This year, the Department of History and Geography continued the “Red Clay, White Water and Blues,” local history series organized by Dr. Virginia Causey. The Columbus community has welcomed this series with exceptional attendance at lectures the first Thursday of each month and field trips to local sites the first Saturday following the lecture. Next year, the Department will continue to offer history programming to include a lecture, Thursday, 13 November 2008 on the History of the US infantry by Colonel Peter R. Mansoor, who will occupy the Mason Chair of Military History at Ohio State University beginning this September and is currently Executive Officer to General Petraeus in Iraq. The History and Geography Department is also establishing the Friends of History to collaborate more closely with the community on history related events. Our faculty have been particularly active in their teaching and scholarly pursuits. Dr. Tishken’s new course in Islamic History and Dr. Sprayberry’s courses in African American and American social history have been particularly successful. Next year, we hope to concentrate more fully on the enhancement of writing across the disciplines in our history classes through collaboration with the Center for Faculty Programs in Teaching and Learning. Faculty presented their research at a number of conferences including meetings of the Georgia Association of Historians, Southeast Division of the American Association of Geographers, and the World History Association. Faculty also traveled to Guatemala, Russia and South Africa to research history and geography.

Our graduates, students and alums, report great success in their continued studies and other activities. Taylor Burton, a senior, and member of Phi Alpha Theta, received honorable mention in the undergraduate essay competition from the World History Association for her paper "Bwiti: A Syncretic Faith of Modern Africa." One of our graduates, Russell Pryor(07) was awarded full tuition and an annual stipend to Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh for graduate study in labor history. Joshua Swint (07) joined the Peace Corps and is now stationed in Ivaylovgrad, Bulgaria near the border with Turkey and Greece.

We encourage all our friends and alumni to join us at the 50th Anniversary Open House on 4-5 April. Come out to race the 5 K, Saturday morning at 8 am in front of the Lumpkin Center to help our department win the participation prize. After the race, visit with current faculty in the Schwob Library from 9:30 - 11:30 am. A complete schedule of Anniversary events can be found at http://www.colstate.edu/50years/. We hope to see you there!

Alice Pate, Chair, History and Geography

Craig Lloyd, Emeritus Professor of History and Doug Parcell of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission at the unveiling of the Historical Marker to honor Eugene Bullard. The marker will be placed near Bullard’s birthplace not far from Little Five Points on Talbotton Road.

EXPLORE HISTORY IN THE WILD WEST

This summer, Dr. Becky Matthews and Dr. Virginia Causey will lead students in a “study abroad” program with a twist—two courses in United States History that include a field component in Montana. Dr. Matthews will teach “Montana Indians: Contact, Change and Continuity,” and Dr. Causey will teach “Lewis and Clark in the Rockies.” From June 12-18, students will follow the footsteps of Lewis and Clark through western Montana. From June 19-30 from a base at Montana State University in Billings, they will study on the Crow Reservation, explore sites related to Lewis and Clark, and work with native peoples. The cost per student is $1945. The Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association donated $6000 in support of the program. For a copy of the brochure and application form visit the history department website at http://history.colstate.edu or contact the history department at 706-563-2263.
Dr. Virginia Causey continued to teach Georgia History and Historical Methods for the department this year. She organized both courses to be “writing-intensive” experiences as part of CSU’s emphasis on writing across the curriculum. Students in Georgia History took on roles such as a Mississippian Indian, a woman in Civil War Georgia or a textile mill worker and wrote first-person accounts that reflected historically accurate and authentic experiences. In Historical Methods, she and the students conducted a whole-class analysis of the stereotypes of American Indians that have been created by Euro-Americans throughout history. Each student then took a subtopic on Indian stereotypes to research, producing an analytical paper and a Powerpoint presentation on his or her research. In the spring of 2008, Dr. Causey will be creating writing activities to use in teaching U.S. History Since 1865. In April she will conduct a workshop with all full and part-time faculty to infuse different types of writing in the core history courses.

Dr. John Ellisor recently joined the CSU history faculty as a temporary assistant professor. Previously, he served as an associate professor of history and the civic arts at Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tennessee. Dr. Ellisor teaches American history survey courses at CSU along with upper division courses on the American Revolution and the Age of Jackson. His research interests focus on ethnic relations in the Old South, and he has recently completed a book-length manuscript entitled “The Second Creek War: Inter-Ethnic Conflict and Collusion on a Collapsing Frontier.” The town of Columbus and its residents figure prominently in this story.

Dr. Becky Matthews has returned to the History and Geography Department after spending spring semester as site director for Spencer House, the wonderful residence provided for CSU students at Oxford University. Among her memorable experiences while there were learning to drive in the British way, preparing chili dogs (ala Dinglewood) for a crowd of British students who thought they were wonderful, and meeting a host of marvelous people in Summertown, the community that surrounds Spencer house.

The new excitement in her life is collaborating with Dr. Virginia Causey in the creation of two courses on the American West, which will be taught in Montana, during the summer of 2008. “Lewis and Clark in the Rockies,” and “Montana Indians” will involve traveling to significant sites in “the last best place” and will culminate with a visit the annual commemoration of the Battle of the Little Big Horn. Classes are open to undergraduate and graduate students as well as alumni. More information is available at http://history.colstate.edu/. Look for “Explore History in the Wild West.”

Dr. Neal McCrillis spent two weeks last summer studying Spanish in Salamanca, Spain. In December he spent a week in Ireland at Dublin, Cork and Galway developing a new study abroad program. He continues to serve as chair of the USG European Council (he’s in his second year of a three year term). A few weeks ago he completed a review of John Keegan’s, Winston Churchill which will be published by H-Albion.

Dr. Alice Pate taught Medieval Russian History during Fall 2007. She presented her research on the All Russian Teachers’ Union in Late Imperial Russia at the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies Conference in New Orleans. Her paper “Generational Conflict and the Guriian Republic of Georgia to 1905” appeared in Soviet/Post-Soviet Review. In June and July 2007, Alice gathered source material in the State Archives in Moscow on workers and society in late imperial Russia. In February 2007, along with Barbara Hunt from English and Terry Irvin from Basic Studies, Alice presented a talk on the Chairs’ Assembly at the Academic Chairperson’s Conference. Their article, “Chairs’ Assembly: Why Your Campus Needs One” appeared in the Department Chair (Summer 2007.)

Dr. Amanda Rees was invited to be part of a Fulbright-Hays Seminar to South Africa in November and December 2006, where she studied the current social, political, and economic climate. She traveled throughout the country and worked with faculty from Witwatersrand University (Johannesburg), the University of Kwa ulu-Natal (Durban), Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (Port Elizabeth), Rhodes University (Grahamstown), and the University of Cape Town. This seminar led to a paper presentation on the ways in which township tourism and art have led to a re-imagining of South Africa’s townships. Inspired by the research she saw in South Africa, Dr. Rees lead two first year learning community World Regional Geography classes to develop research poster presentations for World AIDS Day. Dr. Rees also published an article “The Syndrome of Open Spaces: Envisioning the Great Plains in the Twentieth Century” in the journal Heritage of the Great Plains. This summer she received a CSU faculty research grant to conduct research on British urban re-development and spent three weeks conducting research in London’s East End as well as at Prince Charles’ new urban community, Poundbury. This fall she will be working on a book manuscript about the production of the American West through the touristic activity of dude ranching.
Faculty News & Friends of History

Dr. Gary Sprayberry introduced two new courses to the curriculum during his first year at CSU: Slavery & Emancipation and American Reform & Radicalism. He continues to serve as faculty advisor for the History Club and has recently been asked to be the co-advisor for the newly formed CSU chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). In June 2007, Gary accompanied members of the History Club to Washington DC for the group's annual spring trip.

In the past year, Gary has presented his research at a handful of events, including the annual meeting of the Georgia Association of Historians in Milledgeville and the local Columbus history series, “Red Clay, White Water, and Blues.” In February 2008, he gave a public lecture on the civil rights movement in Columbus at the historic Liberty Theatre. Gary is presently putting the finishing touches on his manuscript, White City, Colored Town: Paternalism, Class and Civil Rights in Anniston, Alabama, 1872 to Present, a study of race and class relations in the so-called “Model City of the New South.” He has also submitted articles to the Alabama Review and the forthcoming Encyclopedia of Alabama. His next research project focuses on antiwar activism at southern colleges and universities during the 1960s and 1970s.

In March 2007, the Sprayberry clan moved to an undisclosed location deep in the tangled forests of west Georgia, where Gary enjoys gardening, spending time with his wife and two daughters, and recording music no one will ever hear.

Dr. Joel Tishken continues to teach world history and African history for the history department. He has also begun to teach a 5000 level course on the history of the Islamic world. In spring 2008, Dr. Tishken is supervising the senior seminar class on the topic "Pan-Ethnic and Pan-National Movements." Last summer he presented his research "The Zions of Africa: Non-Nicean Christianity of Modern Africa" at the World History Association Meeting in Milwaukee. In summer 2008 professor Tishken will teach a course on the historical memory of the British Empire in London.

Dr. Doug Tompson was pleased to see the publication of his essay on the late Spanish colonization of the Mosquito Coast in an edited volume, Politics, Economy, and Society in Bourbon Central America, 1759-1821 (University Press of Colorado, 2007). After teaching for part of the summer he traveled to Guatemala, strictly for the purpose of visiting with family—though he proved unable to resist the temptation to spend some time in the archives, sifting through 18th-century documents. With a sabbatical leave during Fall semester, Tompson devoted most of his time to revising his book manuscript, as well as polishing an article that will appear in the Spanish-language historical journal Mesoamérica.

What is Friends of History?

Friends of History assists the Department of History and Geography by providing support for community programming, enrichment of student learning and enhancement of faculty development. With the assistance of the Friends of History, many more of our students will be able to take advantage of learning opportunities such as Study Abroad, research in local and regional archives, travel to local and national historical sites and participation in student conferences and workshops. Faculty will have increased opportunities to develop their teaching and scholarship through presentations at regional and national conferences, faculty workshops and retreats, and travel to national archives and libraries. The Columbus community will benefit from public programming which enriches our understanding of the past—locally, nationally and globally.

Programs for 2008-9

Following on the footsteps of the “Red Clay, White Water and Blues” local history lecture series the Department of History and Geography plans to offer military history programming for the academic year, 2008-9. To kickoff our programming, Mason Chair of Military History at Ohio State University and current Executive Director in Iraq, Colonel Peter Mansoor will offer a public lecture, Thursday 13 November 2008 in Legacy Hall at the River Center on the “History of the US Infantry.” Check our website at http://history.colstate.edu for more news about our future plans.

Benefits

Members who donate at least $50 each year will receive early notification and special invitations to all events as well as early opportunities to sign up for tours or other activities sponsored by Friends of History.

All donations assist the Department of History and Geography in providing enhanced learning opportunities inside and outside the classroom for our students.
Stephen Barber - As part of the Red Clay, White Water, and Blues program in October, Stephen spoke about the Methodist mission to the Creek Indians near Fort Mitchell. He started a new job as the Behavioral and Social Science Coordinator and Assistant Professor of History at the Columbus Campus of Georgia Military College.

Reagan Grimsley submitted the manuscript for *Enriching Lives: A Pictorial History of Columbus State University* in September 2007. The 128 page 8 ½ by 11 hardbound volume, a product of Donning Company Publishers, will debut in March 2008. The book documents the history of the university from its founding in 1958 through 2007 via text and more than 180 images. He is currently administering a grant project to collect oral histories of Columbus State to further document the history of the institution.

Professor Grimsley also published the journal article “Discovering Blind Tom Wiggins: Creating Digital Access to Original Sheet Music at the Columbus State University Archives” in *Music Reference Services Quarterly*. In fall 2006 he was inducted as a faculty member in Columbus State University’s chapter of Phi Kappa Phi. In the summer of 2007 he completed his oral exams for the Ph.D. in History at Georgia State University, and is at work writing his doctoral dissertation which will focus on the urban development of Hattiesburg, Mississippi between 1884 and 1945.

Richard Hall - Last summer, Rich’s review of Michael Burlingame’s *Abraham Lincoln*, a look at the personal letters of Lincoln’s two personal secretaries appeared online at H-net. He is working on his dissertation, "American Idyl: Issues of Race, Gender, and Patriotism in Captain America Comics." He also presented a lecture, "The Oddities of History" at Columbus State University's first semi-annual popular culture convention, Nerdcon.

**AWARDS**

Russell Pryor (07) was recognized as the Outstanding History Student at the Scholastic Honors Convocation.

Taylor Burton (08) was recognized by the Daughters of the American Colonist for his success as a History Major at CSU. She received honorable mention in the undergraduate essay competition from the World History Association for her paper "Bwiti: A Syncretic Faith of Modern Africa."

Brittany Matthews from Westminster, Maryland, a freshman for the 2006-07 was the recipient of the Alonzo Biggs Scholarship for 2007.

**2007 Phi Alpha Theta Inductees:**

Joshua Swint (06) who joined the Peace Corps is stationed in Ivaylovgrad, Bulgaria near the border with Turkey and Greece.

Matthew Young (02) has been hired as the Education Director for the National Infantry Museum.

Congratulations to Andrea Noel (06) and her husband on the birth of their son Jagger Gregory born on August 17, 2007. He weighed 6 lbs, 15 ounces and 21 inches long.

Congratulations to Katie & Brian Ellis (05) on the birth of their son Connor Davis born on December 21, 2007. He weighed 8 lbs, 5 ounces and 19.5 inches long.

Alan Barefoot (04) is teaching at Arnold Middle School on the eighth grade special education team. This is his first year with the school. Over the Christmas break he traveled with his wife to Germany to visit family members of his wife.
MONTHLY PROGRAMS ON THE HISTORY OF COLUMBUS

The popularity of last year’s series of programs on the history of Columbus and the region has led the department to organize a second “Red Clay, White Water and Blues” series. The public response to the programs last year was phenomenal. Dozens of people requested that the programs be continued. We hope this series of local history programs will continue to inform our citizens — both “old Columbus” and newcomers — about past people and events. We want to provoke a dialogue between the past and present, a civic conversation that will help us understand and be prepared for what the future may hold.

Program director Dr. Virginia Causey will moderate the hour-long programs planned for 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of most months from October 2007 through May 2008. (The series takes January off.) During the inaugural 2006-2007 series, audiences averaged 150 participants for the programs, with even 50 "history nuts" braving severe storms and tornado warnings for the March session.

On Saturdays following each Thursday night program in March and May, interested participants will be able to board a 50-passenger CSU bus, also at no charge, and visit historic sites related to that month’s topic. Those trips will depart from the Columbus Public Library at 10 a.m. and return between noon and 1 p.m. April’s event may feature a boat excursion. Directions to all program locations are online at http://history.colstate.edu/program.asp. Topics, locations and speakers for the history series include:

“Literary Columbus”, March 6 at the Columbus Library, featured Cathy Fussell, director of CSU’s Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians, speaking on McCullers, Causey speaking on Augusta Evans, author of the celebrated novel St. Elmo, and Dr. Philip Schley, speaking about the historic Columbus house, St. Elmo, the inspiration for Evans’ novel. Fussell and Schley will lead the Saturday, March 8 tour of the McCullers Center, which was the author’s childhood home, and St. Elmo, the 18th Avenue house that’s not normally open to public tours.

“An Environmental History of the Chattahoochee”, April 3 at the W.C. Bradley Company on Front Avenue, will feature Roger Brown, a CSU professor of environmental science. Professor Brown will also lead the Saturday, April 5 tour of the Chattahoochee River from 10 a.m. to noon. Plans for a boat excursion on the river are in the works but still tentative.

“Phenix City”, May 1 at the Phenix City Amphitheater, featuring mystery novelist Ace Atkins, who’s currently completing a fictionalized version of the history of organized crime in Phenix City in the 1930s-1950s, and local residents who will share their memories from that era. Causey will lead the Saturday, May 3 tour of Phenix City sites. The Columbus Library will kick off the Phenix City program at 7 pm on Wednesday, April 30 with a showing of the Hollywood movie “The Phenix City Story,” filmed in Phenix City in 1956, just two years after the gangster clean-up. There will also be a presentation at 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 2 at the Columbus Museum by of a Phenix City documentary from the Center for Southern Studies and a showing of “In the Wake of the Assassins.” The latter film deals with the June 18, 1954, assassination of Albert Patterson, who had just been nominated Alabama’s attorney on a platform of cleaning up mob-controlled Phenix City. Former governor John Patterson will introduce the film.

For more information, visit http://history.colstate.edu/program.asp, write Causey at causey_virginia@colstate.edu or call 706-568-2263.
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:

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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