

# GGC History News

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## Two GGC History Graduates Become Professional Writers

### The Journalist



Jay Jones graduated with a history degree from GGC in December 2016. A non-traditional student, Jones returned to his roots by earning a history degree. In the 1980s, he started as a history major at Georgia Southern University, but then changed to journalism, earning a degree there in 1988.

Before coming to GGC, Jones had worked his way up to news editor for the *Rockdale Citizen*, but was laid off during the recession. Starting at GGC in 2014, he intended to be an IT major, but then shifted to a history major and minored in IT.

Today Jones says that majoring in history at GGC gave him the new skills to re-engage with the research required for journalism and professional writing. As a correspondent for the *Gwinnett Daily Post*, Jones produces up to five stories each week for the newspaper's Johns Creek supplement, as well as writing on special features, like one called *The Dish*, which highlights new restaurants.

As a freelancer, Jones is paid by the story, so the work is continuous. As a second writing job, he sub-contracts for a consulting firm, writing professional manuals and documentation for non-governmental organizations so they will be in compliance with federal regulations. He says it is the research skills he learned at GGC that makes the work both easier and interesting. Jones lives in Loganville, with his wife and 2 teenaged daughters. *By Michael Gagnon*

### The International Soccer Blogger



GGC history alumnus Denis Knezovic has found success as a writer for the international soccer blog: [denissoccerblog.com](http://denissoccerblog.com). The 2013 history graduate turned his passion for international soccer into a comprehensive writing commitment.

His articles cover FIFA World Cup qualifying across the world and major international tournaments such as UEFA Euro Championships. However, his specialization remains the Bundesliga German professional soccer clubs.

Knezovic's blog focuses not only on soccer scores but also on the off-the-field player transaction news, hiring and firing of coaches, portraits of the best stadiums around the world, and other intangibles affecting German soccer clubs.

Knezovic credits his audience for some of his success in that he incorporates suggestions and feedback from his readers to include more relevant, interesting, and up-to-date news in his upcoming articles.

Knezovic also credits his time at GGC for preparing and teaching him how to write in-depth, analytical essays that bring the drama and passion of soccer to his readers.

His articles have become a must-read for die-hard soccer aficionados, particularly fans of German soccer, the German men's national team, the German professional club Bayern Munich, and the nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In 2015, Knezovic published *Against All Odds* with Outskirts Press. It is a biography centered on the theme of achieving success in the midst of incredible obstacles. A copy is available in GGC's Daniel J. Kaufman Library & Learning Center. *By Fang Zhou*

**Dr. Eugene Berger earned his Ph.D. and M.A. from Vanderbilt University, and his B.A. degree from Willamette University .**



**Dr. Berger began working at GGC in fall 2011. He is a specialist in Latin American history. His primary research interests lie in 17th-century South America and include Franciscan missions, indigenous slavery and Dutch piracy.**

As a historian of Latin America residing in the United States I am often confronted with what David Weber called the “geopolitical anachronism” of teaching about the Spanish in what most consider to be a very English North American continent. For this reason, and because my research focuses on colonial frontiers throughout the Americas, I try to read as many “transnational” histories as I can get my hands on. The late David Weber was an excellent heir to the scholarly traditions of Frederick Jackson Turner and Herbert Eugene Bolton, who were the first to combat the myth that the North American frontier was “empty” or that Spanish immigrants brought only their picks and then returned to Europe with their bullion.

I have recently been re-reading Weber’s *The Spanish Frontier in North America* and *Bárbaros: Spaniards and their Savages in the Age of Enlightenment*. Another important work about the Spanish role in North America is Paul Hoffman’s *A New Andalusia and a Way to the Orient*. Hoffman includes a complete overview of the Spanish and French role in the American Southeast’s 16th century, including two chapters dedicated to the ill-fated Spanish colony established on Georgia’s Atlantic coast in 1526.

Another excellent transnationally oriented book is Andrés Resendez’s *The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America*. There have been some excellent works on indigenous slavery in North America like James Brooks’ *Captives and Cousins* or Alan Galloway’s *Indian Slavery in*

*North America*, but Resendez excels at situating North American indigenous slavery into Spain’s larger interests in the New World.

Since my research area is Chile, I also try to keep up on monographs being produced by my excellent colleagues there. Jaime Valenzuela has recently published *América en diásporas: Esclavitudes y migraciones forzadas en Chile y otras regiones americanas*. This work is unique in that it

covers almost the entire scope of forced labor in Chilean history: from the import of Africans, to the export of Mapuche Native Americans to the forced removal of Polynesian pascuences to Peru, as well as the campaigns in Chile to end all of these practices.

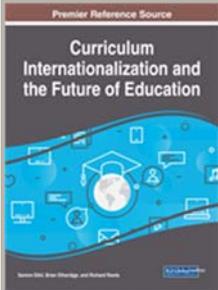
At a recent meeting of the Southern Historical Association I was pleased to see some of this transnationalism discussed in the opening session entitled “Framing Southern History: Region, Nation, Hemisphere, World.” This session included some excellent papers and comments on “ways of situating the South—and southern history—in broader geographical contexts.” With help from the readings mentioned above, I have indeed tried to include these broader contexts in my teaching, situating Saint Augustine and Santa Fe alongside Plymouth and Jamestown.

“At a recent meeting of the Southern Historical Association I was pleased to see transnationalism discussed in the opening session ”

### **Bibliography:**

- 1) David Weber *The Spanish Frontier in North America and Bárbaros: Spaniards and their Savages in the Age of Enlightenment*;
- 2) Paul Hoffman *A New Andalusia and a Way to the Orient*;
- 3) Andrés Resendez *The Other Slavery: The Uncovered Story of Indian Enslavement in America*;
- 4) James Brooks *Captives and Cousins*;
- 5) Alan Galloway *Indian Slavery in North America*;
- 6) Jaime Valenzuela *América en diásporas: Esclavitudes y migraciones forzadas en Chile y otras regiones americanas*.

# Standing Ovations! History Faculty News and Accomplishments



**Semire Dikli, Richard Rawls and Brian Etheridge** co-edited *Curriculum Internationalization and the Future of Education* with IGI Global Press in February 2018. Rawls wrote a chapter, *Internationalizing a Course on the Cultural and Intellectual History of the Ancient World*. Dikli, Etheridge and Rawls also co-wrote another chapter: *Reflecting on New Faculty Training: Internationalized Learning Essentials*. The book originated out of their work together on GGC's Quality Enhancement Plan. Several GGC faculty also contributed chapters.



*Etheridge, Rawls, Dikli*

**Michael Gagnon** wrote a pamphlet on the history of Gwinnett County. It was published by the Gwinnett County Historical Society in Dec 2017 under the title *Gwinnett County: A Bicentennial Celebration*.

**Frank Smith** reviewed *Sex, Marriage, and Family in John Calvin's Geneva: Volume 1, Courtship, Engagement, and Marriage* by John Witte Jr. and Robert M. Kingdon (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005; xxxii + 512). His review was in the *Confessional Presbyterian* 13: 2017.

**Patrick Zander** Delivered the keynote address titled "Fighting on After Defeat: An Analysis of European Resistance to Axis Occupation, 1938-1945," at the Center for the Study of War and Society at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville), in the speaker series "Societies After War," Nov 3, 2017.

**Ellen Rafshoon** presented a paper, "Taking 1977 into the 21st Century," at the National Women's Conference, at the University of Houston, November 6, 2017. It was based on interviews she and Dr. Jenna Andrews-Swann (anthropology) conducted with suburban women since the Jan 20, 2017 Women's March.

**Edward Simmons** recently published two articles in the online [ProgressiveChristianity.org](http://ProgressiveChristianity.org)

**Brian Etheridge** was appointed chair of the Teaching Committee of SHAFR, the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations. SHAFR's mission is to promote excellence in research and teaching of American foreign relations history and to facilitate professional collaboration among scholars and students in this field.

**David Mason** published a review of Alice Echols' book *Shortfall: Family Secrets, Financial Collapse, and a Hidden History of American Banking*, in [EH.Net](http://EH.Net) in Jan 2018.

**Axel Corlu** presented "A Microcosm of Globalization, Before Globalization? The Levantine Communities of the Ottoman Empire and the Formation of Transnational Identities," at the the Southeast World History Association (SEWHA) Conference on "Periodization and Temporality in World History," 2017.

**Michael Gunther** presented "Forty-Five Degrees of Separation: French, British, and Amerindian Geographical Knowledge and the Bordering of Quebec in the 1760s," at Canada Before Confederation: Early Exploration and Mapping, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Nov 2017.

## Reformation History Observances

GGC observed the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's posting the *95 Theses* on the Wittenburg Door, an act touching off the Reformation. GGC's historians not only observed the occasion, but they also organized the entire three days of events. Richard Rawls and Frank Smith coordinated the sessions, providing for multi-disciplinary perspectives. On Oct 31, Rawls, Smith, and Mark Gilley (music) provided overviews, while a student, Cole Hamilton, gave a dramatic recitation of Luther's *95 Theses*. On Nov 1, Michael Gunther (history), Andrea Green (religion), and David Cook (art) presented on Luther's influence. On Nov 2, Rebecca Flynn (English), Amir Azarvan (political science), Richard Cook (history) and Patrick Ludolph (history) provided additional perspectives. "All the papers were excellent," said Richard Cook. The presentations are available through GGC's Kaltura. The website is at: [https://media.ggc.edu/playlist/1\\_rggxjez2](https://media.ggc.edu/playlist/1_rggxjez2)

## Alumni and Student News

**Robert Harley** started a position as a docent at the state capitol building in Minnesota.

**Geoff Powers** graduated with a J.M. degree (Masters of Jurisprudence) from Emory University Law School.

**Shannon Peterman** is working for the City of Loganville's Planning and Development Department.

**Brendan Sanders** was admitted to the M.A. program in History at the University of Louisville.

**Terrence Stover** earned his M.Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Georgia Southern University.

**Senceria Levesque (McDivitt)** was hired by Manely Law Firm.

**Allison Wilker (Griswold)** was admitted to Georgia College and State University's M.A. program in Teaching for the Middle Grades with a concentration in Science and Math.

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## History Honor Students Inducted

On April 24, 2017 GGC's chapter of Phi Alpha Theta (PAT) History Honor Society inducted five new members: Solontu Irgengioro, Luis Rodriguez, Jessica Tatman, Margaret Thomas, and Thomas Thompson. All three club advisors participated in the ceremony. Carey Shellman presented the student leaders and administered the oath. Nathan Orgill provided the opening remarks and explained the PAT symbolism. Richard Rawls gave the keynote address. All three professors helped induct the new members.

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## Commencement December 2017



*History graduates and faculty after the commencement ceremony held at the Infinite Energy Arena on Dec 14, 2017*

Georgia Gwinnett College held its December 2017 Commencement ceremony on Dec 14 at the Infinite Energy Arena. The 19 history students who graduated counted towards a particular milestone in institutional history. GGC President Stas Preczewski, said that the commencement ceremony witnessed the 5,000th student graduating from GGC.

Those graduating with majors in either history or history with teacher certification included: Robert Brooks, Bane' Caldwell, Samuel Cole, Monica El-Amin, Justin Marx, Robert Myers, Gregory Parker, Luis Rodriguez, Christian Sanchez, Rebecca Skidmore, Kasey Smarr, Steven Suggs, Ashley Sullivent, Colin Thon, Edis Isakovic, Alexis Kinser, Meghann Kuehnel, Alexander Reynaud, and Michael Selleck.

University System of Georgia Chancellor Steve Wrigley delivered the commencement address. Picking up on the day's theme of perseverance, Wrigley encouraged students, "You will find meaning in life by being part of something larger than yourself."

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## Constitution Day 2017

GGC Constitution Day observances lasted three days. On Sep 18, David Mason, Scott Boykin, and Jason Gordon discussed the Constitution, commerce, and business. On Sep 19, Richard Rawls, Laura Bourland, and Paul Grant covered the Constitution and citizenship. On Sep 21, Richard Cook, Jason Mosser, and Daniel Vollaro presented on the First Amendment. Moderators included Janita Rawls (Sep 18), Dovile Budryte (Sep 19), and Susan Bussey (Sep 21).