

CLASS Notes

November 30, 2009

Georgia Southern University

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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "CLASS Notes" (2009). *CLASS Notes*. 5.
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CLASS

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES

notes



November 30, 2009

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

We invite you to become a Friend of CLASS today! The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences is proud to offer an opportunity for you to support our college. Through our membership program, Friends of CLASS, you can contribute to ongoing College development efforts. With strong enrollment growth but decreasing state appropriations, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences needs private support to maintain its high quality programs, provide scholarships and student assistantships, and drive research and academic discovery. The membership fee to become a Friend of CLASS is only \$50 per year, and your contribution is tax deductible. For additional information and to become a Friend of CLASS, please visit:

<https://touchpay.georgiasouthern.edu/friendofclass/>

You will notice a slightly new look for today's edition of *CLASS Notes*. Starting today, we will feature a different CLASS department or center each month, along with our usual updates on CLASS-related news and events. Look for *CLASS Notes* in its new format at the end of each month. If you know of particular alumni accomplishments or important College news, please let us know, as we strive to highlight this information in each monthly issue. You can email us at class@georgiasouthern.edu.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael R. Smith'.

Michael R. Smith, Dean

Department of Psychology

The Psychology Department, located in the Carroll Building, is home to three academic degree programs, the Psychology Clinic, and is the administrative home of the Regents Center for Learning Disorders. John Murray, a psychology faculty member since 1993, has served as Department Chair since 2005.

The Department hosts three academic programs: a Bachelor of Science (BS), a Master of Science (MS, experimental focus), and a Doctor of Psychology (PsyD, in clinical psychology). The BS program is one

of the most popular majors at Georgia Southern. The overall mission of the undergraduate program is to provide students a foundation in psychological science as well as to train scientific literacy, critical thinking, and writing skills. With over 500 students enrolled, students gain experiences grounded in psychological science. The undergraduate curriculum is intentionally flexible: students take only four required courses and then construct their own "concentration" by selecting additional courses that align with their interests (for example, as in clinical/counseling or in physiological psychology). The Department also offers many opportunities to work with faculty on research. Students can take advantage of two student-based organizations: the Psychology Coalition and Psi Chi (the National Honor Society in Psychology).

The focus of the MS program is to prepare students for doctoral study in psychology and/or serve as a transition program from undergraduate to doctoral study. Students take doctoral-level content courses in scientific psychology disciplines and are immersed in research activities from the semester they enter the program. The MS program also offers an optional "teaching emphasis," as many of the students eventually progress to doctoral programs where they will teach. This unique program allows students to take a seminar in university-level teaching and then shadow a minimum of two faculty members. Graduates of the MS program have gone on to extremely well-regarded doctoral programs (e.g., University of Georgia, Case Western Reserve, etc).

The PsyD program in clinical psychology is the Department's newest program and is the only doctoral program in CLASS. The program has a 'generalist' focus but is geared towards preparing graduates to do psychotherapy and psychological assessment in rural areas and/or with rural clientele. The five-year program requires students to take four years of full-time coursework and practica in residence at Georgia Southern followed by a full-time internship in their fifth year. A primary training site for PsyD students is the Department's in-house Psychology Clinic, which provides low-cost mental health services to adults, children, and families. As a new program, the PsyD is not yet accredited but will undergo evaluation during the 2011-12 academic year.

The Department is home to seventeen full-time faculty who span a multitude of areas within psychology: clinical, cognitive, developmental, social, learning, and physiological. Each faculty member is an active researcher, and many are widely published in basic and applied research journals. Research mentorship to undergraduate and graduate students is the rule rather than the exception. Alongside their research activities, each faculty member is a committed and skilled university teacher. Students frequently report enormous satisfaction with their professors.

Recently, the Department has been placed in the limelight through the research of Dr. Bryant Smalley (Assistant Professor, Clinical Psychology) and Dr. Jacob Warren (Assistant Professor, Public Health). The two professors created the Rural Health Research Alliance, an entity whose mission is to focus on research on health and mental health for rural Georgians. This fall, the alliance was awarded its first grant (\$308,000) from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to create rural "health clinics" that will provide free physical and mental health screenings as well as front-end care to rural residents, many of whom have no insurance. The activities associated with this grant are highly consistent with the rural mission of the PsyD program, and represents the exciting trajectory this program is taking. We anticipate that faculty and students will be involved in this and future research, service, and grant-seeking activities.

CLASS Salutes 2001 Distinguished Alumna

2001 recipient of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Distinguished Alumna Award, Hala Modellmog ('79) was again honored for her exceptional service to the public good. At the November 2009 annual meeting of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, Modellmog was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus award, predicated on her international service dedication. In 2006, Modellmog, a breast cancer survivor, became the President and CEO of *Susan G. Komen for the Cure*.

Upcoming CLASS Events

Art and Theatre

November 16 - December 4

Exhibition: *Form & Content*

Contemporary Gallery, Center for Art & Theatre

Exhibition: *Denotation Connotation*

University Gallery, Center for Art & Theatre

December 3 - 5

Club Mud Exhibition & Sale

Ceramics Studio, Ceramics & Sculpture Building

December 7 - 11

Exhibition: *BFA Senior Exhibition*

Contemporary & University Galleries, Center for Art & Theatre

Music

December 3, 7:30 p.m.

Graduation Recital

Maggie Klussman, soprano, Pamela Radford, piano

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

December 4, 7:30 p.m.

SymphonicWind Ensemble and Wind Symphony Concert

Performing Arts Center

December 5, 7:30 p.m.

Graduation Recital

Mark Diamond, baritone, Karla Qualls, piano

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

December 6, 3:00 p.m.

Seasonal Celebration of Choirs

Performing Arts Center

December 6, 7:30 p.m.

Seasonal Celebration

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

New Friends of CLASS

We would like to welcome our newest Friend of CLASS, Dr. Eric Kartchner!

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