

CLASS Notes

January 31, 2011

Georgia Southern University

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CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



January 31, 2011

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

Welcome back after a long holiday break. Spring semester is in full swing, and we have many great things to share with you this month! Georgia Southern continues to celebrate national attention for being named one of the nation's [most popular universities](#). In our college, CLASS welcomes **Dr. Larry Griffin** as the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Research Scholar, Professor of Sociology, Professor of History, and Director of American Studies at Georgia Southern University. Before coming to Georgia Southern, Dr. Griffin taught at Indiana University, the University of Minnesota, Vanderbilt University, Berea College, and, most recently, as the John Shelton Reed Distinguished Professor of Sociology, Professor of History, and adjunct professor of American Studies, at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. Professor Griffin has presented his own research at dozens of scholarly conferences, is the author of almost 100 scholarly publications and reviews in academic journals in sociology, history, political science, Southern Studies, African-American Studies, American Studies, and research methodology, and is the co-editor of four books, including the forthcoming "Social Class" volume of the *New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture* (with Professor **Peggy G. Hargis** of Georgia Southern). Supported from grants from the National Science Foundation, the Social Science Research Council, the Spencer Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Labor, his research has appeared in sociology's most competitive journals-including the *American Sociological Review*, the *American Journal of Sociology*, and *Social Forces*. Griffin's scholarship has also received national and international recognition.

Also, our online Bachelor of General Studies program is now off the ground, and we welcomed over 100 students in this first term. We would like to officially welcome the new director of the online BGS program, Will Powell. For questions regarding the online BGS program, Will can be reached by email at wpowell@georgiasouthern.edu or by phone at (912) 478-7128.

From the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art, gallery director and abstract painter [Marc Mitchell](#) has a solo show in the main gallery of the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art in Augusta.

Professor [Robert Batchelor](#) in the Department of History made an amazing discovery while doing research in the Bodleian Library in England. While historians have long known about the Selden Map of China, Robert was the first scholar to recognize that the map is actually a record of Chinese trade routes from the 17th century. His discovery has spurred major international interest in the map, and it has finally brought about the map's restoration.

Researchers from the Department of Psychology will join researchers from the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health (JPHCOPH) and the School of Nursing in the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) to open a [Rural Health Research Institute](#) at Georgia Southern. **Dr. Bryant Smalley** from CLASS, Dr. Jacob Warren from JPHCOPH, and Dr. Elaine Marshall from CHHS are slated to create this Rural Health Research

Institute. The initiative will bring 5 key scholars to Georgia Southern who will strengthen existing expertise within the University, expand external research support, and serve as research mentors to current GSU faculty and students. The mission of the Institute will be to engage in funded interdisciplinary research that a) improves health outcomes and reduces health disparities in rural communities; and b) promotes the development of researchers examining rural health issues. The Institute will be led by directors from each of the Colleges connected by the Institute: Dr. Bryant Smalley and Dr. Jacob Warren will serve as co-Executive Directors, and Dr. Elaine Marshall will serve as the Director of Faculty and Student Engagement.

In the Department of Literature and Philosophy, Professor [Richard Flynn](#) appeared earlier this month on North Carolina Public Radio to discuss his book *Randall Jarrell and the Lost World of Childhood*.

In the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, graduate student Matt Luke received a grant from the South Carolina Battlefield Trust to complete LiDAR scanning of earthworks in the coastal South Carolina area. He is going to be working with Dr. Steve Smith from the South Carolina Institute of Anthropology and Archeology to identify which ones they are going to scan. This will be the basis for his thesis work. The Georgia DNR grant was awarded to support work at Camp Lawton and will pay for two graduate students (**Matt Luke** and **Marcy Welch**) to do the shovel testing and metal detection of the two areas that they still have to complete. It will also support five public days at the park this semester. Also, Dr. [Heidi Altman](#) will assist with interviews and transcription of 1930s and 1940s Blue Ridge Parkway worker oral histories. This project stems from a \$10,000 National Park Foundation Grant. 1998 Distinguished CLASS Alumnus and world-renowned paleoanthropologist **Lee Berger** will engage students, faculty, staff, and the community on February 12th during a public lecture in the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall.

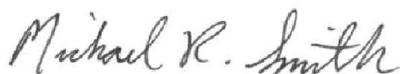
From the Department of Writing and Linguistics, [Sonya Huber's](#) work was featured in a reading series called *True Story*. Also, for "Inside Higher Ed," department chair [Randall McClure](#) weighs in on the potential for writing courses and the impact on academic programs.

Recently, from the Department of Political Science, Public Administration alumnus [Mark Gibson](#) was recently named county administrator for Whitfield County.

In the Department of Music, Professor **Arrika Gregory** will serve as guest director of *Così fan Tutte*, an opera that will be performed by the Savannah Philharmonic. Professor **Kyle Hancock** will perform as Don Alfonso in the opera. Additionally, **Linda Cionitti's** recital performance was highlighted in the International Clarinet Association's "ClarinetFest 2010 Review."

Best wishes for a prosperous semester. We hope to see many of you at our upcoming events!

Warm Regards,



Michael R. Smith, Dean

Department of Foreign Languages

Willkommen, Bienvenue, Bienvenido

Foreign Languages at Georgia Southern are alive and well. During 2010, the Department saw an above-average increase in the number of students studying all foreign languages across the board, an influx of students declaring majors and minors, and swelling in the quantity of students participating in foreign language study abroad programs. The nation's urgent need to prepare citizens who will be prepared linguistically and culturally to compete in the global

economy appears to have found a willing student body, enthusiastic professors, and supportive administrators here in south Georgia.

Friends and alumni can join us in saying farewell in 2010 to our beloved Dr. Jean-Paul Carton, Professor of French. Not only will we miss his contagious smile and beautiful accent, we now have to get in line to request his musical services- we will miss the regular association that we had with him and his wife, Dominique.

2010 saw the addition of several faculty members as well. We were fortunate to welcome two new permanent faculty, Dr. Martha Hughes (Lecturer in French and Spanish) and Mr. Mauricio Sánchez (Lecturer in Spanish), and we received notification that we would be able to hire additional permanent faculty in French, German, Latin, and Spanish. These new permanent additions, coupled with increased attention to Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, and our other languages, have bolstered the strength of the department and expanded students' choices and opportunities.

We look forward to adding additional languages to our menu in the near future. Every day students approach us with desires to study abroad, to learn new languages, to experience new cultures. Although we are not able to accommodate every student request, we make good use of our resources to serve as many students as resources allow.

One example of a creative approach to language learning and study abroad was Dr. David Seaman's Spring Break in France. He and three of our French students spent Spring Break exploring Paris quickly, but intimately, as they had the opportunity to do activities such as meet privately with a renowned poet, attend and participate in a local dance, and have a "PaulaDeen-esque" personalized experience making croissants with a local baker (student Deirdre Haynes with baker in picture left).



This type of experience inspires students, as those who have studied abroad can attest, beyond anything else they do or study during their years of undergraduate work. We look forward to encouraging every student of a foreign language to seek the opportunity to study abroad, and we are committed to finding ways to make such an opportunity a reality for all who so dare or desire.

Until next year,
Danke, Merci, Gracias, Xiexie, Shukran, Arigato, Gratias, Obrigado, Oshe, Efcharisto, Spasibo

Upcoming CLASS Events

February 10

Lecture

Great Minds Lecture Series, 7:00pm-8:00pm
CIT Building, 3rd floor, executive dining room

February 12

Lecture

Professor and paleoanthropologist Lee Berger reception and public lecture
Reception, 4:30-6:00pm, Foy Building 4030, cost is \$50 per person/\$75 per couple
Public lecture, 6:30-7:30pm, Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy, free and open to the public

Contact 912-478-5149 to RSVP for the reception

February 18

Music

Symphonic Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony, 7:30pm
Performing Arts Center

February 20

Music

Julia Heinen, clarinet, 3:00pm
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

Now through February 24

Art

Exhibition: Andrew F. Scott: G-Code Explorations
Center for Art & Theatre, Contemporary Gallery

Exhibition: Art in the Woods
Center for Art & Theatre, University Gallery

February 23-March 2

Theatre

"Power" by Nick Dear, 7:30pm, Sundays at 2:00pm
Black Box Theatre

February 24

Music

Jazz Band, 7:30pm
Performing Arts Center

[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.

Great Minds Lecture Series Continues

February 10, 2011 7pm-8pm, College of Information Technology Building, 3rd floor executive dining room

How Contemporary Efficiency Robs the Quality of Our Lives

Dr. Jack Rainer



We live in a "do more, do it faster, do it better...with less" world. Because of our busyness, we neglect the textures, nuances, and goodnesses of our lives. A great deal of research has been conducted into the examination of how quality of life is defined at end-of-life. The results are interesting and compelling, and can be practically applied to all of us in ordinary day-to-day living. Focus of the lecture will be placed on ways to enhance that personal sense of well-being, and on the physical, psychological, economic, spiritual, and social dynamics that are figural in our view of quality of life.

[REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT NOW](#)

Upcoming lectures in the spring 2011 series:

Thursday, March 3rd

John Ford's Ireland: The Quiet Man

Dr. Howard Keeley

Thursday, April 14th

Making Average People Extraordinary

Dr. David Alley

Facebook

Stay connected by following our [CLASS Facebook page.](#)

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Try it FREE today.