

CLASS Notes

June 30, 2014

Georgia Southern University

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CLASS

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

notes



June 30, 2014

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

Greetings!

Though we are deep in the summer, several faculty members and students of CLASS are still working hard and receiving top honors and recognition. If you're interested in catching up on the last year, check out the [College's highlights of 2013](#).

Congratulations to [Drs. Michael Neilsen and Janie Wilson](#), who have been elected presidents of Divisions 36 and 2 of the American Psychological Association. Congratulations, too, to writing major [Sarah Fonesca](#), winner of the 2014 Brittany "Ally" Harbuck Scholarship; [Camp Lawton](#), which was recently featured on *Georgia's Hidden Treasures*; [Dr. Laura Stambaugh](#), the newly elected chair of the Teacher Preparation/Higher Education Division for District 1 of the Georgia Music Educators Association; English and political science major [Kelsey Keane](#), who has been awarded a Fulbright grant to study in Kosovo; and [Dr. Robert Batchelor](#), whose book about how the Selden Map helped establish London as a global trade city was mentioned in the *Wall Street Journal*. These and all of the successes highlighted below are proof that the top-rate scholarship in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences never takes a vacation!

Several students are also taking the summer to experience life in new places through Study Abroad programs. Eleven students have recently returned from Morocco, and more have just arrived in Costa Rica and several other spots.

The College also welcomes new places and faces to campus. The Department of Communication Arts has finished the relocation of its classes and offices to Sanford Hall and will host celebratory events in the fall. The Department of Music welcomes Dr. Steven Harper, the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology welcomes Dr. Brenda Blackwell, and the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art welcomes Robert Farber, MFA, as their new chairs on July 1.

Lastly, it is with great sadness that the College notes the passing of our friend and colleague Kent Murray, a tenured faculty member in the Department of Communication Arts. Murray joined the College in 1985 and was beloved by his students and colleagues and respected by his peers. He will be sorely missed by the entire Georgia Southern community.

How are you continuing your scholarship this summer? Are you traveling anywhere new? Keep us informed of the events, honors, awards, promotions, and successes of your life through our [online survey](#) or by sending us a note at class@georgiasouthern.edu.

Warmest regards,



Curtis E. Ricker, dean

At the Head of the CLASS

My name is Akiv Dawson, and I am a post-baccalaureate student at Georgia Southern University. I completed my undergraduate degree in December 2013 and will begin the Masters of Arts in Social Sciences program in the Fall. My primary areas of study are sociology and Africana studies.

My experience at Georgia Southern has been phenomenal, and I know that this is primarily because of my affiliation with the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Center for Africana Studies. Through CLASS, I have met many awesome professors and mentors who have taken a personal interest in ensuring my success, not only in school but also in life. Any time I have ever needed a reference or recommendation, my professors have always been more than willing to extend a helping hand. Their generosity and concern has made my college experience significantly less stressful.

My experience with the Center for Africana Studies has been so amazing. I am grateful for all of the opportunities for travel and networking that the Center affords its students and am especially thankful that I had the opportunity to be a part of the Model African Union team. The Model AU experience teaches you how to compile extensive research and apply your findings in the form of a resolution to a social issue. It also gives you the opportunity to represent your school while competing with 300 students on the national level in Washington, D.C. I have never been more proud to call myself an Eagle than I was when Georgia Southern collected four of the eight awards at the National Model African Union Conference.

As for my plans for the future: After I complete my master's degree, I will enroll in law school. I want to be a civil rights attorney. As an African-American female, I am heavily exposed to the problems that exist within the African-American community, and I hope that through service as a lawyer, I can help alleviate some of these problems.



Department News

Psychology

Undergraduate student Chelsey Bell has been accepted to the University of Georgia's School of Social Work, where she will pursue a master's degree in social work.

Doctoral candidate Kylie Barefoot will defend her dissertation, "Disclosure Experiences, Barriers to Care, and Women's Health Risk Factors and Outcomes for Rural Lesbians," on Monday, July 7, at 2 p.m. in Brannen Hall. Nikki also had two papers accepted for publication: "Rural Lesbians: Unique Challenges and Implications for Mental Health" by the *Journal of Rural Health* and "Cultural Cognitive Models of Suicide Risk for African American versus European Emerging Adults" by the *Journal of Black Psychology*.

Drs. Shauna Joye and Janie Wilson and graduate student Justin Ford presented their poster, "Meditation and Self-Focus Remove Negative Effects of Emotion Suppression," at the Association for Psychological Science

conference in San Francisco.

Dr. Bradley Sturz received a Certificate of Excellence in Reviewing from *Behavioral Processes*. Recipients of this distinction are selected by the editors on the basis of the individual's contributions to the quality of the journal.

Two faculty members are presidents-elect for divisions of the American Psychological Association: Dr. Janie Wilson for Division 2, Society for the Teaching of Psychology, and Dr. Michael Nielsen for Division 36, Society for the Psychology of Religion and Spirituality. There are 54 divisions in the APA representing various specialties in psychology.

Foreign Languages



Eleven students spent Summer Term A in a state-of-the-art school in the capital city of Rabat, Morocco, studying Arabic language and culture through classes and visits to historical sites, museums, art galleries, nonprofit organizations, and bazaars. The program was led by Arabic Lecturer Youssef Salhi.

Spanish and international trade major Melissa Royal was awarded a \$6,000 scholarship from Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society.

Dr. Dolores Rangel's chapter "Creating and Madness in the Apocalyptic Version of Enchanted Dulcinea" was included in *Homenaje A Angelina Muñiz-Huberman*.

Stay in touch with the Costa Rica Study Abroad program on [Facebook!](#)

Art

Ceramics professor Jeff Schmuki's collaborative work, PlantBot Genetics, has been selected for the exhibition *Marfa Dialogues 2014* in St. Louis. The Pulitzer Arts Foundation, Ballroom Marfa, and the Public Concern Foundation are bringing Marfa Dialogues to St. Louis to examine how art can serve as a catalyst for unexpected collaboration.

The Department is hosting a Graphics Summer Camp, a weeklong residency during which rising high school juniors and seniors and recent high school graduates can discover the possibilities of a graphic design career.

Writing & Linguistics

Writing major Sarah Fonseca was named the winner of the 2014 Brittany "Ally" Harbuck Scholarship. She will receive the award at the annual Harbuck Scholarship Reading and Reception on September 12 at 7 p.m. in the Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology, Room 1005.

Writing major Parrish Turner earned an Emerging Writer's Retreat Fellowship from the LAMBDA Literary Foundation.

Writing major Laura Smith's story "Through the Motions" was accepted by *The Bangalore Review*.

Professor Ben Drevlow had stories accepted by *Rock Bottom, Journal, Profane, House, and Neat*.

Professor Jared Yates Sexton published stories in *Neat, Joyland, Stymie, Wyvern Lit, Metazen, and The Bicycle Review*. His story "Yankee," originally published in *Hobart*, was chosen by *Wigleaf* for its Top 50 Short Fictions of 2013.

Communication Arts



During the spring, the Children's Theatre class performed *The Mischief Makers*, the story of Africa's Anansi the spider, the Pacific Northwest tribe's Raven, and France's Renault the fox, who compete for the title of Greatest Prankster. Performances were held at ArtsFest and Nevill's Elementary School.

Student Kenzie Stanford was profiled in *Connect Statesboro*.

The Theatre & Performance program presented *The Birds* by Aristophanes on June 12-14 at the Black Box Theatre in the Center for Art & Theatre.

The Department has relocated to its new home in Sanford Hall. Upcoming celebratory events include a ribbon cutting (tentative) on August 21 and an alumni tailgate and open-house on September 6.

Dr. Reed Smith published "Charles Ferris: Jimmy Carter's FCC Innovator" in the *Journal of Radio & Audio Media*.

Sociology & Anthropology

Professor Heidi Altman was profiled in *Connect Statesboro*.

Drs. Ted Brimeyer and William Smith published "Conservative Protestant College Students and Their Peers: Similarities and Differences" in *Religion & Education*.

Drs. Ted Brimeyer, April Schueths, and William Smith published "Who Benefits from College Honors Programs? An Empirical Analysis of Honors and Non-Honors Students' Backgrounds and Academic Attitudes and Behaviors" in the *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council*.

Camp Lawton was featured on *Georgia's Hidden Treasures* on June 18. The show aired in Atlanta and was simultaneously broadcast online at WSBTV.com.

Music

The Department welcomes Dr. Steven Harper as its new chair. Harper comes to Georgia Southern after 11 years at Georgia State University, where he served as the graduate director for six years before becoming the interim director of the School of Music in 2013. The Department thanks Dr. Linda Cionitti for her service as interim chair over the past academic year.

The Collegiate Chapter of the National Association for Music Education was awarded a 2013-2014 Collegiate Chapter Growth Award by the National Collegiate Advisory Council. The Georgia Southern Chapter members were quite active over the academic year, presenting a new teachers panel, attending the National In-Service Conference in Nashville, providing post-concert receptions for visiting high schools, and participating in ArtsFest.

Dr. Laura Stambaugh was elected chair of the Teacher Preparation/Higher Education Division for District 1 of the Georgia Music Educators Association.

Literature & Philosophy

Double-major Kelsey Keane has been awarded a Fulbright Student Grant to study in Kosovo.

History

Dr. Robert Batchelor's book *London: The Selden Map and the Making of a Global City, 1549-1689* was noted in *The Wall Street Journal*.

Professor Kathleen Comerford was invited to present "European Jesuits and Their Earliest Libraries: Origins of the Heythrop Collection and Its Contemporaries" at "For the Greater Glory of God and the More Universal Good": A Celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Foundation of Heythrop College and of the Jesuit Educational Tradition at the Institute of English Studies at the University of London.

The summer 2014 edition of *Western Historical Quarterly* hails Professor Craig Roell's recent book, *Matamoros and the Texas Revolution*, as "well-researched, carefully documented, interesting, and clearly presented ... an enjoyable and informative book, which fills a needed void in the story of the Texas Revolution.

The Slavery and Freedom in Savannah project and book that Professor Jonathan Bryant participated in has received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History.

Advisement Center

History and Modern Languages Advisor Frank Benefield has been accepted to the Master of Fine Arts program at Georgia Southern. His artwork can be seen at FrankBenefield.com.

Sociology, Anthropology, and Justice Studies Advisor Danielle Bostick has been accepted to Georgia Southern's Master of Social Sciences program.

The Advisement Center welcome Nikki Waters to its team! She earned both a bachelor's degree in psychology and a Master of Education in counselor education from Georgia Southern and advises multimedia journalism and multimedia communications students.

Charles Edward Cravey ('79) served for 42 years as a United Methodist minister in the South Georgia Conference. He has worked as a writer for *The Statesboro Herald*, written 17 books, published *The Poet's Pen* magazine for 17 years, and has recorded 42 albums. In retirement, he works as the manager of Caribe Condos near Georgia Southern and is a beekeeper.

Nestor Jaenz ('13) has been selected as a conductor for the upcoming International Conductors Workshop and Competition.

Andrew Pate ('13) was accepted to the Master of Fine Arts in Painting program at Boston University's College of Fine Arts. Alumni from this competitive program have gone on to show in internationally renowned museums and galleries and/or have received awards such as the Guggenheim Fellowship, Dedalus Foundation Fellowship, and Joan Mitchell Award.

Lois Harvey ('14) was selected to participate in the fourth annual *WorkHouse Exhibition* in Virginia.

William Bell ('14) is the Strategic Planning/Stimulus Accountability Intern for the Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget. In his role with OPB, Will reviews the state's strategic plans, researches best practices for strategic plan implementation, and formulates performance measures for Gov. Nathan Deal's Fiscal Year 2015 budget.

Cassie Beasley has written a children's book, *Circus Mirandus*. Dial Books for Young Readers [purchased North American rights](#) to the publication in a two-book deal.

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](#).



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