Greetings from the Chair

One of the new slogans for the University of South Carolina Aiken is, “Liberal Arts Values, Real World Skills,” and I am a fan of this new effort to better communicate what we do on our campus. I am glad that we are able to share with our students the ability to search the historical record for precedents for situations that we encounter in the world today. I am glad that we provide some understanding of the workings of our political system and governments around the world. Our students will graduate ready to be active and engaged citizens in the world and not just passive consumers of information.

But I understand completely the need for “real world skills,” and we do plenty of work on those in our classes as well. Our students learn how to conduct research and how to convey their thoughts orally and in writing. They learn how to work in collaborative teams and how to use technology. They learn how to work with people of different backgrounds and abilities. All of these skills prove very valuable when our graduates go onto the job market, but we like to think that they also become well-rounded people, able to navigate the changes in the world today.

I have just passed my ten-year anniversary of teaching at USC Aiken. A lot of people have come and gone. Much has changed, but I still see us as a small liberal arts college that has some of the best faculty in the country. Our students get the benefits of a large research institution but with small class sizes and individual attention. That, to my mind, is the best of both worlds. From talking to my peers at other institutions, I know that our campus culture is welcoming and supportive for students and faculty alike.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our donors. Your contributions to the department help us do exciting things, like host the Palmetto Connections Symposium, our interdisciplinary conference. You will see some details in these pages for what we and our students have been doing lately, and I hope you will continue to support us. We are grateful every day for our friends in the community who make our work possible.

David Dillard-Wright

2017 Civil Discourse Seminar Series

This Fall, the Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy is holding the Civil Discourse Seminar Series, consisting of eight Inter-Curricular Enrichment (ICE) events to help USC Aiken students understand the importance of civil discourse in the college environment. The series was inspired by Chancellor Sandra Jordan as part of a larger attempt to facilitate civil discourse among the student body at USC Aiken.

The series opened with Dr. Matthew Thornburg’s talk, “What Do I Do Now? Getting Involved in the Political Process,” on September 21. On September 22, Dr. Elizabeth Georgian spoke on “Know Your Rights: The Constitution and Due Process.” On November 13, Dr. Tim McClure will present on “Diversity: Marijuana Criminalization and Incarceration.” Other seminars include productive civil discussions, social media engagement, issues concerning the legalization of marijuana, and other important elements related to discourse.

More information about the series and a complete calendar of lectures can be found at http://www.usca.edu/civil-discourse.
Greetings from the Dean

As I begin my second year as the Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences, I reflect on all things past, present, and future. Last year we had several events supported by the Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy, including a display at the Gregg-Graniteville Library honoring the 225th anniversary of the Bill of Rights; guest speaker Vernon Burton for Constitution Day; and former CNN correspondent Charles Bierbauer, who presented an excellent lecture on the 2016 presidential election.

For 2017-2018, the department will sponsor several interesting events, including the Civil Discourse Series this Fall; a program during Constitution Week in September, featuring a lecture on the history of race relations in the United States by Dr. David Shi of Furman University; and the Palmetto Connections Symposium on Saturday, November 11.

I hope that students will become engaged in many of the activities sponsored by your professors. You will not be disappointed!

Lastly, I would like to extend a warm welcome to Dr. Sarah Young, our new Assistant Professor of American Government and Public Administration. Dr. Young has taken up residence in the C wing of the Humanities and Social Sciences Building, and I hope everyone will take the time to stop by and meet her.

Mark Hollingsworth

Student Awards Spring 2017

Two students from the department merited special recognition in the Spring of 2017 for their performance in the classroom and their dedicated service. Well done to our outstanding students!

Outstanding Student in Philosophy
David F. Gladkowski
David graduated in May 2017. He served as an officer in the USCA Philosophy Club and distinguished himself in the classroom through excellent writing and oral presentations. In addition to being a fine young scholar, he is an avid skateboarder and world traveler.

Outstanding Student in History
Jason H. Hadden
Jason graduated cum laude in August 2017. His capstone research project, “The Effects of Federal Policy on Local Development: A Look at North Augusta in the 1950s,” analyzed the impact of the construction of the Savannah River Site and the influx of large numbers of works on the surrounding community, particularly North Augusta. He is the Worship Director for high school students at Crossroads Church in Aiken and the Challenge Course Coordinator at the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina.

Faculty Awards Spring 2017

Valdis O. Lumans Award

Named after our beloved Latvian raconteur, professor emeritus, and former chair, The Valdis O. Lumans Award recognizes one professor each year for excellence in teaching.

The 2016-2017 recipient is Dr. Elizabeth Georgian. Please be sure to congratulate Dr. Georgian for this accomplishment. The award carries with it the satisfaction of a job well done! Her name will be added to the plaque in the hallway.

Tenure and Promotion

Dr. Elizabeth Georgian and Dr. Samuel Pierce were awarded tenure and promoted to Associate Professor this summer.

Congratulations, Dr. Georgian and Dr. Pierce!
Faculty News

Dr. Roger Deal • History

Dr. Deal presented papers on the history of the late Ottoman police force at two international conferences in 2016, one in Antalya, Turkey and the other in Boston. Rather than looking at the criminal system from an institutional perspective, he focused on the actual experiences of the low-level policemen patrolling the streets of Istanbul in the 1880s and the 1890s. Dr. Deal also continues his work on small town annual fairs in Turkey; in May he took a research trip to Ayvacik, in Western Anatolia, to visit a local fair. While there, he visited World War One battle sites and monuments at Gallipoli as well as the archeological site of Troy. Finally, the Turkish translation of Dr. Deal's book, *Crimes of Honor: Drunken Brawls and Murder* (Libra Books, Istanbul) was published in March as *Namus Cinayetleri Sarhoş Kavgaları* by Kitap Yayinevi and has already received a very favorable review in the daily *Hürriyet*, Turkey's largest newspaper.

Dr. Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan • History

Dr. Dwyer-Ryan's article, "The Making of an Irish and a Jewish Boston, 1820 to 1900," appeared in the *Historical Journal of Massachusetts* (June 2016). She published two book reviews and had four entries appear in the *Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*. She also presented "Brothers and Comrades in a Universal Cause: Ethnic Patriotism Among Boston's Irish Catholics and Jews During World War I" at the American Historical Association/Society for Church History meeting in January and "Commemorating Patriotism and Ethnic Cooperation in Massachusetts: Monuments to the Pilgrim Fathers and John Boyle O'Reilly" at the Nineteenth Century Studies Association conference in February. She serves as the history program's internship coordinator.

Dr. Elizabeth Georgian • History

Dr. Georgian was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor this summer. She presented "Contested Memorial Days: Northern and Southern Methodists Remembrances of the Civil War" at the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association in March. Her articles, "Dow, Lorenzo," "Methodist Protestant Church," and "Republican Methodists," appeared in *The Encyclopedia of Christianity in the United States*. She began serving on the board of the South Carolina Historical Association and chaired the Old Exchange Commission, a state commission that oversees South Carolina’s most historic building.

Dr. David Dillard-Wright • Philosophy


Prof. Alexia Jones Helsley • History

This past year Prof. Helsley developed three new courses: "South Carolina in the American Revolution," "Rome and Its Environs to 5th c. AD," and a virtual humanities honors course, co-taught with Prof. Deborah Tritt. Her chapter, ”Dr. Daniel Lesesne Smith and the Spartanburg Baby Hospital: A Chapter in Southern Progressivism,” will appear in *Recovering the Piedmont Past, II* (USC Press, Fall 2018). She presented “The ‘Pilgrim of Liberty’Visits South Carolina: the Marquis de Lafayette in South Carolina in 1825,” at the Nineteenth Century Studies Association annual meeting in February, and two papers at the South Carolina Historical Association annual meeting: “Dr. Daniel Lesesne Smith, His Baby Hospitals and the Southern Pediatric Seminar,” and “The Catawba in the American Revolution” in March 2017. Lastly, she served on the board of the SC Historical Society and chaired the Old Exchange Commission, a state commission that oversees South Carolina’s most historic building.
Faculty News

Dr. Steven Millies • Political Science

Dr. Millies has accepted a position as director of the Bernardin Center for Theology & Ministry and associate professor of political theology at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. He will continue to teach at USC Aiken during the Fall 2017 semester and begin his new appointment in January 2018. We wish Dr. Millies all the best!

Dr. Heather Peterson • History

Dr. Peterson published “Recipes for Curing Syphilis from Colonial Mexico” in the “Recipes Project” website and continues work on her book project, “Sucking the Blood: The Spiritual Ecology of Indian Mortality in New Spain 1520-1620.” She published a book review, organized a panel at the American Historical Association Meeting in January, and presented a paper about how the transformation of Native Americans’ lifeways and Spiritual Ecology shaped the way they understood the epidemics and mortality that devastated New Spain throughout the 16th century.

Dr. Samuel Pierce • History

Dr. Pierce was awarded tenure and promoted to associate professor this summer. He is developing research on the political mobilization of Spanish Catholics before the Spanish Civil War, the teaching of masculinity in the early Franco regime, and the social history of Down syndrome in Spain. Last year, he published an article, “Gender Relations in Interwar Europe,” in Europe Between the Wars, edited by George Esenwein, and presented “Trisomy-21: Medical and Social Developments in the History of Down Syndrome in Spain, 1960-1980” at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Spanish and Portuguese Historical Studies in March.

Dr. Matthew Thornburg • Political Science

During the fall election season, Dr. Thornburg gave several public talks and a series of lectures with the Academy for Lifelong Learning. He designed and conducted an Election Day exit poll with student assistance and presented his findings to local civic groups. In the spring, Dr. Thornburg designed, conducted, and analyzed a 600-person survey of the City of Aiken. He also presented his personal research at the South Carolina Political Science Association. He continues to study how rules and institutions change the outcome of primary elections.

Dr. Thomas Wood • Political Science

Aside from chairing the search committee to find a successor for Dr. Carol Botsch, Dr. Wood served a second year as Secretary of the Faculty Assembly. Dr. Wood continues to offer his upper level elective on the EU, and in spring semester adapted it for its first ever online offering. As ever, tumultuous international events demanded explanation. The global deterioration in democratic governance – e.g. in Hungary, Turkey and the United States, gave rise to the opportunity to organize several ICE events, as did the vote in Britain to leave the EU. Dr. Wood also presented a paper adapting neofunctionalism to explain regional integration in the former Soviet Union at the Central Eurasian Studies Society annual conference in Seattle this October.

Dr. Sarah Young • Political Science

Dr. Young has a PhD from the University of Tennessee, specializing in state and local public policy and administration. Her research interests include comparative labor and economic development policy in the American states, as well as interest group policy advocacy. She taught for six years at the University of Tennessee and Pellissippi State Community College in Knoxville and worked for numerous political and governmental agencies. Dr. Young is excited to be at USC Aiken, finding the CSRA to be a promising laboratory for exploring the intersection of local, state, and national economic development policy. Welcome, Dr. Young!
Alumni News

Dylan Timmerman, History, 2016
After graduation, I began working full-time as a researcher and writer at the agricultural firm Matson Consulting, continuing after an internship I received through the History Program in my senior year. At Matson, I developed my business writing skills through working on grant applications, business plans, and feasibility studies for small farmers and other agricultural businesses.

This fall I began a Masters Degree program in City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, specializing in Land Use and Environmental Planning. I intend to bring together my interests in history, politics, and the environment with the business development skills I learned at Matson Consulting to learn how cities can continue to grow in ways that benefit businesses while also promoting conservation efforts.

D'Aundria Driver, History, 2016
After graduating in December 2016, I became an academic advisor for a Historically Black College and University (HBCU) in Atlanta. I always thought I would be working in some field that had to do with teaching or literary studies, but my job incorporates everything that my professors have taught me.

Dr. Deal has his students read a ton of material, which prepared me for reading every student’s file that hits my desk and understanding that everyone has a different background story. Dr. Pierce taught me to listen and understand things won’t always work out and to give everyone a second chance. Dr. Dwyer-Ryan taught me to be confident and strong in my abilities and to never doubt myself. Dr. Georgian helped me realize that patience is a virtue and sometimes it’s best to step back and reevaluate every situation. Dr. Peterson taught me that everyone learns differently: it’s up to you to find different ways to get information to them.

When I graduated college I was terrified, but my professors believed in me so much that I had to believe in myself. My career path now is leading me into grad school and hopefully I can become a professor one day. The history department at USCA helped me understand my past so I could make a future. I’m truly grateful for my education at USC Aiken.

Cameron Levi, History Minor, 2017
After completing a number of history courses at USC Aiken, I find myself more prepared than my peers for Seminary. The knowledge that was gained in these courses gave me an understanding of the world around me. It provided me with insight into how different people become important in a world where differences are often made to be reasons to discriminate or hate others. These are values that are gained when one examines or hate others. These are values that are gained when one examines history.

Erin McCullough, Political Science, 2007
Teaching at USC Aiken over the last four years was a fun and enlightening experience. I had a unique position as both faculty and alumna watching all the wonderful changes as our alma mater grew and flourished. We hired dynamic new professors in the department, we welcomed bright and intelligent new students, and, as always, we worked to maintain the high standards expected from our department. While my teaching career at USC Aiken has come to an end, I begin a new journey into the world of data science. I have worked on university surveys and exit polls since Dr. Bob’s Scope and Methods class in 2006 and will bring my experience and knowledge to the private sector. I will be working alongside other survey data specialists and experts to answer the many varied questions of social science.

Andrew Quirk, History, 2015
After graduating from USC Aiken, I interned with the Aiken County Government Risk Management Office and worked part-time with the USC-Aiken Athletics Department. In March 2016, I was hired full-time as a paralegal with Connor & Connor, LLC, a law firm in Aiken that focuses on nursing home negligence cases. At Connor & Connor, I used the research, writing, and communication skills I acquired as a history major to draft memos, court documents, and meeting summaries.

In August 2016, I began a Masters at the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky, focusing on international political economy, international development, and comparative politics. Graduate school is not without its challenges, but I think the education I received at USCA well prepared me for a competitive program. After graduate school I’ll begin the job search, with the ultimate goal of ending up in either a multilateral organization such as the World Bank or the IMF, or going into political management/risk consulting.

We love to hear what our alumni are up to! Please contact Dr. Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan at meaghanwyerryan@usca.edu to let us know what you have been doing since graduation.
City of Aiken Survey

During the Spring 2017 semester, Dr. Matthew Thornburg directed the Social Sciences and Business Research Lab in designing, conducting, and analyzing a 607-person live telephone survey on behalf of the City of Aiken. Survey interviews lasted approximately fifteen minutes, and asked individuals living within the city limits about their feelings toward Aiken and its government. Interviews were conducted by fifteen political science majors from Dr. Thornburg's spring 2017 classes who got a chance to learn about the process of survey research. Students were trained in interviewing techniques and asked respondents questions about their feelings towards Aiken in general and in the downtown, their reasons for living in the city, their feelings about city departments and services, and their opinions about the management of the city and its future plans. The survey comes at a critical time as the city is preparing to embark on several new initiatives, and this study provides an overall picture of how residents feel about the city.

Dr. Thornburg presented the survey to the City of Aiken Council and Mayor Osborn, where it was positively received. All in all, the survey was a positive experience, bringing $20,000 to the university, the majority of which went to student workers. Professor Emeritus Bob Botsch helped write the report, and adjunct professors Allison Hamilton and Erin McCullough served as laboratory assistants.
Why We Fight: War, Conflict, and Community

Palmetto Connections Symposium
Saturday, November 11, 2017

Palmetto Connections is an annual interdisciplinary symposium first held in 2012. This year’s event is co-sponsored by the Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy and the Veteran and Military Student Success Center at the University of South Carolina Aiken. It will be held at USC Aiken on Saturday, November 11, 2017.

This year’s theme is “Why We Fight: War, Conflict, and Community.” The year 2017 marks the centennial of America’s entrance into World War I. The Great War (1914-1918) helped shape the modern world in many ways, from the creation of new national boundaries and alliances, to the shifting of relations between labor and government, to changing understandings of war and conflict. Above all, it altered the way ordinary people thought about patriotism and citizenship, both at the national and local level. We hope to use this anniversary to initiate conversations about war, conflict, and community.

The keynote speaker is Jeanne Petit, Professor and Chair of the Department of History at Hope College in Holland, Michigan. Her address is entitled, "Mobilizing the Spiritual Resources of the Nation: Protestants, Catholics, and Jews in the World War I United States.” Petit is the author of The Men and Women We Want: Gender, Race and the Progressive Era Literacy Test Debate (Rochester Press, 2010). Her current research examines how Catholic laywomen became involved in national debates during the World War I era, as well as interfaith movements during World War I, particularly the 1918 United War Work Campaign.

Panels include a roundtable discussion on issues affecting veterans, led by Robert Murphy, director of the the Veteran and Military Student Success Center; information on researching government military resources; and papers on war and memory in South Carolina.

The symposium also includes an Undergraduate Symposium, featuring panels of students presenting their research on a variety of topics, including war in the early modern world and the socio-cultural impact of war and conflict on society.

For more information about the symposium, including the program and registration procedure, visit http://web.usca.edu/palmettoconnections.