CLASS Notes

April 30, 2012

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

Greetings!

Time is running out to bid on an eagle in the inaugural flock of the Eagle Nation on Parade public art project. The auction of the first flock of eagles closes May 4; make sure you don’t miss out on this opportunity to own one of the three inaugural eagles - "Stateboro Blues," "Farmer's Market," or "GATA." You can show your support for the project by making a bid for an eagle at EagleNationOnParade.com. We will install the eagles at the winning bidders' locations of choice where they will stand for many years as beautiful works of art and a testament to Georgia Southern pride.

The second flock of eagles will be available for purchase in fall 2013. We will soon issue another statewide call for artists and will be seeking commissioning and seed sponsors for the next round of sculptures. If you are interested in learning more about the project, please contact Sue Bunning.

May marks the close of the academic year here at Georgia Southern University. Please join us on May 11 and 12 as we say congratulations and good luck to the graduating classes of 2012, and please stop by and say hello if you are near Statesboro on your summer travels -- you might be surprised at some of the changes and advancements that have happened on our campus. We also have many exciting things planned for the year ahead, and we welcome your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to send us an email at any time.

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
Department of Foreign Languages

Thanks to our students, alumni, faculty, staff, and to the support of administrators and donors, the Department of Foreign Languages has seen wonderful growth and success over the past year.

Here are a few of the highlights:

Our perennially popular study abroad program to Segovia, Spain, continues to attract students, and we have established new summer programs in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; in Heredia, Costa Rica, and in Bordeaux, France. The students in these programs hone their language and culture skills through a combination of classroom and excursion experiences while living with a family from the host country. Our students return from the experience with vastly improved linguistic abilities and with a new appreciation for life and learning.

Under the direction of Dr. Jorge Suazo, the Department of Foreign Languages hosted the ninth annual Southeast Coastal Conference on Languages and Literatures on March 29 and 30. Dr. Emmanuel Mickel, a professor of French at Indiana University, Bloomington, presented "Don Juan, Faust, and the Judgment of Paris" at the keynote luncheon. More than 100 attendees from around the world participated in this event, which is developing into one of the premier venues for our Spanish MA students to present research and to exercise academic skills; it also provides an opportunity for our undergraduates to experience foreign language scholarship locally.

In an effort to prepare students to have functional use of their language skills, which is increasingly important in the global economy, the Department continually seeks out new and better ways to teach foreign languages and to evaluate student learning. To this end, the Department recently hosted a four-day intensive Oral Proficiency Tester Training workshop. Dr. Karen Breiner-Sanders, an emerita professor of Spanish from Georgetown University, served as the trainer for the workshop.

We are proud of the work that the Department has accomplished to expand the influence and success of our MA in Spanish program. Despite the tight economy, we have been able to double the number of graduate teaching assistantships that we offer to our master’s students. Under the direction of Dr. David Alley, the MA program has opened up to allow Spanish MA students to also pursue an MAT in Spanish, which prepares candidates to teach Spanish in Georgia public schools.

In order to enhance our graduate program further, the Department has added additional faculty to teach courses in Hispanic linguistics and foreign language teaching methodologies. Dr. Marcela Ruiz-Funes, who currently teaches at East Carolina University, and Angela Pinilla Herrera, who teaches at the University of Minnesota, where she is wrapping up her doctoral studies, have accepted offers and will join us in August. We look forward to their arrival and contributions to our department.

Our German and French programs have also seen recent growth. With the addition of Dr. Andrea Poling, Dr. Olga Amarie and Samia Bouallegue, we have been able to offer more sections of these languages, and, with more options, student interest has revived. Dr. Amarie will be leading our students’ trip to Bordeaux, France, this summer, and Dr. Poling will be taking students to Germany in summer 2013. In addition, under the direction of Nanette Eisenhart and with the help of Dr. Timothy Teeter, Latin continues to flourish and expand. Eisenhart’s efforts have initiated a train of students who are completing the Foreign Language minor in Latin!

Recently we have also seen increased interest in Arabic, Chinese, and Japanese, and plans are under way to strengthen our current efforts in all three languages. As the military, business
community, government and general public become increasingly globally focused, students see the advantages of learning languages, and the Department, the College, and the University administration are proceeding appropriately to meet the demand.

Julie Whiddon, one of two Georgia Southern interns in the French school system in Saumur, has an article in the magazine *Latinoture*, published by the Division of Humanities of Jacksonville University.

Our friends and alumni will be pleased to know that Dr. Michael McGrath, a Georgia Southern undergraduate alum himself, a respected teacher and scholar in our department, and a well-known figure in Statesboro, received notification of his promotion to full professor, effective Fall 2012. Likewise, Dr. José-Manuel Hidalgo, an energetic teacher whose scholarship has recently been accepted in some of the best journals in the fields of Renaissance and Medieval studies, received notification that tenure has been added to his early status as associate professor. Please join us in congratulating them, and please join us here in the Forest Drive Building, on the web, or by email whenever you can. You're always welcome.

Obrigado (that's "thank you" in Portuguese, which we hope to add soon).

**Department News**

**History**

Dr. William Allison was named Harold K. Johnson Visiting Chair in Military History at the Army War College for 2012-13 and was named the chair of the Society's Book Awards Committee.

Dr. Jeffrey Burson presented on the Revolutionary Era, 1750-1850 at the Consortium in Baton Rouge, La. He also was appointed a member of the Board of Directors of Consortium on the Revolutionary Era on behalf of Georgia Southern University and elected president of the Southwestern Historical Society.

Dr. Lisa Denmark delivered a presentation based on her research on Prohibition in Savannah to The Learning Center of Senior Citizens Inc.

The Department hosted a National History Day competition Feb. 15 in the Performing Arts Center. The event was made possible by a grant from the Georgia Humanities Council. Students from Metter High School, Groves High School, Swainsboro High School, Wheeler County High School, Hodges Academy, and Georgia Cyber Academy participated in the daylong event, which included competitions in the areas of website design, documentary film, performance, project and essay. Participants examined a number of historically-significant topics, ranging from The Reagan Revolution and Alice Paul to birth control and the first deaf college president. The presentations were judged by nine faculty and six graduate student representing a variety of fields and interests.

Prof. Juanjuan Peng and Prof. Paul Rodell presented during the statewide simulcast teachers' workshop "Teaching East Asia." The workshop was directed toward middle and high school teachers in Georgia. The workshop extended over six Saturdays from March 24 to April 28 with four broadcast/reception sites, including Georgia Southern University. Peng spoke about Chinese Economic History and Rodell spoke about Vietnamese Culture and History. Funding for the workshop was made possible by a grant from the Freeman Foundation and follow-up will include joint activities with the East Asian Studies Program of Columbia University.


Dr. Emerson McMullen recently presented two papers at the annual meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science at Kennesaw State College in Kennesaw, Ga.: "When the Moon Is in the Seventh House: Astrology and Astronomy in the Scientific Revolution: Astronomia filia astrologiae" and "Serendipity in Discoveries: Case Studies Of Two Alexanders, Bell and Fleming."
In March, Dr. Johnathan O'Neill presented "Property Rights and the American Founding" at the United States Supreme Court as part of a lecture series held by the Supreme Court Historical Society. He also presented "Originalism and the Rule of Law" at Notre Dame University.

Prof. Eric Hall presented "[R]ight now we need solidarity above all": The Political and Media Representations of Bob Foster and Arthur Ashe's South African Trips" at the 36th annual Conference of the National Council for Black Studies in Atlanta on March 9.

**Sociology and Anthropology**

Students and faculty, including Jonathan Harwell, Danielle Scudder, Jordan Tompkins, Emily Detmer, Jennifer Williams, Sarah Gross, Robert Shanaflet, Barbara Hendry and Heidi Altman, presented at the Southern Anthropological Society meetings in Birmingham, Ala.

Graduate student Amanda Morrow won second place for her research poster at the Georgia Southern Graduate Research Symposium.

Civil War Heritage Day at the Georgia Southern Museum on March 24 brought about 400 visitors through the Camp Lawton exhibit.

Anthropology majors Ben Donnan and James Zimmer-Dauphinee were accepted to the University of Arkansas's Anthropology program.

Joel Boyter, an instructor in the Department of Communication Arts, created a recruitment video for the master's in social science program that features many of our graduate students in archeology.

Adrienne Cohen presented "Combating the Challenges of Online and Face-to-face Environments in Teaching Undergraduate Students about Death and Dying" at the Association for Death Education and Counseling’s Annual Meeting in Atlanta.

Eric Silva presented a paper, co-authored with Robert Shanafelt, "Framing the Confederate Battle Flag in Georgia" at the annual conference of the Southern Sociological Society in New Orleans on March 23.

Nancy Malcom presented "Cheerleading, Title IX, and the Gender Politics of Sport" at the Southern Sociological Society in New Orleans.

**Music**

The Georgia Southern Chorale presented a concert of folk songs and spirituals Sunday, April 29 at 3 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Savannah and will present the same program Tuesday, May 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall on campus. The program features folk music of Latvia, Estonia, the Roma, Appalachia and the southern U.S. The spirituals include "Joshua Fit De Battle of Jericho," "My God Is So High," "I Can Tell The World" and "Ride On, King Jesus." The concert also features the student-led a cappella groups Southern Hospitality and Southern Pitches.

Next summer, Southern Chorale will participate in the International Anton Bruckner Choir Competition and Festival in Linz, Austria. This event draws choirs from all over the world to compete for a grand prize and share in the camaraderie of gala concerts at St. Florian, Linz Cathedral and the city of Linz. Following the competition, the group will continue on a tour of Italy that features a shared concert with the Corale Puccini in Lucca and informal concerts in Tarvisio, Assisi, Norcia and Spoleto and concludes with the Chorale singing during a service at the Vatican. The choir is raising money to fund the trip; donations will be accepted after the concerts. Anyone interested in sponsoring a student should contact Dr. Jeffreys at 912.478.2319.

Georgia Southern University joined thousands of musicians and hundreds of concert presenters across the country in celebrating National Chamber Music Month with its presentation of the Magnolia String Quartet, the "Bass"-ically Mellow Cello Fellowship, the GSU Sinfonietta, Dr. Steven Elisha and Prof. Rebecca Flaherty. The month-long series of performances, residencies, pre- and post-concert discussions and other chamber music events showcases ensemble music of all styles, including early, classical, jazz and world music. The ensembles will present two concerts for the event, the first was at...
Georgia Southern's Faculty Brass Quintet and Percussion ensemble was selected to perform at the Sigma Alpha Iota music sorority's 2012 National Convention in Atlanta on Aug 3. Performing groups nationwide are allowed to apply and audition for a limited number of performing slots at this convention. In addition to the musicale that it will perform, the Faculty Brass Quintet and Percussion ensemble also was chosen to open the convention with a concert composed by Dr. Michael Braz. The ensemble consists of Bill and Alice Schmid on trumpets, Stephanie Furry on horn, Rick Mason on trombone, David Purser on tuba and Matt Fallin on percussion. The Faculty Brass Quintet and Percussion ensemble was also invited to perform during the Guest Artist Series at Berry College in Rome, Ga. The recital was part of an exchange program that brought Dr. Adam Hays, a trumpet artist in residence at Berry College, to Georgia Southern last year.

Dr. Martin Gendelman's "Shapes of the Wind" was debuted by Karen Johnson and Jon Kilkenny at the Lange Recital Hall in Washington D.C. on April 13. Gendelman also conducted a masterclass for composition students at the Levine School of Music on April 14.

Dr. Linda Cionitti performed with the Georgia Southern Percussion Ensemble on April 18 and with the Southeast Bulloch High School Percussion Ensemble on April 26.

Graduate student Zachary Berkowitz presented his "Composition in Loops #1" at the Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics and Stanford University on April 12 as part of the Linux Audio Conference.

Student Richard Johnson was selected to perform this summer with the World Youth Wind Orchestra Project in Schladming, Austria.

Graduate student Nestor Jaenz guest-conducted the Honduras National Philharmonic on April 13, 20, 28 and 29.

The Georgia Southern Jazz Combo debuted March 1 and performed at various events throughout the month, including Rudy Giuliani's on-campus presentation, the Georgia Southern Botanical Garden's Circle Garden Party and the Phi Mu Alpha formal. It also performed for the Botanical Garden's Wine, Moonlight and Magnolias event on April 29 and several other concerts are planned for the future.

Writing and Linguistics
Dr. Lisa A. Costello, an assistant professor, was selected as one of 20 international teaching fellows to participate in The Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies' 2012 Curt C. and Else Silberman Seminar at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. on June 4-15. The seminar is designed for college and university faculty from all relevant disciplines who are teaching or preparing to teach the Holocaust or Holocaust-related courses. This year's seminar aims to deepen participants' understanding of the Holocaust through the perspective of gender. The seminar will explore and compare the points of convergence and divergence between male and female experiences in a variety of circumstances, including early persecution, refugee life, concentration camp life, life in hiding, separation and reunion of families and survival in the postwar era.
Prof. Emma Bolden's poem "Because We Agreed All Good Things Were Easy," was accepted for publication by *The Nassau Review*.

Student Chad Sanderson's short story Cold River was accepted for publication by *Pegasus* magazine.

Dr. Lori Amy's proposal for a Study Abroad program to the Balkans (Albania, Greece, Montenegro) was approved by the Georgia Southern University Honors Program. Depending on student interest, the courses for the program will start this summer.

The Department successfully completed its searches for new faculty: An assistant professor of creative writing, an assistant professor of technical and professional writing and four lecturers will all begin soon.

**Literature and Philosophy**
Dr. Nicole Karapanagiotis presented "Hindu Conceptions of the Diving" at the Statesboro Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.

Dr. Joe Pellegrino planned the South Asia Studies Conference, which was held in Claremont, Calif., in April.

Dr. Olivia Edenfield received the Fleur Cowles Endowment from the Ransom Center at the University of Texas: a $3,000 Fellowship in the Humanities to fund month-long research at the Ransom Center Viewing Room, part of the archives at the UT library. She will use the fellowship for study in summer 2013.

Dr. Caren Town delivered a CLASS Great Minds Lecture: "Dangerous Words: Censorship in Public Schools."

Dr. Doug Thomson's "The Gothic Ballad 1790-1805" was included in *The New Companion to the Gothic*.

**Psychology**
Dr. Bryant Smalley, of the Department of Psychology, and Dr. Jacob Warren, of the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, the co-executive directors of Georgia Southern University's *Rural Health Research Institute*, were awarded a $450,000 federal grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration to fund Project ADEPT (Applied Diabetes Education Program using Telehealth). Project ADEPT aims to establish and determine the effectiveness of a new telehealth network that connects a diabetes educator housed within the Rural Health Research Institute to four clinic locations of East Georgia Healthcare Center. In doing so, the project will help under-served diabetics in Candler, Emanuel, Tattnall, and Toombs counties learn how to better manage their condition.

**Communication Arts**
Several students had papers accepted at the Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference. Georgia Southern is among only six universities to have student papers accepted by the conference in the past five years.

**Political Science**
Undergraduate student Melanie Hart has been accepted to the National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates program. Melanie will be on of 10 students to participate in "Hands-on, Minds-on": Multidisciplinary Approaches to Understanding and Preventing Societal Violence. She will receive reimbursement for travel, housing, food, and an additional $4,500 for her work during the 10-week program at Virginia Tech this summer. Melanie will work on a project entitled "Bullying Prevention through Actively Caring," led by Dr. E. Scott Geller.

Georgia Southern University's Model United Nations delegation returned from the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City with numerous awards for position papers and having been named an outstanding delegation. This is the ninth time in 10 years that Georgia Southern has been recognized for outstanding paper writing and fourth time in the past five years that the University has been recognized as an outstanding delegation. The National Model United Nations Conference is the oldest
and most prestigious Model United Nations conference in the world. It is attended by more than 500 schools and more than 5,000 delegates from five continents. Georgia Southern has attended the conference for the past 41 consecutive years, making the University's program one of the longest standing of its kind in the country.

Art
Foundations Professor Elsie Taliaferro Hill's painting series "Pangaea" was featured in the Savannah Morning News. Hill also won second place in the inaugural Armstrong Atlantic National 2-D Competition and was included in "Flora & Fauna," a national juried exhibition at SUNY Geneseo. Hill also recently completed the official portrait of the Chief Justice of the Georgia Court of Appeals, and two of her graduate students, Janet Suarez and Scott Foxx, participated in the Georgia Southern College of Graduate Studies' Graduate Symposium; Foxx received a first-place award.

Photography Professor Jessica Hines was among 17 artists selected for "Open Now," the international show of the Photo Factory in Belfast, Ireland. Hines will be presenting the newest work from "My Brother's War": "Chapter 8: The Belongings" and "Chapter 9: A Love Story." Hines' work "Spirit Stories" was selected for the cover of Leif G.W. Persson's newest novel, Another Time, Another Place and her work is featured in the second edition of the textbook Light and Lens.

Foundations Professor Jessica Burke was juried into the Women's History Month exhibit "Where Do We Go From Here" at the Wise Man Gallery in Grant's Pass, Ore., and the 23rd National Drawing and Print Competitive Exhibition at the Gormley Gallery at Notre Dame of Maryland University. Burke also was featured in both solo and two-person exhibitions: "Image, Identity, Allegory: Portraits" by Jessica Burke and Gwenn Seemel at the Cannon Gallery Of Art at Western Oregon University, "Temporal Perceptions" at ArtsWest Playhouse and Gallery in Seattle, and "Better Than The Real Thing" at the Adirondack Lakes Center for the Arts in New York.

Ceramics Professor, Jane Pleak, had four of her students attend the National Council for the Education of Ceramic Art (NCECA) in Seattle, Washington. Honor Student Amy Bryan presented her research on rare earth glazes. All of the ceramic students are working on their spring service project that will be held at the Statesboro Starbucks located off of Northside Drive. They will be selling mugs, filled with Starbucks coffee. All proceeds will benefit the Statesboro Food Bank.

Two of Art History Professor Dr. Tiffanie Townsend's Art of Islam students had papers accepted by the Middle East Student Symposium at Georgia College and State University. Megan Neely discussed the use and representation of light in Islamic Art, and Lindsay DeBlasio addressed issues of iconophobia and iconoclasm in many Islamic cultures at the April 14 event.

Graphic Design Professor Leigh Thomson won Best in Show for her work on the MePower campaign at the ADDYs.

Painting Professor Patricia Walker was selected for for the International Artists' Residency/Seminar at the Hungarian Multicultural Center in Budapest, Hungary.

Alumni News
Submitted news
Eric Jay Strauss '85 has been a full-time metal sculptor and artist for 27 years. His art is displayed in homes and in private and corporate collections internationally. He resides in Ellijay, Ga.

Upcoming CLASS Events
**College and University Events**
Through May 4
Eagle Nation on Parade online auction
*EagleNationOnParade.com*

May 11
Graduate Student Commencement Ceremony
1 to 3 p.m.; Hanner Fieldhouse

May 12
Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony
9 to 11 a.m.; Allen E. Paulson Stadium

**Art**
Through May 2
Graphic Design Portfolio Reveal
9 a.m. to 5 p.m; Center for Art & Theatre; 912-GSU-ARTS

May 3 - 5
Club Mud Exhibition and Sale
More than 100 students exhibit and sell their ceramics, porcelain, stoneware, jewelry, small metals, prints and handmade books work.
Thursday and Friday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.;
Ceramics Building; 912-GSU-ARTS

May 4 - 31
Marc Mitchell: Recent Work
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Legends Gallery at the Averitt Center for the Arts
Reception: 5 to 7 p.m. May 4

May 5
Jane Pleak Retirement Reception
A reception to bid farewell to retiring ceramics professor Jane Pleak
6 to 9 p.m.; Center for Art & Theatre

May 7 - 11
Bachelor of Fine Arts Senior Exhibition
Features graduating seniors' art
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Center for Art & Theatre; 912-GSU-ARTS
Reception: 5 to 7 p.m. May 11

**Music**
May 1
Southern Chorale
7:30 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall; 912-478-5396

May 2
National Chamber Music Month Celebration
Featuring the Magnolia String Quartet, the "Bass"-ically Mellow Cello Fellowship, the GSU Sinfonietta, Dr. Steven Elisha and Prof. Rebecca Flaherty 7:30 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall; 912-478-5396

May 4
GSU Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony
7:30 p.m.; Performing Arts Center; 912-478-5396

**Communication Arts**
May 1 - 2
Fifth annual 10 Minute Play Festival
Eight new 10-minute plays written and performed by students.
7:30 p.m.; Black Box Theatre at the Center for Art & Theatre

May 1 - 31
Camp Lawton series will air at 7 p.m., 12:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. The series is 30-minutes-long and has multiple installments that will run weekly.
Channel 99

**Psychology**
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

May 10
Psychology Community Outreach
Department will participate in the Statesboro Mall Resource Fair
3 to 6 p.m.; Statesboro Mall; 912-478-5531

**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.