

CLASS Notes

March 31, 2012

Georgia Southern University

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CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



March 31, 2012

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

Greetings!

I would like to thank everyone who came out March 9 and participated in Evening of the Arts. The event was a great success, and our guests were treated to exceptional entertainment by students in the art, music and communication arts departments. The College's premiere event is only going to get better each year, and it's never too early to reserve your spot for 2013. If you would like to be kept abreast on Evening of the Arts, please contact [Andrea Bennett](#).

With Evening of the Arts behind us, we now begin to focus our attention fully on the Eagle Nation on Parade public art project.

The online auction of the inaugural flock goes live at EagleNationOnParade.com on April 13. If you are interested in supporting Georgia Southern University and student scholarships in art and undergraduate research, please consider bidding on an eagle. Opening bids will start at \$3,500, and when you win your favorite eagle, we will install it at your location of choice to become a permanent piece of public art and a testament to the spirit of the Eagle Nation. Even if you aren't prepared to make a bid this time around, visit the site, donate to the project, and follow the auction. It will be fascinating to see which local business or individual ends up with an eagle at the auction's close on May 4.

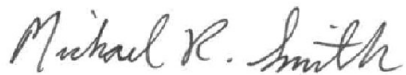
Eagle Nation on Parade is a long-term commitment between the campus and the community. Though it will take time for the entire flock of 50 eagles to find their roosts, the public art project will continue to support scholarships and quality of life in the community for years to come. There will eventually be something for everyone depicted on the eagles and an eagle at many locations around town.

We're very excited about the Eagle Nation on Parade project and welcome your feedback. Please send questions or comments to class@georgiasouthern.edu.

Also in April we will welcome world renowned paleoanthropologist Dr. Don Johanson, who discovered the "Lucy" skeleton in the 1970s, to campus. Dr. Johanson will present a free [lecture](#) on April 3 at the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall and all are welcome to attend.

Finally, a friendly reminder to CLASS alumni: We 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!

Until next time,



Michael R. Smith, Dean

Department of Communication Arts

Plan to visit campus in 2014 for the debut of a showcase facility for Communication Arts. That's the projected date for moving the Department into a renovated Sanford Hall (off Sweetheart Circle). Meetings with architects and construction management will begin soon, and, with a little re-imagining, the hope is that we'll be able to bring together facilities – such as the broadcast studio – to the same building as classrooms and offices. In the meantime, the Department's faculty and students stay as busy as ever....

Communication Studies

Five students will present their competitively reviewed research papers at the T. Clevinger Undergraduate Honors Conference as part of the Southern States Communication Association's annual conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Multimedia Communication & Journalism

Under the direction of Prof. Tyson Davis and Dr. Susan De Bonis, students have continued to serve as videographers and editors of the basketball and baseball coaches' shows.

Student work will also be aired on Channel 99 in the series "Healthy Mexican Cooking," initiated by the Advanced Field Video Production course taught by Prof. Davis. The program was developed and produced by Dr. Becky Kennerly through the support of a faculty service grant. To see the student and faculty work, click [here](#).

Local practitioners and alumni Mehmet Caglayan and David Thompson, and award-winning photojournalist Scott Bryant have all been teaching classes this semester.

Student Skyler Henry is now completing a highly competitive internship with Ryan Seacrest Productions in California.

Public Relations

The Georgia Southern chapter of the Public Relations Student Society of America was selected, for the second year, as one of 10 chapters nationally to host a regional conference on March 31. The conference has been supported by alumni guest speakers Kathryn Cochran Potter, the senior vice president of communication for the American Hotel and Lodging Association in Washington D.C.; Mackenzie Whalen Anderson, of the Georgia Aquarium; Jenny-Rebecca Schmitt, of Cloud Spark; and Megan Piper White, of the Savannah Convention and Visitors Bureau. For more information, visit yareyouinpr.com.

Theatre

Students completed their production of *Barefoot in the Park* at The Averitt Center and Mical Whitaker, professor emeritus, has returned to campus to teach African-American Theatre and to direct August Wilson's *Joe Turner's Come and Gone*, April 11-18. As part of the latter production, Executive Producer (NCIS, Jag and many others) and Emmy Award winner Charles Floyd Johnson will be visiting campus to conduct a Master Class and meet students.

Student Austin Bolay, a senior theatre and Spanish major, won the Region IV Student Dramaturgy award through the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival competitions. He was recognized with a regional fellowship and residency at the National Festival at the Kennedy Center in April. Also recognized were Zoe Campbell for stage management and Prof. Lisa Abbott, who received two faculty awards for distinction in directing.

Stay up-to-date about ongoing productions through the theatre and performance program's [Facebook page](#).

Other Departmental News

The Department will host its annual awards banquet Thursday, April 19. The event will feature Distinguished Alumni Speaker Pratt Farmer, a co-founder of campus radio station WVGS. Please click [here](#) for more information or email awardsbanquetcommittee@gmail.com.



Alumni and co-founder of WVGS Pratt Farmer (center) talks with students Skyler Henry (left) and Drew Cheshire during a recent tour of the radio station.

Regional and local professionals joined Career Services and the Department of Communication Arts for a Networking Afternoon. Please contact [Dr. Pam Bourland-Davis](#) if you would like to be included in future events.

The Department also hosted external reviewers who complimented the programs, faculty and students and offered suggestions for moving ahead with converged journalism program plans.

Department News

Communication Arts

Prof. Brian Graves' article "Between 'Preservation' and 'Progress': A Cultural History of Gullah Land Ownership and Commercial Development on James Island, S.C." was published in *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South*.

Prof. Curtis Woody announced that he will leave the Department on July 1 to take on the position of Director of Corporate Higher Education and Workforce Development in Georgia Southern's Division of Continuing Education.

Prof. Kent Murray and his students presented a YouTube showcase at the Zach S. Henderson Library on March 20.

Music

The Georgia Southern Jazz Band performed with Jon Faddis, a renowned American jazz trumpet player, March 9 at the Averitt Center for the Arts.

Dr. Allen Henderson presented "Choral Directors are from Mars and Voice Teachers are from Venus: 'Sing the Diaphragm' and other Misinstructions" at the Eastern Division Conference of the American Choral Directors Association in Providence, R.I. and presented a workshop entitled "Teaching Voice in the Social Media Age" for the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Association of Teachers of Singing. In January, Dr. Henderson led a panel discussion during NATS' Winter Workshop and the national conference of the National Opera Association, which met jointly in Memphis.

Drs. Allen Henderson and Kyle Hancock presented "The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA): Not Just for Diction Anymore" at the Georgia Music Educators Association in January.

Prof. Martin Gendelman's music was featured at the New Music Festival at the University of Nebraska at Kerney and his "Blending Forces" -- for clarinet, cello and marimba -- was performed at the 33rd Regional Southern Conference of the College Music Society at the University of South Florida.

The Elaris Duo, comprised of Drs. Steven and Larisa Elisha, performed and presented string pedagogy research "Discovering the Potential: Proper Cello/Double Bass Posture and the Comprehensive Benefits to String Playing" and "Initial Foundation and the Natural Approach in Violin/Viola Playing: Continuing the Traditions of the New Russian Violin School from Yampolsky to Yankelevich, Oistrakh, Panchomenko and Elisha" at the Georgia Music Educators Association conference in Savannah. The Elishas also began the first stage of a string project and outreach initiative at Bulloch Academy.

Dr. Carolyn J. Bryan, Dr. Pierce Dickens and the Southern Chorale, conducted by Dr. Shannon Jeffreys, presented James Whitbourn's "Son of God Mass" at First United Methodist Church.

The Georgia Southern Faculty Brass Quintet and Percussion Ensemble, comprised of Bill Schmid, trumpets; Stephanie Furry, French horn; Rick Mason, trombone; David Purser, tuba; and Matt Fallin, percussion, performed for students at Rome High School.

Prof. David Murray presented a masterclass for the Cherokee Music Teacher Association's piano students at Reinhardt University.

The Magellan String Quartet, formerly the resident quartet at Georgia Southern, performed "Landmarks of the String Quartet Repertoire" as part of the Covenant Concert Series in Augusta, Ga.

Five voice students placed during the annual auditions of the National Association of Teachers of Singing at Clayton State University in Morrow, Ga. Ashely Rivera, student of Dr. Arikka Gregory, took third place in division; Jillian Pashke, student of Dr. Gregory, took first place in division; Erreka Reed, student of Dr. Allen Henderson, took third place in division; Merritt McElroy, student of Dr. Henderson, took third place in division; and Joshua DeVane, student of Dr. Kyle Hancock, took first place in the overall category. Also competing were Summer LaFavor, student of Dr. Gregory; Robert Figueroa, David Hopkins and Nick Flott, students of Dr. Henderson; and Shawna Felkel and Brittany Coughlin, students of Sarah Hancock. In addition, Chas Wilson, a senior at Southeast Bulloch High School and a student of Dr. Henderson, took second place in his overall category. Dr. Karla Rocker and Melena Chasteen served as accompanists.

Sociology and Anthropology

Associate Professor Dr. Heidi Altman facilitated an audience conversation with Anne Makepeace via Skype on March 20. Makepeace is a writer, producer and director of award-winning independent films such as *We Still Live Here*, which audience members watched before the facilitated conversation.

Dr. Nathan Palmer was among five researchers who examined 286 children's books for the article "The Changing Human-Environment Dialogue in Children's Picture Books, 1950-2008," in *Sociological Inquiry*. The article has since been discussed in several news articles, blogs and magazines, including [USA Today](#).

Prof. April Schueths' article "Where Are My Rights?' Compromised Citizenship in Mixed Status Marriage" was accepted by the *Journal of Sociology and Social Welfare*.

Prof. Adrienne Cohen attended the annual meeting of the Association of Gerontology in Higher Education in Washington D.C. and participated in the panel "Engaging Students in the Taboo Topics of Death and Dying."

Student Jordon Tompkins, an anthropology major, won the Linda Rohrer Paige award for Women's Studies.

Political Science

The Masters of Public Administration program was ranked No. 121 in the nation by [US News](#).

Art

The Masters of Fine Arts program was ranked No. 181 in the nation by [US News](#).

Psychology

An article in [Times Higher Education](#) highlighted research by Dr. Janie Wilson, her former student Angela Legg and Legg's new collaborator at UC-Riverside. The study, "RateMyProfessors.com offers biased evaluations," published in the journal *Assessment and Evaluation in Higher Education*, found that

students who left the ratings were a self-selecting group who were more likely to be negative than positive. Wilson and Legg's research suggests that professors should encourage more students to use the site to eliminate this bias. Dr. Wilson was also selected as one of two recipients of the annual Center for Teaching Learning and Scholarship's Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award. The award recognizes the cumulative Scholarship of Teaching and Learning work of the recipients over the past three years.

Dr. Karen Naufel received tenure and was promoted to the position of Associate Professor.

Dr.s Rebecca Ryan, Karen Naufel and Janie Wilson presented at the Southeastern Conference on the Teaching of Psychology in Atlanta on Feb. 24 and 25. Dr. Ryan conducted a workshop on helping students become better writers and Dr.s Naufel and Wilson presented on teaching statistics and research methods. Dr. Wilson also participated in a panel discussion aimed at helping faculty members balance teaching, research and service.

Dr. Jeff Klibert took 10 students to the Southeastern Psychological Association meeting in New Orleans to present research. The students representing Georgia Southern included Nikki Barefoot, Danielle Vrbka, Erin Lawson, Lisa Watson-Johnson, Laura Miller, Stephanie Chastang, Stephanie Lohr, Tori Allen, Joseph Todd, Angela Plaatt and Natalie Benton.

Dr. Michael Neilsen, chair of the Department, and coauthors published "On the receiving end: Discrimination toward the non-religious in the U.S." in the *Journal of Contemporary Religion*.

Literature and Philosophy

Prof. Doug Thomson's "The Gothic Ballad" was included in the recently published *A New Companion to the Gothic*.

Dr. Joe Pellegrino presented "Losing Lawrence Lite: Placing Durrell's Women in Death of Empire Literature" on Feb. 27 at the Lawrence Durrell Panel Discussion, sponsored by the Zach S. Henderson Library. Dr. Pellegrino also helped to publish the first issue of *Exemplar: The Journal of South Asian Studies*. Dr. Pellegrino serves as managing editor of the publication, which touts a new model for academic publishing including a large format of full-color pages.

Prof. Candy Schille submitted "The King his Play: Charles II, Christina of Sweden and Dryden's *Secret Love, or the Maiden Queen*" for publication in *Restoration Journal*.

Dr. Olivia Carr Edenfield was asked to serve on the Editorial Advisory Board for the Reading Roberts Series, a project committed to publishing a wide range of scholarly and literary volumes on the work of Elizabeth Madox Roberts. Dr. Edenfield was also awarded the Fleur Cowles Endowment to visit the Ransom Center to complete archival work on her Andre Dubus biography.

Writing and Linguistics

Several students received recognition during the Roy F. Powell Awards for Creative Writing. Naima Ozier won in the poetry category for her poems "Sacred," "Sunbathing" and "(Venus, Horatius and Aeneas);" Kyera Swint was the runner-up. Michael Chestnut won the fiction category for his short story "Last Call," James Morton and Chad Sanderson were named runners-up. Kayla Whaley won the creative nonfiction category for "More than Green" and Jackson Sharpe was the runner-up. The winners receive \$100, a framed award certificate and recognition at the University's Honors Day on April 4. Their work will also be published in the campus literary arts magazine *Miscellany*.

Lecturer June Joyner received the Dorothy Golden Teaching Award at the Student Success in Writing Conference.

Assistant Prof. Emma Bolden presented a master class and reading with Allison Pelegrin at Auburn University as part of the Discovering the Southern Humanities Review weekend. Bolden's article "Five Ws and an H" was also accepted for publication in the July-September edition of the *Teaching Artist Journal*.

Associate Prof. Randall McClue and Dayna Goldstein, a temporary instructor, had their article "Different Paths to the Same Goal: A Response to Barbara Cambridge" accepted for the spring edition of *WPA: Writing Program Administration*.

Assistant Prof. Ellen Hendrix was nominated to be Georgia Southern's representative to the Faculty Advising Award for the Nation Academic Advising Association.

Assistant Prof. Laura Valeri was granted tenure and promoted to associate professor.

Seventeen writing majors attended a students-only session with author Stephen King during the Savannah Book Festival.

Dr. Lisa Costello was selected as a Silberman teaching fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. The USHMM selects only 20 fellows globally each year for this highly competitive honor.

Foreign Languages

Prof. David Seaman published "On the Road to Zanzibar: An Introduction for Anglophones" in *Ritorno alla Letteratura -- Saggi e testimonianze su Retour a Zanzibar* in Italy.

Prof. Jose Manuel's article "La ambigüedad interpretativa de El alcalde de Zalamea" was accepted by *Bulletin of the Comediantes*, one of the foremost journals in Spanish early modern theater.

Alumni News

Submitted news

Brandice James Hughes '06 is employed by SouthCoast Medical Group. She resides in Midway, Ga.

Earl Marsh '69 retired from LaGrange High School. He resides in LaGrange, Ga.

Upcoming CLASS Events

College-wide Events

April 3

Dr. Don Johanson

The founding director of the Institute of Human Origins at Arizona State University and discoverer of the 3.18 million-year-old hominid skeleton popularly known as "Lucy."

Presented in conjunction with the Department of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management

7 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

912-478-8597 [Register to attend](#)

April 13 - May 4

Eagle Nation on Parade online auction

Bid for one of three eagles in the inaugural flock of Eagle Nation on Parade, make a donation or follow the auction live. Winners' eagles will be installed at the location of their choice.

EagleNationOnParade.com

April 30

Great Minds Lecture Series

Prof. Julia Fischer: "Vote for Me! Politics in Ancient Roman Cameos"
7 p.m. The Averitt Center for the Arts

Art

Through April 6

Master of Fine Arts Candidate Exhibition

Features Amy Fix, painting; Kristin Kyzer, mixed media; Collin Smith, graphic design; Wesley Stewart, sculpture; Brent Williams, sculpture.

Artist Reception: April 6 at 5 p.m.

Center for Art and Theatre

April 13 - 22

Form & Content and Undergraduate Juried exhibitions

Artist Reception: April 13 at 5 p.m.

Center for Art and Theatre

April 14

ArtsFest 2012

Daylong celebration of art, music, dance and more celebrates 30 years

11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sweetheart Circle

April 26 - May 2

Graphic Design Portfolio Reveal

Artist Reception: April 27 at 5 p.m.

Center for Art and Theatre

Music

April 2

Guest Artist: Steven Mauk, saxophone

7 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

April 7

Faculty Recital: Dr. Richard Mercier, piano, and Dr. Larisa Elisha, violin

Duo will perform famous works by Alfred Schnittke, Sergei Prokoviev and Cesar Frank.

7:30 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

April 10

Endowed Honors Recital

7:30 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

April 12

Channel Noise VI

7:30 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

April 13

Georgia Southern Symphony: "A Fine Romance" Jewish Songwriters, 1910-1965

7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center

April 20
Jazz Band
7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center

April 21
Night of Wild Sax
7:30 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

April 24
University Singers and GSU Symphony
7:30 p.m. Pittman Park United Methodist Church

April 26
GSU Symphonic Wind Orchestra
7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center

April 28
Opera Scenes
7:30 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

April 29
Georgia Southern University Band
3 p.m. Performing Arts Center

April 29
GSU Symphony Pops Concert
6 p.m. Georgia Southern Botanical Gardens

Communication Arts

April 11 -18
Joe Turner's Come and Gone
Play by August Wilson examines African-Americans' search for cultural identity after the repression of American slavery.
7:30 p.m. Black Box Theatre at the Center for Art and Theatre

Literature and Philosophy

April 13 - 14
Undergraduate Conference on Social Responsibility
Featuring keynote speaker Dr. Drew Dalton
Education Building

Psychology

April 4
Spring Psi Chi Induction
5:30 p.m. Carroll Building

May 1

Spring Psychology Honors Banquet

Event includes student research, a catered dinner and keynote speaker [Dr. James Shepperd](#) of the University of Florida.

7 p.m. Nessmith-Lane Ballroom

Writing and Linguistics

April 4

Todd Boss

Award-winning poet's works have appeared in Poetry, The London Times, The New Yorker, The Georgia Review and Best American Poetry.

Q & A session 4 p.m. Newton 1108

Reading 7 p.m. IT Building 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. Contact Sue Bunning at sbunning@georgiasouthern.edu for more information.

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