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CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



November 30, 2014



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



Greetings!

One of the most enjoyable aspects of being dean of CLASS is the opportunity to engage with alumni. On a recent trip to Washington, D.C., I had a wonderful visit with three graduates of our Graphic Communications Management program who now work at the U.S. Government Printing Office, pictured above. I look forward to meeting more alumni in 2015, and welcome suggestions for places to visit.

The recent celebration of Thanksgiving also reminded me that the College has much to be proud of this year. Our faculty members remain dedicated to teaching, research, service, and student development, and this commitment has allowed them many successes, most of which are reported to you in this publication. As we prepare for the close of the semester, I am thankful for our students, faculty members, staff, alumni, and friends, and I look forward to sharing with you their achievements.

Please enjoy the student and faculty news below, and please plan to join us for our [upcoming events](#). As always, keep us informed of your news and the ways in which you are benefitting from your liberal arts education. You can [send us an email](#) or fill out the [online alumni survey](#). It is always wonderful to hear from our friends and alumni.

Warmest regards,



Curtis E. Ricker, dean

Department of Communication Arts



Alumna Jenny Lynn Anderson

If you have been following *CLASS Notes*, then you've heard of our move to Sanford Hall. We are nearly settled in with a few odds and ends to call it "a wrap." For example, we need to convert to high-definition signals in the

broadcast studio, implement additional sound control measures in the film studio and performance classroom, and "curate" the building to take advantage of hallway wall space to tell and show the story of our majors and students.

Ironically, we are, in some ways, back to where our departmental story began: Sanford is located a stone's throw away from Hollis, where classes were located in 1969 when we became a stand-alone department, chaired by Dr. Clarence McCord. WVGS can trace its origins back to a student-run "bootleg" station in Sanford. With very limited reach, the station, as the story goes, was taken off the air by the FCC, but the effort served as an impetus for students to gather to create their own FCC-sanctioned station.



Running the station or meeting - especially across disciplines - provides a synergy that allows students to soar. Students are establishing new groups such as a film club, which has produced a film for an international 72-hour film competition. Faculty and students are working together to create a convergent format to meet a growing demand for mobile information, while also developing programming for a campus cable audience. We hope you'll follow Eagle News & Entertainment when it launches in January 2015.

The PRSSA chapter has won a third national bid as one of 10 chapters nationally to host a regional conference scheduled for March 28. The Department is one of 12 schools in the region to send students to present competitively reviewed papers at the Southern States Communication Association's Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference for at least 12 years in a row. I recently met student Lindsey Hurst, who wrote for theodysseyonline.com (for Greek organizations), and her article has more than 16,000 reads and nearly 7,000 shares. Having reviewed resumes for many of our PR majors, we're also seeing more students completing two or three internships. Seeing the students channel their energy to develop as professionals is very inspiring for all of us.

Our alumni have also been on the front row of their disciplines. It was an honor to attend the Atlanta PRSA Chapter's Annual Phoenix Awards, where Jenny Lynn Anderson won the George Goodwin Award, and Lindsay Cameron won the Rising Star Award. They were joined by Don Rountree and Giana Carr for project awards and recognitions that evening. Meredith Moser Boyd visited campus to speak with students on her work in launching Meredith Boyd Cosmetics, designed for film and television. If you are following *Reckless*, you had the opportunity to see Melissa McNorrill Lowe, a theatre alumnae. Another theatre alumnus, V.A. Patrick Slade works as a writer/producer in Los Angeles. He authored *The Deans: New Beginnings and Memoirs of an Ebony Cover Family*; his *The Seat Filler* is set to release in December; his horror movie, *MANIA*, is set to release next summer; and he has TV pilots under review.



Given our move to Sanford and our 45-year history as a department, it is also time to recognize our legacies. Alumni Pratt Farmer, Hal Fulmer, and Julie Turner Davis have committed to establishing an endowed account that will name one of our Sanford classrooms after Dr. Clarence McCord. The Multimedia Communication Advisory Board and the Department's faculty members invite you to join them to support creating an endowed account that will name the broadcast studio after Professor Kent Murray, who passed away earlier this year. Information for supporting the studio will be mailed to Broadcast/Multimedia Communication and Journalism alumni.

Both of these accounts will provide annual funds to bring visiting professionals to campus to meet with students, competitive seed money to support creative film and production work by students, equipment purchases, and/or scholarships. An additional legacy project is under way to showcase 30 years of African-American theater by creating the Mical Whitaker African-American Theatre Scholarship. Watch for additional information about events in March and April 2015, which will bring to campus alumni from the stage and visiting artists, such as Robert Gossett and Charles Floyd Johnson.

The Department recently hosted Communication Arts INC - an Internship, Networking and Career Fair, which brought in several alumni and other internship supervisors to meet with more than 120 students during the afternoon. We hope that this will become an annual fall event.

Departmental faculty members continue their research and creative scholarship, with more than 30 peer-reviewed publications and theater productions last year. Faculty members also have been active in service to professional organizations: Dr. Abby Brooks and Dr. Pat Wheaton serve on Southern States Communication Association's Standing Committees, and Dr. Chris Geyerman serves as the University's faculty representative to the NCAA, which has also involved him in several leadership roles. Faculty members are editorial board members for the *Journal of Journalism History*, *Journal of Public Relations Research*, *Teaching Public Relations*, and *Journalism & Mass Communication Educator*. And the Department will again host the Georgia Communication Association's annual meeting in February 2015.



As always, we love to hear from our alumni, and we hope you'll join the more than 50 alumni who've come back to campus to see our new home in Sanford. If you are interested in additional information on departmental events or legacies, [please let me know](#). Lastly, we hope you'll save the date to join us for the Communication Arts Alumni Tailgate at Sanford on the first Saturday home game of the fall season.

- Pam Bourland-Davis

Department News

Psychology



Amber Blazer (pictured) worked with Dr. Shauna Joye on her research poster, "Coloring Perception: Clothing Choice May Impact Perception of Others," which she presented at the third annual Georgia Southern Undergraduate Research Conference. Other students who presented work at the conference include Julie Odom-Dixon, who worked with Dr. Nicholas Holtzman on "Narcissism and Attractiveness;" Ta'Shon Grady, who worked with Holtzman on "The Effects of Energy Drinks on Vision;" and Glorhea Sherman, who worked with Dr. Amy Hackney on "Undergraduate Perceptions of Marital versus Acquaintance Rape."

Undergraduate student Bailey Correll was accepted to Mercer University's clinical psychology doctoral program.

Doctoral student Lisa Watson was awarded \$1,000 from the University's Graduate Student Professional Development Fund to conduct dissertation research, and her paper "Cultural Beliefs and Understandings of Cervical Cancer Among Mexican Immigrant Women in Southeast Georgia" was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health*.

Department Chair Dr. Michael Nielsen was [interviewed by Utah Public Radio](#) about his survey of Mormon gender issues. The study examines the roles of women in the LDS church and was also the subject of a [cartoon on social media](#).

Dr. Amy Hackney was awarded \$47,000 by Catharsis Productions to conduct an evaluation of the Sex Signals sexual assault awareness program.

Dr. Ty W. Boyer's paper with colleagues Lisa Cantrell (University of California - Davis), Sara Cordes (Boston College), and Linda Smith (Indiana University), "Signal Clarity: An Account of the Variability in Infant Quantity Discrimination Tasks," was accepted for publication by *Developmental Science*.

Dr. Janice Stern was selected as an affiliate member of the University's Institute for Interdisciplinary STEM Education.

History

Dr. Kathleen Comerford presented "What Is a Jesuit Library?" at the 16th Century Studies Conference in New Orleans and organized and chaired the round-table "What Is the Job Search Really Like?" for the President's Graduate Student Breakfast Session. Comerford was also a co-editor of *Facets of the Reformation: Essays on Church and State, Calvinism, and the Family, in Memory of Robert M. Kingdon* with Amy Burnett (University of Nebraska) and Karin Maag (Calvin College); her chapter was "Cosimo I dei Medici's Cooperation with the Jesuits in Creating a Christian Realm in His Expanding State."

Dr. Jonathan Bryant was interviewed by [The Savannah Morning News](#) about his book on the slave ship *Antelope*.

Dr. Alan Downs presented "Reflections on the 150th Anniversary of the March to the Sea" for the National Park Service's Civil War Sesquicentennial commemoration.

Dr. Michael Van Wagenen will participate in a panel session at the National Council of Public History's annual meeting

about the Visual History Summer Institute that he directed on campus. Van Wagenen also coordinated the Department's Public History Fair in November.

Dr. Craig Roell is featured in the documentary [Washington-on-the-Brazos & the Politics of Revolution](#), episode three in the eight-documentary *The Birth of Texas Series* by award-winning director Mike Vance.

Melissa Gayan attended The Digital Humanities in the Southeast 2014: A National Endowment for the Humanities Digital Humanities Workshop in Atlanta. The conference included a grant-writing workshop and demonstrations.

Dr. Eric Hall was interviewed about his book on Arthur Ashe by the [New Books in Sports](#) podcast, and columnist Steve Tignor discussed the book on [tennis.com](#).

Art

MFA candidate Stephanie Neal's photograph "Blue Crabs" was used in NRDC Action Fund's "Running Clean" segment by Dahlman/Cook Productions that featured Sen. Kain.

Professor Santanu Majumdar's "Design Education Challenges for Millennial Generation" was accepted to the [RGD 2014 Design Thinkers and Design Educators Conference](#) in Toronto.

Professor Jessica Hines received an Honorable Mention in the Moscow International Foto Awards' category Conflict for a new image "The Reconciliation" from her *My Brother's War* series.

The assessment that Professor Elsie Hill conducted for the Bachelor of Arts, Studio Arts, program was recognized for excellence at the University's second Assessment Symposium.

Music

Students won awards at the National Association of Teachers of Singing State Auditions. Individual awards included:

- Duo Zach Futch and Tessa Morris won First Place in the Freshmen Men and Women divisions
- Graduate student Brenna Dudley, a student of Dr. Arikka Gregory, won First Place in the Advanced Music Theater Women division and Third Place in the Advanced Women Classical division
- Devyn Crawley, a student of Dr. Gregory, won First Place in the Lower College Music Theater division and First Place in the Sophomore Women's division
- Alex Smith, a student of Dr. Allen Henderson, won Second Place in the Sophomore Men division
- Cydney Gardner, a student of Dr. Henderson, won Second Place in the Junior Women division
- Dr. Allen Henderson's student Frederick Thompson, who attends Davidson Fine Arts Magnet School in Augusta, won First Place in the Beginning High School Men division.

Dr. Kyle Hancock and Sarah Hancock will perform the bass and alto solos in the First Presbyterian Church of Hilton Head Island's annual production of *Messiah* on December 14. They will join regional soloists and members of the Hilton Head Symphony, conducted by Dr. Russell Floyd.

Sociology & Anthropology

Professor Eric Silva's paper with MASS graduate student Cory Lowe, "Evolutionary Theory in Letters to the Editor," was accepted for publication by Public Understanding of Science. They analyzed 234 letters to editors and found that, while anti-evolutionary messages were marginalized in the letters sections, few letters explicitly note scientists' acceptance of evolution.

Foreign Languages

Professor Emerita Dr. Clara Krug and faculty members Olga Amarie, Helena Hernandez, and Martha Hughes coordinated the campus-wide celebration of French Week. Departmental participants included Professor Youssef Salhi, who coordinated the screening of *Les Hommes Libres*, and Professor Emeritus Jean-Paul Carton, who danced to folk songs with his wife, Dominique.

Writing & Linguistics

Dr. Jessica Nastal-Dema presented "A Dialogic Perspective of Placement" at the Thomas R. Watson Conference at the University of Louisville.

Dr. Theresa Welford's "The Bride" was accepted for publication in the *Anthology of Georgia Poetry*, edited by Carey Scott Wilkerson and Melissa Dickson.

Dr. Jinrong Li's article with colleagues Link and Hegelheimer, "Rethinking the Role of Automated Writing Evaluation Feedback in ESL Writing Instruction," was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Second Language Writing*. Li presented "Annotated Learner Corpus and Revision for L2 Learners" at the annual conference of the Computer Assisted Language Instruction in Athens, Ohio.

Christopher Smith's "Melancholy and the Infinite Playlist" will be published in *Psyched Zine*, and his artwork appears in the graphic novel *The ABCs of Drinkology: Life*, which has been re-released.

Professor Laura Valeri's "Roadkill" was published in *Panhandler*.

LeighAnn Williams and Dr. Kathy Albertson presented "Seeing to Believe It: Student Words and Websurfing to Conduct Research in First-Year Writing" at the Information Literacy conference in Savannah. Albertson also secured a \$2,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's National Writing Project - one of only 20 awarded - to support the Literacy Design Collaborative. The project aims to help 25 local teachers design meaningful writing assignments.

Dr. Kevin Psonak presented "The Learning-Centered Linguistics Classroom" at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association's conference at Georgia State University.

Professor Eric Nelson gave poetry readings at Ripon College in Wisconsin and at the American Literacy Association's Poetry Symposium in Savannah. Nelson's poem "Georgia Sunset" will appear in an anthology of Georgia poets published by Negative Capability Press in 2015, and a dozen of his aphorisms will be included in *Short Flights*, published by Schaffner Press.

Professor Christina Olson's prose chapbook, *Rook & The M.E. (A Law & Order-Inspired Narrative)*, has been selected for publication in 2015 by Red Bird Chapbooks.

Benjamin Drevlow's "Okay, But Will You?" was accepted for publication by *Fiction Southeast*.

Dr. Michael Pemberton presented "Part of Our World: Designing a Quantitative Assessment of Writing Center Efficacy" at the International Writing Centers Association Conference in Orlando, and his 2003 article "Preparing for Hypertext in the Writing Center ... Or Not" was reprinted in *The Routledge Reader on Writing Centers & New Media*.

Professor Jared Yates Sexton's "Mr. Wimbledon" and "Readings and Visions" were accepted for publication in *WhiskeyPaper* and *Pithead Chapel*, and his "I Want You to Know I Was Here" was nominated by *Wyvern Lit* for a Pushcart Prize. He also visited Indiana State University as a Theodore Dreiser Lecturer and read at the University of Michigan.

Criminal Justice & Criminology

MASS graduate student Melanie Hart defended her thesis, "Mass School Shootings: Predicting the Usage of Firearms in Acts of School Violence," on November 12. Her committee, comprised of Drs. Laura Agnich, Christina Policastro, and Bryan Miller, found her research to be timely and her findings unique. Melanie found that white perpetrators are more likely to use firearms in cases of school mass violence and perpetrators who target schools in rural areas are less likely than those in urban areas to use firearms.

The Georgia Southern Mock Mediation Team won three awards, including two First Place awards for advocate and client teams and a Third Place award for peacemaking, at the Georgia State Conflict Resolution Symposium. More than half of the team had never competed in mock mediation before, so these winnings illustrate the success of the Club in training members. The Club also won seven awards at the International Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament at Brenau University, including Ninth Place (out of 40) for mediation team, a Case Ellis Peace Maker Award, First Place for individual mediator, two All American Mediator Awards, and two All American Advocate Awards.

Dr. Christina Policastro's research with colleague Brian K. Payne (Old Dominion University) has been accepted for publication by the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*. The study examines the risk of telemarketing fraud among a diverse sample of younger and older adults and finds that neighborhood disorder and employment status are related to telemarketing fraud victimization.

Drs. Bryan Miller, Laura Agnich, Chad Posick, and Laurie Gould's article, "Cheating Around the World: A Comparative Analysis of Strain and Principal Reported Cheating," was accepted for publication by the *Journal of Criminal Justice Education*. The study uses criminological theory to evaluate increasing rates of academic cheating in secondary schools in 35 nations. The findings indicate that schools with resource shortages, greater levels of economic disadvantage, and with larger national-average grade sizes experience higher levels of problematic cheating.

Dr. Bryan Miller's research with colleagues Drs. Joseph Ruckus (Arkansas State University) and John Stogner (University of North Carolina - Charlotte), "LGBT Novel Drug Use as Contextualized Through Control, Strain, and Learning Theories,"

was accepted for publication by Social Science Quarterly. The study's findings suggest that LGBT individuals have higher rates of novel-drug use and that social learning constructs partially mediate the relationship between sexual orientation and novel-drug use.

Literature & Philosophy

Dr. Olivia Edenfield received a \$5,000 seed grant to publish her biography of Andre Dubus.

Alumni News

Frank Sartor is the chief executive officer of Ridgeview Institute, a nonprofit hospital in Atlanta that treats people with addiction and mental health issues.

Ashley Clement is a contract visual designer at Foundry Local.

Leigh Thomson ('02) is the principal at LETR & Co, which has won seven American Graphic Design awards. More than 8,000 entries were submitted to the 2014 competition, and only 15 percent of entries are recognized.

Erica Chancey ('08) is a graphic designer for Body Central.

Alessandra Oviatt ('12) is a contract graphic designer for Parkent Cycles.

Upcoming Events

ART

Through December 12

EXHIBITION BFSDoA Faculty

Contemporary Gallery, Center for Art & Theatre | 912.GSU.ARTS

Through December 12

EXHIBITION Master of Fine Arts Thesis

University Gallery, Center for Art & Theatre | 912.GSU.ARTS

MUSIC

December 2

CONCERT Guitar Ensemble

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

December 3

CONCERT Georgia Southern Symphony "Come Dance with Gus"

7:30 p.m. | Performing Arts Center | 912.478.5396

December 4

CONCERT Brass Quintet

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

December 5

CONCERT Voice & Strings Faculty

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

December 7

CONCERT Choral Christmas

3 and 6 p.m. | Statesboro First United Methodist Church | 912.478.5396

CONCERT [Symphonic Wind Ensemble & Wind Symphony](#)

8 p.m. | Performing Arts Center | 912.478.5396

[\[View Complete Event List \]](#)

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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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