

CLASS Notes

July 31, 2012

Georgia Southern University

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CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



July 31, 2012

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

Greetings!

J.B. Priestly wrote, "I have always been delighted at the prospect of a new day, a fresh try, one more start, with perhaps a bit of magic waiting somewhere behind the morning."

With that same sense of awe and wonder, those of us at the University approach the beginning of a new year ready -- and even eager -- to begin once again the process of engaging with our students and colleagues in the pursuit of learning. Within the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, this new academic year brings many changes: a new interim dean, new colleagues, a new department and some programs, new students; but for those for whom the new year brings a continuation, we welcome the prospect of a "fresh try," waiting for the magic that continues to be sparked by academic discovery and discourse.

We invite you, our friends and alumni, to take a moment to discover a few of the exciting happenings in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences; in turn, please share the news and events (honors, awards, promotions, and successes) that have added "a bit of magic" to your life by filling out the [online alumni survey](#) form or sending an email to class@georgiasouthern.edu.

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curtis E. Ricker".

Curtis E. Ricker, interim dean

Department of Literature and Philosophy

The Department of Literature and Philosophy enjoyed a positive and productive spring semester before sending its students and faculty on new adventures in research, teaching, and the job market.

On April 24, the Department hosted a graduating seniors' banquet at the historic Beaver House Restaurant in downtown Statesboro. English, philosophy, and religious studies majors and minors shared memories of their best times at Georgia Southern and enjoyed fellowship with each other and their professors. There were many laughs and a few tears. Every honoree received a "going-away" gift: a book! (What else?)

The Department was doubly honored again this year by having two professors nominated for Professor of the Year. Drs. Olivia Edenfield and Hemchand Gossai were finalists for the second year in a row, and Gossai was chosen the University's Professor of the Year. Congratulations to him and to Dr. Edenfield!

During the 2011-12 academic year, our M.A. and B.A. programs in English both underwent comprehensive program reviews. These extensive and detailed reviews occur once every five years. Both programs passed with flying colors, and the Department is proud that the M. A. Program was rated as "exceeds expectations." Thanks to Dr. Caren Town for doing most of the writing on the M.A. Program Review and to Dr. Marc Cyr for most of the work on the B.A. program review.

While several of our faculty members published during the academic year, the work of Dr. Tim Whelan stands out. Pickering and Chatto published the second part of his monumental work, *Nonconformist Women Writers, 1720-1840*. Reviewing volumes 5-8, Professor Christine L. Krueger declared that they "represent an impressive contribution to women's studies, literary criticism, and the history of religion in Britain." Commenting on the archival detective work Dr. Whelan did in locating un-catalogued materials at the Bodleian Library at Oxford, Krueger commented, "I would recommend Whelan's 'note' [on his source materials in volume five] to any graduate course in archival research, for it helps us appreciate the work that stands behind these impeccable volumes."

Under the direction of Dr. Danielle Layne, our Philosophy program sponsored its first undergraduate Philosophy Conference in April. The conference theme, "Social Responsibility," elicited paper proposals from around the country. The most outstanding of those papers were published as Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Georgia Southern University Undergraduate Philosophy Journal*. A second conference and journal are planned for spring 2013.

Among our graduating English majors, some are going on to Master's degree programs, mostly in English. Among them are Jennifer Dellerba, University of New York at New Paltz; Kelly Corallo, University of Alabama; Megan Morris, University of Tennessee; Tony Eberhardt, University of West Florida; Amanda Gibson, East Tennessee State University; Amanda Kinchen, Georgia Southern (in History); Brandi Moody, Georgia Southern; and Erin Martin, Georgia Southern.

Some of our recent M.A. students are going on to further graduate work. Michael Harris will begin a Master of Library Science degree at the University of Michigan in the fall. Rachel Cason will start doctoral work at the University of Mississippi.

Department faculty members are teaching abroad this summer. Professor Dustin Anderson is teaching in Paris; Dr. Brad Edwards in Berlin; Dr. Hemchand Gossai in London; and Professor Bill Eaton in Waterford, Ireland, where Professor Howard Keeley is again helping direct the program.

Department News

Criminal Justice and Criminology

The new Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology was officially instituted July 1. Dr. Adam Bossler, an associate professor, will serve as interim department chair for the year. The Department's faculty consists of Professor Sharon Tracy, Associate Professor Bekki Davis, Assistant Professor Bryan Miller, Assistant Professor Laurie Gould, Assistant Professor John Stogner, and Assistant Professor Laura Agnich. Vice Provost Dr. Michael Smith and Associate Dean of CLASS Dr. Christine Ludowise are also members of the Department.

The Department, which was formerly a program within the Department of Political Science, is excited to continue its mission to educate future leaders in the criminal justice field and to prepare students for law and graduate school.

Psychology

The Department welcomed Janet Walker as its new advisor for freshman and sophomore psychology majors.

Dr. Brad Sturz was quoted in *Science Now* for his expertise on virtual environments.

Dr. Janie Wilson and former students Shaunna Wilson and Angela Legg published "Building Rapport in the Classroom and Student Outcomes" in *Evidence-Based Teaching for Higher Education, 2012*.

Dr. Bryant Smalley is now a reviewer for the National Institutes of Health.

Alumnus Bob Jones (B.S.) was accepted for graduate study at Kyungpook National University in Korea.

Students Cache Archer, Toneshia England, and Chari Chin-Young participated in the 2012 McNair Scholars program.

The Department also officially moved into renovated Brannen Hall this summer.

Art

Photography Professor Jessica Hines' work was selected from more than 5,500 entries for the Kolga Tbilisi Photo Exhibit that opened June 7 in the European state of Georgia. In the exhibition, Hines received the Best Experimental Photography award for "My Brother's War." Hines' work was also featured in several other exhibitions, including at Luise Ross Gallery in New York City and the Belfast Photography Festival in Belfast, Northern Ireland. For the Belfast festival, Hines was selected as one of 17 photographers worldwide to be featured. In June, Hines traveled to the LOOK3 Festival of the Photograph in Charlottesville, VA.

Julia Fischer, a lecturer of art history, has two forthcoming journal publications for history research: "Everything Is Not As It Seems: Reconstructing Felice Beato's Japan" and "Roman Relief Sculpture and Large Imperial Cameos: Iconographic Borrowing in the Early Empire." Fischer is also constructing an art history website that she will use in lieu of a textbook for Art in Life and Art History I classes.

The Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art welcomed new Ceramics Professor Jeff Schmunki. This summer, Schmunki traveled to Iceland for a residency at the Hafnarborg Centre. During the residency, Schmunki also travelled to Rome, where he gave a lecture at the University of Alabama's Romes Center. On July 20, Art League Houston opened a show based on Schmunki's horticultural work. Entitled "genALRator," the show features a horticultural sound installation and intervention, which explores themes of ecological awareness and food justice.

Jessica Burke, the director of foundations, is displaying her work at Art Brownie 2012: An International Miniature Art Project at INDEXG in Toronto, Canada. The unique exhibition displays works on a 2.5-inch square canvas.

Communication Arts

Dr. Pam Bourland-Davis, the chair of the Department, taught Public Speaking and Feature Writing during the summer session in Montepulciano, Italy. Students in her classes were from Georgia Southern, Kennesaw State, and Georgia College and State University.

Writing and Linguistics

Dr. Thomas Klein was interviewed by *Time Out Chicago* as an expert on Gullah/Geechee language for the magazine's story on the Smithsonian traveling exhibit *Word, Shout, Song: Lorenzo Dow Turner Connecting Communities Through Language*, which is currently at Chicago's DuSable Museum of African American History. Klein has also been called upon as pro bono consultant for the Darien and Coastal Georgia edition of the exhibit *New Harmonies: Celebrating American Roots Music*, which is conceived and sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution in collaboration with the Georgia Humanities Council. The exhibit runs through Sept. 1 in the Historic Darien Hotel in Darien, GA, and is accompanied by several special events. Klein compiled and edited historic Gullah/Geechee songs from Sapelo Island, GA, for display at the exhibit and for archiving with the Ida B. Hilton Public Library in Darien.

Upcoming CLASS Events

Communication Arts

Aug. 24-25

Wham, Bam, Play Slam

A 24-hour playwriting event. Playwrights, actors and directors meet Friday night; playwrights bring scripts and rehearsals start Saturday at 2 p.m. The audience arrives and performances begin Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Black Box Theatre at the Center for Art and Theatre

Writing and Linguistics

Sept. 24

A reading by Eleanor Henderson, the author of *Ten Thousand Saints*.

Music

Sept. 7

Air Force Clarinet Quartet

2:30 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

Sept. 13

Faculty Showcase

7:30 p.m. Performing Arts Center

Sept. 16

Faculty Recital: Stephanie Furry, horn, and Richard Mercier, piano

3 p.m. Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

Sept. 18

Faculty Recital: Kyle Hancock, baritone, and Karla Rocker, piano

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

Sept. 22

Faculty Recital: Steven Elisha, cello, and David Murray, piano

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

Sept. 25

Georgia Southern Symphony

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

Sept. 27

Jazz Combos

7:30 p.m. 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, 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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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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