

CLASS Notes

July 31, 2013

Georgia Southern University

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CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



July 31, 2013

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

Greetings!

In our increasingly interconnected world and global economy, the opportunity to study abroad is a particularly valuable experience, one that the College is proud to be able to offer students in several disciplines. So many of our departments - from art to foreign languages to political science to literature and philosophy - make it possible for Georgia Southern students to expand their understanding of the world through living for a short time in a foreign country. This summer alone, CLASS students have gone to India, Ireland, Spain, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Italy, and Southeast Asia. Students routinely describe their study abroad experiences as "eye-opening" and "life-changing" - the ultimate compliments for educational programs.

As the summer draws to a close and we welcome many of our students back from their study abroad experiences and vacations, we are excited for the year ahead. Each Fall always brings with it the promise of new opportunities, new challenges, and new rewards. There will, of course, be many of the same types of events - the College's Great Minds Lecture Series kicks off again in September, for example - but even those items with a familiar format will still offer new information to new audiences. We hope that you will join us for new events and the return of old favorites whenever you have the chance.

Did you benefit from study abroad while at Georgia Southern, or have you travelled this summer? We'd love to hear from you: Drop us a line at class@georgiasouthern.edu or fill out the online alumni survey, and in your response please also update us on your life events (honors, awards, promotions, and successes).

With warmest regards,

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

Curtis E. Ricker, interim dean

Political Science



During the 2012-2013 year, the Department of Political Science experienced a great deal of growth and success. Twenty students, led by Interim Chair Dr. Barry Balleck, competed at the National Model United Nations conference in New York City in March. The delegation won Outstanding Delegation in addition to five Outstanding Position Papers and five Georgia Southern partnerships won Individual Delegate Awards. This was the fifth time in six years that Georgia Southern has received the Outstanding Delegation Award.

Several students from the Department also participated in internship opportunities with government departments and legislators in Washington, D.C., through the Eagles in D.C. program. These students were able to learn in greater detail the inner workings of the American government as they assisted in the construction of legislation and witnessed the process of laws, from their initial inception through the hearing process, debate, final passage, and signature by the president. All the while, our students were learning about the active nature of politics and the manner in which the elected officials in our country serve their constituents.

Domestic politics was not the only realm of active learning, however. Dr. Krista Wiegand guided several students from the University Honors Program to Southeast Asia where they studied the politics and social conventions of citizens in Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. While in Southeast Asia, the students began teaching English to children in Bali. Dr. Richard Pacelle directed a group of Georgia Southern students on a study abroad experience to Madrid - the capital of Spain - during the summer. In addition to taking classes in American government and art and politics, students saw political, cultural, and historical sites in and around Madrid while also taking a trip to the beautiful Mediterranean city of Barcelona, the site of the 1992 Summer Olympic Games. Several other students from the Department participated in other study abroad experiences in Latin America, including Costa Rica and Brazil.

Dr. Debra Sabia assisted students from around campus in developing *The Southern Praxi*, an

alternative news publication focusing on serious policy analysis. The publication was made possible through a grant from Campus Progress, a national nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting student activists and journalists.

The Georgia Southern chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the national political science honors society headed by Professor Kevin Cook, inducted nine new members in May. As always, other faculty members of the Political Science Department continued their commitment to teaching and their contributions to the profession through the publication of peer-reviewed books, journal articles, and participation in professional conferences around the world.

On a sad note, Dr. Lois Duke-Whitaker retired from Georgia Southern University at the end of May. Duke-Whitaker, who came to Georgia Southern as chair of the political science department in 1996, is a nationally recognized expert in Southern politics and gender studies. Because of her unique contributions to the profession and to Georgia Southern, Duke-Whitaker was granted Emeritae status by the University. Though we will miss Duke-Whitaker, we are excited for the new opportunities which lie ahead of her in the future.

The Department of Political Science produces some of the best and brightest graduates on this campus. Our Spring 2013 graduates are looking forward to bright futures. Several are currently furthering their educations through law school and graduate degree programs around the country and the world; others have found employment in both the public and private sector. Still others are volunteering their time in Latin America and Africa through the Peace Corps.

As former Senator Paul Wellstone said, "Politics is what we dare to imagine." Students and graduates of the Political Science program at Georgia Southern University dare to imagine that the world they live in can, and will, be better place as a result of their participation in it.

At the Front of the CLASS

My name is Austin Bennett, and I am a political science major and Spanish minor at Georgia Southern University. I have just completed my first year at Georgia Southern and look forward to my remaining years and the exciting opportunities ahead of me.

In high school, social studies was always my favorite subject. I took every class I could, from human geography to world history to American government. My interest and commitment paid off my junior year of high school when I was a state finalist for the Governor's Honors Program in the Social Sciences category. The interview process was a terrific experience, and I consider myself very fortunate to have been able to participate in the selection process and to have met motivated and like-minded students.

During the fall of my senior year I began to tour and apply to various colleges. I first visited Georgia Southern in October 2011 and was immediately impressed by the friendliness of the administration and students, how beautiful the campus was, and the overall positive atmosphere. I was accepted into the Honors Program and invited to the Southern Scholars Showcase in December. After this second visit I was convinced that Georgia Southern was the perfect university for me. After the Showcase, I was awarded the Bo and Gloria Ginn Scholarship and a housing award. The Bo and Gloria Ginn Scholarship is intended specifically for political science majors and helped me pay for books, student fees, and other expenses. I am thankful for these awards, as they allowed me to pay for nearly all of my first-year expenses.

Georgia Southern has provided me with several opportunities to get involved outside of the classroom. I am a member of Phi Eta Sigma, an academic honor society, and I was invited to join Sigma Alpha Lambda, a national leadership and honors organization. I have been active in intramural sports, and I am an Honors Ambassador. As a freshman, I participated in my first Experiential Learning Project with the Averitt Center for the Arts. I worked with a group to provide recommendations for a new ceramics center they were planning to open. This was the first time I had ever had this kind of classroom and community interaction, and it was a valuable experience to conduct research and provide suggestions in a professional environment. All of these organizations

and activities have allowed me to connect with fellow students and administration in addition to providing me with opportunities to grow and develop as a student, and I am excited for what is ahead. I am eager to begin my second Experiential Learning Project as an Honors Ambassador and start my major courses. I plan to study abroad in Spain during my junior year in order to gain a more global perspective to complement my major.

I have built solid relationships with fellow students and faculty at Georgia Southern. With their support, I know I will be able to accomplish my academic goals and the ambitions I have for beyond the classroom.

Department News

Foreign Languages

Professor Angela Pinilla-Herrera was [profiled](#) by *Connect Statesboro*.

Art

During the Spring semester, Master of Fine Arts candidates began working with international photographers through a partnership new media Professor Derek Larson created with Mart Photography students of Sheffield Hallam University in England. The first show of the collaborative effort opened on July 9 at the Mezzanine Gallery Workstation. A second exhibition will take place during the Fall semester at SHU. After the final England exhibition closes, the artwork will travel to Statesboro, where it will go on display in Spring 2014. Exhibiting artists from the Department include Anthony Faris, Claudia Furlow, Scott Foxx, Mike Lesh, Ruth Patel, Max Rebel, Kim Riner, Virginia Russell and Janet Suarez.

Sculpture Professor Marc Moulton [created a piece of artwork](#) for the Ogeechee Technical College campus. Displayed near the college's Health Science Building-South, "Entwined" is a 14-foot stainless steel sculpture that was inspired by the ancient symbol for medicine and healthcare of a snake curled around the Rod of Asclepius. To modernize the piece and reference today's digital age, Moulton said that he also included stylized references to the letters OTC.

New Media Professor Derek Larson hosted an [artist lecture](#) on July 25 at the Hudgens Center in Atlanta as a part of the Hudgens Prize Exhibition. During July, Larson also had artwork at Zane Bennett Contemporary, Santa Fe, N.M., and taught aboard through the partnership with Sheffield Hallam University.

Adjunct Professor Kim Riner was [profiled](#) in *Connect Statesboro*.

Santanu Majumdar, graphic design professor, presented at several conferences during the spring semester including UCDA Design Education Summit, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Critical Thinking Conference, East Georgia College, Statesboro; [The State of Design Education](#), DDEI, India; and the Teaching and Learning Expo at Georgia Southern.

Jewelry Professor Christina Lemon is featured in the August issue of [Lapidary Journal: Jewelry Artists](#). Photos of her work on the brooch created for former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright are featured in addition to a step-by-step tutorial on creating earrings.

History

Craig Roell was interviewed about his [latest book, *Matamoros and the Texas Revolution*](#), on Texas Public Radio by news director and award-winning journalist David Martin Davies on July 18.

Professor Kathleen Comerford received acceptance for five sessions for this coming Renaissance Society of America Conference (New York, March 2014), on topics including cartography, representative government, religious nonconformity, and professional development for new faculty. She will give a paper in a sixth session on the early years of the Jesuit order. She is a Discipline Representative for History (term expiring March 2014).

Psychology

Chari Chin-Young was among three students to be awarded Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarships to study abroad. Chin-Young, a McNair Scholar, will take a sociology course in France where she will focus on reading French theorists Jean-Francois Lyotard, Jean Baudrillard and Jacques Lacan.

Writing and Linguistics

Student Brittneay Maclin was profiled by *Connect Statesboro*.

Faculty members Michelle Crummey and Margaret Sullivan have spent the summer as teacher leaders in creating a course template - one that will be available to all teachers of First-Year Writing at Georgia Southern - that uses the flipped-classroom approach to foster student engagement. They have developed a series of video lessons that moves the lecture out of the classroom, thus allowing more class time for face-to-face interaction with students. A cutting-edge approach to teaching, the flipped classroom not only creates a collaborative learning environment but also promotes higher order thinking. Because students are evaluating, synthesizing, and applying course concepts, they become active, engaged learners.

More than 400 participants from all over the country and the world, a record attendance, participated in the Council of Writing Program Administrators annual gathering hosted by the Department at the Coastal Georgia Center from July 14-21. Led by Janice Walker and Michael Pemberton, the event brought together campus leaders in collaboration, scholarship, and service to improve instruction, impact, and vision.

Visiting Assistant Professor Jennifer Lambeth continues to serve as a district representative for the Savannah-Chatham County School Board, a position to which she was elected in January.

Sociology and Anthropology

Students and faculty members are using cellphone chargers and a veterinarian's X-ray machine to clean and preserve the more than 600 artifacts found at Camp Lawton in Millen, Ga., while continuing to unearth more relics from the Civil War POW prison.

Music

The Georgia Southern Trombone Ensemble was interviewed by *The Statesboro Herald*.

Maestro Adrian Gnam has had an active summer teaching conducting courses at the International Conductors Workshop and Competition at Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga. Alumnus Nestor Jaenz, who graduated in May with a Master of Music degree in oboe and opera conducting, was among the program's participants.

Communication Arts

Student Sruti George was profiled by *Connect Statesboro*.

Professor Lisa Abbott was profiled by *Connect Statesboro*.

Dr. Susan DeBonis was profiled by *Connect Statesboro*.

Institute for Public and Nonprofit Studies

Dr. Cary Christian received a grant to fund his research on best practices in the use of data analytics in consumption tax compliance enforcement.

Alumni News

Zane Thomas ('97) recently accepted the Sequoyah Award at the Oklahoma Press Association Annual Convention and Awards Banquet, on behalf of his staff. Thomas is the news editor of the Wagoner Tribune in Wagoner, Okla.

Justin Knight ('12) began working immediately after graduation for the National Print Group as a project manager at the company's lithography facility in Chattanooga, Tenn. In this position, he oversees one of the National Print Group's largest national accounts.

Events

Art

August 19 - September 27

RENA LEINBERGER: ZERO PANORAMA

Survey of mixed-media installations, photographs, and videos utilize subtle shifts in material as a vehicle for exploring notions of landscape, artifice, and spectacle.

Artist lecture: September 16 at 5 p.m. in the Visual Arts Building, Room 2071, with a reception immediately after in the Center for Art & Theatre.

Contemporary Gallery at the Center for Art & Theatre; 912.GSU.ARTS

August 19 - September 27

ELISABETH CONDON: THE SEVEN SEAS

Exhibition explores a teenager's first encounter with the Los Angeles nightclub culture of the late 1970s and early '80s.

Artist lecture: September 5 at 5 p.m. in the Visual Arts Building, Room 2071, with a reception immediately after in the Center for Art & Theatre.

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

Writing & Linguistics

August 23-24

GEORGIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INFORMATION LITERACY

Conference is presented in conjunction with the Zach S. Henderson Library and the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology.

Hyatt Regency Hotel in Savannah

Full Calendar of 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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