

WEBINAR RECAP

## **UW's Public History Project**

BY MARY BETH PLANE, CO-CHAIR, UWRA RETIREMENT OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE

In December 2021, Kacie Lucchini Butcher, director of the UW–Madison Public History Project, shared stories of the discrimination students, faculty, and staff of color and minority status have experienced since the founding of UW. Kacie and UW students have worked over the past two years reading newspaper reports and yearbooks, combing the UW Archives, and interviewing members of the UW community about their experiences with prejudice or discrimination; how they resisted it, and in some cases overcame it. This includes instances of racial, ethnic, and religious discrimination, and prejudice against those who identify as LGBTQ or who live with a disability. Bias against these groups has been most evident in the areas of housing and campus life, academic life, student organizations, and athletics.

The outcomes of this project include a public exhibit of the project's findings in fall 2022, and annual reports and student-generated articles that can be found online at <https://publichistoryproject.wisc.edu/>. You can also subscribe to the project's newsletter and read the blog.

We, UWRA members, are the carriers of the living history of UW–Madison. We have been part of the history of this institution since the day we started as students or began our careers here in Madison. The project would like to document more of what happened during the 1970s, 80s, and 90s; we can be a part of remembering it and recording it. If you have stories to share of events you experienced or witnessed from your own experiences at the university, please contact Butcher at [publichistoryproject@wisc.edu](mailto:publichistoryproject@wisc.edu).