GREETINGS FROM THE (NEW) CHAIR

Heraclitus said that the only thing constant in life is change, and this year in the Department, we continue like that famous philosopher’s river, always changing yet hopefully remaining something the same as before. As a department, we take great pride in our scholarship, our teaching, and our service to the university and the community. We love our subject matter, and we love seeing our students go from timid freshmen to mature graduates. We think about them as they move away from this place and out into the “real world.” Of course, we know all along that academia is the real world. We think a great deal, perhaps more so than in other places, about what it means for some phenomena to be real and how to separate the real from the fake.

This semester, I begin my tenure as Chair of this Department, and I will endeavor to see administration as continuous with the work of scholarship and teaching. I always think of myself as a researcher and instructor, and I will carry that sensibility with me as I lead the department. I will try to keep this particular “river” running clear and strong over the coming three years.

This year, I want to thank Dr. Steven Millies for his excellent work as Department Chair as he closes his term and goes back to teaching and research full-time. Dr. Millies has done a great deal to improve our contacts with alumni and emeriti, for which we are extremely grateful. He has also seen several professors successfully through promotion and tenure, myself included. He has done an admirable job in many other areas as well, and he deserves some time to reflect and recuperate (and keep working hard in the department!).

I have had two outstanding predecessors in Steven Millies and Valdis Lumans, and I will try to continue the record of excellence that they have established on the hallway. May the gods (and mortals) be with me in this endeavor!

David Dillard-Wright

POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Students often ask me how they can better prepare for the inevitable job search that looms as graduation approaches. Certainly political science, as well as other majors in the social sciences and the humanities, gives students a broad depth of knowledge about the world around them and excellent analytical skills, as well as helping them to learn to think critically. These are all tools that will help them to be successful in their chosen careers. But getting a foot in the door can be tough, especially in a tight job market. While many students work during their college years, they usually do not hold professional or semi-professional positions. A student who gains some kind of work experience related to their field of interest is more likely to catch the attention of potential employers, or in today’s jargon, to be “marketable.”

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pō · līs (n) Greek The city, or community; the basic unit of social organization
POLITICAL SCIENCE SEARCH

Professor Bob Botsch can never really be replaced, but this fall, the department will be searching for a new person to fill his position. Dr. Tom Wood will be chairing the search committee.

The ad reads, in part:

**Assistant Professor of American Government**

The Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy at the University of South Carolina Aiken invites applications for a tenure-track assistant professor in American government beginning August 2015. Ph.D. in political science must be in hand by time of appointment. Required: ability to teach or develop courses in introductory level American Government, Scope and Methods of Political Science, and upper level American politics courses. Must be willing to develop a state and local politics course with an emphasis on South Carolina politics. There may also be an opportunity for involvement with a small public opinion research lab on campus. Candidates should not duplicate existing departmental positions (political theory, public administration, international relations, and comparative politics.

By the time you read this, the search will be well underway. Please keep in contact with the department about candidate visits and lectures.

STUDENT AWARD RECIPIENTS SPRING 2014

Several students from the department merited special recognition in the Spring of 2014 for their dedication in the classroom and in our clubs. Congratulations!

**Adora Hawkins:**

**Outstanding Student in Political Science**

In an elective course on the European Union taught in spring semester 2013, Ms. Hawkins submitted a thoroughly-researched and very polished term paper on the issue of Croatia’s recent accession to the EU, and the likely political, social and economic problems that this new member state would encounter. This was accompanied by an excellent in-class presentation that showed a similar level of preparation and depth.

Outside of the classroom, Ms. Hawkins has worked part-time for an area law office, and despite the demands of juggling work and study that daunt so many of our students, she also made time to contribute actively to campus life. Serving as Vice-President of the USCA Political Science Club this year, she was a dedicated club officer who energetically contributed to events and club meetings. On her initiative, the club organized a viewing of the film dealing with Edward R. Murrow and the McCarthy era, *Goodnight and Good Luck* that was offered in the fall 2013 as an ICE event. She also volunteered to be a student assistant at the first ever Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy Palmetto Connections Symposium in fall 2012, which gathered scholars from across the region investigating nineteenth century South Carolina.

After graduation, Ms. Hawkins’ immediate plans include applying for a master’s in public policy.

**Lauren Ellis: Outstanding Student in Philosophy**

Lauren Ellis competed on the Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl Team at the regional level in Saint Petersburg, Florida for two years, in 2011 and 2012. The event requires giving oral arguments using philosophical reasoning about cases drawn from current events. Lauren has hosted many philosophy events on campus, including the popular “Philosophy and the Coen Brothers” film discussion as well as discussion of the film, “The Tree of Life.” Ms. Ellis has hosted guest speakers in philosophy on campus, and she leads the club in writing philosophical quotations in chalk on the quad each year. She has served as a Co-President and Vice-President of the Philosophy Club in years past. In addition to her heavy involvement in the Theater department, Lauren completed the philosophy minor, scoring at the top of her class in upper-level courses like Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of the Animal, and 17th and 18th Century Philosophy and Science.

**Zachary Bodie:**

**Outstanding Student in History**

Zach Bodie has impressed us all with his dedication, hard work, and inquisitive mind. Zach has worked extremely hard in his years at USCA both in history and in every other course he has taken, receiving a 4.00 every semester. Nevertheless, he is not one of those students who seem overly preoccupied with grades: he simply strives for mastery. His engagement and humility make him a pleasure to have in the classroom and we are all sorry to see him go. As Alexia Helsley, who had Zach in many classes, put it: with Zach in class, “I was always assured of class discussion and the thrill of watching his mind work.”

Well done to all of our Outstanding students!
**FACULTY NEWS**

**DR. ROGER DEAL • HISTORY**

I was fortunate enough to be able to take two research trips to Turkey this year, visiting Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Konya, Menemen, and Beypazarı. I scouted out the new home of the Ottoman archive in Istanbul, and it is impressive. I’m looking forward to going back there for research soon. However, my current research, on traditional Turkish trading fairs, took me not to the Ottoman archives, but to the archives of the Republic in Ankara. I will be presenting the results of that research at the Middle East Studies Association conference in November, as part of a panel I organized on Turkish fairs. Meanwhile, I am also working with a colleague at another university, preparing for publication the memoirs of a Turkish bureaucrat. His memoirs cover the first decades of the Turkish Republic (founded in 1923), and as such are of inestimable value to social historians of Turkey. I was also awarded the Cleora Republic (founded in 1923), and as such are of inestimable value to social historians of Turkey. I was also awarded the Cleora Republic.

**DR. CAROL SEARS BOTSCH • POLITICAL SCIENCE**

I was fortunate to be granted a sabbatical for the fall 2013 semester to focus on my continuing research on women and politics, centering on a local political figure. The project is far from complete, but I presented a paper on my preliminary research findings at the SC Political Science Association meeting in March of 2014. During this same period, Bob Botsch and I completed the revisions on a journal article which has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Political Science Education. Bob has described this in more detail. In the spring, I returned to teaching. Teaching American Government, both face to face and online, is always an exciting process, with real world events serving as illustrations of the more general principles we discuss in the classroom. As I tell my students, you couldn’t make up some of this stuff! I also taught Introduction to Public Administration, one of a number of courses in my upper level rotation. Public management is the nuts and bolts of government, the doing side. The February ice storm was a good case study for my students to examine in that context. We often think of political science as a major primarily for students interested in going to law school, but it is also excellent preparation for a career in public service, and many of our majors go that route as well.

**DR. DAVID DILLARD-WRIGHT • PHILOSOPHY**

This year I published an article in the journal, Environment, Space, Place, called “Placing Humanity: The Reconstruction of Pre-History at Lascaux.” The article discusses philosopher George Bataille’s interpretations of the cave art at Lascaux and the aesthetics of tourism. I also published a book called At Ganapati’s Feet: Daily Life with the Elephant-Headed Deity, which is now available from Mantra Books. With support from a summer research grant, I conducted new research on sympathy and the ethical implications of distance, a longstanding interest.

**PROF. ALEXIA JONES HELSLEY • HISTORY**

During academic year 2013-2014, I lectured on “Rebecca Brewton Motte: Revolutionary Heroine” for the Francis Marion Symposium in October and the South Carolina Historical Society’s spring lecture series in February. Also in February, I served on a panel “Pat Conroy: Teacher and Student,” part of the One Book/One Columbia celebration sponsored by USC Press, USC Honors College, USC Libraries, and the SC Humanities Council. Pat Conroy and I were members of the same graduating class at Beaufort High School. Also, The History Press published my latest book, Wicked Edisto: the dark side of Eden, in April. In addition, I spoke on Motte for the Aiken Kiwanis Club in April, on “Richard Pearis: Frontier Entrepreneur” for Henderson County (NC) Genealogical and History Society in December and on “Ethnicity, DNA and Genealogy” for the Dutch Fork Chapter, SC Genealogical Society.

**DR. ELIZABETH GEORGIAN • HISTORY**

This past year I have presented two papers, “Cover Yourselves: Christian Women’s Demands for Male Modesty,” at the Annual Meeting of the Popular Culture Association in Chicago and “Methodist Ministers and Medicine: Bodies, Souls, and Politics,” the Manchester Wesley Seminar in Manchester, England. Her article, “Medicine and Politics: The Primitive Physic and Early American Methodism,” has been accepted for publication in January 2016 edition of the Wesley and Methodist Studies Journal. I greatly enjoyed teaching my first course for the Academy of Lifelong Learning, “American Religions,” and am looking forward to teaching another course, “The History of Immunization,” there in October.

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David Dillard-Wright is taking his Philosophy of the Animal class on field trips in order to study animal ethics and animal cognition in real-world contexts. **Left:** Jan Alber-Senn, founder of Cotton Branch Animal Sanctuary in Leesville, SC, talks to the students while the alpha goat shows interest in her bag of corn. **Below:** a rescued gamecock. **Right:** Tommy Gardiner, an Interdisciplinary Studies major with a combined Philosophy and Religion course of study, contemplates a rescued bird at Feathered Friends Forever, an exotic bird sanctuary in Harlem, GA.

**Left:** Luntadilo Paulo, notebook in hand, raises serious questions about pigs. Philosophy of the Animal students learn about the problematic “micro-pig,” marketed as a household pet. Alber-Senn gets many so-called micro-pigs as rescues when their owners learn they are no smaller than other pot-bellied pigs. The pricetag for such animals can be as high as $1500-1800, and they have birth defects caused by inbreeding. The smallest “micro-pig” at the rescue weighs 90 pounds! The rescue also takes care of horses, donkeys, geese, and ducks, all with donated funds and labor. Some come from hoarding and abusive situations, some are surrendered companion animals, and others come from laboratories.
FACULTY NEWS continued

DR. THOMAS WOOD • POLITICAL SCIENCE

On the research front, I have been following the tumultuous events in Ukraine this year, drawing contrasts and comparisons with political unrest elsewhere in the former Soviet Union, including earlier revolutions in Kyrgyzstan and Georgia, and I presented some initial findings at the South Carolina Political Science Association Annual Meeting in March. In my upper-level comparative politics course in the spring of 14, I introduced a strong dose of Canadian politics, which led to some interesting discussions of the differences between the US and Canadian political systems. We also had a skype video call session with a class of students at the American University in Nigeria discussing issues and questions in Nigerian politics that proved very popular! As I do many semesters, in spring 2014 I offered a course for USCA’s Academy of Lifelong Learning, this time a follow-up on the outcome of the Arab Spring.

DR. MEAGHAN DWYER-RYAN • HISTORY

What a great first year at USC Aiken! In addition to teaching the U.S. History from 1865 to the Present survey, I taught the Emergence of Modern America and a new upper-level course: Immigration, Race, and Ethnicity. This fall I am teaching another new course: Patriotism in American Culture. I am hard at work on my manuscript, Ethnic Patriotism: Boston’s Irish and Jews, 1898-1928, as well as two articles based on this research, “Ethnic Patriotism on Parade: Local and Ethnic Identity in Boston, 1900-1917,” and “Loyal to Faith and Country: Caring for Irish Catholic and Jewish Servicemen During World War I.” I also began a new project that examines the connections between ethnic culture and baseball. I presented some ideas on this research at the annual conference for the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association in Chicago in April, and the annual meeting of the American Conference for Irish Studies/Canadian Association of Irish Studies in Dublin in June.

DR. STEVE MILLIES • POLITICAL SCIENCE

The last year my contribution to an introductory textbook in political science was published. I authored a short article for an online journal, and saw two review essays published. Presently, I am completing research on a series of articles in the underdeveloped area of fundamental political theology, a way of approaching church-state issues in an interdisciplinary way from the perspectives of both politics and theology, equally. Last year, I developed a course on Marxism and look forward to my seminar course on conservatism in the fall 2014.

DR. HEATHER PETERSON • HISTORY

I have had a busy academic year with two conferences and a long anticipated wedding! It started out with a trip to Johannesburg South Africa to attend Body Knowledge, an international conference aimed at bringing the sciences and humanities into dialogue. After the conclusion of the conference I got to explore Soweto, the famous township where Hector Pieterson’s death in 1976 sparked almost 20 years of civil unrest that finally toppled the Apartheid regime. For a historian interested in the machinations of discrimination talking to locals about their experiences of apartheid and changes that have and haven’t happened was illuminating. In November my fiancé from Scotland, Mr. Ewan Hunter, finally got his visa and made it to the US! Later that month I presented at the History of Science and Societies’ international conference in Boston, taking my work in a new direction with a panel on the conservative side of science. In April Ewan and I got married, with friends and family from far afield, and this summer we honeymooned in Big Sky Country.

DR. BOB BOTSCH • POLITICAL SCIENCE

As this past year was my next to last year at USCA before retiring from full time teaching, it has been a year of trying to complete things and starting the transition to retirement. Carol and I had an article accepted for publication in a national journal that was based on the more than a decade of research on USCA students. The major finding was that students who took American Government and to a slightly lesser extent took American history had significant short term and intermediate term positive gains in knowledge, attitudes (such as a sense of effectiveness and interest) and in keeping up with politics. Each of the courses and even more so both together made them better citizens who are more likely to preserve our democratic republic. Of course that is why we entered teaching so many years ago. Nice to have some empirical evidence that it was not all for naught! I have begun the slow and bittersweet process of cleaning out my office. One student requested my bumper stickers (if my successor does not want them). Another, who will be starting on his PhD at Princeton this fall, took a lot of my books, some of which I inherited from my former professors. It is good to know that some things last.

DR. SAMUEL PIERCE • HISTORY

I was recently awarded an ASPIRE-I research grant from the University of South Carolina to support my research on the political mobilization of catholics during Spain’s Second Republic (1931-1936). My article, “Acción Obrerista: Confessional Labor Organization in the Spanish Republic, 1931-1936” will be published in the Fall 2014 issue of the Catholic Historical Review. Additionally, I continue to teach courses in European and World History and to work on research projects relating to masculinity in the Franco regime and the teaching of Spanish history in small university departments.
POLITICAL SCIENCE INTERNSHIPS, CONTINUED

Many students are not aware that through the Political Science program, we offer students the opportunity to get hands-on experience outside of the classroom as interns, mostly in the public and non-profit sectors. Normally our student interns do not work for pay, because they receive credit for the internship, which operates under the independent study umbrella. Student interns work a certain number of hours per week under the supervision of an individual who generally gives them increasing responsibility as they learn the ropes and demonstrate their capabilities and reliability. As their instructor of record, I meet with them on a regular basis and they are required to complete an appropriate academic component. Student interns are also required to have a minimum GPA, since an internship, just like a paid position, requires students to be good time managers and responsible employees. And after all, they are representing our program and our university, as well as themselves, in this workplace.

Over nearly twenty years I have placed students in a variety of different internship venues, mostly in the public sector. Since many of our majors are thinking about going to law school, law-related placements are popular. A number of students have worked in the City of Aiken Solicitor’s Office under several different solicitors. Another popular venue is the private law office, and several local law firms have been willing to work with our students. Sometimes the students have made the initial contact themselves! These law-related placements give them a window to view a career in law. Sometimes students find out that an area of work is simply not for them. But for most, internships confirm an already chosen career path.

Some of our majors are interested in a career in a politics-related field. We have placed a number of students in the local congressional offices where they work with constituent, regardless of party affiliation. Some have worked in political campaigns. As a public university we are, of course, non-partisan, and our students can work for the candidate and party of their choice.

Many are interested in a career in public service. We place these in various local government offices, including such venues as the City of Aiken’s personnel office, planning department, and assistant manager’s office. Some have worked in county government or another local government agency. One recent grad, for example, worked in the City of Aiken Public Safety Department, and is now a police officer.

Another student interned with the US Marshalls in Columbia, and hopes to make a career with them after completing his service in the US military. A few have worked in the non-profit sector, including the United Way, and in the recent past, one interned with a local talk radio station and wrote a paper on the politics of talk radio.

My own experience in college as a student intern sparked my interest in a career in public service, and later in academia. It is a great way to get some hands on experience and learn a little more about a career one is considering. And certainly an internship can help a student to stand out above other applicants and get that first paid job, the first step up the ladder to success.

Carol Sears Botsch

“We cannot afford to drift physically, morally, or esthetically in a world in which the current moves so rapidly, perhaps toward an abyss. Science and technology are providing us with the means to travel swiftly. But what course do we take? This is the question that no computer can answer.”

Glenn Seaborg, 1964, Head of the Atomic Energy Commission, in making the case for establishing the National Endowment for the Humanities
HONOR ROLL

The Department is deeply grateful to everyone who supports our students and faculty in all that we do. We apologize if we have omitted or miscategorized gifts.

Poets & Philosophers ($501+)
The Reverend Christine K. Dungen
Mr. F. Owen Holmes, Jr.

Scholars ($1-$100)
Dr. Carol S. Botsch
Dr. Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan
Judith K. and Dr. James O. Farmer
Dr. Elizabeth Ann Georgian
Mr. Michael Brett Godwin
Professor Alexia Jones Helsley
Dr. Valdis O. Lumans
Mr. Derrick L. McLane
Mr. David W. Mitchell
Ms. Kay Elizabeth Oxner
Ms. Kathryn D. Simmons
Ms. Nina Spinelli
Ms. Laura G. Storey
Dr. Craig M. Wheeland

Chroniclers ($251-$500)
Mrs. Doris F. Baumgarten
Mr. W. Mark Manders
CPT Adrian A. Nickyson
Mr. Brian W. Warden

Citizens ($101-$250)
Mr. Kenneth W. Mishoe

ALUMNI NEWS

Political Science graduate Ryan Kuhns (class of 2010) was accepted into five of the eight graduate programs to which he applied, a quite high batting average! Kuhns will be attending the University of Kentucky’s Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce this fall. He plans to look for internships in think tanks or in the federal government.

Sergio Ferrisi (class of 2001, former Adjunct Instructor, Philosophy) has taken vows as a monk in the Order of Friars Minor (OFM), a Franciscan monastic order (see photo).

Justin Shealy is a student at Charlotte School of Law, starting his second year there. His professor in his litigation course is Christa Cox Sumwalt, who is a partner in a Charlotte law firm and an adjunct professor there! She is also a USCA grad (1995) who was a political science major.