

New Faculty Welcome and Faculty Achievements



Samford University

Howard College of Arts and Sciences

Department Chairs

Thank you to our five outgoing department chairs, who have given a total of 85 years in that service!

Bernie Ankney, *Department of Journalism and Mass Communications/ Communication Studies*

Jonathan Bass, *Department of History*

Stephen Chew, *Department of Psychology*

Morgan Ponder, *Department of Chemistry*

Fred Shepherd, *Department of Political Science*



New Department Chairs



Jonathan Den Hartog

Chair and Professor of History
Ph.D., University of Notre Dame

Jonathan Den Hartog was a history professor and department chair at the University of Northwestern-St. Paul. He is a specialist in American political and religious history, author of *Patriotism and Piety: Federalist Politics and Religious Struggle in the New American Nation* and co-editor of *Disestablishment and Religious Dissent: Church-State Relations in the New American States*.



Grant Henley

Chair and Professor of World Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Ph.D., Harvard University

Grant Henley was a professor of German language and department chair at Wheaton College. His research focuses on the ideological interplay between secular and sacred discourse in German literature. His current book project—*Sacred Phoenix*—examines the influence and role of Christian rhetoric in German cultural renewal efforts between 1945 and 1949 in Allied-occupied Germany.



Chris Pursell

Chair and Professor of Chemistry
Ph.D., University of Chicago

Chris Pursell was a chemistry professor and department chair at Trinity University. He is the author or co-author of numerous articles in his field, and is currently involved in two collaborative research projects, including a study of gold nanoparticle catalysis and a study of the evaporation process. He also has a longtime interest in spectroscopy.



Lee Trepanier

Chair and Professor of Political Science
Ph.D., Louisiana State University

Lee Trepanier was a political science professor, department chair and pre-law adviser at Saginaw Valley State University. He is editor of the Lexington Books series *Politics, Literature, and Film* and the academic website *VoegelinView*, and author and editor of more than 20 books, including *The College Lecture Today: An Interdisciplinary Defense for the Contemporary University*. His scholarly interests include Eric Voegelin, politics and literature, religion and politics, democracy and education, and teaching and learning in higher education.

New Tenure-track Faculty



Taylor Cyr

Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Ph.D., University of California, Riverside

Taylor Cyr taught a variety of ethics courses in the philosophy department at Washington University. His scholarly interests lie at the intersection of ethics and metaphysics, including topics like free will, moral responsibility, death, immortality, time (especially time travel) and personal identity.



Brian Hamm

Assistant Professor of History
Ph.D., University of Florida

Brian Hamm was a Frankel Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Michigan, and taught Latin American, European and U.S. history at the University of Florida and the University of Central Florida. He has recently published an article in *Anais de História de Além-Mar* and a book chapter in *The Spanish Caribbean and the Atlantic World in the Long Sixteenth Century*.



Will Kynes

Associate Professor of Biblical and Religious Studies
Ph.D., University of Cambridge

Will Kynes was Associate Professor of Theology at Whitworth University, where he focused on wisdom and suffering in the Old Testament. His publications include the books *An Obituary for "Wisdom Literature": The Birth, Death, and Intertextual Reintegration of a Biblical Corpus* and *My Psalm Has Turned into Weeping: Job's Dialogue with the Psalms*.



David Luginbuhl

Director of Computer Science
Ph.D., University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

David Luginbuhl was Air Force Research Laboratory Chair at Air University. His 35 years of professional experience have included posts in higher education and government research and development organizations, as an Air Force officer and a civilian.

New Postdoctoral Assistant Professors



Niya Pickett Miller

Postdoctoral Assistant Professor of Communication Studies
Ph.D., University of Southern Mississippi

Niya Pickett Miller was assistant professor of communication at Tuskegee University, a 2019 TEDx Birmingham speaker and recipient of the 2019 Alabama Communication Association top faculty paper award. Her scholarship is centered on visual rhetorical criticism of marginal identities.



Douglas Walker

Postdoctoral Assistant Professor of Political Science
Ph.D., Michigan State University

Doug Walker was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where his research and teaching focused on political philosophy and American political thought. He has published articles on federalism, the Second Amendment and religious liberty, and is completing a book called *Contestational Federalism*.

New Full-time One-year Faculty



John Marc Green

Instructor in Broadcasting

M.S., University of Alabama, Birmingham

John Marc Green is a veteran journalist with more than two decades of experience in television and radio broadcasting, newspaper reporting and corporate video production. He served with Green Media Production company for more than a decade.



Daniel Haun

Instructor in Advertising

A.B.D., University of South Carolina

Daniel Haun's interests include brand and consumer interaction on social media platforms. He also is a freelance graphic designer, photographer, filmmaker, musician, DJ and former United States Army photographer and public affairs specialist.



Idrissa Snider

Visiting Assistant Professor of Print Journalism

Ph.D., Wayne State University

Idrissa N. Snider's scholarly interests lie in the areas of rhetorical criticism and womanist studies. She is especially interested in studying modes of empowerment through acts of self-defining, and examining black women's resistance towards controlling images.

2019 Promotion and Tenure

To Full Professor:

Charlotte Brammer (English)

Mike Janas (communication studies)

Jeffrey Powell (math)

David Shipley (journalism and mass communication)

James Strange (biblical and religious studies)

Geoff Wright (English)

To Associate Professor:

Marissa Grayson (political science)

Tenure:

Marissa Grayson (political science)

Roy Ciampa (biblical and religious studies)

2018-19 University Honors

Carol Ann Vaughn Cross (geography and sociology) earned Samford's John H. Buchanan Award for Excellence in Classroom Teaching.

Marissa Grayson (political science) earned the Howard College of Arts and Sciences Advising Award.

Dennis Sansom (philosophy) earned the Howard College of Arts and Sciences Teaching Award.

Brad Busbee (English) earned the Howard College of Arts and Sciences Scholarship Award.

2018-19 Sabbaticals

David Bains (biblical and religious studies) worked on a book length project titled *Religious Capital: Representing Religion in Washington, D.C.*

Lisa Battaglia (biblical and religious studies) conducted research for an article on women's ordination in Theravada Buddhism, and developed a Samford travel course to Thailand.

Betsy Dobbins (biological and environmental sciences) worked on a co-edited, peer-reviewed volume titled *Perspectives on the environment, Social Justice, and the Media in the Ate of the Anthropocene*, for which she is also completing an article.

Steven Epley (English) began new research that pushes his previous scholarship on Susannah Rowson into new explorations of educational practices, familial relationships, and sexual mores in early nineteenth-century New England.

Mike Ledgerwood (world languages and cultures) began an article and book project provisionally titled *Lithuanian National Identity, Nation Branding, and the Eurovision Song Contest*.

Timothy Scott McGinnis (biblical and religious studies) researched best practices in teaching theology in order to update a course, and began an article-length study of reading practices and the use of the theater to advance Reformation ideas, examined through a dialogue on practical divinity by the sixteenth-century Puritan minister Arthur Dent.

LeeAnn Reynolds (history) began researching and writing a manuscript exploring the careers and civil rights activism of three white women who were leaders in the movement: Lillian Smith, Virginia Durr and Anne Braden.

2019-20 Sabbaticals

Fall 2019

Marigene Chamberlain (*world languages and cultures*) will serve as a compiler and lead translator for a project that seeks to develop and publish Spanish-language educational materials for small discipleship groups in the Wesleyan tradition.

Ryan Galloway (*communication studies/debate*) will research and write an article about how the current conceptualization of “fiat” in debate undercuts the ability of debaters to argue for policy adoption.

Dave Johnson (*biological and environmental sciences*) will work on three projects, including molecular analysis of organisms found in a sulfur spring, preparation of an article for publication in the journal *Genetics*, and preparation of a college textbook in his field.

Jeff Leonard (*biblical and religious studies*) will complete a book project related to the doctrine of creation.

Spring 2020

Bernie Ankney (*journalism and mass communication*) will work on a paper on the first artificial heart transplant, research Ford Frick’s role in quelling a strike by St. Louis Cardinal players over Jackie Robinson’s recruitment, undertake a content analysis of two television shows and convert lectures for several courses to a multimedia format.

Jonathan Bass (*history*) will complete his history of Samford University, revise his book *Blessed Are the Peacemakers* for publication by LSU press as a ‘classic’ in southern history, and work on *The Year of Civil Rights*, a book-length narrative history of W.W. Norton Press.

Stephen Chew (*psychology*) will work on four projects, including a published companion to his *How to Study* video series, a collaborative article on teaching psychology with professional colleagues, a book on teaching practice based on cognitive principles, and a research program on the importance of student trust in the teacher on student motivation and willingness to learn. He also will use the sabbatical to serve as chair of the National Institute on the Teaching of Psychology and co-lead a professional task force sponsored by the Society for the Teaching of Psychology.

Marissa Grayson (*political science*) will complete a book and presentation project titled *Inconsistent Goals Result in Incremental Policy*.