

## Department News for 2014

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### Philosophy Minor

The Division of History and Philosophy is pleased to announce the development of a philosophy minor beginning in Fall 2015. As a field of academic inquiry Philosophy deals with issues as profound and broad as “what is the nature of reality,” but also as basic and minute as “how can I win this argument.” More than any other field, Philosophy trains students as critical thinkers and while the hackneyed phrase that philosophy “teaches people how to think” is probably not accurate, what is true is that it trains them to think effectively, to weigh evidence, and to craft solid arguments. Contrary to the common notion that philosophy students will be able to think deep thoughts about unemployment, the field is a common avenue for students who go on to careers in business or government and frequently the background of those who go to medical, law, or graduate school. Interested students can contact Professors Jones or Buckner for details.

### Faculty News

This past year has been a busy one for the faculty of the department. We were fortunate to welcome our newest colleagues: Drs. **Aaron Hagler**, **Luke Ritter**, and **Kathryn Tucker** on the Troy campus, and Dr. **Adam Hoose** in Dothan.

**Aaron Hagler's** most recent work will appear this April in the *International Journal of Middle East Studies*: “Sapping the Narrative: Ibn Kathir’s Account of the Shura of ‘Uthman in Kitab al-Bidaya wa-l-Nihaya”.

On the Montgomery campus, **Dan Puckett**, newly promoted to full professor, was appointed by Governor Bentley to chair the Alabama Holocaust Commission. He has recently published “Alabama’s Jewish Servicemen in World War II,” in *Alabama Heritage* (Fall 2014), and a book chapter, “Alabama’s Jews and Refugee Resettlement, 1938-1941,” in *Global Perspectives on the Holocaust: History, Identity, and Legacy* (forthcoming in 2015).

**Luke Ritter** was awarded a research grant from the Minnesota Historical Society in Minneapolis for his work on the Transatlantic Program of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany. Dr. Ritter also contributed to an upcoming edited volume (2015), *Immigrant Entrepreneurship: German-American Business Biographies, 1720 to the Present*, entitled “Friedrich Weyerhäuser: The ‘Timber King’ and the Transformation of the American Lumber Industry.”

**Karen Ross**, promoted to associate professor this year, published “Recruiting ‘Friends of Medical Progress’: Evolving Tactics in the Defense of Animal Experimentation, 1910s and 1920s,” in the *Journal of the History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*, (forthcoming fall 2015).

And **Joe McCall** welcomed a new addition to the McCall clan, granddaughter Nora Ann, born in August!