CLASS Notes

Georgia Southern University

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

Greetings!

Spring has sprung! Across campus flowers are in bloom, the days are getting warmer, and everything is covered with a misting of yellow pollen. Soon, we will see new life all around us - new blooms, new birds, butterflies. Spring is a time of rebirth, a time of change.

Like the world around us, CLASS is constantly undergoing changes. We are currently interviewing and making offers to fill several open positions, including those for department chairs and an associate dean. Be on the lookout this fall for our Welcome to CLASS publication that will announce all of our new hires! Additionally, we are looking at new models of academic advisement and recently hired several new advisors so that each of the more than 4,300 CLASS majors can have a consistent professional advisor dedicated to his/her major throughout his/her time at Georgia Southern. The CLASS Advisement Center has moved to a new location to accommodate this growth and continues to make advancements for our students.

April is full of events, many of which represent change or commemorate the past: The Georgia Southern Symphony and Southern Chorale will perform the monumental “Elijah” on April 6 at Statesboro First Baptist Church, and Dr. Shannon Jeffreys, director of choral activities, will provide a Great Minds lecture on April 4 to explain the historical significance of the piece. The importance of African, Jewish, and Irish influence on American music will be examined when Dr. Michael Moloney speaks on April 1 and 2, and our own ArtsFest celebrates 33 years on April 5. One of America's best known contemporary poets Dr. Marilyn Nelson, whose work is inspired by U.S. and her own history, will present a reading on April 2; the Department of History will commemorate the outbreak of World War I on April 9 with a half-day conference; and the Theatre & Performance program will bring Shakespeare's medieval tragedy Hamlet to the modern era on April 2-9.

Budding poets are invited to explore their own history or whatever inspires them by participating with the Department of Writing & Linguistics in National Poetry Writing Month, and the Department of Foreign Languages is presenting an International Poetry Night on April 10. These events are only a few of those offered by CLASS in April - it might be historical how many there are!
Though we strive to be a college that constantly evolves to provide the best experiences and education for our students, a constant in CLASS is the dedication of our faculty to their students and to teaching, research, and service, as is evident by the news below and in the recently released CLASS Connect magazine. Check out the publication online and let us know if you would like to receive a print version.

What has changed since you were in CLASS? Please drop us a line at 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

CLASS ADVISEMENT CENTER

Over the past few years, some major changes in CLASS advising have occurred. As some of you might recall, the CLASS Advisement Center originally operated out of the Williams Center before moving to the Foy Building. Recently, the CAC moved again. Though we have enjoyed our space in the Foy Building (and its close proximity to Starbucks and the CLASS Dean's Office), we have officially relocated to the Carroll Building, and we sincerely thank the CLASS Dean's Office and the Georgia Southern Provost's Office for the opportunity to relocate to the freshly renovated suite.

The move took place in the middle of December, and we were officially unpacked and settled in right before classes began in January. Our new location in the Carroll Building has allowed us to be in closer proximity to our students since we are more centrally located on campus. Our students have commented on how much they like the new space, and we agree that it feels a lot more welcoming and comfortable.

Last year, the CLASS Advisement Center team nearly doubled in size. Our team now consists of a coordinator, 14 professional academic advisors, an administrative assistant, and Online BGS staff serving more than 4,300 students. We should also mention the newest additions to the CLASS Advisement family, babies Piper Youmans, Grayson Curley, and C.J. Barham (perhaps we should have included a daycare in the Carroll Building floorplan)!

With the increase in number of academic advisors and our desire to have advisors more connected to their students, we began placing advisors in offices within the departments for the majors they advise. Though this is a unique setup for an advisement center at Georgia Southern, we have found that having academic advisors in the departments provides both greater visibility and accessibility for students. More advisors and support from the Provost's Office has allowed us to move away from the faculty-advisor model and to provide each student with a full-time advisor for his/her entire collegiate career. This model not only frees faculty to engage in research and mentoring opportunities with their students, but also allows students more consistency in their advisement experience.
As we move forward, the CLASS advisement team is working hard to assist our students in becoming and continuing to be academically successful. Each advisor has developed his/her unique style of advising to best serve his/her student population. Helping our students achieve academic success is at the core of our team. We are accomplishing good things in the CLASS Advisement Center, and over the next several months, we will begin working on a strategic plan that will move us from good to great!

Please visit the CLASS Advisement Center website to learn more about the Center and where each academic advisor is located. Or feel free to stop by sometime - we would love to see you!

At the Front of the CLASS

My name is Ian Dicks, I am a junior in the Bachelor of General Studies degree program here at Georgia Southern University. I am a husband and a father first, followed closely by being a soldier and a scholar. I served in Iraq and Afghanistan before being selected for a coveted Green to Gold scholarship. This scholarship allows me the opportunity to complete my undergraduate degree and be a member of the Eagle Battalion ROTC program before I commission and rejoin our forces.

My time at Georgia Southern, though short, will always be remembered. I know I will never forget my three-and-half hour commute five days a week, nor will I forget many of the great professors I have encountered here. Some of my fondest memories will be the lectures of Professor Cook and Dr. Barilla. Each of these two gentlemen are highly intelligent, enthusiastic educators. Georgia Southern's ROTC program is rated as one of the top in the nation for a reason: Eagle Battalion gets results and is effectively shaping young cadets into strong military leaders. I am proud to be part of this coterie.

Looking at my overall experiences with the Bachelor of General Studies degree program, I appreciate the diversity of subjects I am allowed to study. In my individual degree plan, I have been able to pursue my interests in psychology, business, and military science. The BGS program has enabled me to pick the exact classes I want to take to fulfill my degree requirements. For example, in Fall 2014 I will take an upper-level finance course and an upper-level psychology course that both satisfy my dual-concentration areas. This degree allows my mind to be open and flexible to different ideas while keeping my attention focused.

My future outlook is positive. My BGS degree and ROTC completion will allow me to re-enter the service as a competent Army officer. My future successes will be attributed to the support of my wife, the competent leaders of the ROTC program, and to the wide-based curriculum found in the
Department News

Center for Irish Research & Teaching
The Center hosted Ireland's Minister of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Dr. Leo Varadkar on March 18 and celebrated the launch of its Wexford-Savannah Axis research partnership.

Center Director Dr. Howard Keeley participated in a dedication ceremony for the Bulloch County Historical Society's most recent historical marker that honors the Rigdon Cemetery and commemorates Rigdon's Mill. Retired Professor of History Dr. Charlton Moseley wrote the script for both sides of the marker.

Music

The Piano Area held its Spring recital on March 13. The concert centered on the music of Franz Schubert and featured performances by Daniel Steadley, Xi Wang, Michael Ursrey, Jordan Knapp, Nick Blake, Yan Kou, and Quinn Moss, all students of Dr. David Murray.
The Palm Trio, George Weremchuk, soprano saxophone; Carolyn J. Bryan, tenor saxophone; and Ricardo Flores, percussion, performed the world premier of Katherine Ann Murdock’s *Follow* at the North American Saxophone Alliance biennial conference at the University of Illinois on March 22. The work was commissioned by and dedicated to the Palm Trio.

Members of the Southern Pride Marching Band represented Georgia Southern in the St. Patrick’s Day parade in Savannah.

Members of the Music Technology program took their latest audiovisual compositions on the road. Associate Professor John Thompson presented his original composition in Jacksonville University’s “Lotusounds” concert and during the Society for Electroacoustic Music in the U.S. national conference at Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn. Thompson also presented a collection of audiovisual works from current and former graduate students at the Equinox Concert at the Bradley Observatory at Agnes Scott College in Decatur, Ga.

**Criminal Justice & Criminology**

Undergraduate student Alexandra Breed won the Richard J. Waugh Justice Studies Award, presented to an “outstanding senior in justice studies, selected on the basis of academic standing, service, and professional potential.” Alexandra exemplifies the standards for this prestigious award: She has maintained a high GPA, completed an internship with the FBI, and taken Arabic classes.

Junior Kelsey Widem received the Wallace and Wachniak Scholarship, which is awarded to juniors who are enrolled full-time with a minimum 3.0 GPA. Kelsey has participated in experiential learning opportunities through the Department, including an Inside-Out class in a local women’s prison and conducting research to examine dating violence and sexual assault.

The Mock Mediation Club, advised by Dr. Laura Agnich, trained a Sri Lankan team that competed in the Mock Mediation World Championship in Chicago. The team secured seventh place out of 156 advocate-client pairs and was recognized as an Outstanding New Mediation Program.
Dr. Brenda Sims Blackwell, a current faculty member of Georgia State University, has accepted the chair position in the Department. Blackwell holds a Ph.D. from the University of Oklahoma and researches female criminality and the treatment of and responses to female offenders. She has published articles examining power-control theory and gender differences in criminality in top-tier journals such as Criminology, the Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency, Crime and Delinquency, and the Journal of Criminal Justice.

The Department has also hired Barbara King to fill its open lecturer position. King received her M.A. in sociology from Southern Illinois University and began teaching at Georgia Southern in 2004 after completing her doctoral work in political science. She has taught in the Departments of Political Science, Sociology & Anthropology, and Criminal Justice & Criminology and the Center for International Studies.

Justice Quarterly has accepted an article by Dr. Chad Posick and colleagues Michael Rocque (Bates College) and Ray Paternoster (University of Maryland-College Park). Their collaborative longitudinal study of 1,380 adolescents examined the relationship between how people view themselves and deviant behavior and whether improving self-identity in past-offenders promotes a decline in such behavior. Posick also traveled to the University of Tartu, Estonia, to discuss the third International Self-Report Delinquency Study, a collaborative study of adolescent delinquency comprising academics from 30 countries, including the U.S., Sweden, Germany, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

Dr. Laura Agnich's quantitative research on school mass-violence incidents was published in the American Journal of Criminal Justice.

Dr. Laurie Gould was elected to a three-year term as a councilor in the Social Sciences Division of the National Council on Undergraduate Research. Gould's appointment emphasizes the Department's commitment to undergraduate research.

Dr. Sharon Tracy was appointed to the National Governing Board of the National Social Science Association. Tracy's appointment reflects her many accomplishments and the national reputation she has established.

Art
Assistant Professor Sarah Bielski's "Yawn" and "Blacktop/Greentop" are featured in the Landscape at the Edge: Contemporary Views exhibition at the Hera Gallery in Wakefield, R.I.

Assistant Professor Santanu Majumdar's paper "Design Education for Millennial Generation" has been accepted by the 2014 University System of Georgia's Teaching and Learning Conference, April 17 and 18 in Athens, Ga.

Writing & Linguistics
Undergraduates Cady Ennis, Amanda Malone, and Sarah Fonesca won the 2014 Roy F. Powell Awards for Creative Writing. Each student received $100 and a framed certificate and will be recognized at the University's Honors Day on April 2. The winning works will also be published in Miscellany, the campus Arts magazine.

Christina Olson was interviewed by Quiddity. Her poem "Urban Legends" was accepted by Sundog Lit, and her nonfiction piece "Poverty Year" was accepted by Quarterly West.

Janet Dales' nonfiction piece "Der Vogelfänger bin ich ja" was published in Gravel: A Literary Journal.

Peggy Lindsay presented "Emerging Identities: Cultural Independence in the Northern Irish Novel" at the British Commonwealth and Postcolonial Studies Conference in Savannah.

Professor Laura Valeri was invited to teach at the Author's Workshop at the Amelia Island Writers' Festival. Valeri also won the Mermaids Who Create residency.

Professor Jared Yates Sexton's "Punch-For-Punch" was accepted by PANIK and "The Death of Second Person" was accepted by The Newer York. He recently read in Seattle for Atticus Books, Midwestern Gothic, and Dock Street Press and in Atlanta for Sundog Lit. His "Behold, I Come as a Thief" was selected as one of
six stories for this year’s *Best of the Net* anthology. Sexton and Dr. Les Loncharich presented at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in Indianapolis.

Dr. Kathy Albertson presented research about transfer students taking upper-level writing courses at the Research Network Forum on March 19 in Indianapolis.

**Communication Arts**
Student Ashley Mattison was profiled by *Connect Statesboro*.

Jim Osterman will speak at the Department’s annual banquet on April 10. Osterman is the editor in chief of Transaction World magazine, a monthly trade publication of the payments industry. He has been a freelance writer, writing for newspapers, magazines, TV, radio, public relations firms, advertising agencies, corporations, and stand-up comedians. As a Georgia Southern student, Osterman was sports editor of *The George-Anne*, a DJ for WVGS, and appeared in five productions with Masquers. During his campus visit, Osterman will visit classes and be interviewed by students.

**Sociology & Anthropology**
The Department is creating Student Spotlight videos to highlight its outstanding students.

The Department, along with the Justice Studies Club, NAACP, ALAS, Sociological Society, and the University’s Multicultural Student Center and Campus Life Enrichment Committee, presented Travis A. Williams on March 25. Williams spoke on the documentary *Gideon’s Army* and deficiencies in the U.S. criminal justice system.

Dr. April Schueths was invited to write a guest post for *crImmigration*, a blog by César Cuauhtémoc García Hernández that was named among the best blogs of 2012 by the *American Bar Association Journal*.

Dr. Heidi Altman presented "Translating Culture: Linguistic Anthropology in Indian Country" in a session entitled Lessons Learned from Indian Country at the annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association in Chicago. Altman also organized the session.

Professor Nathan Palmer will present three invited lectures on Teaching and Learning in the Liberal Arts at Pennsylvania State University. Palmer is dedicated to helping sociology educators and students by sharing his experiences and creating free open-classroom resources such as SociologySource.org, SociologyInFocus.com, and SociologySounds.com. He serves on the American Sociological Association Special Task Force on Social Media and will lead multiple social media training sessions at an ASA pre-conference workshop in the fall.

**Foreign Languages**
Professor Jorge Suazo was profiled by *Connect Statesboro*.

**Psychology**
Undergraduate students To’Meisha Edwards and Alyssa Hutcheson examined the potential for research gender to affect perceived ethics of an experiment. Their paper, “Decisions of Ethics Favor Female Researchers,” is under review with *The Psi Chi Journal of Psychological Research*.

Graduate student Sean Fowler was awarded the APA Division 39 Graduate Scholar Award. Sean’s "Burnout and Depression in Academia: A Look at the Discourse of the University" was published in *Empedocles: European Journal for the Philosophy of Communication*.

Graduate student Christine Vitiello won the 2014 Women’s and Gender Studies Research & Project Award for her research on implicit biases toward working mothers.
Graduate student Jennifer Chau has been accepted into the Social Ph.D. program at Claremont University.

Faculty members Drs. Bradley Struz and Ty Boyer, along with graduate student Joshua Edwards, published “Asymmetrical Interference Effects between Two-Dimensional Geometric Shapes and their Corresponding Shape Words” in *PLoS ONE*.

Dr. Janie Wilson's "Ethical Relationships with Students" was published in *Psychology Teacher Network*, and *An Easy Guide to Research Presentations*, written with colleague Dr. Beth Schwartz (Randolph Macon College), was published by Sage Publications.

### Alumni News

**Brittany Linares** is the webmaster for the Center for Rural & Minority Health at Georgia Southern.

**Brian Dent** is a staging technician with Stratix Corporation.

**Alla Parsons** is the artist-in-residence at the Danville Museum of Fine Arts & History in Danville, Va., and her solo exhibition, *Magic Realism*, is on display at the museum until May 25. She also had a watercolor work accepted by the *Virginia Watercolor Society Juried Show* in Lynchburg, Va.

**Kristina Brennan Hall** recently served as the juror and gallery designer for the national exhibition Work of Nature at Gilmer Arts in Ellijay, Ga. She is working on several bodies of work, one inspired by her time at Georgia Southern and the other by living in northwest Georgia.

**Timothy Svoboda** is the finance assistant for grassroots development for Jack Kingson's U.S. Senate campaign.

**Omar Walker** (producer name Major Seven) has created beats for Rick Ross and Jay Z.

**Roy Willis** serves as a Findley Consultants' member.

**Courney Fisher Witter ('96)** owns Paper Court Press, a graphic design firm specializing in brand identity, customized stationery, and mobile-device accessories.

**Amy Askew Bryan ('07)** is the executive vice president for leadership and community development for the Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce.

**Lucy Guest Bennett ('08)** is the deputy editor for A Practical Wedding.

**John Duncan ('08)** is a senior graphic designer with Source Outdoor Group.

**Matt Jones ('08)** is a graphic designer for the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce.

**Matthew Rodgers ('11)** is a motion graphics designer at Ocozzio.

**Jessica Rycheal ('11)** is a graphic designer with True Fabrications. She resides in Seattle.

**Russ Pate ('12)** is a communications designer with Wier/Stewart in Augusta, Ga.
Events

Great Minds
April 4
LECTURE Dr. Shannon Jeffreys, Dept. of Music, "Elijah"
Jeffreys explains the monumental piece as a prelude to the Southern Chorale and Georgia Southern Symphony performance of the work on April 6.
Noon; RJ's Seafood and Steaks; 912.478.8597

Criminal Justice & Criminology
April 9
STUDENTS Internship & Career Fair
11 a.m.-2 p.m.; Carroll Building; 912.478.8007

April 10
AWARENESS Walk a Mile in Her Shoes
International men's march aims to raise awareness of sexual assault and gender violence. All proceeds benefit the Statesboro Regional Assault Center.
5 p.m.; Russell Union Rotunda; 912.478.8007

LECTURE Cops, Cameras, and Students Under Surveillance: The Long-Term Effects of Columbine and Deadly School Violence
Guest speaker Dr. Lynn Addington (American University) explores the rapid increase in the use of visible security measures since the Columbine High School shootings in 1999.
6 p.m.; Visual Arts Building, Auditorium, Room 2071; 912.478.8007

Writing & Linguistics
Monthlong
CELEBRATION NaPoWriMo
Join Georgia Southern in celebrating National Poetry Writing Month by writing a poem each day of April. You can post to the Department's blog or to your own with #GSUNaPoWriMo
GSU.NaPoWriMo.wordpress.com

April 4
EDUCATION 14th annual Student Success in Writing Conference
912.478.0739

POETRY Sandra Beasley
the author of I Was the Jukebox, winner of the Barnard Women Poets Prize, and Theories of Falling, winner of the New Issues Poetry Prize.
7 p.m.; Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering and Information Technology, Room 1005; 912.478.0739

Music
April 3
CONCERT Endowed Scholarship Recital
In recent years, students who perform in this concert have entered premiere graduate schools and/or have traveled to Europe to tour and compete in international competitions.

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

April 6
CONCERT Elijah by Georgia Southern Symphony and Southern Chorale
7 p.m.; Statesboro First Baptist Church; 912.478.5396

April 9
CONCERT New Music at Southern
7:30 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building; 912.478.5396

April 10
CONCERT Boys & Girls Club Recital
5:30 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building; 912.478.5396

April 16
CONCERT Percussion Ensemble
7:30 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building; 912.478.5396

April 23
CONCERT Channel Noise V
7:30 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building; 912.478.5396

April 25-26
CONCERT Opera Breve V
7:30 p.m.; Averitt Center for the Arts, Emma Kelly Theater, downtown Statesboro; 912.478.5396

April 27
CONCERT Night of Wild Sax
4 p.m.; Carol A. Carter Recital Hall; 912.478.5396

CONCERT Symphony Pops
6:30 p.m.; Garden of the Coastal Plain; 912.478.5396

April 28
CONCERT University Bands
7:30 p.m.; Performing Arts Center; 912.478.5396

April 29
CONCERT Piano Ensemble Recital
7:30 p.m.; Foy Building, Carol A. Carter Recital Hall; 912.478.5396

April 30
CONCERT Brass Studio Solo Recital
7:30 p.m.; Foy Building, Carol A. Carter Recital Hall; 912.478.5396

Literature & Philosophy
April 1
LECTURE Dr. Michael Moloney: "Irish & African Roots of American Music"
Global Distinguished Professor of Music at New York University reveals how African and Irish musical traditions were blended in the Blue Ridge region of Appalachia to forward a distinctive American musical tradition. Presented by the Center for Irish Research and Teaching and the Georgia Southern Multicultural Student Center
7 p.m.; Foy Building, Carter Recital Hall; 912.478.5409

April 2
LECTURE Dr. Michael Moloney: "If It Weren't for the Irish and the Jews: Origins of the American Popular Songbook"
10:30 a.m.; Foy Building, Carol A. Carter Recital Hall; 912.478.5409

POETRY READING Marilyn Nelson
Dr. Marilyn Nelson, one of America’s best known contemporary poets and recipient of the Frost Medal, is the author or translator of 15 books and five chapbooks. Her work is inspired by American history, the history of her own family, and the history of other communities and individuals important to her. The reading is sponsored by the Campus Life Enrichment Committee, CLASS, the Departments of Literature & Philosophy, Writing & Linguistics, History, and Communication Arts, the Center for Africana Studies, and the Women's & Gender Studies program.
7 p.m.; Allen E. Paulson College of Engineering & Information Technology, Room 1004; 912.478.5471

Communication Arts
April 2-9
THEATRE Hamlet
The Theatre & Performance program combines film and live theatre to explore Shakespeare's most famous tragedy in the modern world of surveillance cameras and cell phones.
7:30 p.m., 2 p.m. Sunday matinee; Center for Art & Theatre, Black Box Theatre; $5 students, $10 general admission; 912.478.5379

April 24-25
THEATRE 10-Minute Play Festival
New plays by student playwrights.
7:30 p.m.; Center for Art & Theatre, Black Box Theatre; 912.478.5379

Art
April 4-20
GALLERIES Form & Content
Exhibition of undergraduate students in foundations courses.
Center for Art & Theatre, University Gallery; 912.GSUARTS

GALLERIES Undergraduate Juried Exhibition
Juried exhibition of undergraduate artwork.
Center for Art & Theatre, Contemporary Gallery; 912.GSUARTS

April 5
FESTIVAL ArtsFest
11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sweetheart Circle; 912.GSUARTS
April 25-30
GALLERIES BFA Graphic Design Exhibition
Artist reception: April 25 at 5 p.m. in the Center for Art & Theatre
Center for Art & Theatre, University and Contemporary galleries; 912.GSU.ARTS

History
April 9
CONFERENCE The Great War that Changed the World, 1914-1918
Two-panel conference with expert commentary commemorates the outbreak of WWI.
3-6 p.m.; Nessmith-Lane Conference Center; 912.478.4478

Foreign Languages
April 10
FESTIVAL International Poetry Night
6 p.m.; Forest Drive Building; 912.478.5281

April 14
EDUCATION Belly Dancing Workshop
Sponsored by the Arabic Club and the Center for International Studies.
4 p.m.; Russell Union; 912.478.5281

{Complete 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.