

# GGC History News

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## GGC Professor Witnesses Coup Attempt in Turkey

### An Eyewitness to History

**GGC Historian, Dr. Axel Corlu, witnessed a coup attempt in Turkey in July 2016. Here is his account:**



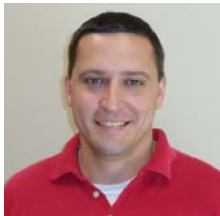
On July 14, 2016, I arrived in Istanbul, Turkey, as part of my plans to make a few scholarly connections, meet with a publisher, and visit family and friends. I was not expecting to see tanks, attack helicopters, and F-16 fighter jets on my visit. But life has surprising twists, especially in Turkey.

Suffering from jetlag, the next morning I drove over to the European side of the city that straddles two continents, to meet with old friends. In the evening when we were returning to the Asian side, we received a strange phone call from a friend who advised us not to cross the Bosphorus Bridge, as there were rumors of a military coup. We laughed dismissively at first, as life was going on just as usual around us. In a few minutes, however, the traffic towards the bridge came to a standstill. Several roads and connections were blocked. As we

searched for a way to the other side of the the Bosphorus, we slowly realized that events of historic proportions were unfolding; we left the car on the European side, and barely caught the last ferry. Nervous conversations occurred among people in the ferry. One person opened a bottle of beer, loudly celebrating the expected ouster of the Erdogan regime. Upon our landing on the other side of the city, apocalyptic scenes began to unfold. Black helicopters buzzed overhead, F-16 fighter jets made low passes above us, breaking the sound barrier and producing a tremendous sonic boom that smashed windows. Gunfire cracked from a distance, in several directions. People fought over the last taxicabs, and the streets, normally buzzing with activity in this megacity with a fascinating nightlife, were completely empty except pedestrians trying to find a way home. As we walked towards a friend's house nearby (our original destination was out of reach because no transportation was available), we saw the last open markets with long lines in them. *(continued, page 2)*

## GGC Grad Spends Summer on Archaeological Dig and Wins Award

**James Rooks graduated in May 2016 and celebrated by attending archaeological field school through the University of Georgia. He was awarded the prestigious Brian Daniel Gumbert Memorial Award. Here is his account:**



My studies and excursion led me to the Singer-Moye Native American mound site in Lumpkin, Georgia. The site flourished in the Mississippian period between 1100 -1450 C. E. A total of three teams excavated the site,

including my team. We were tasked with the continued excavation of a found palisade feature which influenced the socio-political culture of the site itself over 500 years ago. Although the school only lasted a month, we recovered over 5,000 artifacts at the site which mostly consisted of ceramics and lithics. Participating in the dig influenced me. Not only was I able to blend the importance of archaeology into prehistoric studies, but I also became a better historian because *(continued, page 4)*

## Ex Libris: From the Bookshelves of GGC Historians

Dr. Axel Corlu earned his Ph.D. at SUNY Binghamton, a M.A. in Intelligence Studies from the American Military University, and a M.A. in History from Bilkent University in Turkey.



Dr. Axel Corlu began working at GGC in Fall 2014. He teaches classes on World, Western, and Thematic History. Beyond the classroom he pursues research on Levantine History, the History of Food, and Political History, including Anarchism. His research interests, personal friendships, and connections with a publisher took him to Istanbul, where the coup attempt occurred.

I went in to one to buy a few basics, in case we were stranded at our friends' house for a long time. By the time I managed to gather a few things, looting had begun, and the store owners were giving up the attempt to impose order. As we approached our destination, strange groups of civilians, silent and foreboding in appearance, began to appear in various intersections; violence on a scale beyond the purely military was imminent. Miraculously, a taxicab appeared on the empty street, and we got inside; the driver chose the circuit that connected the city to a major interstate highway towards our home, but the six-lane interstate highway was completely empty, as well. In a few minutes, the reason was apparent: a semi-trailer truck had completely blocked the road. We turned around, and started to drive in the wrong direction towards the nearest exit. Unfortunately, others had the same idea, and six lanes of manically fast-driving traffic streamed at us. I remember the following seconds as hours: my yelling at the driver to move over to the left (he was driving on the "right lane" which happened to be the left lane of 6 lanes of fast traffic!), his frantic flashing of headlights towards oncoming cars, my reaching for seatbelts, only to find they did not have fasteners, the first oncoming car in our lane narrowly missing us, only to reveal the even faster Audi behind it, which had no time to react when its driver saw us. As someone with plenty of experience with near fatal accidents, I recognized the feeling: I felt death coming. The car missed us by the narrowest of margins, and we made it home eventually. We heard sonic booms, gunfire, and tanks



firing upon the bridge. I thought, "so this is how things began in Syria," a place most people treat with a certain distance, as if similar things simply could not happen here in Istanbul. And yet, they were happening. By the morning, we learned that after a full night of violence between factions of the Turkish armed forces, police, and civilians, the attempted coup d'etat had failed; life went back to normal within a few days, or so we

thought – but then we found out the extent of the regime's repressive measures, still expanding in their scope, senselessness, and brutality to this day. In a coup attempt that appears to have been orchestrated by one religious faction against another, the common people were going to pay the price. As I write this, more than 80,000 people have lost their jobs, 15 universities have been closed, and thousands of people are under custody or in prison, with no sign of slowing down from the government in its clear attempt to capitalize on the opportunity to purge every section of society it disagrees with, regardless of their involvement – or lack thereof - in the coup, in the name of "security." The state of emergency will last at least 3 months, and all constitutional rights and civil freedoms have been put on hold, resulting in a tremendous "brain drain" as thousands of scholars leave the country, while others struggle to find employment in an environment where arrests are being made every day.

**For further reading**, here are two illuminating articles from two prominent scholars who also happen to be my old professors:

1. Umit Cizre, "Turkey in a Tailspin." <http://www.merip.org/mero/mero081016>
2. Ayse Kadioglu, "Coup d'etat attempt: Turkey's Reichstag fire?" <https://www.opendemocracy.net/ay-e-kad-olu/coup-d-tat-attempt-turkey-s-reichstag-fire>

# Standing Ovarions! History Faculty News & Accomplishments

## Kathryn Gray White

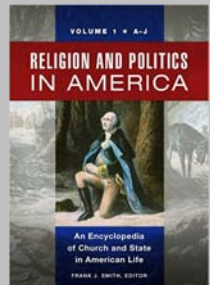


**Kathryn Gray-White** (left) and **Fang Zhou** (right) were recognized at GGC's Convocation Ceremony on September 15, 2016. Both received promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. Gray-White earned her doctorate, master's and bachelor's degrees at the University of Georgia. She began teaching at GGC in January 2010. Zhou earned his doctorate and master's degrees at the Georgia Institute of Technology, and his bachelor's degree at the University of California Berkeley. He began teaching at GGC in August 2010.

## Fang Zhou



**Frank Smith** (left) edited the two-volume, 899-page *Religion and Politics in America: An Encyclopedia of Church and State in American Life* (ABC-CLIO, 2016). He also wrote 15 of the entries: "Bible, The"; "Chaplaincy"; "Christian Science"; "Creationism (Creation Science)"; "Dabney, Robert Lewis"; "Dissent, Political"; "Education"; "Homeschooling"; "Jackson, Jesse"; "Machen, J. Gresham"; "NAACP"; "Obama, Barack"; "Ribault, Jean"; "Stem-Cell Research"; "Tax-Exempt Status." He also co-authored "Baptists" and "Race in America."



**Ellen Rafshoon** published "Esther Kahn Taylor: Hadassah Lady Turned Birth Control Advocate," in *Southern Jewish History* 19 (2016). She also published in the same journal and edition a review of a museum exhibit titled "Seeking Justice: The Leo Frank Case Revisited."

**David Cason** published "Preservice social studies teachers' conceptions of their role in the political socialization of students," in the *Georgia Social Studies Journal* vol 6, no. 1 (Summer 2016): pp. 18-29.

**Nik Ribianszky** was Commentator at the Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR) for a panel entitled "Mistresses of Small Worlds: Female Slaveholding in the Early American South" in New Haven, CT, July 23, 2016.

**Michael Gagnon's** website was recommended by the *American Historical Review* as a "go-to" repository for digital and archival records on *Hunt's Merchant Magazine*.

**Axel Corlu** published a book chapter, "Anarchists and Anarchism in the Ottoman Empire, 1850-1917," in *History From Below: a Tribute in Memory of Donald Quataert*, edited by Selim Karahasanoglu, Istanbul Bilgi University Press, (Istanbul, 2016).

**Nathan Orgill** published "Reawakening the Nation: British Journalists and the Interwar Debate on the Origins of World War I," in *Journalism Studies* vol. 17, no. 4 (June 2016).

**Seth Kendall** presented "Livy and the Western Way of War," to the Georgia Association of Historians in February 2016. He next presented "The Art of War in the First Five Books of Titus Livius," at the Missouri Valley History Conference in Omaha, in March 2016. He next presented "For King and Country: Titus Livius and the Roman Art of War during the Monarchy," to the Kings and Queens Conference in Greenville, South Carolina, in March 2016.

## History Faculty Contribute to Constitution Day Observances



September 15 participants, from left: Drs. Ribianszky, Holland, Cook, Rafshoon, Mancillas, Azarvan, and Rawls

GGC's faculty turned a federal mandate to observe the Constitution into a week of observances, debates, and forums. On September 14, political scientists Dovile Budryte and Michael Lewkowicz joined historian Mazin Tadros in presenting how the Constitution calls for presidential elections and ways it might be amended. On September 15, historians Ellen Rafshoon and Nik Ribianszky teamed with sociologist Laurel Holland and political scientist Amir Azarvan to propose various constitutional amendments. "The entire occasion represented an example of how we can still have informed discussions on important political topics," said historian Richard Rawls. "It was a real team effort, with Dr. Linda Mancillas contributing her classroom at the last moment and Dr. Richard Cook doing an excellent job of moderating."

## Alumni/ae and Student News.

### Alumni News: GGC History Grads Succeeding in the Community

**Jennifer McKillop (right)**, received her masters degree in theological studies (MTS) from Emory University's Candler School of Divinity, in May 2016.



**Paul Amato** was hired by the Gwinnett Intervention Education Center (GIVE East), where he teaches geography and world history to 9th and 10th grade students.

**Vickie Perez Abu-Shmais** was hired as a 6th grade Special Ed Teacher at Loganville Middle School.

**Stephanie Shivelhood** was admitted to the M.A. program in World History at the University of Nebraska, Kearney.

**Matthew Elakatt** was named the head wrestling coach at Parkview High School. He became one of the youngest head coaches in Gwinnett County Public Schools.

**Denis Knezovic** recently began a blog on international soccer (aka football). The blog can be found at this link: <http://denissoccerblog.com/> His first entry is: [Welcome to my soccer blog!](#)

**Kelley Kimball** is employed by Haines City High School in Haines City, Florida. She teaches World and US History, and is the Assistant Varsity Cheer Coach.

**Taylor Deneau** works at the University of Georgia as an I-Tech specialist in the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences, where he oversees the the IT needs of both the Food Science and Food Processing buildings.

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#### GGC Grad, Continued from page 1

of my time in the field. I have the utmost pleasure in saying that I received the Gumbert Award because of my work ethic and willingness to learn in the field."

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#### Faculty, Students Debate Constitution



Friday, September 16, witnessed a public debate on the 26th Amendment and voting ages. Pictured (L-R), Tiffany Tuma, Coordinator, Student Integrity Office, Monica El-Amin, Dr. Richard Rawls, and Dr. Michael Gagnon. Not pictured: students Matthew Davis and Colin Thon.

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#### Faculty, Students Visit National Archives



GGC's History Club attended the September 17, 2016, National Archives at Atlanta Symposium: "Epidemics, Ethics and Education; Public Health and the Federal Government." Dr. Ellen Rafshoon, Brieana Shelton, Dr. Michael Gagnon, and Brandon Seay (left to right) participated. The symposium featured scholarship on the history of medicine found in the National Archive at Atlanta's records. p. 4

#### CONTACTING GGC & HISTORY DISCIPLINE

History Point of Contact:

Dr. Seth Kendall: [skendall@ggc.edu](mailto:skendall@ggc.edu)

GGC HISTORY Editors:

Richard Rawls: [rrawls@ggc.edu](mailto:rrawls@ggc.edu), Patrick Zander: [pzander@ggc.edu](mailto:pzander@ggc.edu), and Michael Gunther: [mgunther@ggc.edu](mailto:mgunther@ggc.edu)

GGC School of Liberal Arts Phone: 678-407-5401