

## CLASS Notes

December 1, 2009

Georgia Southern University

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### Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "CLASS Notes" (2009). *CLASS Notes*. 6.  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/class-notes/6>

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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

CLASS salutes Georgia Southern University senior Mark Diamond, who was named a winner of the Georgia District Metropolitan Opera Auditions held in Atlanta on November 21st. Diamond, a baritone, impressed the audience and judges with his performances of an aria from the opera *Die Tote Stadt* by Korngold and the well-known Largo from *The Barber of Seville* by Rossini. "The Georgia District auditions are the first step in the famous Met Auditions competition," says Diamond's voice teacher, Dr. Allen Henderson, professor of music at Georgia Southern. "Mark thoroughly impressed the judges with his voice, his poise, and his overall performance. Mark will go on to regional auditions after this esteemed accomplishment. The southeastern regional competition will be in Atlanta on January 31st.

The Center for Irish Studies received international promotion this month. Visit the [BBC Radio Ulster](#) site for full coverage.

Congratulations to Tim Whelan, who has won a prestigious fellowship from National Endowment for the Humanities. The \$33,600 award will enable him to continue work on "Nonconformist Women Writers 1720-1840," which will be published by Pickering and Chatto.

CLASS would also like to congratulate the December 2009 graduates on their important accomplishment. Best of luck to each of you.

Finally, the College would like to extend holiday greetings and best wishes for a prosperous New Year to all of our friends, supporters, and alumni.

Warm Regards,

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

Michael R. Smith, Dean

## Department of Foreign Languages

Willkommen, Bienvenue, Bienvenido

The Department of Foreign Languages at GSU facilitates students' acquisition of linguistic abilities and cultural knowledge that will prepare them to contribute to the global multicultural economy and to the local multi-linguistic communities of Georgia and of the nation.

The department sponsors a Master's of Art in Spanish; a Bachelor's of Art in Modern Languages; minors in French, German, Japanese, and Spanish; introductory and intermediate language instruction in Latin, Chinese, and Yoruba; and introductory courses in a variety of other languages, as resources permit (recent examples are Arabic, Greek, and Russian). It also contributes to the preparation of high school Spanish teachers through the M.A.T. Spanish program, and it plays an integral role in International Studies, Latin American Studies, Classical and Medieval Studies, and Comparative Literature programs at Georgia Southern.

Each spring the department hosts the Southeast Coastal Conference on Language and Literatures. This event introduces scholars from around the world to GSU and provides an opportunity for advanced students to witness firsthand recent research from active scholars. Many of our master's students use the event as a stepping stone in their professional advancement. We also sponsor a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal, *The Coastal Review*, which is consistently expanding in prestige and in distribution.

The department's 21 full-time faculty members are accomplished teachers and scholars, having won numerous awards in recognition of their teaching, research, and service. Recently the entire department embraced a proficiency-oriented philosophy, which places communicative functionality in the language as the priority for student learning. This decision has rejuvenated student interest in the opportunities that competence in a foreign language can provide and has precipitated a flood of new majors and minors. One enthusiastic new Spanish student shared the following about her experiences with the Foreign Language department:

*I am a senior from Curitiba, Brazil. I came to GSU on a volleyball scholarship. I started out as an International Studies major and have now added a Spanish major. I recently received an internship opportunity with CNN Deportes for Spring 2010 which will allow me to work with the two subjects that I love the most: sports and Spanish! I am really glad that I chose to make Spanish one of my majors, because without Spanish I would not have been able to get my internship, since I am not a native Spanish speaker.*

*-Bianca Julio*

The department's pedagogical philosophy promotes the type of practical and applied activity exemplified by the students in a recent French class. While America debates universal health care, students in French Civilization studied many aspects of France's social security system, including health care, retirement, and work accidents. In groups, students produced professional-quality posters that explain France's system and benefits. Students combined cultural and linguistic tools to create reports similar to those that they will produce on the job in the future.



Left to right: Ian Starks, Natasha Martin, Melissa Royer, Adriana Eberhart, David Sansom.

## President of US Humane Society Addresses CLASS Grads

Wayne Pacelle, current CEO and President of the United States Humane Society, accomplished author, and animal advocate, addressed College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and Allen E. Paulson College of Science and Technology graduates during the December 11, 2009 ceremony for graduates. Pacelle has been seen on all of the major television network programming and in many publications across our country to promote animal advocacy. Pacelle's message to the 2009 graduates was one of accomplishment and opportunity to become vehicles for change and advocacy. Wayne Pacelle is the brother of Georgia Southern University's own Political Science Department Chair Dr. Richard Pacelle.

 Wayne Pacelle

## New Friends of CLASS

We would like to welcome our newest Friends of CLASS, Dr. Lewis C. Howe and Mr. Charles Welch!

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