

Vita

Virginia W. Lunsford is an associate professor of history at the United States Naval Academy. She is a specialist in maritime history, especially the history of piracy and privateering; the history of Early Modern Europe; the history of European expansion and colonialism; and the history of the Netherlands. Professor Lunsford holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in History from Harvard University where she studied with Simon Schama. She also earned an M.A. in Government and a B.A. with High Distinction in History and Rhetoric & Communication Studies from the University of Virginia. At the Naval Academy, Professor Lunsford currently teaches courses on “Warfare in the Age of Sail”; “The Golden Age of Piracy: Myth and Reality”; “The Buccaneers: A Case Study in Asymmetrical Warfare”; and “American Naval History.”

Professor Lunsford is the author of *Piracy and Privateering in the Golden Age Netherlands* (New York and London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005) and is currently researching and writing *Dead Men Tell No Tales: A Cultural History of Piracy in the Modern Age* under contract with Routledge. She has given public lectures on subjects such as early modern sailors, the warfare of the buccaneers, the Battle of Trafalgar, Jean Lafitte and the Battle of New Orleans, Golden Age piracy, the maritime culture of the Golden Age Dutch Republic, and modern Somali piracy. In 2008, she was invited to participate as a featured speaker at the Highlands Forum to help shape future strategy for the Department of Defense. Her academic honors include a U.S. Naval Academy McMullen Sea Power Fellowship, Fulbright Fellowship to the Netherlands, appointment as a Krupp Foundation Fellow in European Studies, and as a Visiting Fellow at the University of Leiden’s Institute for the History of European Expansion. She also served as University Writing Fellow at Harvard University.

As an acknowledged expert in maritime history and in the history of piracy, Professor Lunsford has appeared on television for the History Channel production of “Unconventional Warfare” (2002) where she spoke on Sir Francis Drake and the failure of the Spanish Armada in 1588. More recently she was featured, at length, in the History Channel program “True Caribbean Pirates” (2006) as an expert on the buccaneers.

In response to the upsurge in Somali piracy, Professor Lunsford has written articles for the U.S. Naval Institute *Proceedings*, “Why Does Piracy Work?” (December 2008) and for the Baltimore *Sun*: “Navy Can’t Do it Alone” (April 2009). Additionally, she was an invited participant and collaborator at the national security workshop on “Contemporary Piracy: Consequences & Cures,” sponsored by the American Bar Association, Johns Hopkins University, the University of Virginia, and the McCormick Foundation (June 2009); and served as the moderator for the panel on “Pirates: How Do We Defeat Them?” at the U.S. Naval Institute’s and AFCEA International’s “West 2010” conference (February 2010). As an expert on historical piracy, she has been consulted by the *Wall Street Journal* and CNN, appeared on the Voice of America, and been quoted in *U.S. News and World Report*, the *Straits Times* (Singapore) and the *Houston Chronicle*.