Greetings from Georgia Tech’s School of History and Sociology!

Dr. Jacqueline Jones-Royster, Dean of the Ivan Allen College, recently convened a forum on “21st-Century Liberal Arts at Georgia Tech.” The event featured remarks by chairs of the six IAC schools and responses from several prominent friends of the liberal arts from engineering and the sciences. As I complete my 21st year at Georgia Tech, the past five as school chair, the occasion gave me a chance to reflect on a subject of vital importance to everyone connected with the School of History and Sociology.

For many, the phrase “21st-Century Liberal Arts” conjures a sense of crisis. Fears of declining enrollments and growing irrelevance spring to mind. Where do historians and sociologists fit in a world increasingly preoccupied with STEM (Science, Technology, Mathematics, and Computing)? What can we offer students focused on obtaining the practical skills deemed necessary to make their way in an uncertain future? Do we need to break with the rich traditions of our fields and pursue dramatically new approaches to the liberal arts?

While not immune to such fretting, I take a more optimistic view. The way I see it, HSOC is way ahead of the game. Long before I ever arrived on campus, my colleagues had embraced these challenges. As liberal arts educators and scholars at one of the world’s leading technological institutions, we had no other choice. We needed to make our relevance clear if we hoped to justify the investment Georgia Tech had made in us.

Over time, that effort has propelled us into a position of leadership. During my term as chair, I have repeatedly been called upon to explain our approach to professional organizations such as the American Historical Association. Just last month, I spent a day with colleagues at one of the nation’s most illustrious history departments, suggesting how they might bring their programs of education and research into better alignment with the times.

(Continued on the next page)
Significantly, our approach has not emphasized new tools. We have not led by rushing to incorporate new technologies and moving to the forefront of the digital humanities, although we have several irons in that fire. Instead, we have sought to bring traditional liberal arts approaches to novel areas of inquiry.

Rather than shy away from science and technology, we have made them central objects of study, both in our scholarship and in our classrooms. We have done so, moreover, by making clear to other historians and sociologists how vital such matters are in times of extraordinary social change and rapid globalization.

In taking this approach, we have strived also to make students and faculty colleagues in engineering and the sciences appreciate what the liberal arts have to offer them. The habits of mind cultivated in the liberal arts, and the open-ended approach to societal challenges they foster, can complement more narrowly technical studies and help these students pursue lifelong careers of service. Such students continue to flock to our classes, and we look always for ways we might better integrate history and sociology into the science and engineering curriculum.

The liberal arts thrive and remain relevant by posing new questions about complex human situations. This is our mission. In this “Age of STEM,” it has never been more vital.

Steve Usselman
Professor of History and Chair

Georgia Tech
School of History, Technology, and Sociology
Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts
2016 was a pivotal and invigorating year for the undergraduate program. We’ve grown our ranks, tried new things, celebrated the many achievements of our faculty and students and continually asked ourselves: “What does an HTS degree for the 21st century look like?” “How can we take the core values of HTS—critical thinking, the communication of ideas, the turning of raw information into knowledge—and create new frameworks and opportunities for their expression for our majors?” Much of what you will read below comes from that ongoing discussion. Some changes are new and innovative, other parts are a continuation of the kinds of things we do best.

Changes in Curriculum

One of the changes we are most excited about is the establishment of concentrations within the HTS degree. Our majors have often spoken of wanting to have the opportunity to focus within their courses of study on areas of particular interest. As of next year, our students will be able to choose an area of concentration within their HTS electives. Students will pick three courses from within the following “threads”:

- **U.S. Politics and Society**
- **Global Studies**
- **Politics, Economics, and Innovation**
- **Science, Technology, and Medicine**
- **Communities, Environment, and Sustainability**
- **Power, Inequality and Social Justice**
- **Culture and Society**

Students can also develop a “custom” thread. In consultation with an advisor, students choose three HTS classes with a coherent theme. This will not only help our students to pursue a course of study more tailored to their individual interests and aspirations but will also help them communicate to potential employers how HTS has prepared them for careers out in the world.

New Faculty & New Courses

Our curriculum, particularly in Sociology, is also growing, with new faces and new courses. This year, the undergraduate program extended a warm welcome to three new faculty to the unit. Historian Sherie Randolph, comes to us from University of Michigan. Dr. Randolph brings new vigor to our African-American studies offerings. We also welcomed two sociologists, Alan Hyde and Kate Pride Brown. Dr. Hyde will offer courses in quantitative methods and urban sociology and Dr. Kate Pride Brown will teach courses around the sociology of the environment and environmental activism.

In addition, we added two new courses: HTS 2051: Colonial Latin America and the World, which explores colonial Latin America from the perspective of Global History and HTS 2052: North American Borderlands, which introduces students to the history of early Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California in the early colonial period.

Four existing courses were also granted a General Education designation which means they can be taken to fulfill Social Science requirements (HTS 3027 The Civil Rights Movement; HTS 3048 Modern Russian History; HTS 3071 Sociology of Crime; HTS 3072 Sociology of Education).

Innovations in Teaching: Service Learning and Digital Humanities

This year has also seen some novel experiments in the classroom, particularly in Service Learning and Digital Humanities. Dr. Jennifer Singh and Dr. Todd Michney each received grants from the Serve • Learn • Sustain initiative for developing service learning courses, which bring students out of the classroom and into Atlanta’s many diverse communities. Dr. Singh’s course, (Continued on next page)
“Understanding Structural Inequalities of Health through Community Engagement,” gave students the opportunity to work with local non-profit organizations that serve social needs related to health. Through their work in both the classroom and the community, students investigated social conditions such as poverty, social isolation, and segregation, as well as ascribed characteristics of gender and race that are predictive of chronic disease and premature death. Dr. Michney, in conjunction with the Honors Program, taught “Semester in the City: Engaging Westside Communities.” During the course, students designed projects making into their courses. Other faculty integrated digital sustainable projects. Residents designing attainable and organized neighborhood meetings and also collaborated with community stakeholders for this event. We hope we'll see you and others again this year.

Events

Community is an important part of HSOC and we’ve continued to strive to support that sense of belonging among our current majors and alumni. In the spring we held the first Alumni-Major networking event, which gave alumni a chance to come back and see old friends and professors and gave our current students a chance to meet and network with those who have gone onto be successful in the working world. A big thanks to all of our alumni who returned for this event. We hope you'll see you and others again this year.

The History and Sociology club has also been particularly active. This fall, with co-sponsorship from HSOC the History and Sociology club held the first annual History Con. Held on Halloween, students came dressed as their favorite historical figure and won prizes for the best costume. The club also put on a film series. The most recent event featured the Hungarian film “Children of Glory” set around the 1956 Hungarian Revolution with commentary and discussion afterward by Professor Kristie Macrakis. In keeping with the theme of the film, goulash and other Hungarian dishes were served.

Awards

Our students and faculty continue to be recognized for their achievements this year, both inside the School and at the Institute level. We are very proud to congratulate Dr. Amy D’Unger who was named the Ivan Allen College Teacher of the Year for her excellence in teaching. HTS senior Taylor Prichard was chosen as the Outstanding Undergraduate Researcher in the Ivan Allen college for his paper “The Stonewall Binary” on how the Stonewall riots have been commemorated within LGBTQ history and activism. This is the third year in a row an HTS major has been chosen. In addition, the school gave out a number of awards for leadership, research and academic excellence.

Sarah Scott and Elizabeth Warden received the Bellon Award, which is awarded to an HTS undergraduate who has excelled in the areas of academic achievement, leadership, and personal integrity. The Bellon Research Award, for excellence in research was given to Anna Hattie Arnau and Taylor Prichard. And the Chair’s Award, given to the first year student at Georgia Tech majoring in HTS with the highest GPA, was awarded to Baylor Ward.

Laura Bier
Associate Professor of History
Director of Undergraduate Studies
UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

Baylor Ward
HSOC Chair’s Award
Recognizes the overall academic excellence of a first year student at Georgia Tech majoring in HTS (based upon the highest GPA)

Sarah Scott
Bellon Award Co-Winner
Awarded to an HTS undergraduate who has excelled in the areas of academic achievement, leadership, and personal integrity

Elizabeth Warden
Bellon Award Co-Winner
Awarded to an HTS undergraduate who has excelled in the areas of academic achievement, leadership, and personal integrity

Anna Arnau
Bellon Research Award Co-Winner
Awarded to the HTS student who most exemplifies excellence in historical and sociological scholarship.

Taylor Prichard
Bellon Research Award Co-Winner
Awarded to the HTS student who most exemplifies excellence in historical and sociological scholarship.

Taylor Prichard
IAC Undergrad Researcher of the Year Award
Awarded to the Ivan Allen College student who most exemplifies excellence in scholarship.

HSOC AROUND ATLANTA

Students in Dr. Winder’s Social Movements class during their trip to the National Center for Human and Civil Rights this summer.

ALUM SPOTLIGHT : ERICA LOUISE RICHARDS (HTS ‘15)

Erica Louise Richards, better known as Rica G., is currently a full-time Specials and Afterschool Studio teacher at the Kindezi School Old Fourth Ward, teaching Hip-Hop based computer science. Previously, she served in Americorps as the Tutoring & Afterschool Project Coordinator for Maynard H. Jackson High School while volunteering as a fifth grade English/Language Arts tutor.

This fall she officially started The Cultivating Young People Harnessing Energy & Respect (CYPHER) Program, Inc., which is a non-profit that teaches Hip-Hop and mentoring as life skills to middle and high school students.

The program, originally an afterschool club, engages students in activities such as programming robots in the College of Computing, performing at an African American Student Union community service event, speaking at an event for the Diamond Campaign, and recording a mixtape in the Lewis H. Beck Multipurpose Room.

In addition to her work as an educator, Erica Louise has made a name for herself as a spoken word artist and musician. She released an audio anthology in 2016 called What’s the G. for? and an album called Walk Good in 2017.

“Looking to our collective accomplishments is what brings me the confidence to work with young people. I see first hand what excellence can look like for us. It doesn’t resemble perfection nor does happen overnight. It does look like young Black kids who were determined enough to believe in their future regardless of what society attempted to throw against them. It looks like elementary school shorties who grew up with a special brand of passion and determination that landed them in the Institute. It looks like college graduates who woke up some day after commencement and realized that “impossible” was simply the title of song from the Black Cinderella movie. We are Progress and Service. We are why parents make sacrifices. We are incredible tales unfolding.”
Marcela Moreno
This summer, Marcela finished her applied research paper for her Master’s program on sustainable wastewater systems for colonias in El Paso County. She had the opportunity to present her research at the Water Initiative for the Future conference in Kingston, Ontario, and received a scholarship from the Georgia Air and Waste Management Association for the paper. Marcela is applying to Emory’s Environmental Health Sciences PhD for the upcoming year.

Dante’ Zanders
Dante’ has been working in the asset protection department at a Walmart Distribution Center for the past year. In January, he will attend Texas A&M in pursuit of a Master’s degree in Physiology and Developmental Biology as part of the Biomedical Sciences program.

Jourdan Oldstein-Read
Jourdan earned his Juris Doctor from Georgia State University College of Law in 2014, and is currently the legal counsel and policy analyst for several House committees of the Georgia General Assembly. Jourdan was also a member of the 2015 Garnishment Task, which revised Georgia’s garnishment law and went into affect this past legislative session.

Leyna Palmer
Leyna graduated from Georgia State College of Law in May and passed the July Bar Exam. She was sworn into the practice of law on November 2, 2016. She is currently working for the Douglas County District Attorney’s Office.

Leslie Leighton
After two years of teaching as an adjunct at Emory, Leslie moved over to Georgia State. He is currently an Instructor in the Department of History teaching American History.

Audrey Owens
Audrey moved to San Diego, California in August 2015 to attend a biblical studies training school at a local church. At the end of the program, she went to Dusseldorf, Germany for two months and volunteered with the refugee crisis while working for a nonprofit. Audrey is currently back in San Diego working in administrative and mentorship roles for the church.

Patrick Marcacci
Patrick has been working as a software consultant in Atlanta for the last year, and one of his biggest projects was leading the rollout of the Cox Contour 2 cable television platform for the Central Market in Oklahoma. He has also just accepted a job from IBM as a QA engineer and will be working on cloud video streaming.

Danielle Sharpe
Danielle graduated with her M.S. in Epidemiology from the University of Florida this spring. She began attending Emory University for the Ph.D. in Epidemiology program starting this fall, where she has also received the Emory IMSD Fellowship.

Patrick Chatfield
Patrick has accepted a three-month contract as a Digital Editor Associate at Remedy Health Media in Arlington.

Alexis Brankel
Alexis is currently teaching fifth grade at the Gideon Hausner Jewish Day School in the San Francisco Bay Area while earning her California teaching credentials.

Hyoung Joon An
Joon started working as an associate research fellow for the Korean Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPi) right after receiving his PhD in December 2015. He is now on one-year dispatched duty as an expert advisor at a branch office for National Science and Technology Strategy Meeting, the Korean R&D control tower chaired by the President.

Peter Westin
Peter presented a paper at the 2016 Jean Argetsinger Symposium on International Motor Racing History at Watkins Glen, NY. Sponsored by the Society of Automotive Historians, the paper is called “Race Space: The Transformation of Iconic Motorsport Circuits From Public Space Into Large-Technological Systems, 1950-2010.”

Casey Radke
Casey graduated from Georgia State University in December 2015 with a masters in Heritage Preservation. She is currently working as an Architectural Historian for Environmental Corporation America in Nashville. Current projects include photographing historic buildings in Georgia and Tennessee.
The past year has been a very active one for graduate students in the School of History and Sociology. I can only cover the highlights here, but you can find even more on our webpage.

Several students completed important milestones in our program: 6 students finished their second-year research papers, 2 students passed their comprehensive exams, and three students defended their dissertations. Congratulations to Liang Yao, Hyoung Joon An, and Brian Jirout on defending their dissertations and completing their PhDs!

Eleven of our graduate students participated in the Ivan Allen College Graduate Student Conference at Georgia Tech in January 2016. Of these students, three of them won awards for their paper presentations: Sooa Lee, Mario Bianchini, and Renee Shelby. These awards include travel funds to support future research or presentations.

Beyond Georgia Tech, several students presented at conferences this year. Here is a small sampling:


And there are other instances of recognition of our students’ scholarship. Most notably, Emily Gibson was awarded the highly competitive 9-month predoctoral Guggenheim Fellowship at the National Air and Space Museum (NASM) in Washington, D.C. for 2016-2017.

In addition to all of this research activity, HSOC has begun to expand its teacher training for graduate students. Beginning in Fall 2016, HSOC received funds from Georgia Tech to develop a Teacher Apprenticeship Program (TAP). This program provides funding for two students as they develop their teaching skills by working closely with a faculty mentor in HSOC, getting additional training from GT’s Center for Teaching and Learning, and co-teaching an undergraduate course in the spring. The program culminates with the students teaching their own course in the summer. We are very pleased to have Jonah Beatt-Taylor and Rebecca Watts Hull in TAP this year.

And of course, our program has continued to grow as we welcomed new students into our program: Garrett Bunyak, Amanda Domingues, Joseph Hurley, and James Surgent. This is a strong cohort that has already impressed faculty in the classroom, and we are excited to have them as part of our scholarly community.

We also had two new faculty members teach seminars this fall that fulfill requirements. Dr. Kate Pride Brown taught Social Theory, and Dr. Allen Hyde taught Quantitative Methods in Social Research. This spring, we are offering two seminars: Dr. Mary McDonald will teach a seminar on the Politics of Sport, and Dr. Sherie Randolph will teach a seminar on Race, Gender, and Incarceration. These new faculty and courses are bringing renewed vigor into our curriculum.

It’s a very active time in the HSOC graduate program, with lots of opportunities for our students. All of this activity and success will, of course, carry on into the next year and beyond.

Bill Winders
Associate Professor of Sociology
Director of Graduate Studies
Selected Graduate Student Presentations and Publications

Kera Allen - “I was supposed to make things pretty: A Study of Workplace Culture for Women in the Computing and Information Technology Workforce.” IAC CRIDC Graduate Student Paper Conference.

Mario Bianchini - “Human Economics: Germany, Economists, and the Cold War.” IAC CRIDC Graduate Student Paper Conference.


Jonah Bea Taylor - “Masking Vulnerability: How the Corps of Engineers Reduced Flooding in Miami and Houston.” IAC CRIDC Graduate Student Paper Conference.


Soo A Lee - “A Multi-dimensional Approach to (South) Korean International Research Collaboration.” ST Global Conference and IAC CRIDC Graduate Student Paper Conference.

Renee Shelby - “Whose Rape Kit? Aims, Realities, and Justice.” IAC CRIDC Graduate Student Paper Conference.

Xincheng Shen - “City of Gold: A History of Human Waste Management in Shanghai 1850-1949” IAC CRIDC Graduate Student Paper Conference.

Congratulations on these job placements:

• Hyoung Joon An, Associate Research Fellow, STEPI (Korean Science & Technology Policy Institute)
• Emily Gibson, Associate Historian, National Science Foundation
• Sybrina Atwaters, Assistant Director, Office of Minority Educational Development, Georgia Tech
• Gloria Ross, Government Accounting Office

Dissertation Topics of Current PhD Students

Jonah Bea-Taylor

The Science of Coastal Protection and Anticipatory Planning at the Ports of Houston and Miami, 1940-1984

His research focuses on reducing vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, investigating past resilience to changing conditions in order to identify factors that are important today. His current case studies are the Ports of Miami and Houston in the postwar period.

Hannah Weksler

Early Modern Poultry Development from the Progressive Era to the New Deal

The study deals with the relationship between government and/or industry and four issues: electricity and poultry production, construction and coop materials, egg production and conservation, and transport and storage.
PhD STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ALICE CLIFTON

Alice Clifton, one of our doctoral students, has received the 2016 Award for Excellence in Student Research Using Historical Records. The award is given by the Georgia Historical Records Advisory Council, the state’s advisory board to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia with respect to the Georgia Archives and historical records throughout our state.


The messenger pigeon program ran from 1914 to 1957. Primary documentation provides insight on internal debates over the utility of the program as well as technical developments in pigeon communications systems. She argues that, despite being an innovation hundreds of years old, the messenger pigeon remained a useful and widely utilized technology in the U.S. Army.

The end of the program was due not only to advances in electronic communications technology but also to an American culture that uncritically valued innovation more highly than technology-in-use. The research contributes to a broader debate on the proper focus of the history of technology.

RECENTLY DEFENDED DISSERTATIONS

BRIAN JIROUT
One Space Age Development for the World: The American Landsat Civil Remote Sensing Program in Use, 1953-2003
This thesis covers the history of the Landsat program from its origins in the 1950s to open data access in 2008 building upon previous studies of Landsat. It shows the major periods of the history and how the program was used heavily by the intelligence community during the Cold War.

EMILY GIBSON
Flying the Flag: Gender and the Projection of National Progress through Global Air Travel, 1920-1960
This thesis examines the role of gender dynamics in the formation of commercial aviation as well as the historically low numbers of female commercial airline pilots. A transnational study, it draws on material in the Delta, PanAm, and Air France archives.
WELCOME TO NEW FACULTY & STAFF IN HSOC

Sherie Randolph
Associate Professor of History

Kate Pride Brown
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Allen Hyde
Assistant Professor of Sociology

Matt Ventresca
Postdoctoral Fellow in SST

Inetta Worthy
Administrative Manager

RECENT FACULTY PUBLICATIONS

By Bill Winders
Grains

By Todd Michney
Surrogate Suburbs

By John Krige
Sharing Knowledge, Shaping Europe

Other Publications by Faculty:
Kenneth Knoespel, Narcissus and the Invention of Personal History (2015)
Hanchao Lu, Pathmakers: Conversations with Renowned Historians (2015)

Willie Pearson, Jr. et al. (Eds.), Advancing Women in Science: An International Perspective (2015)

FACULTY AWARDED GRANTS

- Carla Gerona, Small Grants for Research for her manuscript “More than Six Flags”
- John Krige, Small Grants for Research, Vancouver Workshop on Science and the Cold War in a Decolonizing World
- John Krige and Alasdair Young (INTA), Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, European Union Conference
- Kristie Macrakis, Small Faculty Foundation Grant from GTRF
- Jennifer Singh, Grant from Children's Healthcare of Atlanta Pediatric Research Center
HSOC FACULTY ACTIVITIES AND ACCOLADES

Johnny Smith in The American Historian

Dr. Johnny Smith was featured in an issue of The American Historian, published by the Organization of American Historians. His piece, “The Job Is Football: The Myth of the Student Athlete,” looks at the question of college athletes’ labor and economic rights and the values of higher education.

Kristie Macrakis Named Wilson Fellow

Dr. Kristie Macrakis spent the 2015-2016 academic year in Washington, D.C. after being named a Woodrow Wilson Center Scholar. Her research while at the Wilson Center was titled “Technology and the Rise of the U.S. Global Security State: How Can History Inform Policy?”

HSOC FACULTY AWARDS

Dr. Mary McDonald Wins Excellence Award

Dr. McDonald was awarded the Georgia Power Professor of Excellence Award.

Dr. Amy D’Unger Wins IAC Teacher of the Year Award

Dr. D’Unger was named the Ivan Allen College Teacher of the Year for 2015-2016 and received a Thank-a-Teacher award.

Dr. Johnny Smith Wins Teaching Award

Dr. Smith, an Assistant Professor in HSOC, won the CETL/BP Junior Faculty Teaching Excellence Award and a Thank-a-Teacher Award.

Dr. Doug Flamming Awarded Teaching Certificates

Dr. Flamming was awarded four Thank-a-Teacher certificates.

Dr. Laura Bier Wins Teaching Award

Dr. Bier was awarded a Thank-a-Teacher Award for Fall 2015.

Dr. Ken Knoespel Wins Legacy Award

Dr. Knoespel was awarded the 2016 IAC Faculty Legacy Award.
DR. SHERIE RANDOLPH ORGANIZES COLLOQUIUM

THE BLACK FEMINIST THINK TANK PRESENTS

RACE AND GENDER
A COLLOQUIUM SERIES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19
12PM - 1:30PM
"White Rage: Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide"
CAROL ANDERSON
EMORY UNIVERSITY
HALL BUILDING, ROOM 102
Co-sponsor: Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24
12PM - 1:30PM
“The Golden Arches in Black America: Fast Food, Gender and Race in an Age of Crisis”
MARCIA CHATELAIN
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
OLD CIVIL ENGINEERING BUILDING
ROOM 104
Co-sponsor: Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts and the Georgia Tech Institute Diversity

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1
4PM - 5:30PM
“Race, Gender and Violence: The New American Politics?”
A Conversation with
LEAH WRIGHT RIGUEUR
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
MEGAN MING FRANCIS
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON, SEATTLE
Moderated by
SHERIE M. RANDOLPH
GEORGIA TECH
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER
CLARY THEATER
Co-sponsor: The School of History and Sociology

TUESDAY, APRIL 4
3PM - 5PM
“Race, Reparations and Reconciliation after the Genome”
A Conversation with
ALONDRA NELSON
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
RUHA BENJAMIN
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
STUDENT CENTER THEATRE
Co-sponsor: The Working Group on Race and Racism in Contemporary Biomedicine

SITUET 2017

For more information contact BlackFeministThinkTank@gmail.com
March 6, 2017
4:00 - 5:30 PM
Old Civil Engineering Building, Room 104 (the "Mel")

Judith Stone
"When She Was White: The True Story of a Family Divided by Race"

February 23, 2017
12:00 - 1:30 PM
Old Civil Engineering Building, Room G-10

Derrick White
“Sporting Congregations and Black College Football: Rethinking the Integration of Intercollegiate Athletics”

March 30, 2017
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
The Wardlaw Center, Gordy Room

"Resilient Atlanta: New Perspectives on the Civil War and its Aftermath"