

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY

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CHANGING TIMES

Greetings from the Chair! During the 2005-6 Academic Year, the Department of History and Geography added two new faculty, Dr. Pamela Baker and Dr. Gary Sprayberry. Dr. Baker came to CSU from the University of Cincinnati where she administered Freshman Learning Communities. A graduate of University of Illinois, Chicago, she will offer courses on the American Frontier and the Early Republic. Dr. Sprayberry replaces Dr. Jack Myers in African- American history. Previously, he taught at Miles College in Birmingham, AL. Dr. Sprayberry, a graduate of University of Alabama, will teach the African-American survey courses and upper division courses in Slavery and Emancipation. Dr. Doug Tompson and Dr. Joel Tishken were promoted to Associate Professors and awarded tenure. Ms. Patty Chappel, our Administrative Assistant,

now assists nine full time faculty and eleven part time faculty.

We currently enroll 75 students in the BA program as well as 69 future teachers in the BA in History and Secondary dual major program. In the community, history and geography faculty gave over xx public lectures. Every full time faculty member gave at least one paper at a regional or national conference last year. Three members of the department received funding for research during the summer through the Capital Campaign. Two faculty have book contracts and three articles appeared in print. CSU Archivist Reagan Grimsley who teaches US History in the department, received the Faculty Research Award last spring. Our 2005-06 graduates



**Top Row: L-R**  
 Pamela Baker, Joel Tishken,  
 Gary Sparyberry, Patty Chappel  
**Bottom Row: L-R**  
 Doug Tompson,  
 Becky Matthews, Virginia Causey, Amanda Rees,  
 Alice Pate  
 Not Present: Neal McCrillis

“CSU History Student Processes Biggers Architectural Drawings, Assists with Editing *Muscogiana*”



The study of history often extends beyond the classroom, as Sean Norman, a junior history major from Douglasville, is discovering while at work on two projects as a student assistant in the CSU Archives. Last spring, Norman contacted the archives in hopes in gaining work experience in the historical field. At the same time, Archivist Reagan Grimsley needed a student assistant to work on two separate projects: processing the Biggers Architectural Drawing and assistance with editing *Muscogiana: The Journal of the Muscogee Genealogical Society*.

In the spring of 2006, Sean worked as the copy editor for *Muscogiana*, setting the layout for the journal, assisting with basic editing, and creating the index for the Spring Edition. The journal, which has been published since 1989, is a joint venture of the CSU Archives and the Muscogee Genealogical Society, and frequently features pieces from CSU faculty and students. The journal, published twice a year, circulates to 250 individuals and libraries. Currently Sean is at work on the layout for the fall issue.

Beginning in the summer of 2006, Sean started organizing and indexing the architectural drawings of T. Firth Lockwood, Jr. James J. W. Biggers, Sr., Edward Neal, and Larry W. Greene. Funded by a donation from Janice Biggers, the project involves arranging the drawings to make them more accessible and also create a digital index to assist both patrons and staff with the location of individual drawings. The project is scheduled for completion in spring 2007.

Working in an applied or public history setting often broadens the academic experience of students, and Sean is no exception. “I’ve seen how history is presented, that it is not just a bunch of facts and concepts but there are actual people interpreting this information from everyday materials such as ledgers and diaries,” Sean stated.

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FACULTY NEWS



**Dr. Pamela Baker** received her Ph.D. in History from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 2003 specializing in the early American republic from 1800 to 1850. Her areas of research include: political development in the early republic, transportation issues, the American frontier, microhistories, and the scholarship of teaching. Her dissertation, "The National Road and the Promise of Improvement, 1800-1850," focuses on how the first national highway facilitated the development of the Old Northwest Territory and shaped the formation of a national transportation system during the early national period. Part of her research has been published in the Journal of the Early Republic as "The Washington National Road Bill and the Struggle to Adopt a Federal System of Internal Improvement" (Fall 2002). She is 1819 who migrated west from New York to Illinois via the Ohio River Valley.

Dr. Baker teaches the U.S. History survey to 1865 and upper level courses on the American Frontier, State and Society in the Early American Republic, and the colonial/revolutionary period.



**Dr. Virginia Causey** enjoys teaching local history, Georgia history, and Southern history. This academic year, she is taking that love to the community by directing a series of local history programs once a month from October through May.

Virginia's main research interests are the role of race and social class in education since 1945. She has documented the effects of desegregation on local high schools and is now comparing the quality of education in black and white high schools in Columbus at the end of the Jim Crow era. She has directed a local oral history project focusing on the Muscogee County School District for the past few years, and this year will be partnering with archivist Reagan Grimsley on the Columbus State University Oral History Project commemorating CSU's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008.

Serving as co-chair of the History Education Program Advisory Committee, Virginia works closely with the College of Education in preparing high quality history teachers for secondary schools. In Fall 2002 as a faculty member in the College of Education, she introduced the Early Mentoring Program for history education majors and continues to facilitate the program. It requires prospective history teachers to submit a portfolio documenting their research and writing. Committees of CSU history faculty and local teachers review

the work and meet with the students to offer suggestions for improvement of their content and skills. Through fall semester 2006, the history faculty have mentored more than 80 history education majors.



**Dr. Becky Matthews** spent this past summer in Montana, researching an upcoming book, *Through a Different Lens, Crow Indians and Protestant Missionaries*. The work combines narrative with historic photographs, most of which were taken by missionaries, to provide a unique perspective of intercultural relationships on the Crow reservation in the early twentieth century. Related to this theme, Dr.

Matthews will present a paper "Tie It On the Tree Day, Interactions Between the Crow People and Protestant Missionaries," at the annual conference of The American Society for Ethnohistory to be held in Williamsburg in November, 2006.

Dr. Matthews continues to enjoy her work with Freshmen Learning Communities and remains excited about the outcomes of these innovative courses. She is also excited about Spring semester 2007, when she will serve as Site Director for the CSU Oxford Visiting Student Program.



**Dr. Neal McCrillis** this summer spent 2 1/2 weeks visiting CSU and USG study abroad programs in Oxford, London, Schwäbisch Gmünd (Germany) and Madrid. The latter three are USG European Council programs he visited in his capacity as the new

Chair of the University System of Georgia European Council.

He also spent 2 weeks in Oaxaca, Mexico, taking an intensive Spanish language class. He enjoyed the rich arts and crafts of Oaxaca and visiting nearby sites such as the Zapotec site of Monte Alban (see attached photos of the pelota or ball court and a sculpture of a pelota player). As an unexpected benefit, he was a spectator during the aftermath of the contested Mexican presidential election and a contentious teacher's strike.



pelota or ball court



pelota player



**Dr. Alice Pate** taught two sections of Historical Methods, the sophomore level class for majors, Russia since 1861 and the Exit Course for majors which includes the Major Fields Test in History, a course exam, a discussion of careers in History and assessment of the program. In January, she traveled to Nottingham, England where

## FACULTY NEWS

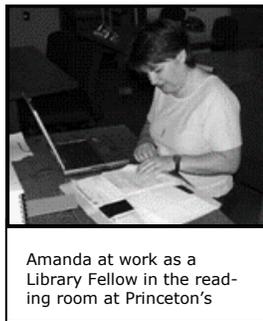
she presented her paper on the Georgian (the country not the state) Social Democrat, “Grigorii Uratadze and Historical Memory” at the annual meeting of the Working Group on the Russian Revolution. She presented a paper on “Generational Conflict in Georgian Social Democracy” at the Georgia Historical Association which will appear this winter in *Russian History*. She also published a book review and three encyclopedia articles. During June and early July, Alice worked in the Russian State Archive and the Moscow Public Library studying the All Russian Teachers’ Union from its origins in the 1890s to 1916. She hopes to present this research in the spring.

Next year, she plans to continue archival research for a new monograph on Russian society and the workers’ question in late imperial Russia. Alice was elected Chair of the Chairs’ Assembly for this academic year and Secretary of the Georgia Association of Historians. She was also appointed to the Advisory Committee on Social Studies for the Georgia Department of Education.



**Dr. Amanda Rees**—2005-06 was Geographer Amanda Rees’s first year in the department. She introduced a new course on American Landscapes and one of her students’ research papers has been submitted for possible publication to *Muscogiana*. Amanda was voted to represent CSU’s College of Liberal Arts

and Letters on the Faculty Senate and was also voted a member of the Senate’s Executive Committee. She had two journal articles published this year and submitted two additional journal articles for consideration. She traveled to two geography conferences in West Palm Beach Florida and Chicago where she presented her research and combined her travel with research on urbanization. During the year, Amanda wrote eight grants to fund her 2006 summer research program. In May, she was a Library Fellow at Princeton University. Briefly returning to Columbus she collected her five-year-old daughter Gwyn and drove to Wyoming with funding from the American Heritage Center and CSU’s Capital Campaign where she spent five weeks visiting archives in Laramie, Cody, and Jackson as well as several dude ranches. She hopes to complete the first draft of a book manuscript on dude ranching contracted for August 2008.



Amanda at work as a Library Fellow in the reading room at Princeton’s

As Amanda and Gwyn slowly made their way home from Wyoming to Georgia they spent a couple of days taking photographs of the Great Plains landscape. The images will illustrate a book Amanda is writing on the future of the region due for publication in August 2007. Having received funding

from the Loudermilk Family she is presently preparing to analyze over 30 dude ranch movies and how they constructed the American West between the 1920s and 1950.



**Dr. Gary Sprayberry** received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Alabama in December 2003. Joining the department this fall, he will offer courses in African American history, social and political movements, and US history since 1865. Already, Dr. Sprayberry has accepted responsibility as faculty advisor for the CSU History Club. He is also the featured speaker for the February 1 local history program beginning at 7 pm at the Liberty Theater on the black middle class of Columbus during the Jim Crow Era. His most recent publications include “Interrupted Melody: The 1956 Attack on Nat ‘King’ Cole” in the winter 2004 edition of *Alabama Heritage* and the co-authorship of *Miles College: The First Hundred Years* (Arcadia, 2005). Dr. Sprayberry is presently revising his manuscript, *White City, Black Town: Paternalism, Class, and Civil Rights in Anniston, Alabama, 1872-1972*, for publication. He and his wife, Kristen, have two daughters, Ainsley and Harper.



**Dr. Joel Tishken** was awarded tenure and promotion to Associate Professor this fall. In the last academic year, Dr. Tishken taught courses in world history, African prophecy, colonial Africa, and the senior seminar course both semesters, with the topics of syncretism and historical memory. He is introducing a course in the Islamic world in spring 2007. Dr. Tishken has two book manuscripts under current review for publication: *Öba Kòso: The Multiple Images of Sàngó in West Africa and the African Diaspora* and *Prophets, Prophecy, and Power: A Comparative Analysis of the Nazareth Baptist Church and Église Kimbanguiste*. He will serve as guest editor for upcoming issues of *Nova Religio* and the *World History Bulletin* with the themes of African Christianity and world religions, respectively. In the past academic year he has contributed to the *Encyclopedia of African Thought*, *World History Encyclopedia*, *The City and Urban Life*, and the *Encyclopedia of World History*. As in past years, Dr. Tishken delivered multiple public lectures in the community on world religions, presented papers at several conferences, and contributed to African studies and religious studies at CSU. Dr. Tishken is serving as the new Phi Alpha Theta faculty advisor.



**Dr. Doug Tompson**—In addition to the standard offerings, Doug presented two new courses during the 2005-2006 academic year: “Indigenous Peoples of Latin America,” and “Race and Ethnicity in Latin America.” Along with teaching duties, Doug serves as chair of CSU’s Academic Standards Committee. He attended two conferences during the past year: the Allen Morris Conference at FSU in

## FACULTY NEWS

February, and the *Congreso Centroamericano de Historia* in Antigua, Guatemala in July. At these meetings, Doug presented English and Spanish versions of his latest research regarding the migration and occupational mobility of slaves on the north coast of Honduras circa 1800. After the conference in Guatemala, he traveled to Honduras where he explored the ruins of various historical eras, from the Maya temples of Copán, to the colonial fortresses of Omoa and Trujillo, to the rusted banana railways of the United Fruit Company in La Ceiba. Doug also had the opportunity during the trip to meet and converse with members of the afro-indigenous Garifuna community who live on the Atlantic coast. He has a chapter in the edited volume *Politics, Economy, and Society in Bourbon Central America, 1759–1821*, which will be published by the University Press of Colorado in December 2006. Doug was awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor this year. More importantly, his wife Karla just gave birth to their third child, a baby girl, Natalia María Tompson.

## ADJUNCT FACULTY



**Professor Reagan Grimsley** -In January 2006 Reagan was appointed to a three year term as Editor of the scholarly publication *Provenance: The Journal of the Society of Archivists*. He also assumed the position of Editor for *Muscogiana: Journal of the Muscogee Genealogical Society* as of the Spring 2006 Issue. During 2005-2006 Grimsley presented research at five academic venues, including the Popular Culture Association 2006 National Conference, the Georgia Association of Historians' Annual Conference, and the Southern Archivists Conference. Columbus State University awarded Professor Grimsley the Faculty Research and Scholarship Award for 2006 at the Academic Honors Convocation in March.

Reagan, along with CSU Library Faculty Susan Wynne, is currently preparing an article on oral histories in academic libraries for submission to the *Journal of Academic Librarianship*. He continues his research on Mississippi's Piney woods, and will present a paper entitled "The Other Mississippi: Place and Identity in the Antebellum Piney Woods" at the Gulf South History and Humanities Conference in October of 2006.

## STUDENT AWARDS



(L-R) Sean Jackson and Stephen Lips

**Stephen Lips, Sean Jackson, and Kacie Tyner** were inducted into the local chapter of Phi Alpha Theta in March 2006.



(L-R) Ed Howard, Alice Pate, and Josh Swint

**Josh Swint** was recognized as the Outstanding History Student at the Scholastic Honors Convocation.

**Ed Howard** was recognized by the Daughters of the American Colonist for his success as a History Major at CSU.

**David A. Klin** from Woodstock, Georgia, a freshman for the 2006-07 was awarded \$1,000 on behalf of the Alonzo Biggs Scholarship for 2006.

## RED CLAY, WHITE WATERS AND ♪ BLUES ♪

**MONTHLY PROGRAMS ON THE  
HISTORY OF COLUMBUS**

Learn more about our local history in a series of programs co-sponsored by the CSU History Department to run from October 2006 through May 2007. The "Red Clay, White Water, and Blues" programs is free and open to the public, held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in various locations around Columbus. They are funded by grants from the Georgia Humanities Council and the Columbus State University Foundation. Local partners include Columbus State University, the Historic Columbus Foundation, the Columbus Public Library, the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, the Columbus Museum, Port Columbus Civil War Naval Museum, the National Infantry Museum, the Liberty Theatre, Friends of Ma Rainey, the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association, the Chattahoochee Riverkeeper, Oxbow Meadows, the W.C. Bradley Company, and the Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

Over 200 attended the first program at the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Center at Fort Mitchell on October 5. Billy Winn, author of *The Old Beloved Path: Daily Life Among the Indians of the Chattahoochee River Valley* spoke on "Creek Removal." Dr. Kathryn Braund of Auburn University, author of *Deerskins and Duffels: The Creek Indian Trade with Anglo-America, 1685-1815*, discussed "Life in an 18<sup>th</sup> Century Creek Town." On the Saturday morning following the program, Billy Winn led a field trip to Fort Mitchell.

The February 1 program focuses on African Americans in Jim Crow Columbus and it will be held in the Liberty Theater. Dr. Gary Sprayberry of the Columbus State University History Department will analyze the contributions and culture of Columbus's black middle class in the age of segregation. Dr. Eddie T. Lindsey and Rev. Ernestine Mathis will share their experiences in Columbus during that era. On Saturday, February 3, join a free tour of sites important in the African American history of Columbus. Get on the bus in the front parking lot at the main branch of the library by 10:00 for a two-hour tour

Celebrate the start of Women's History Month on March 1 at the program on the life and legacy of Ma Rainey. It will be held in the W.C. Bradley Corporate Museum on Front Avenue in Uptown Columbus. Florene Dawkins, head of Friends of Ma Rainey, will talk about the preservation of the Ma Rainey House in Columbus and its recent opening as a blues museum. Local folklorist Fred Fussell, author of *Chattahoochee Legacy* and *Chattahoochee Album*, will speak on Ma Rainey's life and legacy.

The Saturday, March 3 field trip will explore Heritage Corner in downtown Columbus and stop for visits at the Springer Opera House and the Ma Rainey House. The bus will leave the main library parking lot at 10 a.m. and return about noon. Make your reservation by calling the CSU History & Geography Department at 706-568-2263.

Additional program topics scheduled for the first Thursday of every month through May will include "Women in Music and Theater," "African Americans during Jim Crow in Columbus," "Fort Benning," "River Management and "Famous Murders." The schedule is posted on the department's website at <http://history.colstate.edu/Program.asp>



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