Greetings From the Chair
By Dr. Val Lumans

This year’s Greetings From the Chair starts with an apology for the tardiness of the publication of our 2007-2008 newsletter—but as the old adage goes, better late . . . etc. As emphasized and anticipated in last year’s Polis, this past year has been a sad and reflective one—the last academic year prior to retirement for three department stalwarts, Dr. Jim Farmer, Dr. Blanche Premo-Hopkins, and Dr. Girma Negash. As a welcomed counterbalance, it has also been an exceptionally busy year for the rest of us, with three replacement faculty searches and a new instructorship search. At least the searches helped ease the pain of dealing with the departures of our long-serving colleagues—both by keeping us too busy for too much remorse and by lightening our spirits with the expectations of brand new colleagues. In this edition of Polis we will dispense with the usual, tedious homily from the cathedra on the budget crunch, on other un-pleasantries, or the reverse—patting ourselves too strenuously on our backs, too often and ad nauseam—and get on with the celebration of the retirement of the “terrific three” and the arrival of the “fab four.” We will also forego our regular featured essay from a department colleague—although one of our newcomers, philosopher Dr. David Dillard-Wright, submitted a stimulating piece on the ethics of “xenotransplantation” that will appear in next year’s issue. So stay tuned. We will feature instead the final reflections of our three retiring scholars on their tenure at USC Aiken and higher education, to be followed by three retiring scholars on their tenure at USC Aiken and higher education, to be followed by four. “We will also forego our regular featured essay from a department colleague—although one of our newcomers, philosopher Dr. David Dillard-Wright, submitted a stimulating piece on the ethics of “xenotransplantation” that will appear in next year’s issue. So stay tuned. We will feature instead the final reflections of our three retiring scholars on their tenure at USC Aiken and higher education, to be followed by three retiring scholars on their tenure at USC Aiken and higher education, to be followed by four. “

Department Metamorphosis!!

Reflections of Three Scholars

As her departing reflections on her years at USC Aiken and as a commentary on her views on higher education, philosopher Dr. Blanche Premo-Hopkins selected the Luncheon Speech she presented on November 1, 2007 on the occasion of the Governor’s Professor of the Year Award.

First let me congratulate the nominees and winners of this year’s Governor’s Professor of the Year award. It is an honor to be asked to address such a distinguished audience, including so many of those who have committed themselves to the education of our State’s college and university students. I especially want to recognize the recipients of this year’s award: In reading their nomination materials, I see two individuals totally committed to their students, their profession, and their institutions. But for all nominees: The fact that you are being honored today is testimony to your dedication in making every classroom, laboratory, field, and studio experience the best it could be. You have opened up to young minds (and some older ones as well) the wonders of the tiniest specks of matter/energy, the inner life of a cell, the grandeur of a literary piece that exposes what we are as humans, the thrill of musical performance, the neurological pathways that define thought and the wonders of earth, its history, geological development and environmental future. What a breathtaking adventure for which you have been the guide.

Today I would like to reflect on what I believe to be the most important dimension of the responsibility of teaching. Plato long ago reflected on this, asking the basic question of humanity? Why be good? This question is so basic that it underlies every discipline and every act we perform as teachers. Why should we teach others to look critically at a piece of art or literature? Why should we teach others to treat patients as persons and not simply as cases? Why should we explore virtual reality as well as planets far away?

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Department Alumnus to Speak at December Convocation

The faculty of the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy is proud to acknowledge that one of its own, alumnus Dr. Craig M. Wheeland, has accepted an invitation to speak at USCA’s Fall Semester Commencement this December, 2008. Craig, Political Science (1979), serves as the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs at Villanova University. He will be next in line to participate in a USCA tradition, selecting our own successful graduates as featured Fall commencement speakers. We are delighted to have the opportunity to welcome Craig “home” and wait with great anticipation to hear the words of wisdom he will share with our graduates. Stay tuned for the possible publication of his speech in next year’s Polis—if Craig consents to sharing his words in print.
from our own? Why should we defend the poor and those accused of crime? What is the basis of the belief that all humans are equal and deserve respect? Every discipline, every answer a discipline proposes and its method for answering its questions has at its basis the central question of the moral life.

But it is not just a question of "being good at" what we do as teachers. It is also a matter of being a good human being. I want to argue that the best professors, like the best of any profession, communicate the integrity that is part of their character. So often this is forgotten when we admire the successful. Then we come to find that somehow their success has compromised who they are as persons. Achievements become sand running through the fingers.

Now answering the question of basic goodness depends on two very different conceptions of human beings. Thrasymachus in the Republic of Plato characterizes the selfish view. If we are at base selfish as Hobbes too later argues, then education is merely a thin coating that is applied to men and women who at base are simply out for themselves. Teaching becomes sophistry...training in how to get the better of the opponent. And all methods to win are acceptable...to keep power, to gain power, to make profit, to keep profit, to gain recognition at all costs. And then to lie about our motives and acts when caused destroys success at its very core. The media is replete with examples...of late even our best athletes.

Even altruistic behavior, such as cooperation for gaining some objective (profit, fame, power), becomes in this view a means to self aggrandisement. Ultimately it is bad theory because no counterexamples can be found. Everything is explained by an appeal to selfish desire. And as Plato's Socrates suggested and argued, much of true paideia is "tendance of the soul." Education must develop the spirit.

The other and opposed conception of human being is that we are zoon politicon, that is, social organic beings, needing one another and having a certain compassion for the pain of the other, naturally. This view has more in common with evolutionary theory and thinkers from Rousseau, Whitman, and more recently, Franz de Waal and Peter Singer. There is a continuum between other species and our selves and emotion in our lives plays a large role in moral decision making. Other-regarding behavior comes "naturally." Our emotions have "cognitive content" as Martha Nussbaum argues and as such inform decision making. Thus we as educators (and humans ourselves) can build on native goodness, develop it, and move it to the heights of achievement. There is a supremely important point to be made here and I turn to Thomas Nagel in his Mortal Questions (Canto edition, 1991) to make it:

(Those) who engage in this activity (the subject of ethics) are organisms about whom we can learn a great deal from biology....But it would be foolish to seek a biological evolutionary explanation of ethics as it would be to seek such an explanation of the development of physics...What human beings have discovered in themselves is a capacity to subject their pre-reflective or innate responses to criticism and revisions, and to create new forms of understanding." (145-146)

Inquiry into the nature of the "good" defines the kind of being we are. Education shapes and molds the spirit.

Now what has this to do with the mission of the professor? Everything. How you view what we are as human shapes the contours of the educational process. We are not talking about indoctrination. We are not talking about shaping students into a pre-determined mold. We are talking about making our disciplinary passion light up a spark in the intellect and soul of the student. It is the passion of intellectual curiosity, of not being satisfied with the easiest or closest to reach explanation. It means discipline and commitment. Sadly this is sometimes the least thought-of dimension of our profession. Just the other evening I heard a researcher in cell biology say, "we must protect our researchers from teaching!" Imagine a university without a future. Without the mentoring of others to continue the research in which we engage, we have a dead campus. Without students, vibrancy in the academic life withers. That is not to say that research is not an essential part of our mission. We cannot teach what we don't know with depth and clarity. We cannot prepare for the future without exploring the very limits of what is known now, testing it, drawing out its implications. But unless there is the commitment to help the student understand and be able to perform for the sake of bringing about the greater good, the research enterprise has little meaning.

The best educators set fire to the soul. They have students who come to them to learn the day's lessons better. They are approachable and available. They consider no student as too dull to be brought along. They know Plato's lesson well: the tendance of the soul is our primary obligation. And this is no small challenge, for everything students see around them is businesspersons, politicians, athletes, media stars who break the rules and get ahead. So why be good? In a way, every discipline must answer this or challenge students to answer this question for themselves in the framework of the discipline's methods and the questions it asks. I submit that the "learning outcomes" for students are not so much demonstrated on a standardized examination as they are in the lives of the young people we touch.

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As Dr. Girma Negash concludes his career at USC Aiken, he notes his latest accomplishments as well as shares a few words of the wisdom he has cumulatively acquired over many years:

Girma says that 2007-2008 was like any other busy academic year, but it also imposed a sense of urgency on him as he was carrying out his duties at USC Aiken for the last time. In September he presented a paper: "Imagination & Healing: Art and Reconstruction in Postwar Societies" for the "Arts as Alternative Expression" section of the European Consortium of Political Research conference in Pisa, Italy. The conference provided the fringe benefits of a couple of trips to Florence by train where he visited museums and wandered around the narrow streets of this truly wondrous town in addition to exploring historic Pisa. Incidentally, the revised edition of the conference paper was accepted in May for publication by the British journal, Review of International Studies. Earlier, in January, he had submitted a chapter for a forthcoming book: Restoring Hope to Global Politics: The Inclusion of the Public Good as US Foreign Policy Practice. Girma plans to remain scholarly active after retirement, but at a more leisurely pace, obviously.

During his last go-around this past spring semester Girma taught global politics in addition to his foreign policy class. He also offered the humanities course on African-American studies, since it coincided with the historic candidacy of
The third of our “star” retirees, Dr. Jim Farmer, shares with us his “Meditations on Retiring.”

As I ever so slowly drift off toward the sunset, I’m moved to contemplate what it all means (OK, meant is what I meant)—sixteen years toiling in the groves of academe, the USC Aiken Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy, which followed 21 years in other seats of learning, and now as I return to sort through the detritus that accumulated in my office during those 16 years, preparing to make way for the next generation (David Dillard-Wright), former colleagues acknowledge me with “I thought you had retired!” Arthur Miller understood how it feels — “a man is not a piece of fruit” said Willie Loman in “Death of a Salesman.”

But I’ll pay no mind to such unfeeling remarks, for I am among the lucky post-career folk, the fortunate few whose liberal education (lacking as it admittedly was in some areas) has made our minds into pleasant places in which to spend our leisure. “So many books — so little time” the bibliophiles say, to which I add, “so much to reflect upon, to see and do, and so many new (though probably old) people to meet and share thoughts with, so many projects - intellectual and non - to undertake! May all of you, faculty colleagues and students, arrive at such a prospect when the time comes.

I am by nature both optimistic and nostalgic — illogical I know. The study of history can be an exercise in nostalgia. Of course we historians warn students against wearing rose-colored glasses when looking at the past, but why else devote ourselves to living in the past mentally, unless we find something there that we prefer to the present? That has been true in my case, at least. The mid-nineteenth century was, and still is, my favorite destination as a time-traveler. Yet at the center of our society at that time was the monstrous institution of human slavery. Seeing flaws, now thankfully gone, in earlier times may account for my optimism about our future. Whatever else immersion in an earlier time does for us, it gives us a world against which to compare and contrast the one we return to when we come out of our ivory towers. Living does the same thing, if done long enough. Memories of the 1950s provide me with enough perspective to see the world we live in more accurately than my students possibly can.

Not that we should fall in love with a bygone world. That mistake turns the historian into a pathetic figure. “A family that is more interested in its ancestors than its progeny is like a potato crop— the best part is in the ground”—read many years ago somewhere! We must live in the present and look to the future, even if we make our living studying the past. And, I don’t think it is pushing the point too far to add, in the words of historian Henry Glassie, “If you cannot enter passionately into the life of your own time, you cannot enter compassionately into the life of the past. If the past is used to escape the present, the past will escape you.” This rings true to me. If we avoid “real life” here and now, we will not be able to understand and appreciate the real lives of those we study.

Enough pontificating. A few parting thoughts: Although I would argue that USC Aiken is a better school now than when I arrived in 1992, I am mindful of the colleagues that have moved on before me, too many to list here, who were outstanding members of our profession. I have far more fond memories than the other kind, thanks to the people in the best department on campus. I recall many students who made teaching very rewarding, while wishing I had been able to reach more of them. I am proud to have been a member of this faculty. Also, I am happy that, although Judy and I considered moving to the North Carolina coast after my time here, we have decided to stay in Aiken. I will thus be able to stay in touch with friends here, and to continue with research and writing projects that require me to use archives in this area. We live in interesting times in this community and state, and having spent so much time learning about both, it doesn’t make much sense to leave now. Meanwhile, our family has added a son-in-law and our first grandchild this past summer. There is much to look forward to. Life is good. Cheers!

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Dr. Blanche Premo-Hopkins

Dr. Blanche Premo-Hopkins is retiring after twenty years of distinguished service to USC Aiken, the USC System, her Philosophy discipline through the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy, and to the greater Aiken community—which resulted in numerous formal awards and recognition. She earned her MA and Ph.D. in Philosophy from Marquette University. She set out on her academic career as Academic Dean and Vice-President at Saint Mary’s University in Minnesota, and then moved on to the National Endowment for the Humanities in Washington, D.C. as a research programs director. She came to USC Aiken in 1988 to serve as Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, a position she held until 2002 when she relinquished her administrative duties to return to full-time teaching in her academic love, Philosophy—with which she had kept in touch since 1988 whenever her administrative duties allowed. Her reputation as an outstanding administrator of higher education cut her return to the classroom short when she briefly returned to administration as interim Executive Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs at USC Beaufort for one year—where, so we hear, alligator control was one of her duties (not really). Her main responsibility and accomplishments, however, focused on supervising our sister school’s transition to a four-year university. She then returned to USC Aiken, the philosophy classroom, and her students for one final semester.

Blanche accomplished her administrative duties at USC Aiken with distinction, effectively and efficiently—and by all reports, continued her accomplished performance during her brief sojourn at Beaufort, alligators notwithstanding. Her numerous administrative accomplishments are too many to acknowledge, but among her most important contributions to USC Aiken stand her successful efforts to secure national accreditation for all three Professional schools; her leadership in establishing three graduate programs and eight undergraduate degrees; supervised institutional accreditation reaffirmation in 2001; successful management of the academic side of USC Aiken—which can best be compared to “herding cats,” and her skillful capacity for establishing and then adroitly maintaining ties with countless county, state, and national groups and boards. Based on her extensive administrative experience Dr. Premo-Hopkins regularly served as a consultant in higher education, participating in over forty visitations, seminars, panels, and the like.

Having returned full-time to the philosophy classroom—which many of us quickly perceived as Blanche’s true professional love—she jumped right on the academic treadmill, with vigor, fresh ideas, and commitment. For five years she was our Philosophy discipline, teaching virtually all our philosophy offerings. Once back in the swing of scholarship and teaching, her scholarly productivity matched her consultative work in quality and quantity, with around thirty professional and civic-type engagements, and nearly twenty truly scholarly contributions, both as presentations and publications, on such erudite and esoteric topics as “Heidegger’s Notion of Being in Being and Time,” and “Wittgenstein’s Method”—which many of us would be eager to learn.

Words can hardly do justice in expressing our admiration and gratitude for all Dr. Blanche Premo-Hopkins has done for USC-Aiken, her Philosophy discipline, the Aiken community, the state of South Carolina, and our nation. Thank you, Blanche, and all the best in your future endeavors—which we hope will include regular returns to our azalea-clad walls.

Dr. Girma Negash

Dr. Girma Negash has traveled far in his lifetime, from a rural road-building crew in his native Ethiopia to the status of a Distinguished Professor Emeritus, renown and respected throughout the world as a leading scholar in his broad and varied fields of expertise. Girma has lived and exemplified the “American dream,” or more properly speaking, the universal human dream of individual success. Having competed for and won a scholarship that enabled him to leave his Ethiopian “road-gang,” Girma traveled to Lawrence, Kansas to study and receive dual undergraduate degrees in Journalism and International Relations at the University of Kansas; a MS in Mass Communications, also at KU; and a Ph.D. in Political Science at the University of Colorado. After intermittent world travels, journalist experiences, and various teaching gigs, Girma arrived at USC Aiken in 1986. He quickly established himself as a one-person international relations-comparative politics discipline within our Political Science program. His peerless expertise, insights and familiarity with the non-western, developing world enhanced his image and reputation beyond USC Aiken, throughout South Carolina, nationally, and internationally. At USC Aiken he not only won the respect of the faculty and earned his reputation as one of our most experienced and knowledgeable faculty members in respect to the outside world, he also set a real life example for many of our minority and international students—the personification of the human will overcoming all obstacles.

As a teacher, Girma became a cutting edge practitioner of classroom technology—without abandoning the personal touch of a true humanistic scholar interacting with, inspiring, and motivating his students through the traditional, tried and true Socratic dialogue as well as other effective classroom methods. Over the years his teaching load amounted to a repertoire of sixteen different courses. As a colleague, Girma has no equals in terms of willingness to help and cooperate, regardless of the task and the favor requested; his university service included countless faculty committees and non-teaching activities. His impressive list of presentations and activities on campus as well as in the community leaves the rest of us envious. Without doubt, however, his greatest contribution to USC Aiken has been raising the awareness and consciousness of both faculty and students in respect to our global, international responsibilities transcending our limited national boundaries to the world beyond.

Girma’s most widely acknowledged achievements have come in the area of
African Americans and the Palmetto State

scholarship, in which he has established a level of international prominence few can hope to achieve. His book, *Apologia Politica: States and Their Apologies by Proxy*, published a few years ago in hardback, and recently in paperback, has surpassed several others of this genre to become the authoritative study on the subject of international contrition. Earlier this year the *Chronicle of Higher Education* featured Girma’s book in a front-page review. To his scholarly credit also stands an earlier, co-authored book on the Ethiopian refugee problem. He has additionally produced six major articles and book chapters in scholarly venues of international repute. Furthermore, he has published numerous book reviews, other publications, and has presented twenty-some papers to scholarly groups, mostly on the international stage—one of the most recent coming in Pisa, Italy, where Girma checked out the angle of lean of the famous tower. Does it indeed stand secure? Girma, you have elevated our awareness of the world outside our own confined space, and this will be your lasting legacy at USC Aiken.

**DR. JAMES FARMER**

**History**

Dr. O. James Farmer arrived at USC Aiken in 1992 as the first recipient of the June Rainsford Henderson Chair of Southern and Local History, one of our very first endowed chairs, and held that distinguished cathedra for an uninterrupted tenure of fifteen years. Jim earned his undergraduate degree at East Carolina University and both his MA and Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina. Prior to his arrival at USC Aiken Jim entered the teaching profession as a public school teacher in the Florence public schools and then moved on to the faculty of USC Lancaster, where he earned a well-deserved reputation as a leading and highly respected scholar in Southern and South Carolina History—the principal condition and qualification for the Henderson Chair. His book, *James Henry Thornwell and the Synthesis of Southern Values*, which recently came out in a paperback edition, has achieved the status of a classic in southern intellectual and cultural history. He also co-authored with his USC Aiken colleagues in History and Political Science, the textbook, *African Americans and the Palmetto State*, which has become the standard on the subject in South Carolina public schools. To his credit Jim can count thirteen major publications, including book chapters and articles in scholarly journals, on his favorite topics, local, South Carolina history, in the ante-bellum era, the period of the Civil War—or as he might prefer, the War of the Secession—and the immediate post-War years. He has also presented papers at virtually every level of scholarly venues, some thirty in all, and this list does not include literally countless presentations and talks to civic organizations, churches, schools, and historical societies, with many repeat performances. He also has critiqued numerous scholarly books and pre-reviewed many books and articles in his fields of expertise prior to their publication. For his contributions he has received numerous awards at different levels and at different times during his academic and scholarly career.

As a colleague at USC Aiken and in the Department of History, Political Science and Philosophy, Jim has shared his expertise in the areas of service, providing blood, sweat and tears in an array of activities, including most of the major faculty committees, such as P&T, Courses and Curriculum, and FAC. As a professional historian he has served on many boards and editorships. His greatest service contributions have focused, however, on the responsibilities attached to his endowed chair, through his active promotion of local history throughout South Carolina, and particularly in the Aiken-Edgefield areas. Over the years he has promoted the study and appreciation of local history to virtually every social, educational and cultural constituency within his reach. Much of the high profile USC Aiken has attained in our community over the years can be attributed to Jim Farmer.

And finally, we must mention Jim’s greatest academic love, the classroom and his students. Jim established and then nurtured a reputation as a knowledgeable, skilled, and caring classroom instructor and a sensitive mentor and advisor to his students outside the classroom. He has managed to inspire and pass on to so many of our students not only a fascination for history, but more importantly, the essentials of learning and being an educated individual—and he accomplished this mostly by his personal example. Jim, you are leaving an important legacy to USC Aiken; you have made it a far better place and institution.

**DR. REBECCA BRANNON**

History, (rebeccab@usca.edu)

Dr. Rebecca Brannon is our new Assistant Professor of American History. She holds a BA magna cum laude from Amherst College, and received the PhD from the University of Michigan in 2007. Her academic interests lie in early American History, with a special emphasis on the South. In her work on South Carolina and the American Revolution she tries to understand why, despite a very nasty civil war between Loyalists and Patriots during the Revolution, victorious South Carolina Patriots quickly chose to reintegrate many (although not all) Loyalists into South Carolinian society. Rebecca has found that South Carolinians combined a desire to create a stable society with an effort to differentiate between “good” Loyalists and “bad” Loyalists. Loyalists actively worked to gain forgiveness and reintegration, and were adroit in presenting themselves, at least rhetorically, as “good” Loyalists. She looks forward to using “all of the wonderful local resources” to continue work on her manuscript.

Rebecca is happy to be teaching a combination of courses on Southern History and pre-1865 American History here at USCA. This semester she will offer a course on pre-1865 Southern History, which she hopes will attract a group of motivated and “quirky” students—and we guarantee she will find a few of the latter type (in the best sense). In future semesters, in addition to introducing students to the wonders of early American History in the general survey course, she plans to offer courses in African American History, colonial and Revolutionary History, Religious History, and the history of war and society. Before coming to USCA, she taught at the University of Mississippi and the University of Michigan.

On the personal side, she is looking forward to balancing teaching with weekend trips to Charleston to enjoy the great food and ambiance that she fell in love with while researching her dissertation. She enjoys cooking and watching comedies in her spare time, as well as reading mysteries and pop sociology and economics books. A perfect fit for our department!
Dr. Tom Wood, Political Science, (thomasw@usca.edu)

Dr. Tom Wood, Political Science, is one of the four newcomers joining our department this year. He comes to us from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., where he was a Visiting Assistant Professor 2006-08. He replaces Girma Negash as our International Relations-Comparative Politics expert in the Political Science discipline. In 2005, Tom received his Ph.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University in Medford, Mass., with a dissertation on the formation of Kyrgyzstan’s foreign policy following independence. Tom, who hails from Perth, Scotland, completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Exeter, England. Teaching in the Political Science fields of comparative politics and international relations, he has taught Russian foreign policy, Central Asian politics, and political corruption. At USC Aiken Tom’s first task will be adding to and modifying the curriculum to fit his special interests, while adapting his talents to several of our basic, extant offerings. Tom also taught international relations at the American University-Central Asia in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan 1997-2000. He spent several years in the non-profit sector, managing higher education reform projects in the Soviet Union funded by the Open Society Institute, and more recently, for the International Foundation for Election Systems based in Washington DC overseeing US Government-funded democracy assistance programs in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. His current research interests include foreign policy formation, political corruption, small state behavior and democratization. We look forward to Tom joining our faculty and sharing his expertise in the politics of a critically important part of the world—as well as his keen wit and subtle humor that manifest itself during his interview visit to our campus.

Dr. David Dillard-Wright, Philosophy, (davidd@usca.edu)

Among our new department faculty members this year is Dr. David Dillard-Wright, Assistant Professor of Philosophy. Although his rank is new, he is a familiar colleague who has served with us several years as a part-time adjunct and then as a full-time instructor. He will replace Blanche Premo-Hopkins, although, as he acknowledges, “I really can’t ‘replace’ her, since she has such a sharp mind and a warm nature. I have immense respect for Blanche, . . . she is looking forward to retirement, and I am looking forward to a long career at USC Aiken. The connections that I have already made with students, faculty, and staff make me feel very optimistic about the future. Since I have already been at USCA for two years, first as an Adjunct Instructor and then as an Instructor, I have already seen some of my students graduate and have formed good relationships with so many great people.”

Last year David taught introductory courses in Philosophy and Religion, as well as upper level courses in Ethics, Philosophy of Science, and 19th and 20th Century Philosophy. He also taught an honors course in Philosophy and the Environment. He elaborates on what students already know: “I integrate serious philosophical study with real world issues, especially environmental and animal ethics. I have found that teaching complements research nicely; in fact, one of my students, Clint Donaldson, first called my attention to the organ transplantation issue. Every day in class, I discover a solution to some problem that I have been contemplating, and I think that my research also makes class more interesting.”

With regards to his writing, David worked on two articles in 2007-2008. One was entitled “Sympathy and the Non-Human: Max Scheler’s Phenomenology of Interrelation,” and was published in the recent issue of the Indo-Pacific Journal of Phenomenology, a joint project of Edith Cowan University in Australia and Rhodes University in South Africa (see www.ipjp.org). The article addresses the work of German philosopher and sociologist Max Scheler, who argued that a “fundamental regard” for non-human nature is the basis for moral development. Another article, tentatively titled “Bodily Meaning in Interspecies Communication,” has been accepted for publication in the journal Society and Animals. The article argues that consciousness is fundamentally social and not merely tied to a mind or brain, and that sociality includes non-human agents. It’s really rather hard to summarize in a few sentences, but I hope to have it finished in a few weeks.” In addition to these two articles David has been revising his dissertation, which will be published with Lexington Books—thereby adding to our department’s growing roster of book-publishers.

In the coming year, David’s first as a tenure-track professor, he will teach several sections of Introduction to Philosophy and upper level courses on Ethics and other philosophic topics of interest. In terms of service he will serve on the Honors, Awards, and Scholarship and the Library committees. He will also continue to advise the Philosophy Club—as Socrates was to Plato, Plato was to Aristotle, Aristotle to Alexander . . . and finally down to David, the mentor of our philosophy students! The chain of reason goes on.

As do the rest of us, David expresses regrets for the departure of Girma, Jim, and Blanche: “We will miss you, but we expect to see you from time to time. Thanks for the great conversations, and I look forward to moving back to C hallway this summer.” As for our students, David invites them to “take philosophy classes! Come to the Philosophy Club meetings! Your mind and the world will thank you.” By the way, David’s son Atticus just reached the one-year mark, giving David and his wife Jessica plenty of joy, but at times, as much as they can handle.

Alexia Helsley
History, (alexiiah@usca.edu)

One of our new full-time faculty members is Alexia Helsley, Instructor of History, who has taught for us as an Adjunct for many years and was the recipient of the first USC Aiken Outstanding Lecturer-Adjunct. She will teach various surveys as well as courses on South Carolina History and Public History. During this past academic year, the History Press of Charleston published her Guide to Historic Henderson County, NC which she wrote with her father; the SC Historical Magazine printed her review of the Hilton Head Hunt Club; and she
wrote a biography of Rebecca Motte. South Carolina Revolutionary heroine, for South Carolina Women: Their Lives and Times (to be published in 2009). Also the Spring issue of SCAAzette included an article by Alexia and USC's Director of the Library, Jane Tuten, "USCA Archives: an Introduction." In addition, she lectured on "Research in South Carolina," "Indian Interactions with Europeans," "Black Slaves and Free Blacks in the South," and "Migration to and within the South" for the Institute of Genealogical and Historical Research, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama. In February, PBS aired "African American Lives2." Alexia was one of the South Carolina researchers for the series, and the program included material she located on the families of Chris Rock and Tom Joyner.

On a personal note, Alexia, along with her husband Terry, took her parents to Richmond, Virginia for a meeting of the Pace Society of America. During their journey the group visited the new archaeological museum at Jamestown. Alexia discovered that the museum sits on the site of the first government building in the colony, and among other notable features that she observed were transparent panels in the floor, so that visitors could view the excavations below their feet! We are delighted to have Alexia's services on a full-time basis and eagerly await more reports on her travels.

**DR. BOB BOTSCHELL**
Political Science, (bobb@usca.edu)

Bob Botsch declares his highlight of 2007-8 as his sabbatical in the Spring 2008, which he used to author an on-line American Government text that he will be testing with all my American government students this coming academic year. The text is titled "A Republic, If You Can Keep It": Principles and the Many Paradoxes of American Government, borrowing the famous quotation of Benjamin Franklin. The title underscores a major motivation for the book and course—that every generation has a responsibility to maintain the republic for those who follow, and to do so requires that every generation understand the many conflicts built into our system of government. The text will be generously provided to USCA students for free, to the consternation of college textbook publishers everywhere and, according to Bob, "because they [the students] helped pay for my sabbatical!" One of Bob's goals was to steer clear of current events, and for two reasons: "First, that allows the text to be shorter thereby allowing time to read a daily newspaper, something Carol and I have found is more important than anything we could put in any text." And second, "focusing on principles and using the web and newspapers for current events to illustrate those principles means that the text does not have to be updated very much from year to year. Whether the text gets used beyond this campus remains to be seen." Bob invites all those interested in taking a look at it to consult our political science course website at http://www.usca.edu/polisci/webcourses.asp. Bob concludes by noting, "I will be teaching the presidential elections course this fall and am greatly looking forward to that, as it has already been one of the most interesting and historical elections in my lifetime." We are glad to have a refreshed and revitalized Bob Botsch back in our hallway!

**DR. CAROL BOTSCHELL**
Political Science, (carolb@usca.edu)

As for Dr. Carol Botsch, Political Science, she confesses, "I can't say that I have anything especially exciting or unusual to report (maybe that's a good thing). I've just been busy, busy, busy, like everyone else!" In terms of her scholarship, this past year she has been looking at the pet overpopulation problem, and observes, that "we as a society (and our governmental and non-profit institutions) address, or fail to address, this issue. It's not a pretty picture." She co-presented a paper this past spring with Bob Botsch on dog-cat spay/neutering policy in Aiken County at a conference, adding that writing that paper was "one of the most difficult things I've ever done. I'm currently looking at how different cities and counties in SC handle pet overpopulation." She continues working on her other, long-term project on political socialization of college students, which, so she claims, "provides some welcome relief." That's a study she expects to continue until retirement, perhaps another ten years down the road. With the recent surge in retirements, the later, the better.

On a personal level, Carol pines for Italy, but the weak dollar dictated domestic travel for her big summer trip this year. She reports, "Despite the horror stories that appeared in the news on almost a daily basis, my flights were not cancelled, my planes did not sit on the runway for hours, and the airlines did not lose my luggage! In fact, my travel problems occurred primarily on the ground — on our return from nearly three weeks in the beautiful but quite hot southwest, where we visited a number of national parks, including Bryce Canyon, Zion, and Mesa Verde (it's so nice to see trees again and to feel that humid air after looking at nothing but open space, red rocks, and Hoodoos — and don't let anyone tell you that you don't feel just as hot with a dry heat!)." She and Bob did, however, have trouble locating the hotel shuttle and took nearly two hours to get from the airport to the hotel. She lists the most exciting things that happened on this trip — "Let's see — well, we flew into and out of Sin City, and you can't go to Las Vegas without gambling, can you? So we took a five dollar bill, kissed it goodbye, and it took us fifteen minutes to lose it!" Wow, don't lose the nest-egg with such reckless abandon! She also recalls that "Like all the other tourists, we were there, at the parks, so out we went, hiking, in 95-100 degree heat (but remember, it's dry heat, so you don't feel it as much!), and to compensate for the heat, I, like the other tourists (but not Bob!) took off my shoes and socks and waded into 50 degree water in the river at one of the parks (wow, that's cold — I almost had hypothermia), and we even survived the great tomato recall." And, at Bob's recommendation, Carol "took a wool hat, gloves, and a jacket with me on the trip," since Bob assured her, "The temperature drops and it gets cold in the desert at night." Since they never came out of the suitcase, a weatherman Bob is not!

**DR. ELAINE LACY**
History, (elainel@usca.edu)

Dr. Elaine Lacy has had an active and topsy-turvy transitional year. Not only did she assume the new post of Director of the USC Aiken Honors Program — taking over from fellow historian, Dr. Maggi
Dr. Val Lumans continues as Department Chair for yet another year, but sees the light at the end of the administrative tunnel—just two more years, and then one more as an academician, closing out his academic career as an administration-free classroom history instructor and researcher. His major administrative activity this past year was supervising four faculty searches, two of which he chaired. He looks forward to acclimatizing our four outstanding novices to the special, effervescent academic culture of hallway “C”. On the scholarship front he researched and began writing a chapter, “The Ethnic Germans (Volkdeutsche) and the Waffen SS: Dregs or Gems?” in an upcoming book to be published by Fordham University Press in 2009, Scraping the Barrel: Sub-Par Fighting Units in World War II. Indeed, the topic carried him beyond the scope of a single chapter, resulting possibly in two chapter contributions to this work.

Val’s most notable overall experience of the past academic year—actually the preceding summer, 2007—was his life-changing, highly emotional search and discovery of his parental-ancestral roots in Latvia. As a participant in a Berlin-Riga seminar on Latvian-German relations within the context of the European Union in summer 2007, sponsored by the Freiuniversitat Berlin, he was one of a group of some fifteen American academicians interested in Germany and its relations with other parts of Europe, specifically Latvia. But above all, the seminar served Val the opportunity to visit his “fatherland” Latvia for the first time. He brought along his family, wife Patty, children, Alex and Christine, and his younger sister Zinta Pettersson, who was also stepping on the ancestral sod for the first time. Since his children have grown up thoroughly familiar with Patty’s (Hutchins) American heritage, which on one side can be traced back to 1637—and as Val is fond of emblazoning, “the second ship after the Mayflower”—and the other side to colonial Georgia, he has always yearned to expose them to their other set of roots, those of Val’s Latvian family, which immigrated more than 300 years later, in 1949, on the former WWII liberty ship, the General Elting.

The seminar began in Berlin, which Val had not visited since German reunification, and included meetings within various German ministries, including Defense, and disparate German economic offices and organizations. The group also met with representatives of all the major German political parties as well as enjoyed an insider’s tour of the Bundestag, located in the historic, former Reichstag building. But for the Lumans family—only a notch or two above National Lampoon’s Griswolds of Chevy Chase “Vacations” fame in savvy and worldliness—the initial step in their search for “roots” was touching down at Riga International Airport. For the first time in his life Val could read and speak the language his parents had taught and nurtured at home out in public. People actually spoke this language he had learned and used only at home—in restaurants, banks, museums, shops, universities, even in McDonalds! Often he assumed the role of interpreter for the academic group when the official interpreter wasn’t around or couldn’t quite translate a quirky phrase. As a member of the group, Val met with Latvians in higher education, the government, in the economy, but the culmination came when the Lumans family split from the seminar and drove out in their rental Volvo to seek their roots in the Latvian countryside.

To their pleasant surprise the family discovered their roots still intact—after the destruction of war and 46 years of Soviet rule—in the small town of Daugmale, about 25 miles east of Riga on the southern side of the Daugava River. They found the old schoolhouse, enlarged and renovated, where Val’s maternal grandfather had served as principal and his grandmother as a teacher. Val’s mother and father had met there, became childhood sweethearts, and eventually married. The current school principal was delighted to pull out old school scrapbooks and yearbooks and let Val and sister Zinta point out family members in their younger years. Next they discovered Val’s father’s family farm and farmhouse, survivors of Soviet collectivization, only a few miles from the schoolhouse. Val and his sister had come full circle, from post-war life as refugees, to life as Americans, to locating their “roots” in Daugmale, Latvia. For Christine and Alex, the experience filled in the previously void, Latvian side of their heritage. After a brief return to Berlin, the family drove to Prague, then back to Germany and the small town of Hersbruck, near Nuremberg, the site of the post-war Displaced Persons (DP) camp—a former wartime concentration camp—where Val lived most of his first five years and where his sister was born. And so the Lumans family concluded a fantastic, successful, and fulfilling search. As Val’s wife Patty observed wryly, “Latvia actually exists! You didn’t make it up after all!”

Dr. Maggi Morehouse enjoyed another productive year in scholarship. She has a peer-reviewed article coming out in a major journal as well as several entries in the Encyclopedia of African American History, Oxford University Press. Although she concluded her duties as Director of the Honors Program, she has remained involved with some of our top students, mentoring a McNair scholar, two research day participants, and a Magellan...
Dr. Steve Millies

Political Science, (stevem@usca.edu)

Dr. Steve Millies has completed his fifth year at USC-Aiken. Once the new kid in the hallway, he now can claim the role of a journeyman, who, as he confesses, "continues exploring the boundaries of religion and politics both inside and outside the classroom while watching what little hair remains on [my] head turn ever grayer." Steve has moved his manuscript on Edmund Burke's (1730-1797) treatment of religion in his political thought to another press, where he hopes for publication within the year. According to Steve: "The work has grown considerably, broadening its focus beyond simply engaging Burke and taking up the question of religion's role in the construction of modern identity. Or, to put it in less highfallutin' terms, the book asks whether the modern preoccupation with reason as the measure of all things can make room for our mystical or spiritual intuitions. This is not an endorsement of religion in politics or any particular religion. It is, instead, a look at the way that our least rational intuitions—one we all have about family, community, culture, and other things—can live at peace with each other. And, it is an acknowledgement that, since modernity has not eliminated those intuitions, they must live at peace with each other and with our rational selves. Burke approaches the mystical self by rejecting the dominance of reason. So, in an interesting way, this approach has put Burke—the "founder of modern conservatism"—into a conversation with more contemporary figures who are the farthest thing from conservatives." Steve does not claim to be the first to suggest that Burke speaks to postmodernism in unexpected ways, but he is hoping his book gives that notion its most thoughtful treatment. Steve adds: "For Burke religion was the most important part of a view of human life which offered a striking alternative to the modernity we live with today. In turn, that can help us think through today's political problems and how our intuitions can fit into a politics that we all still can agree is reasonable, that makes room for all viewpoints without preference or prejudice."

At the same time, Steve has completed a shorter manuscript on Augustine, fifth century Christian bishop and philosopher, and has submitted that manuscript for publication in a journal. Steve observes that "Augustine worried that the Roman political establishment might eclipse the independence of the church, and, to protect the church, suggested some of the earliest divisions of church and state. Most times when we think of the separation of church and state today, we think of it as a protection of government from religious interference. But, because Augustine's divisions of church from state began in an effort to protect the church he offers not only a religious foundation for separating church from state, but a new way to think about secularism." Finally, Steve has wrapped up his project on just war theory, which began as a book, ran into complications, and now presents a new theory of how to assess the justness of military conflict in the shorter format of a published article.

Under review presently, the article takes the traditional Christian thinking about just wars and notes how that tradition has been secularized into legal procedures and institutions, such as the International Criminal Court or the United Nations. Steve also awaits the publication of an article about Edmund Burke's religious influences. Additionally he completed several book reviews, and gave a few conference presentations—indeed, he finished off a full plate of classroom responsibilities amid inquisitive students, and participated in three faculty searches. Steve was busy! As he contemplates so much change in our department personnel, Steve says he is happy to have spent five busy years among colleagues who work to keep their own intellectual interests alive in the classroom as much as in the pages of books and journals. "Here's to next year!"

Dr. Roger Deal

Assistant Professor of History, Dr. Roger Deal. For those of you who may have missed last year’s issue, Roger came to USC Aiken from Utah, by way of Montana. He finished his doctorate at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City and taught for a year at the University of Montana in Missoula. His field of expertise is Middle East History; his specific research focuses on the social history of Istanbul in the late nineteenth century. Because much of his work deals with criminals, he is also interested in criminology, policing, and prisons. He notes that the summer class he taught this year on Terrorism in the Middle East grew out of the research he recently presented at the annual Middle East Studies Association Meeting in Montreal. His research examines the wave of terrorist violence that swept the Ottoman Empire and especially Istanbul in the 1890s and early 1900s, and how the Ottoman government attempted to deal with it. Recent unrest and violence in Istanbul accentuates the need for...
understanding that strategically important part of the world and the society residing there. In addition to the class on terrorism, Roger taught World History this past year, and a course on the Modern Middle East, as well as one on the Arab-Israeli conflict. This coming year he will teach several new courses, a survey of early Islamic civilization, and the History of the Ottoman Empire.

“As the new kid on the corridor,” Roger observes, “I have been enjoying getting to know my new colleagues. I am particularly glad to have had a chance to meet those who are retiring, although I will certainly miss them. On the plus side, I am looking forward to not being the new kid anymore. I have also enjoyed getting to know a number of the students, and I look forward to many more.”

Current Students

We congratulate our two outstanding students for the 2007-2008 academic year, Heather Davis, Outstanding History Student, and Julie Kate Keeney as the Outstanding Political Science Student. Heather and Julie received their awards at the April 17, 2008 USC Aiken Academic Convocation recognizing students and faculty for special accomplishments. Congratulations to both for their exemplary work. We are truly proud of your academic accomplishments.

In addition to her USCA recognition, recent history graduate Heather Davis won second place at the University of South Carolina’s competitive Discovery Day presentations on April 25. The following has been borrowed (and copied) from a USC Aiken press release of May 14, 2008:

The history major [Heather Davis] presented her research about the effect of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans’ music production during the Arts & Music section of the Discovery Day presentations. Dr. Maggi Morehouse, assistant professor of history, served as Davis’ mentor for the research project, during which Davis visited New Orleans in June and July 2007 and conducted oral histories from natives involved in the city’s music scene. The inspiration for the research came about when Davis watched a documentary during Morehouse’s Honors Interdisciplinary Inquiry course. Knowing of her interest in African American music, Morehouse encouraged Davis to apply for a Magellan grant and further research the topic of roots music. After Davis selected a topic and developed a proposal for the grant, she was awarded a coveted Magellan Scholarship, enabling her to conduct field research on her chosen topic: “Music Production in Post-Katrina New Orleans.”

According to Davis, “Katrina was obviously a major historical event for our country. I have found great passion in connecting music and historical events, and New Orleans is such a musical city that this was not a difficult arena to look at these connections. The music community’s state after Katrina is so multi-layered and wrought with complexities. While this event affected a large population on the gulf coast, each individual has a unique story. Collecting oral histories helped me practice the methods of my field, but even more importantly, it provided primary source material for future researchers who wish to study Hurricane Katrina and its affect on music culture in New Orleans.”

In addition to the Discovery Day presentation, Davis presented her research at USC Aiken’s Research Day and the Honor’s Program capstone presentations. She was also honored as the Outstanding Student of History at the University’s Academic Convocation ceremony, held April 17.

“Winning an award for this research was an absolute honor, especially considering the wonderful projects presented by the other scholars in the arts and music category,” Davis said. “It is nice to be recognized for something you feel so passionately about, and I am glad that others understood the premise and importance of collecting these valuable oral histories from the mouths of those who live with Katrina’s aftermath on a daily basis.”

Morehouse said that although she served as Davis’ mentor during the project, she was inspired by her student’s personal growth. “Mostly, I was her student as she taught me so much in the year she’s been working on this project,” Morehouse said. “I thought I knew a thing or two about culture, history, and Louisiana music, but I learned so much more from Heather’s fieldwork and beautifully constructed presentations and project. I’m sure to bring this new information into the classroom, and thus Heather’s research project will continue to influence future USCA students.”

Student News

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University Ranked Number One by U.S. News & World Report

USC Aiken is ranked first among the top public baccalaureate colleges in the South in the year 2009 edition of U.S. News & World Report’s guide, “America’s Best Colleges.” This is the 11th consecutive year USC Aiken has been ranked in the top three public baccalaureate colleges in the South category by U.S. News & World Report. USC Aiken has been ranked first five times: 2002, 2003, 2006, 2007, and 2009.

According to Adam Shults, Student Government Association president, “Being the best isn’t about being flawless; it’s continuously striving for improvement.” Shults, a junior finance major continued, “As SGA President, it’s an honor to work every day with faculty, staff, and administrators who are dedicated to students and who continually work toward making USCA the best campus we can be. U.S. News & World Report uses six categories of indicators to capture academic quality including: academic
The Philosophy Club, under David Dillard-Wright’s supervision and with its own keen sense of philosophic speculation, this coming year will field its second annual Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl team. Last year our team, consisting of Lyle Todd, Erin McCollough, Ahmad Garrett, and Craig Spurr—Athenian sophists all—together with researchers Rebecca Wallace and Christie Hightower, competed at UNC Chapel Hill in the regional bowl. This year the Club will put together a new team or possibly two, and return to the regional with a better understanding of how the competition works. If they request togas as appropriate Athenian rhetorical attire, the department will do what it can to transcend the existential and strive for the platonic aesthetic. The competition is basically rhetorical, judged on how consistently the team defends an ethical position on a scenario inspired by current events. Last year the participants became experts on crumbling bridge infrastructure, churches as polling places, commercialization of native art, and the FDA approval process, amongst many other topics. This year’s topics haven’t been released yet, but it is sure to be a robust grab-bag of difficult but reason-inspiring issues. Our philosophers will be recruiting a new team or teams at the beginning of the fall semester, so let David or a student club member know if you would like to help in some respect, or even participate in the competition. Will auditions require standing on a Hellenic beach with a mouthful of pebbles, ranting a diatribe against the waves?

In January of 2008 the club took its first field trip, entitled The Edgefield Grand Tour. Members visited the Old Edgefield Pottery where master potter Steve Ferrell recreated century old traditions of stoneware manufacture. The tour included the Joanne T. Rainsford Discovery center which is part of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor. Former president of the South Carolina Historical Society, Bettis Rainsford gave the club a tour and lecture on the Willow-Brooks graveyard, which is where Senator Strom Thurmond and South Carolina secessionist governor Francis W. Pickens are buried. For lunch the club dined in elegance at the Old Edgefield Grill, which is right on the town square. Finally the club visited the inactive Horns Creek Baptist Church, which was built in 1768, a witness to two major wars.

In May the HICs took another field trip, this time to an archaeological site, the controversial Topper Site near Allendale, SC, the site that is “rewriting the history books.” Archaeologist and principle investigator, Dr. Al Goodyear III, lectured and toured the site. The archaeological evidence, according to Dr. Goodyear, indicates that humans were in North America long before previously thought, perhaps as early as 50,000 years ago. Fall Semester 2008 should be even better. While no trips are yet scheduled, some are in the works. If anyone is interested in membership please get on our email list by contacting the HICs President, Bill Whaley, at WRWhaley@usca.edu

USCA History Intellectuals Club
President: William R. Whaley

USCA HICs (History Club)
Annual Report
By Bill Whaley

In 2007 the history club at USCA almost died. Now the club has been reformed under the direction of Dr. Maggi Morehouse and Bill Whaley. Although still commonly referred to as the History Club, the name has been changed to the History Intellectuals Club or HICs so that an increasing number of non-history majors could participate.
Glen Boatwright, Political Science (1987), lives in Columbia, SC, with his wife Christine (Collins). He currently is vice-president of Nixon and Associates, a firm specializing in public affairs, reputation counsel, and emergency planning for the energy, utility, chemical, and transportation industries. He also serves at the rank of Lt. Colonel in the SC Air National Guard. Glen can be reached at glenboatwright@nixonassoc.com.

Jennifer Kennedy, Political Science (2003), is located in San Diego working as a paralegal specializing in family law and criminal defense—and loves it! The downside is that she misses Aiken, above all “the special people who supported women’s basketball,” which, she adds, was “a great experience!”

Elwood “Ed” Heffelfinger, History (2004), and wife Alyce reside in Aiken and will accept e-mails from one and all at eheffelf@bellsouth.net . Though retired, Ed reads, writes, and publishes, including a book on the United Nations, Will the United Nations Fail in Its Role as Protector of World Peace? Sounds like an interesting read!

Mark Manders, Political Science (1986), is currently a senior vice president at Coral Springs Production and Radio/TV Policies and Quality Control in Coral Springs FL.

Branislav Kovalcik, Political Science, (2002), is working as Academic Programs Coordinator in the Center for European Studies at the University of Florida.

Julie Duncan, Political Science (2007), survived her first year at law school at Florida Coastal School of law and is reportedly doing well.

Jason Crane, Political Science, (2006), is finishing up his second year in law school at Mississippi College School of Law. He has been an employee of the school’s Law Library since last August, where he worked at the Circulation Desk. He began working for the Campaign to Re-Elect Judge Nicki Boland in May of 2007 as the Director of Operations (www.judgeboland.com). He was the Social Chair for the MCSOL Chapter of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies (Federalist Society, or FedSoc, for short). He says that “Beyond that, law school doesn’t afford you much time for social activities; my “free time” is usually spent working on a brief or reading more casebooks and prepping for class.”

Stephanie (Tabor) Cloninger, Political Science (1993), accepted a position with Texas Tech University that began summer 2007 that she says “combines all that education and overseas travel that I have been compiling for the last 15 years.” She is the new International Special Projects Coordinator for Texas Tech University and will be working in the Office of International Affairs and managing Sponsored Student Services for international graduate students sponsored by foreign governments, NGOs, and corporations abroad. She notes, “I’ll be working for two folks, a former ambassador with 20 years of diplomatic experience in Africa…. I am also responsible for all international student social programming. God help them, they’ve hired a geek whose idea of a good time is a curling up with a 1000 page book, a sleepy dog, and a stinky European cheese! I am also charged with integrating new international students into Lubbock life and developing interchange programs within the community.”

Two history alumni are continuing work in graduate school. Jason Kirby continues his graduate work at the University of Georgia, while Alan Harrelson finished his first year at the College of Charleston / Citadel graduate consortium.

Anthony Liutkus (Philosophy) was spotted in Savannah prepping up for St. Patrick’s Day last March. He has been working as a military contractor switching out the PCs at Ft. Gordon’s Eisenhower Hospital. He has decided to return to school and has applied to graduate school in Valdosta State’s MLIS program. We are waiting to hear the final results!

Jason Ranke (History) completed his MA in History at Clemson and is moving on to a Ph.D. program. He has been accepted at both Georgia State in Atlanta and the Glen Boatwright, Political Science (1987), lives in Columbia, SC, with his wife Christine (Collins). He currently is vice-president of Nixon and Associates, a firm specializing in public affairs, reputation counsel, and emergency planning for the energy, utility, chemical, and transportation industries. He also serves at the rank of Lt. Colonel in the SC Air National Guard. Glen can be reached at glenboatwright@nixonassoc.com.

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Awards. Her experiences fulfilling these prestigious
Polis to get a detailed report for next year’s
Bianca Premo (History), has received
at Florida International University,
History alumna and faculty member
at Florida Coastal School of law and is
reportedly doing well.

Shannon Deer, History (2007) has been
accepted into the Religious Studies
college at USC Columbia. She
notes, “I’m very excited, and am looking
forward to the opportunity.”

Another of our alumnae, Melissa Jolley
(History), seems to have found her calling
as a curator at nearby Redcliffe Plantation, and she says, “I still love it! When I first started, I was only working 16 hours a week. With the start of the new fiscal year though, I’ve started working 32 hours a week. They haven’t really ever had a curator working more than 20 hours so it’s a pretty big deal that I was able to get the funding!” She feels fortunate so far with her experience: “The plantation is beautiful- it’s hard to have a bad day because when you walk outside, you can’t help but smile : ) And I really like the people that I work with too.” She has, however, had some experiences that she had not expected: “If you can believe it, wimpy Melissa has vacuumed spider eggs from under furniture and made a friend-maybe I should say an acquaintance- with a grey rat snake that hangs out around the stables. I’ve become pretty good at giving tours, written some short pieces for our
monthly newsletter, and had a chance to see the other side of the hiring process- I’ve gotten a lot of pointers on what not to put on a job application.” In regards to Redcliffe, “This is where I’m supposed to be.”

History alumna and faculty member
at Florida International University, Dr.
Bianca Premo (History), has received
three fellowships this past year: an NEH,
a Burkhardt, and recently a Fulbright to
work in Spain. We will twist Bianca’s arm
to get a detailed report for next year’s
Poli on the application process and on
her experiences fulfilling these prestigious awards.

Our students and friends have put forth
incredible effort in their academic
paths and co-curricular activities.
Aja Vaughn (History), who subsequently
earned a M.Ed., is still working at George
Mason University but has plans to return
to Grad School in History. She confirms
that things are going well at George
Mason: “I am actually in the process now
of getting geared up for grad school. I
have been touching up on my French,
preparing an article to be published,
reading up on good things to look for in
this new program, and the list goes on. I
actually have a meeting with the person
over in the History Department at GMU
next week. I did some research and
realized that their MA program has a pre-
doctoral track, so it wouldn’t be a bad idea
to start in the Spring of 2009 and knock
out another Masters that will prepare me
for Doctoral work; I will be able to establish
some good connections and get back into
the swing of thinking like a historian.” Aja
is also excited about teaching an entry
level University course this coming fall:
“I will be considered Adjunct Faculty
which is very exciting and will be a great
experience for the future!” She promises
to keep us informed how that goes. She
can be reached at
aja_vaughn@hotmail.com
avaughn2@vzw.blackberry.net

U.S. News & World Report
continued from page 10

Erin McCullough, Political Science (2007) has been accepted into an M.A. program in political theory at Loyola University Chicago for the fall 2008 term. Though Erin graduated last December, she somewhat more recently completed a senior thesis that, according to Dr. Steve Millies, "wowed her examining committee here. Her ultimate ambition remains the doctoral degree and—God help her—an academic career.” Erin also served as the student representative on last year’s political science search committee. We wish Erin all the best in this endeavor.

Donald Miles (Political Science), received
an MAs in Public Administration
degree from Augusta State, and worked at
USCA last year in the office of Institutional
Planning before moving to Aiken Tech
this past spring as Assistant Director of
Institutional Effectiveness. His supervisor
in Institutional Planning at USC Aiken, Dr.
Lloyd A. Dawe, had this to say of Donald:
“Although he has been working in the IE
Office for a short period of time, we have
come to rely upon him for his creative
suggestions for operational efficiencies,
his attention to detail in responding to the
myriad external reporting surveys, his
statistical knowledge, and his excellent
technical writing skills. As an alumnus
of this institution, Donald epitomizes
the values that USCA embraces and
he indubitably will stand as a point of
pride for many who have played a role
in developing and honing his skills. I am
sure you will join me in wishing him all
the best in his future endeavors.” We
completely share Lloyd’s sentiments.

Kaitlin Lindburg (History, 2008) is
beginning graduate studies at East
Carolina University. Good luck to Kaitlin
and all our alumni pursuing graduate
studies!

reputation/peer assessment (25%),
graduation and retention of students
(25%), faculty resources (20%), student
selectivity (15%), financial resources
(10%), and alumni giving (5%).

In the Best Baccalaureate Colleges
Category, U.S. News and World Report
includes institutions that focus on
undergraduate education and offer a range
of degree programs—in the liberal arts,
which account for fewer than half of their
bachelor’s degrees, and in professional
fields such as business, nursing, and
education. There are 319 baccalaureate
colleges, within four regions: North, South,
Midwest, and West.

In the Top Public Baccalaureate
Colleges in the South category, USC
Aiken ranked first, Winston-Salem State
University (NC) ranked second, and
Elizabeth City State University (NC)
ranked third.
The 2009 “America’s Best Colleges”
rankings are also available on the
U.S. News & World Report Web site at

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http://www.usca.edu/news.html
From the Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy
University of South Carolina Aiken
471 University Parkway
Aiken South Carolina 29801

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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. Send your form to Dr. Val Lumans at USCA, 471 University Parkway, Aiken, South Carolina 29801.

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

Name______________________________________________________Spouse Name___________________________________________________________

(Including Maiden Name)

Year you graduated from USCA and your major________________________________________________________________________________________

Current Address _________________________________________________________________________________________________________

Email Address___________________________Phone___________________________

Current Position or Program of Study________________________________________________________Employer________________________________

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

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

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Do we have your permission to publish your address in an alumni directory? __________________________
