

NOMINATION COVER SHEET
2016 Virginia Outstanding Faculty Awards

1. <u>NAME</u> Full (Legal): Jonathan Alex Noyalas Preferred First Name: Jonathan	
2. <u>INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION</u> Institution: Lord Fairfax Community College Rank/Position Title: Assistant Professor of History Year Rank/Title Attained: 2008 Years at Institution: Seven Campus Email Address: jnoyalas@lfcc.edu Campus Phone: 540-868-7191 Campus Mailing Address: 173 Skirmisher Lane, Middletown, VA 22645 Campus Communications Contact: -Name: Leslie Kelley -E-mail: LKelley@lfcc.edu	3. <u>PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION</u> Academic Discipline: History Specialization/Field: U.S. History/American Civil War Type of Terminal Degree: MA Year Awarded: 2003 Awarding Institution: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
4. <u>PERSONAL INFORMATION</u>	

Please check only one box:

- RESEARCH/DOCTORAL INSTITUTION NOMINEE:
 MASTERS/COMPREHENSIVE INSTITUTION NOMINEE:
 BACCALAUREATE INSTITUTION NOMINEE:
 TWO-YEAR INSTITUTION NOMINEE:
 TEACHING WITH TECHNOLOGY NOMINEE:
 RISING STAR NOMINEE:

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Signature (President or Chief Academic Officer) 
 Printed Name: Dr. Cheryl Thompson-Stacy, President
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Mission Statement

Lord Fairfax Community College

LFCC provides a positive, caring and dynamic learning environment that inspires student success, values diversity and promotes community vitality.

Summary of Accomplishments

When Jonathan A. Noyalas joined Lord Fairfax Community College's (LFCC) full-time teaching faculty seven years ago he achieved his childhood dream of becoming a college history professor. Since his appointment as an assistant professor of history Prof. Noyalas has become one of the College's elite instructors and one of the most respected faculty members by the institution's administration for his innovative ideas and genuine passion to fulfill the College's mission. Beyond his teaching load of thirty credit hours per academic year (fifteen credit hours each in the fall and spring semesters) Prof. Noyalas has established himself as a leader among the faculty and was chosen in the spring 2013 semester by his peers to serve as chair of the College's faculty senate. Prof. Noyalas also serves as director of the College's Center for Civil War History (CCWH)—a center he founded shortly after his arrival at LFCC. Under Prof. Noyalas's guidance the CCWH has gained a reputation for offering quality seminars and tours at low cost so that both traditional college students and community members can gain a better appreciation of the Shenandoah Valley's Civil War era history. Beyond his stellar teaching abilities, inspired by his passion for history, and his devoted service to LFCC, Prof. Noyalas is respected among other historians for his record of scholarly publication which includes authoring or editing eleven books on Civil War era history, contributions of book chapters, essays, and book reviews to a variety of publications including *America's Civil War*, *Civil War Times*, *Blue & Gray*, *Civil War Monitor*, and *Hallowed Ground*. Regarded as a Civil War era expert Prof. Noyalas has consulted on a variety of public history projects to a number of organizations including the National Park Service, National Geographic, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields' Foundation and the Civil War Trust. Additionally, he appeared on C-SPAN's American History TV in October 2014. Prof. Noyalas's remarkable record of scholarship makes him a much sought after speaker by a variety of academic and public history organizations throughout the nation. In May 2015 LFCC recognized Prof. Noyalas's talents by awarding him the distinguished faculty award (LFCC's highest honor) and LFCC's first-ever distinguished scholarship award. Due to his devotion to his institution as a classroom instructor and faculty leader, distinguished record of scholarship, ability to integrate his scholarship into the classroom, and share that scholarship with broader academic and public audiences Prof. Noyalas has been selected as LFCC's nominee for the Outstanding Faculty Award "Two-Year Institution Nominee" category.

TEACHING

Respected among students for his passion and enthusiasm for history Prof. Noyalas is among LFCC's most popular and revered instructors. Each semester Prof. Noyalas's history courses which include U.S. History I and II, World Civilizations I and II, and Civil War & Reconstruction, always fill to capacity oftentimes with students pleading with him to be added so they can be part of his engaging classroom experience. Students who take Prof. Noyalas are amazed and awe-inspired by the way he makes the past come alive while simultaneously showing history's applicability to their daily lives. In a recent anonymous student survey of one of Prof. Noyalas's U.S. History I courses one student explained of Noyalas's **teaching**: "I can't even begin to say how much I have thoroughly enjoyed this class... He is very talented at engaging his audience and making clear connections on a complex subject matter. There wasn't a single moment where I felt confused or misled and I was able to recall the subject matter easily thanks to his excellent use of stories, examples and visual aids. What a wonderful educator!" Comments such as this one are commonplace for Prof. Noyalas's student evaluations which have been consistently high since joining the full-time teaching faculty seven years ago. Over the previous seven years Prof. Noyalas has amassed a numerical score of 4.97 out of a maximum of 5.0 on his evaluations.

Prof. Noyalas's popularity among students comes as a result not only of his passion for history, but the manner in which he approaches the subject matter. To Prof. Noyalas the study of history is not the mere memorization of mundane facts and dates, but an opportunity to understand how individuals, in all times and all places, deal with various crises—thus affording us in the present a framework of how to deal with and overcome adversity. From discussions of life in ancient China during the Qin Dynasty to the horrible and dastardly attacks of September 11th Prof. Noyalas constantly reminds his students that while history is indeed filled with great hardships the study of the past proves that nothing can defeat the human spirit's desire to triumph against seemingly insurmountable odds.

In addition to showing students how an understanding of history can inspire each of us in moments of great personal or national crisis, he also helps students connect with the past through immersing his students in the rich history of the lower Shenandoah Valley. Each semester Prof. Noyalas engages his students in local history by conducting tours of portions of the Cedar Creek Battlefield as well as opening up private tours of various history sites in the Shenandoah Valley to his students free of charge or securing funding for students to participate in these unique experiences.

Prof. Noyalas also helps his students develop a deeper connection to the past through analyzing primary documents. The analysis of primary material also helps students sharpen their critical thinking skills—a useful quality regardless of profession. Although a painstaking process at times with students who are new to the collegiate experience, Prof. Noyalas exhibits a great deal of patience with his students to help them understand the historical craft while simultaneously developing their analytical and writing skills.

Prof. Noyalas's passion for history education is paralleled only by his passion for **teaching** at LFCC. Oftentimes asked if he would desire to teach full-time at a four year institution at some point in the future Prof. Noyalas's response is always an emphatic “no.” While LFCC attracts many fine students, it also accepts those students no other institution wants. Prof. Noyalas takes great pride in helping those students who have been handed a difficult lot in life find their pathway to success. Throughout his seven years as a full-time instructor Prof. Noyalas has not only helped numerous students gain a lifelong appreciation for history, as evidenced by former students attending his history tours and lectures after they graduate from LFCC, but he has also helped them overcome obstacles and build personal confidence. Students that Prof. Noyalas has mentored during his seven years as a full-time faculty member at LFCC have gone on to enjoy success at such institutions as Virginia Tech, Shenandoah University, College of William and Mary, University of Virginia, and George Mason University. Three of his former students now enjoy employment with the National Park Service. These students stand as testament to how Prof. Noyalas not only inspires students in the classroom, but how his enthusiasm for **teaching** history points sometimes rudderless students in a discerned direction and forever transforms their lives.

DISCOVERY

Six months after Prof. Noyalas earned his MA in History from Virginia Tech he experienced the remarkable feeling of opening his first published book—a manuscript he began researching and writing in his final year as an undergraduate at Shenandoah University—*Plagued by War: Winchester, Virginia, During the Civil War*. In the book's introduction penned by his undergraduate mentor Dr. Brandon H. Beck, Beck observed of Noyalas's first book: “His first book is an auspicious beginning of an historian's career. He writes within the oldest and best tradition of American historiography, writing for the general reader, but also for historians of the Civil War in Virginia.” Since the publication of that first book Prof. Noyalas has maintained an aggressive research agenda which has resulted in the publication of eleven books—seven authored and four edited.

Three years after the publication of his first book Prof. Noyalas saw his second book released—“*My Will is Absolute Law*”: *A Biography of Union General Robert H. Milroy*. This biography, the first and only biography of the first Union general to enforce President Abraham Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation during his occupation of the lower Shenandoah Valley during the first six months of 1863, put the young historian on the map as a scholar and emerging expert in the field of Civil War history.

Among the public history institutions to take notice of Noyalas’s burgeoning scholarship was the Newtown History Center in Stephens City, Virginia, which commissioned Noyalas to develop an exhibit about the African American experience in Stephens City from 1850-1870. That exhibit and research resulted in the publication *Two Peoples, One Community: The African American Experience in Newtown (Stephens City), Virginia, 1850-1870*.

Recognized as an expert on the Shenandoah Valley’s Civil War, Noyalas’s early record of scholarly **discovery**—scholarship intended not only for academic audiences, but general audiences as well, prompted the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields’ Foundation (managers of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields’ National Historic District) to invite the young scholar to edit a series of three books. This project not only afforded Noyalas the opportunity to write original essays about varying topics, but also provided him the chance to work with some of the nation’s premier Civil War historians who contributed to the volumes.

By 2008, the year Noyalas joined the full-time teaching faculty at LFCC, his repertoire of scholarship, which at that point included a total of five books (three authored and two edited), caught the attention of the Organization of American Historians who had been commissioned by the National Park Service to put together a team of three historians to craft the historic resource study for one of the nation’s newly established national parks—Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park. Noyalas, who served as the project’s Civil War era historian, labored intensively at numerous archives across the United States over the course of two and a half years, all the while trying to firmly establish himself among the full-time teaching faculty at LFCC. Noyalas’s contributions to the historic resource study have proven extremely valuable and have aided interpretive rangers in the development of various tours, exhibits in the visitor’s center, and other interpretive programs.

Prof. Noyalas impressed the National Park Service so much during the process that when they were approached by The History Press in Charleston, South Carolina, to recommend an author to pen a book about the battle of Cedar Creek for its sesquicentennial series the National Park Service recommended Noyalas. The National Park Service currently uses Noyalas’s book, published in November 2009, to train its volunteers at Cedar Creek.

The success of *The Battle of Cedar Creek* prompted the History Press to offer Noyalas contracts for two additional books—*Stonewall Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign: War Comes to the Home Front* and his recently released *The Battle of Fisher’s Hill: Breaking the Shenandoah Valley’s Gibraltar*. Noyalas’s book *Stonewall Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign* has earned praise from historians who laud it for its sound scholarship and integration of military, social, political history, and historical memory. Some college professors have praised it as a great resource for advanced courses in Civil War History. In March 2013 while speaking as an invited historian at the Future of Civil War History conference at Gettysburg College—arguably the premier academic conference during the sesquicentennial—Dr. Allen Guelzo, among the most respected scholars in the field, informed Prof. Noyalas that not only did he enjoy his book on Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign, but utilized it the previous semester as one of the textbooks for his Civil War course. Noyalas’s work on Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign also prompted an invitation by Louisiana State University’s Dr. Aaron Sheehan Dean to be one of sixty-seven scholars to contribute a historiographical essay on the subject to a two-volume series which was released by Wiley-Blackwell Publishing in the summer of 2014.

In addition to his eleven books, Prof. Noyalas has been a prolific author of articles, essays, book chapters, encyclopedia entries, and reviews. To date Prof. Noyalas has

contributed a total of twelve articles or essays to publications including *Civil War Times*, *America's Civil War*, and *Hallowed Ground*. Additionally, he has authored three book chapters for ABC-CLIO's *Conflicts in American History: The Civil War Era* and *Conflicts in American History: The Reconstruction Era* edited by Dr's. Brian L. Johnson and Edward J. Blum, twelve encyclopedia entries which have appeared in ABC-CLIO's *Encyclopedia of African American History* and three entries for the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities' online *Encyclopedia Virginia: The Civil War*. Prof. Noyalas has also published a total of sixty-eight book reviews in publications such as *Civil War Book Review*, *Civil War News*, and *Civil War Monitor*.

Prof. Noyalas's groundbreaking scholarly **discovery** on the Civil War era in the Shenandoah Valley has earned him invitations to speak at a variety of academic conferences, public history symposiums, and colleges across the United States. His scholarly research has been presented at such venues as the Virginia Forum—the main academic conference for all things associated with Virginia's storied past—Shenandoah University, Johns Hopkins University, the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife in Deerfield, Massachusetts, Gettysburg College, the National Council for History Education, Virginia Tech's Center for Civil War Studies, the Civil War Education Association, Western Carolina University, and the National Park Service's summer teacher institute at Harper's Ferry.

Additionally, Prof. Noyalas's scholarship has earned him the opportunity to work on a variety of unique projects including writing a battle app for the Civil War Trust at Cedar Creek and redesigning the Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters' Museum in Winchester, Virginia. Furthermore Prof. Noyalas's work on emancipation in the Shenandoah Valley earned him a role as consultant for National Geographic's three-part documentary "Civil Warriors" which debuted in the United States in April 2010.

Despite the release of two books in 2015, there is no sign of Prof. Noyalas easing up his quest for scholarly **discovery** while simultaneously maintaining excellence as a classroom instructor as he has already accepted invitations to speak at various venues throughout the United States in 2016. Additionally, he currently has two book projects in development. The first, with The History Press, will examine the complexities of freedom for the Shenandoah Valley's African Americans during the Civil War. The second project, with University of North Carolina Press, will analyze the impact of events of October 1864 in the Shenandoah Valley.

KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION

One of the greatest joys for Prof. Noyalas is developing curriculum for his classes based on his scholarly work as he firmly believes that **integrating** his own research and writing into class discussion and lectures benefits his students tremendously. In the classroom Prof. Noyalas **integrates knowledge** from his scholarship in two distinctive ways. First, he assigns his students books or essays he has written to illustrate larger themes in American history through a local perspective, one which makes the past tangible. Second, Prof. Noyalas utilizes his publications, particularly in his upper-level Civil War & Reconstruction course, as a template to help students understand the complex elements of writing a compelling historical narrative. Prof. Noyalas's **integration** of his scholarship in the classroom, particularly the use of *The Battle of Cedar Creek: Victory from the Jaws of Defeat* in his Civil War course earned him an excellence in education award from the Virginia Community College System (VCCS) in 2010.

Prof. Noyalas's scholarship is also the basis for the two seminars and tours he conducts each academic year for the College's Center for Civil War History. These programs which have become quite popular have attracted people from as far away as Seattle, Washington.

The manner in which Prof. Noyalas **integrates knowledge** from his scholarship into his classroom quickly caught the attention of LFCC's administration who has invited him for the past five years to present during the College's convocation sessions which mark the beginning of each new academic year. During these presentations Prof. Noyalas not only shares his

research with faculty, but offers ideas as to how faculty across disciplines might utilize his approach to **knowledge integration** in their own classrooms to foster student engagement, encourage student participation, and excite them about their subject.

Additionally, Prof. Noyalas has been invited by the College's administration to present to the hundreds of adjunct and full-time faculty at the College about how best to engage students in the classroom. Prof. Noyalas utilized case studies from his own scholarship to show how professors should foster meaningful discussions about their own disciplines on the first day of class, use their own scholarly activities to show the real world practicality and usefulness of their disciplines to students regardless of their degree program, and also showed how he utilized his research to help students establish an emotional connection with their topic. Although he spoke to faculty from a variety of disciplines, faculty who attended had nothing but rave reviews of Prof. Noyalas's remarks as they made numerous professors rethink their approach to their courses. Prof. Polly Nelson, an assistant professor of Spanish, informed Prof. Noyalas via email after his presentation that his comments on student engagement "was the most-useful presentation" she ever attended as part of the College's opening year activities.

Prof. Noyalas's presentation on student engagement prompted him to be one of four full-time professors at the College to put together a webinar in the spring 2013 semester for all full-time faculty at the College about ways to encourage student engagement utilizing your own scholarly work.

When LFCC planned its first-ever College-wide research symposium in the spring 2013 semester Prof. Noyalas was among five full-time faculty invited to present a session. Prof. Noyalas discussed his research and offered advice from his own experiences to faculty and students. Prof. Noyalas utilized his experiences to provide what he believes are three key elements for anyone engaged in scholarly research—to keep an open mind when researching and let the research guide you, do not be afraid to challenge paradigms, and lastly always understand the context in which your evidence was created. After his presentation a number of students thanked Prof. Noyalas for sharing his thoughts and providing them with practical lessons for their own research.

The adulation from students is ultimately what motivates Prof. Noyalas to continue to research and find creative ways to **integrate** that scholarly **knowledge** into the classroom as he is always a teacher first.

SERVICE

As a graduate of Virginia Tech's Graduate School, Prof. Noyalas fully embraces the motto of his alma mater "Ut Prosim" (that I may **serve**) at his institution, in his community, and within his profession.

From the moment Prof. Noyalas joined LFCC's full-time teaching faculty he searched for ways to assist the institution in its mission. During his seven years as a full-time faculty member Prof. Noyalas has served on five faculty search committees, including chair of one. Additionally, Prof. Noyalas serves on the College's Curriculum and Instruction Committee and has served as the faculty senate's representative to the College's Leadership Council. Recognized by various faculty as a leader among the College's faculty ranks, Prof. Noyalas's peers elected him to his first term as a faculty senate representative in September 2010, only after two years as part of the full-time faculty. During his first term Prof. Noyalas assumed the daunting task of revising the senate's by-laws which had not been updated in more than twenty years. In March 2013 Prof. Noyalas assumed the enormous responsibility as chair of the faculty senate—serving as the voice of faculty to the College's administration. In his capacity as faculty senate chair Prof. Noyalas works closely with College administration to not only convey faculty concerns, but to help various administrators and faculty develop solutions which are good for the entire College community.

In addition to search committees, standing committees, and faculty senate chair, Prof. Noyalas has **served** the College as a member of a number of ad-hoc committees. In 2009-2010 Prof. Noyalas **served** on an ad-hoc committee to develop solutions to produce more affordable textbook options for students—the biggest expense for any community college student aside from tuition. Prof. Noyalas also served on an ad-hoc committee during the 2012-2013 academic year which looked at revamping the College's General Studies and Liberal Arts Degrees. Beginning in 2011 Prof. Noyalas chaired the College's ad-hoc academic honesty committee which streamlined the College's academic honesty policy.

Prof. Noyalas also embraces other ways to support his institution and the VCCS. For example when Dr. Christopher Coutts, then LFCC's vice-president of academic and student affairs, asked Prof. Noyalas if he would be willing to conduct a special walking tour of historic Winchester for a meeting of the Virginia Community College System's vice-presidents, Prof. Noyalas eagerly accepted. The tour, widely praised by the various administrators who attended, reflected well on Prof. Noyalas, LFCC, and the community.

In addition to his belief that he needs to do anything in his power to support and **serve** the College, he is equally passionate about **service** to his community and profession. During his time as a professor at LFCC, Prof. Noyalas has generously donated his time and talents to a wide variety of local non-profit historical organizations. Although a much sought after speaker by a variety of academic and public history institutions Prof. Noyalas frequently gives pro-bono lectures for the benefit of educating the larger public about the Civil War era in the Shenandoah Valley or offering his talents to train volunteer docents. The local organizations which Prof. Noyalas has assisted in this manner include the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, Shenandoah County Historical Society, Warren Heritage Society, Belle Grove Plantation (A National Trust Historic Site), and the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation.

As a passionate educator and preservationist Prof. Noyalas has also offered his scholarly talents to develop a variety of historical tours for the non-profit Kernstown Battlefield Association. Additionally, Prof. Noyalas has contributed hundreds of hours to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. As a member of that non-profit organization's committee on interpretation and education, Prof. Noyalas offers incessant counsel on interpretation at various historic sites in National Historic District which encompasses seven counties. This service to the historic district includes site visits to develop interpretive trails as well as research and writing to produce interpretive trail markers. In the past two years Prof. Noyalas has written twelve interpretive signs which appear at historic sites in Frederick and Shenandoah counties. Without Prof. Noyalas's commitment to history education and various organizations in the community many battlefields in the Shenandoah Valley would be places individuals could learn about only in books, but his gift of time and talent has allowed many sites in the region to be opened so that generations can learn about the terrible struggle that redefined our nation.

In addition to his record of volunteer **service** to a variety of non-profit organizations, Prof. Noyalas volunteered his time in 2015 to speak with the various kindergarten classes at John Kerr Elementary in Winchester about the importance of learning and receiving a college education.

Although Prof. Noyalas does what he does because he is driven by his passion to educate, research, write, and serve, there are times when some, including administrators at the College, stand in awe of his effectiveness in the classroom, productivity, professionalism, and selflessness to his institution and his community. Perhaps it was Dr. Morgan Phenix, Prof. Noyalas's former dean, who most succinctly captured what Prof. Noyalas means to the College and community during an evaluation of Prof. Noyalas in February 2010 when he wrote: "Jonathan Noyalas maintains a level of excellence in collegiate teaching to which any scholar might aspire. He is highly skilled and seeks always to refine and improve the effectiveness of his professional craft...Lord Fairfax Community College continues to be blessed by Jonathan Noyalas's skills and contributions—to college, students, community, and profession."

Personal Statement

On June 18, 2013, the day my ninth book—*The Battle of Fisher's Hill: Breaking the Shenandoah Valley's Gibraltar*—was released LFCC's director of communications Leslie Kelley interviewed me in preparation for a press release the College would issue about my newest publication. The first question she asked was "How did you get interested in history and what made you want to become a history professor?" Having been asked this question many times throughout my very young career I responded immediately by taking her back to my very early childhood. When I was about three years old my mother decided to take the family on an impromptu vacation to Gettysburg National Military Park—a place she wanted to visit as a child, but unfortunately she could never convince her parents to make the trip. Although extremely young during that first visit in the summer of 1982 I credit that initial trip with sparking my lifelong obsession with history.

Throughout my childhood my parents, neither of whom had college educations and earned a living working in blue-collar jobs which on many occasions barely allowed the family to make ends meet, cultivated my interest. Travelling and lodging expenses concerned my parents little—or at least if it did they did not show it—as they determined it important that if I was seriously interested in Civil War History they wanted me to be exposed to as much of it as possible. Each summer family vacations involved visiting numerous historic sites. During the non-vacation months my parents indulged my obsession by buying me Civil War history books. I can recall that the very first book I ever received from my parents was a copy of Bruce Catton's *The Civil War*. The heavily illustrated volume captured my imagination when at home and far away from the monuments and cannons of the battlefields. Although not able to read quite that well at the age of five I do remember having a debate (some might call it an argument today) with my mother on the first day of kindergarten because I wanted to take my copy of Catton's book with me so the teacher could help me read it. Finally, after much persistence my mother relented and allowed me to take the heavy 630 page book with me to my first day of kindergarten. I could recall the strange look on my kindergarten teacher's face on that first day of class when I placed a copy of Catton's book on her desk and told her I wanted to read it. When classmates around me desired to read children's books and talked about how they wanted to be a police officer, fire fighter, or a doctor, I—the strange child to many—told people on career day that when I grew up I wanted to be a history professor.

As I matured some people derided my passion for the past and desire to teach history at the collegiate level, including some family members. Some attempted to dissuade me from becoming a history professor saying that there was no money to be made in that profession or it would take a lot of years in college and then there was still no guarantee I would find a job doing what I wanted. Despite the naysayers my parents encouraged me and my maternal grandfather told me to not pay attention to those members of the family saying that there was no money to be made in the profession. My grandfather—whose own life experiences I have used in the classroom to teach about such things as the Civilian Conservation Corps and the plight of American soldiers in the Pacific during World War II—told me to not listen to those who scoffed at my childhood ambition of becoming a history professor. As a youngster my grandfather inculcated something in me—strive to do what makes you happy in life. He also incessantly reminded me, until Alzheimer's disease incapacitated him, to think about how best to use your individual talents not only for personal gain, but to benefit society and help others.

Blessed along the way by supportive family members and a wonderful cadre of undergraduate and graduate professors I have been able to attain my childhood dream of becoming a college history professor. As a professor at a community college I see so many students who have dreams of their own, but have either been dealt a bad hand in life or have family who simply do not believe in their abilities—believing in essence that a college education is a fool's errand. This is something that bothers me tremendously.

I believe that a professor's role is not merely to teach their subject and assign a course grade that helps a student fulfill a requirement toward the completion of a degree, but it is to help students find their way.

Throughout my seven years as a member of the full-time faculty at LFCC I have taught hundreds of students and mentored many outside of the classroom to help them find their path in life. Among the students I mentored and transformed was Shannon Moeck. When Shannon entered LFCC her self-esteem was at rock bottom as she had just been through a divorce. She lacked not only self-confidence, but was rudderless as a result of her abusive past. Shannon first took me for World Civilizations I and although I could tell she lacked confidence in herself, I saw that she possessed great promise. I could also discern in Shannon a passion for the past—a similar affinity which my parents nurtured in me as a child. When Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute invited me—because of my status as an outstanding alumnus of the University and due to my record of scholarly research at such an early point in my career—to lead a tour of the Battle of Gettysburg for its annual fall tour in October 2010 I accepted. When the University informed me that it was starting a new scholarship program to allow one student from LFCC to attend I was asked to pick a candidate. Immediately I thought of Shannon Moeck.

Shannon accepted the scholarship invitation to be part of the McCormick Civil War Institute program that autumn. Her participation in that tour, attendance at free lectures I delivered for various historical societies and libraries in the area, coupled with my engaging classroom style convinced her that she needed to pursue a career in history. In May 2013 Shannon graduated from LFCC and received the College's outstanding graduate in history award. In preparation for the presentation of that award I emailed Shannon and asked if she would be willing to tell me a bit about her future plans so I could make an appropriate statement of introduction at the ceremony. In that email Shannon conveyed to me how being one of my students transformed her life. She wrote in part: "My life was a mess before I started LFCC. My self-esteem was shattered and I had no idea what to do with my life... Meeting you gave me the intro[duction] to a passion I had long ago forgotten (I loved History in High School). Determined to succeed... I have managed to rebuild my self-esteem, [and] start a career." Shannon is indeed off to a good start as she is currently employed as a full-time interpretive ranger at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

While Shannon's inspiring story serves as a constant reminder of the dramatically positive impact I can have on a student's life and makes manifest an axiom expounded by Robert E. Lee during his tenure of what is today Washington and Lee University, an idea which guides all of my history courses, that "it is history that teaches us to hope," her story sadly is oft-repeated at the community college. Nonetheless in my short tenure at LFCC I have guided and mentored numerous students, who have confronted great personal challenges, to overcome their obstacles and go on to either successful careers with the National Park Service or pursue their passion for history at four year institutions and graduate school.

Although not alive to see my successes at this early point in my career, I believe that my grandfather would beam with pride. He would not only be pleased with my ability to utilize my passion for history to convey the past's importance to my students both in the classroom and at historic sites, or revel in my publication success and willingness to share that knowledge with others at both LFCC and in the broader northern Shenandoah Valley community, but he would undoubtedly be proud of the lives I have helped transform as he always believed people deserve a second chance.

What I am able to do via my position as an assistant professor of history at LFCC is not only provide quality instruction, and support the community with my historical talents, but help give students, when counted out by most in society, that second chance. The amazing success my students achieve after they graduate LFCC is not only my great legacy as an educator, but it is the greatest honor I, or for that matter any college professor, can ever attain.

Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae

Academic Training

- ❖ M.A., History, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2003.
- ❖ B.S., History, Magna Cum Laude, Shenandoah University, 2001.

Teaching Experience

- ❖ August 2008-present: Assistant Professor of History & Director, Center for Civil War History, Lord Fairfax Community College, Middletown, Virginia.
- ❖ June 2003-July 2008: Adjunct History Instructor, Lord Fairfax Community College, Middletown, Virginia.

Selected Contract Work in Public History

- ❖ September 2015-present: Manager, Cool Spring Battlefield Cultural Landscape Analysis
- ❖ 2010-2011: Content expert and author, Civil War Trust Cedar Creek Battlefield App.
- ❖ 2010-2011: Historical consultant for National Geographic's "Civil Warriors."
- ❖ 2008-2010: Chief Civil War historian, historic resource study Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park (in partnership with Organization of American Historians).
- ❖ 2007-2008: Chief historian and consultant, Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society, Stonewall Jackson's Headquarters Museum, "Letting the Artifacts Speak: An Updated Interpretive Program."

Books Published

Civil War Legacy in the Shenandoah: Remembrance, Reunion, and Reconciliation. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2015.

Editor/contributing author, *"We Learned that We are Indivisible": Sesquicentennial Reflections on the Civil War Era in the Shenandoah Valley.* Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK: Cambridge Scholars, 2015.

The Battle of Fisher's Hill: Breaking the Valley's Gibraltar. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2013.

Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign: War Comes to the Home Front. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2010.

The Battle of Cedar Creek: Victory from the Jaws of Defeat. Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2009.

Editor/contributing author, *Home Front to Front Line: The Civil War Era in the Shenandoah Valley.* New Market, VA: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, 2009.

Editor/contributing author, *"Give the Enemy No Rest": General P.H. Sheridan's 1864 Valley Campaign.* New Market, VA: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, 2007.

Two Peoples, One Community: The African American Experience in Newtown (Stephens City), Virginia, 1850-1870. Stephens City, VA: Stone House Foundation, 2007.

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- "Defiance in the Valley: Stonewall Jackson's Campaign of Strategic Diversion in the Shenandoah Valley," *Hallowed Ground* 13, no. 1 (2012): 24-31.
- "The Emancipation Proclamation: Slavery, The Civil War, and Abraham Lincoln," in Edward J. Blum and Brian L. Johnson, eds. *Conflicts in American History: The Civil War Era: 1861-1865*. 3: 291-312. New York: Facts on File, 2010.
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- "Confederate States of America," "William Lloyd Garrison," "Freedmen's Bureau," "Andrew Johnson," "Emancipation Proclamation," "Jefferson Davis," "Reconstruction Era Black Politicians," "Southern Free Blacks," and "The Liberator," in Walter Rucker and Leslie Alexander, eds. *Encyclopedia of African American History*. 3 vols. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO, 2010.
- "Peace in the Valley." *America's Civil War* 22, no. 5 (2009): 56-63.
- "Harpers Ferry" in Peter Carmichael, ed. *Encyclopedia Virginia: The Civil War (Online)*. Charlottesville, VA: Virginia Foundation for the Humanities, 2009.
- "'Lord Almighty Will Fight on Our Side': Enforcing Emancipation in Frederick County, Virginia." *The Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society Journal*. XX (2009): 23-41.
- "'Dod' Ramseur's Dose of Reality." *America's Civil War* 19, no. 6 (2007): 50-57.
- "False Gibraltar at Fisher's Hill." *America's Civil War* 19, no. 1 (2006): 34-40.
- "Jubal Early's Good Morning Salutation." *America's Civil War* 17, no. 5 (2004): 38-45.
- "The Most Hated Man in Winchester." *America's Civil War* 17, no. 1 (2004):30-36.
- "Portrait of a Soldier: The Confederate Military Service of Private Robert T. Barton, 1861-1862" *The Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society Journal* 16 (2004): 73-94.

Selected Conferences Chaired/Co-Chaired

- ❖ March 2014: "May God forgive Me for the Order": War Returns to the Shenandoah Valley, Spring 1864, Virginia Museum of the Civil War, New Market, VA. Conference chair.
- ❖ March 2013: "Avenue of Invasion": Lee, Gettysburg, and the Shenandoah Valley in 1863. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation's Sesquicentennial Conference, Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, Winchester, VA. Conference chair.
- ❖ March 2012: "A Chapter in History Without Parallel": Perspectives on Stonewall Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign. Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation's Sesquicentennial Conference, Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA. Conference chair.
- ❖ November 2009: "Home Front to Front Line: The Civil War Era in the Shenandoah Valley." Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation Conference, Mary Baldwin College, Staunton, VA. Conference chair.

Selected Awards

- ❖ May 2015: Distinguished Faculty Award, Lord Fairfax Community College
- ❖ May 2015: Distinguished Scholarship Award, Lord Fairfax Community College
- ❖ April 2010: Excellence in Education Award, Virginia Community College System.
- ❖ October 2006: Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, Volunteer of the Year.
- ❖ October 2004: Shenandoah University Alumni Association Young Career Achievement Award

Letters of Support (Excerpted)

When I arrived at Lord Fairfax Community College... one faculty member that I came to know rather quickly... was Jonathan Noyalas due to his popularity among students, his stellar record of scholarly publication, and his visibility within the community... I have been amazed and appreciative of Jonathan's efforts to share his innovative ideas with faculty on how to improve student engagement in the college classroom... Beyond his willingness to share his scholarly ideas... Jonathan maintains an active commitment to LFCC's excellence by serving on a variety of committees, most significantly of which is his capacity as chair of faculty senate... Becoming the leader of the faculty after only five years at the College was in itself a remarkable achievement as I have never worked at an institution where the College's faculty had such deep respect and admiration for someone at such a young stage in their career... I have been amazed at what Jonathan has contributed not only to this College, but to the community and the historical profession... Always humble... Jonathan... does what he does not for himself, but for his students... his institution and his community. **Dr. Cheryl Thompson-Stacy, President, LFCC**

Mr. Noyalas's compassionate yet innovative leadership, his consistently excellent teaching both in and outside the classroom, and his deep love for history and how it continues to shape our community and our students, make him an outstanding exemplar of teaching and learning... After he took the reins as chair of LFCC's faculty senate, I have had the privilege of working with Mr. Noyalas on faculty and academic issues. His leadership has set the tone for a respectful yet engaged college governance climate... As chief academic officer, I have come to value our meetings... Mr. Noyalas is a worthy recipient because of his outstanding dedication to his students and their success... I run into many students who say that Mr. Noyalas was their favorite teacher... For his excellence in leadership, in teaching students, and his scholarship and service, I am extremely pleased to be supporting him for this award. **Dr. Christopher Coutts, Provost, LFCC**

Hagiography comes easy when writing about Jonathan Noyalas. He is a young man with a well-spring of abilities. A scholar, outstanding classroom instructor, writer, leader, and the list goes on. During the time he has been at LFCC, I have been his immediate supervisor in the division. I know him to be an engaging and popular professor... Not only does he teach a full load of classes every semester, he is also the head of our Civil War Center, leading bi-annual seminars, supervising the display of Civil War era artifacts found on campus, and teaching classes on the Civil War... I consider Jonathan Noyalas to be an outstanding exemplar of community colleges because in spite of all of his activities, he is best at teaching. **Dr. Richard L. Elam, Former Dean, Humanities, Mathematics and Social Sciences, LFCC**

Jonathan Noyalas... is most deserving of the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award... Within the College's faculty ranks, Jonathan is very well respected and serves as our Faculty Senate Chair... He has served as an optimistic and sensible voice at a time when one was greatly needed, and he represents faculty concerns while maintaining an easy and collaborative relationship with College administrators. In the end Jonathan puts the students' best interests in the forefront at all times... His palpable enthusiasm is one of his greatest gifts as an educator. Since... many of our students overlap I have had many express their excitement for his classes. Furthermore, he is not only teaching history: he is uncovering history to bring it to nation-wide attention and shape the discourse of his field... Jonathan is one of the foremost Civil War historians in the country... Jonathan Noyalas certainly has... accomplished so much in his years at LFCC. I can think of no colleague more deserving. **Prof. Jennifer Schaefer, Associate Professor of English, LFCC**

It is with great pleasure that I write this letter of support... Jonathan is an absolute delight to work with; personable, honest and deeply caring... I very highly respect him... In the short time as faculty senate chair, he has demonstrated the same high level of leadership and integrity he is widely known for across the college. He is a committed team player who is willing to cooperate with colleagues and peers to achieve their desired goals. On the basis of his academic scholarship, character, leadership, integrity and approach to teaching and problem solving, I strongly support Professor Jonathan A. Noyalas for the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty award. **Prof. Jeffrey A. Hollar, Assistant Professor of Biology, LFCC**

In the seven years that Jonathan has been teaching full time at LFCC he has become an integral part of the College in many different capacities. In just seven short years, Jonathan has moved quickly from being an observer to being a leader of faculty... I appreciate his... commitment to the mission of LFCC. Aside from being held in high regard by his colleagues and the administration, Jonathan is also a favorite among LFCC's students... He shares his knowledge not only in his own classroom but with a broader base too. He frequently lectures at school-wide functions and in the community, and not surprising his students come to hear him speak on those occasions... He has an impressive collection of published work, work that I often refer to with my own students, encouraging them to pursue research with the passion and attention to detail that Professor Noyalas does. Jonathan Noyalas truly is a... star in the VCCS. **Dr. Elizabeth Guiliano, Professor of English, LFCC**

Jonathan Noyalas is not only a credit to Lord Fairfax... he is a credit to higher education in Virginia. You will be hard pressed to find a more qualified candidate for your award than he. **Prof. Stephen E. Wisecarver, Associate Professor of Psychology, LFCC**

Professor Noyalas brought history to life for me... He engaged the class by asking questions and giving us the opportunity to discuss what we thought happened, or why an event may have occurred. When he lectured, he used specific instances and real people to give us a better understanding... His use of these tangible resources helped me to realize that I did not dislike history... Professor Noyalas inspired me, and has instilled a love and passion for history in my heart... Professor Noyalas has helped me realize what my passion in life is... I could not think of anyone else more deserving of this award. **Christina Nelson, 2013 graduate of LFCC and seasonal ranger, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.**

I had the distinct honor and good fortune to be one of Professor Jonathan Noyalas' students ... After enrolling in one of Professor Noyalas' classes as a mandatory requirement for graduation, I realized that I could not enroll in enough of his classes to satisfy my interests... He made history interesting, relevant, and logical... After attending Professor Noyalas' classes, I determined that I would like to become a history teacher at the college level... If at some point in the future I can manage to become half the instructor that Professor Noyalas is, I will still be twice as good as most that I have seen. **Michael St. Jacques, 2011 LFCC graduate.**

Throughout the years I've encountered the full spectrum of college professors... before my time at Lord Fairfax, I had already been to two other colleges... and through all of that, Jonathan A. Noyalas, has been one of the most influential professors I've had... Professor Noyalas is by far one of the best... Another delightful aspect of having him as a professor is the opportunity to get out of the classroom to experience history first-hand. Many times he will offer students the chance to join him on Civil War tours... There are many aspects that make Professor Noyalas a wonderful teacher but his role as a mentor to his students is what really makes him remarkable... I can unreservedly declare that he has been one of the most inspiring figures in

my life. He's a rare find and has all the qualities one would expect of a truly great professor.
Casey DeHaven, 2011 LFCC graduate.

In the scholastic universe Professor Noyalas is akin to the Northern Star. Students that traverse the often difficult and overwhelming space of education and career decisions would be wise to seek his guidance as I did... the man lives for learning, teaching, and experiencing anything related to history... Noyalas ingeniously uses emotion to inspire his students to learn and he does it without boring timelines or open readings from a book during class. It's truly amazing how he keeps the immense amount of historical information in his head, but it's easy for him because quite simply... he lives for it... Jokingly, I often refer to Professor Noyalas as Jedi Noyalas because I feel the word Professor does not properly express his level of understanding and ability to share knowledge....Professor Noyalas is that once in a lifetime educator, he preserves the world's past and betters the world's future, a true keeper of time. **Sean Hollingsworth, former student at LFCC.**

The way that Professor Noyalas captivates and controls his classroom... is a feat that everyone should witness... He makes a real effort to stop, take a step back and look at history as a series of causes and in turn, effects, and how our perspective can shape our understanding of these historical events. One of the greatest aspects of taking a Noyalas history class is to experience how he makes history tangible... It was not until taking a history class with Professor Noyalas that I realized that history was my calling. Currently I am employed at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park as a historical interpreter. **Kyle Rothemich, 2011 LFCC graduate, interpretive ranger Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.**

Professor Noyalas is a rare breed in education due to his tireless dedication and passion for history and education. I cannot imagine a more deserving recipient of this award. Professor Noyalas sincerely takes a great interest in his students' academic career and professional direction. After being out of school for 15 years, I found myself sitting in Professor Noyalas's World Civilization class... His method of teaching grabbed my attention from the first moment, and had inspired me.... Professor Noyalas was also pivotal in changing my professional direction... Even though I have graduated from the Community College, Professor Noyalas continues to inspire me not only academically, but also professionally, and my life has blossomed in ways I could not have imagined had I not signed up for that first class with him. **Shannon Moeck, 2013 LFCC graduate and interpretive ranger, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.**

He is not only an outstanding teacher with a great deal of enthusiasm, but he is also a scholar. His lectures on his research of the Civil War have been well received in the community. At a lecture at the Warren Heritage Society in Front Royal... there was standing room only...As chair of the faculty senate, he keeps the faculty well informed... His work ethic is impressive. Faculty members and administrators... are proud to have Jonathan Noyalas as a colleague. **Prof. Frank Borleske, Associate Professor of Mathematics, LFCC**

Jonathan Noyalas is an incredible teacher... I am so glad that we hired him... and I know that we were fortunate to get him... I continue to be told by students that he is among the best teachers they have ever had... Jonathan has been a great resource for the college... he shows great generosity and involvement in our community... Jonathan... has quickly taken on a leadership role for our faculty... Jonathan exhibits the best of scholarly and leadership characteristics and combines these with the ability to reach beyond the classroom and be involved in our community. **Prof. James Brumbaugh, Associate Professor of Economics, LFCC**

Additional Documentation

Excerpt from Prof. Noyalas's Recent Faculty Evaluation

Jonathan Noyalas is an outstanding member of the faculty at Lord Fairfax CC. He works to add group activities to help foster critical thinking by looking at various historical artifacts... His students analyze primary sources as part of their work... Mr. Noyalas is an active member of the LFCC community... Mr. Noyalas' community and professional development activities are extensive. He represents the college well... He has presented papers and lectures in a number of venues this past year... With his busy schedule, it is a wonder that Mr. Noyalas has time to teach class. This is his first priority, however. He receives high marks from students and remains one of the most popular professors on campus. **Dr. Richard L. Elam, Dean.**

Numerical Evaluation Scores for Prof. Noyalas's First Seven Years as Full-Time Faculty at LFCC

- ❖ Annual faculty evaluation scores during Prof. Noyalas's first six years at LFCC are determined by averaging together scores from student evaluations, numerical ratings of service to the college on committees, professional development, publication, conference participation, and involvement in the community.
- ❖ Please note: starting with the 2014-2015 academic year new faculty evaluation guidelines were implemented by the Virginia Community College System. Under this new system senior faculty such as Prof. Noyalas will no longer receive annual evaluations, but rather be evaluated once every five years, so full evaluation data does not exist for the 2014-2015 academic year, however, student evaluations are conducted each year and it is those numbers that are included for the 2014-2015 academic year.

Academic Year Evaluation Period	Numerical Score Earned (5.0 Maximum Score)
2008-2009	4.96
2009-2010	4.97
2010-2011	4.97
2011-2012	4.97
2012-2013	4.98
2013-2014	4.98
2014-2015 (student evaluation scores only as Prof. Noyalas will not receive a full evaluation under new VCCS guidelines until 2019)	4.98

Selected comments from student evaluations 2014-2015 Academic Year

"It is clear that Professor Noyalas has a passion for what he does, and what he teaches. This makes it much easier to learn and understand the material." **Student enrolled in HIS 122-102M (U.S. History II)**

"His passion for History instills a love for history in all of his students. It is no accident Noyalas is the most popular professor at Lord Fairfax: the man is an awesome professor. The information [is] clearly and enthusiastically shared... Every facet of his teaching style is professional,

enjoyable, fair, intelligent, thorough, clear, and driven. Professor Noyalas is an indispensable resource to the community and especially LFCC.” **Student enrolled in HIS 269-100M (Civil War & Reconstruction)**

“Professor Noyalas is by far one of the most exceptional instructors I have ever encountered. He has always presented lesson material in a clear and enthusiastic manner. He truly has an incredible depth of knowledge that he is talented enough to communicate to his students in a remarkably unforgettable way.” **Student enrolled in HIS 112-102 M (World Civilizations II)**

Excerpted, Unsolicited, Email of Praise Sent to Prof. Noyalas from a Former Student on August 29, 2015.

“I do not know if you remember having me, but I was in your class in 2012 for summer and fall... now I am a senior at the University of North Carolina Wilmington for Elementary Education. One of my classes this semester is Social Studies Curriculum for grades K-6. I just wanted to send you this email to thank you so much... you are the first, and only, teacher that has EVER made me enjoy history... I am fascinated with your brilliance and your love of history. When asked what makes me excited about teaching social studies... this is how I answered: Teaching social studies excites me because I find it extremely intriguing to be able to bring students back in time and tell it like a story... Although I have a lot to learn and retain when it comes to the social studies curriculum, all I have to do is remember Prof. Noyalas’s class in order to get me excited about being able to have the same effect on children as he had on me as a college student. Thank you so much for making an impact on my life and God bless!” **Jenifer Jack, former LFCC Student**

Excerpts of Letters from Leaders in the Community and History Profession

On behalf of the Winchester-Frederick County Convention & Visitors Bureau, I am pleased to write this letter... Throughout the years, I have observed him grow professionally in terms of preservation, interpretation, and presentation to his students, as well as to the general public... He has a unique way of making history come alive! His dedication to preservation and interpretation of local history is unequalled... Not only does Professor Noyalas interpret and preserve local history, he also promotes it... We are indeed grateful to Jonathan Noyalas for his efforts, which are invaluable to our community, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the nation!
Sally Coates, Executive Director, Winchester-Frederick County Convention and Visitors Bureau

At the SVBF (Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation), our mission is to preserve, interpret, and promote the Civil War History of the Shenandoah Valley. Given our small staff, and the huge scope and geographic range of our mission, the support of non-staff experts is essential. No person better epitomizes the critical value of such support, or has been more generous with his time, talents, and expertise on our behalf, than Professor Jonathan A. Noyalas. Among his other efforts, Professor Noyalas has served as... organizing chair and as a speaker at six SVBF conferences and symposia; written and developed content for interpretive markers, signage and exhibits; led battlefield tours, seminars, and education programs; served as the featured historical speaker at the biggest Civil War Sesquicentennial event in the Valley, last June’s “If this Valley is Lost” program, taken part in preservation and interpretive planning at SVBF battlefield properties; and served on our Interpretation and Education Committee... including the last three years as chairman. And all of this work has been pro bono—volunteered. Beyond the SVBF, he has also supported many other historic organizations and events in the Valley... Professor Noyalas’s efforts on behalf of preserving and interpreting local history, and making

that history accessible and engaging to the public, have been indispensable, and reflect the highest standards of higher education and public service. **Terry Heder, Director of Interpretation and Communications, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation**

His efforts have substantially increased awareness of the Shenandoah Valley's rich history. Jonathan's resolute dedication to preservation and... education... has been and remains second to none. It is important to note that all of Jonathan's contributions to education and interpretation of the Valley's 19th century past was done with absolutely no compensation. Because of his pure passion of history he donated all his time and energy. It would be quite inconceivable to imagine all our significant accomplishments without Jonathan's many contributions. The name of the award aptly fits Jonathan's work and reputation. He is outstanding in the field of American Civil War scholarship and education... He is destined to attain a reputation in higher education that many seek, but only a gifted few attain. **Nicholas P. Picerno, Chairman Emeritus, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation**

I am writing in support of Jonathan Noyalas's candidacy for the SCHEV Outstanding Faculty Award. I firmly believe that he will be his generation's most outstanding historian of the American Civil War... As head of the Center for Civil War Studies, he has worked very closely with Shenandoah University's McCormick Civil War Institute. The two organizations have acted almost as one in furthering understanding of the Civil War in the Valley, and throughout Virginia. In our combined sessions he acts as lecturer and as field guide. In both, his approach is dynamic, informative and balanced... His accomplishments include an impressive list of publications, especially for such a young historian. His books are first class in scholarship, organization, and writing style. He is certainly, at this time, the most outstanding historian of the Civil War in the Shenandoah Valley... He is... the kind of teacher the field of history needs in order to draw students into the field. **Dr. Brandon H. Beck, Professor Emeritus and Director, McCormick Civil War Institute, Shenandoah University**

It is my privilege to write in recommendation and support of Jonathan Noyalas for State Council of Higher Education for Virginia annual Outstanding Faculty Award. I know from my own experience as a nominee for the award in the past that the standards set for those faculty members put forth... are extraordinarily high and rigorous. For this reasons and because I have known Professor Noyalas since his tenure... as an undergraduate in the history program at Shenandoah University... I can say with complete and unreserved confidence that I cannot conceive a candidate for the SCHEV award better qualified and more deserving than Professor Noyalas... I know from meeting and talking with a number of his former students at this institution, that Professor Noyalas is one of those gifted individuals with an extraordinary talent for engaging students in the study of the past and exciting their own interests in exploring the numerous ways in which the past influences and remains alive in the present. Mention of his name among these students inevitably produces broad smiles and enthusiastic comments about how much their own love of history is owing to his inspired teaching. Most remarkable and commendable in Professor Noyalas's career is his ability to combine teaching with historical scholarship in a dynamic synergy in which research and writing contribute directly to teaching and community service... Combined with his publications, Professor Noyalas devotes innumerable hours to serving the community through public lectures, educational institutes, annual conferences, and his professional contributions to the work of various organizations, boards, and agencies... Certainly the career and accomplishments of Professor Jonathan Noyalas lift him well above the very high bar set for this award and identify him as a recipient in whom its expectations would be most singularly and admirably realized. **Dr. Warren R. Hofstra, Stewart Bell Professor of History, Shenandoah University**

Selected Review Excerpts and Praise for Prof. Noyalas's Books

Civil War Legacy in the Shenandoah: Remembrance, Reunion, and Reconciliation

- ❖ “well-written... the fruit of the author’s many years of diligent research in manuscripts, newspapers and published accounts... Noyalas has added an important chapter to the larger story of Civil War Memory. The book confirms both the value of localized studies and its author’s place as the foremost historian of the war and its legacy in the Shenandoah Valley.” **Dr. Brian Matthew Jordan, Civil War News.**

The Battle of Fisher’s Hill: Breaking the Shenandoah Valley’s Gibraltar

- ❖ “An admirable study... Noyalas has produced a study of the battle that merits praise for both its efficiency and effectiveness.” **Dr. Ethan Rafuse, Civil War Times**
- ❖ “Noyalas knows his topic well... Noyalas has now filled [a] gap with a notable work that should be of great interest.” **Paul Taylor, Civil War News**

Stonewall Jackson’s 1862 Valley Campaign: War Comes to the Home Front

- ❖ “Noyalas draws on... modern scholarship but... also makes extensive use of primary sources... Noyalas’ prose is clear... This is a recommended... book for anyone who wants an introduction to this important campaign... readers... will find it... complements their holdings.” **John Foskett, Civil War News**

The Battle of Cedar Creek: Victory from the Jaws of Defeat

- ❖ “Noyalas did his homework... This book provides a good overview of the battle and should serve as a starting point for... study.” **Harry Smeltzer, Civil War Times**
- ❖ “Noyalas... a respected authority on the Civil War in the Valley, has produced a very well-researched and written study of the battle. He provides a clear analysis of the importance of the battle in turning the tide of the war... Noyalas’ work deserves a place in every library collection on the Civil War.” **Daniel A. Metraux, Augusta Historical Bulletin**

“My Will is Absolute Law”: A Biography of Union General Robert H. Milroy

- ❖ “A valuable and well-researched biography of a lesser-known commander.” **Thomas Clemens, America’s Civil War**

Plagued by War: Winchester, Virginia, During the Civil War

- ❖ “After years of neglect in favor of classical battle and campaign studies of the Civil War, the plight of the civilians of the... home front has come into its own as a fertile region for scholars, and Jonathan Noyalas’s *Plagued by War* makes a fine addition to this growing literature... *Plagued by War*, based on sound research and [is] presented with sympathy and objectivity.” **Prof. William C. “Jack” Davis, Virginia Center for Civil War Studies, Virginia Tech**
- ❖ “Battles in the streets, and repeated occupations by the enemy, can totally demoralize the citizenry. Winchester changed hands more than 70 times during the Civil War... This is their story, well researched and narrated.” **Dr. James I. “Bud” Robertson, Jr., Emeritus, Alumni Distinguished Professor of History, Virginia Tech**