

## CLASS Notes

January 31, 2014

Georgia Southern University

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

Greetings!

I hope that this newsletter finds you safe, warm, and free of the winter weather that plagued so many over the past few weeks. Aside from threats of sleet and snow, CLASS has begun the Spring semester with a storm of activity (pardon the pun).

The [Online Bachelor of General Studies](#) program, renowned for the flexibility it allows new, returning, and military students, was again recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top online bachelor degrees. The Online BGS is among the fastest growing degree programs in the College, and I am pleased to highlight it as this month's featured area of study.

Faculty members remain as busy as ever, among them Drs. [Robert Batchelor](#) and [Tim Whelan](#). Batchelor has expanded his discovery of the ancient Selden Map of Chinese trade routes to a new book about how trade with the Chinese enabled London to become a global city. Whelan continues his collaborative project of transcribing and annotating the complete letters and diary of Henry Crabb Robinson, recently publishing Robinson's letters to Mary Wordsworth and other writers in William Wordsworth's circle. These are no small feats, and I congratulate Batchelor, Whelan, and all of our faculty members and students highlighted below on their recent publications, presentations, and awards.

The College has also been busy, preparing for the upcoming [CLASS Connect](#) alumni magazine, which has been reformatted to present every department in the College and highlights, including Assistant Professor of Ceramics [Jeff Schmuki](#)'s PlantBots project. To make sure that you do not miss out on the redesigned [CLASS Connect](#), please send your updated contact information to [class@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:class@georgiasouthern.edu).

CLASS will also present its annual gala celebrating students in art, music, and theatre, [Evening of the Arts](#), on February 28. This year's gala is a dessert reception featuring a full play production, two concerts, gallery exhibitions, and the awarding of the Betty Foy Sanders Patrons of the Art award to Fred and Dinah Gretsch. The ticket price has been reduced from \$75, its cost in 2012 and 2013, to only \$25 - quite a bargain! Seating is limited for Evening of the Arts, so, if you would like to attend, please contact Andrea Bennett.

Mr. Gretsch has expanded his partnership with the University to sponsor the upcoming Georgia Southern Museum exhibition about The Beatles, [These Youngsters from Liverpool](#). The exhibit opens on February 4 and includes a reception at 4 p.m. with Gretsch, Dr. Richard Flynn of the Department of Literature & Philosophy, and Chris Mitchell of Pladd Dot Music.

Let us know how your year is going! Please drop us a line at [class@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:class@georgiasouthern.edu) or fill out the online alumni survey to update us on your life events (honors, awards, promotions, and successes).

Warmest regards,



Curtis E. Ricker, dean

## Bachelor of General Studies (online)

Georgia Southern University's Online Bachelor of General Studies program is beginning its third year. The program has grown from less than 100 students in Spring 2011 to more than 400 taking classes in Spring 2014.

The program was originally designed for returning students who were looking to complete their bachelor's degree but is now welcoming more new students as a result of the program's flexibility. The Online BGS is a terrific option for former Georgia Southern students looking to return and finish their degree, transfer students who want a degree from an accredited University, military students (active duty or their spouses/family members) who move to new locations often and need to be able to access their studies from anywhere, and nontraditional students who have families and/or work full-time and need the flexibility of taking courses fully online.

Students often inquire as to whether or not the degree is "the same" as other Georgia Southern degrees and are elated to learn that the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges accreditation includes the Online BGS. The same rigorous hiring standards apply for both on-campus and online teaching faculty. The program is one of the fastest growing in the College.

Flexibility is one of the main features of the program: The ability to do classwork from any location, at any time, on a multitude of devices, and on a variety of platforms is a major plus for our students. Given the complexity of students' schedules and family situations, the flexibility in course-load is also a major advantage. Students take from three to 18 or more hours during a term. Online BGS students may even take a term off if family or work schedules demand it, and pick up where they left off the next term.

Online students have access to the same level of service that on-campus students do, via telephone, email, and online video chat. Academic Success services, Writing Center help, Registrar's services and Academic Advising can all be done remotely. Online BGS students can complete admissions, take classes, and graduate without ever coming to Statesboro.

The Online BGS program is one of the programs at Georgia Southern that was recognized in *U.S. News and World Report's Best Online Programs* for the third consecutive year. Learn more about Online BGS at [class.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/bgs/online](http://class.GeorgiaSouthern.edu/bgs/online).

## Department News

### History

The Department's Public History program, in partnership with several on- and off-campus entities will present a *Visual History Summer Institute* at the University on May 12-23. Historians, professors, and doctoral candidates are invited to [apply by February 1](#).

Dr. Robert Batchelor published *London: The Selden Map and the Making of a Global City* with The University of Chicago Press. In 2008, (while researching maps in Oxford University's Bodleian Library) Batchelor discovered centuries-old Chinese trade routes that had been hidden for nearly 400 years. His [research](#) led him to write the book, which provides a closer look at London and its rise to a global city in the 16th and 17th centuries.

### Psychology

Graduate students Jeremy Gay, Kayla Lelux-LaBarge, Kara Johnson, and Anna Leggett presented "Helping Supervisors Identify and Support Distressed Employees," an introductory training-course for managers, supervisors, and/or administrators about depression, on January 9.

Dr. Janie Wilson coedited "Doing the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning: Measuring Systematic Changes in Teaching and Improvements in Learning" for *New Directions for Teaching and Learning*. The edited book offers teacher-scholars a resource for conducting and publishing research on teaching and learning. Wilson also copublished "Instructor touch enhanced college students' evaluations" in *Social Psychology of Education*. The article examined the use of instrumental touch's effect on motivation, attitudes toward the instructor and lecture, and quiz grades.

### Communication Arts

The Theatre & Performance program has selected six student-written plays for its annual 10-Minute Play Festival. "A Terrible Nice Night" by Matthew Dean, "Hand Me Downs" and "I Don't Share My Toys" by Dani McGee, "Pushing Daisies" by Armond Snowden, "True Love Revisited" by Parrish Turner, and "Onions" by Nathaniel Robinson will be workshopped during the Spring semester and presented as a concert-reading for the public on April 24.

The Department re-launched its Leadership, Experience in Communication, Academics, and Professionalism (L.E.A.P.) certification program for public relations majors on January 30.

Dr. Rebecca Kennerly co-published "Service-learning, Intercultural Communication, and Video Production Praxis: Developing a Sustainable Program of Community Activism with/in a Latino/a Migrant Community" in *Teaching Communication Activism: Communication Education for Social Justice*.

Michelle Groover, lecturer, published "Twilight and Twitter: An Ethnographic Study" in *The Twilight Saga: Exploring the Global Phenomenon*.

### Art

Bachelor of Fine Art student Lois Harvey's solo exhibition is on display at Middle Georgia State College's Cochran campus January 27-February 1. Harvey gave an artist talk at the college on January 27.

Professor Don Armel and Rebekah Thompson and Timothy Davis, graphic communications management students, presented their research on the effectiveness of using a laser engraver to make flexographic plates at the Georgia Undergraduate Research Conference in Columbus.

Professor of Ceramics Jeff Schmuki's exhibition *Foodture: PlantBot Genetics* is on display from January 31 through April 11 at Wayne State University in Michigan. PlatBot Genetics is a venture between Schmuki and colleague Wendy DesChene that couple interdisciplinary art practices with scientific knowledge of the environmental and social costs of bioengineered crops.

Graphic Design Professor Santanu Majumdar presented "The State of Design Education: Twenty-First Century Design Education" at the eighth International Conference on Design Principles and Practices - Design as Collective Intelligence on January 16-18 in Vancouver, Canada. Majumdar is also part of Statesboro's South Main Revitalization Teams, which aims to restore culture to the southern area of downtown Statesboro.

Artists Sam Messer and Sam Snead visited the University in January in conjunction with their exhibitions, *Hanging Correspondence* and *Means of Production*. While on campus, the artists visited students' studios and presented lectures. The exhibitions are on display through February 21.

### Literature & Philosophy

Dr. Tim Whelan published *The Letters of Henry Crabb Robinson and Mary Wordsworth, Wordsworth Library, Grasmere*, a book-length transcription - with notes and appendices - of previously unpublished letters between Robinson and Wordsworth (1770-1859), the wife of Romantic poet William Wordsworth. Whelan also published "Nonconformity and Culture, 1650-1850" and "Daniel Defoe" in *Companion to Nonconformity*, the first encyclopedic study of British religious nonconformity.

Dr. Caren Town has completed her book, tentatively titled *Dangerous Words: Censorship and Young Adult Fiction*, and sent the manuscript to McFarland Press, where it has been accepted for publication. Town also delivered a paper on Jean Craighead George's *Julie of the Wolves* at the International Conference for Arts and Sciences in Hawaii.

Dr. Richard Flynn was a respondent on the Randall Jarrell at One Hundred panel at the Modern Language Association convention.

Dr. Nicole Karapanagiotis' paper "New Media Rituals in Hinduism: Exploring Some Textual Models" was accepted by the South Asia Studies Association's annual conference, which will be April 11-13 in Salt Lake City.

### Sociology & Anthropology

The archaeology team's work at the Cluskey Embankment Stores in downtown Savannah was featured by the *Savannah Morning News*.

Professor April Schueths' project with two colleagues from the College of Public Health, A Qualitative Examination of the Transition Experiences of Rural Sickle Cell Disease Patients, received a \$10,000 seed grant from the University's Rural Health Research Institute. The team will start collecting data this semester.

### Writing & Linguistics

Christopher Smith's new flash-fiction piece, "Color Coded for Your Protection and Well-Being," appears in *Paragraph Line*.

Dr. Lori Amy was in Albania on an American Councils for the International Exchange of Scholars Advanced Research Fellowship from August until January. While there, Amy conducted focus groups with cohorts aged 22-32 and 33-43 about the effects of trauma and identity in Albania under Soviet Communism and gave an interview in conjunction with the premiere of a documentary on the subject at the Tirana International Film Festival.

Dr. Tim Giles' poem "Sick Child" was requested for re-publication in *The Well-Versed Patient*.

Peggy Lindsey, lecturer, presented "Changing Northern Irish Identity Markers in the Fiction of Colin Bateman" and organized the linguistics session at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association conference.

Professor Eric Nelson's poems "Better Angels" and "Our Wars" were published by *The Sun* and the *McNeese Review*, and the rights to his poem "Inside Weather," which originally appeared in *Apple Valley Review*, were acquired by Accelerated Education for use in its curriculum.

Michele Rozga, visiting assistant professor, was a semifinalist for the University of Wisconsin's 2013 Brittingham and Felix Pollack poetry prizes for her manuscript "What Need for That Throat."

Lecturer Sarah Domet's "The Man Who Painted the Night" appeared in *Hobart*.

Janet Dale was a runner-up in the inaugural Dog-Ear Poetry Contest by *The Found Poetry Review* for "That Night." Her flash-fiction piece "Ab initio" was featured in *Germ Magazine*.

Assistant Professor Emma Bolden's second full-length poetry/nonfiction collection, "Medi(t)ations," was accepted by Noctuary Press. One of Bolden's essays was a runner-up for *Harpur Palate's* Creative Nonfiction prize, and her poem "Of Blue Morning" was accepted by *Rhino*. Two of Bolden's poems were published in *Noon*, and two more were accepted by *Printer's Devil Review*.

Dr. Thomas Kiein's article "Typology of Creole Phonology: Phoneme Inventories and Syllable Templates" was reprinted in *Languages and Linguistic Typology*.

Professor Jared Sexton was awarded the Inkslinger Prize for Excellence in Fiction by *Buffalo Almanack* for his story "The Hook and the Haymaker," nominated for a Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net by *Split Lip* for his story "Behold, I Come As A Thief," and had his stories "Punch-for-Punch" and "The Moment Before the Earth was Destroyed" accepted for publication by *PANK* and *Cheap Pop*.

Assistant Professor Christian Olson's poems "Punk Rock Poem Grows Up" and "Somebody's Grandmother" appeared in *Rhino* and *Atticus Review*.

### Political Science

Honors student James Farmer has been selected to serve as a junior public diplomacy officer with the U.S. State Department in Barcelona, Spain, this year.

## Alumni News

**Tiffany Jackson** has been accepted to graduate school at Valdosta State University.

**Alessandra Oviatt** recently accepted a job as a graphic artist with Benson Integrated Marketing Solutions.

**Shannon Thrift** is a graphic designer with Jay Geier's Scheduling Institute.

**Kristina Brennan Hall** has accepted a position to teach art at Dalton State College.

**Sean Erik Todd** is a graphic designer with Jenkins Creative in Atlanta.

**Ashley Clement** is a project manager at Jenkins Creative in Atlanta.

**Jason Petteys** was promoted from a customer service manager to director of project management with RockTenn Retail Solutions.

**Andrew Jacobs** has accepted a position with JDA, a full-service advertising, strategy, media, and branding company.

**Clay Caldwell** has accepted a position with JDA, a full-service advertising, strategy, media, and branding company.

**Carly Hayes** has accepted a position with JDA, a full-service advertising, strategy, media, and branding company.

**Col. Marsha A. Langlois** is retiring from the U.S. Army Medical Command after 30 years of service.

**Rebekah Faulk** appeared on ABC's *The Taste*. Faulk has appeared several times on Statesboro Cooks, and her food blog is ranked No. 2 in Georgia by Urban Spoon.

**Julie Kozee ('03)** has been invited to speak at the [Conference on College Composition and Communication's annual convention](#) in March and will graduate from Norfolk State University with an MA in English this summer.

## Events

### GREAT MINDS

February 3

**LECTURE [Dr. Sarah McCarroll, Department of Communication Arts: "Mr. and Mrs. MacBeth Go to London: Irving, Terry, and the Victorian Body"](#)**

Noon; RJ's Seafood & Steaks; 912.478.8597

### EVENING OF THE ARTS

February 28

**GALA** Dessert and champagne reception is the annual celebration of students in art, music, and theatre programs at Georgia Southern University, featuring desserts by Azure Rountree Gourmet & Sweets, Honey Catering, Cotton Patch Bakery, Sugar Magnolia Bakery, South & Vine Public House, and Simply Sweet. Floral arrangements provided by The Flowergirl Fresh Flowers.

7 p.m.; Center for Art & Theatre; \$25; 912.478.8597

### MUSIC

February 3

**CONCERT**

**[On The Verge: Carlos Rodriguez, piano](#)**

7:30 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall; 912.478.5369

February 11

**CONCERT [Faculty recital, Kyle Hancock & Karla Rocker](#)**

7:30 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall; 912.478.5369

February 16

**CONCERT [Symphonic Wind Ensemble](#)**

3 p.m.; Performing Arts Center; 912.478.5396

February 18

**CONCERT [Symphony Concerto](#)**

7:30 p.m.; Performing Arts Center; 912.478.5396

February 23

**CONCERT [Jazz Band](#)**

3 p.m.; Performing Arts Center; 912.478.5396

February 24

**CONCERT [On the Verge: Alejandro Ruty](#)**

7:30 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall; 912.478.5396

February 25

**CONCERT [Wind Symphony](#)**

7:30 p.m.; Performing Arts Center; 912.478.5396

## **HISTORY**

February 4

**RECEPTION [These Youngsters from Liverpool: The Beatles, Ed Sullivan, and Gretsch Guitars](#)**

Exhibition celebrating The Beatles' influence on American culture is presented thanks to a generous collaboration with Gretsch Guitars and runs through February 14.

4 p.m.; Georgia Southern Museum; 912.478.5444

## **WRITING & LINGUISTICS**

February 6

**READING [Andrew Hudgins, poet](#)**

7:30 p.m.; Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology, Room 1005; 912.478.0739

## **WOMEN'S & GENDER STUDIES**

February 12 & 13

**PRODUCTION [The Vagina Monologues](#)**

7 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall; \$5 students, \$10 general admission; 912.478.0625

## **LITERATURE & PHILOSOPHY**

FEBRUARY 13

**READING [Marilyn Nelson, poet](#)**

7:30 p.m.; Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering & Information Technology, Room 1004; 912.478.5471

## **ART**

Through February 21

**EXHIBITION**

**[Bob Snead: Means of Production](#)**

University Gallery, Center for Art & Theatre; 912.GSU.ARTS



**EXHIBITION [Hanging Correspondence: Sam Messer and Jonathan Safran Foer](#)**  
Contemporary Gallery, Center for Art & Theatre; 912.GSU.ARTS

## **COMMUNICATION ARTS**

February 26 - March 5

### **THEATRE [Fuddy Meers](#)**

Dark comedy by David Lindsay-Abaire is directed by Nicholas Newell and tells the story of amnesiac Claire who is taken on a twisted odyssey of kidnapping, foul-mouthed puppets, stolen lives, and bacon when a mysterious masked man arrives to take her away. Parental guidance suggested.

7:30 p.m., 2 p.m. Sunday matinee; Black Box Theatre, Center for Art & Theatre; \$5 students, \$10 general admission; 912.478.5379

**[{See full list of CLASS events}](#)**

## Give to CLASS

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences aspires to be recognized nationally 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](#).



College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences \* Georgia Southern University  
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