

GGC History News

A Journal of the GGC History Discipline

This Issue:

Graduate School p.1

Ex Libris Column p. 2

Listening to podcasts p. 3

Student, Alumni, Faculty News p. 4



Issue

20

July 2021

Like Peers Nationwide, GGC History Students and Alumnae/-i Face Graduate School Questions

The decision to attend graduate school has never been an easy one. There is a lot to consider. On the positive side, graduate degrees usually qualify a person for job offers they might not otherwise receive. The appeal of the degree is obvious in this case. On the negative side, people face the opportunity cost of foregone income for as long as the degree takes to earn. Plus, there is the cost. Uncertain job prospects may await some people upon graduation. Some grads have enjoyed the benefit of already holding a job that will further recognize and reward them for their graduate degree.

As Georgia Gwinnett College's history grads have discovered, the history major prepares people for a wide array of graduate study options. The variety of master's and doctoral degree programs into which GGC history graduates have been admitted reflect the possibilities: history, library science, law, public administration, political studies, archival management, historic preservation, education, archaeology, communication, educational administration, religion, business, and in the case of one student who sought additional chemistry courses, brewery school, as in making beer (literally).

Funding poses one obstacle to graduate study, but scholarship opportunities abound. Doctoral programs usually offer fellowships to those admitted. Such fellowships include tuition plus a stipend. Other sources are possible. "Many schools have fellowships for low income and underrepresented students," said Dr. Erica Metcalfe, an assistant professor of history. Regardless of the nature of the stipend, Metcalfe urges people to, "Apply for as many as you can and see what hits." Sometimes employers will pay for a portion of tuition. Independent foundations represent another option.

Another obstacle is the time it takes to earn a degree. Programs such as the masters in library science and law school have a defined number of courses and years. A traditional Ph.D. in history can take far longer and require language preparedness, technical skills, and other competencies. One GGC historian observed, "I would not discourage people from applying to a Ph.D. program in history, but they have to be committed to it for the long haul. It can take up to ten to twelve years."

Whatever the student's decision, GGC's history graduates have demonstrated success in earning admission to many of the state's and the nation's best graduate studies programs. *Richard Rawls*

Graduate Schools Where GGC

History Grads Have Been Admitted:

Auburn Univ.	Boston College
Brenau Univ.	Drexel Univ.
East Tennessee St. U.	Emory Univ.
George Washington U.	Liberty Univ.
Mercer Univ.	New York Univ.
Penn St. Univ.	Purdue Univ.
Univ. of Chicago	Univ. of Cincinnati
Univ. of Hawaii	Univ. of Louisville
UNC Chapel Hill	Univ. Tennessee
University of Nebraska Kearney	
John Marshall School of Law	
American Brewers Guild	

Georgia's Public Universities:

Univ. of Georgia	Georgia St. Univ.
GA College & State University	
GA Institute of Technology (GA Tech)	
Fort Valley State University	
GA Southern Univ.	Kennesaw St. U.
Univ. of North GA	Univ. of West GA
Valdosta St. Univ.	

Ex Libris: Favorites of GGC Historians



Logan Thomas began working at GGC part-time in 2010 and as a full-time Lecturer since 2018. He spent Summer 2021 getting vaccinated, advising incoming students during orientations, writing, and reading the ever-growing stack of books in his office. Here are two highlights he read over the summer.

Mark Bowden. *Hue 1968: A Turning Point of the American War in Vietnam*. New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2017.

T. G. Otte. *July Crisis: The World's Descent into War, Summer 1914*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Students never fail to inspire and reenergize me. As we wrapped up this unique academic year, my HIST 2112 classes and I spent the last weeks of spring discussing major twentieth-century events. After many class sessions, numerous students approached to inquire about additional books and documentaries on several topics. However, more expressed interest in World War I and the Vietnam War than in previous semesters. We had lively discussions that lasted long after the class sessions ended as we deliberated on the intricate details of the week's individuals and events. I found their genuine curiosity about topics we debated in class contagious, inspiring these unexpected themes in my summer reading list.

T.G. Otte's *July Crisis* covers the origins of a war that would impact the world. Published during the 100th anniversary of the summer that started the First World War in 1914, *July Crisis* dives into what historian John Langdon described as "The Great Debate" to determine why this devastating struggle started. Otte contends existing alliances had little to do with the motives behind this catastrophic conflict. Instead, Otte suggests the primary belligerents shared a fear of weakness that left many diplomats to believe that war was the only option. Germany feared the decline of its most significant ally, Austria-Hungary. France worried that failure to show strength might force Russia to reconsider its alliance.

Even Great Britain, a country Otte spends much of the book praising by highlighting the work of its foreign secretary, Sir Edward Grey, eventually entered the war to avoid appearing weak in a postwar era. Otte supports his argument with an exhaustive array of primary sources, from official diplomatic correspondence to private journals.

In closing this work, Otte declared the hope that studying the origins of the First World War sharpens "an understanding of the importance of strategic thinking" and increases "awareness of the frailties of human judgment in politics" (Otte, 524). *July Crisis* will provide a fascinating read for those interested in discovering more aspects of this significant conflict.

"The primary belligerents shared a fear of weakness that left many... to believe war was the only option."

Following the energetic questions regarding the Vietnam War and a student's desire to discover additional resources to learn more, I suggested Mark Bowden's *Hue: 1968*, since I had read it the previous fall. After discussing it with the student, I had to revisit it this summer! *Hue 1968* provides an intimate overview of both sides participating in a consequential battle during the Vietnam War. During my second read, I was once again amazed at the graphic portrayal of combat. Bowden's research and unflinching writing style is compelling, resulting in a remarkable book I would recommend to anyone interested in this complex conflict. However, it is not for the faint of heart.

As we embark on another academic year at GGC, I look forward to more exciting discussions in and out of the classroom.

Contact Information: lthomas@ggc.edu

Lend an Ear: Historians Listening to Podcasts

Favorite podcasts of historians



In this *Ex Libris*, GGC History faculty, graduates, and students report their favorite podcasts. Sometimes inspiration comes from the recommendations of others!

GGC History Faculty

David Mason: "50 Things That Made the Modern Economy." <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p04b1g3c/episodes/downloads>

Ellen Rafshoon: "Buried Truths." <https://www.wabe.org/shows/buried-truths/>

Logan Thomas: "History that doesn't suck with Greg Jackson." <https://historythatdoesntsuck.com/>

Mazin Tadros: "Farmer to Farmer with Chris Blanchard." <https://www.farmertofarmerpodcast.com/>

Michael Gunther: "This Day in Esoteric Political History." <https://www.radiotopia.fm/podcasts/thisday>

Nathan Orgill: "Crooked Media Podcast Wind of Change." <https://crooked.com/podcast-series/wind-of-change/>

Patrick Ludolph: "BackStory." <https://www.backstoryradio.org/>

Remalian Cocar: "Matt Lewis and the News." <https://www.mattklewis.com/matt-lewis-and-the-news/>

Richard Cook: "Malcolm Gladwell's Revisionist History." <http://revisionisthistory.com/>

Richard Rawls: "Freakonomics Podcast." <https://freakonomics.com/archive/>

Robert Findlay: "Offshore Podcast." <https://www.offshorepodcast.org/>

Wayne Ackerson: "DCU Soccer Podcast." <https://dcusoccer.com/>

George Darden: (Education Faculty but who works with GGC's History-Teacher Cert majors): "Dear Hank and John Podcast." <https://www.wncstudios.org/podcasts/dear-hank-john>

GGC History Majors & Recent Grads

Brianna Cummings: "I have two." 1) "The Basement Yard." <https://www.thebasementyard.com/> and 2) "No Worries if Not!" <https://www.audible.com/pd/Podcast/B08K578TJM>

Samantha Morgan: "We hate movies." <https://www.whmpodcast.com/>

Kolton DeFoor: (English Major, History Minor '21): "Hidden Brain." <https://www.npr.org/series/423302056/hidden-brain>

Jack Harrison: (grad '21): "Talkin' Baseball from Jom-boy Media." <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/talkin-baseball-mlb-podcast/id1472939543>

Chelsea Kamplain: (grad '21): "Crime Junkie." <https://crimejunkiepodcast.com/>

Marcus O'Rear: "The Joe Rogan Experience podcast." <https://open.spotify.com/show/4rOoJ6Egrf8K2lrywzwoMk>

Katherine Organista (grad '21): 1) "Buried Truths": <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/577471834/buried-truths> and 2) "Ben Franklin's World." <https://benfranklinsworld.com/category/podcast/page/3/>

Amon Whitfield (grad '21): "Making Sense with Sam Harris." <https://samharris.org/podcast/>

GGC History Graduates:

Gunter Bales: "BBC In Our Time History Podcast." <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01dh5yg/episodes/downloads>

Caitlyn Hanrahan: "Crime Junkie." <https://crimejunkiepodcast.com/>

Jay Jones: "Unspooled." <https://www.unspooledpodcast.com/>

Justin Lee: "Dan Carlin's Hardcore History." <https://www.dancarlin.com/>

Kathi Nikolich: "Business Wars." <https://wonderly.com/shows/business-wars/> and "Say Yes with Carla Hall." <https://wonderly.com/shows/say-yes-with-carla-hall/>

Jessica Tatman: "This American Life." <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/listen>

Alumni/ae, Student and Event News

History Graduate News

Vesna Kurspahic, '12, is working for Congresswoman Carolyn Bourdeaux's office as a Constituent Services Case Manager/ Federal Grant Coordinator. Prior to this, she worked for Congressman Rob Woodall.

Monica El-Amin, '17, is doing an internship with GulfQuest: National Maritime Museum of The Gulf of Mexico. She is working on educational programming for the museum, as well as the environmental and social history of Mobile, Alabama.

Tyler Fasnacht, '18, was accepted into Kennesaw State University's MA program in Art and Design with a concentration in Museum Studies.

Justin Lee, '20, was admitted to the MAT program at Georgia State University.

Madison Smith, '20, was accepted into the University of Hawaii's Ph.D. program in Asian history.

Keith Halcomb, '21, was accepted by the University of Georgia's master's degree program in historic preservation.

Katherine Organista '21 was admitted to the MAT degree program in social studies at the University of Georgia.

Covid Commencement: In-person Ceremony Held Year Later for 2020 Graduates

2020 history graduate Catresse Addison and Dr. Richard Rawls



GGC fulfilled its promise to host an in-person graduation ceremony for 2020 graduates on May 13, 2021, at 7:30 p.m., at the Infinite Energy Arena, in Duluth, GA. Vaccinations for Covid-19 permitted GGC to hold the "socially distanced" event. "I think such ceremonies are vitally significant for students and their families to celebrate their achievement, and I applaud GGC for its resolve to produce such an important event at the earliest possible time," said Richard Rawls, professor of history.

CONTACTING GGC and HISTORY DISCIPLINE

History Chair of Faculty: Nathan Orgill - norgill@ggc.edu

History Chair of Studies: Ellen Rafshoon erafshoo@ggc.edu

GGC HISTORY Editors:

Richard Rawls: rrawls@ggc.edu

Patrick Zander: pzander@ggc.edu

Michael Gunther: mgunther@ggc.edu

Commencement Spring 2021 Class



Left to right, Dr. Seth Kendall, Dr. Michael Gunther, Taylor Dusablon, Sal LaRosa, Nicole (Samford) Priddy, Mitchell Krystopa, Keith Halcomb, Katherine Organista, Dr. Carey Shellman, Chelsea Kamplain, Matthew Powell, Dr. Ellen Rafshoon, Karl Craig, Dr. Richard Cook, Amon Whitfield, Dr. Patrick Ludolph

Georgia Gwinnett College held commencement ceremonies for its Spring 2021 graduates during two different times at the Infinite Energy Arena in Duluth, GA, on May 13, 2021. The Schools of Business and Liberal Arts conferred their degrees at 8:30 a.m. The Schools of Education, Health Sciences, and Science and Technology hosted their ceremony at 2 p.m. Historians received their degrees in the morning session. Those graduating with a B.A. degree in history included Karl Craig, Keith Halcomb, Katherine Organista, Matthew Powell, Nicole Samford Priddy, Lawson Rhine, Robert Stanfield, and Amon Whitfield. Those graduating with a B.A. Degree in History with an emphasis in Teacher Certification were Quinci Blalock, Taylor Dusablon, Jack Harrison, Chelsea Kamplain, Mitchell Krystopa, Salvatore LaRosa, Zachary Regan, and Jasmin Sosa. Also receiving a degree was Kolton DeFoor, an English major and history minor. "It was nice to be able to congratulate our students at an in-person ceremony," said Dr. Seth Kendall.

Next Issue:

The GGC History News has been a bit delayed due to Covid-19 and the demands it placed on teaching. In the next issue, coming out soon, we shall examine non-traditionally aged students, the challenges they face, and the benefits they bring to the entire classroom. Dr. Erica Metcalfe will compose the next *Ex Libris* section, and there will be expanded coverage of graduate, student, and faculty accomplishments.