CLASS Notes

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Georgia Southern University

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

Greetings!

I hope that this finds you well and that each of your summers is off to a great start. The University is once again abuzz with students taking summer courses and faculty members engaging in interesting teaching, research, and service projects. You will find some of our highlights below, including news about recent graduates who are continuing their education in graduate programs or abroad and faculty members who received awards or grants or have recent publications.

We hope that you will keep in touch with us as you embark on your various summer adventures. You can always find the latest news from CLASS online at class.GeorgiaSouthern.edu and are always invited to keep us informed at class@georgiasouthern.edu or using the online alumni survey to update us on your life events (honors, awards, promotions, and successes). Lastly, the Theatre & Performance program has created a special short survey for its alumni. If you were active in any theatre groups during your time at Georgia Southern, please take a few minutes to respond.

Warmest regards,

Curtis E. Ricker, dean
The Women's and Gender Studies program has had an exciting year! The program moved to its new offices on the second floor of the Carroll Building and launched its first roundtable discussion for Women's History Month, "Gender, Family, and the Academy," which brought together faculty members, staff members, and students to discuss issues with work-life balance on Georgia Southern's campus. The program also continued its work with the National Organization for Women, Student Abolitionist Movement, and Sexual Assault Educators student groups.

The WGS program prepares students for successful careers in human resources, education, diplomacy, advocacy, nonprofit work, government work, law, and public administration through its broad spectrum of course offerings and exciting public programs. The program is the center for research, teaching, and service projects related to gender and human rights for the University and beyond. For example, student Shanna Felix served on the planning committee for the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event and as president of the Sexual Assault Student Educators. For these and many other endeavor, Shanna received the prestigious John F. Nolen Jr. Hall of Leaders Award for Excellence in Service and Leadership.

WGS faculty members continue to lead some of the most creative and rewarding projects on campus:

Dr. Laura Agnich of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology help lead the University's Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event, the University's second participation, in April. During the event, approximately 100 men from across the University community walked in high heels to raise $1,800 for the Statesboro Regional Sexual Assault Center, which assists victims of rape and sexual assault in Bulloch, Jenkins, and Screven counties. The Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event won the Non-SAEM Sponsored Program of the Year at the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement's annual Leadership Banquet.

Agnich and fellow Professor of Criminal Justice Dr. Laurie Gould coauthored "Exploring the Relationship between Gender Violence and State Failure: A Cross-National Comparison," which was accepted for publication in Violence Against Women.

WGS faculty members also continue to develop and practice innovative approaches to teaching:

Agnich taught an Inside-Out course that consisted of Georgia Southern students and incarcerated women from Emanuel Women's Facility in Swainsboro, Georgia. More than half of the women incarcerated at EWF are considered "indigent," meaning they cannot afford to purchase educational materials or hygiene items. For their final project, the students chose to lead a school-supplies drive through which they collected more than 300 notebooks and 700 pens and pencils. These items were donated to the inmates along with "Christmas Bags" containing basic hygiene supplies. At the end of the semester, every woman incarcerated at EWF received a donation.

Professor of Writing and Linguistics Dr. Lori Amy was awarded a summer residency fellowship at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars under the Global Europe program to work on her book Re-Membering in Transition: Trajectories of Violence, Structures of Denial, and the Struggle for Meaning in Post-Communist Albania. Amy collaborated on a documentary film about the brutal repression of the cultural revolution in Albania. The film was screened by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Tirana, Albania, in May and will be screened by the Societa Geografica in Rome in June. Amy also participated in a Fulbright Minds panel on entrepreneurship in Washington, D.C. After the panel, she joined a roundtable discussion organized by the Albanian Rehabilitation Center for Victims of
Trauma and Torture about how to approach traumatic memories of the communist regime.

College of Education Professor Brenda Marina's book chapter "A Cultural Connection to Identity Development for Graduate Female Students of Color" was included in Uncovering the Hidden Cultural Dynamics in Mentoring Programs and Relationships: Enhancing Practice and Research. She also presented "Courageous Conversations about Mentoring Culturally Diverse Women" at the 26th International Mentoring Association Conference.

School of Human Ecology Professor Trent Maurer's times and innovative research on sexual assault will be published in Violence Against Women. "Perceptions of Incapacitated Heterosexual Sexual Assault" explores views of sexual assault involving unconscious victims and lays the foundation for more work in this important fields of study.

Sociology Professor Trina Smith completed her term as secretary for the national organization Sociologists for Women in Society. She is working with scholars at Georgia Southern, Georgia State University, and Gordon State College to form a Georgia chapter of the organization. Smith is a member of the Vision Committee for the Southern chapter of Sociologists for Women in Society, which helps plan SWS-South sponsored sessions and activities at the annual Southern Sociological Society meeting.

Please LIKE the WGS Facebook page! The program envisions the Facebook page as an online meeting space for alumni, faculty members, and students to share interesting ideas, announcements, and articles related to women's or gender issues.

At the Head of the CLASS

My name is Christine Anne Vitielo, and I graduated in May with a master of science degree in experimental psychology. Throughout my two-year program, I was excited to delve further into my research interests, and I was grateful when my thesis was awarded the 2014 Women's and Gender Studies Research and Project Award.

I became interested in perceptions of mothers in the workplace when I became the sole caregiver of my young daughter after starting graduate school. I was curious how mothers were perceived in society as they balanced the demands of motherhood and employment. The knowledge I gained from my graduate classes suggested that mothers tend to face discrimination during hiring and promotion decisions. For my thesis, I hypothesized that mothers who applied for jobs would be perceived according to a mixed stereotype of high warmth-traits and low competence-traits in the workplace. To test the hypothesis, I investigated people's explicit conscious attitudes and their implicit attitudes. The results of my study suggested that people held positive overall attitudes on the implicit and explicit levels toward mothers who apply for jobs. Though these results did not fully support my hypothesis, the findings could suggest that attitudes of mothers in the workplace might be shifting.

I feel that my research fits well with the Women's and Gender Studies program's mission and that, as researchers, we still have much to learn about mixed stereotypes and how they can affect mothers and women as they pursue employment and promotion opportunities. As the dynamics of the workplace rapidly change as more women pursue employment and leadership positions, it is important to analyze these changes on a local, national, and global level.

I also participated on the WGS program's roundtable discussion on mothers in academia. I share my experiences and my research findings with a panel and the discussion members. Additionally, several participants offered suggestions for improvements at universities and personal stories about their triumphs and setbacks. Listening to the triumphs was especially encouraging, but the setbacks women still face clearly illustrate that further changes are necessary.

The roundtable discussion and the WGS awards have encouraged me to continue pursuing this line of research. I was inspired when I heard the stories of other women who have succeeded as mothers, researchers, and teachers in academia. The WGS program encourages important discussions, such as how attitudes about women in work and academic environments continue to change, but how we must continue to research and pursue these changes. I plan to continue researching important questions
involving implicit and explicit attitudes and, especially, how they relate to mothers and women. My ultimate goal is to receive a doctoral degree and to apply what I have learned through the Experimental Psychology and WGS programs.

Department News

Political Science

Undergraduate student Destin Pace has been selected to participate in the Discover Pre-Law program in June at Suffolk University in Boston.

Recent graduate James Farmer's senior graduate thesis, "Are There Cracks in Democratic Peace?" which he wrote under the guidance of Dr. Jamie Scalera, will be published in the summer edition of Papers and Publications: Interdisciplinary Journal of Undergraduate Research. James recently returned from an internship with the State Department in Barcelona, Spain.

Dr. Barry Balleck, interim department chair, directed Georgia Southern University's Model United Nations delegation at the National Model United Nations Conference in New York. The NMUN Conference is the largest Model UN conference in the world, comprising more than 5,500 delegations from 50 countries. This was the University's 43rd consecutive year participating in the conference, making the Georgia Southern Model UN delegation one of the longest-running in the country. The University's Model UN delegation received top awards in New York for delegate preparation, position-paper writing, and individual committee participation. This was the fifth time in six years that the Georgia Southern delegation was chosen as an outstanding delegation and the 10th time in 11 years that the delegation was awarded Outstanding Distinction in position-paper writing. Georgia Southern's Model UN delegation also conducted three Model UN conferences during the 2013-2014 academic year, two for middle schoolers and one for high schoolers, that brought more than 1,200 students to the University.
Dr. Jamie Scalera presented two papers at the International Studies Association’s annual conference in Toronto. "The Challenges of Migration and Enlargement in the European Union" was selected for an invitation-only symposium open to junior scholars, and "The 2008 Global Financial Crisis and the Survival of Independent Central Banks" is coauthored with undergraduate political science major Melissa Dixon.

**Foreign Languages**

French major Thales Felipe Franca has been accepted for graduate school at Mississippi State University and will begin his studies in the fall.

Jacquelyn Williams was accepted to the Teaching Assistant program in France for the 2014-2015 academic year. Jacquelyn will teach English in a French public school.

The Arabic Club was named the University's Multicultural Organization of the Year.

Professor Youssef Salhi was profiled by Connect Statesboro.

**Institute for Public & Nonprofit Studies**

Master of Public Administration students William Bell, Megan Baker, Cinnamon Dowd, Assana Magagi-Alio, Samantha Reid, Rosine Mbuento-Watat, and Andrea Bennett showcased their research at the University’s Graduate Research Symposium.

Dr. P. Cary Christian was featured as an expert in an article about taxes on the WalletHub website. Christian also received a Faculty Research Award for $10,000 to fund his project examining the response of Georgia municipalities to fiscal distress from the Great Recession.

Dr. Trenton J. Davis, director of the Institute, presented "Motivating Public Service Employees in the Era of the New Normal," coauthored with Dr. Jerry Gabris of Northern Illinois University, at the Midwest Political Science Conference. The paper will also appear as a book chapter in the forthcoming Public Human Resource Management: Problems and Prospects.

**Literature & Philosophy**

Julia Griffin presented a paper at the annual conference of the Renaissance Society of America in New York.

Dr. Tim Whelan's Calendar of the Reeves Collection, Bodleian Library, Oxford, and the Attwater Papers, Attwater/Saffery Papers, and the Saffrey Papers, Angus Library, Regent's Park College, Oxford is now a bound volume in the permanent collection of manuscript calendars in the Special Collections of the Bodleian Library. Whelan’s is among the few calendars in the collection not produced by the library's own archivists. Whelan's "'My Dearest Friend': Crabb Robinson's Correspondence with Mary Wordsworth" was published in the winter edition of The Wordsmith Circle.

Dr. Nicole Karapanagiotis presented a paper at the South Asian Studies Association conference in Salt Lake City. Karapanagiotis was also elected to the SASA Board of Directors and nominated for Georgia Southern's Advisor of the Year award by the Scholars of Religion student organization.

Dr. Joe Pelligrino was recognized by the South Asian Studies Association for "selflessly applying your extraordinary talent in support of South Asian studies."

Dr. Richard Flynn presented "Randall Jarrell's Cross-Writing and Mid-Twentieth-Century Children's Literature" in the Joyner Library at East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C.

Dr. Elizabeth Butterfield was elected vice president of the North American Sartre Society after serving for many years on the society's executive committee. Butterfield's article "Matilda, Existential Superhero" was published in Roald Dahl and Philosophy.

**Criminal Justice & Criminology**
The Georgia Southern Mock Mediation Club was recognized by the Hon. Jaliya Wickramasuriya, the ambassador of Sri Lanka to the U.S., for its "contribution as the official training partner of the Sri Lanka Mock Mediation Team." The club, advised by Dr. Laura Agnich, also was recognized as the University's Small Student Organization of the Year, a leadership award presented by the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement.

Dr. Sharon Tracy, an advisor for the national Project Vote Smart organization, was asked to nominate a student to serve as a research intern. Tracy nominated Cierra Butler, and she will serve for 15 weeks over the summer at the center's national headquarters in Montana.

Dr. Bryan Miller won the University's Award for Excellence in Contributions to Instruction, which "honors contributions to the teaching-learning process at the institutional level." Miller's accomplishments include spearheading the Inside-Out prison exchange program at Georgia Southern, through which University students join incarcerated students at local prisons for criminal justice courses.

Findings from a series of recent studies by Drs. Chad Posick and Christina Policastro reveal that emotional distress is related to increased police reporting and reduced satisfaction with police encounters. These results suggest that responders must account for the emotional needs of crime victims.

Dr. Laura Agnich was awarded a $9,444.40 seed grant to fund her "Perceptions of Safety and Active Shooter Event Responses in a Rural Community." She will soon begin working with the Statesboro Police Department to evaluate active-shooter event trainings.

**Psychology**

Dr. Karen Naufel was among two recipients of the University's Award for Excellence in Contributions to
Instruction. Recipients must demonstrate excellence in and beyond the classroom by contributing to their disciplines and to the overall institutional mission.

Drs. Rebecca Ryan and Janie Wilson conducted a study to assess and establish the psychometric properties of a brief version of their Professor-Student Rapport Scale, "Professor-Student Rapport Scale: Psychometric Properties of the Brief Version." The study is forthcoming in the Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning and demonstrates the Scale's ability to predict student outcomes.

Assistant Professor Ty W. Boyer's article "When Do Infants Begin to Follow a Point?", coauthored with colleagues Bennett Bertenthal and Samuel Harding of Indiana University, was accepted for publication with Developmental Psychology. Boyer was also awarded a Faculty Development Committee Summer Travel Award to present "Nine-Month-Old Infants' Covert Imitation of Goal-Directed Actions With and Without Ostensive Cues" at the International Conference for Infant Studies in Berlin in July.

Dr. Bradley R. Sturz was Georgia Southern University's Zach S. Henderson Library's featured academic for May. Sturz's "Modeling a Role of Field of View in the Extraction of Geometric Cues during Reorientation" was published in Frontiers of Psychology.

Art
Recent graduate Lois Harvey is developing her ceramic sculptures as an artist in residence at The Hambridge Center for the Creative Arts & Sciences in North Georgia.

Recent graduate Lindsay DeBlasio was offered a summer internship at the Cornelius Arts Center in Cornelius, N.C.

Dr. Tiffanie Townsend was named a Governor's Teaching Fellow. Townsend was also profiled by Connect Statesboro.

Professor Jessica Hines' photographs are featured in the Ladies Only exhibition at the Tsereteli Museum of Modern Art in former Russian state of Georgia. Hines' work from Spirit Stories was featured in the April edition of Internalia, and she was invited to teach "The Personal Documentary," a weeklong course at the Maine Media Workshop in Rockport, Maine.

Professor Sarah Bielski received a Research Scholarly Pursuit Award from Georgia Southern.

History
Dr. Jeffrey D. Burson published Enlightenment and Catholicism in Europe: A Transnational History, an edited volume, after completing research in March. This research was funded by the Faculty Research Committee Scholarly Pursuit Award. Burson also served as chair and commenter at a session of the French Historical Studies' annual meeting in Montreal. On May 17, he was invited to present "Let There Be Enlightenment: The Religious and Mystical Sources of Rationality" at a Stanford University symposium on 18th Century history.

Dr. Paul Rodell served as a panel chair for "New Perspectives on the Chinese in Modern Colonial Philippines" at the 65th annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Philadelphia. Rodell also presented "The Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the Philippine Bangsa Moro Separatism" at the 31st annual meeting of the American Council for the Study of Islamic Societies at Georgia Regents University in Augusta.

The Department has been selected to host the Georgia Association of Historians' annual conference in February 2015.

Communication Arts
Student Tim Bragg was profiled by Connect Statesboro.

The Theatre & Performance program asks that all alumni who were active in theatre productions during their time at Georgia Southern please take a few minutes to fill out a brief survey.

Center for Irish Research & Teaching
The Center presented Dr. Michael Moloney, a Global Distinguished Professor of Music at New York University, for two lectures on early American music.
Sociology & Anthropology

Dr. Adrienne Cohen won the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Award. The purpose of the award is "to encourage and recognize faculty members who engage in scholarship that focuses on teaching and learning."

Dr. Lance Greene was featured in a CNN article on Civil War prisons, including Camp Lawton.

Professor Trina Smith was awarded a Georgia Southern Faculty Scholarly Pursuit Award for her research "Pregnant and Depressed: Advice on the Internet."

Nathan Palmer received the Randolph S. Gunter Eagles of Diversity Distinguished Faculty Award.

Alumni News

Michael Boggs ('85) was nominated by President Obama to serve as the U.S. District Judge for Northern Georgia.

Raisa Drew ('12) graduated from the University of Georgia with a master's degree in social work.

Angela Legg received the Wilbert J. McKeachie Teaching Excellence Award, which "recognizes excellence in teaching at the graduate school level."

Dr. Forrest Rackham was recently hired by the Community Health Centers of Southeastern Iowa Inc. to assist in establishing an integrated behavioral health program in a rural Federally Qualified Health Center.

Dan Strickland had his artwork published on IWantABuzz.com, a magazine blog in Jacksonville, Florida.

Leonardo Tyler was elected to the Georgia State University College of Arts & Sciences' Staff Executive Committee for summer 2014 - spring 2016.

Events

Communication Arts

June 3 and 19
RECEPTION A Celebration of Past & Future
The Department invites friends and alumni to a reflection of the contributions of Dr. Clarence McCord and a preview of its new home in Sanford Hall.
June 3: 6:30 p.m. at the Old Vinings Inn in Atlanta
June 19: 5:30 p.m. at the Olde Blind Dog in Atlanta
For more information or to RSVP, please contact Sue Bunning at 912.478.2435

June 12 - 14
THEATRE The Birds
Tragedy by Greek playwright Aristophanes tells the story of Pithetaerus and his cowardly sidekick, Eulepides, who persuade Epops, the king of the birds, to have all the birds of the world create a new city in the sky.
7:30 p.m.; Center for Art & Theatre, Black Box Theatre; 912.478.5379

({Complete list of CLASS events})
Give to CLASS
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