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 DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE
 

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 News from the Department  
Chair

Dr. Matthew  
Zimmerman

Hello and welcome to our annual department newsletter. As I complete my first full year as Department Chair, I cannot begin to express how grateful I am to have served our programs in this capacity. We can all look back on quite a successful year, and look forward to accomplishing even more in the coming year.

I'd like to start by sending congratulations to all of our graduates. We had quite the collection of ambitious scholars completing their degrees this year. I have no doubt our graduates will achieve remarkable things in their chosen endeavors. The Department wishes them all the best and will continue to provide them with whatever support it can.

Next, I'd like to offer congratulations to our faculty, who have accomplished so much this year!

**Dr. Larry Israel** not only earned tenure and promotion, but also published his outstanding book, *Doing Good and Ridding Evil in Ming China*. **Dr. Matthew Jennings** earned the Faculty Award for Outstanding Scholarship, and published a book of William Bartram's papers and, more recently, a pictorial history of the Ocmulgee National Monument. **Dr. Stephen Taylor** and **Dr. Tracie Provost** both received much deserved promotions to full professor. **Dr. Andrew Reeves** published his noteworthy book, *Religious Education in Thirteenth-Century England*. And that is only the beginning. Read on for more details about the activities of faculty members this year. The work of our faculty should keep your reading lists full.

We also welcome new Political Science professor, **Dr. John Hall**, who completed his Ph.D. at Auburn University.



*The Zimmerman family at Zoo Atlanta.*

On behalf of the Department and its students, I extend a hearty welcome to Dr. Hall and his family.

Finally, **Dr. Charlotte Miller** deserves thanks for putting this newsletter together.

As we move forward as Middle Georgia State University, we will undoubtedly continue the tradition of hard work and excellence that we have established. Our students and alumni are key components of that tradition. I encourage all of you to remain involved and let us know about your accomplishments.

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## Faculty Updates

**Mrs. Grace Adams-Square** is Co-Director for 19th Annual Southeast Model African Union (SEMAU) Conference to be held on the Macon Campus November 5-7, 2015.

SEMAU was established by the Regents' Advisory Council on Africa (RACA) in the 1990s. RACA was the forerunner of the University System Africa Council (USAC), which is one of the five USG's regional councils operating under the auspices of the USG System Council on International Education (SCIE). It intends to bring Africa to students by simulating the activities of the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The SEMAU simulation is the closest program that most students will have to a study-abroad experience. Students will have an opportunity to meet ambassadors from African Union member states, and discuss major issues and problems facing the African continent. Students will also serve as ambassadors of African countries and will be charged with debating African issues and passing draft resolutions.

**Dr. James D. Decker** and Dr. Patrick S. Brennan have had a journal article published. "Political Propaganda in the Feature Film Industries of Nazi Germany and Maoist China" has been published in the *Rupkatha Journal On Interdisciplinary Studies in Humanities*, Volume VI, Number 3, 2014.

**Dr. Niels Eichhorn** has continued his Civil War era voyage down various roads this past year. His many conference trips yielded positive results. He took three students to present papers at West Georgia's Interdisciplinary Conference. In November, he made the long and arduous journey up I-75 to the Southern Historical Conference in Atlanta.

Dr. Eichhorn also worked tirelessly on manuscript revisions and is now waiting on news from LSU Press regarding Separatism and the Language of Slavery. In February, he visited High Point, NC to present a new idea on the Revolutions of 1830 and met with his co-author to hammer out details for the LSU Press contracted *The Civil War in the Age of Nationalism*. Furthering his Civil War work, Dr. Eichhorn presented during the Sesquicentennial Commemorations of the Battle of Walnut Creek. He is now preparing to go for a Public History Certificate from Georgia State to offer a Public History class for next year's College on the Move.



*Larry Israel standing in between the descendants of a famous Ming philosopher Zhu Shunshui.*

In Fall 2014, **Dr. Larry Israel** presented a paper at an international conference on Chinese history and philosophy in Yuyao, China. In the Spring, he had a paper on the history of Wang Yangming studies in China accepted for publication by the journal, *Philosophy East and West*. Dr. Israel was also promoted to associate professor. He is currently working on a World History textbook project with colleagues in the department, other history professors at USG institutions, and the University of North Georgia Press.



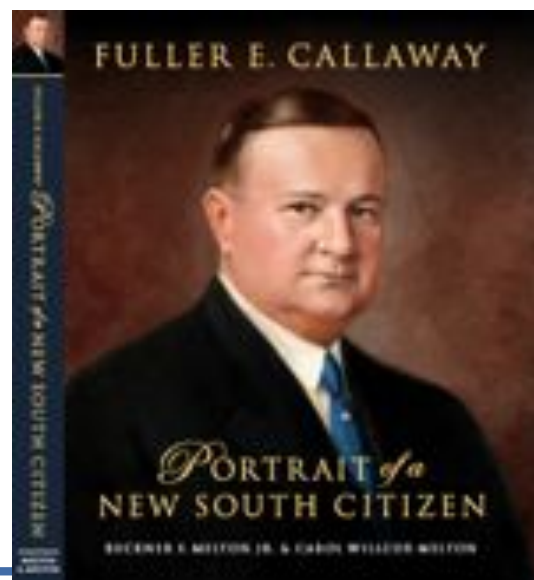
*Chris Lawrence captured the Acme Brewing Historical Society's "brain trust" in action at their inaugural pint night at Just Tap'd in downtown Macon in February.*

**Dr. Matt Jennings** continued work on a handful of local and regional history projects in 2014 and 2015. He eagerly anticipates the late summer publication of his *Ocmulgee National Monument* offering in the Images of America series from Arcadia Press. Matt contributed a chapter on American terrorism to the *Routledge History of Terrorism*, too. He's currently writing a new concise history of Ocmulgee with Mercer University's Director of Creative Writing, and local poet, Gordon Johnston. Earlier this year, he helped found the Acme Brewing Historical Society with **Dr. Stephen Taylor**, Chris Nylund, and Chris Tsavatewa. Together, they are exploring the history of beermaking in Middle Georgia, and will write a book on the subject. His research and conference travel this year took him to New York, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Greenville, Statesboro, and Savannah. He was humbled and honored to receive the campus-wide excellence in scholarship award in April 2015.

**Dr. Christopher Lawrence** is entering his fourth year at Middle Georgia and second year as assistant chair of the department. In the past year, in addition to being appointed as assistant department chair, he has had an article accepted for publication in the *Hungarian Journal of English and American Studies* and is in the process of writing several book chapters, including four chapters of a new open content American Government textbook for OpenStax College publishing.

**Dr. Julie Lester** presented a paper titled "Cultivating Ecological and Civic Responsibility through Community Gardening" at the October 2014 meeting of the Society for Human Ecology in Bar Harbor, Maine. **Dr. Christopher Lawrence** and Dr. Lester were recipients of an Affordable Learning Georgia Textbook Transformation Grant to study the use of low to no-cost learning materials in POLS 1101. At the USG Teaching and Learning Conference in April 2015, she presented preliminary research findings from their courses.

**Dr. Carol Melton** and **Dr. Buck Melton, Jr.** look forward to their August 2015 publication of their book, *Fuller Calloway: Portrait of a New South Citizen*.



**Dr. Charlotte Miller** recently presented at the annual World History Association Conference in Savannah. She is also working on a World History textbook with several members of the department and instructors within the wider University of Georgia system. Additionally, she continues to enjoy being an advisor to the International Students and Studies Association (ISSA).



*ISSA members from MGA alongside Charlotte Miller at the Georgia International Leadership Conference (January 2015)*

**Mr. Andrew Wright** was inducted and knighted into the Royal Order of Scotland, last June in Charlotte, NC. There are only 13,000 Knights of the Order worldwide. He was knighted by Sir Archibald Orr-Ewing, 6th Baronet of Scotland. The selection process was based on his academic, civic, religious contributions and his work with Freemasonry.

### **Special Report: College on the Move - the Living History Tour**

Nine history and history education majors took an epic journey with Dr. Eichhorn this June. For sixteen days, they experienced the hardship and destitute of Civil War era residents of the United States.

After having anticipated the trip for a long time, on the morning of June 1, the group of Union and a few Confederate sympathizers were off on the plank-roads of the South. The experience included stays in a range of hotels and dormitories, such as an ice-cold five-story building on the Ole Miss campus. The students quickly realized this was not a vacation but a serious Civil War emersion when they had to climb Cheatham Hill, Pigeon Hill, and Big Kennesaw Mountain in one day. With guides Jim Ogden, Jim Schroeder, and others, question arose whether I had staged a Jim's Tour. Thankfully, Sandy at Shiloh National Military Park dispelled that myth.

As we traveled up to Fort Donelson, we realized that "The Turd," as the students referred to the college-owned van, had an air conditioning problem. After suffering our way through Tennessee and into northern Mississippi, we left "The Turd" at Memphis Airport and continued our journey with the modern "History Machine." After updating our vehicle from a horse drawn carriage era van to a masterwork of Henry Ford's assembly line, we were on our way again.

Having been giving a few days of lighter hiking, we took on Thayer's approach in Vicksburg National Military Park. After sweating and gulping down tons of water, we transitioned from the Union to the Confederate line to a new realization of the suffering among the common soldiers. With visits to the Hermitage, Melrose, Oak Alley, and Whitney, students gained a completely new appreciation of plantations and their often problematic presentation of slavery to the public.

### Special Report: College on the Move - the Living History Tour (The Conclusion)

Leaving the Civil War's destruction zone, we entered Hurricane Katrina's devastation. Beauvoir had recovered well, but empty plots of land were a visible reminder of the damage suffered along the Gulf. Sadly Beauvoir had no pictures of the four pianos found in trees on their property. They had an abundance of stories about the lost files and papers. With the beach literally across the street, students had a hard time focusing on the alterations made by the U.S. Army to Fort Morgan and Fort Pickens in the War of 1898.

The trip concluded with a walk in the very rooms where Alabama seceded and the Confederate States of America were created. Awaiting the return home, the exhausted students were barely able to keep their attention on the naval presentation in Columbus. No deaths were reported, but there were certainly casualties due to bug bites along the way. The Union won of course and it was a grand success. Watch for updates about next year's tour.



*The College on the Move's group photo.*

### Promotion Announcements:

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

Dr. Larry Israel, on promotion to Associate Professor.

Dr. Tracie Provost, on promotion to Full Professor

Dr. Stephen Taylor, on promotion to Full Professor.

## Students and Alumni



**Congratulations to all of our recent Graduates!** Graduates at the May ceremony, from left to right: William DeLee, Jessica Beasley, Timothy Holt, Robert Grizzle, Callie Register, and Charles Reynolds.



**Jessica Beasley (December 2014)** was excited to finally walk across the stage in May. She was the first person in her family to graduate with a BA. At the time, she was expecting her first child (due in November) and adjusting to a new job at Geico. She does plan on continuing her education, striving for a Masters in Education to teach at the high school level. Jessica wants to thank all of her professors at MGA, writing, "You will forever have my gratitude!"

**Robert Grizzle (May 2015)** volunteered as a judge of junior individual documentaries at the Georgia National History Day competition this past April. As a second time judge he was totally amazed by the skill and hard work displayed by many students. He can't wait to volunteer next year!

**Timothy Holt (May 2015)** has just returned from a Caribbean adventure, a seven-day cruise that departed from Port Canaveral, Florida and visited four ports of call in the Caribbean. His favorite stop on the trip was San Juan, where he got coffee at one of San Juan's famous coffee shops, Cuatros Sombras. It was his first experience of a "crop-to-cup" coffee shop. He also toured the famous Castillo San Felipe Del Morro, a nearly 500-year-old Spanish fortress constructed in 1539. Once holding a key position within Spain's New World Empire, El Morro was the last point Spanish ships passed before taking the riches of the Americas back to Spain. As of his return to Georgia, Timothy was searching for full-time employment



**Kasey Poulcott (May 2015)** will start Georgia College and State University this summer to pursue a Masters degree in Teaching with a concentration in History. She will graduate in May 2016 and hopefully start a job as a high school history teacher in the Bibb County School system.



**Tyler Smith (December 2014)** has been accepted into the Masters in Teaching program at Georgia College and State University. After completing his Masters, Tyler plans to pursue a career in Education, teaching History. Late this spring, he took a trip to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, where he went white water rafting down the Little Pigeon River, hiked the Chimney Tops trail (which was quite a challenge), and relaxed prior to starting summer classes.

The Department extends its undying gratitude to **Mrs. Michelle Klingaman**, our administrative assistant. We definitely appreciate everything you do!

## Alumni Updates

*Thank you to Stephen Taylor for the updates.*

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

**Natalie Barber (May 2012)** finished her MA in Religious Studies at Georgia State University last year and is working in Washington, DC for the National Park Service.

**Marsha Brockman (May 2013)** will finish her MA in History at Georgia College and State University in December 2015.

**Kimberly Dickinson (December 2012)** finished her MLIS in December 2014.

**Andrew Gutkowski (December 2011)** is enrolled in the history Ph.D. program at University of South Carolina.

**Cheryl Hindmon (May 2012)** will finish her Masters in Archival Studies from Clayton State University in December 2015.

**Zoe McClay (May 2010)** finished her MAT at Georgia College and State University in May 2015.

**Jonah Owens (December 2011)** will be graduating from Valdosta State University with his Masters Degree in Library and Information Science

**Paul Schoenbeck (May 2012)** finished his MS in Criminal Justice in June 2015.

**David Shain (May 2012)** finished his MAT in May 2014.

**Carol Young (May 2012)** completed her MAT in 2013 and is employed by the Anne Arundel County public school system in Maryland.

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

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