

# HISTORY ALIVE

Newsletter of The Rutgers Living History Society

Spring 2021

## 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



*History doctoral candidate Carie Rael presents research findings via Zoom during the third annual Chambers Graduate Fellowship Lecture.*

## 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 Grass-roots 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 grass-roots activism of Latinx communities in Orange County, California, working to counter oppression stemming from gentrification, criminalization and deportation.

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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 interviews led by ROHA staff members.

To aid educators engaged in virtual schooling during the pandemic, ROHA staffers 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.

## History Alive

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Web Address of the Rutgers  
Oral History Archives:  
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To make a gift in honor of  
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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.

## New Pandemic Oral Histories Available on the ROHA Website

When the pandemic began, Karenn Hap-puck 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](http://roha.rutgers.edu).

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](http://latinohistory.rutgers.edu) 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.

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## 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.

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## 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.

*In Harm's Way* earned Stanton international acclaim. The book remained on *The New York Times* bestseller list for over six months and also appeared as *The Sunday Times* (UK) bestseller. *In Harm's Way* is required reading for U.S. naval officers. The audiobook edition won the History category of the 2017 Audie Award.

First published in 2009 by Scribner, Stanton's *Horse Soldiers: The Extraordinary Story of a Band of US Soldiers Who Rode to Victory in Afghanistan* explores the experiences of U.S. Special Forces soldiers in the early days of the war in Afghanistan. In researching for this book, Stanton traveled through the United States and Afghanistan and conducted over one hundred interviews of American service members, civilians and family members. *Horse Soldiers* appeared on the front page of the Sunday *New York Times* Book Review and spent three months at #1 on *The New York Times* bestseller list, as well as earning distinction as a *New York Times* bestselling audiobook and e-book. U.S. Army Special Forces at the John F.

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(Image courtesy of Doug Stanton)

## Shaun's Soapbox

A special thank you goes to Stuart Freedman for his continued efforts as RLHS president in spurring on alumni engagement. It is through 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. We have been working hard to spread our collection's benefits to broader audiences.

Tune in to the Rutgers Oral History Archives Podcast on [SoundCloud](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), and on the [ROHA website](#). Stay up to date with the latest news and events by following ROHA at

@RUOralHistory on Facebook and Twitter. I want to recognize Sofia Ruiz, '21, Isabella Kolic, '21, SriPrudhvi Chirra, '21, Jessica Aumick, '21, Michael Farner, '21, Edgar Krupczak, '21, and Joel Bridge, '21, whose dedication and hard work as Public History Interns at ROHA during 2020-2021 is greatly appreciated. Finally, many thanks to the ROHA staff for rising to the occasion and meeting the many challenges encountered over the past year. More information will be coming soon about the next RLHS Annual Meeting and presentation of the Ambrose Oral History Award to bestselling writer Doug Stanton.

Shaun Illingworth  
ROHA Director





## New Pandemic Interviews on the ROHA Website

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The Voces oral histories gauge the effects of the pandemic on Latino/a communities, illustrating stories of people working in essential jobs, battling infection with Coronavirus, witnessing loved ones getting sick and dying, navigating the healthcare system, and living with undocumented status, in addition to exploring the intersections of race, gender, class, nationality and sexuality.

Recorded via Zoom and disseminated through YouTube, the pandemic oral histories reflect a wide range of perspectives and capture a myriad of experiences over the past year. Dr. Fernández got the Voces New Jersey Project off the ground at the same time she was recovering from Covid-19, which she conveys in her own oral history interview. Luz Sandoval, SAS '19, the Tom Kinde Legacy Award Winner in 2019, attends the Rutgers Graduate School of Public Health and works as a contact tracer. Christina Martinez, a Navy Reserve nurse, was deployed to New York City in the early days of the pandemic to provide medical care for patients infected with Covid-19 at the Jacob Javits Center, which had been converted to a field hospital. Nora Valencia, a polio survivor, discusses living with a disability and working in an essential job during the pandemic. Miguel Romero-Trejos, a local artist, describes how the New Brunswick-based Coalition to Defend Lincoln Annex School transformed its community activism into mutual aid for local residents struggling to pay bills amidst the recession.

Jeison Argueta is a first-generation college student at Rutgers-Newark who had to deal with adjusting to remote instruction in his courses, all while working in his family's small business and supporting his grandmother and mother, who were hospitalized with Covid-19. At the end of May 2020, the death of George Floyd propelled Argueta into activism. "Being outspoken, going to protests, because it's my Constitutional right, I will act on that to try to make a change," he relates in his oral history about what motivated him to go to Black Lives Matter protests.

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.

## ROHA Announces Kindre Legacy Award Recipients

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Ruiz is set to graduate in May 2021 and plans to pursue a career in either the field of public history or historic preservation. She is looking forward to her future and becoming a Rutgers alumni.

Isabella Kolic is currently a senior at SAS. She was born in Jersey City and grew up in Manahawkin, a small town only minutes from the Jersey Shore.

After high school, Kolic attended Brookdale Community College, where she continued to explore her love of history that was inspired by her family of hobbyists and her own lifelong interest in the people who came before her. She transferred to Rutgers as a junior, where she expanded upon her interests further through the History Department's Public History Program, in which ROHA is a participating center.

In March of 2020, Kolic was planning her public history internship, when Rutgers announced that all internships would be fully remote. "This was a blessing in disguise," says Kolic, as she then chose ROHA based on its focus in digital history.

After conducting multiple interviews and additional work as a ROHA intern, she stayed on at the center, becoming a staff person and the recipient of the Class of 1956 Scholarship. Kolic reflects on her experiences at ROHA, "I've been enjoying my time learning about the oral history process and meeting and working with the incredible ROHA staff and fascinating interviewees."

In May, Kolic, who is also taking "Introduction to Oral History," will graduate with a major in history and minor in art history. This fall, she will continue her studies, pursuing a master's degree in history at Villanova, and plans to work toward a career in public history.

## Carie Rael Delivers Virtual Chambers Lecture

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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.



(Top left and going clockwise): Sofia Ruiz, Kate Rizzi, Dr. Catharine Stimpson and Isabella Kolic meet for an interview on Zoom. Rizzi, Ruiz and Kolic interviewed Dr. Stimpson as a part of ROHA's project documenting the oral histories of faculty of the Institute for Research on Women (IRW). Dr. Stimpson directed the IRW from 1981 to 1985 and then served as the Dean of the Graduate School and Vice Provost for Graduate Education at Rutgers. She is a professor and Dean Emerita at New York University.

## Doug Stanton Will Receive Ambrose Oral History Award

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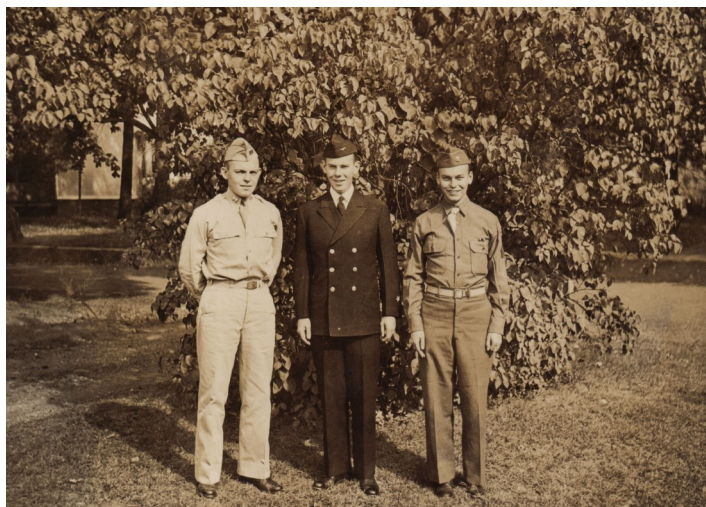
Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School selected the book as required reading. Republished as *12 Strong: The Declassified True Story of the Horse Soldiers*, the book served as the basis for the 2018 Warner Bros. film *12 Strong*, starring Chris Hemsworth and Michael Shannon.

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 Midland Authors Best Nonfiction Book Award.

Stanton cofounded the National Writers Series, a book festival that promotes dialogue between America's best storytellers, and Front Street Writers, a workshop for public school students that provides educational credits at no cost.

The Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award is awarded annually by the RLHS. The RLHS is an honor society affiliated with the Rutgers Oral History Archives, the oral history center in the Department of History in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers-New Brunswick. Previous recipients of the Stephen E. Ambrose Oral History Award include Tom Brokaw, Steven Spielberg, Studs Terkel, Rick Atkinson, Ken Burns, David Isay, Elizabeth and Michael Norman, Isabel Wilkerson, Michael Beschloss, Peter Bergen, Jaqueline Dowd Hall, Ric Burns, John Whiteclay Chambers II, James Bradley and Deborah Gray White.





(Left to right): General William T., Robert V., and John L. Archibald are Rutgers alumni and World War II veterans.

Image courtesy of Bob Archibald

## TAPS

*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**  
**Mr. David DeCampos**  
**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. Kroesen**  
**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](#).

# ROHA

**RUTGERS ORAL HISTORY  
ARCHIVES PODCAST**



**RUTGERS**  
School of Arts and Sciences

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

## 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](#).

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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](#).*

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