Changing Times

Greetings from the Chair!

The 2004-2005 academic year was very productive for the Department of History and Geography. Dr. Amanda Rees, CSU’s first geographer, joined the department from the University of Wyoming. She is teaching World Regional Geography in the core and will offer upper division courses in American Landscapes and Cultural Geography. The new double major in History and Teacher Education increased overall active enrollment in the major to 125 for Fall 2005. Our graduates are teaching in local high schools, returning to CSU for graduate study, finding employment locally, and applying to graduate schools to pursue advanced degrees in education, Russian history, and law. The CSU History Club sponsored a fund raiser for the Ma Rainey House, visited New Orleans and will host the 8th Annual International Student Thanksgiving Dinner this year. Last spring, CSU hosted the annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Historians with the theme of “Contacts, Contexts and Consequences: New Directions for History in the 21st Century.” The program included a historic bus tour of Columbus directed by Dr. Virginia Causey. The Faculty are presenting papers at national and international conferences, speaking locally on their area of expertise, researching in archives as diverse as Honduras and Moscow, and publishing their research in edited collections and journals. New courses have been developed in Geography and US history and we are teaching more students than ever in the core and major. With the new Alfonso Biggs Scholarship for first year students in history we hope to attract even more highly qualified students.

Dr. Alice Pate, Chair

Teaching History Teachers at CSU

CSU students who plan to become secondary history teachers now earn a B.A. with a double major in History and Education rather than the B.S.Ed. degree. This change grew from a Board of Regents mandate to increase history content for prospective teachers. Beginning in 2005-2006, education students take the same number of history courses as history majors and then add the required education courses.

Another approach to ensuring quality teachers is the Early Mentoring program, first instituted in Fall 2002. The goals of the program are to ensure that all secondary history education majors are competent in their knowledge of historical studies, as well as in their reading, writing, and research skills. After at least fifteen hours of history courses at the 2000 level or above, all secondary history education majors submit a portfolio of course work to a panel including one member of the Department of History or the History Education Program Coordinator and at least one classroom teacher. The portfolio contains three papers, one of which must be a research paper. The panel meets to evaluate the student’s knowledge of content, and their competence in research and writing as evidenced by the portfolio. They then meet with the student, discuss the student’s areas of strength and weakness, and provide a written professional development plan.

The number of students in history education has been rapidly increasing. In the 2002-2003 academic year, four students submitted portfolios for Early Mentoring. In Fall 2005, history faculty have mentored fourteen history education students. The projected number for Spring 2006 is nineteen. Most students have found the Early Mentoring process helpful, though they are often a bit anxious when they learn their portfolios are due. They appreciate having faculty take time outside the classroom to evaluate their work and offer ways for them to improve. The Early Mentoring program has become one way to encourage thoughtfulness, thoroughness, and self-assessment in order to cultivate “life-long learning” in prospective history teachers.
Faculty News

Dr. Virginia Causey—Virginia has written the Introduction and has edited the “History” and “Chronology” sections for the Dictionary of Georgia History to be published this fall by the New Library Press. The reference book is one volume in the multivolume Dictionary of United States History.

Virginia also directs the MCSD Oral History Project which uses oral interviews to document the history of education in Columbus and Muscogee County between about 1945 and the present. The project has already deposited about 20 audiotapes and transcripts in the CSU Archives. Approximately 10 transcripts remain to be edited before they too are deposited.

Virginia’s Oral History course this fall (HIST 5567) has focused on additional interviews about Muscogee County schools with an emphasis on the period 1950-1962. The members of the class conducted interviews with former students and teachers at Baker, Jordan, Columbus, and Spencer High Schools. They will transcribe the tapes and present the tapes and transcripts to the CSU archives early in December. They will use these interviews, as well as traditional historical sources such as newspapers and journal articles, to analyze the similarities and differences among the high schools during the last years of Jim Crow education in Columbus.

Professor Reagan Grimsley—In October 2004, Arcadia Publishing released Reagan’s Hattiesburg in Vintage Postcards, which contains a narrative introduction to the history of the city and more than 200 images of Hattiesburg, Mississippi and nearby Camp Shelby. In conjunction with the publication of this work, Reagan presented talks to both community and academic groups which focused on city and hinterland in Mississippi’s piney woods. In the summer of 2005, Reagan authored the publication A One Hundred Year History of the First Baptist Church, Sumrall Mississippi which details the growth and development of the congregation. His article “Thirty Years of Preserving the History of the Chattahoochee Valley: A Brief History of the Columbus State University Archives,” will appear in the forthcoming Fall 2005 issue of the Journal of South Georgia History. This article highlights the efforts of CSU to establish the local history collections of the then Columbus College Archives, and focuses in part on former history professors John Lupold, Craig Lloyd, and Richard Hanks. He also organized and chaired a session entitled “Making Contact with the Past: Public History in Columbus, Georgia” at the Georgia Association of Historians Meeting held in Columbus in April of 2005 Reagan continues to advise the CSU Chapter of Phi Alpha Theta and works on a regular basis with the CSU History Club.

Dr. Becky Matthews—After six years at CSU, Becky continues her combined scholarship and teaching interests in American Indian History and Women in U.S. History. In the spring of 2005, she presented a paper “Capable of Civilization and Christianization: Crow and Euro-American Women During the Early Reservation Years” at the Georgia Association of Historians. She also spoke on this topic at Auburn University’s Women’s History Month celebration. Presently, she is conducting research for a new book on the interactions between missionaries and the Crow people. In the summers of 2004 and 2005, Becky served as a visiting professor, teaching American studies and Russian American Christian University in Moscow. On the CSU campus, she works as liaison between the university and Muscogee County School District for the Early College Program, a newly developed “academy” funded by the Gates Foundation. When implemented, this program will help at-risk high school students secure at least two years of college course work. Another important academic interest involves working with freshmen learning communities at CSU. This innovative approach allows a cohort of twenty-four students to study together with at least three, sometimes four professors. Becky has collaborated with Professors Cathy Fussell and Reagan Grimsley to develop linked courses under the heading “Walking in Someone Else’s Shoes.” One of Becky’s passions is her work as advisor to Westminster Fellowship, a campus ministry, which has opened an Uptown Center (dubbed Westminster Abbey by students) at 1023 Broadway.

Dr. Neal McCrillis—Neal spend much of the past year focused on the construction of the CSU International House and the move into this new facility which houses the Center for International Education. During the year he visited Belize and Germany as CSU developed a study abroad program and faculty exchange program at the respective locations. Other international travel for CIE include a couple of trips to the United Kingdom, including serving as site director for four weeks at the CSU in Oxford summer program. During the spring 2005 semester, Neal taught a new class on Modern Ireland and during the fall semester he taught a Nazi Germany survey for the first time. He continues to work on World War I memorials, spending several days last summer in the Merton archives, Bodleian library and city of Oxford library.

Dr. Alice Pate—Alice’s manuscript, Russian Social Democracy and Failure of Unity is currently under consideration for publication. Her article, “The Implementation of the Social Insurance Law” appeared in a new edited collection Russia in the European Context, 1789-1914: A Member of the Family edited by Susan McCaffrey and Michael Melancon. A second article, “Bakhtin contra Marx and Lenin: A Polyphonic Approach to Russia’s Revolutionary Movements” appeared in Russian History. She also published two encyclopedia articles and a book review. Last spring she presented her paper, “Grigorii Uratazde and the
Georgian Mensheviks” at the Southern Slavic Conference in Nashville, Tennessee and at the Georgia Association of Historians annual meeting in Columbus. During the summer, Alice traveled to Moscow to work in the State Archives of the Russian Federation where researchers compete for microfilm readers and regularly answer cell phones in the reading room. She hopes to return to the archives in 2006 to research societal and governmental responses to the labor question in late imperial Russia. On campus she continues to serve as advisor to the CSU History Club and was recently elected as secretary of the Chairs’ Assembly. Alice serves on the executive board of the Georgia Association of Historians, as general editor of the Allan K. Wildman Series on the Social and Political History of the Russian Revolutionary Era and is outgoing president of the Southeast World History Association.

Dr. Amanda Rees—Amanda is the newest faculty member in CSU’s Department of History and Geography. A geographer, Amanda received her B.A. in Geography and American Studies from West London Institute, her Master’s Degree in American Studies at the University of Wyoming, and her Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Kansas. She has taught at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in the Department of Geosciences for several years where she taught American regionalism and urban and suburban spaces. In 2001 she moved to Wyoming where she was a visiting assistant professor teaching American regionalism and tourism in the Department of Geography at the University of Wyoming. This summer Amanda, her husband David, and kindergarten-aged daughter Gwyneth moved from the high and dry Rocky Mountains where they lived at over 7000 feet, to the sultry climes of southern Georgia.

Recently Amanda has published an edited volume *The Great Plains Region* and she has been researching, publishing and speaking about dude ranching in the American West to groups such as the Wyoming Dude Ranching Association and the seminar program at the Grand Teton National Park Service Research Station. She is presently working on a book project about dude ranching and the construction of regionalism in the American West. In addition to writing and research Amanda is interested in the art of teaching and attended a week-long teaching workshop organized by the Geography Faculty Development Alliance at the University of Colorado-Boulder this summer. Amanda is very excited to be at CSU and is busily developing a variety of field trips in and around Columbus for her spring class *American Landscapes* while teaching *World Regional Geography*, a new core course in the department. She looks forward to helping her students develop a critical eye towards their region and to publishing the best of their regional papers.

Dr. Joel Tishken—The 2005-06 academic year is Joel’s fourth year in the history department. He introduced the course "Christianity in Africa" to the curriculum in Fall 2004 and will introduce the topic "Teaching Africa" in Spring 2006. He is directing the Senior Research Seminar this fall with the theme of Syncretism. During the past academic year Joel’s campus activities have included: the History Department Scholarship Committee, College Curriculum Committee, assisting with the CIE Africa Film Series, and aiding in the development of an African Studies certificate. Most of these activities will continue this year in addition to University Curriculum Committee. Joel has continued his service to the World History Association by serving on the Program and Conferences Committee and the Southeast World History Association by serving as Treasurer and Program Organizer. These activities will all continue through Fall 2006. Public lectures on Africa and religion were delivered by Joel over the past academic year at Hardaway High School, Northside High School, and the Unitarian-Universalist Fellowship. In scholarship, Joel has written six encyclopedia articles, a textbook chapter on African independence movements, an article on prophecy in the Nazareth Baptist Church, and is currently preparing two manuscripts for publication. The first is an edited collection on the Yoruba deity Sango. The second examines prophecy and leadership within the Nazareth Baptist Church and Eglise Kimbanguiste. Joel is under consideration for tenure and promotion this academic year.

Dr. Doug Tompkins—Doug was in Guatemala during the month of July, conducting archival research at the Archivo General de Centro América, the main repository for colonial Central American documents. With the help of digital technology he brought more than 1,700 pages of documents back with him. Doug has various publications on their way to print: his essay on Spanish Central America’s establecimientos costeros, as well as three encyclopedia entries for *Iberia and the Americas* (on “Costa Rica,” “Honduras,” and “Caribbean Slavery”). He is currently at work on a paper about slave resistance in the Gulf of Honduras, which he will present in February at FSU’s conference on “Florida and the Atlantic World” in February. The paper is also to be published in a forthcoming volume of essays on Atlantic slavery Doug is under consideration for tenure and promotion this academic year.

We have hired nine part time faculty to teach in the core. Don Cope and Jack Myers continue to teach part time. Stephen Barber, an alum of CSU and doctoral student at Auburn, presented his paper "The Other Methodists: A Case Study of Georgia’s Chattahoochee Valley, 1865-1870" at the Graduate Association for African American History annual conference at the University of Memphis. The paper examines the separation of former slaves from white Methodist churches and the formation of African American congregations in the Chattahoochee Valley. Daniel Winer a doctoral candidate at the University of Delaware published a review of Mark Tebeau’s, *Eating Smoke: Fire in Urban America, 1800-1950* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003) in *Technology & Culture* 46(3) July, 2005. Anthony Donaldson is on the job market and attended the Southern Historical in Atlanta.
I enjoyed the Vol I, Issue 1 of the History newsletter. After reading it again several days ago, I decided to increase my donation to the Annual Fund over last year’s amount because the newsletter reminded me of how much I loved studying history at CC, although I ultimately selected military law as a career field.

I had a rather abbreviated academic record, since I got my BA and JD in just over 4 years. As I recall, Hugh Rodgers taught most of my European history classes and although I had an acceptable GPA when I graduated at the age of 19, my greatest academic achievement at CC was getting an A in any Hugh Rodgers’ class. He set such a high bar that no other teacher’s approbation meant as much to me as his (although I will certainly always recall Ray Gonzalez with great fondness because he kept fanning my interest in the law). But Dr. Rodgers instilled a love of Russian history in me that continues to this day.

I went on to get a JD from UGA Law in ’78 prior to joining the Navy JAG Corps, and later an LLM in Military Law. Although I traveled extensively during my career as a Navy lawyer, one of my biggest thrills was finally making it to Russia about 15 months ago, a trip that would have been unimaginable when I was an undergraduate due to the state of world politics. It’s great to see how much the school has beefed up its Russian history offerings. How I envy you your job! Do they offer Russian language classes at the school yet? I taught myself a little of the language before my trip and found that once I learned the alphabet, it’s actually an easier language than German.

I’ll close on that note. Again, thanks for the newsletter. I look forward to the next issue.

Regards,

Mary Hall
CDR, JAGC, USN (Ret.)

1999

Krissy Harvey teaches sixth grade Social Studies at Midland Middle School. Last year she taught eighth grade Georgia History. She also coaches girls’ volleyball, and her team won the City Championship this year (and last year!). She received a Master’s Degree in Education in 2005.

2002

Mark Anthony is currently studying law at the University of Kentucky.

Jennifer Hale is expecting her first child on 28 April 2006. She completed her Master’s Degree in education in August 2005. She teaches World History (Honors and regular), US History, and Comparative Religions at NHS (Northside High School). (She’ll be adding the Comparative Religions course this spring and she is very excited about it!)

2003

Stephen Boyd is currently serving in Iraq. He received a purple heart for wounds sustained while on active duty.

Ryan Hutson is a seventh grade World Cultures teacher at Double Churches Middle School in Columbus. He coaches football, basketball, and soccer. He is presently seeking a Master’s Degree in middle grades mathematics.

Josh Covington teaches World History at Spencer High School in Columbus. He is working toward completing a Master’s Degree in Education at CSU while enrolled in the TAPP program.

2004

Nellina Jenkins is teaching Georgia History at Harris County Carver Middle School.

Chris West will complete his MA course work next semester at Auburn University and will be traveling to Russia to complete his thesis on Russian Popular Magic and Religion summer 2006. He holds a full time GTA assisting in three World History classes per year and is also the Creative Director at the Auburn Plainsman. Next spring he plans to present a paper on the Abolition of Feudalism in Napoleonic France.

2005

Justin Probst is teaching at Shaw High School. He teaches two civics classes and a skills class to prepare juniors for the Graduation exam. He was married just before his graduation last April.

Matt Starling will begin graduate studies at the American University, School of International Service in Washington, D.C. in January 2006.

STUDENT AWARDS:

Jessica Janda, Katlyn Ellis and Abraham AuBuchon were inducted into the local chapter of Phi Alpha Theta in March 2005.

Matt Starling was recognized as the Outstanding History Student at the Scholastic Honors Convocation.

Josh Covington was recognized by the Daughters of the American Colonist for his success as a History Major at CSU.

Sean Norman a freshman for the 2004-05 was award $500 on behalf of the Alonzo Biggs Scholarship for 2005.
Friends and Alumni,

Please let us know your news (promotions, graduate studies, degrees, certificates, marriages, births)

Name: ____________________________ Address: ________________________________________________
Email: __________________________ Degree and Year of Graduation: _________________________________

News:
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Mail your news to the address listed above.

If you would like to make a donation to the History Department to be used toward scholarships, library purchases or faculty development please attach your check to this form indicating your gift to the department and mail it to:

CSU Foundation
4225 University Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31907-5645