CLASS Notes

August 31, 2010

Georgia Southern University

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

CLASS would like to welcome all new and returning faculty, staff and students to the 2010-2011 academic year. This year already promises to be one of the most exciting yet for our college. The Department of Sociology and Anthropology has received international attention with Civil War discoveries made at Millen's Camp Lawton, in partnership with Dr. Sue Moore and her archaeological team, including graduate student Kevin Chapman. The discovery of Civil War artifacts on the site of the war's largest prison camp has been called one of the greatest Civil War finds in recent history. The excavation of the site will continue to unlock secrets of history for many years.

In the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, retired faculty member Joe Olson will present his exhibition "The Circus, Greatest Show on Earth." The department welcomes Marc Mitchell as the new gallery director for the Center for Art and Theatre. Marc will also be a faculty member in the department.

In the Department of Psychology, Dr. Jack Rainer was featured in the NY Times on coping with crisis.

In the Department of Writing and Linguistics, Zach Bush's third collection of poetry, The Silence of Sickness (Gold Wake Press, 2010), received powerful reviews. Also from the department, faculty member Laura Milner and six of her students have been accepted to present at the 2010 Wellness and Writing Connections at Georgia Tech Global Learning Center. The group includes four writing majors-- Danko Cooper, Kia Hunt, Stephen Rhodes, and Elizabeth Vinson-- plus public relations major/writing minor Michelle Vegliante and psychology major Rachel Sohnen. In addition, the Associated Writers and Writing Programs conference (AWP) has accepted a panel of Writing & Linguistics faculty members and undergraduate majors, "Research in the Creative Writing Classroom: Methods, Pedagogies, Dilemmas," for inclusion in AWPs 2011 Conference in Washington, D.C. The panel will discuss methods and challenges of teaching research in creative writing and will feature W&L faculty members Sonya Huber and Laura Valeri along with W&L majors Jessie Thiemann and Katie Brookins. The AWP, the largest international conference on creative writing, received 980 event proposals this year, a record to date, and has tentatively accepted 380 panels this year for inclusion in the 2011 program.

From the Department of Music, Dan Pittman has been chosen to be guest conductor for the Thailand International Composition Festival, an honor indeed. Also, music student Mark Diamond's experiences at Glimmerglass Opera as a Young American Artist this summer were reviewed in the NY Times.

We look forward to sharing CLASS news and events with you throughout the year. Best wishes for a prosperous semester!
Department of Communication Arts

This is an exciting time in the Department of Communication Arts:

**Theatre:** The theatre program was approved for accreditation and associate membership by the National Association of Schools of Theatre. The review was highly complementary of the program - its curriculum, faculty, students, productions, and the Center for Art and Theatre's Black Box performance space.

**Public Relations:** The public relations program launched L.E.A.P. - Leadership, Experience, Academics and Professionalism, an undergraduate certification process created by the Public Relations Advisory Board. The certification recognizes students who get involved and use their public relations background to gain experience in the field. The first two recipients -- Haley Higgs and Megan Bearden -- were recognized at the departmental awards banquet.

**Communication Studies:** The Department of Communication Arts served as local host for the Patti Pace Performance Festival in January of 2010 and Georgia Communication Association in February of 2010.

**Multimedia Communication & Journalism:** Significant curricular changes in Multimedia Communication (former broadcast major) and Journalism became effective last year, following recommendations of a pre-accreditation review. Journalism added courses such as Fundamentals of Multimedia Production and continues to integrate new media into courses such as blogging through the Opinion Journalism class.

The Multimedia Communication area phased out the administration program and replaced it with a film emphasis, already enrolling approximately 20 majors in its first year. Student film work has already garnered substantive recognition with 1st and 2nd placements in the Georgia Communication Association Film Festival and screenings at festivals including: Macon Film Festival, Statesboro Film Festival, and the Garden State Film Festival. Funding through student technology fee grants and year-end stipends supported critical initiatives within the Multimedia Communication program, providing students with access to a state-of-the-art switcher in a refurbished studio and a Mac lab.

**Other Departmental News:**
A donation by alumna Julie Turner Davis supported furnishing our departmental "Alumni Conference Room" in Veazey Hall, thus providing a more professional meeting space for faculty, students and alumni while also serving as a research facility for focus group interviews.

2010 Communication Arts Alumni of the year:
- Tina Hook, Communication Studies/Communication Arts
- David German, Multimedia Communication
- David Thompson, Journalism
- Tal Wright, Public Relations
Calendar for Fall Events:

Oct. 13: *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
October: Retirement Recognition & Exhibition for Gary Dartt & Brenda Dartt (details forthcoming)
Nov. 2: Live, election-night coverage by Channel 97
Nov. 10-17: *The Listener* by Liz Duffy Adams

Upcoming CLASS Events

**August 16-September 10**
Art
Exhibition: The Circus, Greatest Show on Earth
Exhibition: Faculty ’10
Center for Art and Theatre, University Gallery

**September 14-30**
Art
Exhibition: MFA Biennial
Center for Art and Theatre, Contemporary and University Gallery

**September 16**  
Music  
Faculty Showcase 7:30pm  
Performing Arts Center

**September 21**  
Music  
Faculty Recital Series 7:30pm  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

**September 27**  
Music  
General Student Recital 1:00pm  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

**September 28**  
Music  
Chamber Orchestra 7:30pm  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

[Complete Calendar of CLASS Events]

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**Give to CLASS**
The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences aspires to be nationally recognized for its superior and innovative educational experiences across the humanities, the social sciences, and the arts. Our goal is to provide effective programs that are responsive to the needs of the region and to allow all members of the college—faculty, staff, and students—to serve together to enhance quality of life. If you would like to support CLASS in meeting these goals, please visit our [annual campaign website]

Find all the details about the [Eagle Nation on Parade] public art project on our [website]. Contact Sue Bunning at [sbunning@georgiasouthern.edu] for more information.

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**Brittany "Ally" Harbuck Scholarship Award Celebration**

On Thursday, August 26th, some of the best student writers on campus read excerpts from their work at the Brittany "Ally" Harbuck Scholarship Award celebration. This year's scholarship winner, Katie Brookins, read her short story, "Battle Soot," which she researched and composed in a fiction writing class with professor Laura Valeri last spring. Brookins is a senior with a 4.0 GPA double-majoring in Writing and Linguistics and History.

Two finalists for the award, Smith Holloway and Kate Beasley, and other nominees read creative narratives, poems, or short stories about subjects ranging from a dark night in a convenience store to a daughter's day with her dad learning to shoot a gun and all kinds of love and loss.
The scholarship was endowed by David and Debi Harbuck of Savannah, whose daughter, nicknamed Ally, died in an accident in April 2005 during her first year at Georgia Southern. She was a creative writing major, and her parents chose to honor her spirit and memory by supporting other gifted students majoring in Writing and Linguistics.

For more information, contact Laura Milner at lamilner@georgiasouthern.edu

- Eric Nelson

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