Charles Zug

Where did you "takeoff" to after Saint George's School?

After Saint George's, I attended St. John's College in Annapolis, MD from 2011 to 2015. St. John's is a "Great Books" school, meaning the curriculum is based on primary-source texts traditionally regarded as core to higher education (though there is considerable disagreement about what counts as a "Great" book). There I developed an interest in political theory and decided to pursue graduate study at The University of Texas at Austin, where I began coursework in 2015. After initially studying political theory, I became more interested in American politics, and eventually wrote my dissertation on the relationship between demagoguery and the American constitutional system. I defended my dissertation in May 2020, after accepting a visiting position at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts. My wife Mimi and I spent a year in Williamstown before I accepted my current, tenure-track position at the University of Colorado in Colorado Springs.

Is there something interesting that you're doing in your professional life?

These days I'm working on a few new research projects, including a book on Dwight Eisenhower and the Federal Highway Act of 1956. If accepted, that book should be available late 2023 - early 2024. I'm also always trying to refine my skills as a college teacher and mentor, now that we're back in the classroom.

What's a creative project that you're currently or previously working / worked on (i.e., outside of your professional career)

My wife and I are enjoying getting to know Colorado and the Mountain West, an area of the country where neither of us had spent much time before. We are planning to buy a house in the Colorado Springs area sometime next year.

How did SGS impact or prepare you for what you're doing now?

In my experience, the English Department at Saint George's ran a really effective writing program, and those strong writing foundations have served me well from college until now. I'm particularly indebted to Jeff Darnall, who always modeled rigorous writing and thinking, and who was critical and open-minded at the same time--all the virtues I try to enact and replicate in my classes.

What are you hoping to do next (e.g., professional, personally)?

As I mentioned before, I have several new research projects lined up, some short term and others more long term (i.e., 3-4 years out). My next major career objective will be getting tenure, which I hope to achieve within the next few years.

To learn more about Charles' latest publication, "*Demagogues in American Politics,*" use this Amazon *link*!