Changing Times: Greetings from the Chair

Last May, John Lupold, Chair of the Department since 1997, retired after 32 years of service. A book signing for his latest publication, *Bridging Deep South Rivers: The Life and Legend of Horace King* (University of Georgia Press, 2004) was held at Barnes & Noble in Columbus on 18 September. John’s retirement is the last of a group of seven Americanists hired in 1971. In 2001, the Department hired a Latin Americanist, Doug Tompson (Ph.D., University of Florida) and in 2002, Joel Tishken, (Ph.D., University of Texas–Austin) an African Historian joined the department. Virginia Causey joined the faculty full time, moving from the College of Education, effective Fall 2004. As a department, the faculty have been actively engaged in preparing teachers for the classroom, guest lecturing in the community, participating in national and international academic conferences and research activities. Last spring, the CSU History Club, reestablished in 1998, raised funds for travel to Savannah, Georgia. This fall they will sponsor the seventh annual Thanksgiving Dinner for International Students and travel to New Orleans to visit the D-Day Museum and other sites in the city. History students participate each Fall in the Friendzie, a cookout open to students, faculty and family members. Currently, we have 74 majors and serve over 158 students in Teacher Education.

Dr. Alice Pate, Acting Chair

Student Awards and Achievements

In January 2004, Paul Witkoski presented his paper, “Glider Assault on Eben Emael as an Archetype for the Future,” at the National Phi Alpha Theta meeting in New Orleans. In April 2003, he was recognized by the Daughters of the American Revolution as the Outstanding History Major.

Christopher West received the Elizabeth Kyle Spencer Memorial Endowment Fund Scholarship in History for 2003-4. He was also recognized in March 2004 at the Scholastic Honors Convocation and also from the Daughters of the American Revolution as the Outstanding History Major.

For 2004-5, Tommy Hill, a history major, was selected as the student representative for the CSU Annual Fund. He spoke at the annual luncheon on 22 September about his experience studying in Oxford, England made possible by community support for academic programs at CSU.

Special Points of Interest:

- Faculty News
- Student News
- GAH comes to CSU

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Faculty News

Virginia Causey—This fall, Dr. Causey joined the History Department as a full-time faculty member. She moved from the Department of Teacher Education and will serve as the History Department’s liaison with the College of Education.

Virginia teaches courses in the history of Georgia and the South, as well as modern United States History. Her principal area of research is the role of race and class in public education from 1945 to the present. She has published several articles on the desegregation of public schools in Muscogee County and is currently researching the quality of education available to black and white students in Columbus prior to desegregation.

Virginia also has several publications in the area of history curriculum. Her interests encompass use of primary sources and infusion of diversity issues in teaching history. She also advocates using oral history as a research and teaching tool and plans to offer a course in Oral History in the near future.

Don Cope—Don has announced that he will retire from the Department effective summer 2005 after 37 years of service. This fall he offered Latin American Geography and he will teach an upper division course in American Military History in the Spring. Don traveled with the CSU History Club to Tuskegee during Spring Semester, 2004. They toured the Museum and visited the Airfield where the Tuskegee Airmen were trained in WWII. He also announces the newest addition to his family—Suzie, a Florida Cracker/Pineywood cow, an endangered breed. He plans to buy two more.

Reagan Grimsley—Reagan was promoted to Assistant Professor effective August 1, 2004. In November of 2003 he and fellow CSU Faculty member Diana Lomarcan participated in a panel discussion entitled "I Need to Find a Photograph: A Digital Solution for Information Access" at the Society of Georgia Archivists Annual Conference in Savannah, Georgia, during which they discussed the development of the new photographic database for the Columbus State University Archives. During the summer of 2004 he attended the Monson Free Library’s Archives and Museum Institute in Wilberham, MA. Grimsley continues his service on the Executive Council of the Georgia Association of Historians, a post he has held since 2001. Over the course of the past year he has completed four encyclopedia articles, two for the New Georgia Encyclopedia, available online, and two for the upcoming Mississippi Encyclopedia. He also reviewed three monographs for Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries. His article entitled "Primary Sources Via Ebay: Building an Archival Postcard Collection" will appear in the Summer 2004 issue of The Primary Source: The Journal of the Society of Mississippi Archivists. He has also just completed work on Hattiesburg in Vintage Postcards, which will be published in the fall of 2004 by Arcadia Press. He continues to conduct research on the history of the piney woods of Mississippi, and is currently gathering information for his doctoral dissertation.

Neal McCrillis—Last November, Dr. McCrillis chaired a session at the Southern Conference of British Studies which met in Houston. For the 2004 meeting, Neal will serve as program chair and will present a paper on the Great War memorials in Oxford. He is currently Vice President of the organization. Neal also participated in the Georgia Consortium for International Studies "Internationalizing the Curriculum Symposium" in March 2005. Last summer, he taught "Britain in the Age of World Wars" in the CSU at Oxford Program.

Becky Matthews—This summer, Dr. Matthews worked as a visiting professor at Russian American Christian University in Moscow. Since the university requires students to learn English, she did not have to teach in Russian. Her students did puzzle over her way of speaking English. She explained that she talked funny because she was from Georgia. Quickly someone pointed to a classmate named Levan, saying, “He’s from Georgia and talks funny, too.” Indeed, about half of the university’s students were from regions quite distant from Moscow. While in Russia, Becky learned to travel with ease on Moscow’s subway system, made a weekend excursion with Russian friends to St. Petersburg, and blended in so well that she was stopped twice on Moscow streets by Russian people asking for directions.

Last fall, Becky developed a new course, “Women in U. S. History,” which she offered to graduate and undergraduate students. She also helped revitalize a Women’s Studies minor that is now available to CSU students.
Faculty News

Presently, she is writing a curriculum guide, complete with lesson plans and resource information on Indian peoples of the Chattahoochee Valley. Ultimately, this guide will be distributed to every school in several area counties.

Alice Pate—Dr. Pate completed two articles for publication in 2004-5. “The Implementation of the Russian Social Insurance Law of 1912” will appear in Russia: A Member of the European Family to be published by Palgrave Macmillan this winter. “Bakhtin contra Marx and Lenin: A Polyphonic Approach to Russia’s Labor and Revolutionary Movements” written with Michael Melancon at Auburn University will appear in Canadian-American Slavic Studies in Spring, 2005. She visited the National Archives, Library of Congress and New York Public Library this summer to continue her research on pacifism, civil liberties and the First World War in the United States. Alice also served on a committee to revise Georgia Performance Standards in Social Studies for Georgia Students K-12. She is currently president of the Southeast World History Association and serves on the Executive Council of the Georgia Association of Historians.

Joel Tishken—Dr. Tishken has introduced three new courses since joining the department in 2002. Last summer he taught World History to CSU students at the Spencer House in Oxford, England. He is currently coediting Oba Ko So: The International Religion of Sango with Toyin Falola and Akintuunde Akinyemi which will be published by Indiana University Press in 2005. His chapter “African Independence Movements” will appear in Atlantic Worlds edited by Kevin Roberts and Toyin Falola from Carolina Academic Press next year.

Joel is also active in the World History Association (WHA) serving as Chair of Program Committee for the National Meeting in Washington in June 2004 and on the Conference Committee for 2005.

Last summer, he was elected Treasurer of the Southeast World History Association (SEWHA). He also presented papers at the National Meeting of the WHA and at the SEWHA conference in 2003 as well as the Southeastern Regional Seminar in African Studies in 2004. In Columbus, he has given guest lectures on African history and culture at the Rivercenter, Trinity Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Columbus.

Doug Tompson—Dr. Tompson spent three weeks in Tegucigalpa, Honduras this past summer, with the help of a grant from the Loudermilk family. Much of his time was spent in the Archivo Nacional de Honduras, where he examined documents from the period of Spanish colonial rule, as well as newspapers and other materials dating from the nineteenth century. The results of Doug’s research will be a valuable supplement to his ongoing study of Central American states’ interaction with Afro-indigenous peoples of the Atlantic coast. While in Honduras, he also participated in the biannual Congreso Centroamericano de Historia, held this year in Tegucigalpa at the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Honduras, where he presented two conference papers based on prior research.

Doug expects to see two publications in print during the coming year. His article “‘Useful Laborers’ and ‘Savage Hordes’: Hispanic Central American Views of Afro-Indigenous Peoples in the Nineteenth Century” will be published in Transforming Anthropology, volume 12, nos. 1 & 2. In addition, his essay “The Establecimientos Costeros of Bourbon Central America, 1787-1800: Problems and Paradox in Spain’s Occupation of the Atlantic Coast” will be published in an edited volume entitled The Social & Political Impact of the Bourbon Reforms in Central America, 1759-1808.
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News:

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