

## CLASS Notes

February 28, 2011

Georgia Southern University

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# CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES



February 28, 2011

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

The beautiful spring weather in Statesboro has brought with it many accomplishments to celebrate in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences.

The Department of Political Science has received abundant press coverage for the study abroad trip that took [Dr. Krista Wiegand](#) and a dozen honor students to [Egypt](#) prior to that country's national protest.

From the Department of History, **Dr. John Steinberg** has earned the Faculty Internationalization Award, which recognizes faculty who have contributed to internationalization at Georgia Southern University and beyond. This includes developing or expanding international programs, promoting greater understanding through lectures, contributing to campus activities that promote international education, and supporting students in their development through international experiences.

From the Department of Music, baritone [Mark Diamond](#), 23-year-old Augusta native and 2010 music education graduate of Georgia Southern University, won the Houston Grand Opera Eleanor McCollum Competition for Young Artists in Houston. With more than 700 participants, this is one of the top four competitions in the US. He won \$10,000 and may receive an offer to participate in their young artist program next year. Tenor **Jonathan Brinson** joined baritones **Josh Devane** and **Trevor Martin** to sing in a master class of operatic arias for world-famous American baritone Sherrill Milnes. Also, three Georgia Southern voice majors won first place in their respective categories at the Georgia chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) student auditions. They are: **Trevor Martin**, winner-4th year Men, student of Allen Henderson; **Jillian Pashke**, winner-Advanced Women, student of Arikka Gregory; and **Josh DeVane**, winner-Lower Level College and Adult Men, student of Kyle Hancock. In addition, **Tara Slaight**, student of Allen Henderson, won first place in her division of the Advanced Women category. Also, the Georgia Southern Symphony held its annual concerto competition. Winners have the opportunity to perform their winning selection with orchestra. Judges for the competition mentioned that the level of performance was particularly high, making their decisions difficult. Winners of the competition were **Raymond Nuss**, horn student of Dr. Stephanie Furry, performing Mozart's 2<sup>nd</sup> Horn Concerto, **Michael Thomas**, trumpet student of Dr. William Schmid, performing Haydn's Trumpet Concerto, and **Kaisar Ainiwaer**, student of Dr. David Murray, performing Chopin's 1<sup>st</sup> Piano Concerto. Violinists **Joshua Crowe** and **Caitlin Long** received honorable mention.

The Department of Foreign Languages congratulates student **Samantha Glover** (and the German faculty) for her recent Halle Foundation Fellowship award. The Halle Foundation Fellowship Program provides an opportunity for students at colleges and universities in the state of Georgia to complete a professional internship

in Germany for 10 weeks in the summer. Also, **Dr. Horst Kurz** was named the 2011 Professor of the Year by the Foreign Language Association of Georgia. The selection committee referenced his "long and impressive record of service as well as teaching in our State."

Department of Sociology lecturer **Nathan Palmer** created and is now offering his [SOC101 Class pack](#), which includes free course materials that are delivered through downloadable and customizable files. His project is predicated on Palmer's belief in shared practices to enhance teaching efforts.

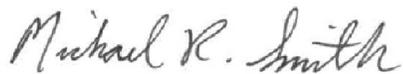
In the Department of Art, professor [Jessica Hines](#) earned a grand prize in the Lens Culture International Exposure Awards for her photographic portfolio, "My Brother's War."

In the Department of Writing and Linguistics, junior **Kristen Strater** has been accepted to present at the International Computers & Writing Conference at the University of Michigan in May. Her research is funded in part by a CURIO grant, and she is being mentored by Janice Walker. Professor **Loretta Brandon** authored a piece on the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health in a recent *Statesboro Magazine*.

Department of Communication Arts students and graduates are making names for themselves in the professional world. **Danise Sarrazin** is now Director of News at WTOC and currently has responsibility for the weekend shows. **Danielle Jones** recently began her responsibilities as a production assistant at WTOC, and **Brittany Herrington** (Info Student of the Year) is now one of the station's assignment editors. At WJCL, **Craig Boozer** now works in master control. **Kevin Solomon**, in addition to serving as assistant producer of the WJCL morning show, is also doing reporting and web writing. *The Savannah Morning News* recently featured student [Kelsey Decker](#), pre-Communication Arts major, for her op-ed piece on Egypt.

I look forward to sharing more news with you next month. Best wishes for a relaxing spring break!

Warm Regards,



Michael R. Smith, Dean

## Department of Literature & Philosophy

The Department of Literature and Philosophy continues to serve our students, our region, and our state through its teaching and research. As always, our faculty members emphasize teaching and strive to bring their research into the classroom so that newly acquired knowledge and insights are passed on to younger scholars and citizens.

Our Religious Studies Program, under the energetic leadership of Dr. Hemchand Gossai, continues to grow. At the moment, Religious Studies is the largest minor program in the college, with some 60 students enrolled. This growth has been recognized and rewarded by the university through the hiring of a second Religious Studies professor. Dr. Nicole Karapanagiotis, a recent graduate of Florida State University, will join the faculty in August. Her research and dissertation focus on the impact of the Internet on Hindu religious practices. Nicole will teach two new courses in the fall: Introduction to Asian Religions and Introduction to Hinduism. Welcome, Nicole! Our long-range plans for Religious Studies include hiring a third tenure-track faculty member, perhaps with an expertise in American Religion. Ultimately, we plan to offer a B.A. in Religious Studies, which would be an important addition to GSU's programs of study.

Our Philosophy program has also recently completed a successful search for a new tenure-track faculty member. Dr. Danielle Layne, currently teaching at Loyola University in New Orleans, will join us in the fall to teach Ancient Philosophy. Danielle's hiring will return our Philosophy faculty to its full complement of four permanent members. Welcome to you, too, Danielle!

This year we have an exceptionally strong cadre of graduate students, and we are, for the first time, enabling them to gain some significant teaching experience. Thanks to the initiative of CLASS Dean Mike Smith, we are now offering two Graduate Teaching Assistantships in addition to our five Graduate Research Assistantships. As a result, two of our students, Brian Butler and Frank Sharpe,

had full responsibility for teaching two sections of world literature apiece in the fall semester. Frank completed his degree in December and is currently working as a full-time temporary instructor in the Department of Writing and Linguistics. Brian is back for more teaching this term. We are pleased that three more of our Master's students have assistantships in the Department of Writing and Linguistics. Erin Murk, Drew Keane, and Don Hatcher are all teaching composition classes.

Our graduate students are also making the most of their opportunities to present papers at conferences. Such presentations give them the opportunity to showcase their research and help build their c.v.'s in preparation for applying to doctoral programs. Drew Keane read his paper "Swift's Struldbrugs as a Commentary on the Human Condition" at the South Central Society for 18<sup>th</sup> Century Studies conference in February. Brian Butler read a paper on the "Cyclops" episode in Joyce's *Ulysses* at the recent American Conference for Irish Studies in Savannah. In May, Michael "Duck" Harris will present a paper at the American Literature Association conference in Boston. As you can see, our graduate students are gaining more experience than ever both in teaching and in presenting their research, opportunities that will make them attractive candidates for further graduate study or for the job market.

Three of our faculty members received tenure and promotion to Associate Professor this spring. Congratulations to Drs. Bill Eaton, Joe Pellegrino, and Mary Villeponteaux, and our thanks to them for their excellent work.

Finally, the department sponsors the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies conference in Savannah February 25-6. Two faculty members, Brad Edwards and Joe Pellegrino, will present papers. Three of our graduate students, Brian Butler, Rachel Cason, and Duck Harris, will present papers in a panel titled "Subverting Colonial Power."

## Upcoming CLASS Events

### March 1

#### **Music**

Opera Scenes, 7:30pm  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

### Through March 2

#### **Theatre**

"Power" by Nick Dear  
Black Box Theatre

### Through March 9

#### **Lecture & Readings**

Poet & Memoirist Mary Karr  
Performing Arts Center

### March 2

#### **Music**

Piano Area Recital, 7:30pm  
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

### March 3

#### **Lecture**

Great Minds Lecture Series, 6:15pm-7:15pm  
Manny's Neighborhood Grille

#### **Music**

Guest Artist Amy Jarman, 7:30pm

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

**March 8**

**Music**

Chamber Orchestra, 7:30pm

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

**March 10**

**Music**

Endowed Honors Recital, 7:30pm

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

**Through March 18**

**Art**

Master of Fine Arts Thesis Exhibition

Center for Art & Theatre, Contemporary Gallery

**March 24**

**Music**

Guest Artist Verdehr Trio, 7:30pm

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

**March 28**

**Music**

Ian Altman, piano, 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](mailto:sbunning@georgiasouthern.edu) for more information.

## Great Minds Lecture Series Continues

March 3, 2011 6:15pm-7:15pm, Manny's Neighborhood Grille

## ***John Ford's Ireland: The Quiet Man***

Dr. Howard Keeley

For millions of Americans, abiding images of Ireland's lush, green countryside come from John Ford's 1952 movie, *The Quiet Man*. This lecture reveals fascinating background information about the director's long desire to make the film. We'll see how Ford recruited major actors from the Abbey, Ireland's famed national theater; how the making of the film transformed the rural village of Cong, County Galway; and how the plot and cinematography are surprisingly sophisticated. The lecture includes selected short clips from *The Quiet Man* and it concludes by considering the movie's long-term impact.



**[REGISTER FOR THIS FREE EVENT NOW](#)**

**Upcoming lectures in the spring 2011 series:  
Thursday, April 14th**

*Making Average People Extraordinary*

presented by Dr. David Alley

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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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