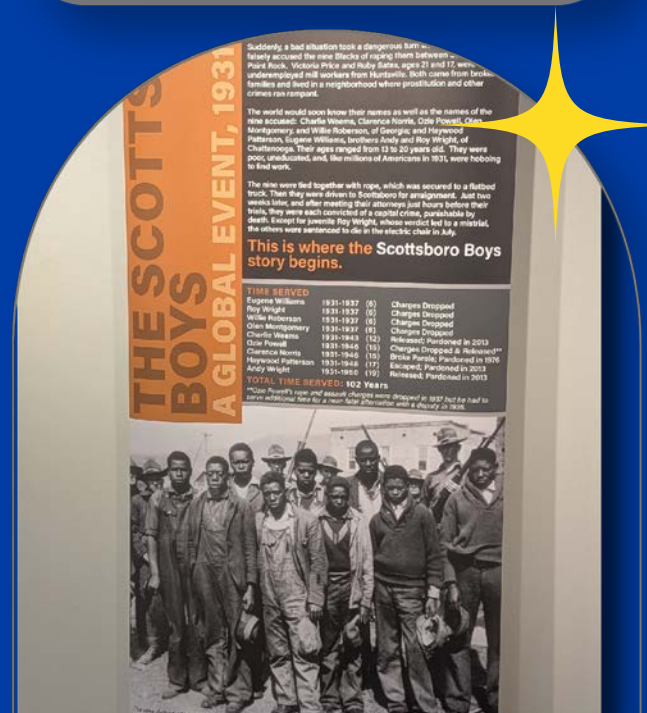
Events

The Scottsboro Boys Museum brought their traveling exhibit to campus for two weeks in 2025.

Travel



Dr. Johnson on her sabbatical research trip to Germany and Switzerland. Pictured here with her book at Berlin's Wassersportmuseum



Suddenly a bad situation took a dangerous turn...
...relayed across the nine stacks of rising floors between...
Paul Rock, Victoria Price and Ruby Bates, ages 21 and 17, were...
...underemployed mill workers from Bartonsville. Both came from broken...
...families and lived in a neighborhood where prostitution and other...
...crimes ran rampant.

The world would soon know their names as well as the names of the...
...new boys: Charlie Weaver, Clarence Powell, Ozie Powell, Ozie...
...Montgomery, and Willie Robertson, of Georgia; and Haywood...
...Paterson, Sumner Williams, Leathers Jodie and Roy Wright, of...
...Chattanooga. Their ages ranged from 13 to 20 years old. They were...
...good students, and, the millions of Americans in 1931, were tobing to...
...find work.

The nine were tied together with ropes, which was secured to a flatbed...
...truck. Then they were driven to Scottsboro for arraignment. Just two...
...weeks later, and after meeting their attorneys just hours before their...
...trial, they were each convicted of a capital crime, punishable by...
...death. Except for juvenile Roy Wright, whose innocent led to a mistrial, the...
...others were sentenced to die in the electric chair in July.

This is where the Scottsboro Boys story begins.

NAME	AGE	CHARGE
Rogene Williams	1931-1937 (6)	Charges Dropped
Roy Wright	1931-1937 (6)	Charges Dropped
Willie Robertson	1931-1937 (6)	Charges Dropped
Olan Montgomery	1931-1937 (6)	Charges Dropped
Charlie Weaver	1931-1943 (12)	Released; Paroled in 2013
Ozie Powell	1931-1943 (12)	Released; Paroled in 2013
Clarence Brown	1931-1946 (15)	Released; Paroled in 2013
Haywood Paterson	1931-1946 (17)	Released; Paroled in 2013
Andy Wright	1931-1946 (17)	Released; Paroled in 2013

TOTAL TIME SERVED: 102 Years
*Ozie Powell's rope and several charges were dropped in 1937 but he had to serve additional time for a rear later after another rape and a charge of 20 years.

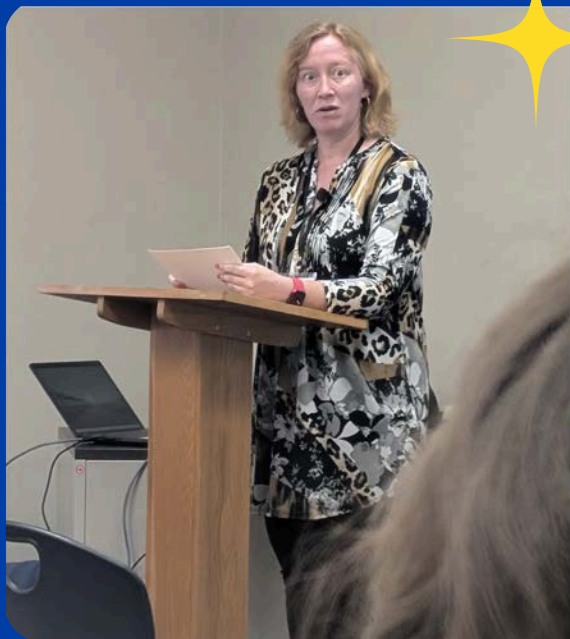


In Other News



Former UAH History Professor Jack Ellis won the 2026 Alabama Historical Association's Sulzby book prize for the book *Physicians for the People: Black Doctors and the Struggle for Health-Care Equality in Alabama, 1870-1970*.

Morgon Newquist (HY UG '25) is off to pursue a history master's degree at the University of Delaware.



Dr. Whitney Snow (MA '08) presented "Ku Klux Klan Activity in 1920s Guntersville and Gadsden: A Case Study on the Persecution of Immigrants" at the Alabama Historical Association's annual meeting. Professor Snow teaches at Midwestern State University.

Congratulations!



Welcome, Dr. Ryan Reynolds, to the UAH History Department. After serving in the US Army, Dr. Reynolds received his Ph.D. from Mississippi State in 2024, where he specialized in modern US history and military history. At UAH, he will be teaching courses in national security, military history, intelligence and security, and foreign policy. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two dogs, Luna and Posey. We are excited that he has joined our team at UAH.

Congratulations to the new and current members of Phi Alpha Theta. New members were inducted on April 3, 2026. And a big shout-out to Dr. Kelly Smith, the P.A.T. Advisor.

