Hello again from the Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy!

We’ve made some changes to the POLIS newsletter, and we hope you like them. Indeed, as has been true for the last few years, change has been the theme here. Though, we hope, now things will stabilize for a while.

For the first time in several years, our department will have no faculty searches going during the 2013-14 academic year. With the addition of Dr. Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan to our history faculty this fall (see story on page 2), our department is whole and we’re ready to move forward into a new future. Everyone here is excited.

From the Department of More Happy News, congratulations go to Dr. Roger Deal and to Dr. David Dillard-Wright, both of whom were awarded tenure and promotion to associate professor this summer. We also congratulate Dr. Tom Wood, recipient of this year’s Val Lumans Award for Excellence in Teaching, as selected by students in the department. We’re delighted that our colleague, Professor Alexia Jones Helsley, has published yet another book this year—Wicked Columbia: Vice and Villainy in the Capital. Finally, Dr. Sam Pierce and his family have welcomed a new daughter while Professor Shannon Deer was married in June.

Please consider joining us on November 9 for our second annual symposium, and for a reception during USC Aiken’s homecoming on February 8. We’d love to see you come back. Our department never has been a boring place, but rarely has it been as exciting as it has been recently. We don’t want you to miss it.

Keep in touch, and check on page 2 for instructions about how to send us some news about your accomplishments for next year’s POLIS. Until then, keep smiling.

Dr. Steve Millies
Department Chair

GEORGE A. BOWDLER, PH.D. 1920-2013

George Bowdler, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, died on January 25, 2013 in Batesburg, SC. Though he retired from the faculty in 1985, Dr. Bowdler paid our Department a visit in 2012, spending an afternoon with our faculty, meeting new members of the Department, and reminiscing.

Dr. Bob Botsch, who knew Dr. Bowdler as a colleague for 7 years, offered these words of tribute at a recent meeting of the USC Aiken Faculty Assembly:

As some of you may have heard, we have lost another former member of our faculty, George Bowdler. He was one of the two original political scientists here at USC Aiken. Carol and I attended

continued on page 6
WELCOME, DR. DWYER-RYAN, NEW HISTORIAN

A new faculty member joins our department in the fall 2013 semester.

Dr. Meaghan Dwyer-Ryan will be assistant professor of history. She comes to us from Eastern Connecticut State University, and earned her doctoral degree from Boston College. She studies urban ethnic identities in the late-19th and early-20th century United States, and she will teach several upper-level courses in U.S. history as well as the survey of U.S. history since 1865. She is a co-author of Becoming American Jews from Brandeis University Press (2009).

Our whole department eagerly looks forward to welcoming her and her family to Aiken.

ALUMNI NOTES

Stephanie Tabor Cloninger (PS—1993) and Jim Cloninger (History—1993) are thriving in Texas. Jim has just completed his Ph.D. in history at Texas Tech University, while Stephanie works as Special Projects Coordinator in the Texas Tech Office of International Affairs.

Troy Mothkovich (PS—1999) is the coordinator of tutoring and supplemental instruction in the USC Aiken Academic Success Center where he oversees the development and implementation of academic support services (including tutoring, supplemental instruction, and the Writing Room). In his spare time, Troy is completing a Ph.D. in higher education administration at USC Columbia, with a dissertation focusing on the college application behavior of low-income, high-achieving students who go on to attend selective universities.

Ashley Riser (History—2005) accepted a position with the College of Charleston as an admissions counselor for a new degree completion program. And on January 14, 2013, she welcomed her second daughter Callie Ann Riser.

continued on page 6

Share your alumni news

We want to know about your accomplishments and milestones!

Send an e-mail to smillies@usca.edu, or visit web.usca.edu/alumni/ and update your alumni profile, or point your smartphone at the QR code.
Carol Botsch and I had a national publication and two interesting conference papers—see her statement for details. The most important thing I did alone was a new edition of the free online American Government textbook I wrote for our students back in 2008 after I became disgusted with the rising price of texts. The 2013 edition has many more changes than past editions. It updates, noting important changes such as the Affordable Care Act and the Supreme Court decision on that law. It improves readability. And it adds many pictures, graphs, and charts to help more visual learners.

Last summer I presented a paper at the annual meeting of Comité International des Études Pré-Ottomanes et Ottomanes, an international conference of Ottomanists, in Kethymno, Crete, Greece. The paper concerned a French policeman, Celestien Bonnin, who was involved in reforming the Ottoman police force in the late nineteenth century. I have since submitted the paper for publication in the conference proceedings. In addition, I have an article “War Refugees and Violence in Hamidian Istanbul” appearing in the March 2013 issue of Middle Eastern Studies.

This fall the Virginia Magazine of History and Biography published my article, ‘That Unhappy Division’ Reconsidering the Causes and Significance of the James O’Kelly Schism from a Statistical Perspective,” which explored a significant division in early American Methodism. My current research focuses on the strange life of Lorenzo Dow, a renegade Methodist itinerant who offered salvation from sin and boredom, to thousands throughout the trans-Atlantic world while successfully peddling his patent medicine on the side. His career and complicated relationship with the Methodist Episcopal Church shed light on the development of Methodism in the early republic.

Dr. Millies contributed a chapter to an introductory political science textbook and a chapter to a festschrift honoring his mentor, David Walsh. He delivered papers at Villanova University in Philadelphia, Walsh University near Canton, OH, and Chestnut Hill College, also in Philadelphia. In addition to some shorter articles and book review essays, in October he participated on two scholar panels at the 10th meeting of the Association for Political Theory held at USC Columbia.

Dr. Pierce is revising an article on Catholic labor organizations in Spain during the Second Republic (1931-1936), revising my book manuscript on Catholic mobilization during The same period, and I’m writing an article on teaching masculinity to boys in the early Franco regime.

EMERITUS FACULTY NEWS

Dr. Blanche Premo-Hopkins just completed a two-year judicial appointment as Guardian ad litem and has recently been appointed to the pastoral council and board of St. Mary’s Church in Aiken. She is fresh back from a voyage to Lake Como and Venice.

My book chapter on SC’s first woman state senator was published, as well as a journal article that I co-wrote with Bob Botsch comparing online and face to face students taking American Government classes over 13 years. Bob Botsch and I co-presented two conference papers, one focusing on the impact of taking American Government and history on political attitudes, behavior, and knowledge, and one examining the gender gap in political knowledge. A fall 2013 sabbatical will allow me to continue my research on former state legislator Irene Rudnick, among the few women elected to office in South Carolina.

During the fall semester, David Dillard-Wright compiled copious amounts of paperwork for the promotion and tenure process, which would elevate him to the vaunted rank of Associate Professor if his file is successful. David’s book chapter, “Bodies, Brains, and Minds: Against a Hierarchy of Animal Faculties,” recently appeared in the volume, Experiencing Animal Minds, released in late 2012 by Columbia University Press. David presented a paper at the Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion at the Eastern Regional Meeting of the American Philosophical Association in Atlanta in January. His paper, “Animal Consciousness in the Chandi Path,” explored animal and environmental ethics in goddess-based (Shakti) Hinduism.

In 2013, Helsley published Wicked Columbia (History Press), an encyclopedia article on Sarah Shattuck in An Encyclopedia of American Women at War (ABC-CLIO), and presented a paper on “The Civil War Home Front through the Eyes of Mary Barnwell Elliott Johnstone” for the South Carolina Historical Association. Helsley is chair of the SC Old Exchange Commission and president of the Pace Society of America. She also continues her work as USC Aiken archivist.

Heather Peterson has just completed her second year here at USCA and is busy juggling teaching, research, and writing. This spring she completed a research trip to Seville Spain, where she gathered information to start a project on the pilots who navigated between Seville and the New World during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. While the semesters have kept her very busy with new classes on Science and Empire in the Atlantic World, America’s First People and the new Critical Inquiry courses, she has tried to take advantage of the summer to finish an article on the depopulation of New Spain entitled “Consuming the Indians: Resistance, Consumption, and the Environment in New Spain during the first 100 years.”

Funded by a new grant offered to USC system faculty to undertake summer research, Herr Dr. Wood returned to Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan to update a project looking at the impact of democratization on that country’s foreign policy which he is shaping into an article. The timing proved especially apt as the Kyrgyz parliament voted just then to eject the US from its airbase there in 2014. In addition to that, he has been working on several entries for a forthcoming Encyclopedia of Democracy.
The Department of History, Political Science, and Philosophy launched an annual symposium in November. Drawing scholars from around the region and throughout the country, the Palmetto Connections Symposium examined issues of race and representation in South Carolina history.

Dr. Peter Wood, professor emeritus of history at Duke University, offered a plenary lecture on “The Election of 1864: The Most Significant Election in American History.” Several scholars offered papers presenting their own research in the afternoon. USC Aiken’s new chancellor, Dr. Sandra Jordan, offered a welcome to all who visited the campus.

The Department expects this symposium will become an annual event. The second meeting of the symposium is planned for November 9, 2013, where Brad Warthen (www.bradwarthen.com) will be our plenary speaker.

Scholar panels included guests from around the U.S. and, with Dr. Brent Morris (2nd from right) of USC Beaufort, closer to home.
The Department hosted a reception for history and political science alumni in November.

The location may look familiar. We decided to host our former students near their old classrooms in the H&SS Building. Having spent so much time in that space worrying about exams and research assignments, we thought it was time to let our former students associate some happier things with our building.

These receptions are an important way for all of us to stay in touch, and we all hope that you will join us for a future alumni reception.

If you’d like to be sure to know when we’re holding alumni events where you can meet up with your old professors, be sure to connect with us on Facebook through the USC Aiken History and Political Science Alumni group, or just make sure that your alumni profile with USC Aiken is current and up-to-date. We’ll be in touch, and we want to see you soon.
the memorial service his family held in Lexington, Saturday in February. Val Lumans, the recently retired chair of our department, was also there, as was a former student from back in the early 1980s, Kathryn Donahoo, now Kathryn D. Barton. She told us afterwards that George was one of the few people who changed her life for the better—she has been working as a professional with troubled youth for over twenty years now.

I would like to offer a few words about George as a professional political scientist in international relations and comparative politics, and as a friend and colleague in the early years of our department.

My office was next to his from the time I came in 1978 until George retired in 1985. He reminded me of a weathered member of the beat generation, famous for bringing tabuli salad to all faculty gatherings and sharing his self-squeezed carrot juice with us and our then young son, David, when we visited him at his home and swam in the small lake in front of his home out off SC 19.

George was firmly convinced that a first step in changing the lives of those in third and fourth world nations was political change. He knew that some of that change rested on how powerful nations and their people view those in poor nations. He devoted his teaching life to transforming our often parochial students into citizens who were more aware of our ties to other nations. He taught about how our actions in things as simple as what we buy affected lives elsewhere. George was teaching globalization well before anyone used the term. He wrote about and gave many talks about the plight of the downtrodden and the need for political reform. He made a difference in how many of our graduates in those early years of USCA saw the world around them.

On the lighter side, George was one of those very creative people who kept a very messy office—artifacts from other nations and papers and books impossibly piled up everywhere. One late afternoon as I was working, I heard a slow rumble through the wall. It lasted several seconds and then grew into a rather loud crash. I rushed out the door just in time to see a cloud of dust spew from George’s door. I found him laughing under an avalanche of paraphernalia. That was the George I knew and will always remember—showing humor and calm in the midst of the chaos of the world.

“George was teaching globalization well before anyone used the term”

Bob Botsch on the late Dr. George Bowdler

Dr. Bob Botsch, Dr. George Bowdler and Dr. Carol Sears Botsch

ALUMNI NOTES (CONTINUED)

Allison Gordon (PS—2007) has made excellent progress toward her law degree at the Thomas M. Cooley School of Law in Detroit, MI.

Lehe Drawdy (PS—2008) recently was promoted to Branch Manager at AllSouth Federal Credit Union in Columbia, SC.

Laura Storey (PS—2011) worked on Elizabeth Colbert Busch’s congressional campaign in South Carolina’s 1st District after completing her White House internship in the Office of the First Lady.

Justin Shealy (PS—2012) has embarked on a degree in law at the Charlotte School of Law in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Katie Scott (PS—2013) is pursuing training to become a paralegal at USC Columbia.

Update your alumni profile today!
The Department is deeply grateful to everyone who supports our students and faculty in all that we do.

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

**Citizens ($101-$250)**
- Patricia H. and Dr. Valdis O. Lumans
- Mr. Kenneth W. Mishoe
- Dr. Craig M. Wheeland

**Chroniclers ($251-$500)**
- Mrs. Doris Faye Baumgarten
- Mr. W. Mark Manders
- Mr. Brian W. Warden

**Scholars ($1-$100)**
- Judith K. and Dr. James O. Farmer
- Dr. Elizabeth Ann Georgian
- Professor Alexia Jones Helsley
- Mr. Derrick L. McLane
- Mr. David W. Mitchell
- Ms. Kathryn D. Simmons

---

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

Your contributions to our scholarship funds and program endowments are absolutely essential to helping us maintain a high-quality academic program and, in many cases, they make it possible for students to continue their studies. Would you consider making a contribution to one of these funds?

- USCA History/Political Science Scholarship
- Jerry W. Norton Memorial History Scholarship
- John F. Elliott Memorial History Scholarship
- Betty M. Toole History Scholarship
- Elise Curtis Memorial Political Science Scholarship
- USCA History/Political Science Department Fund
  - Supports a wide range of activities, including undergraduate research and co-curricular programming
- Donald P. Sumner History Program Endowment
  - Supports faculty enhancement, programming support, equipment, student assistantships, scholarships, travel and other expenditures in support of the Department

Gift Amount

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>$20</th>
<th>$50</th>
<th>$75</th>
<th>$100</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Name ____________________________________________

Address ____________________________________________________________________________

City ________________________________________________________________________________

State __________________ Zip ____________

Home Phone ____________________________

Email _____________________________________________________________________________

Graduation Yr._________ Major __________________

Employer ____________________________________________

Employer Address/City/State/Zip __________________________

________________________________

Title ______________________________________

Please make checks payable to the Aiken Partnership or

- Please bill my credit card for $__________
  - Visa  
  - Mastercard  
  - AMEX  
  - Discover

Card number _______________________________ Exp. _______

Signature __________________________________

Please mail this form and your donation to:

USCA Advancement Office
471 University Parkway
Aiken, SC  29801

THANK YOU!
DON’T FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR

9 November
PALMETTO CONNECTIONS SYMPOSIUM

8 February
HISTORY & POLITICAL SCIENCE ALUMNI RECEPTION

for more information
http://www.usca.edu/polisci/palmettocollections/

Follow us on Facebook at USC Aiken History & Political Science Alumni