

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY



Greetings from Hardin Hall. This is the Summer 2022 report on happenings in the department, and as always, there is lots of news to share. This August we welcome 37 new undergraduate majors, seven new M.A. students and 6 Ph.D. students. The department also says goodbye to some accomplished graduates who are leaving for bigger and better things.

FROM THE CHAIR

Hello History Alumni,

I hope this newsletter finds you all healthy and well.

In the last year, we have been thinking hard about ways to enhance our engagement with our alumni, whether through social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) or through organizing alumni events. Indeed, we just established a new Outreach and Engagement Committee that is tasked with boosting our engagement with our alumni.

I am happy to use this opportunity to invite you all to our Alumni reunion on Friday, September 16, 2022, in Hardin Hall.

We designed a special Alumni t-shirt for the event, so in lieu of your RSVP, please submit your t-shirt order (name, size, etc.) here: <https://tinyurl.com/54f9xm92>

Come catch up with old friends, meet fellow alumni and reconnect or get to know our faculty. Enjoy some light refreshments and drinks and compete in our first annual Trivia Challenge to have fun and win prizes.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in person in September, but I am also always happy to communicate with you all by other means. If you would like to reach out to me on any issue, or specifically about ideas on



how to strengthen and enhance our engagement with our alumni, please do not hesitate to contact me at abein@clermson.edu

Amit Bein
Professor of Modern Middle East
History and Department Chair

ALUMNI CORNER

The Department welcomes back Dr. **Otis W. Pickett**, Clemson’s new University Historian, and an alum of our program (B.A. 2003). Dr. Pickett takes over from Dr. Paul Anderson, who stepped down as University Historian last year. Dr. Pickett will oversee Historic Properties, disseminate new historical content related to Clemson’s history, and work with archives and special collections to help curate new collections. He comes to Clemson from Mississippi College, where he was an associate professor of History and directed the Social Studies Education Program. Dr. Pickett was born in Charleston, S.C. After graduating from Clemson he studied church history and religious history at Covenant Seminary, then pursued his MA in History at the College of Charleston and the Citadel, focusing on the experiences of enslaved African people in mission churches in Charleston. Pickett then attended the University of Mississippi for his Ph.D. in history where he served as an archives graduate assistant, head docent at the LQC Lamar Historic House Museum and wrote a dissertation on mission churches on the southern frontier from 1817-1874, focusing on the experiences of Native American and African American people. Pickett has articles published in *The Native South*, the South Carolina Historical Association, the Southern Quarterly, the Journal of African American History and has authored multiple book chapters including in *Southern Religion*, *Southern Culture: Essays in Honor of Charles Reagan Wilson* with the University Press of Mississippi. In 2018, Pickett and Dr. Patrick Alexander received the Mississippi Humanities Council Educators of the Year Award for their work in creating and directing the Prison to College Pipeline.



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH

In 2015 History Professor Emeritus Richard Saunders endowed a student travel fund to support history student scholarship. This past Spring the Saunders’ endowment allowed History major Sophie Anderson to travel to London to conduct research for her senior seminar project for Dr. Marks ‘Global Russian Revolution’ course. Sophie’s topic was a study of the relationship between the last Tsar of Russia, Nicholas II, and his cousin, the King of England, George V. Her research took her to the National Archives in Kew, London and the Royal Archive at Windsor Castle. Sophie caught the research bug in London and hopes to study history as a graduate student in the U.K.



Hello Mandy Regan



Dr. Mandy Regan joins the Department of History and Geography this fall as our new Digital historian. Mandy has already established herself as a popular lecturer while teaching several sections of ‘History 1010’ during the 2021-22 academic year.

Q:How was your first year at Clemson?

Dr. Amanda Regan (DAR): Great! One thing I liked about Clemson was how welcoming the Department was to me in my first year as an adjunct. I also found the students kind, caring and excited to learn. After two years of pandemic it was a breath of fresh air to be back in the classroom with such an enthusiastic bunch of students.

Q:What classes will you be teaching in the future?

DAR: Last year, I taught the first half of the U.S. history Survey (Editors note: For old timers, that is History 101, for those of you who graduated after 2012, it is 1010). This year I’ll be teaching U.S. history 1918-1945 and U.S. Women’s History. I was hired as a digital historian so I will be working with the new Ph.D. students as well. At least once a year I expect to teach Digital History Methods II which is a computational history course. It trains students to program and to create and work with large historical datasets. I am very excited about working with the new Ph.D. students.

Q :What is your current research project?

DAR: I’ve got two main projects at the moment. The first is my book manuscript *Shaping up: Physical fitness initiatives for women 1880-1965* which looks at the ways the state intervened to encourage female physical fitness during the 20th century. The second is a digital history project called "Mapping the Gay Guides", which is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Working with a collaborator in California, we are digitizing guides that were created for LGBTQ travelers starting in 1965 (not dissimilar from the "Green Books" that were published for African-Americans in Jim Crow America). Thus far we have published materials up to the late 1970s, and this summer we will add 25,000 new entries from the 1980s. The goal is to create a public website that makes the digitized guides available and maps the locations they identify, from 1965-2005.

Q:What’s a course that had a big impact on your own education as a Historian?

DAR: The course I’m teaching in Fall 2022, American History from 1918 to 1945 is modeled on a course I took as an undergraduate at California State San Marcos, with my mentor Jill Watts. I took it as a junior and it is the course that made me want to be a history major. Much of my current class is inspired by Dr. Watts, and I’m hoping to invite her to my class to meet my students this semester.

Q: Do you have a favorite history book that you would recommend to our alumni?

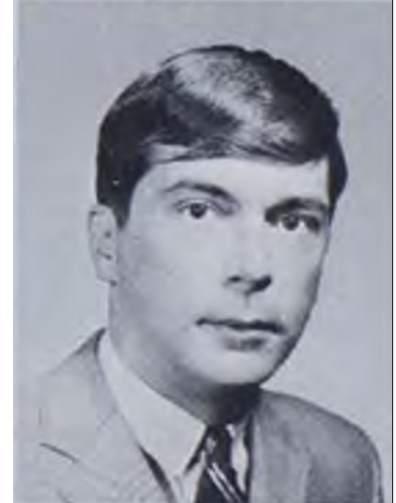
DAR: One of my favorites-and one I assign in my class-is Jill Lepore *The Secret History of Wonder Woman* (Vintage, 2015), which uses the fascinating story of the comic book heroine as a window into several significant trends in women’s history during the 20th century. I also recommend my mentor Jill Watts’ latest book *The Black Cabinet: the Untold Story of African Americans and Politics During the Age of Roosevelt* (Grove Press, 2020) about the African-American leaders who advised FDR during the 1930s.

Goodbye Alan Grubb

The Department of History and Geography bids goodbye to Professor Alan Grubb, who will retire at the end of Fall semester after fifty five years on the faculty. Dr. Grubb came to Clemson in 1967 directly from Paris where he had been researching his doctoral thesis. He joined a department of social sciences, not of history, which also included psychology, sociology, political science and philosophy. It was an era in which students had a dress code and were expected to attend Saturday class meetings. It was in these early classes that Dr. Grubb first assigned the text *Mrs. Beeton's Book of Household Management*, which he had discovered after literally tripping over a copy (a rare 1869 edition) in Cooper library. Students enjoyed the text and rewarded him with the nickname "the cookbook man." Dr. Grubb eventually developed a popular course that used this and other cook books to teach history through studying foodways. During five decades at Clemson Dr. Grubb taught an array of topics to undergraduates and graduates alike. He particularly enjoyed teaching Historical methods, and it was while teaching the Sophomore seminar "The Historian's Craft" that he first became interested in Clemson University's history. In this course, and in subsequent Creative Inquiry courses, Dr. Grubb and his students studied an array of Clemson topics, including the life of former Clemson President Walter Riggs, the career of journalist and Clemson alumnus Ben Robertson, and the history of the beloved landmark The Clemson House.

Many faculty across campus will remember Dr. Grubb mainly for his remarkable university service. He spent several decades in the Faculty Senate, including a term as Faculty Senate President. For years he served as the chair of the University Names Committee, and was recognized on multiple occasions for his service achievements to the College of AAH and to the university. Others will know him as a scholar of Clemson history, whose essays have contributed to several edited volumes about our campus. But Dr. Grubb was first and foremost a teacher, and generations of Clemson students will remember him as an engaging lecturer, a knowledgeable scholar and as an educator with high standards and expectations.

His colleagues will miss his sense of humor and his commitment to the discipline and to the institution. But while he may not be teaching anymore come Spring, we expect he will continue to be an important contributor to the intellectual life of Hardin Hall, and the Clemson community.



FACULTY SCHOLARSHIP

Summer is a busy time for faculty scholarship. Here is an update on what some of your favorite faculty have been working on this summer:

Josh Catalano

Has been busy writing grants to the National Parks Service and the South Carolina Humanities foundation. He also conducted the summer archaeological field school at Fort Rutledge and had a book chapter published (co-authored with Bri Pocratsky from the Department of Sociology).

Katie Langenfeld

Has remained busy working on revisions to one article accepted for publication with *Studies in Late Antiquity* and drafting another for submission to *Historia: Zeitschrift für Alte Geschichte* later this fall. Both articles reassess the accuracy of one of the primary sources for imperial history in the fourth century CE, the *Res Gestae* of Ammianus Marcellinus, and work to rehabilitate the reputations of two unfairly maligned emperors, Valens and Constantius II.

Stephanie Hassell

Is in the midst of getting her book on slavery and conversion in Portuguese India ready for submission to a publisher. Connected to this project, she has been working with a research assistant over the summer to sort inquisition records.

Caroline Dunn

Has been working on her book project, *Ladies-in-Waiting in Medieval England*. While most scholars have ignored their significance, ladies-in-waiting played important roles in political events, in ways that assisted and promoted the monarchs.

Lee Wilson

Is already well into her second book project (see last newsletter for the glowing praise her first book received upon publication) which looks at how Black enslaved peoples challenged their commodification through litigation in the 18th century.

FACULTY TRAVEL

Department faculty fanned out across the globe once again this summer. Here are some highlights (and some terrific pictures) from their adventures.

Department Chair **Amit Bein** was in Turkey for two weeks. While much of his time was spent in the archives, doing research for his current book project 'Turkey, the Second World War, and the Fate of the Balkans and the Middle East', this picture suggests that he was able to squeeze in some research at pastry shops as well.



Stephanie Barczewski made several trips to the U.K. to present at a conference and to spend ten days in the Dartmoor National Park working on her new book project on British National Parks. The park was the inspiration for the Sherlock Holmes novella *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. Dr. Barczewski, like the famous detective, ignored local warnings that "if you value your life or your reason keep away from the moor". She was rewarded with a chance meeting, not with a giant hound, but with these charming Dartmoor ponies.



James Burns took students to South Africa, where they got within 12 feet of this rhino on safari. He also presented his work at the annual meeting of the Association for the study of the History of Moving Picture Exhibition and Reception at Sapienza University in Rome (where, thanks to guidance

from Katie Langenfeld, Elizabeth Carney and Paul Anderson, he did not have a single bad meal).



Clio, the Muse of History, at the Medici Villa in Rome. Clearly the most badass of the Muses.



Michael Silvestri took a long-delayed research trip to Ireland to conduct work on his book project "A Country that Has Served the World Well with Police": The Irish Policeman in the British Empire and Beyond. While he spent much of his time working in the lovely National Library of Ireland (pictured here) he also had the opportunity to do some hiking, including a trip to see the ruins of 12th century Kilgeever Abbey.



Legal Historian **Lee Wilson**, keeping tabs on the Supreme Court during her research-trip to the Library of Congress.



And the faculty travel winner is **Christa Smith**, seen here relaxing in full Indiana Jones garb at Machu Pichu. Dr. Smith was in South America this summer working with the National Council for Geographic Education.

ANOTHER SUMMER FOR THE FORT RUTLEDGE DIG

Dr. Catalano's team of students and faculty embarked on their second summer digging at the Fort Rutledge site on the Clemson Campus. The archaeology field school unearthed a great deal this summer, including indigenous tools and pottery from the Native American settlement, as well as a brick foundation, which may be a cellar, from the colonial era fort.



Dr. Catalano and Dr. Markus receive an award from the Daughters of the American Revolution. Dr. Catalano was also nominated as "America's best dressed field Archeologist".

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Student Awards: Congratulations to the winners of this year's departmental awards:

Rand McNally Prize in Geography-Andrew Osborne Boyles

Carl Lafayette Epting History Essay Award: best paper written in an undergraduate History class-**Courtney Hall**

William Shannon Morris Prize: given annually to the graduating senior with the most outstanding record in historical studies-**Abigail Ready**

Silver Bowl Award of the S.C. State Society of the Daughters of the American Colonists: given to the major who has excelled in the study of history-**Kathleen Bernstein**



Alex Bowen



Allie Cobb

GRAD STUDENT NEWS

The Ernest McPherson Lander Jr. Award for the most outstanding graduate student in the History Department was shared this year by Allie Cobb and Alex Bowen.

Alex's thesis "'The Spirit of the Old South Can Never Die: Postbellum Middle Florida and the Elite Struggle for Social Hegemony, 1850-1942'" was supervised by Vernon Burton. Alex is headed to Athens, Georgia in the Fall to begin his Ph.D. in Southern History.

Allie Cobb's thesis "Paz y Amor: The Making of Mexican Hippie Culture" was supervised by Rachel Moore.

Jessica Foster's thesis "'I Held on at Any Price': Victim Self-Preservation in the Sonderkommando in Auschwitz and Treblinka" was supervised by Michael Meng. She will be starting the Digital History Ph.D. program at Clemson this fall.

Kayla Cook's thesis "From 'Victorian' to 'Unmanageable': Radical Irish Women in the Revolutionary Years, 1900-1923" was directed by Michael Silvestri. Kayla aspires to work in a museum or library. She is working on a book about Ringo Starr's first wife, Maureen Starkey.

Carole Thomas' thesis "In the Grip of the Grippe: The 1918 Influenza Pandemic Viewed Through a Cross-Section of American Society" was supervised by Pam Mack. Carole embarks on a career teaching Social Studies at Daniel High school this fall.

Harris Bailey's thesis "The Subtlety of Discrimination: Segregation and the Selective Service Act of 1917-1918" was supervised by Vernon Burton.

Zach Chamberlin's thesis "The Unity of Normanitas: Norman Identity in Twelfth-Century Scotland and Southern Italy" was supervised by Caroline Dunn.

Amani Altwan's thesis "The Forgotten Faith: the Experiences of Enslaved Muslims and the Influence of Islam in the United States, 1730-1864" was supervised by Lee Wilson.



Photo taken at 2018 alumni event

Don't miss the 2022 History and Geography Alumni Event!
September 16, 4-6 p.m. in Hardin Hall. Take the opportunity to:

- *Reconnect with classmates and faculty
- *Participate in a Trivia contest (with History and Geography swag prizes!)
- *Meet our fantastic new professors
- *Say goodbye to the retiring Alan Grubb

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/54f9xm92>