

POLIS

*From the Department of
History, Political Science,
and Philosophy*

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

Fall 2012

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITORS

Bob and Carol Botsch

Last year we marked our 50th anniversary and this year we begin work on our next 50. This year's POLIS has signs of some new beginnings and traditions in the making, as well as important ties to the past. Our new chair, Steve Millies, provides an overview in his introductory piece of where we will be going. Because Steve provides a great overview, we will keep our comments brief.

Of note is the inauguration of a department symposium, "Palmetto Connections." We also are developing a presence on Facebook (something Carol Botsch is adept in but in which Bob Botsch is sorely lacking, not knowing how to even get into his Facebook account). We hope you will join us there! We have interesting news about a small sample of grads who are doing great things both near and far. We would encourage all of you to send us your news about milestones in your lives and on how you are making the world a little better place. Of particular interest is our question for faculty this year, how did you come to do the kinds of research you do?

As Professor Millies notes, we often spend our professional lives working out important and passionate personal questions, questions that may have evolved slowly, by accident, or by even some traumatic experience. So enjoy reading about your department and fellow grads in this first year of the rest of our institutional life.

THANKS

Many thanks to all those who helped with this edition of Polis! We would like to add especial thanks to Christina Berkshire and Carol McKay.

CHAIR'S WELCOME

BY STEVEN P. MILLIES, DEPARTMENT CHAIR

For the readers of Polis, my appearance in this space as department chair is something new. For me, writing these few words is among the last 'first things' I'll do in my new role.

As I write these words in mid-May, just days after the faculty have turned in their grades and the summer sessions have gotten underway, a peaceful calm has begun to settle over the campus. It's a welcome change for me. The 2011-12 academic year has been exciting, but the breakneck pace of keeping up with the vast number of things the department chair does is not something I would like to do for all twelve months of the year. My predecessor, Val Lumans, made it all look very easy—and I'm looking forward to the day when I can make it look easy, too. A long, quiet summer of catching up would be a big help. But, of course, that is not the summer that we'll have at USC Aiken. The calm right now is only temporary.

Just days ago, we learned that Dr. Sandra Jordan will succeed Tom Hallman to be chancellor of USC Aiken. Dr. Jordan will join us on July 1, at just the time when Dr. Suzanne Ozment will leave USC Aiken after 10 years

as executive vice chancellor. The many goodbyes and welcomes we are saying will give way shortly to beginning the long task of forming and shaping what USC Aiken will look like for the next few decades. Already we have seen many senior-level departures from our administration in the last year. Once all of the key senior leadership positions have been refilled, the future will begin to take shape.

Of course, change hasn't come only at the highest levels of the University. Here in our own department, we have welcomed two new historians during the past year. Dr. Heather Peterson joined us from the University of Texas, and Dr. Sam Pierce joined us from the University of Florida. Both have brought long and interesting experiences as scholars and classroom instructors to our department and students, and already their unique imprints are making themselves felt here. In the fall 2012, we will be joined by Dr. Elizabeth Georgian, a specialist in early American history, who comes to us from the University of Delaware. We look forward to Dr. Georgian's arrival because we are excited

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FACULTY THOUGHTS

by Vanessa Capers (Political Science major)

Editors' note: This year, we asked one of our students, Ms. Vanessa Capers, a rising senior political science major, to interview each member of the faculty. The question she posed was, "How did you get interested in your area of research?" The thoughts of our faculty follow. Thanks to Ms. Capers for her assistance with this year's issue of Polis!

DR. BOB BOTSCH

Professor of Political Sciences
(bobb@usca.edu)



It goes back to my college years, my summer job, when I was working at a furniture factory. I was making minimum wage. But it helped me pay my way through college. I made a lot of friends there. I bought my first car from a co-worker/friend for \$50—a 1951 Ford. He helped me put in a new transmission and clutch in his backyard.

The next summer I was lucky enough to get an internship in Washington, DC with the National Security Agency. I got a phone call from home. An explosion in the factory had fatally injured several of my friends. They were not quick deaths. Burned badly, some lingered a few weeks before dying.

I went back home for the funerals. I said, "You know what, that place is terribly unsafe. I nearly got killed in some accidents when I was there. They didn't make us wear hard hats; they didn't even have hard hats. Why don't you guys do something? Why don't you form a union?" As soon as I said that, my former co-workers/friends got scared, and no one wanted to talk to me.

The question percolated in my mind as to why people were afraid to do what was clearly in their self-interest. Why didn't they vote for political

leaders that cared more about their welfare? Why were they afraid to take steps that clearly would have made their lives better? I've been trying to understand ever since.

I have learned that emotion trumps logic in politics. People can be easily distracted or frightened, or many times don't understand what affects their life chances. They don't understand how to deal with issues such as their families not getting good medical care, having low wages and having few educational opportunities, or dealing with relatives who got sick on the job but received no compensation.

Having been a Southern worker and being a first generation college graduate, understanding workers in general and Southern workers in particular has long been a very personal and passionate quest. They are so many and so poor and have so few opportunities, yet they don't seem to do anything about it. They are the swing vote in most elections. Put another way, how do the privileged few control the many for so long in what is supposed to be a democratic republic?

DR. CAROL BOTSCH

Professor of Political Science
(carolb@usca.edu)



I did not start in this field, since I was an undergraduate sociology major. Coming from the

generation of the 1960s and 1970s, I was influenced by John F. Kennedy, who talked about public service. So I thought I would like to work in human services and government to try and help make things better. I got a master's in Public Administration and worked for about six years in the public and non-profit sector. After I moved to Aiken, I had the opportunity to teach a class. It turned out to be fun. So I decided to go back to graduate school and moved on into political science. Public administration is usually thought of as being a subfield of Political Science, and I had always been interested in current events. It was a natural fit for this to be my specialization.

I had done some work and written some monographs for the State Reorganization Commission, which was exploring the concept of human services integration. I wrote my dissertation on the idea of "one-stop shopping" for services, where clients can get all their services in one physical area or under one physical venue, and where there is some coordination of services so that people have better opportunities to get services they need and are more likely to be successful at becoming independent. The governor at the time, Carroll Campbell, was a big proponent of that. I did some research in that area.

Later on my colleague/spouse and I started doing some teaching online. We were the first here at the university to do that and initially

a lot of our colleagues questioned whether or not online teaching, which was fairly new, was as good as face to face teaching. We began to do a study and compare our students in our American Government classes. We found that there was no significant difference between the learning outcomes. This was also around the time when there was a national push towards improving civic education for young people, who tend not to participate in politics very much. We did a lot of research in this general area. Because we were living in the South, South Carolina became our laboratory.

I also became interested subsequently in women in politics. When I was first working I wasn't really interested in studying women. I was more interested in being one of the women who did something. My college years were the time when the women's movement began. As I got older, my perspective changed, perhaps because I had done some of what I wanted to do with my life.

DR. ROGER DEAL

Assistant Professor of History
(rogerd@usca.edu)



Here we have a nice scene in a coffee house. As soon as they hear this guy, everybody runs away.

This is a particular type of historical character; this is the guy I wanted to know more about. I wasn't interested in an individual but a type. I was living in Istanbul and this is a historical film. It is a comedy but it shows this type of character. He shows up in a whole range of ways, this same type. This same character shows up over and over. I got curious. It was something I wanted to know more about.

I was teaching English at the time. You are living in this culture, this society, surrounded by the history of the place and surrounded by the culture. And parts of the culture come out, these historical types and

historical events, and so I became interested. Ultimately when I went back to school and did my PhD in history, I wanted to look at this particular type. But I also wanted to look at him in a larger context. The height of this is the 1890s, so I chose this time period and Istanbul. I asked, so what's going on here then? And where does he fit into this? You can see from the reaction of the people in the coffee house that everyone is afraid of him. He is a violent man. He will beat you. These guys are all about fighting. So where does he fit into patterns of interpersonal violence? So that's what I looked at, these different patterns of interpersonal violence and different kinds of violent crimes. It all comes out of this stereotypical character and a question about who he was and where he fits into society. Then I moved into things like policing and the justice system and one thing led to another.

DR. DAVID DILLARD-WRIGHT

Assistant Professor of Philosophy,
(davidd@usca.edu)



I read about a lot of different things but most of it is about the connection between people, animals, and the environment. I got interested in what I'm writing about in graduate school because in my philosophy classes, when western philosophers and theologians talked about animals, it was normally a negative comparison. For example, they talked about how people were better than animals and why we deserve to do whatever we want to do with the Earth. This always just kind of irked me. For a long time I couldn't really sort it out why it bothered me so much.

Eventually, I was led to read more about animals and their capabilities and the ways that animals process their environment and the way they make decisions and their emotional lives, etc. I ended up combining

French philosophy with my interest in animals and that led to my research program. This is ongoing. There is an explosion in Animal Studies now. It is a new and growing field, and people are approaching the problem from all different angles. As more and more stuff comes out about animal cognition, we learn more and more about them. It's an exciting time to be working on animals because so much more information exists than even ten years ago.

PROF. ALEXIA HELSLEY

Instructor of History
(alexiah@usca.edu)



I am not a traditional historian, I am a public historian. And most of my career was with the SC Department of Archives and History. I grew up involved with history and my dad loved history. I've always visited historic sites and cemeteries as well as museums. So I say history is my life, my environment. But I like records and I'm interested in the built environment. As for my personal writing, I published a number of public booklets/books for the State Archives: documentary readers, histories of SC Confederate veterans, these sorts of things.

When I retired, I began writing what I call grassroots history or local history, particularly of areas I had a connection with at the Archives. Much of my research involved the Beaufort area, African American history in SC, and SC history in general. I grew up in Beaufort so I have an affinity, I think, for the Low Country. Therefore, I published three books on Beaufort. I live in Columbia and I have a book on Columbia as well. I went to school in Greenville at Furman so I have a book on Greenville also. They all referred to the records of the National Register properties and historic properties that are still there.

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Faculty thoughts continued

I worked in western North Carolina. That's where my dad is from, where my parents retired. So he and I did a guide to historic Henderson County. Right now I am transcribing the diary of a POW from Henderson County. It's an interesting region because you have Unionists and Secessionists and then some folks that enlisted and changed their minds and later joined Union regiments. It's a different world, western North Carolina. Generally I like history of any ilk and in graduate school I studied ancient and medieval. I love Roman Britain and I am currently developing a course on the Vikings. But my research in recent decades has primarily been on the Carolinas, especially South Carolina.

DR. STEVE MILLIES

Associate Professor of Political Science (stevem@usca.edu)



One of the first classes I took when I was an undergraduate political science major was Introduction to Politics, which was taught by a political theorist. We read the Apology of Socrates, The Letter Concerning Toleration, John Stuart Mill's On Liberty, and Hannah Arendt's Eichmann in Jerusalem. It was great stuff; it was exactly what I wanted to study. Then I got to my second semester and I had American Government, which ironically I teach now, and I hated it. I was totally uninterested, so I changed over and became a history major and took all the political theory courses along the way. The better question would be, why did I like political theory?

I have a theory borne out by having talked to a lot of people who do what I do. I'm different from Bob, Carol and Tom because they do the parts of

political science that's social science and I do the parts that actually deal with history and philosophy. So I do humanities. I have a theory and I have had it for years and I have never been disproved about this: that all of us who do the humanities are basically just working out our own personalities by being academics. We study the stuff that for whatever reason just gets the blood boiling.

I think my parents would agree that I was an unusually stubborn child. I can remember having really good arguments when I was as young as two or three years old. When you are two or three arguing with your parents, I suppose it's only natural that you eventually begin to reflect a little on the origins of authority and power and where that all comes from. Somehow I think it all started there.

Political theory is fun because it doesn't really have any walls around it. Political theorists read about other political writers, examine literature, philosophy, drama, we talk about music, art, and do a little bit dealing with theology. It is safe to say we are all over the humanities. Plato had the idea that people who study and learn are the people who should be in charge. For this reason, political theory has a special place in the humanities and the University. I like to try and go beyond the boundaries of political theory or political science.

DR. MAGGI MOREHOUSE

Associate Professor of History (maggim@usca.edu)



I have always been interested in issues of race, and no matter how much I have studied the past, I still do not understand why race has been such a divisive issue. When I studied political science for an undergraduate degree, I focused

all of my research projects around race: statistical analysis of the growth of government agencies focused on issues of equality, Black Muslims in America, and the politics of the Civil Rights Movement. As a graduate student in history and then later African Diaspora Studies, I continued to investigate the meaning of race and the history of discrimination in a global context.

During a graduate seminar, when the professor assigned each student to conduct a research project and write an analysis of "something that happened between 1930 and 1980," I asked what had been written about black soldiers and citizenship. He suggested one text and encouraged me to pursue the topic by finding some black World War II soldiers and conducting oral histories. That graduate assignment became the basis for my Master's thesis, which became my entre into the PhD program and ultimately my doctoral dissertation and first book.

I grew up in the South in a military family and knew very little about my father as one of the white officers of black combat soldiers in WWII. My research projects allowed me to understand my family history within the national narrative of race and military service.

That research project has continued and to date I have recorded the largest catalogue of black veterans' voices. I have also expanded my interests to other topics of race and Southern studies. I am investigating the 21st-century phenomenon of black citizens returning to the South, the social history of the Civil War including black life during the era, and I am developing theories to understand slave narratives.

DR. TOM WOOD

Assistant Professor of Political Science (thomasw@usca.edu)



I think a number of serendipitous consequences and opportunities got me interested in my field of study. In my graduate school's PhD program, there was a Middle Eastern specialization. I started out as a trainee specialist on the Middle East. They told me you have to learn a Middle Eastern language. I'm not one of the greatest linguists in the world, but I had to learn Persian, Iranian, Turkish, or Arabic. I'll never wrap my mind around Persian or Arabic. At least Turkish is written in the same alphabet as English, and it was a little easier to learn. I learned Turkish and specialized in Turkey. In fact, when I was first working on my PhD, I was working up a dissertation on Turkey and I wrote about Turkish foreign policy. They sent me off to Turkey to spend quite some time to learn Turkish and do some field research.

I was in Turkey in the mid-1990s, when there was a lot of excitement about the independence of the former Soviet republics that had a strong cultural connection to Turkey, Azerbaijan and four of the five "Stans." The Turks were very excited to find that they weren't alone and there were these people who spoke similar languages. The Turkish media was full of the idea of a Turkish world and enhanced Turkish influence in the region. I got interested in the "Stans" and started taking courses on them. I found out that "what the Turks were about" excited me. I discovered their idea of Central Asia and what it was really were two different things.

I have been working on a study of the evolution of the foreign policy of Kyrgyzstan since independence for quite a while. I actually wrote my PhD dissertation on this topic and I have been updating it ever since. This involved me going back to Kyrgyzstan in 2010 for some follow-up research. I will be going again this summer to

do more research. I'm expanding this information to compare the foreign policy of Kyrgyzstan to Estonia and Georgia and to bring in case studies from other parts of the former Soviet Union.

DR. HEATHER PETERSON

Assistant Professor of History (heatherp@usca.edu)



I first became interested in sixteenth-century science in graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin, during a class with Neil Kamil on "The Artist and the Artisan." Science in this period was caught between two moments, and two paradigms. One was based on a careful amalgam of the Bible and Aristotelian thinking, and the other was based on direct observation and experimentation. I was fascinated by the intricate connection between all things in this former worldview, and I wanted to know how the experience of the Americas came to shape or alter this vision. The Benson Latin American Collection at the University of Texas contained five scientific texts published in Mexico City between 1590 and 1618, and these became the basis of my study on Spanish interpretations of New World nature.

My current manuscript, "A Microcosm of Two Worlds: The Rise of Mexico City from the Ashes of Tenochtitlan" is an environmental history of the valley of Mexico from conquest to the turn of the seventeenth century. It focuses on the way Spaniards imagined the place, people, and nature around them. It highlighted the way local knowledge, customs, and habits transformed these Spaniards, making them something different: a microcosm of two worlds. Just as Spaniards altered the landscape around them with their plants, animals, and systems, they imagined that the food, air and stars changed their bodies.

DR. SAM PIERCE

Assistant Professor of History (samp@usca.edu)



I fell into it over time. When I was a student I took a couple of years off from undergraduate school. During those two years I lived in Costa Rica. When I came back I decided to be a history major. I was originally a music major, but I decided I should do something more lucrative. This is when I got into history and I took a modern European history class.

I was at a school where they highly emphasized foreign language study. One of the things that the Professor of the 20th Century European history class said was, "If you speak a foreign language, do research in that foreign language." I found a copy of the Spanish Constitution of 1931, wrote a paper on it, and I just kept doing papers on that kind of project.

I got to the end of college and I don't remember making a conscious decision to go to graduate school, but I found myself applying. I ended up attending the University of Florida. There I continued with the Spanish project. In fact, I went to that very first project, which was a study of religion and the Spanish Republic. This actually became the main theme of my dissertation, which is Catholics in the second republic and how they organize politically against the new secularizing government. I'm still working on this.

Costa Rica got me interested in the aspects of Spanish. I wasn't necessarily interested in studying Latin American history. I was more interested in European history. When my Professor said I had to do something I could do original research in, Spain was basically all that was left. Within this study, I ended up finding a topic that I found really interesting.

OUTSTANDING STUDENTS

We are proud of the many accomplishments of our students! Once again, we would like to share some of these with you.

Ruqayyah (Kaya) Hagen, a senior History major, participated in the Robert E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Program at USC Columbia in the summer of 2012. The program is designed for highly qualified students who plan to go to graduate school. The subject of her project was "Sovereignty and the European Union." Kaya reports: "I also presented my research "Aristotle to Al-Ghazali: Greek Influence in Medieval Islamic 'Mirrors for Princes' Literature" and won second place in the Humanities category. All three of the USCA students in the program placed in the national conference so it was quite a success for us. We intend on putting together an event about the program in the fall because it is such a wonderful experience and we would like USCA to be continually represented there."

Mary (Emily) Short, a senior Fine Arts major, is a Magellan Scholar for the fall of 2012 who was mentored by Professor Alexia Helsley (History) and Mr. Keith Pierce (Instructional Services). These prestigious grants are awarded on a competitive basis to students at the USC campuses. The topic of her project, which "merges history and videography," according to Professor Helsley,

is "Settling Saluda County: An Historic Documentary."

Several of our students were also recognized for their achievements and honored at the annual USCA Convocation on April 24, 2012. A description of their accomplishments follows:

Outstanding Student of History: Ruqayyah J. Hagen
(as described by Dr. Roger Deal, History)

"Kaya has been a pleasure to have in the department. Her USCA GPA of something over 3.9 attests to her interest, abilities, and hard work. In classroom discussions and corridor conversations, she always has something reasonable and interesting to say. In addition to her studies, Kaya served as the student member on a search committee last year, throwing herself into the job and contributing a valuable viewpoint to the committee (as well as an encyclopedic knowledge of Aiken eateries). She has also been instrumental in reviving the History Club. In spite of the best efforts of her professors, Kaya intends to pursue a graduate degree in History."

Outstanding Student of Philosophy: Ryan T. Adams
(as described by Dr. David Dillard-Wright, Philosophy)

"Ryan Adams represented USC Aiken's Philosophy program on the

Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Team, which competed in its fifth annual regional competition at Saint Petersburg College in November of 2011. His position paper for the event argued in favor of the state of Missouri's new laws increasing regulation of puppy mills. Ryan has distinguished himself as a philosophy student in Ethics and Ancient Philosophy as well as in introductory courses. His senior thesis examines the impact of the civil rights movement on political philosophy."

Outstanding Student of Political Science: Michael A. Johnson

(as described by Dr. Carol Botsch, Political Science)

"Michael A. Johnson is one of those rare students with the skills, determination, and motivation to work hard and achieve his goals in a short time. A political science major, he has managed to complete college in just three years while attaining a high GPA. One of his professors described him as "among the best" of USCA's many excellent pre-law candidates. In addition to his academic achievements, Michael has pursued his love of music through the USCA band program. He plays the alto saxophone in the Pacer Pulse Athletic Band, University Wind Ensemble, Saxophone Quartet, and Aiken Concert Band. Michael has been accepted to a number of law schools and will be attending law school in the fall."

about how she will contribute to life in our department. We have enjoyed some notable faculty achievements during the last year that I want to make sure you know about.

Dr. Carol Botsch has been recognized with an endowed professorship, and will hold the Strom Thurmond Chair in History or the Social and Behavioral Sciences beginning next year.

Dr. Bob Botsch continues to hold the John and Mary P. Grew Chair in American Studies, having been re-appointed this year.

Together, Carol and Bob have an article appearing in the July 2012 edition of *PS: Political Science and Politics*, a widely-read, national journal of the American Political Science Association.

Dr. Roger Deal was the recipient of The Val Lumans Award for Excellence in Teaching, selected by the students and to be awarded annually.

Professor Alexia Helsley has published a new book, *Wicked Beaufort* (The History Press, 2011), a history of misbehavior (of many kinds) in her home town.

Dr. Maggi Morehouse took home the 2011 USCA faculty award for Excellence in Scholarly Activity, and has contributed her expertise to a film project profiling "Dave the Potter."

Dr. Tom Wood was selected last summer to take part in a seminar with the National Endowment for

the Humanities, "America Looks at Eurasia."

Finally, the department was delighted to welcome home Dr. George Bowdler on April 10. Dr. Bowdler is professor emeritus of political science, and retired from USC Aiken many years ago. Of course, I've only been at USC Aiken since 2003 and never had met him before. But Dr. Bowdler caught up for a while with Bob and Carol, and he met Tom Wood, his successor in comparative politics and international relations.

With so much change in the air, it is good that we take some time to stay connected with the past. A university faculty is like a family, really. Once tenured, we all live here together. Generations pass, faces change, but there is also continuity. Memory persists because, indeed, persistence of memory is the goal of the learning that the university represents. Our alumni are the extended family—you help us maintain the community of memory, and that is the goal of this newsletter. Even with all of the change that is all around us, we want to stay in touch with you. And, we want you to know about us.

With that last point in mind, let me ask you to keep November 3 free on your calendar, if you are able. The department will host the first annual meeting of a new symposium event, the Palmetto Connections Symposium. It will

be a chance for scholars to come together here at USC Aiken and exchange ideas, and we'll also have a reception for you, our departmental alumni. Dr. Peter Wood of Duke University will offer a keynote lecture, "The Election of 1864: The Most Significant Election in American History," which should be of some timely interest three days before the 2012 presidential election. It promises to be an interesting day, and I hope you will plan to spend it with us. Keep an eye on your e-mail for information about the event. (This is a good time to get in touch and make sure we have your current e-mail address, too.) Also, you can find us on Facebook: have a look at our group, USC Aiken History & Political Science Alumni, and find information there.

I hope to see you on November 3. Whether you can join us or not, you'll always be welcome here at your home in the Department of History, Political Science, and Alumni at USC Aiken. Thank you.



Dr. George Bowdler (center) visits Dr. Bob Botsch and Dr. Carol Botsch



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THANK YOU

Once again, the faculty and students of the Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy express our heartfelt thanks to the alumni and friends who contributed financially to our department during this past year. Your donations help many of our deserving students to have the opportunity to complete their education, and they really make a difference.

As you are probably aware, in recent years the state has been cutting the money it spends on higher education, so students have to make up some of the difference with higher tuition. So every donation really helps the next generation! We have included here the names of those who contributed during the past academic year, July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2012. We apologize if we have omitted anyone from the list of donors. We also have included here a list of the various departmental scholarships.

If you would like to designate a gift for a particular scholarship or program, you should note it on the memo line or include a note so it is deposited to the correct account. Checks should be made out to Aiken Partnership and mailed to:

USCA University Advancement
471 University Parkway
Aiken, SC 29801

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Scholarship

FACULTY UPDATES

PROFESSOR J. BRENT MORRIS (History) has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of History at USC Beaufort, beginning in the fall of 2012. Dr. Morris taught at USCA as an adjunct and subsequently held a one year position as an instructor during the 2011-2012 academic year.

DR. JIM FARMER (History, retired) and his wife, Judy, report that they are once again grandparents! Connor James Lyerly was born in February of 2012. The Farmers are enjoying their retirement and traveled in Europe in the summer of 2012.

DR. MAGGI MOREHOUSE (History) has accepted a position as Director of Coastal Carolina University's Southern Studies Program, beginning in the fall of 2012. Dr. Morehouse came to USCA in the fall of 2003 as an assistant professor, was promoted to associate in 2009, and was recently notified that she had been promoted to full professor.



Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA AIKEN

First Annual

Palmetto Connections Symposium
Saturday, November 3 • 10am-4pm

Keynote Lecture

The Election of 1864: The Most Significant
Election in American History

Peter H. Wood, Ph.D.

Duke University

www.usca.edu/polisci/palmettoconnections

History & Political Science Alumni Reception at 4pm



USC Aiken History & Political Science Alumni

ALUMNI NEWS

Editors' Note: Our alumni continue to do great things and to live quite interesting lives! We'd like to know more about what you have been up to and share that with your fellow alums and the university community. But we can't do it unless you get in touch! We'd especially like to hear more from our history alumni, who have been very quiet recently. Since most of our long term historians have now retired, we don't have anyone on board who still hears from any of you! Remember that POLIS goes out to retired faculty as well, so letting us know what you are doing also lets retired faculty know!

Thomas (Thom) Burrus (History, 2006, Philosophy minor) has returned to Aiken, where he is teaching philosophy courses as an adjunct at USCA. Thom completed a master's degree in Analytic Philosophy at the University of Houston. He and his wife are expecting their second child.

Jaime Eagerton (History, 2011) is pursuing a master's degree in history at North Carolina State University beginning in fall 2012. Jaime worked part-time at USCA during the 2011-2012 academic year, filling in for an administrative assistant on leave and assisting a professor with a research project.

Alan Harrelson (History, 2007) is pursuing a PhD at Mississippi State University, where he plans to take his comprehensive exams in December and is beginning his dissertation research. In his spare time Alan is keeping his banjo skills sharp.

Rachel Hilton (History, 2011) is pursuing a master's degree in Education at Liberty University.

Justin Wheelon (History, 2012) is Media and Children's Director of Northshore Church in Aiken, SC, working with film and graphic design. Justin also likes to act when he is not busy with his responsibilities at the church and has a long list of credits to his name. He has signed five movie deals at this writing.

Lauren Cholar (Political Science, 2012) is pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration (MPA) at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, beginning in the fall of 2012.

Chris Corley (Political Science, 2002) is a 2008 graduate of the USC Law School. Once the youngest registered lobbyist in Washington, DC, Chris clerked for SC's 11th district solicitor, Donnie Myers, and then worked as an associate for an Augusta, Ga. Law firm. He now has his own law firm in Augusta and practices criminal defense, personal injury, family law, construction law, and civil plaintiff's representation. He is married to the former Heather

Medlock and has two children, Cannon, who is 6, and Mari-Claire, who is 3.

Kevin Corley, Chris's older brother (Political Science, 1997), lives in Aiken with his wife, Terena, and son, Landon, who is 6 years old. Kevin, a 2002 graduate of the USC Law School, also practices law, doing free-lance discovery work for a Charlotte law firm and free-lance real estate closings for an Atlanta firm.

Jerry (Kin) Hair (Political Science, December 2011) is pursuing a Master's Degree in Public Administration (MPA) at the University of South Carolina, beginning in the fall of 2012.

Michael Johnson (Political Science, 2012) is pursuing a law degree at the University of Georgia, beginning in the fall of 2012.

Randy Lucas (Political Science, 2007) assumed a new job at Lexington High School as an In-School Suspension Monitor. Randy previously taught children

IN MEMORIAM:

Some months ago, your editors enjoyed an unexpected visit with a grad from the 1980s, Jerry Seigler. A 1988 graduate with a BA in Political Science who was Student Government Association President in 1987-88, Jerry went on to graduate school at the University of South Carolina, completing a Master of Public Administration (MPA) degree in 1991. Subsequently, Jerry went to work for the federal government, spending most of a highly productive twenty year career with the Government Accountability Office (GAO) in Atlanta, Georgia, and Washington, DC. Dr. Carol remembers him as a bright, lively student who took to heart what he learned in his courses and made a positive contribution with his life's work. Dr. Bob remembers Jerry mastering polling skills in his 301 class and working on many research projects for the department's survey organization. He also recalls Jerry calling him frequently with questions about surveys for the GAO and sending copies of the many studies he oversaw there, including airline safety and the health impacts of cell phones. Eddie Jerry Seigler, Jr. lost his battle with cancer in July of 2012 at the age of 45. He is survived by his wife, Wendy, a USCA graduate with a degree in Elementary Education, two children, his parents, a brother, Jason, also a USCA Political Science graduate, and other family members. Your editors will always remember him fondly. We extend our condolences to the Seigler family on this untimely loss. Jerry made the world a little better place.

with autism and coached baseball there. In 2011 he married Lacy Paige Phipps. Randy's future plans include attending graduate school to obtain a master's degree in Special Education.

W. Mark Manders (Political Science, 1986) is a Senior Vice President for Operations at Scarborough Research, where he oversees media editing, data processing and reproduction, quality control, and data base production/reporting. Previously, he did quantitative radio audience measurement for Birch Radio, before its merger with Scarborough. Mark, who lives in south Florida, is a University of Miami Hurricanes fan who has not missed a home game since 1996!

Donald Miles (Political Science, 2005) began a new position as Director of Institutional Effectiveness with the University

of South Carolina in Columbia, SC in January of 2012. Donald and his wife Delia, a USCA Math/Computer Science graduate, are the parents of a one year old daughter, Essence.

Ken Mishoe (Political Science, 1981) worked at UPS and the Savannah River Site (SRS) after graduation. Ken retired from SRS in 2010 and moved to Virginia Beach with his wife, who had accepted a position at a university in nearby Norfolk. The Mishoes have two grown sons, Wes, a lawyer, and Jeff, who works in finance.

Zach Moulton (Political Science, 2012) is pursuing a law degree at USC School of Law, beginning in the fall of 2012.

Amber Neilson Davis (Political Science, 2002, and member of the USCA softball team!) is a

sixth year associate with a law firm in Orlando, Florida. The firm specializes in intellectual property law. Amber files for trademarks and copyrights, and litigates all kinds of intellectual property law in court. Amber and her husband, Ryan, have a one year old son, Landon.

Laura Storey (Political Science, 2011) was an intern in Washington DC at the White House in the fall of 2011. Laura worked in the Office of the First Lady in the Scheduling and Advance Office, where she served as the initial contact person for invitations received and worked on the advance team. Laura reports that she even got to ride in the motorcade with Mrs. Obama one day! Currently she is working as a Field Director for the Obama campaign for the Charleston area's ten coastal counties.

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GRADUATES: WHAT ARE YOU DOING THESE DAYS?

We love to keep up with our former students. Please take a moment to fill out this form and let us know where you are and what you are doing. Email Dr. Carol Botsch at carolb@usca.edu or mail to USCA, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, South Carolina 29801.

ALUMNI INFORMATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY, POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PHILOSOPHY NEWSLETTER

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What news would you like to share with USCA and former students? Include another sheet of paper if necessary.

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