

ISSUE

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*Alethea Webb, far right, at the 2015 Summer Commencement. She is the 97th student to graduate with a B.A. in History from GGC. She is pictured with Dr. Belle Wheelan, President of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.*



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## Summer Witnesses 97th History Graduate

When Alethea Webb (photo above) walked across the stage at the Gwinnett Arena in August 2015, she became the 97th student at Georgia Gwinnett College to receive a B.A. degree in History. When the total number of history majors and minors are counted, Webb numbers among the first graduates in the 100s. "It's remarkable to think that GGC's first graduated class of historians occurred in Fall 2011, and it was only three students," said Richard Rawls, Professor of History. Less than four years later over 100 students have graduated with some formal level of the study of history. Webb remained enthusiastic about her GGC experience. "Through the confines of a classroom, I listened to the lectures of some of the most amazing teachers GGC had to offer," she said. "With GGC behind me I feel like now I have the basis and confidence to take me into the next chapter of my life." (See also graduation story on page 4)

## Dr. Eugene Berger Given "Annual Award for Service 2014-15"

The Fall 2015 Convocation, held on September 17 at GGC, witnessed not only the formal recognition of faculty who received promotions but also the giving of annual awards. GGC Historian Eugene Berger received the award for "Outstanding Service 2014-15." He was especially cited for his work in Internationalizing the curriculum, leading a student study abroad trip to Chile, developing courses in Latin American history, and thus helping with the Certificate in Latin American Studies. The historians and history students of GGC congratulate Dr. Berger!



*Kevin Reddy, coaching at Georgia Tech*

## GGC Graduates Thrive In Coaching Football

Although GGC does not have a football program, some of its graduates have used it as an avenue to jobs, graduate school stipends, career advancement, and personal enrichment. Kevin Reddy was a GGC grad (2013, Hist Teach-Cert), who was already coaching at Buford High School. He was recently admitted into Georgia Tech's M.A. Track of Building Construction and Integrated Facility Management in the School of Building Construction. This is his second year as a graduate assistant coach at "Tech." Terrence Stover (2014, Hist Teacher-Cert) teaches US and World History at South Gwinnett High School. He also coaches the Offensive and Defensive Line at South Gwinnett High School. As if this were not enough for Stover, he also coaches wrestling. Congratulations!



*Terrence Stover, at South Gwinnett H.S.*

Dr. Mazin  
Tadros, right,  
earned his  
Doctorate at  
the State Uni-  
versity of New  
York, Albany.



Dr. Mazin Tadros has taught History at GGC since Fall 2010. In addition to survey courses, he teaches classes on the Renaissance and Reformation, the Middle East, and the Mediterranean. His research agenda focuses on French Jesuits in the fifteenth and sixteenth century Levant. He discusses here the meaning of a History degree.

### What does my history degree mean?

I usually begin my World History I course with two cartoons, one that has two scientists reviewing an equation with complex variables and with the subtext “I think you should be more explicit here in step two.” One of the scientists points to the equation where a variable is replaced with the text “THEN A MIRACLE OCCURS.” The other cartoon has a mother and father at the graduation of their son. Granted the son looks intellectually undeserving of the achievement, the father is turned toward the mother stating “What does he know and how long will he know it.” I use these cartoons to ask my students to see the study of history as more than about memorizing dates, events, people, etc., it is about cultivating analytical and communication skills that can be used in a variety of fields of employment.

The discipline of history, working in it, researching, writing and so on, demands much from the historian: rigorous, methodological work that is governed by personal detachment. This quest for objectivity forces the historian to hone decision-making skills based in rational deliberation. When the historian lacks evidence, inferences are made or there is some acknowledgement that further research must be done. Employers are constantly seeking individuals who have the capacity for analysis (critical thinking), to step back from a problem and assess it from its component parts – and understand that having staff with this capacity for analysis will lead to efficiencies in processes and improvements in profitability. Historians do not make unsubstantiated conclusions, as in the cartoon “THEN A MIRACLE OCCURS” when we are missing

pieces of the evidence. We endeavor to use rational techniques in the interpretation of human mentalities of the past and this is our greatest asset to any future employer.

The second cartoon reflects my view that the study of history is not about time, pardon the pun, which is the amount of time that we retain certain information, but it

***“The study of history cultivates organizational, research, analytical (critical thinking), and communication skills. History students learn and refine these talents in many of their courses”***

is about the enduring effects that the study of history cultivate. So “how long will he know it” is not a question to be posed to a college graduate with a history degree; the study of history cultivates organizational, research, analytical (critical thinking), and communi-

cation skills. History students learn and refine these talents in many of their courses and can be applied to many professional opportunities (local, national, and perhaps international). And in fact, you will find the terms that describe these talents in almost all professional job postings in an array of fields.

So be prepared to discuss how you developed your capacity to communicate in oral and written form and that you have become quite analytical about how you interpret and resolve issues, ideas, etc. Speak of specific history courses in which you improved on these skills, or even certain events, people, themes in history that helped to cultivate or expand these skills. And speak with confidence knowing you are an historian. You will be most competitive in entry level positions that span a variety of occupations (it would be worthwhile to purchase Schulz, et al *Careers for Students of History* or visit the AHA website in career resources), but you must communicate what you have become or else someone will ask “how long will he [she] know it.”

# Standing Ovations! History Faculty News & Accomplishments

## Nathan Orgill



The September 17 Convocation ceremony witnessed the formal announcement of the promotion of **Nathan Orgill** to the rank of Associate Professor. Orgill started teaching at GGC in August 2009. He earned his doctorate at Duke University. Prior to GGC, Orgill taught in California, where he taught History, Humanities, and Latin. He is researching German foreign policy in the press before World War I. **Richard Rawls (right)** recently published a chapter in the book, *A Dangerous Mind: The Ideas and Influence of Delbert L. Wiens*. Rawls' chapter was titled, "A Dangerous Mind and Dangerous Times: The Rain Miracle of Marcus Aurelius and the Second-Century Church." The chapter takes the ideas of Wiens about religion and culture and applies them to the second century C.E. Congratulations to both professors!

## Richard Rawls



**Ellen Rafshoon** presented "Family Planning in Georgia: A Conservative Revolution" at the 6th annual conference on public intellectuals at UNC, Charlotte, April 10, 2015.

**Frank Smith** (Part-Time Faculty) taught as a Visiting Professor at Kobe (Japan) Theological Hall in May 2015. In addition to teaching, he visited Hiroshima, site of the first atomic bomb used in a war, and the 14th century Himeji Castle. Pictured below are (L-R) Penny Smith, Frank Smith, and Dr. Yusuke Hirata.



**Seth Kendall** presented "The [Roman] Senate and the politics of defeat in the year 90 BCE," at the Society for Military History in the Missouri Valley History Conference, March, 2015.

**Axel Corlu** presented "Propaganda by the Deed Anarchism as a Transnational Movement: State Responses in the United States, Italy, and the Ottoman Empire from the late 19th to the early 20th centuries," at the *Radi-cal Americas Symposium*, University College London, September 14-15, 2015.

**Michael Gunther** reviewed Kathryn S. Meier, *Nature's Civil War: Common Soldiers and the Environment in 1862 Virginia*, in *History: Reviews of New Books* 43, 3 (2015), 95-96. He also moderated a panel, "1776: What You Don't Know," at the *AJC-Decatur Book Festival*.



## Publication for Nik Ribianszky

Nik Ribianszky, above, recently published "Free Black Community/ Customs," in *World of the American Revolution: A Daily Life Encyclopedia*, ed. Dr. Merril D. Smith (Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO). She also gave a presentation: "The Science Behind Ferguson: Historical, Institutional and Individual Components of American Representations of Black Masculinity," at the 4th Intersections Conference on Gender and Sexuality, GGC, April 2015. She also was Commentator on the panel "Intersecting Racial Identity within African and Native communities" at the North American Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) Conference, Washington D.C., June 2015.

## New History Faculty At Georgia Gwinnett College



**Richard Cook** was added to the full-time faculty as an Assistant Professor of History. Last year he was an Instructor at GGC. Cook earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in U.S. History at Emory University, and his B.A. in history at the University of Montana. He wrote a dissertation on the second charter of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

**Patrick Ludolph** was hired as an Assistant Professor of History. He previously taught at GGC as a Part-Time Faculty member from 2011-2014. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. in history from the University of California Santa Barbara, and his B.A. degree from University of Washington. His dissertation title was "Fitt for many Employments: Gilbert Mabbott, the London Press, and the working of Westminster."



**Remalian Cocar** was no stranger to GGC. Teaching at GGC on a part-time basis since 2009, he is at full-time status for the year as an Assistant Professor. He earned his Ph.D. and M.A. at Emory University, and his B.A. at the University of Michigan. His dissertation investigated the history of released time religious education in the United States.

## Alumni/ae and Student News.

### Alumni News

**Jessica Hannan**, History minor ('14), was recently hired at the University of Georgia, in the Human Resources Department.

**Russell Hutchins** ('15) is currently working in China with the Peace Corps. He is in Sichuan Province teaching English and Western Civ.

**Rebecca Wages** ('13) was hired as a teacher at Loganville Christian Academy. She teaches 7th grade world history and 8th grade U.S. history.

**Shannon Peterman** ('15) was hired as an Adult Programming Specialist at the Conyers-Rockdale Library.

**Adam Melcher** ('15) earned a job at Dacula Middle School as a 7th grade social studies teacher.

**Jillian McGinty** ('14) is working at the Primrose Lawrenceville-North school.

**Chelsea Kelley** ('15) is teaching 6th grade Social Studies in DeKalb County Schools at Sequoyah Middle School. Congratulations Chelsea, and cheers to all of our recent graduates!

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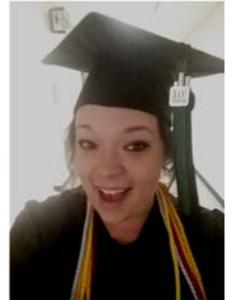
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*GGC Students and faculty attended the annual symposium sponsored by the National Archives at Atlanta, on 19 September, 2015. This year's theme was the Cold War. Those attending included (L-R) Dr. Kathryn Gray-White, Mallory Holt, Senceria McDivitt, and Dr. Michael Gagnon.*

### History Students Graduate in August

The Summer 2015 class of History graduates included Alethea Webb, Elise Longnecker, and Jessica Rayman, pictured at right. (Rayman is presently working on her MLIS degree at University of North Carolina). The commencement ceremony was held on Tuesday, Aug. 4, at 10 a.m. at The Arena at Gwinnett Center. The commencement speaker, Dr. Belle Wheelan, challenged students to remember to thank somebody every day. "Were it not for people doing their job, we would not make progress," she observed.



### Constitutionally Speaking



*On September 16-17, historians helped celebrate the Constitution. Pictured above (l-r) Drs. Michael Gunther, Richard Cook, Linda Mancillas (POLS), Michael Lewkowicz (POLS), and Richard Rawls. Student involvement included voting with clickers on the proposed Constitutional Amendments.*