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Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "CLASS Notes" (2014). *CLASS Notes (2009-2017)*. 66.
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CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



December 31, 2014



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

Happy New Year!

As we embark on a new year and a new semester, CLASS is pleased to recognize the achievements of our faculty members and students from the end of 2014. We are working to finalize our annual report summarizing the College's 2014 highlights, and I look forward to sharing it with you soon. You will also soon receive the spring edition of *CLASS Connect*, via print or a link to the online edition. The forthcoming publication features several students, alumni, friends, and faculty members of the College, and we are excited to share their stories with you.

It was my honor to hand our graduates their diplomas during the commencement ceremony on December 12, and I wish our recent alumni all the best in their future endeavors. We hope that these newest alumni - and all of our alumni and friends - will continue to keep us informed of their news and achievements. You can share your updates with us through [email](#) or by filling out the [online alumni survey](#). It is always wonderful to hear from you!

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curt Pickett".

Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology

I have spent an interesting and exciting six months since arriving as the new chair of the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology getting to know our faculty, students, college, and institution. The Department offers unique opportunities to students in the study of crime and justice, and faculty members are actively engaged in work that enhances our understanding of criminal offending, victimization, and the administration of justice in society. A great myriad of accomplishments have been yielded by faculty members and students this year, and I am happy to highlight just a few.

Our Department continues to earn recognition in the broader fields of criminal justice and criminology. For example, Dr. Chad Posick was named the New Scholar of the Year for the Victimology Section of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and will receive his award at the annual meeting in March in Orlando. He is also a SAGE Junior Faculty Professional Development Award recipient and will attend a workshop on teaching criminal justice at the same meeting. Posick's most recent publication, "Investigating the Role of Neighborhood Youth Organizations in Preventing Adolescent Violent Offending: Evidence from Chicago," can be found in the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.

Dr. Christina Policastro was invited to present during an online webinar for the National Adult Protective Services Association. Her presentation aimed to prepare pre-professional students on the occurrence of adult and elder abuse.

In addition to their ongoing service to the both the community and profession, faculty members have presented at numerous national and regional professional meetings. They have collaborated with students, producing several conference presentations and two peer-reviewed publications just in Fall 2014.

Dr. Adam Bossler continues to work with undergraduates in the honors program, exploring diverse topics, including attitudes toward women in law enforcement and citizens' perceptions of privacy and national security.

Student organizations also have demonstrated the strength of Georgia Southern this Fall. In particular, the Mock Mediation Club had a fabulous showing throughout the semester. These successes culminated in the team placing Second in Advocacy and First in Mediation and receiving six additional awards at the International Intercollegiate Mediation Tournament. Dr. Laura Agnich, the club's advisor, has been singing their praises all semester. If you have time, please stop by the Carroll Building to see the trophies that the club has brought back to Georgia Southern this year.

I had the pleasure of attending the Inside-Out graduation ceremony for the course that taught Georgia Southern students along with inmates at Smith State Prison. After this ceremony, I enjoyed meeting Warden Stanley Williams; Ms. Kim, who leads the Korean Ministry at the institution; Ms. Anderson, the Secretary to the Deputy Warden of Care and Treatment; and Mr. Wayne Dasher, who serves on the state Corrections and Georgia Public Safety Boards. I heard not only from students, but also these staffers and community members, about the value yielded not only for participants but the larger region, through the Inside-Out course. The course offers true insights into the real lives of those entangled in crime, as well as the impact of incarceration on individuals, communities, families, and children. I hope that the program will be able to not only continue, but to extend our ability to offer such experiential learning experiences to students in our program.

We are particularly excited about an interdisciplinary speakers series that is being developed to highlight and address the role of race in community and justice issues. The series, which will feature speakers from our Department in addition to Sociology and Anthropology and History, is being co-sponsored by these programs and the CLASS Dean's Office, the Multicultural Student Center, the Justice Studies Club, the Sociological Society, the Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, and the Campus Life Enrichment Committee. The series will culminate with a lecture by the University of Wisconsin-Madison sociologist Dr. Alice Goffman: "On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City," during which she will detail her pivotal research in a Philadelphia neighborhood,

highlighting the War on Drugs, police surveillance, and the experiences of residents living in this high-crime neighborhood. Her research has received both critical acclaim and criticism for its portrayal of life in this impoverished, urban neighborhood, and we are quite excited that we are able to extend the invitation to the Georgia Southern and local communities to hear about this work, particularly in the wake of recent events. We hope everyone will keep a lookout for the finalization of the dates of the lectures in this series, and I look forward to continuing to meet those in the community as we explore such timely issues together.

I have deeply enjoyed my time at Georgia Southern thus far, and look forward to enhancing program offerings for students and continuing participation in the community regarding issues of crime and justice. We welcome anyone who has an interest in our field to stop by and ask questions. We are quite excited about our future offerings and hope to see you in the Spring.

- Brenda Blackwell

At the Head of the CLASS

My name is Shanna Felix. I am a master's student in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology and also received my bachelor's degree in psychology from Georgia Southern University.

In my first semester at Georgia Southern, I knew exactly what I wanted to do for the rest of my life: I wanted to help people. I declared a major in psychology thinking that I would one day be a counselor or a therapist. As an undergraduate, I worked with the Sexual Assault Response Team's peer education team and helped to start the now-annual Walk A Mile In Her Shoes event. At some point during my tabling and advertising for the event, I met a professor who was, at the time, new to Georgia Southern University. This professor - Dr. Laura Agnich - was extremely helpful and put insane hours into the event. She was the kind of professor who was passionate about what she did. So, when she suggested that I enroll in the Inside-Out: Gender and Crime course, I didn't think twice. It sounded like a fun class - go to a women's prison once a week instead of a traditional classroom and learn all about gender, crime, and prisons alongside people who are actually incarcerated. To be totally honest, I didn't really expect much out of the class - I took it partially because it sounded fun and partially because I had a slight interest in offender psychology.

I did not expect that the Inside-Out class would change my life the way it did. In my four years at Georgia Southern, I had never looked forward to waking up at 6 a.m. to make it to class on time. I learned about the prison system and about the way crime and incarceration are gendered. By taking a class alongside people who were actually incarcerated, I learned to put names and faces to the problems with the prison system. I developed a sense of compassion and empathy for these people that society often forgets, and I realized how I wanted to help people.

About a month ago, I overheard Dr. Bryan Miller chatting with some students. He said something that I think I'll remember for years, that the decision to go into practice (law practice, counseling practice, etc.) or to go into academia is really the decision to be a part of the "system" or to study the "system." He chose the latter for his own reasons, and, though 100 reasons played into my decision to attend Georgia Southern for my master's degree, the moment that Dr. Miller said those words, I realized exactly why I chose to stick around for academia in criminology. By going into academia and one day teaching and contributing to the field, I hope that I'll change lives the way Drs. Agnich and Miller and the rest of the faculty at Georgia Southern have changed mine.



History

Dr. Eric Allen Hall was interviewed by [Tennis.com](https://www.tennis.com) about his recent book about Arthur Ashe.

Psychology

The Department's Psy.D. program has received [accreditation approval](#) from the American Psychological Association.

Neil Martin, Preston Elder, Kylie Barefoot, Jennifer Barron, Brendan McCollum, and Amanda Rickard all received their Psy.D. degrees in December.

Lori Barfield, Stephanie Chastang, Timothy Curran, Erin Lawson, Danielle Seal, Joseph Todd, and Lisa Watson all received their Master's of Science degrees in psychology in December.

Music

Brittany Jackson, Patrick Smith, Sydney Sewell, Ben Ratliff, Brittany Coughlin, Mark Turnquest, Jasmine Hines, and Meredith Dowse all received their bachelor's degrees in music in December.

Music education majors took to podiums from Effingham to Cobb counties, conducting ensembles in December concerts.

The Gretsch Afterschool Program performed its fall recital at the Honey Bowen Building on November 20. More than 20 students in fifth through eighth grades performed on guitar and percussion to a full house of parents and friends. Selections included pop, blues, world, and holiday songs.

Dr. Laura Stambaugh's article "Difference in Error Detection Skills by Band and Choral Preservice Teachers" was published in the Journal of Music Teacher Education. Stambaugh's article is among the first to examine how band and choral music education majors hear errors in rehearsals, and her results indicate that band majors predominantly listen to rhythm while choral majors pay attention to pitch. Additionally, choral majors were better at identifying errors in band rehearsals than band majors were at identifying errors in choral rehearsals.

Communication Arts

The Theatre & Performance program's performance of *Race*, directed by Professor Lisa Abbott, has been selected for a Region 4 performance by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. Student participants in *Race* were also nominated for Kennedy Center awards, including cast members Akil Jackson, Whitacker Gardner, Tatyana Arrington, and Harry Hudgins; set designer Colin Hancock; costume and lighting designer Zo Haynes; stage manager Sierra Clay; and dramaturg Teundras Oaks.

Dr. Susan DeBonis directed and hosted *Wednesday Morning* on channel 97.1 with students in the Video Apps course. The production featured live election coverage, with students reporting on various races. DeBonis collaborated with Katie Grubbs, general manager of WVGS, who lead the *Election Night* live radio show, and Dr. Camille Broadway's journalism class, which investigated the background of the elections and participated in the radio reports. Professor Tyson Davis also worked as technical producer with production students Daniela Rivera, Hayley Connor, and James Paul.

Students Nadia Dreid and Morgan Lothridge collected election results for the Associated Press.

Dr. Reed Smith has been selected to serve a three-year term as the book review editor for *American Journalism: A Journal of Media History*.

The PR Advisory Board met in Atlanta in October and discussed the University, the College, Sanford Hall, curriculum changes, and membership updates.

About 120 students and 18 vendors participated in Comm Arts Inc., an internship, networking, and career fair hosted by the Department in Sanford Hall in November.

Dr. Rebecca Kennerly with colleagues Dr. Richard Flynn of the Department of Literature & Philosophy and Dr. Melanie Kitchen O'Meara of Georgia Regents University presented "The Case of Patricia Pace's Boundless Legacy of Performance, Study, Play, Work, and Love" at the National Communication Association's annual convention in Chicago. Kennerly serves as the association's performance studies member at large and presided over the election of new officers at the conference.

Dr. Beom Jun Bae with colleague Dr. Gary Heald of Florida State University presented "Effects of Absolute and Comparative Risk Information on Individuals' Self-Evaluation, Affective Responses, and Behavioral Intentions Against Skin Cancer."

Dr. D. Jason Knowles re-edited a short promotional documentary for history professors Drs. Michael Van Wagenen and

Brian Feltman, and it was published on the [University of North Carolina Press' website](#).

Art

MFA Candidate Stephanie Neal is working with University alumna Brooke Brandenburg Carney on the [Team OCEAN](#) awareness campaign for the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve.

Professor Sarah Bielski's "First and Ten: Do It Again" was accepted to Gallery 110's fifth annual Juried Exhibition in Seattle.

Professor Jessica Hines won First Place at the [International Photo Exhibition](#), juried by Elizabeth Avedon, at Castell Photography Gallery.

Professor Hans Mortensen judged the Specialty Graphic Imaging Association's [2014 Golden Image Awards](#), which ran in conjunction with its annual conference in Las Vegas. Mortensen judged 16 areas of the competition, which celebrates excellence in items created by speciality imaging.

Professor Santanu Majumdar's "Bringing Ergonomics in Classrooms: A Multidisciplinary Approach" has been selected for a poster presentation at the 18th annual [Applied Ergonomics Conference](#) in March.

Sociology & Anthropology

Professor William L. Smith, with colleagues Kyong Hee Chee and Nathan W. Pino, published "Assessing the Factors Associated with Possession of an Academic Ethic in College" in *Sociological Viewpoints*.

Foreign Languages

Dr. Dolores Rangel's "La Visión del Indígena en *El Resplandor de Mauricio Magdaleno*: Discurso Nacioalista y Fracaso Revolucionario" was published in volume 42 of [Tema y Variaciones de Literatura](#), a journal of the Univesidad Autónoma Metropolitana of Mexico City.

Dr. Marcela Ruiz-Funes' "[Task Complexity and Linguistic Performance in Advanced College-Level Foreign Language Writing](#)" was published in *Task-Based Language Learning - Insights From and For L2 Writing*.

Professor Teresa Buzo Salas' "[Would You Like to Be a Spanish Teacher?](#)" was published in *La Voz Latina*.

Alumni News

Timothy Martin Earls ('92) is working as lead set designer on *The Long Night*, featuring Mark Wahlberg. Earls is also on the board of directors of the Hollywood Sci-Fi Museum.

Missy McCormick ('94) had a solo exhibition at the University of Arkansas - Monticello and was included in the *Ceramic Biennial 2014* at the New Hampshire Institute of Art and the *2014 History in the Making* exhibition at Genesee Pottery & Firehouse Gallery in Rochester, New York.

Linda Eubanks ('07) is a sales representative for Tucker Castleberry. She worked in graphic design for the Chick-fil-A Bowl, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, and Atlanta Sports Council before transitioning to printing.

Marenn Mosley ('09) owns Imagineer Metal Works and is an apprentice at The Jeweler's Bench in Savannah.

James Mass ('10) is a business development executive for Iron Mountain.

Mandy Rutherford ('10) is a graphic designer at FOCUS Brands and works on its Carvel account.

Maggie Alley ('11, '14) is a Spanish teacher and the choir director at Swainsboro Middle and High schools.

Megan Meeks Moore ('11) is the band director at Emanuel County Institute.

Doug Atcheson ('12, '14) is the band director at Mount De Sales Academy.

Michael Thomas ('12, '14) is the assistant band director at South Paulding High School.

Maggie Dunstan Newland ('12) is a brand specialist with TMX Finance in Savannah.

Molly Nuttall ('13) is the choir director at Richmond Hill Middle School.

Sarah Poole ('13) is a music teacher at Taylors Creek Elementary School in Hinesville, South Carolina.

Kellye Watts ('13) is a music teacher at Glennville Elementary and Collins Elementary and Middle schools.

Jacob Wright ('13) is the band director for Needwood Middle School and the assistant band director at Brunswick High School.

Amy Bryan Roberson ('13) works for Mudfire Clayworks in Atlanta and was recently included in *Big Ideas: Influences in Modern Ceramics* at Sebastopol Center for the Arts in California. Roberson was also featured on an episode of USA Network's *Chrisley Knows Best*, when she taught Todd and Julie Chrisley how to use the pottery wheel at Mudfire.

Collin Schwartz ('13) is a designer for CBRE and received the organization's Best of Class award for an animated video that aided in the sale of an industrial portfolio.

Elaina Bass ('13) is a music teacher at Needwood Middle School in Brunswick.

Morgan Driggers ('13) is the band director at Treutlen County Middle and High schools.

Ashley Hooker ('13) is a music teacher at Brantley County Elementary School.

Jacqueline Iden ('13) is a music teacher at Hickory Flat Charter School in McDonough.

Tony Jackson ('13) is an elementary music teacher for Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools.

Adam Akridge ('14) is a music teacher at Twin City Elementary School and the music director at Register First Baptist Church.

Anthony Alberti ('14) is the band director at Southwest Middle School in Savannah.

Brandon Bearden ('14) is a graphic designer at The Impact Partnership in Kennesaw.

Brittany Coughlin ('14) is the choir director at Cuthbertson High School in Waxhaw, North Carolina.

Brian Dyson ('14) is the band director at Dimmit Middle School and Renton High School in Renton, Washington.

Jasmine Hines ('14) is a music teacher at Wheelless Road and Terrecnce Manor Elementary schools in Augusta.

Aja Hoeller ('14) is a music teacher at White Bluff Elementary School in Savannah.

Michael Johnson ('14) is the assistant band director for J.R. Trippe Middle School and Vidalia High School.

Richard Johnson ('14) is the band director at Glennville Middle School.

Amber Miller ('14) is a music teacher at Claxton Elementary School.

Patrick Smith ('14) is the band director and music teacher at Thomas Heyward Academy in Ridgeland, South Carolina.

Upcoming Events

GREAT MINDS

January 27

LECTURE CAREN TOWN: "'Unsuitable Books': Censorship & Young Adult Fiction"

5:30 p.m. | Fielding S. Russell Union, Room 2084 | 912.478.2527

ART

January 12 - February 22

EXHIBITION Continuum: BFSDoA Alumni

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

January 21 - 23

CONFERENCE Georgia Association of Museums & Galleries

gamg.org

MUSIC

January 22

CONCERT Tim Kintzinger, trumpet, and Karla Rocker, piano

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

January 26

CONCERT Georgia Southern Symphony Concerto Competition

6 p.m. | Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building | 912.478.5396

January 28

CONCERT United States Air Force Horizon Saxophone Quartet

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

[[View Complete Event List](#)]

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](#).



College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences * Georgia Southern University
P.O. Box 8142 * Statesboro, Georgia 30460 * 912-478-2527 * class.GeorgiaSouthern.edu