

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Welcome from the Department Chair

Dr. Matthew
Zimmerman

Welcome to the first edition of the Department of History and Political Science's newsletter. This is a wonderful way for us to keep students, alumni, and friends informed about the department and to keep in touch with each other. Here, you will discover updated news about the History and Political Science programs and see how your classmates and professors are spending their time. We hope that by having you stay in touch with the department, we can continue to develop the sense of community that we've built here. As the department continues to grow, we want you to be a part of it, and this newsletter will allow you to do that.

I cannot help but to include here recognition of my predecessor, **Dr. Stephen Taylor**. He is now the Director of Quality Enhancement Programming for the college, and deserves our appreciation and gratitude. He not only developed the History B.A. program, but also built the department into something of which we can all be proud. As a professor, chair, and historian, Dr. Taylor has been a mentor and guide to all of us. His commitment to these programs, their students, and the faculty has allowed us all to succeed and be better at what we do. So, when you see Dr. Taylor around campus, let him know how much you appreciate his dedication to our department and MGSC.



The Zimmerman family at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia.

Important Dates

Regular registration continues until Aug. 7th. Call for an appointment.

Late registration (\$50.00 late fee assessed) on Aug. 13 and 14.

The payment deadline for late registration is Aug. 14.

Classes begin on Aug. 18th.

The college is closed for the Labor Day Holiday on Sept. 1.

Faculty Updates

Dr. James D. Decker and Dr. Patrick S. Brennan presented a paper entitled "Political Propaganda in the Feature Film Industries of Nazi Germany and Maoist China," at the 72nd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, Illinois, April 5, 2014.



The Archives Diplomatiques of the Ministère des Affaires étrangères at La Courneuve near Paris, France. Photograph submitted by Niels Eichhorn.

In his first year at MGSC, **Dr. Niels Eichhorn** traveled extensively through the country and world in his quest to globalize the history of the Civil War. His travels took him among other places to Oxford, MS, Waverly, IA, and Fairfax, VA to present research pieces on the global context of the Civil War at national conferences, including an invited presentation at the sixth Virginia Civil War Sesquicentennial Signature Conference. In addition, he visited London and Paris on an extended four-week research trip to collect final material for his new book project, an international and diplomatic history of the Civil War. He has

laid the foundation for this new project with a forthcoming article in *Civil War History* on trade, which challenges the established assumption of the King Cotton Diplomacy. He is currently making final touches to his first book on separatism in the early and mid-nineteenth century North Atlantic World. Dr. Eichhorn complemented his busy professional and teaching schedule by bringing speakers to campus who were sponsored by the History Student Organization.

This year has been an exciting one for **Dr. Larry Israel**, who had some great research opportunities. His research principally concerns the intellectual history of the Ming Dynasty in China (1368-1644). Scholars in East Asia will generally recognize four great Confucians in the history of traditional China: Confucius, Mencius, Zhu Xi, and Wang Yangming. It is the last one, Wang Yangming, on whom Dr. Israel focuses. His book about Wang Yangming is being published by Brill and will come out in September.

In January 2014, Dr. Israel had the chance to participate in a "Yangming Studies" conference in China. Because this school has been so influential in East Asia, scholars from China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore attended. Dr. Israel is now contemplating writing a full biography of Wang Yangming, and to that end has returned to China this summer to carry out research in Hangzhou, a beautiful city on the east coast. He has also traveled to other sites associated with Wang Yangming and hopes to share his stories with everyone at MGSC upon his return.



The Muscogee (Creek) Nation tribal government facility at Okmulgee, Oklahoma, known informally as "The Mound." Visited and photographed by Matt Jennings.



Stephen Taylor and (pictured here) Matt, Henry, and Oliver Jennings sold copies of the aforementioned pictorial history of Macon at the Mulberry Street Art Festival during this year's Cherry Blossom Festival.

Dr. Matt Jennings co-authored a pictorial history of Macon with **Dr. Stephen Taylor**, which appeared in December. He kept busy with conference presentations in St. Louis, Athens (Georgia), Austin, Kansas City, and Atlanta and some speaking engagements in Macon, mostly having to do with his research on the Ocmulgee National Monument and American antiquity. In March, he traveled to the Muscogee (Creek) Nation to explore the ties between modern Creeks and their sacred land in Middle Georgia. He looks forward to the summer 2014 publication of *The Flower Hunter and the People*, a collection he's edited of naturalist William Bartram's writings on Native Americans.

Dr. Christopher Lawrence is entering his third year at MGSC. In addition to teaching Introduction to American Government, he is also teaching the Introduction to Global Issues and Introduction to Comparative Politics courses for the department. This year, his research article "Keeping Up with the Congressmen: Evaluating

Constituents' Awareness of Redistricting" (with Scott Huffmon of Winthrop University) was accepted for publication in the interdisciplinary journal *Social Science Quarterly*, and he presented new research papers at the Southern Political Science Association (New Orleans), Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago), and International Political Science Association (Montréal) conferences as well as at the Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics (Charleston, S.C.). In addition, he is currently organizing the public opinion section for the 2015 Southern Political Science Association conference in New Orleans. This past year he served on the college's Library and Technology Resources committee and also chaired the search committee that hired our new political science lecturer based in Cochran, **Dr. Weiqi Zhang**.

Dr. Andrew Manis, recently having been promoted to Professor of History, will be attending one of this year's Renaissance Weekends over Labor Day Weekend.

Renaissance Weekends came to public attention in the late 1980s, when Arkansas Governor and later President Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary began attending the intergenerational and invitation-only occasions.

Participants are noted innovators in business and finance, education, religion, law and medicine, government, the media, science and technology, sports, non-profits and the arts. Their groundbreaking, off-the-record exchanges – through lectures, seminars and discussions – build bridges across traditional divides of professions and politics, geography and generations, religions and philosophies. Civility prevails; partisanship is frowned upon; commercialism, banned.

Beyond the Clintons, participants have included noted author Rabbi Harold Kushner, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, moon-landing astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, and activist Arun Gandhi. Dr. Manis will also be among noted historians like Eric Foner (Columbia University), former Organization of American Historians president William Chafe, and Katherine Hall Jameison.

The 2014 Renaissance Weekends will celebrate a landmark for this "grand-daddy of ideas festivals." Each gathering will reunite participants from the past 100 Weekends and launch the next 100.



MGSC student and History major Frederick Baker snapped this picture of Carol Melton.

Dr. Carol Melton and Dr. Buck Melton, Jr. are anticipating the publication of their biography on Fuller Calloway, Sr. in Fall 2014.

Dr. Charlotte Miller continues to enjoy teaching World History surveys and upper-level classes for the department. She also appreciates the time spent with members of the International Students and Studies Association. Additionally, Dr. Miller remains committed to her research on African immigration and citizenship issues in East Africa. She treasures taking trips to Tanzania (and sharing the resultant research materials, music, and pictures with students); she fits in the trips whenever possible.

This past year, Dr. Miller especially valued the opportunity to present on a panel tackling various aspects of World War I with fellow MGSCers. She joined **Dr. Tracie Provost** and **Dr. Kara Smith** in St. Augustine at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Florida Conference of Historians.

In addition to travel for research and conferences, she went to Salt Lake City, UT, to grade AP World History exams in June 2014.

A local historian led Charlotte Miller through the ruins of Mahurubi Palace in Zanzibar, Tanzania. (2013)



Promotion Announcements

The Department of History and Political Science would like to congratulate:

Dr. Andrew Manis, on promotion to Professor.

Dr. Brooke Miller, on Tenure.

Dr. Matthew Zimmerman, on Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor.

Dr. Andrew Reeves is putting the finishing touches on his monograph, which covers religious education in thirteenth-century England. He is also writing a chapter for the *Routledge History of Medieval Christianity* on religious education. Additionally, he has a couple of other studies on the relations of medieval sermons to liturgy and on the role of women in the religious formation of the aristocratic household in the works.

As a member of the President's Vision Taskforce, **Dr. Matthew Zimmerman** recently assisted in preparations to begin the college's transition to university status. Additionally at the annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Historians, he chaired a panel on the American Revolution in Georgia. On the panel was fellow Lehigh PhD graduate Michael Gunther, who is an Assistant Professor at Georgia Gwinnett. In June, Dr. Zimmerman and his family traveled to Delaware and Pennsylvania, visiting family, and of course made stops at several historic sites, including Fort Delaware, a Civil War prison.

The History Student Organization underwent some major changes this semester with the new and ever-changing student leadership being in the capable hands of Jessica James, our acting president. Ms. James received a Student Leadership Award for her outstanding work in keeping the group running. In addition, Dr. Israel handed the HSO over to Dr. Eichhorn, who looks forward to guiding the group in the coming years. HSO was active with three invited speakers who drew crowds and whose talks ranged from the Negro League Baseball to Latin American Spy networks to Macon's role in the Underground Railroad. HSO solicits new members and especially new *officers* for the upcoming year. Feel free to contact Dr. Eichhorn (neils.eichhorn@mga.edu) for further information.

The department expresses its immense gratitude to Mrs. Michelle Klingaman, our administrative assistant, for her kind help and good humor!

Students and Alumni



Some of our Ecstatic May 2014 Graduates (from left to right): Leisa Vaughn, Heather Jacobs, Leah Carroll-Gardner, Quency Brunson, Lindsey Green, Nicole Munoz, and Matthew Poley.

Congratulations to all of our 2014 Graduates!

Sean Beckum, a History-Education major, aspires to be a missionary in Xian China and to teach. His aspirations result from his faith. This summer, he is taking his second trip to Armenia, Colombia, and plans to follow the example of one of his heroes, Mrs. Helda Buntain, a missionary in Calcutta, India.

Marsha Brockman (2013) is currently a graduate student in the MA program in History at Georgia College & State University, specializing in American history. She is a graduate assistant, and has enjoyed lecturing, leading discussions, and tutoring students, as well as grading and proctoring exams. She had the opportunity to present a paper this past winter at the GAH conference based on her research about Baconsfield Park. She will also be a guest lecturer in the English Department at MGSC this summer in a class taught by Dr. Karmen Lenz. In that capacity, she will discuss Godzilla as a re-creation myth, based on the research she did in a MGSC course on the History of Japan.

Leah Gardner-Carroll (2014) was pregnant with her second child at graduation and wrote that she “might pop any day!” Her last semester was apparently a rough one, but she felt extremely excited and blessed to be able to participate in graduation. She plans to take a year off from school to stay at home with her children. Afterwards, inspired in part by her past experiences as a paralegal, she plans to attend law school, hopefully at the Mercer University School of Law. She believes that her education in the History and Political Science Department at MGSC has prepared her extremely well for a career in law.



Heather Jacobs (2014) has been accepted to the graduate program in History at Georgia College & State University and will start classes and a graduate assistantship in the fall. She graduated from high school and started attending Macon State College in 2004. She finished her lower-level courses and left school to work full-time. Upon her return to school she started in the Education Department, but changed her major to History after taking Georgia History and Multicultural America with Dr. Manis. She concludes, “Changing majors was the best decision I ever made! I feel extremely lucky to have been able to study with such an amazing (forgive me, Dr. Manis) group of professors. I’m definitely going to miss this place!”

Stephanie Miller reported on a July 2014, family trip to Puerto Rico. While in Puerto Rico, she took a day trip to El Yunque National Forest, where the views from the mountain were absolutely breathtaking. She also spent a day in Old San Juan and visited the Castillo de San Cristóbal, a defensive fort that was built in 1783 and is currently part of the San Juan National Historic Site. She did enjoy walking around the Castillo, but her favorite part of the trip was a tour of the Bacardi distillery! She hopes to go back soon.



Leisa Vaughn (2014) will be attending Georgia Southern University this fall for a MA in History. She will be studying Modern German history, as well as working towards the Certificate in Public History. After completing her MA, she plans to pursue a PhD in order to teach at the college level.



A Guerite at Castillo de San Cristóbal, picture by Stephanie Miller.

Colin Webb is taking the summer “off” to work at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins. He will be volunteering with the Mission Quest flight simulator program headed by Captain Mike Cashman. The program teaches children and young adults the basics of flying an aircraft as well as the physics of flight and the history of aviation. The museum is always looking for volunteers, so anyone interested is encouraged to go the Museum website at:

<http://www.museumofaviation.org/volunteers.php>.

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

Department of History and Political Science
Middle Georgia State College
Room 312, Jones Building
100 College Station Drive
Macon, GA 31206
Phone: (478) 471-5749
www.mga.edu

Students and Alumni: If you would like us to include your news in our next issue, please email your submission to charlotte.miller@mga.edu with the subject line "newsletter."