CLASS Notes

May 31, 2013

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

Greetings!

I was intrigued this month by an article in *Business Insider* entitled "16 Wildly Successful People Who Majored in English." An English major myself - several times over - I checked it out.

Though some of the professions held by English majors were not terribly surprising, especially if you substitute "liberal arts" for "English," some, such as Mitt Romney, politician and CEO of Bain Capital; Harold Varmus, Nobel laureate in medicine, former director of the National Institute of Health, and current director of the National Cancer Institute; Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas; Angelo Bartlett Giamatti, former president of Yale University and seventh Commissioner of Major League Baseball; former Treasury Secretary Hank Paulson; and CEOs from Disney, Xerox, MTV and Avon, might be unexpected.

But why do so many assume that someone with a liberal arts degree wouldn't make a wonderful MLB Commissioner or CEO? What does a liberal arts degree symbolize more so than the abilities to understand, to learn, to adapt?

Earlier this month, 326 undergraduate and 14 graduate students received liberal arts diplomas from CLASS, each of them entering a new phase of his/her life with a greater understanding of the world and an enhanced ability to learn - from his/her experiences and surroundings and from others. Some of these new alumni will continue scholarly pursuits toward masters' and doctoral degrees; others will enter the workforce and will continue to learn and adapt there, facing new challenges and new organizational cultures. All will be more capable because of their liberal arts backgrounds.

What do you think? How has your liberal arts degree helped you? Or, do you feel that students today would benefit more from another degree, one that focuses on business, science, or mathematics? 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). And, if you find yourself in Statesboro this summer, stop by and see us; we always enjoy catching up with old friends and alumni!

With warmest regards,
Eighty-six students and 18 faculty members participated in the Patti Pace Festival.

Students learn about convergent media.

Communication Arts

Faculty members, primarily from journalism, multimedia communication and public relations, participated in a three-day convergent media workshop during the break between spring and summer terms. The authors of Principles of Convergent Journalism (now in its second edition) provided information and training in a variety of social media and contemporary editing applications. All faculty members in these areas have now participated in convergent media training.

Spring also brought the Patti Pace Performance Festival back to Georgia Southern. The festival honors the late Dr. Patricia Pace, teacher and theatre director in The Department from 1985-2000. Dr. Rebecca Kennerly and alumna Dr. Melanie Kitchens O’Meara coordinated the festival, bringing in faculty and students from 10 universities nationwide for two days of lectures and workshops, including special guest Dr. Tom Pace, Patti Pace’s father. In total, 86 students and 18 faculty members participated in the festival, and Georgia Southern was invited to host it again in 2017.

Students continue to be recognized for their research and creative work. Seniors Melika Hill (PR) and Katie Hadden (MMC) were profiled by Connect Statesboro.

Journalism student and editor-in-chief of The George-Anne Arielle Coambes received the Morris Newspaper Corporation Honor Scholarship of $2,000 for the 2013-14 academic year. Three communication studies students presented papers at the University’s Phi Kappa Phi Research Symposium, and three students presented at the Southern States Communication Association’s Theodore Clevinger Undergraduate Honors Conference in Louisville, Ky. Multimedia students experienced live production with election-night coverage last fall. Students in the MMC and PR programs hosted and recorded the first Cook Off with the winner receiving a 30-minute episode on Statesboro Cooks.

We are proud of all of our students and especially of Zoe Campbell who was recognized as Georgia Southern University’s top student for the graduating class of 2013, an Alumni Association award for the student who has completed all work in residence, has the greatest number of hours earned and has the highest cumulative GPA. Campbell majored in theatre and Spanish, was active behind the scenes for theatre performances, and was on the equestrian team. Her Honors project was the research and set design for The Triangle Factory Fire Project.

Public relations majors continue to be active in the field starting with service learning projects in their PR classes. An estimated 93 percent
of the PR students complete internships in Georgia. PRSSA sent students to the national conference and Atlanta PRSA Chapter's "Real World." PRSSA members also hosted their own conference, bringing in alumni Monique McKenzie of Porter Novelli in Atlanta; Meghan Beytagh of the Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson Cancer Institute at Memorial University Medical Center in Savannah; Jaclyn Simmons of Kiz Studios in Charleston, S.C.; Brianna Wagenbrenner of 360 Media Inc. in Atlanta; and Charlotte Parrish-Woody and Alex Grovenstein, both at Georgia Southern.

Other alumni visited students during the annual meetings of the professional advisory boards in MMC and PR. MMC alumnus Grant Dudley served as the second CLASS Alumni Connection Series speaker, which brings alumni back to campus to talk about their experiences and the values of a liberal arts degree. Alumnus Mehmet Caglayan served as the departmental speaker for the annual awards banquet.

Students also had the opportunity to visit with (and interview) Stratton Leopold, the executive producer of Mission Impossible III, among a host of film work.

Faculty members continue their scholarship, including Professors Tyson Davis and Steve Stepanek, who were profiled by Connect Statesboro, and Professor Tomasz Warchol, who was featured in the Savannah Morning News. Watch for future notes about publications, including an upcoming chapter by Michelle Groover and two books now under contract by Dr. Susan De Bonis. Dr. Brian Graves and his students swept the local Statesboro Film awards.

We invite you back to campus - to speak to our students and to visit our future home in Sanford Hall (an open-house tour is being planned). Departmental alumni and friends will receive a e-newsletter with information and links to updates on Sanford's renovations and opportunities to learn more about what is planned for the new space. If you (or your organization) are interested in office or classroom naming opportunities in Sanford, please contact Sue Bunning, the College's development officer, at sbunning@georgiasouthern.edu or 912-478-2527.

IN CELEBRATION OF JIM HARBOUR'S RETIREMENT, a "Roast & Toast" brunch will be held Saturday, June 15, at 10:30 a.m. in the Center for Art & Theatre, with proceeds going toward a freshman acting scholarship. Contact Chair Pam Bourland-Davis for additional information and watch for an e-invitation. The brunch coincides with the final performance of the summer production of Shakespeare's As You Like It.
You are invited to the
Roast & Toast
honoring
Jim Harbour

Saturday, June 15, 2012
10:30 a.m. Brunch
Center for Art and Theatre
Statesboro, Georgia

Join us for a roast, toast, and brunch to celebrate professor Jim Harbour as he journeys on to his next act in life.

Brunch tickets: $20
Additional costs to toast or roast Jim:
Toasts (1-2 min.): $10
Roasts (2-4 min.): $20

All proceeds will help fund a Freshman Acting Scholarship in Jim’s name. Please reserve your toast or roast spot with Kaitlin Jenkins at kj01367@georgiasouthern.edu.

We will accept written or recorded comments if you cannot attend.

We hope to see you there!
Hello, my name is Zoë Campbell, and I am a graduate of the Class of 2013 with bachelor of Fine Arts degrees in theatre and Spanish. I came to Georgia Southern University with the idea that I would transfer out after two years to attend a different school. However, by the end of my sophomore year, I had fallen in love. By that time, I had become a member of the theatre and Spanish families. I could not imagine studying under any other professors. I know Georgia Southern is different because I am much closer to my professors than any of my friends at other, bigger schools, and I would not trade that for the world. I also was working with a close-knit group of people who also became close friends of mine. The atmosphere at Georgia Southern was close, and teachers cared; I could not imagine leaving that.

I was an honors student for all four of my college years, and in my last year I wrote my honors capstone thesis, "The Skeletal Remains of an Unjust World: Designing the Scenery for The Triangle Factory Fire Project." This thesis was based on my scenic design in Fall 2012 for the production of The Triangle Factory Fire Project.
and followed the process of my scenic design from the research to the many different drawings to the production, the reactions from audience members, and a self-evaluation. It follows me from beginning to end, including the changes made before the final design was decided upon. This was one of my greatest accomplishments at Georgia Southern, and I would like to take a moment to thank my mentor, Mr. Kelly Berry, for helping me through the process and pushing me to go further and be better. Mr. Berry pushed me to be my best at all times, and I am so thankful for that.

During my time at Georgia Southern, I received several scholarships and accolades that allowed me to further my education. My greatest accolade was the Alumni Association's Top Student Award for the Graduating Class of 2013. This was a great honor that I will cherish for the rest of my life. I also received the Dorothy Few Lee Scholarship for the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years, which allowed me not to have to hold an extra job and instead spend more time focused on my majors and expanding my knowledge. I also received a Spanish travel scholarship and the Stephanie Routman Scholarship for summer 2012 to help me study abroad in Segovia, Spain. This opportunity expanded my ability to speak, read, and write in Spanish tremendously, while also broadening my horizons and allowing me to see another side of the world. I would never trade that experience for anything, and I am so grateful for the help the scholarships granted me. I have also received the Stephanie Routman Scholarship for the 2013-2014 school year which will help me to study abroad in London in July. I have wanted to visit London since I first came to college and saw it was one of the programs offered. I am so thankful for all of these scholarships and how they have allowed me to focus a little less on money and much more on my education.

The training I have received in the theatre program in CLASS has prepared me to enter the entertainment world. During my four years in the program, my knowledge and skills have increased tremendously. I came to Georgia Southern not knowing much about lighting, but thanks to the program's yearn to further students' education and prepare them to be miles ahead of other candidates entering the entertainment business, I am now able to work not only with generic static lighting but also with intelligent lighting systems, including writing profiles, DMX addressing, maintenance, and programming. These skills have been mentioned and applauded in every professional interview I have had. I credit the theatre program for granting me the knowledge to enter to working world prepared and skilled. The entertainment business is moving completely toward intelligent lighting, and if I had not had my training at Georgia Southern University, I would not be as ready to work as I am.

I would like to say thank you to all of the professors I had at Georgia Southern because they all helped me grow and become the
educated young lady I am. An extremely large thank you to the Spanish professors I had, including, Dr. Alley, Dr. Hidalgo, Dr. McGrath, and my advisor, Sr. Sanchez. Me ayudabais muchisimo y estoy muy agradecida. ¡¡¡Muchas gracias por todo!!!!

And another special thanks to my professors in the theatre program: Mr. James Harbour, Mrs. Lisa Abbott, Dr. Sarah McCarroll, and my advisor/mentor, Mr. Kelly Berry. I hope all of my professors here know how much they have meant to me and that they will always be a part of my life.

I owe so much to the faculty and staff of CLASS. With their help I have accomplished so much, and I know this is only the beginning. My education was bettered through knowing each of them, and I know now that I have such a large support system behind me that I can go out and succeed in anything. They all have given me the knowledge and confidence to enter into the world as an adult who knows who she is and knows there is nothing she cannot accomplish if she puts her mind to it.

Thank you.

Department News

Art
The inaugural Eagle Nation in Education eagle, "Stateboro Nation," designed by local rising eighth-grader Kelsey Fallin, was installed at William James Middle School on May 24. Kelsey's eagle, chosen from 464 submissions received last year, will be added to the Eagle Nation on Parade Flight Path.

Each year, the Savannah Advertising Federation, which consists of marketing and advertising professionals throughout the Savannah/Hilton Head area, hold its ADDY awards to honor the best advertising and marketing efforts of the previous year. Entries are divided into several categories. The following BFSDoArt students received awards at April's Savannah ADDY awards gala: Aaron Ward, student bronze ADDY for "World Spending" in the Collateral Material-Poster category; Chris Hesling, student silver ADDY for "WWII-AXIS" in the Collateral Material-Poster Campaign category; Rocky Roark, student bronze ADDY for "Altruistic Magazine" in the Collateral Material-Publication Design Series category; Allison Bright, student silver ADDY for "Nordic Sportware Logo" in the Elements of Advertising-Visual, Logo category; Haley Tam, Student Bronze ADDY for "Gambling Cow" in the Elements of Advertising-Visual, Logo category; Ahmad Sulie Kromah, student bronze ADDY for "Kong Beatz Logo" in the Elements of Advertising-Visual, Logo category; and Jose Gil, student bronze ADDY for
Kelsey completed "Statesboro Nation" with the help of University MFA Candidate Janet Suarez.

Ceramics Professor Jeff Schmuki will complete several residencies this summer, including environmental sessions at the Kimmel, Harding, Nelson Center for the Arts in Nebraska City, Neb., and the McColl Center for Visual Art in Waverly, AL. Together, the McColl Center, Power2FGive Organization and Schmuki raised $10,000 to progress Schmuki's Moth Project beyond demonstration. Participants will help plant permanent gardens with flowers that attract the pollinators and then capture, identify, and release insects at night.

Professor Julia Fischer's expertise was featured in an article by The Verge highlighting stolen art in museum collections.

History
Former MA student Joseph Fordham (December 2012, advised by Craig Roell) has been accepted with funding into the media and information studies Ph.D. program at Michigan State University. He starts this fall.

Michael Van Wagenen will be working with Heidi Madden from the Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada, as part of the NAFTA Mobility Exchange program. The program is part of the University's Center for International Studies and brings students to Georgia Southern from partner institutions in Canada and Mexico. Madden will complete a public history project focused on comparative memory at the Wormsloe Historic Site in Savannah.

Brian K. Feltman presented "Give Us Back Our Husbands and Sons: Women's Activism and Prisoner of War Repatriation in Germany, 1918–1920" at an international conference on Women's Organizations in the Aftermath of the First World War. The conference was held at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest, Hungary.

Craig Roell was presented with the Wells/Warren Professor of the Year Award at the Georgia Southern University 2013 Honors Day Convocation.

Kathleen M. Comerford has been awarded a Newberry Library/16th Century Studies Short-Term Residential Fellowship for July, 2013. The award will help her continue work on her monograph in progress, a study of the cooperation between state and church in Tuscany from 1532-1621. She also presented "All Politics Is Local: The Medici-Habsburg Axis, 1532-88," at the Renaissance Society of America Conference in San Diego in April, and served as chair or commentator on three sessions at that conference.

Zeb Baker, a visiting instructor, was named the inaugural recipient of the Jamie Guilbeau and Thelma Guilbeau UL Lafayette Collections Research Award. This $2,000 grant will allow him to research in Special Collections at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, in support of his book manuscript, Forward Progress: Desegregating College Football in the Sun Belt South, 1945-1975. This is the 16th peer-reviewed research grant that he has won since joining the Department in Fall 2009.

In bittersweet news, two long-time professors, Donald Rakestaw and John Steinberg, will be leaving the University for other opportunities. They will be greatly missed by friends, colleagues, and students.

Writing and Linguistics
Sixteen middle- and high-school teachers with first-year university faculty are participating in a hybrid summer institute from May 10-June 22. Teachers will create a writing assignment or activity and an assessment of the assignment to use in their classes. Participants come from Tatnall, Evans, Appling, and Bulloch county public schools and Georgia Southern's Department of Writing and Linguistics and First-Year Experience program.

Dr. Michele Rozga, a visiting assistant professor, had her proposal for the Georgia Information Literacy Conference accepted for the August meeting. In her presentation she will present ideas for modeling the collecting of information on the frameworks employed by museum curators when they collect artifacts.

The Statesboro Regional Library featured Sarah Domet and her book 90 Days To Your Novel during its Meet the Author program on May 13.
Visiting instructor Leigh Ann Williams was named the Faculty Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students by the University's First-Year Experience Program.

The Writing Project hosted a master class on poetry and fiction writing on April 27 in Savannah. Assistant Professor Emma Bolden and Dr. Rachel Schwartz, a visiting assistant professor, conducted the sessions.

**Foreign Languages**

Under the direction of Arabic Instructor Youssef Salhi, The Arabic Club at Georgia Southern has been promoting the Arabic language and culture on campus and in neighboring communities through activities such as Arabic Music Night, Arabic Movie Night, International Poetry Night, belly dancing workshops, Arabic Cultural Corner, and Arabic Conversation Hour. The Arabic Club also has participated in cultural events such as International Education Week, international festivals, and Cultural Education Week.

Prof. Michael McGrath was featured in the *El Adelantado* newspaper of Segovia, Spain. McGrath has authored two recent publications: the essay "From La Mancha to Manresa: Sancho Panza's Incarnational Spirituality," which appears in *Cervantes in Perspective*, and an edition of Spanish playwright Calderón de la Barca's *El gran teatro del mundo* (1635; *The Great Theater of the World*).

David Seaman befriended Aube Elléouët, daughter of Surrealist founder André Breton, when Aube came to New York for a celebration of her father's 100th birthday. Seaman translated one of Breton's books (*Martinique Snake Charmer*) and has been working on a monograph about Aube's collages. When they met this spring in France, he shared the manuscript of his article about her work, and she presented him with a three-dimensional collage-sculpture (pictured at right) built into seashells that encapsulates some of her themes, especially relating to women and the sea.

**Music**

May was National Chamber Music Month, as designated by the organization Chamber Music America. Joining in the celebration was the Magellan String Quartet, former ensemble-in-residence at Georgia Southern whose members include Jonathan Aceto, a part-time assistant professor in the Department. The Magellan performed the concert "Musical Treasures of North America" on May 20 in the Noah Recital Hall at Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville. This concert was the latest in a string of appearances for the Quartet, including performing with the Augusta Children's Chorale on April 23 and taking the principal positions with the Lyra Vivace Chamber Orchestra, which performed at Erskine College in South Carolina on May 3. On-campus celebrations of National Chamber Music Month included the inaugural Strings at Southern Chamber Music Festival on May 4 and 5, which featured the Magnolia String Quartet, Aquila Chamber Ensemble, Arco String Quartet, Mellow-Cello-Fellowship, and the Georgia Southern String Camerata.

Michael Braz (Professor Emeritus) had two compositions published recently: "The Music in the Rainbow" (treble choir, piano-C. F. Peters) was originally commissioned by Sigma Alpha Iota Philanthropies in their InterAmerican Music series. A setting of a previously unset poem ("Iris") by Henry Van Dyke, the work originally premiered in Chicago at the 2009 SAI National Convention by Anima. "An Appalachian Suite" (piccolo, 4 flutes, alto flute, bass flute-Alry Publications) was commissioned by Wildacres Flute Retreat to commemorate its 30th anniversary of fostering camaraderie and professional growth in the mountains of North Carolina.

The sounds of Gretsch guitars and world drumming have been filling classrooms in the University's Foy Building. Middle- and high-school students continued to come to campus twice a week from the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County, participating in lessons taught by Georgia Southern music majors. Several students performed at ArtsFest on April 6, and all 19 students
Students from the Boys and Girls Club of Bulloch County perform on Gretsch guitars during ArtsFest.

Students performed in a recital on April 18 in the Carol A. Carter Recital Hall. The excellent recital was a fitting conclusion to the first year of this unique partnership that is funded by The William & Sylvia Gretsch Memorial Foundation.

The Georgia Southern Chorale left May 27 for the International Anton Bruckner Choir Competition in Linz, Austria, after performing a send-off concert May 22 at Trinity Episcopal Church. Following the tour, the Chorale will tour Italy and perform during High Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City on June 8.

Criminal Justice and Criminology
Junior Victoria Burnette received a $6,000 scholarship from Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. Burnette is the fourth consecutive student in Georgia Southern's local chapter to awarded the scholarship since 2010.

Students participated in a program and met inmates behind bars.

Dr. Sharon Tracy lent her expertise to an article about gun violence in Savannah.

Sociology and Anthropology
The Department's ongoing work to conserve artifacts from the Camp Lawton Confederate Prisoner of War camp near Magnolia Springs State Park was highlighted in the Statesboro Herald, the Millen News, the Effingham Herald and on WJCL in Savannah.

Lance Greene (anthropology) and April Schueths (sociology) each won CLASS Seed Grants for 2013-14. Nancy Malcom (sociology) is the 2013 recipient of the CLASS Award of Distinction in Teaching.

Psychology
The Department inducted 17 students into Psi Chi, the national psychology honor society.

Several students have been accepted to graduate study, including Preston Anderson (Sport Psychology, Auburn University); Quinntarah Maxwell (Forensic Psychology, CUNY); Brianna Jones (Art Therapy, The Naropa Institute); Dana Wierzbinsky (Central Washington University); Kristen Smiley (School Psychology, Georgia Southern University); and Karen Gann (School Psychology, Georgia Southern University).

Olivia Hunte was awarded an alumni scholarship by the University of Denver School of Social Work.

Dr. Ty Boyer copresented "Signal clarity for infant quantity representation " at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research in Child Development in Seattle.

Dr. Bryant Smalley won the University award for Excellence in Scholarship.

Dr. Brad Sturz won the CLASS award for Distinction in Scholarship.

Dr. Jeff Klibert won the CLASS award for Distinction in Service.

The 2013 Psychology Research Conference was held April 25. Dr. Scott Lilienfeld of Emory University delivered the keynote address. Lilienfeld is the 2013 recipient of the James McKeen Cattell Fellowship from the Association for Psychological Science, and gave a version of his award address for the keynote presentation.

Alumni News
Mark Diamond will return to the area on June 23 to present a concert at Christ Episcopal Church in Savannah at 3 p.m. Diamond has spent the past two years singing with the Houston Grand Opera Young Artist Program, has won several national competitions, and has appeared with opera companies and orchestras nationwide.
Rob Chandler was featured in *CMYK Magazine*.

Joan Alice Jordan ('68 and '71) worked in K-12 education for more than 30 years as a school psychologist and administrator and in Henry County Schools as special education director. She retired and taught part-time for Piedmont College in Demorest, Ga., and now works full-time as an associate professor of education with Piedmont College. She participates in community service work with Relay for Life, the Special Olympics, GREA, and HCREA and enjoys spending time with her family and friends and traveling.

Meg Heap ('86) was recognized as the CLASS Alumna of the Year at the annual Alumni Association Awards Banquet. Heap serves as the Chatham County District Attorney in Savannah.

Chris Riley ('92) was named the Georgia Southern Alumnus of the Year at the annual Alumni Association Awards Banquet. Riley serves as the chief of staff for Gov. Nathan Deal in Atlanta.

Charlton Anthony Scott ('94) has volunteered as a Guardian Ad Litem in Lexington County, S.C., for six years, serving as a court-appointed advocate for children whose families have open cases with the Department of Social Services for child abuse or neglect. He resides in West Columbia, S.C.

Ginny Millar ('99) was recently hired as a graphic designer for Ruth's Chris Steakhouse's corporate office in Atlanta.

Danny Crocco ('07) curated "High Heat," an international exhibition of wood-fired ceramic art, at the Red Bird Studio and Gallery in Columbia, S.C. The exhibition is the state's first to feature an international view of wood-fired ceramic art. Crocco has spent years traveling the world firing and building wood firing kilns for ceramics. He most recently worked in Taiwan, Australia, Tasmania, and Mexico.

Chris Kelleher ('10) joined the Georgia Trial Lawyers Association as its director of communications after leading the Georgia Republican Party’s Communications Department during the 2011-12 election season. He oversees all communication activities among the Association and the Civil Justice PAC and its lobbying team at the Capitol.

Danielle Blalock ('11) is in her second year of the MA program for history at the University of Arizona. She recently received a Tinker Grant, which will help fund her six-week summer thesis research in Chile.

Whitney Davis Lambright ('11) worked in social services for nearly a year before accepting a teaching position with Virginia College. She teaches English I and II, English literature, and communication and resides in Columbus, Ga.

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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.