

HISTORY ALIVE



Newsletter of The Rutgers Living History Society

Fall 2021

President's Corner

Our 2021 Annual Meeting was a great success, despite lingering COVID protocols and a new fall date set by the University. Some eighty of you were able to attend to both hear and see the Ambrose Award winner, Doug Stanton, deliver a moving presentation. All of us who made the arrangements were greatly encouraged by your participation and support. If you were unable to attend, please view the meeting's recording on [YouTube](#), and while you are at the computer, be sure to visit the ROHA sites on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and catch the [ROHA Podcast](#). Shaun and Kate and the entire ROHA staff have done spectacular work to bring ROHA widespread attention, but they cannot do it alone. The continued success and very existence of ROHA in future years depends on both your financial support and the recruitment of enthusiastic, new, younger members. Please help in recruiting new members, especially from the Rutgers alumni community. To make a gift to ROHA, use the coupon on the last page of this newsletter, or click on this [link](#). May you all celebrate a happy and healthy holiday season in the months ahead.

Stuart Freedman
RC '62
President, RLHS



(Left to right) Doug Stanton accepts the Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award from SAS Executive Dean Peter March. To hear Stanton's acceptance speech, view the Annual Meeting on [YouTube](#).
Image courtesy of Donald Koger

ROHA and RLHS to Commemorate 80th Anniversary of Attack on Pearl Harbor

On Tuesday, December 7, 2021, the Rutgers Oral History Archives (ROHA) and Rutgers Living History Society (RLHS) will host a ceremony to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the December 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The ceremony will take place at 10:30 a.m. at the World War II Memorial Plaza on Voorhees Mall on the College Avenue Campus. Donated by the Class of 1942, the World War II Memorial honors members of Rutgers communities who served in World War II and those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The commemoration will feature ROTC cadets laying a wreath at the memorial. Refreshments will be provided in Van Dyck Hall Room 211 after the ceremony.

To register for parking, visit [parking registration](#). For more information, contact Kate Rizzi at kathryn.rizzi@rutgers.edu, or visit the [ROHA Website](#) for more details.

RLHS Holds Annual Meeting During Rutgers Homecoming Weekend

On October 8, 2021, the Rutgers Living History Society (RLHS) awarded the Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award to international bestselling author Doug Stanton during the 2021 Annual Meeting.

Over eighty alumni, undergraduates, graduate students, faculty, administrators and community members gathered at the College Avenue Student Center to celebrate the Annual Meeting and induction of new RLHS members. As a part of Homecoming weekend, the Annual Meeting took place through collaboration with the Rutgers University Foundation and Rutgers University Alumni Association.

After Navy ROTC cadets posted the colors, the meeting began with welcoming remarks from Stuart Freedman, RC '62, President of RLHS. Vice Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences (SAS) Dr. James Masschaele then made a speech discussing the return to in-person instruction at Rutgers in the fall. During the report on the Rutgers Oral History Archives (ROHA), Director Shaun Illingworth and Assistant Director Kate Rizzi highlighted ongoing projects of the center, as well as new initiatives launched during the pandemic.

SAS Executive Dean Peter March presented the Stephen E. Ambrose Award to Stanton, who is the author of the books *In Harm's Way: The Sinking of the U.S.S. Indianapolis and the Extraordinary Story of Its Survivors*; *Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of US Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan*; and *The Odyssey of Echo Company: The 1968 Tet Offensive and the Epic Battle to Survive the Vietnam War*.

In acceptance of the Ambrose Award, Doug Stanton began his speech by connecting the mission of ROHA with his own work in conducting oral histories as a basis for writing non-fiction narratives.

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History Alive

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Shaun Illingworth

Director

Rutgers Oral History Archives

Kathryn Tracy Rizzi

Assistant Director

Rutgers Oral History Archives

Writer & Editor, History Alive

The Rutgers Living History
Society Executive
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Stuart Freedman, '62
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Anna Richey Receives John Chambers Oral History Fellowship

The 2021-2022 John W. Chambers II Oral History Graduate Fellow is Anna Richey, a doctoral student in the History Department. Richey earned a Bachelor of Arts from Ohio State University in History and Women's Studies. Her work focuses on the histories of social protest movements, anti-rape feminism and student activism in twentieth century America.

The Chambers Fellowship is awarded annually to foster the use of oral history in the scholarship of a history doctoral student. The fellowship is funded by the generosity of The Cobb Foundation, The Ware Foundation and History Professor Emeritus John Whiteclay Chambers II.

Richey's dissertation examines how female students organized to prevent sexual violence on college campuses from 1950 to 1990 and, as a result, radically effected university programming on Title IX and gender equality. "Oral histories are perhaps the most instrumental source material for



this project, as the voices of participants give life to the narrative, supplement archival holdings, and provide information that would otherwise be unobtainable," Richey contends.

In the spring of 2022, Richey will present her research findings in the annual Chambers Fellowship Lecture. Stay tuned for more information about this upcoming event.

Previous Chambers Fellows are Pamela Walker, Caitlin Wiesner and Carie Rael.

ROHA Interviews Used as Primary Sources in Books, Articles, Online Exhibits and Podcasts

Interviews in the Rutgers Oral History Archives (ROHA) continue to be valuable primary sources used by scholars and students in a variety of publications ranging from books and articles to online exhibits and podcasts.

[Scarlet and Black](#) is a three-volume exploration of the experiences of African Americans and Native Americans at Rutgers University. Published in May 2021, *Scarlet and Black, Volume III: Making Black Lives Matter at Rutgers, 1945-2020* draws from archival holdings of ROHA. Additionally, ROHA Directors Shaun Illingworth and Kate Rizzi worked with graduate student researchers to conduct original interviews of Rutgers alumni, faculty and staff.

Among the [ROHA interviews](#) used in *Scarlet and Black, Volume III* are: Cheryl Clarke, GSNB '74, GSSW '80, GSNB '00, M. Wilma Harris, DC '66, Alice Jennings Archibald, GSE '38, Simeon Moss, ED '41, William Neal Brown, RU Faculty, Donald Harris, RC '63, Patricia Graham, LC '72, Betty Davis, DC '66, Barbara Morrison-Rodriguez, DC '71, and Rosalind Carmichael, DC '72. ROHA continues to partner with Dr. Jesse Bayker, curator of the [Scarlet and Black Digital Archives](#), and Dr. Kendra Boyd, Assistant Professor of History at Rutgers-Camden, to interview alumni, faculty and staff in communities of color throughout Rutgers.

Oral histories from [ROHA's collection](#) are used in the new online exhibit "Jewish Agriculturalism in the Garden State," created by Jonathan Dekel-Chen, Visiting Scholar from Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The exhibit is hosted by the Rutgers Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life. This exhibit cites the ROHA interviews of Irvin Baker, AG '44, M. Leon Canick, RC '42, Dr. Hans Fisher, AG '50, RU Faculty, Annette Greenblatt, NJC '45, Dr. Max Horlick, RC '39, Edward Karpoff, RC '38, William Kahane, RC '67, Dorothy Salkin-Welles, NJC '41, and Jerry Shulman, AG '48.

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ROHA Releases New Podcast Episodes

In the fall of 2021, the Rutgers Oral History Archives (ROHA) released two new podcasts that are written and narrated by history majors and recent graduates Sofia Ruiz, SAS '21, and Isabella Kolic, SAS '21.

The "ROHA Spotlight of Harvey Grimsley" is a biographical episode about the Rutgers alumnus of the Class of 1950. Grimsley was a World War II veteran, Rutgers Athletic Hall of Famer, and leading scorer during his football career in the late 1940s at Rutgers. In the podcast, Ruiz traces the life and times of Grimsley, from his birth in Alabama to his family's migration to New Jersey, from his service in a segregated Army unit in Europe during the Second World War to his attending Rutgers on the GI Bill. Grimsley passed away in 2020 at the age of ninety-eight.

For Veterans Day, ROHA released the episode "The Cold War: Identifying the Enemy." In this episode, Kolic examines the concept of "the enemy" during the Cold War. The documentary podcast draws from ten ROHA interviews of American veterans and highlights some of the varied perspectives of those who served in the Korean and Vietnam Wars, focusing on service members who fought the Cold War on the ground and met the enemy head on. Who or what was the enemy for military personnel, and how did that differ from the enemy espoused in the dominant anti-Communist narrative? The podcast explores those questions.

Listen to the ROHA Podcast on the [ROHA Website](#), [Soundcloud](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#).

ROHA

RUTGERS ORAL HISTORY
ARCHIVES PODCAST



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(Left to right): Isabella Kolic is the 2021 recipient of the Tom Kindre Legacy Award, presented by Bart Klion, RC '48, past RLHS President. (Image courtesy of Donald Koger)

TAPS

We have learned of the passing of the following members:

Frank Askin, RU Faculty
Frank Brennan Jr., RC '51
Peter J. Logerfo
Dr. Paul Jennings, RC '45
Daniel Csontos
Richard Sneath, RC '43
Harold Bergenbauer
John Folker

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 (illingwo@history.rutgers.edu).

Follow ROHA on Social Media @RUOralHistory

Stay up-to-date with the latest news, events and podcasts by following ROHA @RUOralHistory on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Soundcloud](#) and [Apple Podcasts](#).

Subscribe to the [ROHA Channel on YouTube](#) and view the video of the Annual Meeting 2021 and the Rutgers Living History Society Memorial Video 2021.

Visit the [ROHA Website](#) and browse the oral history collection.

Shaun's Soapbox

A special thank you goes to Stuart Freedman for his continued efforts as RLHS President in spurring on alumni engagement. Many thanks to RLHS members who came to the Annual Meeting. It is the collective support from all of you for more than 25 years that has enabled ROHA to continue its dual missions of documenting the histories of individuals and communities at Rutgers and throughout the State of New Jersey and of teaching students the methodology and uses of oral history. My sincerest appreciation goes to the Rutgers College Class of 1970 for their fiftieth reunion milestone gift. This generous gift has enabled the [oral history interviews](#) of class members, faculty and contemporaries of the era. I also have been teaching a new course in the SAS Honors College entitled "Generations of Change." Through the lens of oral history, students in the class analyze the decades of the 1960s and 1970s and compare and contrast the movements and turmoil of that era to issues and social justice movements of today. The class features guest speakers who are graduates of Rutgers University classes during the 1960s and 1970s. Each student also gets the opportunity to conduct an oral history interview and partake in the creation of a primary source document.

Shaun Illingworth
ROHA Director



Author Doug Stanton speaks at the Annual Meeting about the importance of oral history and remembrance.

Image courtesy of Donald Koger

RLHS Holds Annual Meeting During Rutgers Homecoming Weekend 2021

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"Oral history is about the presence of a voice emerging from the page, just in the syntax, the language, the rhythm," Stanton expressed. "That's why all these new inductees to your society are so important. Each one is an individual voice print of someone's soul who has lived on this earth among us."

Stanton addressed the importance of oral history interviews in telling and preserving the stories of the past. In response to the question, "Who gets to make history?" Stanton explained what drives his research: "I try to go out in the world and to be engaged in the lives of others and ask them what happened to them, what it feels like for them to be alive at this moment, which is really what the central question of oral history is, and capturing that in its own particular voice, on the page, and in oral archives." Highlighting his study of the Vietnam War era in *The Odyssey of Echo Company*, Stanton shared a short movie about American veterans traveling to Vietnam in recent years and meeting North Vietnamese veterans who they once considered their enemy.

To introduce the In Memorium section of the meeting, former RLHS President Carl Burns, RC '64, made a touching tribute to longtime member Richard Snethen, RC '43, who passed away in August. Guests viewed a video featuring photographs and interview vignettes of RLHS members who have passed away. The full-length video is available on the [ROHA Channel on YouTube](#).

Then came the time-honored tradition of inducting the twenty new members of the RLHS who were present.

John Longo, RC '78, a veteran of the U.S. Navy and one of the new inductees, commented, "I was happy to be in attendance at this wonderful event."

The event concluded with the presentation of the Tom Kindre Legacy Award and the business meeting, in which members in the audience voted on the executive committee. Past RLHS President Bart Klion, RC '48, awarded the 2020 Kindre Award to Sofia Ruiz, SAS '21, and the 2021 Kindre Award to Bella Kolic, SAS '21, who accepted the award in person. The Kindre Award is presented annually to a student who makes a significant contribution to the practice of oral history at ROHA.

"With the Annual Meeting being postponed in 2020 due to the pandemic, it was wonderful to be able to come together this year and hear Doug Stanton speak about his important work documenting the histories of veterans," Stuart Freedman asserted. "We are honored that so many of our members came to this event. We are grateful to the RLHS community, the Department of History, the Rutgers School of Arts and Sciences, the Rutgers University Foundation and the Rutgers University Alumni Association for the continued support."

The video recording of the RLHS Annual Meeting is available on the ROHA Channel on [YouTube](#).

ROHA Interviews Used as Primary Sources

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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 United States during World War II and the Korean War. The 1995 ROHA interview of Robert Billian, RC '49, is featured in the fourth installment of this series, entitled "[Goodbye, Farewell and Amen.](#)" The episode explores the history and ethics of America's firebombing campaigns. To read the oral history of [Robert Billian](#) and others in ROHA's collection, visit the [ROHA Website](#).

Other published works utilizing interviews in ROHA's collection include: *Good Outfit: The 803rd Engineer Battalion in the Defense of the Philippines*, by Paul Ropp; "In the Shadow of the Health-Care City: Historicizing Trans Latinx Immigrant Experiences during the Coronavirus Pandemic," in the *US Latino and Latina Oral History Journal*, by Leo Valdes; *Archaeologies of Violence and Privilege*, by Bradley D. Phillippi; *Blood and Fears: How America's Bomber Boys of the 8th Air Force Saved World War II*, by Kevin Wilson; *Searching for Subversives: The Story of Italian Internment in Wartime America*, by Mary Elizabeth Basile Chopas; *The Girls Next Door: Bringing the Home Front to the Front Lines*, by Kara Dixon Vuic; and *A Day in the Life of an American Worker*, edited by Nancy Quam-Wickham and Ben Tyler Elliott.

ROHA Reaches Out at Rutgers and Beyond

Rutgers Oral History Archives (ROHA) staff members Shaun Illingworth, Kate Rizzi, and Donald Koger, SAS '18, GSN '21 have been hard at work spreading the benefits of ROHA's collection and methodology to partners throughout Rutgers University, the State of New Jersey and across the nation.

ROHA Directors Shaun Illingworth and Kate Rizzi have provided oral history training to the Rutgers Cap and Skull Alumni Society, the Graduate Public Humanities Workshop, the Office of Civil Engagement at Rutgers-Camden, and the Shelter Project, which is a collaboration between the Public History Program and the New Brunswick Theological Seminary. ROHA has extended support and advise to the School of Communication and Information and the Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute and to undergraduates and graduate students in the Departments of History, American Studies, Latino and Caribbean Studies, English, Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies, and Religion.

ROHA has provided advice, consultation and training to oral history initiatives undertaken by the Northern New Jersey Community Foundation and the City of Hackensack, Saratoga County History Roundtable, Mountain Lakes Historical Society, Somerset County Historical Society, Union County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and Queens Public Library.

Koger regularly attends meetings of both the Veteran Alumni of Rutgers University and Horses for Forces, a veterans' service organization in Long Valley that provides equine therapy to veterans.

ROHA continues to partner with Dr. Lilia Fernández, Associate Professor of Latino and Caribbean Studies (LCS) and History, in the Latino/a New Jersey History Project. Since 2018, student-researchers have been collecting the oral histories of Latinx individuals in communities throughout Rutgers and New Jersey. In the fall of 2021, Rizzi conducted an oral history training workshop for undergraduates in Dr. Fernández's LCS Seminar. The oral histories in the [Latino/a New Jersey History Project](#), as well as the pandemic-related oral histories of the [Voices of a Pandemic](#) project, undertaken in collaboration with the Voces Oral History Center at the University of Texas-Austin, are available on the ROHA website.

"Not only does ROHA play a vital role in undergraduate education through the Public History Program," explains Illingworth, "but we also continue to work with partners to facilitate their work in oral history by providing resources, information and training."

The Rutgers Oral History Archives received an operating support grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission, a division of the Department of State, in the 2020-2021 cycle.



(Photo top): Navy ROTC cadets post the colors at the RLHS Annual Meeting on October 8, 2021. (Photo middle): Guests at the Annual Meeting enjoy reuniting in person during the brunch preceding the program. (Photo bottom): Doug Stanton shares a video about American military service members meeting North Vietnamese veterans more than fifty years after they faced off as enemies during the Vietnam War.

Image courtesy of Donald Koger

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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](#).

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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 giftplanningoffice@ruf.rutgers.edu

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Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
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