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CLASS

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES

notes



May 31, 2010

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

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences is excited about the potential to expand our online offerings. In the near future, we will pursue approval from the Board of Regents for a fully-online Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree program. The on-campus BGS program is currently housed in the College and enrolls over 350 students. The proposed online degree will allow us to reach new audiences and provide the benefits of a Georgia Southern degree to those who may not have the flexibility to attend a program on campus. Initially, online BGS students will choose three concentrations from among the following four areas: Sociology, Writing, Justice Studies, and Business. More concentrations will be added as additional online courses are developed. Pending approval, this program is slated to launch in spring 2011. Stay tuned for more information about the online BGS program in the fall.

The Department of Art received media attention recently for its annual [Club Mud exhibition](#) and pottery sale. Congratulations to Professor Jane Pleak who was awarded the 2010 CLASS Faculty Award of Distinction for Service, in part to recognize her efforts in coordinating the highly successful Club Mud.

In addition to the CLASS service award presented to Professor Pleak, two faculty members from the Department of Political Science were honored at the spring College faculty meeting with CLASS Awards of Distinction for teaching and research. You can read more about Dr. Chris Ludowise, Dr. Catherine Marcum, and the Department of Political Science below.

In the Department of Foreign Languages, Horst Kurz was recognized by the Georgia Chapter of the American Association of Teachers of German as the recipient of the Duden Award in recognition of outstanding effort and achievement in German instruction.

Department of Music Professor [Michael Braz](#) performed on May 3rd with the Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra. Current graduate student in voice performance [Rebecca Flaherty](#) has been invited to attend the Operafestival di Roma in Italy this summer. Flaherty also held a concert for the Savannah community on May 7th.

In the Department of History, two faculty published books this spring. Laura Shelton published [For Tranquility and Order: Family and Community on Mexico's Northern Frontier, 1800-1850](#). John Steinberg published [All the Tsar's Men: Russia's General Staff and the Fate of the Empire, 1898-1914](#). In addition, history and international studies major [Kendra Mosley](#) has been awarded a highly prestigious National Security Education Program David L. Boren Scholarship for study in Moscow, Russia.

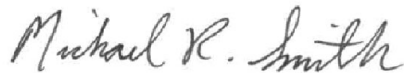
In alumni news, Department of Literature and Philosophy, 2001 CLASS Distinguished Alumnae [Hala Moddlemog](#) recently was named president of Arby's Restaurant Group, Inc.

And in the Department of Communication Arts, broadcast student Daniel Sallerson was offered a year-long, paid internship in radio production with the Orlando Magic. Daniel will begin the internship at the end of August.

Finally, the Department of Writing and Linguistics is pleased to announce that it and Georgia Southern University have been selected to host the 2012 Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) conference at the Coastal Georgia Center in Savannah. This international conference will bring college and university writing teachers and scholars from across the United States and the world to Savannah and Statesboro in two years.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer.

Warm Regards,



Michael R. Smith, Dean

Political Science Department

Please excuse us if we brag a little. It was a very good year for the Department of Political Science and Justice Studies. The academic year was bookended by major University awards for excellence in research (Dr. Richard Pacelle) and teaching (Dr. Christine Ludowise). In between, faculty members also won major CLASS awards for research (Dr. Catherine Marcum) and teaching (Dr. Ludowise). The excellence of teaching in the Department is not a secret to anyone. In the last five years, the Department has won the three highest teaching awards in the University (including two "Professor of the Year" Awards (Dr. Patrick Novotny and Dr. Darin Van Tassell). Members of the Department have been recipients of five of the last seven CLASS Awards of Excellence.

Increasingly, it is not just our students who are learning from our faculty. The visibility of the Department nationally is at an all-time high. The Department is home to the Southern Political Science Association, the oldest regional association. The Political Science Department hosts a major national conference each year. Faculty research is widely cited in the literature. Dr. Krista Wiegand published a major book on international conflict and appears periodically on Fox and CNN to share her expertise on the Middle East. Dr. Brett Curry published articles on the courts in two of the major journals in the field and is coauthoring a book with Dr. Pacelle on Supreme Court Decision Making. With the retirement of Justice Stevens and the nomination of Solicitor General Kagan to the Supreme Court, don't be surprised to see or hear one or both of them on a station near you. Dr. Robert Pirro is finishing a book on tragedy and politics. The work of the Department's faculty is being read by students coast to coast and in other nations.

It is ultimately about the students at Georgia Southern and we provide great opportunities for them to stretch intellectually. Students can take classes where they rewrite the US Constitution or argue and decide cases as a mock Supreme Court. Our Model African Congress is a true model for other universities. A dozen of our students were selected for the Eagles in D.C. program and interned in Congressional offices. Dozens of our students studied abroad this year. Three dozen of our students really distinguished themselves over the last two years. The Georgia Southern Model United Nations team, under the direction of Dr. Barry Balleck, went to New York and stole the show, taking home top honors in multiple categories.

This year, a dozen of our students graduated from the Honors program, winning numerous awards along the way, and will go on to graduate and law school to continue to spread the name of Georgia Southern. A recent graduate, Zechariah Anderson, won the highest student award in the entire Georgia system and is currently at Duke Law School. We welcome two new faculty members in the Fall and hundreds of the brightest students looking to follow their predecessors and make names for themselves.

Upcoming **CLASS** Events

(Complete [CLASS Event Schedule](#))

June 10-13

7:30pm (Sunday, 2:30pm)

"The Playboy of the Western World" by J.M. Synge
Black Box Theatre

June 21-July 9

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Summer Studios 2010
Visual Arts Building

CLASS Notes Updates

We are updating our current database. For many of you, we only have an email address. Please email your complete contact information to class@georgiasouthern.edu. In the subject line, please include "CLASS Notes update." We appreciate your assistance on this project.

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