

THE RECORD

Fall 2013

The Newsletter of the University of Georgia® Department of History



Notes from the Department Chair



First a few news items. Readers may have already noticed from the photograph above that our department has a new chair. John Morrow stepped down in July after finishing his three-year term. This was his second tour of duty, and he leaves the department far stronger than it was only a few years ago. During his term, the department hired four new assistant professors, despite statewide cuts to higher education, and our faculty and graduate students won several national awards. I am grateful to John for all that he has done and look forward to carrying on the initiatives that began under his watch.

Other changes are afoot. Ben Ehlers, who has served as the director of graduate studies for the past four years, will be stepping down in January 2014 to focus on his Study in a Second Discipline Fellowship, awarded by the provost's office. He has worked extraordinarily hard on behalf of the department, winning the appreciation of the graduate students and faculty and the admiration of the Franklin

College dean. Fortunately, we have an equally dedicated faculty member, Reinaldo Román, stepping into his place. An associate professor of Latin American and Caribbean history, Reinaldo was recently honored with the Parks-Heggoy Award for excellence in teaching graduate students.

These are exciting times for the UGA History Department. Thanks to the generosity of Amanda and Greg Gregory, we are actively building our graduate program, and our success is borne out by the national awards garnered by our students. After Darren Grem and Drew Swanson co-won the C. Vann Woodward Award in 2011 (given by the Southern Historical Association to the best dissertation in Southern history), Tom Okie ran off with the award this year. Tom also won the 2013 Allan Nevins Dissertation Prize, awarded by Columbia University's Society of American Historians to the best-written doctoral dissertation on an American subject. Also in 2013, our recent graduate, Jim Geisen, now an associate professor at Mississippi State, won the SHA's Simkins Award for a distinguished book by a first-time author. The book, *Boll Weevil Blues: Cotton, Myth, and Power in the American South* (University of Chicago Press, 2011), was based on his dissertation, supervised by Jim Cobb. I don't think there's another department that can claim such dominance in Southern History.

Amanda and Greg Gregory continue to invest in our department over the long-term, and the department and its students owe them a debt of

gratitude. Nonetheless, we need additional help supporting our outstanding students and faculty. An anonymous donor has recently issued a challenge: If we raise \$10,000 this year for graduate student travel and research, he will contribute an additional \$5,000. Greg and Amanda Gregory have generously donated towards this challenge match. Will you help us reach our goal of \$10,000 to support travel and research for our graduate students? If you would like to participate in this challenge, please send your gift to the address on the enclosed form or donate directly through our department website (history.uga.edu/contributions.html). General donations may be made in the same way.

I close on a sad note. The department lost two friends this year. Our colleague Tom Dyer passed away on October 28. Tom joined the department in 1975 and later entered administration, serving as vice president of instruction and associate provost. When he retired in 2006, he held the title of University Professor. A few weeks after Tom died, our recent Ph.D. Jason Manthorne passed away unexpectedly in early November. Jason was teaching two courses for us at the time and had a bright future ahead of him. We will miss them both.

As always, we invite you to stop by the department when you are passing through Athens. With advance notice, we would be delighted to arrange for a classroom visit. Best wishes for the new year – Claudio Saunt

Husseina Dinani
Teaches African History, Gender & Sexuality, Imperialism & Colonialism, and Women's History



Husseina Dinani is in her first year at UGA, working in the History and African Studies Departments. She earned her B.A. (2004) and M.A. (2005) from the University of Toronto and her PhD from Emory University (2013).

Tell me about yourself.

I was born in Ontario, Canada, but grew up in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. I lived in Dar es Salaam for seventeen years. After completing high school, I moved to Toronto for undergraduate study at the University of Toronto. I also obtained my M.A in History from the University of Toronto. Earlier this year I completed my Ph.D at Emory University.

Describe your research.

My research examines the early African postcolony from the perspective of rural women in Tanzania. I use women's personal narratives from Lindi district, located in the southeastern region of Lindi, to examine citizenship and development politics in Tanzania from 1945 to 1985, or from the post-world War II period to the end of the socialist era. I also examine rural women's conceptions and practices of citizenship and development during a period of rigorous nation-building to show that these concepts were inherently polysemic and local constructs shaped by different groups and members of society, including rural women. By paying attention to gender and experience—in particular women's daily lives—I point towards a complex and dynamic early postcolony that challenges dominant scholarly understandings of the success of citizenship and the failure of development, particularly *ujamaa* (African socialism), in postcolonial Tanzania. More importantly, I argue that women's political sensibilities shaped Tanzanian citizenship

and development. Daily rural experience, in particular household and farm work, compounded by the changing political and economic circumstances of the late colonial and immediate post-independence period, determined women's alliances and negotiations with political parties and the nascent postcolonial state..

How does your research affect your teaching?

One of the things I learned while collecting personal narratives from rural women was the contingent nature of historical production and how this can shape your research questions and determine your findings. In my courses, I push students to assess the usefulness of different research methodologies and convey to them the provisional, yet evolving, nature of historical production. To achieve this, I juxtapose secondary literature with primary material on one particular topic to show the multiplicity of analyses and responses.

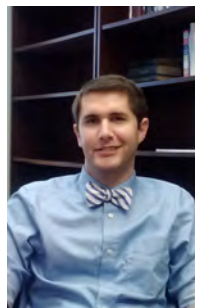
What do you hope to bring to the UGA History Department?

I'm hoping that my theoretical training and research can expand the curriculum of both the History Department and African Studies Institute. The norm in history departments at most universities is to have survey courses, which, in my opinion, leave little room for a serious consideration of pertinent issues like gender in African history. Exposing students to conversations on gender and women, and their relation to power dynamics in Africa, regardless of their majors, is quite useful, especially because of the prominence of Africa in the media.

How do you feel the UGA History Department can advance your research?

The History Department has been quite generous and supportive in terms of time and funding to allow me to conduct my research, so I am quite excited for what that means for my own development and intellectual growth. There are various faculty members whose expertise and individual research projects can help me as I continue to think about gender and women, and its intersection with citizenship and development politics in Africa. It's refreshing to be a member of a community that discusses these larger issues yet talks about them in different ways. The Gender and History workshop organized by Dr. Palmer is one example. I look forward to participating in this workshop and receiving feedback on my work.

* * *



Matt Hulbert is a fourth-year PhD student, working under Dr. John Inscoc. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida (2008), completed his Master's degree at North Carolina State (2010) and expects finish his PhD in the Spring of 2015.

Matthew C. Hulbert
PhD Candidate, Studies Civil War, Guerrilla Warfare and Social Memory

What is your area of study?

I study Civil War memory and guerrilla warfare, predominantly in the western border states of Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas, and how geographical and cultural notions of the frontier affect the

way we remember the Civil War and intentionally forget the less-savory aspects of the war that people don't really want to remember.

By "negative aspects," do you mean "violence"?

In the guerrilla theater in the West, especially in central and western Missouri, we're talking about violence that people would normally associate with Native American styles of guerrilla warfare: ambush, massacre, scalping, mutilated corpses and war unfolding in households with women, children and civilians all being pulled into this guerrilla experience. This doesn't fit with notions of honor, Victorian standards, Napoleonic warfare or what we expect when it comes to the Civil War.

What drew you toward that subject?

My masters thesis at NC State looked specifically at one propagandist, an ex-Confederate officer named John Newman Edwards, who was basically the architect of the Jesse James-James Gang mythology that most Americans are familiar with today. Before that he was an active opponent of Reconstruction and Republican politics in Missouri; he fabricated a "Lost Cause" in Missouri as a way to retroactively make the state Confederate – because it never seceded from the Union – and give the state a more Southern and Democratic identity, one in line with the rest of the South which actually seceded. My dissertation is an outgrowth of that project but on a much wider scale.

Describe your recent and forthcoming publications.

In June, *Civil War History* ran an article on the hyper-personal, hyper-local nature of violence and memory of Missouri's wartime experience. At the moment, I've just finished working on an essay for a special issue of *Common-Place* about Civil War Memory and the sesquicentennial, which looks at the roles played by women in Missouri's guerrilla theater and then how those counter-narrative experiences were intentionally whitewashed from the mainstream Lost Cause movement. I'm also in the process of co-editing a collection of essays on guerrilla warfare during the Civil War with Dr. Joseph Beilein (Penn State-Erie) for the University Press of Kentucky.

Have you won any awards recently?

In May I was awarded the History Department's Warner-Fite Award for outstanding scholarship in American History. Recently I've received a Frances S. Summersell Center Fellowship, a Willson Center Graduate Research Fellowship, and a Gregory Graduate Research Fellowship.

How does your research influence your teaching?

Because my research often utilizes pop-culture sources – films, fiction, theatrical productions – as ways to explore how a society expresses and regenerates itself, I try to bring these sources into the classroom as much as possible. They aren't a replacement for traditional pedagogy, but they seem to work very well in tandem with a more traditional

approach to entry-level classes. For instance, students in my survey course this semester are required to compose two different essays examining how *The Birth of a Nation* and *Rebel Without a Cause* reflected and reinforced social, political, and economic standards for citizenship at different times in America. These films can't replace lynching statistics, Jim Crow legislation or HUAC hearings, but as time capsules they can help tie different aspects of history together and do it in a way that doesn't put students to sleep.

How has the UGA History Department helped to advance your studies?

My research has benefitted a great deal from our various in-house funding options here at UGA. I've been very lucky to receive funding from both the Gregorys and the Willson Center to conduct extensive research in Missouri and to present my research at conferences (including the Southern Historical Association's annual meeting in St. Louis in November). More than anything, my project and manuscript have benefitted from an outstanding advisor (John Inscoe) and an equally outstanding committee (Stephen Berry, Kathleen Clark and Stephen Mihm), the likes of which I could not have found elsewhere.

Any hobbies or outside interests, other than reading and writing history?

When I'm not tracking-down dead guerrillas, I like to hike and fish with my wife and colleague, Kylie Hulbert.

* * *

Katie Brackett Fialka PhD Student, Studies 19th Century Cultural and Intellectual History, Women and Gender and the US South.



Katie Brackett Fialka is a PhD student who is working under Dr. Stephen Berry. She was a double major in History and English at UGA (2009) and earned her M.A. from West Virginia University (2012).

How did you decide on a double major in History and English?

I started out at UGA as an English major. After testing out of the American survey, I took a second-half Western Civilization History class with Dr. Soper, which showed me the stark difference between what you are taught in high school and what a college history class is meant to be: how historians actually talk about history, plus a different level of understanding and analysis. I had a really good experience with a Teaching Assistant, Jennifer Wunn, who is finishing up her dissertation now – she was really great in terms of being patient and showing me the right way to study. I started out thinking I would just minor in History but the more I got into it I realized that History was my wheelhouse because I felt I could ground my arguments in more concrete terms. I took some classes with Dr. Berry, Dr. Inscoe, and recent PhD graduate, Steve Nash, who offered me great advice as a mentor and as a peer. After I

graduated I took a year off before grad school and substitute taught full time at high schools and grade schools back home in LaGrange, Georgia.

What is your area of study?

When I went to grad school I found from reading Civil War-era diaries, especially those written by women, that people seemed to be reading a lot and talking about what and how they were reading, which counters the idea that the South was an isolated place, in its own cultural world, and that women, especially, were relegated to an isolated place in southern society. I was interested in trying to find out why these women were drawn to certain reading material. In my Masters thesis I wrote about a woman, Julia LeGrand, and her relationship to reading material and how that affected the way she interacted with her changing environment. I focused on her personal experiences – moving, financial problems, the sudden loss of a fiancé – and how that altered her relationship with written material and how that literature changed how she interacted with people around her. She felt isolated but when she found people who thought in the same way she did, she formed intellectual bonds with them.

Rather than just being tied to experiential similarities, her relationships were also tied to intellectual interests. She was very interested in spiritualism, which was much more prevalent in the Northeast, but she did have another friend who was a spiritualist and that’s something that’s very important to both of them. For my dissertation, I’m interested in finding out what it means when women read books from a transatlantic world of letters: does it mean that they were engaging in a larger intellectual world? Do they have more ties to the people around them than some historians have given them credit for? Some scholars have been hesitant to identify a thriving literary culture in the South because of low literacy rates and the fact that the amount of publishing in the North dwarfed that of the South. In my opinion, the fact that they are reading books from England, from France, from the northern parts of the US and from texts published in the South, definitely shows them engaging in a broader intellectual community than we might typically assume. I do think that there is a very specific

regional literature that does develop, especially one that reacts to criticism of slavery. I’m interested in showing how reading affected how particular women or groups of women comprehended the world around them: how it gave them a new language to express themselves and new ways to question or to confirm their standing in society.

Does this intellectual culture influence their politics or how they felt about slavery?

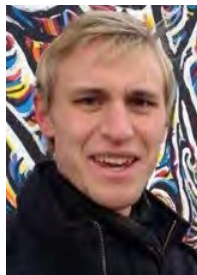
They read lots of newspapers, pamphlets, poetry, novels and especially histories, which connected them with contemporary arguments, especially around the time of the Civil War. In some instances I have seen where women only read things that confirmed their belief systems but I’ve also seen in my Masters thesis where the Civil War and the crisis of occupation forced a woman to rethink where she stood: she supported slavery but she hated war. She read a lot of spiritualist texts that were written by abolitionists; she was willing to overlook that aspect because she was more interested in the religious aspect.

How has the UGA History Department helped to advance your studies?

I was really fortunate to get a fellowship from the Gregorys, who have been immensely generous to this department, which allowed me to travel to several archives for research. One thing that I’m always grateful for here is the emphasis on research and teaching: it was one of the things that drew me to the program. By default we are teachers and we will spend at least half of our intellectual careers in the classroom, so I appreciate the classes that focus on methodology for teaching and pedagogy. I also like how the department gradually builds you toward teaching: the progression from grading, to leading discussion sections and once you pass your comps you have an opportunity to go into an individual classroom as the instructor of record, so I think that the value placed on teaching that you see here is very important. I also think about research: the faculty as well as the graduate students here are producing stellar work, so I think it is great to see that you can balance both. We have congenial and supportive faculty who support your aims as an instructor and scholar. I feel very fortunate to be here.

* * *

Greyson Clark
 Undergraduate History Major, Focuses on the Industrialization of the Georgia Poultry Industry in the 1950s and ‘60s.



Greyson Clark is a Senior, working with Dr. Shane Hamilton. He will graduate in May with a triple major in History, International Affairs and French. He is from Douglasville, Georgia, and serves as the Director of Policy for the Student Government Association.

Tell me how you decided on a triple major . . .

I guess you can say that I’ve always been a “humanities person.” I actually started-off as a Theater major during my first semester here, then I really got excited about the History courses I took (I had always thought I would do something in History). I had taken French in high

school, so I just kept doing that; I got into International Affairs because it’s very grounded in history and I find the comparative politics part of it exciting, so by incorporating that I thought it would give me a different

theoretical approach to research questions as well as more present-day applications. France fits in because people always talk about how Americans want to emulate European civic spaces; with the

global nature of business, issues like food importation and global trade actually came up in my research: we had a “chicken war” with Europe because the European Common market levied tariffs on chicken importation, which was one of our “pioneer markets” for surplus poultry production.

What is your historical focus?

The research I’m doing for Dr. Hamilton is on the Georgia poultry industry and its industrialization in the 1950s and 1960s. What’s really exciting about it is that the Georgia poultry industry was a model for agribusiness, not just poultry, but cattle and hog farming, too, so in many ways it has contemporary relevance because of food production issues. I’ve done a lot of work with environmental organizations, so that naturally drew me toward the contemporary environmental and social impacts of the poultry industry. It fits in with my International Affairs background because it relates to global trade and the current structure of the global food system. What drew me toward poultry specifically was that I wanted to do some new and exciting

primary-source research, not just re-hash secondary materials. I knew I was interested in food systems because I really like to eat, as well as the prevalence of health issues in America, consumer culture, mass production and the environment. Plus, because the poultry industry is so prominent in Georgia today, I knew I’d have access to some really compelling primary sources.

What are the best sources you’ve found so far?

Everything at the Special Collections Library; I looked through Senator Richard Russell’s papers: he was one of the initial supporters of the expanded school lunch program and used his influence to get chicken included in it. I was granted access to DW Brooks’ papers, who founded Gold Kist, which was at one time a Fortune 500 company. Those two really stand out because they had a lot of good information in them. During the “chicken war,” the poultry lobby and DW Brooks actually got President Kennedy to send his Secretary of State Dean Rusk (who eventually became a professor at UGA) to Bonn, West Germany, to talk to Chancellor

Adenauer. So, it’s funny when you look at those things and see how they are all interconnected: I’m doing history and language and politics and they all fit each other – it’s what a real liberal arts education should be.

How has the UGA History Department helped to advance your studies?

The history department here has been fantastic. The first history courses I had at UGA were with Dr. Cleaveland, who gave me a great foundation for writing, critical thinking and analyzing primary source documents. I saw Dr. Hamilton give a lecture, and I was really interested in what he was doing, so I went and asked if he would supervise my History thesis. He’s been great: he always answers any questions I have but he lets me do my own thing with just the right amount of guidance, so I really feel like the project I’m doing is truly my own work and that gave me a lot of academic confidence. Overall, the History Department here has helped me read and write really well and analyze deeper connections between topics, which is what history is all about: seeing how everything is part of one big story.

* * *

In Memoriam: Dr. Thomas G. Dyer 1943-2013

By Dr. James C. Cobb



I met Thomas G. Dyer in the winter quarter of 1972, when he and I were both enrolled in Will Holmes’ graduate class in the history of the New South. Though an unlikely pair, we quickly formed a friendship that would not only see us both through to the completion of our Ph.D. studies at the

University of Georgia but sustain a powerful bond between us that would only grow stronger over the course of the next forty years.

Across the university community, Tom will be remembered as one of the kindest, smartest, most generous and self-effacing people who ever held an administrative post at this institution. In fact, Tom held several such posts in areas ranging from Academic Affairs to University Services, and was serving as Vice-President for Instruction at the time of his retirement in 2006. Any number of Tom’s administrative accomplishments and contributions could have been career makers in and of themselves, even if some of the most important of them were rendered

largely out of the spotlight. Surely this was true of the wisdom, sensitivity, and firmness he brought to the Office of Academic Affairs in the wake of the Jan Kemp debacle when the University’s academic integrity and standing were teetering precariously in the balance. The fact that these were not allowed to topple and shatter in those critical weeks and months when old UGA was still reeling and struggling to regain its balance was clearly a precondition for the justifiable pride we can now take in the standing it enjoys today. The striking success and lasting importance of the minority-faculty recruiting effort that Tom spearheaded in the 1980s was in no small sense simply an expression of his determination to do what it took to do what clearly needed to be done.

As marvelously effective as Tom was in academic administration and leadership, he was no less talented and dedicated as a historian, and I make bold to say that through it all, history remained his first love. His dissertation and subsequently published book on Theodore Roosevelt and the idea of race could easily have passed as the work of a distinguished senior scholar. Nuanced and sophisticated, it offered insights into Roosevelt’s behavior that were hailed as absolutely brilliant and original when they were recycled in another book on Roosevelt published thirty years after Tom’s *The History of the University of Georgia* that Tom wrote in conjunction with its bicentennial broke new ground by demonstrating how wonderfully useful and instructive it can be to place the history of an institution of

higher learning within the broader state, regional and national experience.

Johns Hopkins University Press nominated *Secret Yankees*, Tom's study of unionists in Civil War Atlanta, for the Pulitzer and the National Book Award, and rightly so, for it was as brilliantly conceived, meticulously researched and beautifully written a book as I have ever had the pleasure of reading. How in the world he managed such a magnificent scholarly achievement with all of the administrative responsibilities he was shouldering at the time, I will never know.

When I reflect on Tom's passing, nothing makes me sadder than to think of his thwarted desire to devote part of his retirement to preserving and illuminating his own historical roots. He could hardly have been more thrilled when he traced his lineage from Missouri back to ancestors who arrived in Virginia around 1770, even if the discovery left me more or less obliged to observe that the Cobbs had already been there some 135 years at that point. The addition in 2010 of both his family home and the nearby

community church to the National Register of Historic Places was truly a triumphant moment for him and every bit as much a testament to his dedication to meticulous research as any of his excellent published monographs. The same was true of his work on a history of his family farm in Missouri. I once expressed my indebtedness to Tom for repeatedly convincing me that his writing was going even worse than mine, and it was a real treat to see him so excited, even if it meant hearing a good deal more about hemp production in Saline County, MO, than I ever dreamed it was possible to know.

Though Tom's official home base throughout most of his thirty-one year tenure at UGA was the Institute for Higher Education, he proved to be an extremely rich resource person for two generations of history grad students who sought his counsel and invariably came away impressed with his knowledge and touched by his generosity. Like the University of Georgia as a whole, the Department of History has lost a brilliant alumnus and a dedicated and invaluable colleague and friend.

* * *

In Memoriam: Jason Manthorne 1982-2013

By Dr. James C. Cobb



I first laid eyes on Jason Manthorne when, upon entering the room for the first meeting of my freshman seminar, I

detected a young man poring over the New York Times Book Review. This kid, I thought immediately, is somebody really special, and, thus formed a first impression that, for once, turned out to be right on the money.

Jason and I met up again a few years later in a senior research seminar for history majors, where he turned out a stunning and quite possibly publishable paper on the roots of Tom Watson's anti-Catholicism. He followed this up with an M.A. thesis on the Southern Tenant Farmers Union that boasted more original research and interpretation than a typical published monograph. His dissertation study of the values, motives, and goals of leading New

Deal agricultural reformers (which **must** be published) was the spitting image of its author—nuanced, complex, and quietly but powerfully brilliant. Working through it with him was one of the most rewarding experiences I have enjoyed as an advisor. He was always open to criticism and suggestion, and on the rare occasions when he gently pushed back a little, he unfailingly proved himself closer to the mark than his mentor.

I would put Jason's intellect up against anybody's, but for all his brain power, he was one of the most unassuming people I have ever met, and despite his quiet demeanor, one of the wittiest. I possess absolutely nothing more cherished than a set of T-shirts proclaiming my membership on "Jason's Beer Team," a motley but loyal cadre of serious imbibers who gathered annually for an all-out assault on Athens Brewfest.

We in the History community at UGA are still trying to recover from the loss of treasured colleague and friend Tom Dyer. It is one thing, however, to bid farewell to someone who has already registered a life and career of great accomplishment, especially if it means he will be spared any further pain and suffering. It is another thing entirely, to accept the untimely and wholly unexpected death of someone as young as Jason,

who, even as he stood poised to fulfill his immense promise, found that his own suffering, however personal and tightly contained, simply left him no option. Though his abrupt departure from our midst left us dazed, confused, and deeply hurt, rather than beat ourselves up in a futile attempt to understand it, I'm guessing that ol' "J Man" would prefer that honorary membership in Jason's Beer Team be extended to all who knew and loved him, provided they agree to honor his memory not with their tears but, just every now and then, mind you, with a toast of their favorite brew.

* * *

Contributions to the Jason Manthorne Memorial Fund may be made through the History Department.

Please make checks to UGAF and write "Manthorne Memorial Fund" on the memo line.

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