

# GGC History News

A Journal of the GGC History Discipline

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Issue

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## GGC's History Majors Enjoying Success In Many Domains

Nearly all students majoring in history have heard the question, "What can you do with your major?" In the last *GGC History News* (Issue 16) we looked at two graduates who succeeded in careers outside of history. In this edition, we feature three additional cases of success. From graduate school admissions in a variety of fields to publishing to workplace environments, GGC's graduates have demonstrated how their history degrees are helping them to succeed.

### Kelley Stevens (Kimball), Gilder

#### Lehrman Recipient



Kelley Stevens (Kimball) was invited to Yale University to attend the Summer 2018 Gilder Lehrman Institute's sponsored seminar, *Everyday Life in Colonial America*. She was one of 34 people selected out of 300 applicants. Stevens

next received an invitation to attend the Summer 2019 seminar *Art's Contribution to the Conservation of Public Lands and National Forests in the West*, in Cody, Wyoming and Emigrant, Montana. According to Dr. Michael Gagnon, these are prestigious awards: "These seminars are designed to let high school teachers take cutting edge ideas and knowledge back to their students, having learned them from some of the best professional historians in the field." Stevens currently teaches at Haines City Senior High School in Florida. She graduated from GGC in 2014 with a U. S. History concentration.

### Denis Knezovic:

#### Second Publication

In 2015 Denis Knezovic published his memoir, *Against All Odds*. He followed this up with a scholarly investigation into socialism in America. His essay, "Debsian Socialism and the Two Americas," was recently published. In addition to composing books and memoirs, Knezovic also writes a blog on European soccer that is distributed around the world. It can be read at the following website: <https://denissoccerblog.com>. He graduated from GGC in 2013 with a Western Civ concentration. He currently lives in Athens, Greece.



Denis Knezovic's recent work

### Kenneth West

#### Penn State University Ph.D. Program

Kenneth West was admitted to Pennsylvania State University to pursue a Ph.D. in History with an emphasis in Latin America. West graduated from GGC in 2017 with a BA in History with a Thematic and Interdisciplinary concentration. "Kenneth worked very hard on his bachelor's degree, on his application to graduate school, and on jobs to help finance his undergraduate education," said Dr. Richard Rawls. "We are very happy for him and very proud of him."



# Ex Libris: From the Bookshelves of GGC Historians

"The person who deserves most pity is a lonesome one on a rainy day who doesn't know how to read." Ben Franklin



In this *Ex Libris*, some GGC Historians report on their favorite book they read over the summer. Sometimes inspiration comes from the recommendations of others!

**Dave Mason:** Timothy Egan's *The Worst Hard Time*, about the Dust Bowl with lots of interesting first person accounts and back stories not normally covered in texts.

**Ellen Rafshoon:** Viet Thanh Nguyen's *The Sympathizer*. Mixing tragedy and satire, it was the first American novel to critique the Vietnam War from all sides as it follows its protagonist, a half-French, half-Vietnamese communist told to spy on a South Vietnamese general.

**Seth Kendall:** Hans Delbrück, *History of the Art of War* vol. 1. This influential book is nearing the 100th anniversary of its publication.

**Richard Rawls:** *From Here to Eternity: Traveling the World to Find the Good Death*, by Caitlin Doughty. The author describes various cultural attitudes towards death and the customs people have in dealing with the profound loss of loved ones.

**Nathan Orgill:** *The Death of Democracy: Hitler's Rise to Power and the Downfall of the Weimar Republic*, by Benjamin Carter Hett. It gives an account of the fall of Weimar democracy, showing how German conservatives collaborated with the Nazis for short-term and fleeting political gains, thereby allowing the nightmare that followed to ensue.

**Carey Shellman:** *Southern Women in the Progressive Era: A Reader*, edited by Giselle Roberts and Melissa Walker. It is a collection of essays about white and African-American progressive women.

**Kathryn Gray-White:** *History of Scotland: A Captivating Guide to Scottish History, The Wars of Scottish Independence and William Wallace*. "In preparation to travel to Scotland to research one leaf of my family tree, I read several books but this was the best of them all."

**Fang Zhou:** *The Great Wall: China Against the World 1000 B.C.-A.D. 2000*, by Julia Lovell. Lovell argues that although the Great Wall was an incredible engineering feat, its importance related to strategic thinking such as keeping invaders out, awing outsiders, and insulating China from the world.

## History Faculty Readings Summer 2019

**Mazin Tadros:** *Picture: Muhammad Ali – A Rare Glimpse Into the Life of The Champ by the Photographers of the Courier Journal*. The photographs in this collection represent a visual history of the tribulations and triumphs of one of the more inspirational and complex figures of the twentieth century."

**Luke Ryan:** Craig Childs, *Atlas of A Lost World: Travels in Ice Age America*. Childs tells the story of the arrival of the first peoples in America.

**Patrick Zander:** Patrick Myler, *Ring of Hate: Joe Louis Vs. Max Schmeling: The Fight of the Century*. It investigates how in 1936 and 1938 the fights were made into symbolic matches between democracy/diversity and Nazism.

**Michael Gunther:** Andrea Wulf, *The Invention of Nature: Alexander von Humboldt's New World*. Humboldt was "the most interesting man in the world" in his time, and was very influential in American scientific and environmental history.

**Patrick Ludolph:** James Baldwin, *The Fire Next Time*. A major civil rights author reflects on racism, history, and religion in America.

**Frank Smith:** George P. Hutchinson, *The Problem of Original Sin in American Presbyterian Theology*. From Gainesville, Georgia, the author presents various views on the Christian doctrine of original sin.

**Remalian Cocar:** started the *Harry Potter* series this summer. These are books about the human condition disguised as a series about teenagers and magic!

**Erica Metcalfe:** Zora Neale Hurston, *Barracoon: The Story of the Last "Black Cargo,"* is based on her interviews in 1927 with Cudjo Lewis, the last living survivor of the Middle Passage.

**Logan Thomas:** Dan Hampton, *Lords of the Sky: Fighter Pilots and Air Combat, from the Red Baron to the F-16*. The book provides the perspective of someone who experienced air combat.

**Andres Hajar:** Robert Curley, *Citizens and Believers: Religion and Politics in Revolutionary Jalisco, 1900-1930*. Urban Catholics in Jalisco rebelling against the emergent revolutionary government by intertwining the community's religious and political concerns.

# Standing Ovations! Faculty News, Publications and Accomplishments



**Axel Corlu** published a chapter in a book. The chapter was titled "ABD Bağlamında 1968: Genel Temalar, Toplumsal Dinamikler ve Temel Sorular" and it was in the book *1968: Isyan, Devrim, Özgürlük*, edited by Omer Turan and published by Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları, Istanbul, 2019. The chapter can be translated as "1968 in the US Context: General Themes, Social Dynamics and Basic Questions."

**AWARD! Patrick Zander's** book *Hidden Armies of the Second World War: The World War II Resistance Movements*, (Praeger, 2017), was named an "Outstanding Academic Title," by the American Library Association during Spring, 2019.



**Michael Gunther** published "Forty-Five Degrees of Separation: Imperial and Indigenous Geographical Knowledge and the Bordering of Quebec in the 1760s," in *Essays in History* 51 (2018). He also published a review of Thomas Wickman's *Snowshoe Country: An Environmental and Cultural History of Winter in the Early American Northeast*, in *Journal of American History* (Sept. 2019), 428-429.

**Erica Metcalfe** published "The 'Feeling of Terror': Middle-Class Respectability, Police Abuse, and Black Working-Class Resistance in 1950s Milwaukee," *The International Journal of Africana Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 1, (Spring-Summer 2019): 25-42.



**Richard Rawls** published "Xenophon's *Oeconomicus* and training for life." It was in *Liberal Arts and Core Texts in our Students' World*, edited by G. A. Camp, Irvine, CA: ACTC, 2019. "The idea for this piece originated out of research I conducted for teaching a course," Rawls said.

**Andres Hajar** published a review of Robert Curley, *Citizens and Believers: Religion and Politics in Revolutionary Jalisco, 1900-1930*. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2018. The review appeared in H-Net: (H-Lat-Am), May, 2019.



An "**American Railroad Seminar**" was held on campus March 26-28. **Frank Smith** organized the three-day event, which attracted over 300 attendees. He also gave the key-note address, "The Romance of the Rails." Presenters from nine different academic disciplines spoke, and representatives from Norfolk Southern Railway and the Southeastern Railroad Museum also gave presentations. Audio sessions are available through Kaltura.

## Academic Presentations: March 2019 to August 2019

**Patrick Ludolph** presented "The London Agent in the Interregnum and Restoration" at the *Renaissance Conference of Southern California* in March 2019, in Pasadena, at the Huntington Library.

**Michael Gunther** presented "Environmental Footprints in James K. Polk's Thickly Forested Interior" at *James K. Polk and His Time: A Conference Finale to the Polk Project*, in Knoxville in April 2019. It was televised on C-Span 3.

**Laura Valiani** presented "For the Love of the Gods: Carthaginian Child Sacrifice and Sacred Prostitution," at *Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference, Classics Section*. April 2019.

**Seth Kendall** presented, "Death and Dismemberment of the Body Politic in the Age of Marius and Sulla," at the *Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference, Classics Section*. April 2019.

**Richard Rawls** presented "Battlefield Tourism in the Greco-Persian Wars: Thermopylae," at the *Kentucky Foreign Languages Conference, Classics Section*. April 2019.

**Robert Findlay** presented "Kagnev's Calling in Korea: Ethiopian Soldiers and U.S. Military Integration in a Global Context," at the *Twelfth Global Studies Conference*, Jagiellonian University, Kraków, Poland, in August 2019.

# Alumni/ae, Student and Event News

## Alumni News

**Tiffany Coker** works at the new campus of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) in Moultrie, Georgia. "I am excited to be on a new campus, the purpose of which is to train Doctors of Osteopathic Medicine and other osteopathic healthcare professionals specifically in rural medicine," she said. Coker has also been studying in a Masters of Education in Higher Education Administration program at Georgia Southern University



**Jonathan Brown** (pictured at left) completed archaeological field school with the University of Georgia in summer 2019. The field school research and digs took place on Ossabaw and Sapelo Islands on the Georgia coast.

## Commencement May 14, 2019

GGC's commencement ceremony on May 14, 2019, witnessed 17 history majors graduate. Andrea Young, Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union of Georgia, gave the commencement address to those assembled at the Infinite Energy Arena. Those receiving a B.A. degree in history included: Michael Adams, Joseph Albertson, Gunter Bales, Abigail Calcote, Susannah Laird, Olivia MacDonald, Taylor Royster, Michelle Samson, Briana Shelton, Brendon Smyles, James Thompson, and Tyanna Whitehorn. Those with a major in history with teacher certification were: Emily Hughes, Joshua Martinez, Miguel Uriegas, Michael Vickery, and John Worthy Jr.

## Commencement July 25, 2019

On July 25, 2019, GGC held its summer semester commencement at the Infinite Energy Arena. Five history majors graduated with the B.A. degree in history. The students included Caitlynn Cooper, Amber Johnson, Jazmine McDonald, Chilet Paul, and Peter Schlueter. GGC President Dr. Jann Joseph delivered the commencement reflections.

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## History Faculty Transitions



*Dr. Axel Corlu (left), resigned effective December 31, 2019. He will be working for the US government. Dr. Andres Hajar (center) was hired as an Assistant Professor of History. A specialist on Mexico, Dr. Hajar earned his Ph.D. at Northern Illinois University. Dr. Brian Etheridge (right), Senior Associate Provost and Professor of History, became Director of the University Honors Program and Professor of History at Kennesaw State University.*

## Phi Alpha Theta Inductions 2019



*Georgia Gwinnett College faculty and students gathered in the Heritage Room on April 25, 2019, to induct eight students into the Phi Alpha Theta history honor society. Students and faculty pictured above are from left Katherine Organista, Keith Halcomb, Abigail Calcote, Dr. Ellen Rafshoon, Amon Whitfield, Brooke MacDonald, Chilet Paul, Monica Reyes, Dr. Michael Gagnon, Mandy Weida, Dr. Nathan Orgill, Dr. Fang Zhou, and Dr. Richard Rawls.*

## Constitution Day 2019

GGC's historians joined with other disciplines in observing *Constitution Day* over three days. On September 16, Richard Rawls (history) joined Richard Pennington (chemistry), Patrice Morris (criminal justice) and Matthew Gunning (political science) to compare and contrast elections of chief executives around the world. On September 17, Erica Metcalfe (history), Marie Ratchford (criminal justice), Laura Bourland (political science), and Paul Grant (political science) observed the 100th anniversary of women's right to vote. September 19th witnessed Richard Cook (history) teaming with political scientists Amir Azarvan, Michael Lewkowicz, and Scott Boykin to discuss "Threats, Disturbances, and the First Amendment."