

CLASS Notes

May 31, 2011

Georgia Southern University

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CLASS

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES

notes



May 31, 2011

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

Greetings!

CLASS extends a fond farewell and its sincere gratitude to Dr. Michael Braz for 24 years of service and dedication to Georgia Southern University. A legend both at the University and in Statesboro, he received the President's Medal from Georgia Southern and was named a Legend in the Arts by the Averitt Center for the Arts in Statesboro. We wish him the best of luck in [retirement](#) as he embarks on his new adventure in the Peace Corps.

In the Department of Music, [Dr. Richard Mason](#) and joint-enrolled student musician [Colby Parker](#) have earned Presidential Scholar recognition from the U.S. Department of Education. Twenty U.S. Presidential Scholars in the Arts are nominated each year through the YoungArts program of the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts.

At the direction of The Commission on Presidential Scholars, Parker will be recognized as one of three winners in the music category, and Mason will receive the 2011 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program's Teacher Recognition Award.

During a four-day Washington visit, Mason will participate in teacher excellence seminars and attend a reception to be held at the U.S. Department of Education's Barnard Auditorium. Parker will perform in a recital entitled "Salute to the 2011 U.S. Presidential Scholars," to be held at the Concert Hall of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The honors conclude on June 21 with a reception in the East Room of the White House.

Also in the Music Department, soprano **Rebecca Patrick Flaherty** earned second place in the 2011 American Prize in Vocal Performance-Friedrich and Virginia Schorr Memorial Awards competition in the female college/university opera division. A graduate student, Flaherty was selected this spring from applicants across twenty-eight states.

Also in the Music Department, a new publication by Gianluca Campagnolo titled *Clarinet Discography* includes GSU Professor **Linda Cionitti**'s original recording for clarinet. The volume is a comprehensive list of 780 clarinetists and more than 5,000 recordings.

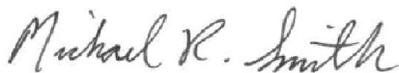
In the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, sociology student **Lindley Maloy** will complete her internship in the White House Office of Administration, which provides administrative and business services to the President of the United States. She will be working in the the Human Resources Division of the Office of Administration..

Finally, in the Department of Communication Arts, GSU's Theatre and Performance program shared stories from around the world with children at local elementary schools:

- The cast of *Folk "Tails"* took their 45 minute children's play to Sally Zetterower Elementary.
- Directed by Theatre Major **Anastasia James** and performed by **Brook Vickers, Eric Carter, Jamie Williams, Alina Lianguert, Patrick Galletta**, and **Mikey Naus**; the short plays were adapted by Professor **Lisa L. Abbott** from folktales reflecting different parts of the world.
- The stories include "The Monkey's Heart" from India, "Coyote's Revenge" from North America, "Why there are no Tigers in Borneo" from Indonesia, "Bremen Town Musicians" from Germany, and "Anansia's Dinner Guest" from Ghana.
- The troupe also performed at Julia P. Bryant Elementary during regular school hours, at Mattie Lively Elementary's after-school program, and at Mill Creek Elementary's after-school program.

We would like to welcome all of our new and returning students to summer term 2011. Best wishes for a prosperous and enriching semester!

Warm Regards,



Michael R. Smith, Dean

Department of Writing & Linguistics

The Department of Writing and Linguistics, one of only two dozen independent, degree-offering departments of writing in North America, continues to find ways to advance its mission in serving students and the community through innovative programming in the areas of creative writing, professional and technical writing, rhetoric and composition, and linguistics delivered by award-winning, internationally recognized faculty.

This year the Department, under the leadership of chair Dr. Randall McClure, developed its first graduate certificate program. The online program in Applied Linguistics/TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) is slated to begin in Spring 2012. This new program is part of the department's continuing efforts to prepare students to enter a variety of professions and areas of advanced study appropriate for the early twenty-first century, efforts that have seen its programs grow significantly in popularity with students over the past few years.

The Department continues to be active in the community. The Department held its first reading event in its new partnership with the Statesboro Regional Library, continued to host award-winning writers through its participation in the Georgia Poetry Circuit, and intensified its efforts to assist in the professional development of teachers through the Georgia Southern Writing Project. This summer, the Department will host its second visiting writer, Adam Davies. An author and screenwriter, Mr. Davies will be teaching a course on "The Novel and Screenplay" designed specifically for GSU undergraduates.

These outreach efforts are complemented by the work of the Department's community advisory board as well as the publication of its annual newsletter, *WriteFace*. The Department serves the larger writing community as well. Recently, the Department was awarded the opportunity to host the 2012 International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference. This conference adds to the Department's annual events including the Student Success in Writing Conference (now in its 14th year) and the Georgia International Conference on Information Literacy (now in its 7th year).



Graduates of the Writing and Linguistics program continue to be recognized for their talents and achievements. Jen Pirkle, a 2005 W&L graduate and a current graduate student at Georgia College & State University recently won the fiction contest at the 40th Annual Writer's Contest at Agnes Scott College. Katherine (Kate) Beasley (pictured below), a 2011 honors graduate, won the University's Academic Recognition Day Award, an award given to only one Georgia Southern University student each year. Kate's sister, Cassie (pictured below), was the 2010 recipient. Katie Brookins (pictured above), winner of the

2010 Brittany "Ally" Harbuck Memorial Scholarship, was chosen by the Council on Undergraduate Research to present her research at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. at an event celebrating the merging of the Council on Undergraduate Research and the National Conferences on Undergraduate Research.

The faculty members in Writing and Linguistics continue to be recognized for their efforts in teaching and research. In addition to numerous academic articles and scholarly presentations in some of the most elite venues, W&L Professor Sonya Huber published her book, *Cover Me*, and Dr. Martha Pennington published her co-edited volume *The College Writing Toolkit: Tried and Tested Ideas for Teaching College Writing*. Other notable accomplishments include Dr. Thomas Klein's and Dr. Lori Amy's selection as co-recipients of the 2010-11 Nichols-Hamlet Travel Award and Professor Laura Valeri's selection for the 2010 Dorothy Smith Golden Award for Teaching Excellence.



The Department of Writing and Linguistics is dedicated to serving students, the local community and the southern Georgia region, and the national community of writing and linguistics scholars. For more information, contact Dr. McClure at randallmcclure@georgiasouthern.edu or 912-478-2411.

Upcoming CLASS Events

Fall schedule coming soon!

[Complete Calendar of CLASS Events](#)

Best Wishes, Dr. Michael Braz!

On Sunday, May 15, friends, colleagues and students of Dr. Michael Braz gathered for a farewell performance in honor of the dedication and commitment Dr. Braz has shown to Georgia Southern University and to the community. Following his retirement, Braz will serve in the Peace Corps. He has been assigned to Armenia, where he will teach English as a second language.

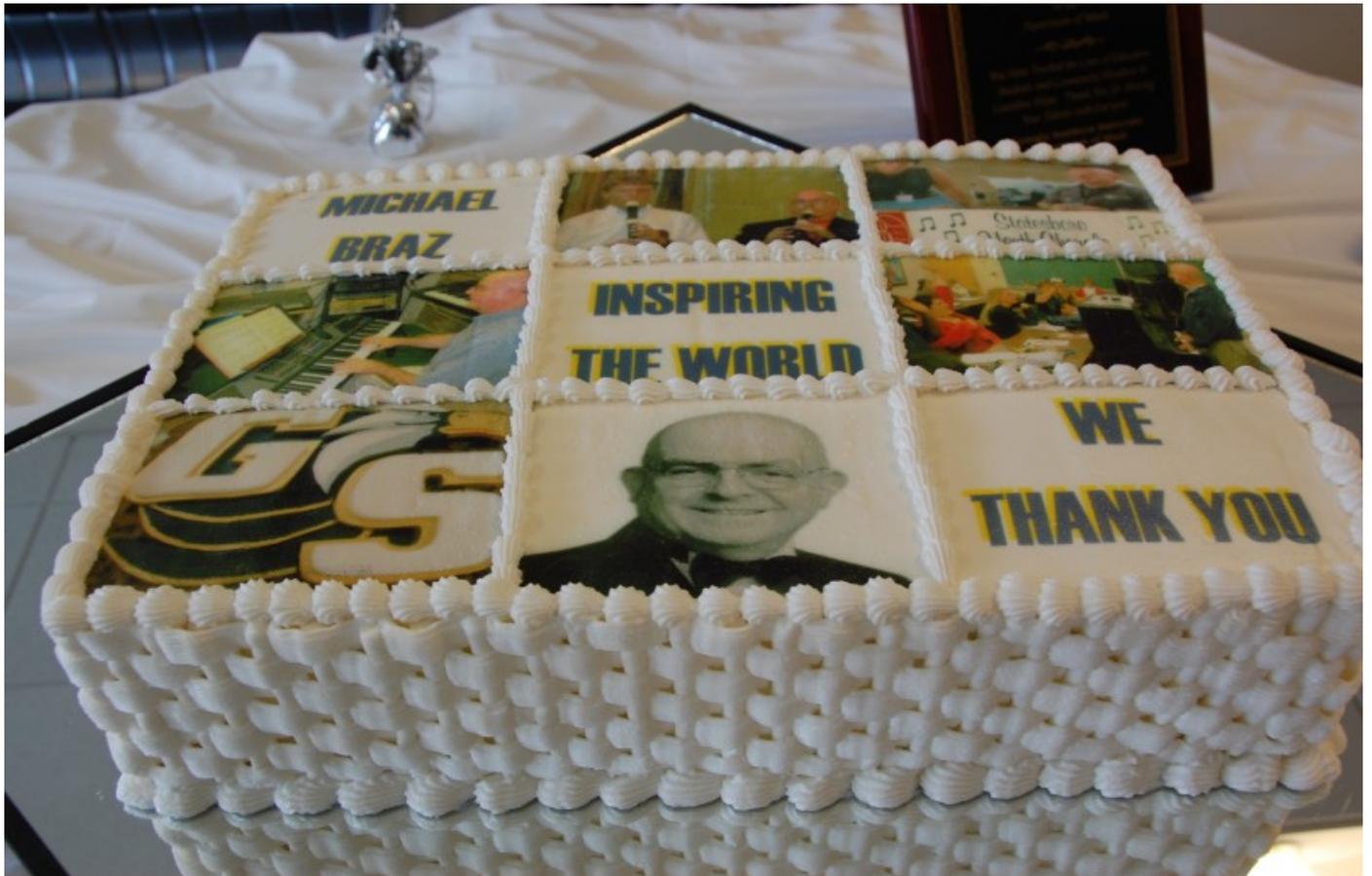


The concert was not only a chance to see Braz take the stage one last time before he begins his two-year commitment with the Peace Corps, but it was also the chance for friends, colleagues, former students, and music lovers to ensure Braz's legacy continues. Proceeds from the concert will be used to endow a Michael Braz Music Scholarship Fund.

Braz has been a faculty member at Georgia Southern University for 24 years. Throughout his career, he has collaborated with numerous orchestras, music festivals and ensembles ranging from chamber music to jazz and rock. In addition to his international performances, he is also an accomplished composer. In his many years as a music educator, Braz has served as associate director of the Miami Choral Society, the conductor/musical director of the Boy Singers of Maine, and the founder/director of Tallahassee's Capitol Children's Chorus and the Statesboro Youth Chorale. He has held several leadership positions in state and national music associations and has also served as the president of the Statesboro Arts Council.

Braz is the recipient of several awards including the University's President's Medal, the Award for Excellence in Service, the Ruffin Cup faculty award from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Statesboro Herald.





Individuals interested in contributing to the Michael Braz Scholarship fund can do so by contacting CLASS Development Officer Sue Bunning at (912) 478-2435 or via email at sbunning@georgiasouthern.edu.

President Turns Conductor

During the Georgia Southern University Symphony's Spring Pops Concert at the Botanical Garden, President Brooks Keel entertained patrons by conducting *The Stars and Stripes*.



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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