

# History Department Newsletter

## Letter from the Department Chair

Greetings from the UWG History Department! We hope you will enjoy our latest newsletter. A lot of good things have happened in the department during the past year. We added two new colleagues – Dr. Carrie Pitzulo, who succeeds Dr. Cita Cook as our U.S. Women’s historian, and Dr. Nadeja Popov-Reynolds, our new specialist in Ancient History. Several colleagues published books this year, and the department recently hosted a roundtable in which Dr. Dan Williams discussed his new book, *God’s Own Party: The Making of the Christian Right*, and Dr. Pitzulo talked about her newly published *Bachelors and Bunnies: The Sexual Politics of Playboy*.

Our graduate program continues to thrive. Drs. Ann McCleary and Keith Hebert, co-directors of the Center for Public History, and their students are working on a wide range of projects, including a study of African American Shape Note singing that will result in the Center’s fifth CD compilation of regional music. This summer, the Center began moving from its current location in Pafford Hall to the beautifully renovated Ingram Library. The graduate program also now offers our students two new concentrations: The Atlantic World, and War and Society in Global Perspective. Dr. Keith Pacholl has done a splendid job of directing the graduate program over the past five years. As of June 1, Dr. Popov-Reynolds has taken over as director and we expect great things from her as well.

In an era of seemingly unending budget cuts, our students continue to benefit from the generosity of our benefactors. The Casimir Pulaski Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution initiated a scholarship that will go to a worthy History student every year. And in



Department chair, Dr. Steve Goodson

honor of their son Michael, a History major, Joane and Mike Goodroe established the Michael Haigwood Goodroe Endowment, which will provide generous annual support to the History Department into perpetuity. We are extremely grateful for the kindness that these and other groups and individuals have shown us.

Given the state of the economy, 2011-2012 should prove to be another challenging year. But in the midst of hard times, I can predict a few things with confidence. The members of the History Department will continue to be among the finest teachers and most productive scholars at the University of West Georgia. And our students – undergraduate and graduate alike – will continue to grow and develop intellectually under the tutelage of individuals who are deeply committed to their well-being.

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## Faculty News

### Dr. Carrie Pitzulo

Dr. Pitzulo started teaching as a graduate student and continued as an adjunct professor in New York City at Hunter College. She first noticed UWG's status as a mid-sized public university. The South particularly appealed to her because of its rich history.

Once she visited, Dr. Pitzulo was "struck by the friendly and supportive

atmosphere." She was also "struck" by the sight of armadillos on the road — she didn't realize they were in Georgia! Armadillos aside, she feels lucky to have this job, not only because of the difficult job market, but also because she has found herself with a great staff.

Her teaching load includes upper division and graduate courses on Women in American His-

tory, and in Spring 2012 she will be teaching her first graduate seminar course on the history of reproductive rights in America.

Dr. Pitzulo is looking forward to creating additional courses dealing with American Masculinity, Sexual History, and various, more specific classes relating to women's history.



### Dr. Nadejda Popov-Reynolds

Dr. Popov-Reynolds is a new Assistant Professor of Ancient Studies. She has taught at both the University of Texas at Austin and Florida Gulf Coast University.

While she initially saw herself at "a tiny liberal arts college," she also realized that she didn't want to teach "entitled" students. Dr. Popov-Reynolds appreciates the hard-working nature of UWG's students

and she looks forward to teaching undergraduate and graduate courses.

Dr. Popov-Reynolds is known for her creativity in the classroom. Whether marching in military formation or engaging in cut-throat politics in the classroom, students are treated with hands-on experiences in her courses.

This past spring, Dr. Popov-Reynolds taught her ideal class: Greek and Ro-

man Warfare. This fall she is teaching a new course for the History Department, Latin for Historians, in addition to classes on the Roman Republic, and World History. She is also the new Graduate Department Adviser and has already made quite an impact as graduate coordinator.

### Dr. Colleen Vasconcellos

Dr. Vasconcellos is celebrating her sixth year at UWG. Before teaching here, she taught at Kennesaw State University. She joined the department first as a visiting assistant professor and became a lecturer in 2009. Now, she is being promoted to a tenure-track position within the department.

Although her semesters are generally crazy, Dr. Vasconcellos loves the

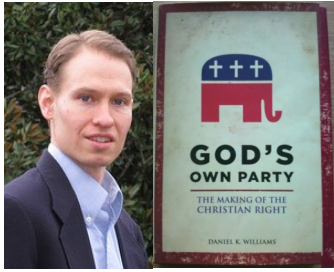
support from her fellow colleagues and the enthusiasm from her students. Of her time here at UWG she says, "I've made some great friends here, and I can't imagine being anywhere else." Thus far, her favorite classes to teach have been Atlantic World (an introductory class for the new Atlantic Studies concentration) and Abolitionism in the Atlantic World.

Her students love her, too, as evidenced by receiv-

ing two teaching awards. In spite of a heavy teaching load of survey classes (US History to 1865 and World History after 1500), she continues to offer upper-division and graduate courses. She plans to teach future courses on the History of Brazil, Latin American Women, and Comparative Revolutions.



**Faculty Publications**

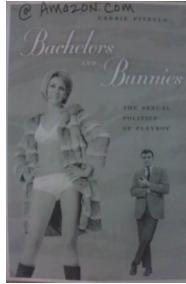


Dr. Daniel Williams published his first book, *God's Own Party: The Making of the Christian Right*. In it, he

argues that the Christian Right's success came from its alliance with the Republican party, and that this alliance began decades earlier than previously suspected.

The book is a development of his dissertation, "From the Pews to the Polls: The Formation of a Southern Christian Right," although since, he has done substantial archival research and editing. Notably, in 2002, he was able to research both at the International House on Berkley campus as well as at the conservative Bob Jones University. Bob Jones proved to have the "friendliest and most helpful" archivists he's worked with. The process took about nine years from inception to publication.

His next monograph will be a history of the American pro-life movement from the early post-war era to the present. He hopes that graduate students who are looking to publish will be patient throughout the revision process and be willing to put in the necessary work.



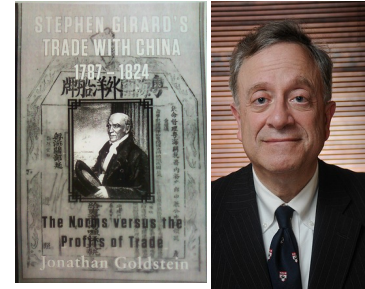
Dr. Carrie Pitzulo published her first book this past May, *Bachelors and Bunnies: The Sexual Politics of Playboy*. This monograph reevaluates the magazine's portrayal of masculinity, femininity, and heterosexuality from the

early 50s through the early 70s.

She first became interested in the subject after reading Barbara Ehrenreich's book about masculinity in the 50s. This book began with her graduate work and continued with her dissertation. She began work in 2003, and the publishers accepted the final product in 2009.

As an extension of her research, Dr. Pitzulo had an opportunity to interview Hugh Hefner. That was "amazing and terrifying," but the conversation was good and she was invited to stay for dinner and movie night at the mansion. The éclairs were very tasty.

Currently, she is researching a 1936 female sheriff. The story involves sex, murder, and the national press. She believes that graduate students, especially those who want to get a PhD, should try to get a peer-based publication with a topic that they love.



Dr. Jonathan Goldstein published *Stephen Girard's Trade With China, 1787 — 1824: The Norms versus the Profits of Trade* through MerwinAsia publishers. The book is an in-depth study of Philadelphia Stephen Girard's experience and withdrawal from the trade in China. Goldstein has enlightened readers to the active nature of China in Western economics, as well as discussed the difference between European and Asian perceptions of drugs, smuggling, and national sovereignty affected world trade.

The book is dedicated to Francis D. Smith, Dr. Goldstein's high school History teacher. Through this dedication, Dr. Goldstein hopes this book encourages readers to understand the importance of educators in all students' lives.

**Changing Positions**

Dr. Popov-Reynolds is the new Graduate Department Adviser. She is taking over for Dr. Pacholl, who has been "amazing" in the transition process. In her new position, Dr. Popov-Reynolds will review applications, scholarships, and graduate classes, as well as coordinate thesis committees and advise students. She hopes to create a thesis colloquium class and diversify students by emphasizing comparative topics. Both of these ideas will help the department grow and better prepare students for jobs after graduation.

Dr. Vasconcellos is the new Phi Alpha Theta Faculty Adviser. She is taking over for Dr. Lipp. Phi Alpha Theta is a History honors society that promotes the study of history through the encouragement of research, good teaching, publication and the exchange of learning and ideas among historians. When she was a student at Florida International University, she was president of her chapter's branch of Phi Alpha Theta for 2 years.

**Other Notable Faculty Achievements**

**Dr. Michael de Nie** delivered papers at the annual meeting of the Southern Conference for British Studies and the American Conference on Irish Studies. He was reelected Secretary of the American Conference on Irish Studies.

**Dr. Keith Herbert** won the department's J. David Griffin Award for Superior Teaching.

**Dr. Carrie Pitzulo** will be Departmental adviser and help develop campus programming for the Responsible Sexuality Committee.

**Dr. Colleen Vasconcellos** is currently working on revising her dissertation "And A Child Shall Lead Them?: Slavery, Abolition, and Childhood in Jamaica, 1750-1838." Her book, *Girlhood: A Global History*, edited with Jennifer Hillman Hilgren was published in April 2010 by Rutgers University Press. She was awarded the SGA Faculty Member of the

Year for the College of Arts and Sciences for the 2010/11 year.

**Dr. Daniel Williams** was awarded a visiting research fellowship from Princeton University for the 2011-2012 academic year.

**Dr. Aran MacKinnon** and **Dr. Elaine MacKinnon** are co-editing a World History text entitled *Places of Encounter* for Congressional Quarterly/Sage Press, which highlights the importance of place in understanding major historical developments. In addition to Dr. Aran MacKinnon's chapter on Cape Town (Age of European Expansion), Dr. Elaine MacKinnon's chapter on St. Petersburg (Russian Revolution) and her coauthored chapter on Berlin (Cold War), it includes contributions by **Dr. Charles Lipp** on Paris (French Revolution) and **Dr. Nadejda Popov-Reynolds** on Athens (Greek Industry, Culture, and Democracy).

## Student Awards

Kristen Griffin won the **Abraham Baldwin Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution Award**. This award goes to a non-traditional, senior-level female history student with a concentration in US history and a GPA of 3.0 or above. Kristen will be the first winner of the award who also happens to be an actual member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. On her mother's side, she is related to Captain John Cuthbertson, who fought in the Revolution. She plans on graduating in 2012.

Dusty Marie Dye won the **Elizabeth Leonard Parker Award** for Excellence in Writing Georgia History for her paper "*To be Buried in a Decent, Christ-Like Manner: Funerals in Colonial Georgia, 1733-1763*". She earned this award for writing the best student research paper on Georgia history. Dusty's paper noted how funerals reflected the social, cultural, and religious diversity in the colonies, as well as individual and community strife. She also won the **Theodore B. Fitz-Simons Public History Award**, which is awarded to a history student who demonstrates excellence in public history. She completed her MA degree this past summer.

Kevin Walls won the **Hellen J. Jackson Undergraduate Paper Award** for his paper *The My Lai Massacre*. Kevin earned this award for his excellence in undergraduate writing. He argues that the 1968 massacre was not merely an isolated incident, but indicative of behavior in the larger war.

Will Avery won the **Albert S. Hanser Graduate Paper Award** for his paper *Lyrics of Labor: Gastonia, 1929*. Will's paper merited the award for its excellence in graduate writing.



Dr. Charles Lipp inducting new members of Phi Alpha Theta (from Left to Right): Christopher Rosser, Sara Berry, Michael Haigwood Goodroe, Kristen Griffin, Robert Huiet, Jason Kennedy, Tiffany Luoma, and Kyle Owenby. Not pictured: Guy Fullerton, Jr., Candice Larson, Charles Lott, Lauren Miller, Nicholas Oster, ZeKeysia Cannon, and Jennifer Reid.

Charles Lott, Jr. won the **W. Cope Goodwin Award**, which is given to a rising junior or senior history major with a 3.0 or better GPA. He is interested in anthropology and public history.

Ryan McAnally won the **Vachel Davis Whatley, Sr. Scholarship**. This award goes to a sophomore who has declared a history major at UWG. His concentration is in early Colonial America, but his favorite class has been Greek and Roman Warfare. He plans on graduating in 2013.

Stephanie N. Thomas won the **Thomas A. Herndon, Jr. Award**, which is awarded to a history major who has exhibited outstanding qualities of character, scholarship, civic leadership and has participated in the social and political sciences.

Amanda Jirka won the **Kennedy History Graduate Award of Excellence**. She received this award for her stellar achievements as a graduate student. Her concentration is in US History and Atlantic Studies. She graduated in May.

Cecilie Nichole Fowler won **Robert Ray and Bula Adams Claxton Memorial Scholarship**. This award goes to an undergraduate who is seeking teacher certification and who has an interest in one or more of the world fields of study.

**2011 National Council For Public History**

The 2011 National Council for Public History was held on April 8th this year in Pensacola, Florida. Its relative closeness to UWG provided a great opportunity for students of the Public History program to present their current projects to a national audience.

Dusty Dye shared her presentation, "Public History in Sacred Places," which guides historians towards respectful conduct in cemeteries and churches. She talked about her own experiences with Oakland Cemetery and African-American Shape Note singing. Mollie Marlow and Bobby Moore jointly displayed their work on the

"New Harmonies" project and website. The website includes "Georgia Root Music," and spans from Native American songs to bluegrass, country, sacred, and protest songs. Marcus Toft revealed his plans for the Leake Mounds Trail in Bartow County, Ga. He has designed 18 interpretive panels to direct visitors through this archeological site.

It wasn't all work, however. The students enjoyed a living history demonstration as well as a night walk on the beach. Marcus Toft said, "The conference was great to meet other public history students and professionals." Congratulations to our students!



**1st Annual Graduate Symposium**

This year, the history department sponsored its first annual graduate speaker symposium. Dr. Pacholl introduced the speakers, who included Kyle Owenby, Dusty Dye, Amanda Jirka, and Bobby Moore.

Owenby presented on Martin Luther's understanding of the Turks as a physical parallel in Rome to the spiritual destruction of Catholicism. Dye's presentation was on the evolution of mourning customs in colonial and early Republic South Carolina. Jirka gave a comparative report of the deaths in Disney's *Bambi* and *The Lion King* to illustrate the

evolution of the Good Death in twentieth-century America. Moore discussed the creation of the underground punk rock scene in Atlanta from house parties to independent venues and clubs.

The speakers were all informative as well as entertaining. After the presentations, Drs. Van Valen and Pitzulo gave the speakers individualized critiques to help the students refine their research. Hopefully, this will just be the first of many such symposiums to come.

**History Club & Phi Alpha Theta**



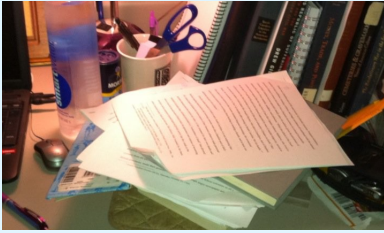
The History Club & Phi Alpha Theta have had a busy (but fun!) couple of years under the leadership of President Amanda Jirka and Vice Presidents Will Avery, Lauren Miller, and Janae Vancour.

Last year, the students were active in protesting the state-wide education budget cuts. They made signs and visited the Georgia State Capitol twice to have their opinions heard. They also took a trip to Kennesaw Mountain to explore Civil War battlefields.

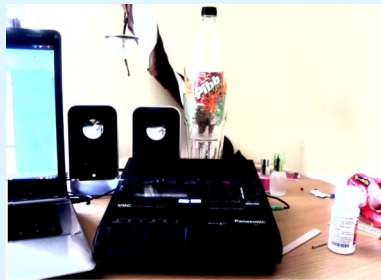
This year, the clubs instituted mid-semester and finals week potlucks. Additionally, they took a trip to Netherworld Haunted House. They also participated in the campus-wide pumpkin carving contest by creating a 10-pumpkin sculpture of a "cabaret" version of the Tudors! Finally, The clubs sponsored a book drive and a book sale that raised over \$500. That money was raised to help fund a summer trip to Savannah. And, of course, more pizza.



### Does your desk look like this?



### ...or this?



## Departmental Survival Tips!

A good paper-writing soundtrack is indispensable.  
— Dusty Dye

Let the evidence take you to your thesis, not the other way around. Its easy to get only evidence that supports what you're trying to say.  
— Elizabeth Mathis

Plan ahead, work hard, and save some time to relax!  
— Keri Adams

Study hard, write well, and one day you too can have a job selling History.  
— Jay Mitchell

Well, I would say don't date within the department, but seeing as how that worked out pretty well for me, I suppose I can't give that advice. In all seriousness, take a look at the 2-year course offerings and get a sense of where you want to direct your academic career in the graduate program.  
— Kyle Owenby

## Farewell to Elmira Eidson!

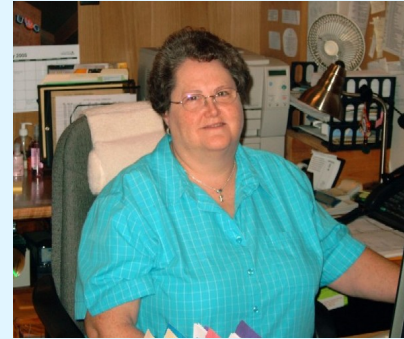
It is the end of an era: Elmira Eidson is retiring as department secretary as of January 1, 2012.

Elmira joined the History Department in 1989 and has provided outstanding service during her two decades of service. Those walking by her office are always greeted by her smile and a desire to help.

Elmira has been remarkable in handling the challenges of her position. Whether it is directing lost students or faculty, answering administrative questions, dealing with expense reports, or combatting the copy machine, Elmira's ceaseless energy and sense of humor have kept the department afloat. According to Dr. Aran MacKinnon, "She has carried us through many tough times and challenging transi-

tions, and reminded us of the importance of our humanity. She will be missed!"

The History Department will be holding a reception in Elmira's honor at the Alumni House on December 2, from 4 pm to 6 pm. It is open to all who can make it, so please come by and enjoy the day with Elmira!



## "Team Razor"

When they need to unwind, one group of students and faculty members test their skills at Trivia Night at various restaurants in Carrollton. The trivia team, called "Team Razor" in reference to Occam's Razor, has been in existence for several years and has played trivia at various local establishments like the Irish Pub, La Salsa, and Uncorked.

Team Razor's membership varies from week to week, but has in-

cluded present faculty members Drs. Bohannon, Goodson, Lipp, and Van Valen and instructors Jonathon Awtrey and Sandy Pollard. The team has also included students Lauren Miller, Will Avery, Amanda Jirka, and Matthew Maixou. Former students and other UWG faculty members also stop by on occasion.

The team has an impressive history of success. While they do not come in first place every week, they usually

place in the top three most of the time (except for a dismal dry spell last summer). More than anything, it is a chance for people in (and friends of) the history department to have fun in a relaxed environment. Critiquing the pronunciation, music selections, and answers of the guy who runs the trivia, is, of course, an added bonus.

The team hopes to see new faces during the 2011-12 campaign!

## We're on Facebook!

Even though we study history, our department refuses to be relics of the past. As such, we have branched out beyond the university-sponsored website ([www.westga.edu/~history](http://www.westga.edu/~history)) and begun to navigate the world of facebook. "Like" our pages and stay up-to-date on all the latest departmental news!

Log on to Facebook and search...  
"UWG Department of History"  
"UWG Center for Public History"  
"UWG History Club "

## The Center for Public History

The Center for Public History (CPH) has been bustling this year! The Center's ties with the western Georgia community have been growing stronger, and in recognition for their hard work, many of the students have received grants, partnered with other departments, and virtually linked the past to the present. Here are some of the current projects:

- The Georgia Humanities Council partnered with the CPH to create the New Harmonies music project, an extension of the Smithsonian, which will tour Georgia. The students helped create content and produce a website version of the exhibit
- The Regional Music Project received grant support from Georgia Humanities Council and the Warren and Ava Sewell Foundation to allow the United Shape Note Singer, the Associated Note Singers, and other shape note groups to sing on campus on March 19, 2011. A CD of the performance is also in works.
- The Georgia Department of Transportation has contracted with UWG's Archaeology department and the CPH to design interpretive panels for the Leake Mounds Trail in Bartow County, Ga.
- The Sewell Mill, in Bremen, is working with the CPH to create an exhibit highlighting the history of the textile industry.
- The Goldworth Farm, which has been owned by Dr. Mitchell & his family for over a century, is in the process of being turned into a house museum and public park.
- Archival material from the CPH is being digitized as part of the Georgia Studies Digital Museum and Archives project.
- The Carl Sandburg National Historic Site in North Carolina is having a written administrative history of the park, in conjunction with the Organization of American Historians and the National Park Service.

Additionally, the Center for Public History held its first annual showcase of student work on April 13, 2011. Student presenters included Steven Eubanks, Dusty Dye, Bobby Moore, Mollie Marlow, and Sam Stokes. Steven Eubanks was also awarded the Elizabeth Lyon Fellowship to further his research into post-World War II textile mills.



## Alumni Updates

Our Alumni's diverse lives after graduation testify to the broad applications of UWG's history program. Below are just a few of our alumni's experiences.

**Kim Blankenship**, class of 1999, works in the technology services field as North American operations leader.

**Katie Hicks**, class of 2009, works at the Museum of the Grand Prairie as Museum Educator and at the Orpheum Children's Science Museum as Museum Associate in Illinois.

**Michael Paulk**, class of 1987, is the director of new programs in the Aerospace field.

**Levi Young**, class of 2008, is a teacher at East Coweta High School, was awarded Teacher of the Year for Coweta County, and is currently in the running for Georgia Teacher of the Year.

### Seeking UWG History alumni!

Please contact us with updates when you have a spare moment. We'd love to hear from you again, and we would like to share your stories on our alumni page.

We also encourage our alumni to come back and share their experiences with our current graduate students. If you are interested in presenting at one of our career series, please let us know.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 9:** Brown Bag Research Presentation, Dr. Gary Van Valen
- October 7:** Brown Bag Research Presentation, Dr. Rob Kilpatrick, Assistant Professor of French
- October 17:** Public History Careers Series: Terri Lotti, Archaeologist, Georgia Department of Transportation
- October 24:** Public History Careers Series: Benita Duling, Interpretive Ranger, Kennesaw Mountain Battlefield
- October 31:** Public History Careers Series: Janet Cochran, Historic High Country Regional Tourism Representative
- November 2:** Fall History Department Colloquium by Dr. Gary Van Valen
- November 10:** "Southern Culture Lecture Series" with Dr. Randy Hendricks, Dean of the College of Arts and Humanities
- November 11:** Brown Bag Lunch Research Presentation by Dr. Skip Clark
- January-March 2012:** Book discussion program and exhibit: "Making Sense of the American Civil War," Dr. Bohannon
- February 8:** Public History Careers Series: Jackie Tyson, architectural historian, New South Associates
- January 24:** Thesis Writing Colloquium Series: "Writing the Prospectus," Dr. Popov-Reynolds and Dr. McCleary
- January [TBA]:** Public History Career Series. Heather Shores, Assistant Director, Bandy Heritage Center, Dalton
- February 2012:** Civil War exhibit from the APEX Museum in Atlanta
- February 1:** Second Annual Graduate Research Colloquium
- February 21:** Thesis Writing Colloquium Series: "Organization, Time Management, and Writer's Block," Dr. Vasconcellos
- February 22:** Public History Career Series. Trey Gaines, Director, Bartow History Museum
- March 8:** "Southern Culture Lecture Series" with Dr. Larry Frazier, Department of Music, University of West Georgia
- March 20:** Graduate Thesis Writing Colloquium Series: "Revising and Responding to Criticism," Dr. Van Valen
- March 27:** History Honors Program, place and time to be announced.
- March 29:** Center for Public History Showcase.
- April 17:** Public History Career Series. Sue VerHoef, Archivist, Atlanta History Center
- April 19:** Exhibit opening: Exhibit and recreated office of Georgia Speaker of the House Thomas Murphy
- \*\*Please check out the History Department's website for times and locations of the above events**



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