Sabbatical Proposal for Fall 2009
Virginia E. Causey
Associate Professor, Department of History & Geography

SUMMARY

Sabbatical Goals: To complete the research for an analytical history of Columbus, Georgia; to write the introduction, at least one chapter, and a proposal to seek publication by an appropriate academic press.

No historian has ever published an academic analytical history of Columbus, Georgia, one of the few major cities in Georgia for which this is true. I have begun the research for such a history. A sabbatical in Fall 2009 would provide me the opportunity to complete my research and begin writing the manuscript.

The history of Columbus is a deserving subject for this research. Founded in 1828 as a “trading town,” Columbus’ situation at the falls of the Chattahoochee made it the economic, political and social center for the lower river valley. At the head of navigation on the river, the town was a collection point for agricultural products, principally cotton, from west central Georgia and east central Alabama which were shipped through the Gulf of Mexico port at Apalachicola and on to world markets. The Chattahoochee River served as a major trade artery well into the 1900s.

The falls also provided hydropower for industry that emerged by the 1830s. By 1860 Columbus was the third largest city in Georgia and a leading commercial and industrial center, especially in the production of textiles. Though destruction during the Civil War and economic downturns in the late 19th century slowed the city’s development, textile manufacturing grew robustly and dominated Columbus’ economy through the mid-20th century. Columbus saw major conflict between textile workers and management in 1919 and again in the 1930s. As the textile industry exported jobs in the second half of the twentieth century, the city re-made itself as a center for the service industry, with AFLAC and Total System Services world headquarters located there.

Columbus is also significant as a major player in the removal of the native Creek and Yuchi Indians from the Chattahoochee Valley in the 1830s. It was the home of “Blind Tom” Wiggins, an autistic musical genius born into slavery but in later life a performer before presidents and the crowned heads of Europe. Freed slave and engineer Horace King worked in Columbus and lived across the river in Phenix City after the Civil War, constructing bridges up and down the valley. Augusta Howard of Columbus founded the Georgia Woman Suffrage Association in 1890 and hosted Susan B. Anthony at her family’s antebellum home in 1895. Gertrude “Ma” Rainey of Columbus was the first of the great blues singers, recorded by Paramount in the 1920s. Thomas Darby and Johnny Tarlton recorded “Columbus Stockade Blues” in 1927 which sold 200,000 copies and remains a blue-grass standard. Renowned author Carson McCullers based much of her fiction in her hometown of Columbus, including The Heart is a Lonely Hunter, a bestseller in 1940. In the same year screenwriter and Columbus native Nunnally Johnson was nominated for an Academy Award for “The Grapes of Wrath.”

Fort Benning was started in Columbus in 1918 and grew during World War II into a major military base with thousands of troops passing through during the 1940s and again during the Vietnam conflict in the 1960s. George Marshall, Dwight Eisenhower, George Patton, Omar Bradley, and Colin Powell all served there. Fort Benning changed the city, making it more cosmopolitan. This cultural diversity has grown since the 1950s with the influx of foreign officers into the Infantry School and into the School of the Americas (now the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation), brought to Fort Benning in 1984.

Columbus has played a major role in the history of Georgia and the Southeast. Its story deserves in-depth analysis. I believe I am uniquely situated to research and write such a history because of my 20-year involvement in researching and teaching its past. A sabbatical in Fall 2009 would afford me the opportunity to complete the research and begin the writing of this history.
INTRODUCTION

I am requesting a sabbatical in Fall 2009 in order to complete research and begin the writing for an analytical history of Columbus, Georgia. During the past three academic years, I have planned and directed programs on local history. In 2006-2007 and 2007-2008, I received grants for “Red Clay, White Water, and Blues: Programs on Local History” and in fall 2008 for “When Cultures Collide: Dialogues with Native American History and Cultures.” These programs were very well-attended. Many participants have requested a reading list on local history. Unfortunately, resources on local history are difficult to provide. Popular histories of Columbus have been published over the years, including:

John Martin, Columbus, Geo. From its Selection as a Trading Town in 1827, to its Partial Destruction By Wilson’s Raid, in 1865. Columbus, Georgia: Thomas Gilbert, 1884.
Etta Blanchard Worsley, Columbus on the Chattahoochee. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Company, 1951.
John S. Lupold, Columbus, Georgia 1828-1978. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Sesquicentennial Inc., 1978.
Margaret Laney Whitehead and Barbara Bogart, City of Progress: A History of Columbus Georgia. Columbus, Georgia: Columbus Office Supply Company, 1979.
Pam Baker and Pamela Keene, Columbus: The Spirit, the People, the Promise. Montgomery, Alabama: Community Communications, 1992.
Roger Harris, Our Town: An Introduction to the History of Columbus, Georgia. Columbus: Trust Co. Bank of Columbus, 1992.

Only the Kyle book is still in print and it is essentially a “coffee table” picture book. Not one history of Columbus is in-depth or analytical or based on primary sources. I believe such a study is overdue. I also believe it would find a ready market, not only in the local community but among academic and general readers of Southern history.

Local historical organizations have indicated a willingness to support the publication of my new history of Columbus, including the Historic Columbus Foundation and the Historic Chattahoochee Commission.

Objectives (see timeline):
1. Complete research on Columbus history in archives in Montgomery, the Atlanta area, Savannah, Washington, DC, Boston, MA and Chapel Hill/Durham, NC.
2. Complete local oral history interviews.
3. Write the introduction and initial chapter of the history.
4. Write a proposal for publication.
5. Seek publication from an appropriate academic press.

Benefits to applicant:

The sabbatical will allow an uninterrupted span of time to complete the research and begin the writing of an analytical history of Columbus, Georgia. Specifically, it will make possible travel to and research in archival collections that I could not complete while teaching a full course load. It will also provide time for the initial organization of the book and the writing of the first chapters.
Benefits to Columbus State University:

Columbus State has received much positive publicity from its sponsorship of the “Red Clay, White Water, and Blues” and “When Cultures Collide” programs. The “Red Clay” programs averaged more than 150 attendees at each monthly program. More than 75 people on average attended each of the nine “When Cultures Collide” programs from Sept. 30 to October 30, 2008. Hundreds of individuals at those programs signed up to be notified of future history events. That pool of locals hungry for history will comprise the core of the market for this new history of Columbus. Its publication will naturally be associated with Columbus State because of my affiliation. I anticipate local events after the publication of the book will bring even more positive attention to CSU.

Another benefit to CSU will be my professional development resulting from this research and writing. I teach U.S. History since 1865, The New South, History of Georgia, History of Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley, and Oral History. My teaching in all of those courses will be enhanced by this research project. I intend to involve my students in the upper level courses as co-researchers. For example, students in History of Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley will conduct research projects tracing the development over time of selected areas of downtown Columbus using primary sources and oral interviews. Students in Oral History will conduct local history interviews, especially connected to schools and education. I will be able to incorporate and build upon much of this research in my book.

Results expected:
- Completion of research on the history of Columbus, Georgia
- Introduction and initial chapter of the history completed
- Proposal for publication submitted to an academic press
- Enhanced professional development

Timeline:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spring semester 2009</th>
<th>Conduct research in the local area:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Columbus State University Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Historic Columbus Foundation Archives</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Russell County Historical Society, Phenix City, Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Infantry Museum, Fort Benning, Georgia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mid-August to mid-October 2009</th>
<th>Conduct research within Georgia and Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia Historical Society in Savannah, Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Georgia State Archives and Federal Records Center in Morrow, Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Southern Labor Archives, Georgia State University, Atlanta, Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alabama State Archives, Montgomery, Alabama</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conduct local oral history interviews</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mid-late October 2009</th>
<th>Conduct research in Washington, DC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Library of Congress [Susan B, Anthony Papers; National American Woman Suffrage Association Papers]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>National Archives [Official Records of the War of the Rebellion; Freedmen’s Bureau Papers; U.S. Army Records]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
METHODS AND EVALUATION

Description of the Sabbatical Program:

1. Complete research on Columbus history in archives in Montgomery, the Atlanta area, Savannah, Washington, DC, Boston, MA and Chapel Hill, NC (see the proposed timeline).

From mid-August until early November 2009, I will travel to do research in archival collections in Georgia, Alabama, the District of Columbia, Massachusetts and North Carolina.

2. Complete local oral history interviews.

Working with the CSU archives, I will conduct interviews with individuals whose life stories and areas of expertise are important in the history of Columbus. A partial list of the individuals I plan to interview include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Related area of Columbus history</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rudolph Allen</td>
<td>Civil Rights</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danny Amos</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Blanchard</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Buck III</td>
<td>Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steve Butler</td>
<td>Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carmen Cavezza</td>
<td>Fort Benning; Politics; Business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wallace Davis</td>
<td>High school education; local athletics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonie Eakle</td>
<td>Woman suffrage (Descendant of Augusta Howard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clason Kyle</td>
<td>Cultural events; Columbus history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank Martin</td>
<td>Politics; William Calley trial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rosa Stanback</td>
<td>High school education; Columbus College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billy Winn</td>
<td>Journalism; Columbus history</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Write the introduction and initial chapter of the history.

Assuming my research plan goes smoothly, I should be in a position to begin writing the first chapter of the history of Columbus by November. I expect to get the introduction and at least one chapter completed by mid-December.

4. Write a proposal for publication.

Once the initial writing is complete, I will compose a proposal for publication. For example, the University of Georgia Press requests the following from prospective authors:
• A cover letter that includes a concise description of your book and its notable features, your opinion of its potential readership, and your views on how it relates to any similar books that it might compete with or complement.
• Your letter should also tell us something about the current status of the manuscript. Please tell us whether it is completed or not, and if not, give us a projected completion date and a general idea of the nature, and amount, of work that remains to be done. In addition, let us know if you are submitting your proposal simultaneously to other publishers or if the manuscript is currently under consideration by another publisher.
• A table of contents
• A copy of any introductory material (preface, foreword, introduction)
• A resume, curriculum vitae, and/or biographical note

5. Seek publication from an appropriate academic press.

I will first seek publication with the University of Georgia Press. If that proves unsuccessful, Mercer University Press is another press that likely would be interested in a Columbus History.

Evaluation of Objectives:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Method of Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Complete research on Columbus history in archives in Montgomery, the Atlanta area, Savannah, Washington, DC, Boston, and Chapel Hill/Durham, NC.</td>
<td>I will describe my research efforts in the final report. The completed portion of the manuscript will reflect these research efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Complete local oral history interviews.</td>
<td>I will deposit tapes and transcripts in the CSU archives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Write the introduction and initial chapter of the history.</td>
<td>The completed portion of the manuscript will reflect my research efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Write a proposal for publication.</td>
<td>I will submit the proposal and letter to the academic press with my final report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Seek publication from an appropriate academic press.</td>
<td>I will submit the proposal and letter to the academic press with my final report.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FUTURE PLANS

Timeline for completion of the research project:

Spring 2010 Complete the writing of the book and submit the manuscript to an academic press
Summer 2010 Final editing of the manuscript
Fall 2010 Publication of the history of Columbus
BUDGET

The costs associated with this research project are primarily travel-related:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length and date of travel</th>
<th>Destination</th>
<th>Mileage @ .585¢</th>
<th>Airfare</th>
<th>Accommodations</th>
<th>Meals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 days—late August</td>
<td>Savannah, GA</td>
<td>500 miles/ $292.50</td>
<td>$300.00</td>
<td>$84.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days—early September</td>
<td>Morrow, GA</td>
<td>194 miles/ $113.49</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
<td>$84.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days—mid September</td>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>216 miles/ $126.36</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
<td>$84.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days—late September</td>
<td>Montgomery, AL</td>
<td>176 miles/ $102.96</td>
<td>$225.00</td>
<td>$56.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 days—mid-October</td>
<td>Washington, DC</td>
<td></td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 days—early November</td>
<td>Chapel Hill, NC</td>
<td>938 miles/ $548.73</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>$140.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days—mid-November</td>
<td>Boston, MA</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
<td>$750.00</td>
<td>$84.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1184.04</td>
<td>$1000.00</td>
<td>$2475.00</td>
<td>$672.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL OF TRAVEL EXPENDITURE: $5331.04

I intend to apply for faculty development funds for Fall 2009 to defray travel expenses to Washington, DC and Boston, MA. I will bear the other costs of this project.

There may be publication expenses for the completed book. Local historical organizations have indicated a willingness to support the publication of my new history of Columbus, including the Historic Columbus Foundation and the Historic Chattahoochee Commission. I will seek additional funding support, as necessary.
PROPOSAL APPENDAGE

I have researched, written about, and made presentations about Columbus history for the past 10 years. I have included here relevant information about my previous activities which uniquely qualify me to undertake the proposed sabbatical activity and which demonstrate clearly that I have the potential to successfully complete this research project. I have also attached two letters of support for this project. One is from Historic Columbus Foundation Director Elizabeth Barker. The other letter is from CSU History Professor Emeritus John S. Lupold, the leading scholar in local history and the founder of the CSU Archives. His publications on Columbus history include:


RELEVANT CURRICULUM VITAE

Education
1983 Ph.D. in United States History, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia
Dissertation: “Glen Allan, Mississippi, 1900-1950: Change and Continuity in a Delta Community.”
1978 M.A. in United States History, Emory University
1975 B.A. in History, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama

Academic Appointments/Work Experience
2004-present Associate professor in the Department of History. Major responsibilities include teaching survey and upper level courses in U.S. History. In addition, I administer the Early Mentoring Program for history education majors.
2000-2004 Assistant professor and coordinator of the history/social science education program, jointly appointed to the Department of Teacher Education and the Department of History, Columbus State University. Major teaching responsibilities included teaching social studies methods for prospective middle and high school teachers, graduate courses in social studies education for inservice teachers, Georgia and United States History, and clinical supervision of teacher candidates.
1994-1999 Assistant professor of social studies education, Department of Middle/Secondary Education, Georgia State University. I also taught in the Department of History.

Relevant courses taught:
HIST 5105 History of Columbus and the Chattahoochee Valley
HIST 3105 History of Georgia
Awards
Roger K. Warlick Local History Achievement Award, Georgia Historical Society, 2008.
Georgia Senate Resolution 866, “A Resolution Commending Dr. Virginia Causey,” for the “Red Clay, White Water, and Blues” local history series. Sponsored by Senator Ed Harbison, approved by the Senate on February 12, 2008
College of Arts and Letters nominee, Faculty Service Award, 2008.
Preservation Award for Local History, Historic Columbus Foundation, 2007.
College of Arts and Letters nominee, Faculty Service Award, 2007.
Faculty Service Award, College of Education, April 2003.
Dean’s Award for Innovation for HIST 3105 Georgia History, an infusion of research-supported effective teaching strategies in history, April 2001.

Service to the Community:
Program Director for “When Cultures Collide: Dialogs with Native American History and Culture.” (October 2008) A month-long series of programs and films presented by the partnership of Columbus State University, the Columbus Public Library, the Pastoral Institute, Friends of Libraries, the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association, and the Columbus Film Society.
Program Director for “Red Clay, White Water, and Blues: Programs on Local History.” (2007-2008) Seven monthly local history programs with accompanying field trips. Sponsored by grants from the Georgia Humanities Council, the Columbus State University Foundation, the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association, the Phenix City-Russell County Chamber of Commerce, the Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians, Historic Columbus Foundation, and Friends of Libraries. Supported by thirteen local partner organizations.
Causey, Virginia E. (September 2007). “Augusta Howard and the Woman Suffrage Movement in Georgia.” Historic Columbus Foundation, Columbus, Georgia.
Program Director for “Red Clay, White Water, and Blues: Programs on the History of Columbus.” (2006-2007) Eight monthly local history programs with accompanying field trips. Sponsored by grants from the Georgia Humanities Council, the Columbus State University Foundation, the Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association, Historic Columbus Foundation, Friends of Libraries, and Oxbow Meadows. Supported by thirteen local partner organizations. We averaged 165 attendees at each program.
Oral History Workshop, Columbus State University Archives, October 2006.
Causey, Virginia E (October 2002). “Augusta Howard.” Presentation to the George Walton Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Columbus, Georgia.

Service to the Profession:
The Muscogee County School District Oral History Project, 1996-present
The Muscogee County Oral History Project (2002-2003). Collaborative effort among Columbus State University, the Muscogee County School District, the Columbus Ledger-Enquirer,
and the Historic Columbus Foundation to train 8th grade language arts and social studies teachers to infuse oral history into their classes. I taught a staff development class in spring 2002. In 2002-2003 teachers designed and facilitated student oral history projects. Muscogee County Oral History Project Presentation, in the Civic Center at Riverfest, April 2003. Field Experience Coordinator, Southeastern Indian Homecoming at Fort Mitchell, Alabama, October 2002.


**Publications**

Causey, Virginia E. (submitted for publication) “‘Total Destruction’ and ‘Black Reconstruction’: The Battle of Columbus and Historical Memory.” *Georgia Historical Quarterly.*


Causey, Virginia E. (2002). Curriculum guide for the exhibit “Without Sanctuary” at the Martin Luther King Center for Social Change, Atlanta.


**Papers read/Presentations**


Causey, Virginia E. (September 2008) “Southern Food IS Indian Food: The Intersection Between Euro-American and Native American Foodways in the South.” When Cultures Collide: Dialogues with Native American History and Culture, Columbus, Georgia.


Grants

When Cultures Collide: Dialogues with Native American History and Culture, Fall 2008. Friends of Libraries ($1500); Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association ($1500). Total grant: $3100

Red Clay White Water, and Blues: Programs on Local History, 2007-2008. Georgia Humanities Council grant for programming ($7500); Columbus State University Foundation grant ($7500); Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association grant ($2000); Phenix City-Russell County Chamber of Commerce grant ($1000); Historic Columbus Foundation grant ($500); Friends of the Libraries grant ($500); Carson McCullers Center for Writers and Musicians grant ($500). Total grant: $19,500


Center for Faculty Teaching and Learning—grant for one course reassignment in Spring 2008 for “Writing-to-Learn’ in History: A QEP Proposal.”


Red Clay White Water, and Blues: Programs on the History of Columbus, 2006-2007. Georgia Humanities Council grant for programming ($10,000); Columbus State University Foundation grant ($5000); Chattahoochee Indian Heritage Association grant ($1500); Historic Columbus Foundation grant ($500); Friends of the Libraries grant ($500); Oxbow Meadows Foundation grant($500). Total grant: $16,500

Muscogee County Oral History Project, 2002-2003. Georgia Humanities Council grant for teacher development; Historic Columbus Foundation grant. ($8000)
Applicant: Virginia E. Causey
Title of Proposal: The History of Columbus, Georgia
Award Period: Fall 2009
Requested by: ______________________________ (Signature)

Department Chair's Comments (If proposal consists of seeking advanced education not to be applied to a degree, please comment on whether this area will be taught in the immediate future). Supplemental pages may be attached.

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________
(Signature)

Dean's Comments (If proposal consists of seeking advanced education not to be applied to a degree, please comment on whether this area will be taught in the immediate future). Supplemental pages may be attached.

___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________

___________________________________
(Signature)

(NOTE: Seven copies of the detailed plan of activity must be submitted to the VPAA for consideration.)
COLUMBUS STATE UNIVERSITY
SABBATICAL PROGRAM

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

I, Virginia E. Causey, hereby understand and agree to the following provisions of the Sabbatical Program.

1. While on a sabbatical leave, I will not accept remunerative employment without the written consent of the President of Columbus State University or his designated representative.

2. I understand and agree that no form of employment may be accepted during the leave period that will interfere with the accomplishment of the purpose(s) of the leave.

3. I understand and agree that within one (1) month upon return from the sabbatical leave, I shall file with the Vice President for Academic Affairs of Columbus State University a written report of the scholarly activities undertaken while on sabbatical leave. Further, I will provide copies of this report to my department chair and dean, and the chair of the Faculty Development Committee.

4. I understand and agree that as a sabbatical recipient, I am obligated to return to Columbus State University for one full year of service upon completion of the sabbatical. I further understand and agree that failure to do so obligates me to reimburse Columbus State University fully for expenses other than salary incurred by the University resulting from the sabbatical. Such expenses may include, but need not be limited to, the expense to replace me with a part-time faculty member, travel, per diem, and/or registration fees relating to my leave activities.

On this day of 200__, I hereby understand and agree to the provisions itemized in this Memorandum of Agreement.

____________________________________________
Applicant’s Signature

(NOTE: This Memorandum of Agreement must be dated, signed, and submitted with the Sabbatical Proposal no later than October 30.)