

CLASS Notes

October 29, 2010

Georgia Southern University

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CLASS

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES

notes



October 29, 2010

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

We have many wonderful things to celebrate in our College this month. To begin, Professor **Dustin Anderson** in the Department of Literature and Philosophy has been invited to be the keynote speaker at next fall's 5th annual meeting of the Southern Appalachian Student Colloquium on Literature at East Tennessee State University.

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art hosted its annual Empty Bowl Project on October 21st in support of Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week. Art students produced beautiful ceramic bowls, each one unique, that patrons could purchase full of delicious chili for \$10. The project raised more than \$2,700 to benefit the Statesboro Food Bank. Thanks to Professor **Jane Pleak** for once again leading this year's Empty Bowl Project.

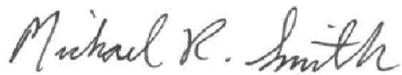
In the Department of Writing and Linguistics, The *Patterson Literary Review* just accepted one of **Dr. Laura Valeri's** pieces, "The Things We Own Make Us Safe." According to Duotrope, the PLR has less than 1% acceptance rate. In addition, **Sonya Huber's** book, *The Backwards Research Guide for Writers: Using Your Life for Reflection, Connection and Inspiration*, and **Martha Pennington's** book (co-edited with former Writing and Linguistics faculty member **Pauline Burton**), *The College Writing Toolkit: Tried and Tested Ideas for Teaching College Writing*, were both published this month by Equinox Press. Also, we are excited to report that four Writing & Linguistics students, **Elizabeth Vinson**, **Stephen Rhodes**, **Danko Cooper**, and **Michelle Vegliante** presented their writing and research so effectively at the recent Wellness and Writing Conference in Atlanta that the conference organizer, John Evans, asked their permission to publish their stories and poems in the second edition of his edited collection of essays, *Wellness and Writing Connections*. Finally, **Thomas Klein** has accepted an invitation by the Smithsonian Institution to present a lecture entitled "Sounds of Africa in Gullah and on Middle Caicos" as part of the symposium "Connecting the Worlds of the African Diaspora: The Living Legacy of Lorenzo Dow Turner." This symposium will take place in Washington, DC on November 12-13.

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology continues to receive attention for its efforts at [Camp Lawton](#). On October 10th, the artifacts recovered to date went on display at the Georgia Southern University Museum. The [exhibit](#) will run until May 1, 2011 and tells the story of one of the Civil War's last untouched prisoner of war camps, recently located and excavated by Professor **Sue Moore** and graduate student **Kevin Chapman**.

With the successful premiere of the *Great Minds Lecture Series*, we are pleased to offer a second lecture on Saturday, November 6th at 10:00am in the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall located in the Foy Building on campus. **Dr. Hemchand Gossai** will give an outstanding lecture entitled "The Virtue of Interrupted Lives," which explores the interrupted lives of some of the world's greatest historical figures. Online [registration](#) for the lecture is available now, and the event is free and open to the public.

Have a nice Thanksgiving holiday!

Warm Regards,



Michael R. Smith, Dean

Department of Music

Dr. Braz announces retirement after 24 years



At the end of this academic year, Dr. Michael Braz will be retiring after 24 years of teaching at Georgia Southern University in the Department of Music. Countless students, faculty and community members have benefited from his generous personality, dedicated teaching, and prodigious talents, which he shares so willingly with everyone.

After retirement Dr. Braz plans to enter the Peace Corps to teach English overseas. Before he leaves he will co-curate a Georgia Southern Museum exhibit entitled "Music of Georgia's Coastal Plain."

Professor Braz currently teaches theory and composition and performs regularly on piano, harpsichord and celesta. Recently he was a featured harpsichord soloist for the Bach *D minor Concerto* with the Hilton Head (SC) Symphony Orchestra and piano soloist for Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* with the Georgia Southern Symphony.

Two of Braz' solo piano pieces (*A Past and Perfect Life* and *Fantasy on Beethoven's "Für Elise"*), introduced on his solo album *Love in a New Key*, are now available on iTunes, along with many other selections from the album. Braz' choral works continue to be performed by choruses of all ages on various All-State and District Honor Choir concerts, as well at school, university, and community chorus performances throughout the U.S. and overseas.

Dr. Braz's *The Music in the Rainbow* (3-part treble voices, piano) is published by C. F. Peters in its Inter-American Music Awards Publication Series. First premiered at the 2009 Sigma Alpha Iota National Convention in Chicago, the work provides a setting for the Henry Van Dyke poem "Iris," contrasting the "bow of color" with "the bow of sound."

Dr. Braz continued his England residencies with a third Thanksgiving week visit to St. Benedict's Catholic School and Performing Arts College in Derby. Closer to home, he is a member of the Kiwanis Club and a volunteer piano teacher at Statesboro's Joseph's Home for Boys.

Drs. Cionitti and Mercier tour with world premiere

Dr. Linda Cionitti, Professor of Clarinet, and **Dr. Richard Mercier**, Department Chair/Pianist, presented a series of concerts in September that included a world premiere entitled "Cabinet of Curiosities" which Dr. Cionitti helped to commission. The compositions ranged from traditional to modern and were predominantly from the 21st century. The duo performed concerts at Georgia Southern University, The University of Georgia, and the

University of Montevallo, Alabama where Dr. Cionitti also presented a master class.

Outstanding singers raise their voices

On Friday, October 15, the Vocal Arts area of the Department of Music presented its annual "**Vocal Arts Gala.**" This Gala recital features the department's most accomplished singers selected through a rigorous audition process. Each year the level seems higher than ever, and this year was no exception. The repertoire included opera, oratorio, and song selections familiar to many in the audience. One could hear attendees contentedly humming the melodies as they left the hall.

Chinese freshman pianist wows audiences



When freshman pianist Kaisaer Ainiwaer rose from the piano bench at the end of a special invitational recital in September featuring Georgia Southern University music students, the audience rose to its feet in recognition of his prodigious talent and outstanding performance, even in the midst of many talented young performers.

Kaisaer is a member of the Uyghur minority from the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of northwest China. Uyghurs have a long tradition of ethnic music but it is highly unusual for one to excel in Western music.

During a 2006 trip to Urumqi, China, Dr.

Richard Mercier met the young Kaisaer Ainiwaer for the first time. After hearing him perform, Dr. Mercier helped him get into Interlochen Arts Academy, a special high school for talented musicians from around the world.

Although he has been in Statesboro for only a couple months, Kaisaer has made quite a name for himself through his formidable pianism and natural charm. At his second public appearance, in the Piano Area Fall Recital on October 12, a concert promoter for Savannah was so impressed with his playing that he offered Kaisaer a paid recital for this coming summer.

Kaisaer, who loves to perform, hopes to win a piano competition and one day become a concert pianist. In the meantime the Statesboro community is fortunate to have such a polished young artist honing his skills at Georgia Southern University.

Music Department reaches out to the community

The Department of Music is reaching out to the Statesboro community in more ways than providing cultural enrichment to the area. As a way to plan for the future of the department and guarantee its effectiveness, a new Department Advisory Board is being created with volunteers from the community to help with achieving the vision and goals for the future.

Composition student Chris Spence has been selected to compose music for a brief film about the recently announced discovery of artifacts at the Camp Lawton Confederate Prison Camp by Georgia Southern

archeologist, Dr. Sue Moore. The film is being made in conjunction with the Department of Communication Arts to promote this important historic find.

The Music Department Friends and Family program welcomes community members to travel with music department students and faculty on a Study Abroad trip in early June to Prague, Vienna, and Budapest. Anyone interested in participating should contact Dr. Carolyn Bryan for complete information. She can be reached by phoning 912-478-5396.

Wealth of Musical Events

The Department of Music faculty and students perform more than 150 public performances each year. Everyone is invited to attend these events. Performance schedules are available along with parking passes for community members. For more information call 912-478-5396 or email clee@georgiasouthern.edu.

CLASS Holds Third Annual Research and Creativity Symposium

On Thursday, October 21st, the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences held the third annual CLASS Research and Creativity Symposium. Four students earned the first annual 2010 CLASS Award for Excellence in Scholarship for their presentations/original compositions. Those students are: 1. **Diana Devoe, Department of Psychology**. Diana presented her research on "Understanding Mate Selection Across Gender and Culture Lines." 2. **David Jon McCurdy, Department of History**. David presented "Historical GIS: A Case Study of the Battle of Briar Creek." 3. **Emily Yeakle, Department of Music**. Emily performed her original composition, "Donegal." 4. **Francine Koenig, Department of Literature and Philosophy**. Francine's presentation was entitled "The Dark Ladie: A Veiled Power."

The symposium was a wonderful acknowledgment and showcase of student scholarship in the College. I think it was also a testament to the relationship between faculty and students - and our faculty mentors have done amazing work with their students. The mentors for this year's presenters were: David Seaman, Tiffanie Townsend, Julie McGuire, Julia Griffin, Doug Thompson, John Thompson, John Steinberg, Jon Bryant, Janie Wilson, Laura Valeri, Julia Griffin, and Olivia Edenfield.

The members of the CURIO Board were at the symposium in force and have been very helpful in guiding the development of undergraduate research in our College. CURIO Board members are Chris Geyerman, Joe Pellegrino, John Thompson, Kathleen Comerford, Lisa Costello, Tiffanie Townsend, Ted Brimeyer, and Abi Ellis.

- Dr. Chrisine Ludowise, Associate Dean

Upcoming CLASS Events

October 25-November 30

Art

Exhibition: Behind the Image

Center for Art and Theatre, Contemporary Gallery

November 4

Music

Fall Choral Concert, 7:30pm
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

November 6

Lecture

Great Minds Lecture Series, 10:00am
"The Virtue of Interrupted Lives," Dr. Hemchand Gossai
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

November 13

Music

Faculty Brass Quintet Recital, 3:00pm
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

November 10-17

Theatre

"The Listener"
Black Box Theatre

November 17

Music

Jazz Ensemble Concert, 7:30pm
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

[Complete Calendar of CLASS Events](#)

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.



LIVE ELECTION NIGHT COVERAGE
7:30 p.m. – Midnight
Channel 97 • WEDB 89.1 FM/Dublin • WXRS 97.1 FM/Swainsboro •
WXRS 100.5 FM/Swainsboro • WJAT 800 AM/Swainsboro

Tune in to Eagle News 97 for interviews with experts and reports on local election results with professors Patrick Novomy & Reed Smith.

Sponsored by the Departments of Communication Arts and Political Science with NORTHLAND CABLE & THE CITY OF STATESBORO.

Logos for e98, WJAT 800 AM/SWAINSBORO, The Patriot, and WXRS 100.5 are also present.

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