**President's Corner**

On behalf of the officers of RLHS and staff of ROHA, I hope that you in the RLHS community are doing well in these daunting times. The activities of ROHA have continued remotely this past year, and we have tried to bring you some of the history-related University activities through numerous email invitations. Rutgers is starting to get back to normal this fall, and when all is ready, we will hold our Annual Meeting and present the Ambrose Award to Doug Stanton. Meanwhile, I encourage you to continue your involvement by using the ROHA website, reading an oral history, listening to a podcast, and most importantly making a gift to support ROHA. It is through the financial support of RLHS community members that ROHA got its start in 1994 and has continued to carry out its mission. ROHA plays an important role in remembering the epic events of our past and the people who played pivotal roles, as well as in educating the next generation of historians. Join us in this crucial mission: help us keep our history alive. To make a gift to ROHA, use the coupon on the last page of this newsletter, or click on this link. 

Stuart Freedman  
RC ’62  
President, RLHS

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**ROHA Conducts Interviews Virtually During the Pandemic**

When the pandemic struck and Rutgers shifted to remote instruction in March 2020, the ROHA staff of Shaun Illingworth, Kate Rizzi, Don Koger, part-timers and undergraduate interns quickly transferred ROHA’s operations from 1 Spring Street to their home offices. Within a month, ROHA had shifted to interviewing narrators via Zoom and WebEx video conference platforms or by phone.

Over the course of the pandemic, ROHA has continued to expand the oral history collection, which now totals 1,128 interviews of veterans, Rutgers faculty, staff and alumni, and individuals in New Jersey communities. In commemoration of their fiftieth reunion milestone, the Class of 1970 donated a gift to ROHA to record the oral histories of members of the class, faculty and peers. ROHA’s other interview projects have focused on interviewing men and women who served in the military; faculty and administrators, notably faculty associated with the Institute for Research on Women and administrators involved in Rutgers’ Covid response; alumni of Rutgers College, Douglass College, Livingston College and the other undergraduate colleges and graduate programs of New Brunswick; and alumni of undergraduate and graduate/professional schools at the Newark and Camden campuses.

Other new collections available on the ROHA website include the Latino New Jersey History Project and Pandemic Interviews, comprised of Voces of a Pandemic and shows at the Newark and Camden campuses.

Other new collections available on the ROHA website include the Latino New Jersey History Project and Pandemic Interviews, comprised of Voces of a Pandemic and interviews led by ROHA staff members.

To aid educators engaged in virtual schooling during the pandemic, ROHA staff members have curated new oral history resources available to teachers, students and researchers. The Digital Learning Center offers topical interview lists, as well as a YouTube tutorial to aid site visitors in searching ROHA's holdings. The ROHA Podcast offers documentary style-podcasts and interviews with Rutgers graduate students, whose research focuses on 20th century social and political movements.

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**Carie Rael Delivers Virtual Chambers Oral History Lecture**

On Dec. 3, 2020, the Rutgers Oral History Archives (ROHA) hosted the third annual John W. Chambers II Oral History Graduate Fellowship Lecture. In this virtual event held via Zoom Webinar, Carie Rael delivered a lecture entitled "I don't see this happening anywhere else: Reflections from the Grassroots in the Anaheim/Santa Ana Region."

The event is co-sponsored by the Rutgers Living History Society (RLHS), Department of History, and the Office of the Executive Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS). The Chambers Fellowship is supported by the Ware and Cobb Foundations and through the generous gifts of donors, including Dr. Chambers himself.

Rael, a doctoral student in the History Department, received her B.A. and M.A. in History at California State University, Fullerton. She also served as an interviewer for the Latino New Jersey History Project and the Voces of a Pandemic Project.

Rael's doctoral research examines grassroots activism of Latinx communities in Orange County, California, working to counter oppression stemming from gentrification, criminalization and deportation.

(continued on Page 5)
New Pandemic Oral Histories Available on the ROHA Website

When the pandemic began, Karenn Happuck Alves was an undergraduate at Rutgers-Newark working to attain her degree. With friends and relatives getting sick with Coronavirus and community members facing layoffs in the spring of 2020, she refocused her efforts. Along with several others, Alves launched the organization Amigos Por Newark (Friends for Newark) to provide food and other resources to individuals and families in need. "We helped not only Brazilians, we helped Spanish communities and we helped low-income, in different areas of Newark and other parts of New Jersey," Alves explains in her oral history interview. Alves' story is showcased in the Voces (Voices) of a Pandemic oral history collection, now available on the ROHA website.

With the pandemic disproportionately affecting communities of color, the Voces of a Pandemic Project originated from the imperative to amplify the voices behind the statistics. Launched by the Voces Oral History Center in partnership with institutions across the United States, Voces of a Pandemic seeks to record, archive and disseminate oral history interviews to help society gain a greater understanding of the experiences in Latino/a communities during this historic era. Voces of a Pandemic is a collaboration between the Latino/a New Jersey History Project, directed by Dr. Lilia Fernández, the Voces Oral History Center at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Rutgers Oral History Archives.

Since 2016, Dr. Fernández has directed the Latino/a New Jersey History Project to engage student-researchers in collecting and archiving oral histories. In the summer of 2020, the project took on a pandemic-related emphasis. Dr. Fernández’s team of Rutgers students conducted interviews to document the experiences of Latino/a community members in New Jersey and surrounding areas during the pandemic and recession. The interviews were conducted by School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) students Ezekiel Medina, ‘20, and Carolina Montes, ‘21, and graduate students Carie Rael, Leo Valdes and Yazmin Gomez. (continued on Page 4)

ROHA Announces Kindre Award Recipients

The Rutgers Oral History Archives (ROHA) and Rutgers Living History Society (RLHS) will award the 2020 Tom Kindre Legacy Award to Sofia Ruiz and the 2021 Kindre Legacy Award to Isabella Kolic. The Kindre Award is given annually to an individual whose dedication to the practice of oral history continues the tradition set forth by Tom Kindre, who was a member of the Rutgers College Class of 1942 and founder of ROHA.

Sofia Ruiz, currently a senior, worked as a Public History Intern at ROHA during the spring semester 2020. "I always have held a strong interest and love for the study of history," explains Ruiz, a history and political science major at the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS). She is also pursuing a Certificate in Public History and a minor in international and global studies. Ruiz is the recipient of the Class of 1948 Scholarship and currently is taking the “Introduction to Oral History” class, taught by ROHA Director Shaun Illingworth.

Ruiz grew up in Old Bridge, New Jersey and went to Old Bridge High School. A first-generation college student, Ruiz is a member of Douglass Residential College, where she has had the opportunity to assist in the coordination of the Big Ten Academic Alliance Summit on Advancing Women in STEM. She is a Douglass Big-Little Mentor, as well as a sister and past executive board member of Sigma Delta Tau.

Currently, Ruiz is finishing her History Honors Thesis on the history of Cuban-American prisoner trades and relations in the 1960’s and 1970’s, a topic of interest that grew out of her father's experiences emigrating from Cuba. "Adapting to remote education has been a challenge, especially completing my thesis," Ruiz explains of the impact of the pandemic on students. The physical archives and libraries that she had planned to visit were closed due to the pandemic. She deeply misses having in-person classes and discussions, which she regards as the highlight of a liberal arts education. (continued on Page 5)
Doug Stanton Will Receive Ambrose Oral History Award

The Rutgers Living History Society (RLHS) will award the 2020-2021 Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award to bestselling author Doug Stanton. The date and time of the RLHS Annual Meeting and presentation of the Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award is to be decided at this point and will hinge on future pandemic-related event planning policies of the University, as well as the calendar of events during Homecoming Weekend in the fall of 2021.

Doug Stanton is a New York Times bestselling author, journalist, lecturer and screenwriter. As a journalist, he has worked as a contributing editor at Esquire and Outside and has written articles on history, travel, sports and entertainment for publications such as Sports Afield, Men's Journal, The Washington Post, The New York Times, TIME and Newsweek. He is the author of the nonfiction books In Harm's Way, Horse Soldiers and The Odyssey of Echo Company. Stanton has appeared on PBS's "The Vietnam War," C-SPAN’s "American History," CNN, Discovery, A&E, History Channel, Fox News, NPR, MSNBC’s Morning Joe, and NBC Nightly News. He lectures nationally to libraries, civic groups, writing and book clubs, and universities about subjects ranging from international affairs to writing techniques.

Drawing upon interviews with survivors of the World War II heavy cruiser U.S.S. Indianapolis, Stanton wrote In Harm’s Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors, published in 2001 by Henry Holt. After completing the secret mission to deliver atomic bomb components to U.S. forces on Tinian Island in the Central Pacific, the Indianapolis encountered a Japanese submarine while sailing to the Philippines on July 30, 1945. The Indianapolis was torpedoed and sank. Only 316 crew survived to be rescued out of the original total of 1,196 men onboard the ship. Over the course of his twenty-year association with the story of the Indianapolis, Stanton met nearly every survivor. He appeared alongside the veterans on The Today Show, NBC Nightly News, History Channel, Discovery and PBS's 2019 documentary "U.S.S. Indianapolis: The Final Chapter." Of the 124 survivors who were alive at the time of the publication of In Harm's Way, eleven survive to this day, revealing the importance of Stanton's work in chronicling the experiences of America's World War II generation.


(continued on Page 5)

(Image courtesy of Doug Stanton)
In conjunction with the Voces collection, ROHA Director Shaun Illingworth and ROHA Assistant Director Kate Rizzi have been interviewing Rutgers administrators, faculty, students and alumni, medical providers, and military servicepeople to delve into the responses of communities throughout the University and State during the pandemic and social unrest of the past year. These oral histories, like all interviews in ROHA's collection, are autobiographical in scope, with the additional focus on Coronavirus and the recession. The interviews have taken place virtually through video conferences, and the interview transcripts are available on the ROHA website.

Antonio Calcado, the Executive Vice President for Strategic Planning and Operations and Chief Operating Officer, led the University's emergency response in early 2020 and then contracted the virus himself, after which he was hospitalized with a severe case that threatened his life. Barbara Lee, the former Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs, worked with others in the Emergency Operations Center to pivot the University to remote instruction with a week's notice in March 2020. Dr. Lee explains of the University's decisions that were made, "We had no previous roadmap to follow. I was proud that we were careful and put safety and health before other interests." Taylor Lorchak, at the time a senior in the School of Nursing at Rutgers-Camden, found out that her National Guard unit was being activated in April 2020 as a part of New Jersey's crisis response. She served as a combat medic at a veterans nursing home by day and as a nursing student at night, still graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. Debora La Torre, a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, is a working mother and Army Reservist. Her interview details her experiences as a medical provider and president of the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses during the pandemic. "Storytelling has never been more important," Shaun Illingworth explains. "In documenting the effects of this extraordinary period of time on people at Rutgers and in New Jersey, the pandemic oral history collection of the Rutgers Oral History Archives is adding to the historical record through the voices of lived experiences. Most importantly, the voices of those who have been disproportionately impacted by the virus and financial crisis are front and center." The oral history collection is available on ROHA's website to be drawn upon by students, researchers and scholars, as well by future generations who will have access to the first-person accounts.

To browse the collection, visit the ROHA website and select Pandemic Interviews. The Voces of a Pandemic collection on the ROHA website was curated by Kate Rizzi, along with assistance from Michael Farner and Edgar Krupczak, Public History Interns, Carolina Montes, '21, and Leo Valdes, a graduate student in the History Department. Pandemic oral history interviews continue to be recorded, and new interviews will be added to the ROHA website periodically.
In her presentation, Rael highlighted the oral histories that she conducted as the Chambers Fellow, along with interviews that she drew upon from archival collections. “The oral histories have helped put a human face on the history that I am researching regarding grassroots activism and the historical memory of Mexican community building in Anaheim and Santa Ana,” Rael explains of the role of interviews in her research.

The first-ever virtual Chambers lecture drew an audience of nearly eighty faculty, alumni, undergraduates, graduate students, and community members. The night was capped off with a question-and-answer session moderated by ROHA Director Shaun Illingworth, with attendees inquiring about oral history methodology, storytelling and community empowerment.

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(continued from Page 3)

Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School selected the book as required reading. Republished as 12 Strong: The Declassified True Story of the Horse Soldiers, the book served as the basis for the 2018 Warner Bros. film 12 Strong, starring Chris Hemsworth and Michael Shannon.

Turning his attention to the Vietnam War, Stanton used letters from the time and interviews with veterans to write The Odyssey of Echo Company: The 1968 Tet Offensive and the Epic Battle to Survive the Vietnam War, published by Scribner in 2017. The Odyssey of Echo Company earned Stanton Military Times Best Book of The Year and the Society of Midlands Authors Best Nonfiction Book Award.

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We have learned of the passing of the following members:

- Mr. John L. Archibald, ED ’43
- Colonel Thomas T. Cavanagh III, RC ’66
- Mr. Crandon Clark, RC ’44
- Mrs. Laura DePinho
- Mrs. Dorothy Dempsey, GSE ’51
- Ms. Frieda Finklestein Feller, NJC ’41
- Mr. Aristotle Gazonas
- Mr. Harvey Grimsley, RC ’50
- Mr. Samuel Gurstelle
- Mr. Frank Hall
- Mr. William J. Hamilton, Jr. RC ’54
- Mr. Burton Kapner, NCAS ’50
- General Frederick J. Kroesensm
- Mr. Frank P. Maltese, Sr.
- Mr. Harold Musselman
- Mr. Robert Redfield
- Ms. Jean A. Rinehart
- Dr. Joseph Seneca
- Dr. Alfred V. Sloan, Jr., RC ’41
- Lieutenant Colonel David B. Smith, RC ’63
- Mr. Joseph Soos
- Mr. Irwin Spetgang, RC ’56
- Mr. Matthew Swajkowski
- Mr. Warner Thurlow, RC ’50

This issue is dedicated to their memory.

These listings may be incomplete. If this copy of History Alive was addressed to a recently deceased RLHS member, please let us know about their passing so that we can honor them in an upcoming issue. Also, if you know of anyone who should be listed here, please contact Shaun Illingworth.

ROHA and RLHS Community Commemorate the Life and Service of John L. Archibald

This issue of History Alive is dedicated to the memory of John L. Archibald, ’43, who passed away on March 29, 2020, just short of his 99th birthday.

The Archibald family is deeply rooted in the history of Rutgers and the Rutgers Oral History Archives. Mr. Archibald’s father graduated in the Class of 1917 and spent his career on the faculty at the College of Agriculture. His brothers, General William T. Archibald and Robert Voorhees Archibald, graduated in 1941 and 1948, respectively.

Right before graduating with a degree in education, Mr. Archibald was drafted into the Army, and his father appealed to the local draft board for him to be able to finish his degree before being inducted. This story and many others are recounted in his oral history interview, recorded in 1999 by Sandra Stewart Holyoak, the director of ROHA at the time.

During World War II, Mr. Archibald served as an officer and statistician in the Army Air Force on the home front. He earned his master’s degree at Rutgers after the war and also did graduate work at Columbia. He was married to Norma Lessor Archibald for fifty-six years. He spent his career in education as a teacher and administrator, serving as a principal at the Irwin B. Somerville Elementary School in Ridgewood for twenty-five years. He was known for having a remarkable memory and being able to recall students’ names years after they graduated.

Mr. Archibald actively participated in alumni affairs, serving as the reunion chairperson for the Class of 1943. In honor of the thirty-one members of the class who gave their lives during World War II, the Class of 1943 dedicated the Grove of Remembrance, near the Louis Brown Athletic Center. Bart Klion, RC ’48, former President of the Rutgers Living History Society (RLHS), remembers him as a driving force, “John certainly left a major imprint on the Class of 1943 and was a responsible for keeping the class active and also involved with ROHA.” After participating in an oral history interview with the Rutgers Oral History Archives, Mr. Archibald remained a steadfast supporter of the center. For his dedication to his alma mater, Rutgers University honored Mr. Archibald with the Loyal Sons Award.

To read Mr. Archibald’s oral history, visit the ROHA website or click here. The interview of Robert Archibald, member of the RLHS Operations Committee, is also available online.
Illingworth Teaches “Intro to Oral History” Remotely to Students in Spring 2021

During the spring semester of 2021, ROHA Director Shaun Illingworth has been teaching "Introduction to Oral History" to a class of over twenty School of Arts and Sciences students. As with all Rutgers classes, "Intro to Oral History" is held remotely, with students meeting Illingworth on Zoom to become immersed in oral history theory and methodology, practical interviewing techniques, and digital and material archival preservation.

As a part of the class, each student conducts an oral history interview. Students have been interviewing Rutgers alumni and faculty, military servicepeople, and family members, delving into various aspects of their life narratives, intersections of their lives with notable historical events, and experiences during the pandemic.

Preparing for the interview involves each student researching primary and secondary source materials and formulating questions and topics to explore in the interview. The interview then takes place either through Zoom or WebEx video conference under the supervision of Illingworth or a ROHA staff member. In addition to members of the class gaining valuable research and communication skills, this approach engages students in the hands-on experience of creating a primary source.

Drawing upon audio from their own interviews, as well as from digital holdings in ROHA's collections, students in the class write podcast scripts and produce podcasts as a way to incorporate their fieldwork and multimedia.

"Allowing students to participate in oral histories is invaluable for their studies," describes class member Isabella Kolic. "It humanizes history and empowers students, making them feel they are capable of doing the work of history."

ROHA Outreach Initiatives Continue Amid Pandemic

Over the course of the pandemic, the staff of ROHA have continued outreach efforts, albeit from their home offices. In addition to conducting oral history interviews via video conference platforms, Shaun Illingworth, Kate Rizzi, and Donald Koger, SAS '18, GSN '21, have participated in virtual events and workshops.

On February 25, 2021, Rizzi hosted a virtual oral history training workshop for the Cap & Skull Alumni Society of Rutgers. In partnership with the Queens Public Library, Illingworth gave a series of virtual lectures in the fall of 2020 as a part of the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read Program, analyzing Tim O’Brien's *The Things They Carried*. In partnership with the Indian American Club in Monroe Township, Illingworth hosts an ongoing lecture series focusing on the oral histories of foreign-born Americans in New Jersey, with the most recent event occurring remotely on October 13, 2020. Koger, an Army veteran of the Iraq War, gave a presentation on February 4, 2020 to the staff of Horses For Forces, a veterans’ service organization in Long Valley that provides equine therapy to veterans. Rizzi has worked with community partners across the state, including the Mountain Lakes Historical Society, Somerset County Historical Society, Northern New Jersey Community Foundation, and Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs.

On September 23, 2020, Illingworth was a guest speaker in an Honors College class. On August 25, 2020, Rizzi presented a workshop entitled "Testimony and Trust" at the Graduate Public Humanities Virtual Workshop Series, organized by Dr. Kristin O’Brassill-Kulfan and sponsored by the Center for Cultural Analysis and the School of Arts and Sciences Dean of Humanities. Rizzi and Illingworth have consulted on issues related to oral history with undergraduates, graduate students and faculty in academic units on all three Rutgers campuses. Additionally, the ROHA directors partook in virtual meetings with the Society and Pandemic Group, a grassroots network of interdisciplinary faculty and staff engaging in dialogue about research and pedagogy.

ROHA's oral histories continue to be used as sources in articles, books, documentaries and podcasts on a variety of topics including social history and military history. Malcolm Gladwell's *Revisionist History* podcast features a four-part series on Air Force General Curtis LeMay and the development and use of incendiary bombs by the U.S. during World War II and the Korean War. The 1995 ROHA interview of Robert Billian, '49, is featured in the fourth installment of this series, entitled "Goodbye, Farewell and Amen," which explores the history and ethics of America's firebombing campaigns. Listen to the podcast here. Robert Billian's oral history interview can be found here.
PLEASE PRINT AND ENCLOSE THIS COUPON WITH YOUR GIFT

Name: _______________________________ School/Class: _______________________________

Amount: _______ In honor or memory of (If applicable): ________________________________

May we include your name (and the name(s) of those you wish to honor/remember) on our ROHA Donor Honor Roll? _______

Would you like this donation to be considered a part of your class gift? _______

You can also make a secure online gift by going to the ROHA website (http://oralhistory.rutgers.edu) and clicking the “Support Us” link or click HERE.

Your gift is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

All checks should be payable to the Rutgers University Foundation and clearly marked for the “Rutgers Oral History Archives.”

Return all forms and payment to:
Rutgers Oral History Archives
Shaun Illingworth
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
1 Spring Street, Room 417
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
(848) 932-0454

Securing the Future of the Rutgers Oral History Archives

As a member of The Rutgers Living History Society, you understand the importance of preserving something meaningful and leaving a legacy for future generations. Your oral history contribution will have a lasting impact for decades, shaping the way others learn about the rich culture and deep history of our nation, the State of New Jersey and Rutgers.

Your support of the ROHA can be strengthened even further by including Rutgers in your estate plans. A bequest gift would help sustain the strong tradition of the Oral History program while simultaneously growing your legacy.

For more information on how to include Rutgers in your will, please contact the good people in the Office of Gift Planning by calling 848-932-8808 or emailing giftplanning@winants.rutgers.edu.

CELEBRATING INDIVIDUAL LIVES BY PRESERVING THEIR STORIES FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS