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Author Biographies

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“Ageless”

S. W. Biddulph is a published poet and freelance writer from North Georgia. He began his writing career as a youngster but only recently began to follow his lifelong dream of reaching people through the written word. He returned to college in 2008 to work on his B.A. in English. Scott is currently a senior at the University of North Georgia, majoring in Creative Writing and Publication. He published his first book “Voices from the Heart” in the summer of 2012. He is currently working on publishing poetry and creative non-fiction. He is a father, grandfather, husband, and dedicated Harley Davidson rider. He and his family enjoy the beauty of the North Georgia mountains where they live—especially their screened in back porch where they love to bird watch.

“Are There Cracks In The Democratic Peace?”

James Farmer recently graduated from the Georgia Southern University Honors Program with a double major in Political Science and International Studies. He is from Thomasville, Georgia and is a member of Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity, Inc. and Pi Sigma Alpha political science honor society. Highlights from his college time include receiving awards from the Georgia Collegiate Press Association, presenting this paper at the Georgia Political Science Association, and interning with the US State Department in Barcelona, Spain. He is currently looking to move to Washington, D.C. to work in the NGO field.

He would like to thank his thesis advisor, Dr. Jamie Scalera, as well as the Honors Program for providing invaluable advice and help during the writing of this paper. As well he would like to thank his parents and sister for their continued support and love throughout the years.

Dr. Jamie Scalera is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro, Georgia. She teaches and researches in the field of International Relations, with a focus on international organizations, international political economy, and politics of the European Union. Dr. Scalera received her Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2012. Her research has been presented at annual conferences for the American Political Science Association, the International Studies Association, the International Political Economy Society, and the Midwest Political Science Association. More recently, her research has been published in the journal *International Organization*. She is currently working on several projects that examine the process of accession to international organizations and the impact of membership on member-states.

“Battle of the Sexes: Why the United States Has Not Yet Ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).”

Julia Schast is a 2014 graduate of Elon University and is currently pursuing a graduate degree at the University of Virginia’s School of Law. She received a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies from Elon and minored in Political Science, History, and Criminal Justice Studies. Working with her faculty mentor, Dr. Sean Giovanello, for her senior Honors Thesis project, Julia conducted research on why the United States Senate formally rejects multilateral treaties.

She presented some of her findings at both the International Studies Association-South and Georgia Political Science Association conferences in 2013. Her article on the United States' treatment of the Law of the Sea Treaty has been accepted for publication in the *Questions in Politics* journal.

“The Contextual Backdrop for Deficit Spending in American Political Thought”

Erica Barker is a sophomore majoring in Political Science with a concentration in American Politics at the University of North Georgia. Her academic interests include political education, the developing world, and economic development. Upon graduation, she hopes to study political law and plans to pursue a career in the federal government.

“Coral preference of the polychaete *Spirobranchus giganteus* in the Belize Barrier Reef”

Ethan Evans is currently a junior in high school at St. Andrew's Sewanee School in Sewanee, Tennessee. After spending a semester studying abroad in Monteverde, Costa Rica, and volunteering with the reforestation efforts of the Bellbird Biological Corridor project, he returned to the tropics as part of a tropical ecology class at Sewanee: The University of the South. The research in this study was conducted in Belize as part of this class. Ethan is also a high-honors student, an Eagle Scout, a state-level competitive swimmer, and an avid musician and actor.

Callie Oldfield is a junior Biology major at Sewanee: The University of the South. She is currently spatially and temporally analyzing population dynamics of Chestnut oaks (*Quercus montana*) on the Cumberland Plateau with the supervision of Dr. Jonathan Evans. As a Sewanee Biodiversity Fellow, Callie promotes the study and conservation of biodiversity on the Plateau. She performs research over the summers at the Sewanee Herbarium and is a Resident Assistant for the University.

“Creating a Lexical Universe: Redefining Burke’s Dramatic Pentad through the Language of Finnegans Wake”

London Chamberlin is a native of Athens, Georgia. He received his B.A. in English with a concentration in Writing and Publication from the University of North Georgia. Much acknowledgement is due to his family and mentors.

“Does Money Truly Buy Happiness? A Study of 56 Countries’ Levels of Happiness and the Contributing Factors”

Rebecca Settle graduated Summa Cum Laude from Presbyterian College in May of 2013 with Honors in Sociology. While an undergraduate, she studied in Tanzania and Spain, reflecting her interest in international affairs. She also worked as an English as a Second Language Tutor and

as an assistant manager of the college's bookstore. Currently, Ms. Settle is teaching in Costa Rica with WorldTeach.

“Dreams of Reconciliation in *Native Guard*”

Shawna Meers-Ernst earned her Bachelor's degree in History with an English minor from the University of North Georgia. The origins of Shawna's interest in Natasha Trethewey's writing are found in the historical eras that Trethewey touches on in several of her works. She found that training in the disciplines of both History and English greatly contributed to a clearer understanding of Trethewey's work in *Native Guard*. Shawna's interests include providing increased access to information and education through her work in a library system. She plans to study such systems at the graduate level.

Shawna would like to acknowledge Dr. Jennifer Smith for her contributions to Shawna's growth as a writer, Dr. Kurant-Rollins for her engaging classes and encouragement, and Dr. Byers for his unwavering passion as a professor and a seeker of knowledge.

“Emancipation for Slaves or Emancipation for All: Women, Free Speech and the Abolition Movement”

Wendy L. Giere-Frye graduated with her B.A. in history, Summa Cum Laude, Phi Theta Kappa, Phi Alpha Theta from Gordon State College in May 2014. She begins a Master's program with the Division of History at Georgia State University in August. Her goal is to obtain her Ph.D. by expanding on what she terms the “efficacy of aspirational language” and its impact on shaping social change throughout history. “Emancipation for Slaves or Emancipation for All: Women Free Speech and the Abolition Movement” is one of the first essays to investigate this theme and received a First Place award in the Social Sciences division at the 2014 Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Regional Conference held in Macon, Georgia.

“It's Not About the Bank: Religious Republicanism in John C. Calhoun's Speech on the Veto Power, February 28, 1842”

Luke Christie is a senior Communication Studies major at Furman University in Greenville, SC. A voracious reader and writer, his scholarly interests include the practice and pedagogy of fiction and creative nonfiction writing, study and analysis of ancient and modern rhetoric, and public speaking. Christie intends to pursue a Master of Fine Arts degree in creative writing and, upon the completion of that degree, to publish works of fiction and creative nonfiction, as well as to teach creative writing at the secondary or postsecondary level. “It's Not About the Bank” was competitively selected for presentation to the Southern States Communication Association's Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference, held in Louisville, KY, April 2013. Christie is currently serving as undergraduate research assistant to two Furman professors whose project “Liberal Arts Professors and the Public” is examining the ways in which liberal arts professors engage the public and whether or not faculty reward systems support public engagement work. Christie's personal essay “Regular,” which explores how notions of normalcy

are challenged and reconstituted by persons with physical disabilities, was the second place creative nonfiction winner in the 2014 Southern Literary Festival Competition. Christie is a recipient of Furman's Department of Communication Studies Award for Excellence in Public Speaking and Debate and serves as President of the Nu Theta chapter of Lambda Pi Eta, the National Communications Honor Society.

“Jesus Thrown Everything Off Balance’: Grace and Redemption in Flannery O’Connor’s ‘A Good Man is Hard to Find’”

Abbie Harris graduated from the University of North Georgia in 2014 with a degree in English, concentration in Literature. Her main areas of study include British Victorian, Southern Gothic, and Contemporary American literatures.

She is currently continuing her education at UNG as a graduate student in the Master of Arts in Teaching program. She plans to pursue a career teaching high school literature. She would like to give a special thanks to Dr. Tanya Bennett for encouraging her to write her paper and giving her the opportunity to present it at the 2014 Bloomsbury Symposium.

“Unstable Roots: The Precarious Bond Between Latin America and The Environment”

Will Garrett Mundhenke graduated from the University of North Georgia in the spring of 2014 with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He has held multiple leadership positions throughout the university along with presenting papers at several academic conferences during his undergraduate career. He was awarded the Sarah Drew Award in History and the Mary Eliza Hood Undergraduate Award in May of 2014. He is currently attending the University of South Carolina, Columbia for a Ph.D. in Latin American History. Will is interested in studying the complex relationships between culture and the environment in the Caribbean.

“Wagner’s Philosophy, Music, & Siegfried-Idyll”

Brandon Smith is currently finishing up his Music Education and Percussion Performance degrees with the Honors Program Seal at Columbus State University’s Schwob School of Music in Columbus, GA and will graduate in May 2014. At CSU, he has performed with the Wind Ensemble, Philharmonic Orchestra, Percussion Ensemble, Contemporary Ensemble, Jazz Band, and Jazz Combo. He has been a featured soloist with the CSU Percussion Ensemble and the Jackson County Comprehensive High School Jazz Band I as an alumnus in addition to solo recitals. He has performed regularly around the Columbus area with the LaGrange Symphony Orchestra, Springer Opera House, and CSU’s Repertory Theatre and also performed in the 2012 International Trumpet Guild Festival Orchestra, held in Columbus, GA. Brandon has served as the Percussion Coach for the Youth Orchestra of Greater Columbus as well as marching percussion instructor and arranger for Harris County High School and Jackson County Comprehensive High School throughout his time at CSU.

Brandon is an active member of the Xi Gamma chapter of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and has served as President, Secretary, and Parliamentarian throughout his time at CSU, during which he was

awarded the 2013 Province 33 Olin G. Parker Leadership Award. Brandon is also a member of the Collegiate National Association for Music Educators (NAfME), Society of CSU Honors Program Scholars, Honoris Causa, Percussive Arts Society (PAS), Phi Beta Delta, and Phi Kappa Phi. Among his awards include: Presser Undergraduate Scholar Award, CSU Undergraduate Honors Scholarship, 2012 George P. Contreras, Jr. PASIC Scholarship, CSU Honors Program Study Abroad Scholarships, James M. Barnett, Jr. Foundation, Inc. Grant, and the Schwob Patron's of Music Scholarship.