

## CLASS Notes

January 31, 2010

Georgia Southern University

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# CLASS

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

# notes



January 31, 2010

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

CLASS welcomes Dr. Brooks A. Keel as 12th president of Georgia Southern University. Dr. Keel joined Georgia Southern on January 4, 2010.

Cathy Powell, a Communication Arts and Public Administration graduate, was awarded a 2009 Outstanding Social Studies Educator Award by the Georgia Council for the Social Studies at the National Conference in Atlanta this past November.

Associate professor of political science F. Erik Brooks completed a new book entitled *Defining Their Destiny*, a book detailing the history of Willow Hill in Portal. Read the full story [here](#).

Psychology professor Michael Nielsen was cited in a Greensboro, N.C. column on happiness and faith. Read the full column [here](#).

Warm Regards,

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

Michael R. Smith, Dean

## The Department of Literature & Philosophy

The Department of Literature and Philosophy, which also houses GSU's Religious Studies program, Center for Irish Studies, and Cinema Arts, continues its stated mission to equip its many students to be "incisive in their critical thinking, effective as communicators, aware of cultural diversity, and skilled as interpreters of the written and spoken word in all areas of life." Recent activities among our alumni, current students, and faculty evidence that we remain committed to academic excellence, innovative instruction, and collaborative service to the community.

## **News of Alumni**

Michael Granado, a Philosophy alumnus, will begin study at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University in the fall.

John Rodman, another Philosophy alum, is Assistant Public Defender for the State of Georgia and recently won an important and difficult case, "State of Georgia vs. Lavon Perry, Jr."

Constance Jackson, who finished her M.A. in English, is teaching for Herzing University in Atlanta.

Leah DiNatale, another M.A. grad, is teaching for Armstrong Atlantic and GSU's Department of Writing and Linguistic.

## **Current Graduate Students**

Jessica Newberry interviewed novelist and short story writer Andre Dubus III at his home in August, in preparation for writing her thesis on the theme of perception in his novels *House of Sand and Fog* and *The Garden of Last Days*.

Jessica Newberry, Leah DiNatale, and Laura Hakala all presented papers at the American Literature Association Symposium on American Fiction, held in Savannah in October.

The M.A. program continues to attract top-quality students. Unfortunately, tight budgets have reduced the number of our graduate assistantships from eight to five. We welcome gifts from alumni and friends of the department who want to help fund assistantships in the future.

## **Current Undergraduates**

Andres Montes, who is double-majoring in Philosophy and Chemistry, has created the Hearts and Hands Clinic, Inc., which will soon begin offering free dental and medical care to low-income people in Statesboro.

Philosophy major Corey Briley will present his paper "Can Compatibilism Reconcile Free Will and Determinism?" at the Southeast Philosophy Conference at Clayton States University in February.

## **Faculty**

Tim Whelan recently received a substantial grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in support of his project "Nonconformist Women Writers 1720-1840." Tim has recently published two books and has another on the way.

Doug Thomson has edited a new edition of the classic 1801 collection of Gothic horror ballads *Tales of Wonder* by Matthew Gregory "Monk" Lewis.

Caren Town was recently elected as an Arts and Sciences representative to the National Network for Educational Renewal (NNER) Governing Council. She also serves on the editorial board for the NNER's journal *Education in a Democracy*.

Olivia Edenfield has been commissioned by the family of well-known short-story author

Andre Dubus II to write his authorized biography. Olivia also was director of the American Literature Association Symposium on American Fiction, held in Savannah last October. Olivia has secured Savannah as the site of the symposium for the coming years.

Tomasz Warchol was featured as one of the "Stars of the South" in the October/November 2009 edition of South Magazine in recognition of his contribution to the film culture of Savannah, including his work as programming director of Reel Savannah.

Beth Butterfield continues to use service-learning projects in all of her Ethics classes. This spring, in her Environmental Ethics class, students will do individual projects as well as a group project, working with the Center for Sustainability's initiative to construct a bioswale on campus.

Richard Flynn is completing his term as editor of Children's Literature Association Quarterly; he has overseen the creation of 22 issues since 2004. Richard is working on a long essay for the upcoming Cambridge History of American Poetry, has completed a chapter titled "The Fear of Poetry" for The Cambridge Companion to Children's Literature, and has an article featuring the poetry of Randall Jarrell in the forthcoming Oxford Handbook of Children's Literature.

Bill Eaton and Robert Higginson's article "Causation and the Cartesian Reduction of Motion" will appear in Causation: 1500 to the Present, to be published this year by Routledge.

Brad Edwards' book Conversations with Bharati Mukherjee was recently published by the University of Mississippi Press.

Mary Villeponteaux has an article, "Dangerous Judgments: Elizabethan Mercy in The Faerie Queene" forthcoming in Volume 25 of Spenser Studies. In March, Mary will present a paper for a meeting of the Queen Elizabeth I Society.

### **Other Recent News**

Last spring, the Literature Faculty completed a revision of the English Major. The new Major includes literary period requirements and a new Senior Seminar.

We are in the process of hiring a new tenure-track faculty member whose field of expertise will be 20th-century and contemporary British Drama. On-campus interviews should occur in February.

### **Upcoming Events**

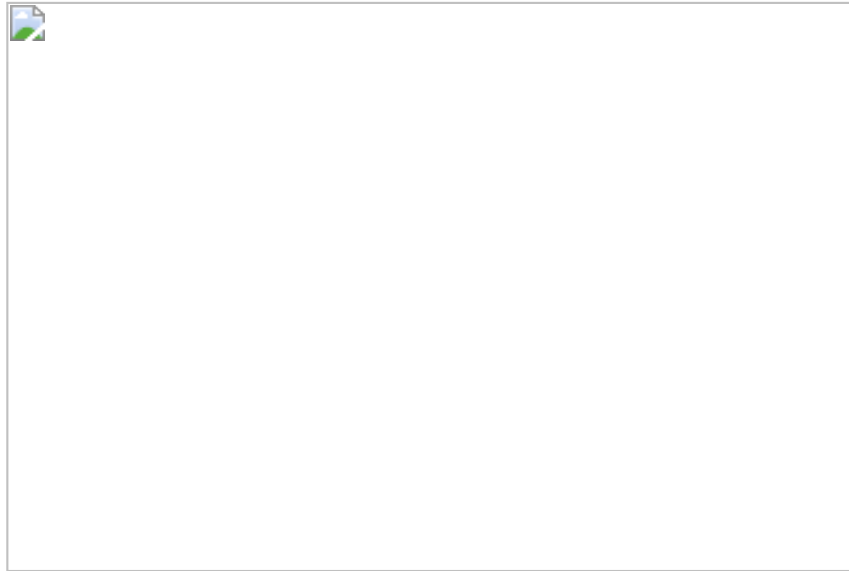
The 19th annual British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference, the oldest of its kind, will be held in Savannah February 26-27. The conference attracts scholars from all over the world.

### **Want News about our Center for Irish Studies?**

Be sure to read the February edition of CLASS Notes, which will feature the Center!

### **Study Abroad**

The Department will be represented in Madrid, Spain by Robert Costomiris who will teach two classes, one class of World Literature and another class devoted to the literature written in response to the Spanish Civil War. Both classes will emphasize readings with strong Iberian roots but will also include non-Spanish works that illustrate Spain's importance as a cultural crossroad and its long global reach.



## Upcoming **CLASS** Events

### Art and Theatre

#### **January 11 - February 18**

Exhibition: *Observations* by Kevin Shunn

Exhibition: Schuman Glass

#### **February 22 - March 11**

Exhibition: *Juried Undergraduate*

#### **February 26 - March 6, 7:30pm (Sunday at 2:00pm, No show on Monday)**

"The Curate Shakespeare As You Like It" by Don Nigro

Directed by Lisa L. Abbott

Black Box Theatre

### Music

#### **February 5, 7:30 p.m.**

Mendelssohn/Beethoven Concert

Jonathan Aceto, violin; Karla Qualls, piano; Michael Braz, piano; Douglas Graves, cello  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

**February 15, 1:00 p.m.**

General Student Recital  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

**February 16, 7:30 p.m.**

NATS Recital  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

**February 19, 7:30 p.m.**

Jazz Band  
Performing Arts Center

**February 21, 7:30 p.m.**

Senior Recital, Angela Wong, piano  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

**February 24, 7:30 p.m.**

A Schumann Showcase  
Linda Cionitti, clarinet; Richard Mercier, piano; Diane Ricks, mezzo-soprano; Anna Thibeault, flute  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

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

PRISM Concert  
Performing Arts Center

**February 27, 7:30 p.m.**

Graduation Recital  
Corey Ortwien, horn; Grant Dull, clarinet; Karla Qualls, piano; Tom Pearsall, piano  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building

## Writing & Linguistics

**February 10, 7:00 p.m.**

Dorothy Allison  
Performing Arts Center

**February 23-24, Time TBA.**

Cathy McCall, *When the Piano Stops: A Memoir of Healing*

**March 2-3, Time TBA**

Andrew Robinson, *The Story of Writing: Alphabets, Hieroglyphs, & Pictograms*; *Lost Languages: The Enigma of the World's Undeciphered Scripts*

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College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences ♦ Georgia Southern University  
P.O. Box 8142 ♦ Statesboro, Georgia 30460 ♦ 912-478-2527 ♦ <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu>

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