

CLASS Notes

December 31, 2011

Georgia Southern University

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CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



December 31, 2011

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

Greetings!

On Dec. 16, 285 undergraduate and 28 graduate students from CLASS were awarded diplomas. Graduation ceremonies are a wonderful experience and it is always encouraging to watch as students reach one milestone in their lives and prepare to go on to careers or to further their education.

Another highlight of graduation is the commencement speaker, and this year was no exception. Judge Faye Sanders Martin, a senior judge for the Superior Courts of Georgia and great friend to the College, spoke to the fall Class of 2011 and encouraged the graduates to rekindle the American Dream by asking themselves, "Why not me?"

Judge Martin outlined her life for the audience, beginning as the youngest of 11 children in the small town of Stilson, Georgia. She went on to attend what was then Georgia Southern Teachers College before graduating from the Woodrow Wilson College of Law in Atlanta where she later was awarded an honorary Juris Doctor degree.

As she sought to become a lawyer, and later the first female attorney in Bulloch County, the first woman appointed to the Georgia Superior Court bench and the first female chief superior court judge in the state -- all during a time when women were not altogether welcome in the legal profession -- Martin said to herself, "Why not me? I can do it."

She did do all that she set out to do and encouraged the 2011 graduates to do the same by establishing in themselves a dedication to the truth and striving to become men and women of integrity.

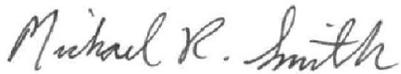
Judge Martin has done much to ensure the success of Georgia Southern students by endowing and creating both the Judge Faye Sanders Martin Fund for the Office of Pre-Law Advisement and the Judge Faye Sanders Martin Honors Program Scholarship.

As we look to the New Year, we leave 2011 with the echo of Judge Martin's words: Let us seek to be men and women of integrity with a dedication to the truth -- people who ask themselves, "Why not me?"

Finally, a friendly reminder to CLASS alumni: We still want to hear about your honors, awards, promotions, and successes. Please use the [online alumni survey](#) form to submit your news, or

send an email to class@georgiasouthern.edu. Your success is important to us!

Wishing you and yours a safe and prosperous new year,



Michael R. Smith, Dean

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

The history department continues to attract motivated and talented students to both its undergraduate- and graduate-level programs.

In June, graduate students Doug Walker and Aaron Dilday presented their investigation of the pedagogical use of board games in history education to the Conference on Education at Columbia University. Aaron is currently completing his degree at Georgia Southern and Doug is enrolled in Ph.D. program at Michigan State University. Six history graduate students won Jack N. and Addie B. Averitt Memorial Graduate Scholarships for the 2011-2012 Academic Year. Two of them, Shannon Browning Mullis and Kimberly Knipe, will be presenting their work at the National Phi Alpha Theta Conference in January. Kimberly also serves as Georgia Southern's Women's Rugby Coach and represented the U.S. internationally in rugby competitions this fall.

Our graduates go on to wide variety of pursuits. As just a few recent examples: Brett Brinson (2010) is enrolled at the Mercer University School of Law. Kimberley Vegliante (2010) will participate in the M.Ed. program at the College of William and Mary beginning in 2012. Upon graduating from GSU this past May, Kimberley was accepted into AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corp) and has been traveling around the Midwest with a team of 10 people doing community service. April Hughes (2007) teaches at Beach High School and has helped redesign the curriculum framework for Savannah-Chatham County's U.S. history course. Stephen Smith (2010) is currently working with Teach for America in rural Kentucky.

The department welcomed two new professors this fall: Eric Hall teaches African-American History, and the fall 2011 edition of the *Journal of African American History* contains his article on how the great tennis player Arthur Ashe became involved with Black Freedom Movement of the 1960s. Also joining the department is Jeffrey D. Burson, a historian of modern France and recently published his eighth article (the first while at Georgia Southern) in *Intellectual History Review* (December 2011).

Our active faculty has had a particularly notable international profile this year. In October, Professor John W. Steinberg presented his research at the British Library in London in a conference sponsored by the German Historical Society. His work addressed the process of war termination used by the Bolsheviks to orchestrate their nation's departure from World War I in early 1918. In September, Professor Robert Batchelor attended a colloquium organized around his rediscovery of the Selden Map of China at Oxford University's Bodleian Library. The map is a unique surviving document showing 17th Century Chinese trade routes and navigational techniques out of the port city of Quanzhou and stretching out across East Asia. Professor Laura Shelton gave a public lecture at The Colegio de Sonora of Hermosillo, Mexico, on her book *For Tranquility and Order: Family and Community on Mexico's Northern Frontier, 1800-1850* (University of Arizona Press, 2010).

At the end of the academic year, the history department will bid farewell to two retiring senior colleagues, Professor Alfred Young and Professor Vernon Egger. We wish them both well!

Department News

Foreign Languages

Dr. Dolores Rangel was interviewed in Monterrey, Mexico, at the 10th Annual Literary Colloquium, dedicated to Jorge Luis Borges. Watch the interview (in Spanish) [here](#).

Alumni News

Submitted news

Leigh Vazquez Slay '87 is a social insurance specialist and quality review analyst for the Social Security Administration. She resides in Moody, Ala.

Thomas Sollosi '96 is a lieutenant with the Long County Sheriff's Office. He resides in Glennville, Ga.

Kim Bivins Sconiers '96 is a victim advocate with the Cobb County District Attorney's Office. She resides in Kennesaw, Ga.

Dorothy F. Eckmann '97 is the education director for the Gertrude Herbert Institute of Art. She resides in North Augusta, S.C.

Clint Brown '04 is an observer controller with the United States Army. He resides in Fort Irwin, Calif.

Kenneth Beers '09 is a student naval aviator with the United States Marine Corps. He resides in Pensacola, Fla.

Cindy Kilgo '10 is a graduate assistant for research, grants and assessment at the National Resource Center for The First-Year Experience and Students in Transition at the University of South Carolina. She resides in Columbia, S.C.

Upcoming CLASS Events

Art

January 17 - February 26 - Center for Art & Theatre / Gallery Programming

Sound Art Exhibition

Daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Center for Art and Theatre Contemporary Gallery

January 17 - February 26

Sergei Tsvetkov

Daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Center for Art and Theatre University Gallery

Music

January 24

Georgia Southern Symphony Concerto Competition

6 p.m.

Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

Psychology

January 27

Fourth Friday Lecture Series

Dr. Todd Deal: From values clarification to emotional intelligence: Developing transitional leaders

11:15 a.m.

College of IT, room 1004

[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, social sciences, and Arts. Our goal is to provide outstanding 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 and purchase tickets to the auction [online](#). Contact Sue Bunning at sbunning@georgiasouthern.edu for more information.

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Get regular updates by following us [@GS_CLASS](#).

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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