

# HISTORY HOUSE HERALD

## Message from the Chair

By Prof. Anthony Daly



Welcome to the 2015-16 academic year! Whether you are a returning student or new to MCLA, I hope the semester is off to a good start for you and that you are excited about your classes. As a department we are excited about the range of courses offered this fall, classes that cover the globe and many different historical eras and ways of thinking about political science, public policy, and history. In particular, the addition of our new professor, Dr. David Cupery, who specializes in international relations and comparative politics, expands the areas of expertise in the department and brings new ideas and

energy to our political science programs. Another new faculty member, Professor Kirk Scott, is teaching US before 1877; he holds a Masters degree from Wichita State University and has taught extensively at several universities in the Midwest.

As always, our primary focus remains on developing our students, providing them with challenges and opportunities to graduate with the knowledge and abilities that will serve as the foundation for whatever paths you choose. We are proud of your hard work and accomplishments; don't hesitate to contact us to ask for advice or assistance—drop us an email, look up our office

## VOL. 2, #1

### Section 1

The past year was great for MCLA students. Learn about the experiences of your classmates and opportunities you might have in our 'LB/LF post.



The events calendar at MCLA is loaded again this semester! There are many opportunities for students to get involved, see great speakers, and deepen learning. Learn more inside.

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### Section 2

Prof. David Cupery joins the HIST/PSPP faculty. He is excited about being at MCLA and teaching classes in CP and IR.



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The URC at MCLA is a great opportunity to show the MCLA community your skills. Learn more inside this issue.

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*"There is nothing wrong with America that cannot be cured with what is right about America."* —Pres. Bill Clinton

hours on the department web site ([mcla.edu/hist](http://mcla.edu/hist) or [mcla.edu/pspp](http://mcla.edu/pspp)), or drop by 72 Porter Street—and now you can find us on Facebook.

I hope to see you at some History, Political Science, and Public Policy events this semester; you can find information on many of them elsewhere in this newsletter. Have a productive and enjoyable semester!

## Raymond Kurzweil Headlines a Stellar Set of Events in Fall 2015

What are the chances that technology will advance to the point that humans—if they choose—would never have to perish? Would you want to live forever? What are the implications of this proposition for public policy and history? What is artificial intelligence (AI) and is it safe?

These are questions and issues Ray Kurzweil, the Director of Engineering at Google, considers in his work. Kurzweil will give the Michael S. and Kitty Dukakis Public Policy Lecture at MCLA. The lecture, generously provided by the Ruth Proud Charitable Trust, will be given in the Church Street Center on November 12, 2015 at 7 p.m.

### Other Events this Fall

Beyond Kurzweil, we have a series of other speakers coming on campus as well. See the list below for the events, or click the link on the right, bottom of the page for more information...

- Jeff Speck, author of *Walkable City*, will give our first year experience talk at the Church Street Center on October 1, 2015. Speck is an expert on urban design focusing on how walkability makes cities more economically viable and healthier.



*Raymond Kurzweil is the Director of Engineering at Google. He has written two books, *The Singularity is Near* and *How to Create a Mind*. Find out more about Kurzweil and all of our speakers at this [website](#).*

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## Looking back, Looking forward: What's going on in HIST/PSPP?



*Kate Rowell, HIST/PSPP double major, participated in NLNE.*

### Looking Back at spring 2015

Spring 2015 was a very active semester at MCLA. We had a great public policy lecture on LGBT rights by Cheryl Jacques. The MCLA Model U.N. team represented the College the department, and themselves extremely well in Toronto. The HIST/PSPP department was exceptionally well represented at the Undergraduate Research Conference, as always. Finally, at our traditional year-end banquet to honor graduating seniors, author and historian John Kelly spoke on his well-received book on the Irish Famine. The year-end HIST/PSPP

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*Above: Prof. Cupery and his wife, Karen, in China (summer 2015).*

## Meet the New Prof., Same as the Old Prof.? Dr. David Cupery

Professor David Cupery comes to MCLA after completing his Ph.D. at the University of Colorado-Boulder. Before that, Prof. Cupery earned his undergraduate degree at Centre College—a small liberal arts college—in Danville, Kentucky. We're excited to have him on campus offering classes in comparative politics and international relations. He has a wide range of experiences he is bringing into MCLA classrooms, such as spending two years in Ecuador earning a Master's degree (and meeting his wife, Karen), and spending over a month traveling in Asia this summer. We asked him a few questions so we could all get to know him better.

### **What attracts you to a small liberal arts college like MCLA?**

Prof Cupery: "I feel very much at home at a small liberal arts college like MCLA as I choose to attend one (Centre College) not that long ago and have never regretted the decision. I value the consistent

student-professor interactions and participatory classrooms that are facilitated by smaller class sizes. I also am a firm believer in the value of a liberal arts course load. Many of today's jobs require knowledge and skills that are interdisciplinary in nature and the capacity to think critically is so valuable inside and outside of the workplace. Finally, the community on a small campus can be very rich. I remember really appreciating when I saw my professors at athletic or performing arts events and I look forward to attending these types of events and others here at MCLA."

### **Why did you make Latin America your focus?**

I had a transformative experience as a college junior. Growing up, I had always been fascinated by all things foreign and, despite never having had the opportunity to travel internationally; I knew that I wanted to study abroad in college. Despite having

**Continued...**

**Cupery (con't.)**

planned to study somewhere in Europe, I ended up in Merida, Mexico and fell in love with the local culture and became fascinated with the politics and economics of the greater region. Many Latin American cultures are vibrant despite being surrounded by historical and current instability and violence and this piqued my attention, personally and professionally. My interest in the region led me to Ecuador after I completed my undergraduate degree. And, for two years, I studied diplomacy and international relations alongside my Ecuadorian classmates while also finding time to volunteer, travel, and teach at a local college. Those years put me in close contact with the issues and problems that I had only previously read about. But, they also helped me realize that I lacked the tools to better understand the issue. This realization convinced me to pursue a PhD in Political Science, focusing on Latin American politics.

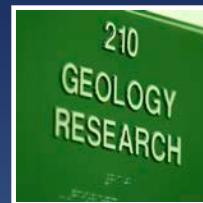
**What's exciting about CP/IR?**

I'm of the opinion that most people in the US know far too little about what happens outside of our borders. This is especially true because of 1) how important our country is for what happens throughout the world and 2) the democratic nature of our government, where each citizen – informed or uninformed can help shape our foreign policy. Thus, there is a huge civic value to be gained by teaching my students about the international system and about how politics work in other parts of the globe.

**Big Fall Events at MCLA (con't)**

- Joy Reid, managing editor at TheGrio.com, will give the Hardman Lecture on Oct. 15, 2015. The talk will be in the Church Street Center at 7 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.
- Andrew Vadnais will be on campus to talk about sustainability and environmental education on November 4, 2015.
- There will be a Mayoral Debate on campus at the Church Street Center on Oct. 13, 2015. The time is tentative for 7 p.m. Prof. Taylor's state politics class is running the event.
- Prof. Bruce Miller of Western New England University will be on campus to deliver the Constitution Day lecture at 5 p.m. in M218 on 9/17. His talk is on the future of constitutional rights for LGBT persons in the U.S.
- While this is not academic, don't forget about the Sam Gomez Race organized by SGA. Allie Kadell, SGA president, and other History majors are involved, so let's support them. The race is on Sunday, Oct. 18 at 11:30 a.m.

Have fun at these events!

**DON'T FORGET THESE ITEMS!****URC**

The Undergraduate Research Conference is next spring, but that's not far away. It's a great opportunity to get experience presenting your own work to others.

This experience is invaluable to anyone.

**Internships**

Anyone who is looking to do an internship should contact his or her prospective faculty sponsor at least 1 semester in advance. Internships are wonderful, but require some paperwork and planning. Don't wait until the last minute to get yours organized!

## Looking back, looking forward (con't.)

banquet was also a celebration for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Phi Alpha Theta at MCLA (and North Adams State College). We're looking forward to more great events this semester – indeed, all year!

### Department Excels at Travel Courses

It may be just a bit too late to get into one of the HIST/PSPP travel courses this year, but that's no reason not to make plans for the future. The HIST/PSPP department excels at travel courses.

Professor Daly is planning a travel course to Ireland and Professor Huang is preparing for one to Japan. Both will be semester-long courses that will include a trip overseas during Spring Break. These courses are great opportunities to experience life in a different country, and combining the overseas experience with an academic course helps you understand and appreciate your time abroad so much more.

### Kate Rowell: New Leadership New England

Kate Rowell, a junior HIST/PSPP double major, spent a week at St. Anselm College in New Hampshire representing MCLA at the New Leadership New England conference. This conference is organized every year for women who are in college and expect to take leadership roles in their post-graduate life. Kate was nominated to represent MCLA because of her exemplary academic record and interest in leadership. On her experience, Kate says it was 'absolutely incredible.'

Quoting from her [MCLA profile](#), Kate says, 'We had the opportunity to speak with panels of successful, enterprising women working in politics, business, the media and academia, and we participated in workshops focused on building skills like networking and public speaking.' She explained, "I met too many amazing women to name them all individually,

but I was inspired by their various stories of perseverance, ambition, and success – often in the face of opposition."

### Looking Forward: Spring 2016 Courses

The department has tentatively planned to offer these upper level courses...

- Professor Cupery
  - Politics in Post-Colonial Sub-Saharan Africa (HIST cross-list)
  - Politics of Conflict
- Professor Daly
  - European Empires in the 19th century (seminar)
  - Career and ePortfolio Workshop
- Professor Jones-Sneed
  - The 1960s (seminar)
- Professor Huang
  - History of Japan
  - Chinese Culture and Civilization
  - Japan Travel Course
- Professor Taylor
  - Model United Nations
  - Exploring Political Psychology (seminar, honors cross-list)
- Professor Pecor
  - US in Age of Jackson, 1815-45
- Professor Taskin
  - Constitutional Law

The HIST/PSPP department, we pride ourselves on offering classes that students want to take. If you have an idea for a class, be sure to discuss it with the professor for whom you think it would be most relevant.

Also, as of spring 2015, Prof. Taylor is the co-advisor for Pre-Law. If you want to know more, just let him know.

## Tim Mooney and 'The Greatest Speech of all Time'

As students of History and Political Science, we know the power of words and the impact they can have in changing the world. On Tuesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 in Murdock 218, we will have an opportunity to experience some of the most influential and important speeches of all time.

Timothy Mooney will perform excerpts from 10 speeches, given by figures such as Socrates, Frederick Douglass, Abraham Lincoln, and Winston Churchill. Mooney explains each excerpt

before delivering it, with the result that the words come alive as both products of their era and with the timeless quality of great rhetoric. Mooney explains, "I love being able to bring moments of historical consequence, where great deeds hang in the balance, to immediate and tangible life." For more information on this free performance, go to <http://timmooneyrep.com/gsat/index.html>.



*If you love history, politics, or theatre you'll love Tim Mooney's 'Greatest Speech.'*

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*The Department of History, Political Science & Public Policy is always available to you – the students. Please do not hesitate to come see us in the History House at 72 Porter Street. Also, if you are participating in something academically or co-curricularly please let us know so we can put it in the newsletter. To see what's going on all the time, 'Like' us on [Facebook](#)!*

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