

## DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

### News from the Department Chair

#### Dr. Matthew Zimmerman

We've had quite the eventful couple of semesters! From the impressive successes of our students and alumni to the scholarly and community activities of the faculty, our small corner of academia has taken some inspired steps forward. Some of the most exciting developments have centered on our Cochran campus. Not only have we expanded the History BA program to that campus, but we have also launched a new Political Science BS program there. These initiatives are vital as we continue to grow and develop our programs. Just as important is the continued involvement of our alumni. Our current students are eager to hear what our graduates are up to, so go ahead and drop us a line when you have a chance!

Congratulations to all of our recent graduates!!! The contributions you have made over the past several years have been tremendous. Your efforts and diligent work are the backbone of what we do here at MGA. As you continue to make your mark on our communities, the

Department wishes you all the best! We will continue to provide you with whatever support we can.

We should congratulate some of the faculty for their accomplishments as well. **Mrs. Grace Adams-Square** recently earned tenure. **Dr. Chris Lawrence**, **Dr. Charlotte Miller**, and **Dr. Andrew Reeves** all earned tenure and promotion to Associate Professor. Several of our faculty members have been promoted to full Professor, including **Dr. Carol Melton**, **Dr. Matt Jennings**, **Dr. Javan Frazier**, and **Dr. Julie Lester**. **Dr. Jennings** has continued his prolific ways and published *Ocmulgee National Monument: A Brief History with Field Notes*. We also look forward to the upcoming publication by

**Dr. Niels Eichhorn**: *Liberty and Slavery: European Separatists, Southern Secession, and the American Civil War*. That's just a sampling of the work our faculty has done. The excellence established by the faculty is remarkable, and thanks to all of you for your industrious ethic.

Ultimately, the students and alumni are what inspire the faculty to engage in their work. The continued support of alumni and dedication of students are the central aspects of our programs. As we continue to progress, fostering a strong bond with our students, communities, and alumni is essential. I hope all of you continue to contribute by remaining involved and letting us know all that you are achieving!



*Above: In an event coordinated by Grace Adams-Square, Dublin Campus American Government classes and the Multi-Cultural Association partnered with the Dublin Chapter of Community in Schools (CIS) to provide meals for five families in the Dublin Area.*

## Faculty Updates

**Mrs. Grace Adams-Square** and her 9:30 am American Government class hosted Constitution Day on the Dublin campus in September 2018. The guest speaker was Susan Rocks of the Laurens County Registrar. Rocks discussed the upcoming mid-term elections, voter registration, and reviewed a sample ballot. Each student received a pocket Constitution.



*Grace Adams-Square and MGA student Timori Pace, shown alongside their MGA peers, participated in the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual SEMAU*

As pictured above, Adams-Square also accompanied Timori Pace, a student in American Government at the Dublin Campus, to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeast Model African Union (SEMAU) in Savannah, GA. For the conference, students from the Dublin Campus represented Namibia; a number of students from across the MGA campuses took part!

Adams-Square guided Timori Pace as he wrote a resolution using Topic 1: Ten Year Plan of Action Promoting Democracy, Free Elections, and Good Governance: Aspirations and Implementation. Timori requested the development of educational programs that share knowledge about exercising natural rights to teach the community about privileges given to them.

Besides spending much time in Warner Robins and Eastman, **Dr. Niels Eichhorn** foolishly agreed to be the lead editor of H-CivWar. He inherited a dead H-Net Commons and has spent the past months infusing it with energy from panel reports from the Southern Historical Association and author interviews. He took on this task, in addition to his continued contributions to the Society of Civil War Historians' Muster Blog, where he publishes every other month.

<https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/author/niels-eichhorn/>

During the summer, Eichhorn signed a book contract with Palgrave for *Atlantic History in the Nineteenth Century*, which should come out next year. He just finished addressing the copy edits of *Liberty and Slavery: European Separatists, Southern Secession, and the American Civil War*, which will hit the shelves with Louisiana State University Press in Fall 2019.

**Dr. George L. Israel** attended and spoke at two conferences in China, one held in Shaoxing, Zhejiang and the other in Pinghe, Fujian. He also gave the 220<sup>th</sup> lecture of the Orient Forum of Zhejiang University and a guest lecture at Shaoxing University. He published articles in *Monumenta Serica*, *Hanxue yanjiu* (Research on Sinology), *Yangming xue yanjiu* (Research on Wang Yangming School of Thought), and the *Yangming xue yanjiu nianjian* (Yangming Studies Research Yearbook).



*Larry Israel presenting at Zhejiang University.*



*Matt Jennings portraying William Bartram during the Lantern Light Tours at Ocmulgee National Monument. Photo by Sharman Ayoub.*

**Dr. Matt Jennings** had an action-packed 2018. In February, he put together the program and local arrangements for the Georgia Association of Historians meeting in Macon (he was elected president, and will serve in that role until the 2019 meeting). In March, he and **Gordon Johnston**, poet and Director of Creative Writing at Mercer University, published *Ocmulgee National Monument: A Concise History with Field Notes*. Following a stint as MGA's Coordinator of Undergraduate Research, Jennings returned to the Department full time in the summer. He continues to work on "*No Rivals, Few Equals*," a history of beermaking in Middle Georgia, with co-authors **Dr. Stephen Taylor**, **Chris Tsavatewa**, and **Chris Nylund**, and an as-yet-untitled history of the connection between Muskogee people and Ocmulgee National Monument, as well as a handful of other projects in pop culture history, local history, and Southeastern Native American history. His conference presentations and speaking engagements allowed him to travel to Cartersville, Savannah, Nashville, New Orleans, and Sacramento in the last year or so.



*Cover image by Sharman Ayoub; author photo by John Legg.*

**Dr. Christopher Lawrence** had another busy year. In addition to continuing to teach courses in the political science program, his research article with **Dr. Julie Lester**, "Evaluating the Effectiveness of Adopting Open Educational Resources in an Introductory American Government Course" was published in the *Journal of Political Science Education*, and he was invited to join the journal's editorial board. He also taught two courses last summer in London as part of the University System of Georgia's study abroad program, and continues to teach in the USG European Union Studies program as well. It was a busy year in politics as well; Lawrence was one of several MGA political scientists who weighed in on the 2018 midterm elections on local television and other interviews. Most recently he's been busy helping get our new bachelor's degree in political science off the ground on the Cochran campus; we already have a growing stream of students into the major and expect to have our first graduate in May of 2020.

In October 2016, a screenplay by **Dr. Andrew Manis**, based on his biography of Fred Shuttlesworth and co-authored with screenwriter **Denise Snaer**, advanced to the second round of the Austin Film Festival Screenplay Competition. Although not quite making it into the winner's circle, a second round showing indicates the work placed in the top twenty percent of the almost 10,000 scripts submitted. Film rights to the book have now been optioned to Emmy-nominated producer Marsha Oglesby, who is busy pitching the project as a limited series. Manis continues to live with fingers, toes, and eyes crossed, in hopes of a big announcement in the near future.

Last August, Manis lectured to over forty teachers from some forty states in Birmingham at Shuttlesworth's former church as part of the National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute.

*Continued on the next page.*



*From left to right: Lance Reid, Clark Sweatt, Nikitis Zoumberis, Ben Fincher, Jessica Ragin, Yancey Miller, Preshea Blackshear, Andy Manis, Wendy Sharp, Suzanne Tetteh, Rachana Patel, and Matt Jennings at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice.*

Finally, this past September 21, **Dr. Manis** and **Dr. Matt Jennings** took the Modern African American History class on a field trip to the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace & Justice in Montgomery, Alabama.

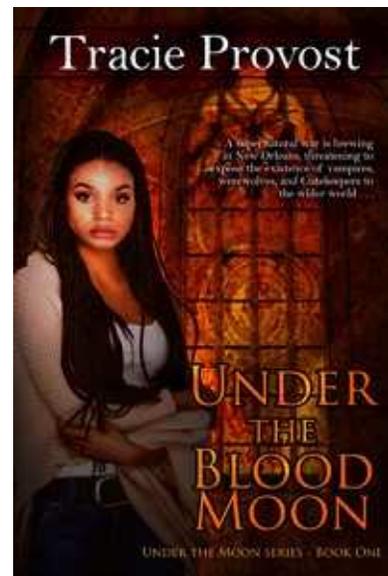
**Dr. Charlotte Miller** presented a paper on Tanzanian citizenship and immigration at the British Commonwealth and Post Colonial Studies Conference in Savannah, GA in February 2018. She was also pleased to share a paper, “Regionalization and Open Borders: What’s the Future of the East African Union?” at a spring 2018 Lecture Series organized by the Model African Union at MGA. eCore honored her with an “eHero” Award at its annual conference at MGA in May 2018.



*Charlotte Miller receiving an “eHero” award.*

**Dr. Tracie Provost** published her first fiction novel, *Under the Blood Moon*, in January. This summer, her chapter entitled 'From Whore to Madonna' was published in *Monsters of Film, Fiction, and Fable: The Cultural Links between the Human and Inhuman*.

**Dr. Andrew Reeves** has a book chapter coming out in *Literary Echoes of the Fourth Lateran Council in England and France, 1215 – 1405* to be published by the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies press. This chapter, "The Nourishment of God's Word: *Inter Caetera* (Canon 10) in England," provides a study of preaching by parish priests in thirteenth-century England. It is based on a paper he presented in Rome in a 2015 conference commemorating the octocentennial of the Fourth Lateran Council.



## HISTORY PROGRAM UPDATES

### History BA in Cochran

We've completed our first year of the History BA on the Cochran campus! After a somewhat rocky start, the program has established itself quite nicely. We currently have about fifteen active majors, two of whom will be graduating in Spring 2019, with more expected in the coming semesters. The program has grown to the point where we will begin regularly offering the Research Seminar there in Fall 2019. The History faculty in Cochran deserve considerable praise for their continued efforts in developing and growing the program.

### The Undergraduate History Conference

On December 1, 2018, the Department held its annual Undergraduate History Conference. Organized by **Dr. Larry Israel**, this year's meeting included students from across the state. The concluding session featured a presentation on the history of computers during which attendees had the opportunity to try out computers from the 1980s and 1990s. Those clunky old machines proved to be quite interesting to attendees of all ages. MGA History students Ben Fincher, Suzanne Tetteh, and April Garner impressed the audience with their presentations, while MGA Information Technology students Ryan Ashford and Brandon Lewis fascinated them with a hands-on discussion of computers. This conference provides students with a wonderful opportunity to present their research in a friendly, collegial environment, and represents some of the key values of the department. The department gives its sincere appreciation to **Dr. Larry Israel**, **Dr. Matt Jennings**, and **Dr. Tina Ashford** for all the work they put into this year's program.

# Students and Alumni



## Congratulations to all of our recent graduates!

**Natalie Barber** (2012) is the newest National Park Service Ranger at Pipestone National Monument in Minnesota. <https://www.pipestonestar.com/articles/new-ranger-at-monument/>.

**Ray Batchelor** (2012) is in the Ph.D. program at Texas A&M.

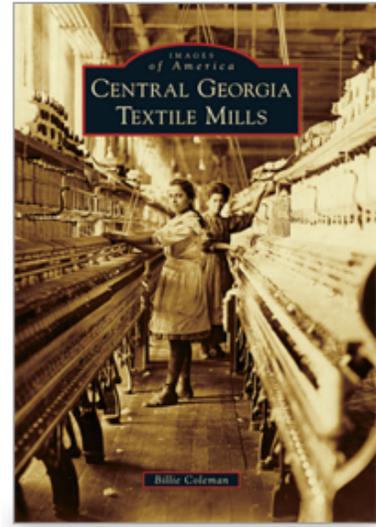
**Frank “Frankie” Bauer** (2015) will receive his MA from Western Carolina University soon and is looking forward to more graduate school.

**DeMarcus Beckham** (2018) serves as Macon's Lead Organizer for the New Georgia Project.

**Marsha Brockman** (2013) is launching a new business, “Preservation Services of Middle Georgia,” to provide cemetery tours, grave location services, and ghost writing of biographies. In that role, she will also work with teachers and professors to utilize cemeteries in public history offerings.

**Heather Capshaw** (2014) received her MA from GCSU in 2016 and is currently an assistant professor at GMC (Warner Robins).

**Billie Cook** (2011) currently works as a grant writer for the Middle Georgia State University Foundation. Her book, *Central Georgia Textile Mills*, was published last year and is available at the university bookstore and many other local booksellers. She presented on the research topic of her book at Columbus State University, Historic Macon's Sidney's Salon, Augusta Canal National Heritage Area and many other locales. Her article that was published in the *Beads, Journal of the Society of Bead Researchers*, 'Ceramics and Glass Beads as Symbolic Mixed Media in Colonial Native North America,' was presented at last year's Southeast Archeological Conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma. She continues to volunteer at Ocmulgee National Monument and assist with many revitalization projects in downtown Macon. She is currently expecting her first baby and working on other book projects.



**Robert Grizzle** (2015) went on to earn his MA in Military History from Norwich University in 2018. He is currently a part-time History Instructor, teaching US History, at Gordon State College.

**David Gutkowski** (2011) is in the PhD program at University of South Carolina.

**Trent Holt** (2015) received his Masters in International Affairs from University of North Georgia in May 2018. He is working on Robins AFB in supply chain in logistics.

**Elizabeth Kringer** (2015) went on to receive her Public Service Bachelor's degree in 2017. In 2015, while an MGA student, she interned with Congressman Sanford Bishop. After graduation in 2017, she was hired as a staffer. She currently works as a staffer to Congressman Sanford Bishop handling his Constituent Services in his Macon, GA office. Her primary focus is assisting constituents who seek help with a government agency issues. Most recently, she was promoted to an additional position acting as the College and University Liaison for the Congressman's office.

**Heather Johnson** (2016) used her BA in History to create a career in education and she loves it! She teaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade Georgia History at Crawford County Middle School.

**John Legg** (2017) is in an MA program at Virginia Tech and looking forward to more advanced study. He recently presented at the Northern Great Plains History Conference in Mankato, Minnesota, where the paper won the William E. Lass award for best paper in Minnesota History! The paper covered the contested memories of the US-Dakota War of 1862. He is also working on an exhibit at the American Civil War Museum's Appomattox Branch on African Americans in and around Appomattox County during the Civil War Era. This past year, he published an essay through the Journal of the Civil War Era's Muster Blog (<https://www.journalofthecivilwarera.org/2018/09/bringing-peace-after-destruction-civil-war-era-monuments-and-the-memory-of-the-u-s-dakota-war-of-1862/>) and an editorial in the *Star Tribune* (<http://m.startribune.com/counterpoint-remember-the-trauma-of-the-dakota-in-recalling-the-1862-war/502019111/>).

**Sherrie' Raleigh** (2017) is finishing up her MA in Historic Preservation at the University of Georgia.

**Paul Schoenbeck** (BA 2012, MA Criminal Justice 2015) reports that he is “just living the Yankee life.”

**David Shain** (2012) teaches History at Taylor County High School.

**Lashonda Slaughter-Wilson (2011)** got a Masters in History in 2015 from Sam Houston State University. She is currently a PhD candidate at GSU studying early modern England and Scotland. She plans to present a paper on male witches in February at the annual conference of the Georgia Association of Historians.

**Suzanne Tetteh** (2018) wants to thank all of her professors for their continual encouragement and for helping her achieve her goal. She served as the vice president of the History Student Organization and has successfully organized and hosted three Immigration Information Sessions with **Dr. Niels Eichhorn** and **Dr. John Hall**. She also presented a paper at the Fall 2018 Undergraduate Conference hosted by Dr. **Larry Israel** and completed her third semester of tutoring. She is looking forward to finally graduating with her B.A. and continuing on to graduate school.

**Graham Walden** (2012) writes that in case anyone is curious, his plans for global domination are proceeding swimmingly. His podcast is available at: <http://www.capfsports.com/>

**Micheal Williams** (2018) is a currently enrolled as a PhD student at Florida State University.

\*Thank you to Matt Jennings for soliciting the alumni updates! And our continued appreciation and affection to Ms. Klingaman, the Department’s irreplaceable administrative assistant!\*



**Our Elated December 2018 Graduates (from left to right):  
Tiare Williams, Suzanne Tetteh,  
Jessica Ragin, Preshea  
Blackshear, David Gillen, and  
DeMarcus Beckham  
Nikitis Zoumberis (not pictured)**

*Prospective students are welcome to call our office at (478) 471-5749.*

Department of History and Political Science  
Middle Georgia State University  
Room 312, Jones Building  
100 University Parkway  
Macon, GA 31206  
Phone: (478) 471-5749  
[www.mga.edu](http://www.mga.edu)