

## CLASS Notes

June 20, 2012

Georgia Southern University

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# CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES



June 30, 2012

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

Greetings!

July 1 marks the end of my tenure as the dean of the College of Liberal Arts of Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University. It has been my great honor and privilege to serve in this role over the past three years. As I look back on my time with you, I can see that we have accomplished much within the College and have made significant progress toward achieving the goals set forth in our [strategic agenda](#).

We sought improved facilities to foster student learning and enhance research, creativity and faculty productivity and were rewarded with a renovated Brannen Hall for the Department of Psychology and a renovated Sanford Hall for the Department of Communication Arts. We expanded our efforts to articulate and emphasize the value and relevance of a liberal arts education by hiring a full-time College marketing and communications director; holding off-campus events near alumni and friends of the College, such as a very successful reception in Atlanta in May; reinvigorating the alumni magazine in the form of *CLASS Connect*, which will be delivered again in September; and creating a CLASS Success Series to bring successful alumni to campus to talk about their liberal arts education. The first Success Series lecture will be in the fall, so please contact [Andrea Bennett](#) if you would like more information about the series.

These successes only scratch the surface of all of the wonderful things that have been and are still happening in CLASS, and it has been my privilege to be a part of them and to share them with you. I am pleased to note that I won't be far -- I will be serving the University as Vice Provost -- and am even more pleased to let you know that I am leaving you in very capable hands. Dr. Curtis Ricker will serve as interim dean of the College for the next year.

Dr. Ricker holds a B.A. and an M.A. in English, both from Brigham Young University, and a D.A. in English Studies from Illinois State University. He began his career at Georgia Southern in 1984 as an instructor of Developmental Studies and English. In 1989 Dr. Ricker was appointed chair of the Department of Developmental Studies (which later became the Department of Learning Support), a position he held until 1998 when he became associate dean of CLASS. During his time as associate dean, he has also served as interim chair of both the Department of Political Science and the Department of Music.

Dr. Ricker continues activity in his disciplinary professional organizations and has served as chair

of the Professional Job Opportunities Committee for the National Association for Developmental Education since 1994. At the state level, he is a member of the executive board of the University System of Georgia Academic Advisory Committee on English and serves as the chair of its Regents' Test subcommittee. Dr. Ricker's years at Georgia Southern have included a variety of committee services, including terms on the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Grievance Committee. He has served as advisor to various student organizations and the Student Government Association.



Please join me in welcoming Dr. Ricker to his new post as interim dean of CLASS and in thanking him for taking on this position of great responsibility and service to the College. He has been a wonderful friend and advisor to me during my time here, and I know he will serve you well.

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](mailto:class@georgiasouthern.edu). Your success is important to us!

With warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Michael R. Smith, Dean

## Department of Psychology

The Psychology Department is moving in July to a newly remodeled Brannen Hall. The facility will comprise all faculty and departmental offices, research laboratories, and student support services. These include computer lab for students enrolled in Research Methods and other classes, a full-time advisor serving freshmen and sophomores, and a Peer Mentoring Center, where students receive assistance with Psychological Statistics, Research Methods and other courses. The Psychology Clinic, the Regents Center for Learning Disorders, and student courses will not change locations. Another important benefit of this move is that we will have, for the first time, laboratory space for all faculty who are involved in research, and for the many students who work with them. We are looking forward to this new facility.

Other transitions in the Psychology Department involve people. Dr. Will McIntosh has retired and will pursue his writing career, and Dr. Jackson Rainer has accepted an offer to become chair of the Department of Psychology and Counseling at Valdosta State University. With those changes, Dr. Bryant Smalley will serve as interim director of clinical training and Dr. Jeff Klibert will serve as associate director of the Psy.D. program; Dr. Janie Wilson will serve as director of the M.S. program. Dr. Ty Boyer, who studies child cognition, will join us in the fall. He comes to us from Indiana University, where he is finishing postdoctoral studies. We also will have two visiting faculty join us for the coming year. Finally, Ms. Janet Walker is moving from her role as secretary to that of undergraduate advisor, serving freshmen and sophomore students.

In other faculty news, Dr. Janie Wilson was selected to participate as a reader in the College Board's annual Advanced Placement Reading in Psychology. She led a team of several professors reading and evaluating essays for the AP exam. And Dr. Jeff Klibert passed his oral licensure exam, and is now licensed for practice in the state of Georgia.

News from our degree programs features growth in both undergraduate and graduate programs. We now have 800 undergraduate psychology majors, many of whom have participated in research. The Psychology Honors program also is growing, and Dr. James Shepperd, the David Thomas Endowed Professor of Psychology at the University of Florida, was the keynote speaker

at the honors research symposium held in May. It was an exciting evening of psychological research.

Graduate programs also are seeing success: Many of our students have presented research at professional conferences this year. The M.S. program has seen record enrollment, and the Psy.D. program now has students who have completed each year of the program.

Joy Losee, Samuel Polite, and Brandon Smith (B.S.) were accepted for graduate study at Georgia Southern, and Tyler Rosier (B.S., M.S.) was accepted for doctoral study at Georgia School of Professional Psychology.

Come and visit us when we move to Brannen Hall!

## Department News

### Art

Jessica Burke, the director of foundations, currently has her work on display in the Summer National Juried Exhibition at Marin Museum of Contemporary Art. The exhibition runs through July 15 and was juried by Lucinda Barnes, the chief curator and director of programs and collections at Berkeley Art Museum. Burke's solo exhibition, *Better Than the Real Thing*, will be on display at the Adirondack Center for the Arts in Blue Mountain Lake, N.Y., through July 21.

Graphic Design Professor Ed Rushton's work was featured in the 2012 Hammond Digital Art exhibition at the Hammond Regional Arts Center in Hammond, La., from March 5 to April 1. Rush's work was also featured at the 33rd annual Paper in Particular Nation Exhibition at Columbia College in Columbia, Mo., and he was a visiting artist at Furman College during its 24-hour Graphic Design Intensive on April 18.

### Writing and Linguistics

Lecturer June Joyner received word that the Georgia Southern Writing Project was awarded a new competitively reviewed grant from the National Writing Project to build upon teacher leadership. To that end, GSWP is offering a three-day Common Core Academy in July, during which teachers will examine and respond to the newly adopted Common Core Standards. The leadership portion of the grant will be implemented when the teachers return to their schools to help others transition to a new way of teaching. For more information about the academy, contact Department Chair [Dr. Phyllis Dallas](#).

Associate Professor Laura Valeri's manuscript "Safe in Your Head" received an honorable mention from Leapfrog Press. The manuscript was among 445 submitted to, and one of only 13 to receive mention or award at, the competition.

Assistant Professor Emma Bolden's poems "The Other Woman" and "Somewhere She's Holding in Silence" have been accepted for publication in *Court Green*. Another of Bolden's poems, "Litany," was one of 10 finalists for Yemassee's Pocatigo Poetry Contest, judged by Kate Daniels.

Drs. Randall McClure, Michael Pemberton and Janice Walker organized the 2012 International Writing Across the Curriculum Conference, held June 7-9 in Savannah, Ga. The conference attracted nearly 450 attendees who represented disciplines including writing studies, computer sciences, public health, math, library science and engineering. Several faculty from Writing and Linguistics -- Loretta Brandon, Dayna Goldstein, Rachel Schwartz and Susan Smith -- assisted with the conference.

Two majors have been accepted to graduate school: Heath Harrington will pursue his M.F.A. in creative writing at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn., and Luke Eastwood has been accepted to the Professional Master's Program in the Department of Human-Centered Design and Engineering at the University of Washington in Seattle.

### History

Lynda Lamarre, a recent M.A. graduate, was offered a full-time teaching position at Georgia Military College, where she has been teaching as an adjunct for the past year.

Several History faculty members are engaged in teaching Georgia Southern students in various summer abroad programs: John Steinberg in Germany and Poland, Cathy Skidmore-Hess in South Africa and Botswana, Laura Shelton in Spain and Robert Batchelor in Ireland.

### Foreign Languages

Olga Amarie published "Au-delà des idées reçues dans la nouvelle du vingt-et-unième siècle," in the journal *Mosaïques*.

David Seaman's translation from French to English of *Isidore Isou: Hypergraphic Novels 1950-1984* was published.

Jose Manuel Hidalgo's article, "La onomástica histórica en 'La camisa de Margarita,'" was accepted for publication in *Romance Notes*.

Kari Waldhauer, a recent graduate from the M.A. in Spanish program, was hired by the prestigious Esther F. Garrison School of Visual and Performing Arts in Savannah, Ga., as a Spanish teacher.

Thirty Georgia Southern students returned, with their instructor and program director Dr. Toby Graves, from a successful and memorable six-week study abroad trip in Segovia, Spain.

### Literature and Philosophy

Drs. Olivia Edenfield and Hemchand Gossai were finalists for the Georgia Southern University Professor of the Year award. Gossai won the award in 2011.

Mary Villeponteaux served as a plenary speaker at the international conference A Brand of Fictional Magic: Reading *Harry Potter* as Literature at St. Andrews University in Scotland.

Dr. Olivia Edenfield's chapter, "A Different Kind of Love Story: Cormac McCarthy's *The Road*," came out in Blackwell's *Companion to the American Novel*.

Bill Eaton's review of Michael Hunter's *Robert Boyle: Between God and Science* will be included in an upcoming special edition of the journal *Metascience*.

Dr. Timothy Whelan continues to be a prolific scholar with recent publications including "Informal Writings and Literary History: The Case of a Provincial Women's Literary Circle, 1799-1814;" "West Country Nonconformist Women Writers, 1720-1840" and "George Dyer and Dissenting Culture, 1777-1796."

Philosophy students Michael Rose and David Cho completed *Sleeper*, a short film in which a man is given the ability to control time and learns about the value of human existence.

### Communication Arts

"Inside Georgia Southern Football with Jeff Monken," a cable show produced by Multimedia Communications in a partnership with Georgia Southern Athletics, won the 2012 National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Southeast Emmy for Outstanding Achievement in Television Student Production Excellence on June 9 at the Atlanta Grand Hyatt Ballroom. The weekly show was hosted by Terry Harvin and Head Football Coach Jeff Monken. Students involved in the production include AnnNell Byne, Drew Chesire, Patrick Griffin, Skyler Henry, Tim Hunt, Nelson Miller, Chris Ocampo, Jim O'Donnell, Ian Reese, Sienna Sewell and Jake Taylor.

### Sociology and Anthropology

CLASS Research Scholar Dr. Larry J. Griffin and Department Chair Dr. Peggy G. Hargis published *The New Encyclopedia of Southern Culture: Vol. 20: Social Class* with the University of North Carolina Press.

Associate Professor of Anthropology Robert Shanafelt published *Building Bridges in Anthropology: Understanding, Acting, Teaching and Theorizing* with Newfound Press.

Dr. Sue Moore and the Camp Lawton Archaeological Project won a national Leadership in History Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History.

Assistant Professor of Sociology Adrienne Cohen received a Scholarship in Teaching and Learning Fellowship.

Alumna Leah Kozee has been accepted to the M.A./Ph.D. program at Georgia State University and alumnus Ryan Babula recently graduated from the Savannah College of Art and Design with an M.A. in Cinema Studies.

### Music

Trumpeters Dr. Bill and Alice Schmid attended the International Trumpet Guild Conference where two of Dr. Schmid's arrangements were performed by the U.S. Army Brass Quintet. Members of the quintet expressed interest in collaborating with Schmid in the future and the arrangements received great response from other trumpet professors and players in attendance. Schmid is apparently the first non-Army composer/arranger to write for the Army Quintet. In addition, five of Schmid's brass arrangements (three for brass quintet and two for brass quartet) will be published by Really Good Music LLC, and he has several other brass quintet works under consideration by Eighth Note Publications.

## Alumni News

### *Submitted news*

**Monica Phillips Edenfield '09** is employed by MedEx Associates. She resides in Martinez, Ga.

**Tabitha Chapman '07** completed her master's degree in justice, law and society from American University in Washington D.C. in 2009. Since then, she's been working with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's US-VISIT program in immigration. She will soon begin attending Washburn University Law School in Topeka, Kan. She resides in Arlington, Va.

**Libba Smith '89** welcomed her 22nd grandchild. "This baby girl's mother is Ashley Chao Fine, her grandparents are Sally and Dennis Chao and her uncle and aunt are Ryan and Lisa Chao," Smith writes. "All of these relatives of hers, including me, Great-Grandma Libba Smith, are Georgia Southern alums." She resides in Staesboro.

## 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](mailto:sbunning@georgiasouthern.edu) for more information.

**Facebook** Stay connected by liking our [CLASS Facebook page](#)

**Twitter** Get regular updates by following [@GS\\_CLASS](#)

**Google+** Add [CLASS @ Georgia Southern University](#) to your circles.

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