

## CLASS Notes

September 14, 2009

Georgia Southern University

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## Welcome to Georgia Southern University / College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences

This edition of *CLASS Notes* focuses on the accomplishments of three CLASS faculty members. At the opening fall faculty meeting last month, the College announced the winners of its two most prestigious awards -- The Ruffin Cup and the CLASS Award for Excellence. This year's winner of the Ruffin Cup was Dr. Eric Nelson from the Department of Writing & Linguistics. The CLASS Award for Excellence went to Dr. Jose Hidalgo from the Department of Foreign Languages.

The Ruffin Cup is awarded annually to a teacher-scholar with at least 10 years of service to the university who excels in teaching, scholarship, and contributions to the liberal arts. During his distinguished career, this year's Ruffin Cup winner, Eric Nelson, has published four books and more than 100 creative works in high-quality peer-reviewed publications. In 2003 he won the X.J. Kennedy Poetry Prize and was named Georgia author of the year in poetry two years later. In addition to his scholarly achievements, he is an outstanding teacher who is recognized campus-wide for his engagement with students, many of whom describe his teaching as "encouraging," "nurturing," and "tireless." Based on these accomplishments and many more, Dr. Nelson was selected by the College as its 2009 Ruffin Cup winner.

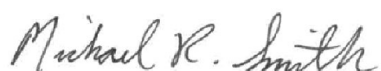
The CLASS Award for Excellence also recognizes outstanding contributions by a faculty member to teaching, scholarship, and service but is awarded each year to a professor with ten years or less of university teaching experience. This year's winner, Jose Hidalgo, earned a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia and joined the faculty at Georgia Southern University in 2006. In the relatively short time that he has been at Georgia Southern, Dr. Hidalgo has published articles in journals such as *Caliope*, *Hispanic Review*, *Neophilologus*, and *Stichomythia*. In addition to his scholarly pursuits, Dr. Hidalgo is an excellent teacher and mentor to students. He teaches all levels of the Spanish language, as well as graduate courses in the History of the Spanish Language and Medieval Literature. He routinely earns outstanding evaluations from students, and serves as an advisor to the Spanish Club and to Sigma Delta Pi, which is the national honor society for Spanish students.

Finally, Dr. Michael Braz from the Department of Music recently was named by the Averitt Center for the Arts in Statesboro as a Legend in the Arts. Dr. Braz is a 23 year member of the Music faculty at Georgia Southern and is a prolific composer and performer. He has written orchestral/choral commissions for professional, collegiate, and school/community ensembles across the country and has over 20 published works in print, including two

complete operas. He teaches music composition and music theory and is a regular performer (piano) at university and community events. Beyond his musical prowess, though, Dr. Braz is well-known for his service to the community as a member of the Kiwanis Club, founder of the Statesboro Youth Chorale, and winner of the *Statesboro Herald's* Humanitarian of the Year award in 2008.

These three faculty members exemplify the many outstanding teacher-scholars in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University. On behalf of the College, I congratulate Dr. Nelson, Dr. Hidalgo, and Dr. Braz on their accomplishments.

Warm Regards,



Michael R. Smith, Dean

## Upcoming **CLASS** Events

### Art and Theatre

**September 14 - October 22**

*Roxie Edge of 90*

*Paintings by Roxie Remley inspired by Beethoven's Symphony No.*

*3, Eroica*

*Contemporary Gallery, Center for Art & Theatre*

### Music

**September 15, 7:30 p.m.**

Faculty Showcase Recital

Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

**September 26, 7:30 p.m.**

*Night of Opera*

Alumni and faculty perform "dazzling duets and terrific trios" from some the most famous operas

Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

### Lectures and Readings

**September 15, 7:00 p.m.**

Reading by Marie Myung-Ok Lee from her novel, *Somebody's Daughter*, a Booklist Best Book of the Year and AAUP "Best of the Best" selection

Arts Building, Room 2017

**September 24, 6:00 p.m.**

"Missing Home: The Idea of Homesickness in American History"

Lecture by Dr. Susan Matt, professor of history at Weber State University

College of Information Technology (CIT) Lecture Hall

## **Conferences**

**September 25-26**

Georgia Conference on Information Literacy

(<http://ceps.georgiasouthern.edu/conted/infolit.html>)

Sponsored, in part, by the Department of Writing and Linguistics

Coastal Georgia Center, Savannah, Georgia

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