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### CLASS Notes

Georgia Southern University

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# CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES



March 31, 2015



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

Greetings!

March was a great month in the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences. Besides having a bit of relaxation in the form of Spring Break, the College was one of several sponsors for our Center for Irish Research and Teaching's first Celtic Celebration in Augusta and Savannah. The two evening events were the Center's initial efforts to fund an endowed account to support ongoing research exploring the Savannah (GA)-Wexford (Ireland) connection, and the events were a great addition to the St. Patrick's Day celebrations in area.

The end of the March and beginning of April also saw the visit to campus of representatives from SACSCOC-the regional accrediting agency for the University. Accrediting visits come once a decade, so this visit marked both the end of a period of self-study and reflection (and, of course, lots of reporting) by the institution and the announcement of a new quality enhancement plan that will focus on the improvement of student writing across the campus. Knowing the importance of writing skills in both the workplace and the academy, CLASS is certainly excited to continue the focus on writing that is found in all areas of the College.

With the break behind us, we enter the "homestretch" for the academic year. Many speakers and performers will visit the campus this month, and our students will, of course, be working extra hard as they head toward commencement and summer breaks. Please join us at any of the events-we'd love to see you!

Warmest regards,



Curtis E. Ricker, dean

## Department of Political Science

Georgia Southern University's Department of Political Science is committed to educating students about systems of government through the analysis of politics and the behavior of those that participate in politics. Our students can currently be found in the halls of the United States Congress as well as the statehouse of the Georgia Legislature, the Governor's office, and the committee rooms of local and county governments. In addition, our students can be found in the United Nations, on Wall Street, in intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations as well as some of the finest graduate and law schools in the country.

The Department teaches courses in American Politics, Comparative Politics, International Relations, Political Theory, and Legal Studies. The Department, together with the Center for International Studies, is home to Georgia Southern University's Model United Nations program, one of the oldest programs of its kind in the country. GSU's Model United Nations delegations are regularly recognized for their outstanding efforts in delegate preparation and position paper writing. Students also participate in the Model African Union program, Model Arab League, and Mock Mediation. Several political science students serve as the presidents and officers in their sororities and fraternities, and several students are in high positions in the Student Government Association (SGA). The Department will soon be home to the Mock Mediation Club as a new faculty advisor will be joining its ranks in Fall 2015.

In recent years the Department has been very successful in hiring new faculty members that have a passion for both teaching and research. Many of the Department's faculty are very active in student mentoring, involving themselves in co-authoring professional articles with students, presenting with students at professional conferences, and encouraging students in their professional pursuits. The Department's faculty is also very involved in the Honors Program, and some dozen or so Honors students call the Department of Political Science their home.

The Department has been extremely productive in the last two years with five books having been published by the faculty as well as dozens of articles and many presentations at professional conferences. Whereas the Department had no junior faculty three years ago, beginning Fall 2015 the Department will have five junior faculty members with specialties in international politics, terrorism, comparative political systems, the European Union, international law and diplomacy, human rights, women's and gender studies, and politics and the military.

The Department prides itself on attracting faculty to Georgia Southern University who have a passion for teaching. The Department offers some of the most intriguing classes at Georgia Southern taught by some of the most passionate and skilled professors in their respective fields. In addition, many of our faculty conduct Study Abroad trips where Georgia Southern students can sharpen their language skills, experience new cultures, and learn more about the world which they will be governing in the future. The Department's faculty have recently conducted Study Abroad experiences to France, Italy, Spain, South Africa, Indonesia, and Albania. Future trips will feature experiences in various Latin American countries, as well as the United Kingdom and India.

The Department of Political Science is proud of the role it plays in training the future leaders of the United States and the world.

- Barry Balleck

## At the Head of the CLASS

My name is Kelsey Odom. I am a 2008 Georgia Southern graduate with a bachelor's degree in Political Science and minor in Philosophy. During my time at GSU, I re-instated the Political Science Club with the goal of increasing students' political awareness and involvement, regardless of political affiliation. I accepted an internship in Washington, D.C., my last semester at Georgia Southern with Representative John Barrow's congressional office.

Interning as a graduating senior presented me with numerous opportunities to further my career. My paramount priority, as is the same for most graduating seniors, was to secure a job after graduation. Being in the city allowed me to utilize every networking opportunity. D.C. is its own beast, and being available to interview for jobs on the spot significantly contributed to my success. Timing is everything!

After the 2008 election, D.C. went through significant transitions. Democrats took control of the House, Senate, and Presidency, and I accepted an offer with a political consulting firm on Capitol Hill where I began my career as a Political Fundraising Consultant for Democratic campaigns. Over the past 6 years, I have gained experience consulting for 22 congressional campaigns, including front-line members, challengers, and Democratic leadership. I have assisted in raising roughly \$10.8 million.

I am very grateful for the experiences I had at Georgia Southern, and I remain extremely involved through the Washington D.C. Alumni Association. Year after year, I have seen Georgia Southern's D.C. presence grow, and I hope it continues to do so. While politics might seem to be a pretty competitive business, it's filled with people who want to help you get ahead, especially within the Georgia Southern family.



Kelsey Odom

## Department News

### Foreign Languages

Dr. David Seaman has composed a chapbook of poetry, which consists of dozens of his translations of a single French poem, in a variety of media, from the classic imitative form to visual poetry and iconography. *Pomegranades* was published by the small press Broken Rules in Ste-Anne de Bellevue in Canada, which hosted a launch event on March 17, 2015. The numbered, limited edition was available for signing and sales at Twigs Café in Ste-Anne, a suburb of Montréal, PQ, Canada. David read selections in two parts, first a series of sonnets following the original poem, Grenades, by Paul Valéry; second, readings featuring experiments such as a war comic version, which expanded on the idea of grenades being the weapon, "hand grenades."

Dr. David Seaman and Dr. Olga Amarie received a \$2000 grant award from the Office of Research and Economic Development to fund their Undergraduate Research proposal.

## Georgia Southern University team wins honors at Southeastern Model Arab League

March 13-15, a delegation of 10 students and 2 faculty advisors (Youssef Salhi and Jacek Lubecki) from Georgia Southern University visited Converse College in Spartanburg, South Carolina, to participate in Southeastern Model Arab League (SERMAL). Model Arab League is a simulation event, which allows students to represent diplomats from 22 Arab countries that are members of Arab League. This was the first time in history that Georgia Southern University participated in a Model Arab League event (there are about 10 such events organized annually on a regional or national basis across the US and internationally by the National Council on US-Arab Relations).

Even though the Georgia Southern delegation was completely new to the simulation, its performance was outstanding. The Eagle Nation delegation won four Outstanding Delegate awards (they went to Matt Horne, Dylan John, Anhar Ibrahim and Ahmed Bekhet) and two Honorable-Mention Delegate awards (they went to Akiv Dawson and Jonathan Quintyne).

Congratulations to the students and faculty advisors who prepared the students. Special thanks to the organizations that sponsored the trip: the Center for International Studies, the Student Government Association, and the Arabic Club.

Dr. Horst Kurz recently received the FLAG President's Award, which recognizes his lengthy, dedicated, multifaceted, and sustained contributions to the Foreign Language Association of Georgia. He received the award at the annual meeting of the association. His efforts, particularly to promote and improve the study of German in the State and the region, are legendary.

Dr. Leticia McGrath recently received a \$5000 award to take a group of FYE students to a conference in Virginia in April to present their research.

## Criminal Justice & Criminology

### Adam Bossler published a new book on Cybercrime

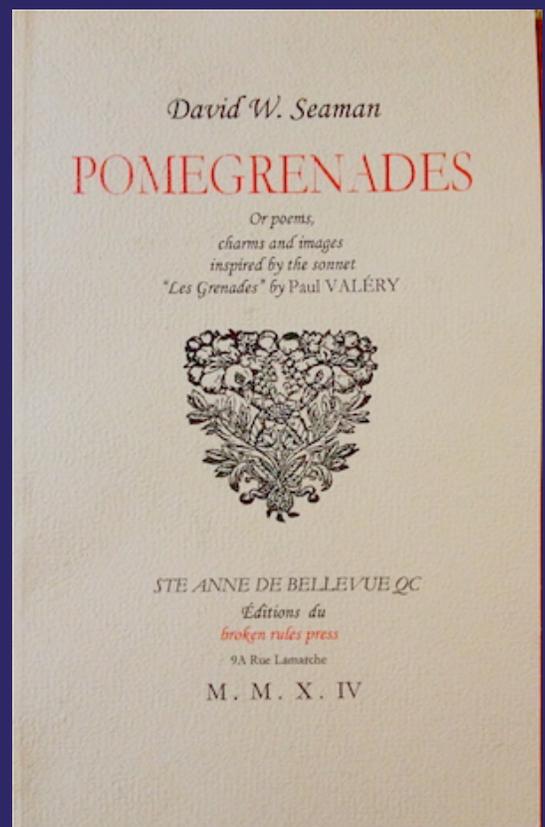
Dr. Bossler and colleagues Thomas Holt and Kathryn Seigfried-Spellar published "Cybercrime and Digital Forensics: An Introduction" (Routledge) in February 2015. The textbook offers a comprehensive and integrative introduction to cybercrime and connects the disparate literature on the various types of cybercrime, the investigation and detection of cybercrime, and the wider role of technology as a facilitator for social relationships between deviants and criminals. A well-known cybercrime scholar, Peter Grabosky, stated that it "is the most thorough and comprehensive introduction to cybercrime and its control... It is, without doubt, the best of its kind."

### Race, Crime, and Community Lecture Series

The Race, Crime, and Community Lecture Series is sponsored by the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology, Multicultural Student Center, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Department of History, Justice Studies Club, Sociological Society, and Campus Life Enrichment Committee (CLEC). This series of lectures focuses on current issues in police-community relations in the United States. Following incidents in Ferguson, New York, and Cleveland, along with protests across the country, police-community relations have been at the forefront of popular media accounts as well as academic research.

On March 9, 2015, Dr. Eric Hall, Assistant Professor of History, presented the inaugural talk in the series, "Ghosts of Ferguson: Race and Rebellion in Urban America, 1914-1992." His talk provided a historical perspective on protests and riots surrounding episodes of police violence in the twentieth century.

Dr. April Schueths, Assistant Professor of Sociology, presented her research on undocumented immigration in a talk titled, "'Please Don't Take My Husband': The Consequences of Criminalizing Undocumented Immigration," on March 12, 2015. Dr. Schueths' talk examined the consequences of criminalizing immigration in the U.S. for families, police-community relations, due process, and public safety.



On March 26 at 9:30am, Drs. Chad Posick and Amy Hackney (Department of Psychology) presented, "The Role of Racial Stereotypes in Police-Community Interactions: Integrating Understanding and Empathy." The Lecture Series concluded with a guest lecture by Dr. Alice Goffman from the University of Wisconsin-Madison on Thursday, April 2nd, 2015. Questions and comments can be directed to Chad Posick at cposick@georgiasouthern.edu.

#### **Mock Mediation Club Wins First Place at International Law School Competition**

The Georgia Southern University Mock Mediation Team was one of 4 undergraduate mediation teams invited to participate at the International Law School Mediation Tournament in Des Moines, Iowa (March 18th - 21st 2015) as a result of their outstanding performance at the undergraduate International Mediation Competition in Fall 2014. Georgia Southern University was the only undergraduate institution to break into the semi-finals for both Mediation and Advocacy, and ended the competition by winning 1st place in Advocacy in the world. In addition, the team won 9th Place Mediation Team and 5th Place Advocate/Client (individual award). This is a huge accomplishment as the team competed against teams comprised of law school students worldwide.

The Mock Mediation Club at Georgia Southern was started in October, 2013, and is advised by Dr. Laura Agnich. Student members come from diverse and interdisciplinary majors including Criminal Justice & Criminology, Psychology, Sociology, International Relations, Biology, Education, Nursing, Engineering, and Construction. The Club is known for their work in training international mediation teams and has been recognized by the Sri Lankan ambassador to the U.S. for this work. Currently, Georgia Southern's Mock Mediation Club trains mediation teams from Sri Lanka, Canada, and Brazil in both mediation and advocacy. Students' travel to the law school competition was supported by the Department of Criminal Justice & Criminology, Student Affairs and Enrollment Management, and the SGA.

#### **Faculty and Students Present Research at National Conference**

Several department faculty members presented their research at the national Academy for Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS) conference in Orlando, Florida, March 3-7. In addition, several undergraduate and graduate students presented their research in collaboration with faculty mentors.

MASS student Justin Hoyle in collaboration with Drs. Bryan Miller and John Stogner (UNC-Charlotte) presented the paper "Exploring Predictors of Self-reported DUIs in a Young Adult Population." This study tested competing theories to examine predictors of self-reported buzzed and drunk driving.

Working with Drs. Christina Policastro and Laura Agnich, undergraduate Criminal Justice & Criminology student Krista Latham presented, "The Effects of Alcohol, Drug Abuse, and Sexual Orientation on Sexual Victimization," which employed data from a college sample to examine predictors of alcohol- and drug-facilitated sexual victimization in dating relationships.

MASS student Shanna Felix, along with Dr. Chad Posick, presented preliminary results from their multi-method process and program study of a rural-based CASA program in their talk "Understanding the CASA Process - Addressing the Needs of Neglected and Abused Adolescents in Rural Areas."

MASS student Kelley Hartman, working with Drs. Laura Agnich, Christina Policastro, and Laurie Gould presented "Sex Differences in the Likelihood to Endorse Bystander Intervention Strategies among a Sample of University Students." This research found that young male students may be less likely to intervene in potential cases of sexual assault.

Working with Dr. Laurie Gould, Undergraduate Justice Studies student, Kayla Hulon presented a paper entitled, "An Examination of the Relationship Between Corporal Punishment and Risk Preferences Among University Students." This study examined how positive and negative punishments received during childhood influences low self control during young adulthood.

Working with Dr. Laurie Gould, MASS student Jack Lightfoot presented a paper entitled, "Spatial Dimensions of Conflict: The Rise of the Islamic State." This study examined how the increase in ungoverned or differentially governed spaces in Syria and Iraq contributed to the growth of the Islamic State.

MASS student Joseph Bacot presented preliminary findings from his thesis project entitled, "Reentry and Relapse: An Examination of the Causes and Correlates of Desistance from Crime," at the ACJS annual meeting. His study examined how strain within the home environment and psychological strain influence delinquent behavior.

## Sociology & Anthropology

### Chasity Thompson Receives SWS Undergraduate Social Activism Award

Ms. Chasity Thompson, senior Sociology major and Africana Studies minor, was one of two winners of the 2015 Sociologists for Women in Society's Undergraduate Social Activism Award. Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) is a national renowned organization dedicated to research and activism to improve women's lives. Ms. Thompson was nominated by Dr. Trina Smith (Assistant Professor of Sociology) with letters of support by Dr. April Schueths (Assistant Professor of Sociology), Ms. Dorsey K. Baldwin (Director, Multicultural Student Center), Mr. Jabal M. Moss (Diversity Educational Coordinator, Multicultural Student Center), and Mr. M. Christopher Pugh (Assistant Director, Multicultural Student Center).



Chasity Thompson

Ms. Thompson was nominated based on her work at Georgia Southern University and the broader community. Chasity's work across campus, including the Multicultural Student Center, Model United Nations, and the Sociology Club, demonstrates her concern for equality and social justice. As Dr. Smith wrote in her nomination, "Chasity is dedicated to social justice, and is able to use a sociological lens to frame her inquiries. But even more, it is not just her experiences that fuel her activism, but her desire to build bridges among diverse groups, to relate to and understand people, and she does so in a professional, reflective way, serving as a role model to others who wish to strive for equality." As the letters of support attest to, Chasity takes a lead role in advocating for social justice and equality, which she does with professionalism, empathy, and self-reflection. Chasity's has sought to bring awareness and change to campus in regards to not only the systematic oppressions minority groups and students face but also how to build bridges among diverse groups.

Ms. Thompson and Dr. Smith traveled at the end of February to Washington, D.C., to attend the SWS 2015 winter meetings where Ms. Thompson was honored with her award during the banquet. During her time at the SWS meeting, Ms. Thompson was able to attend various sessions and committee meetings including applied sociology, women of color in academic and applied settings, race in the classroom, and gender and organizations. She networked with students, professors, and other professionals. Ms. Thompson made quite an impression on the members of SWS, including receiving a roomful of applause for her honest and passionate remarks about her social justice work. The members of SWS all hope she will attend future meetings. Congratulations to Ms. Chasity Thompson for her award and fantastic work to make our campus a better place!

## Communication Arts

### Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival National Awards 2015

Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival recognized outstanding achievements showcased at the eight regional festivals. *Race; a Play* (by David Mamet) received the Distinguished Performance and Production Ensembles award and Lisa Abbott, associate professor, was awarded the Distinguished Director of a Play for the play.

### 2015 Performance Studies Showcase

Dr. Rebecca Kennerly invites you to the 2015 Performance Studies Showcase, April 18, 7:30 pm, in the Black Box Theater in the Center for Art and Theater. No charge! This showcase includes an ensemble performance from the COMS 3336 Introduction to Performance Studies course entitled *Experiences, Perspectives, Histories and Discourses on Race*, which also traveled to the 2015 Patti Pace Performance Festival in New Orleans, and solo and ensemble work based on oral history interviews gathered in the Spring 2015 COMS 4336 Performance, Culture, Communication course, tentatively titled *Perspectives on the Sweet Life: Vidalia Onion Stories from Field to Table*.

## Music

St. John's Church, Savannah, seeks Professional Bass/Baritone Singers to serve as section leaders in the Adult Choir. Salary is based on musical ability and vocal skills. Call Organist/Choirmaster, Steven Branyon, at 901-660-8643 or 912-232-1251 for details.

## Art

Recent work from Professor Jessica Hines' photography series, "Spirit Stories," was featured in the Parisian magazine, Fubiz. Translation: In "Spirit Stories" series, American photographer Jessica Hines focuses on little details of a forest. Through these conceptual photographs, the artist shows us the hidden beauty of nature and proposes an abstract series with petrol reflections to discover. Since 2005, the platform Fubiz provides daily articles about the best in contemporary creative culture: graphics, culture, products, videos, and digital arts.

Graphic Design Professor Santanu Majumdar's paper, "Design Education Archtype," has been accepted at the UCDA Design Education Summit Conference.

Foundation's Professor Sarah Bielski's painting, "Getting to Third," was accepted into the 2015 IU East Inaugural National Juried Exhibition: Gender at the Whitewater Art Gallery at Indiana University East from April 9 through June 19, 2015. The piece will also be used as the featured work on the cover of the exhibition booklet.

## Alumni News

**Lindsay Cox Doty ('00)** is a Ph.D. candidate and Teaching Assistant, Art History, at the University of Georgia, Athens and is currently an instructor for the Cortona, Italy program.

**Justin Mullis ('05)** moved to Atlanta, GA, worked in politics, received his M.PA., and received his J.D. from Florida Coastal School of Law.

**Lucinda Lumley ('05)** works with Continuous Improvement at PANAPRINT, Inc. Continuous improvement is the ongoing effort to improve products, services, or processes. These efforts can seek "incremental" improvement over time or "breakthrough" improvement all at once.

**Kristen DuPree ('05)** is a Graphic Designer with AIG. She supports internal messaging and communication by gathering requirements from business and technical teams to design digital artwork and layouts. She conceives ideas, concepts, and campaigns working alongside fellow graphic designers as well as instructional designers.

**Kelsey Robertson ('11)** is now Graphic Designer at Aspen Marketing.

**Mark Nicolou ('11)** is currently employed as Operations Consultant at Florida Department of State.

**Ansley Simons ('11)** is a Ph.D. candidate, Museum Education, Florida State University.

**Michel Samawi ('11)** received a M.A. in Anthropology, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland.

**Lindsay DiBlasio ('12)** is currently employed at the Cornelius Arts center in Cornelius, North Carolina, as an Art Instructor.

**Shanna Goodwin ('12)** is a Ph.D. candidate and Teaching Assistant, Art History, University of South Florida.

**Emily Elam ('13)** is now working in business development at eCommHub.

**Katherine Jackson ('13)** is now a Volunteer Graphic Design/Marketing Assistant at Motherbrook Arts & Community Center.

**Megan Neely ('13)** is a M.A. candidate accepted into a Ph.D. program, Art History, University of Georgia, Athens.

**Jessica Golden ('13)** is a M.A. candidate, Art History, University of Georgia, Athens.

**Lauren Davis ('13)** is currently employed at Ahlers & Ogletree Auction Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia.

**Christine Byrd ('14)** is now the Marketing Specialist at UltraTech International, Inc.

**Megan Wilson ('14)** is currently employed at Elena Madden Studio & Gallery, Beaufort, South Carolina.

Share your updates with us through [email](#) or by filling out the [online alumni survey](#). It is always wonderful to hear from you!

## Upcoming Events

### LECTURES

April 2

#### **LECTURE**

Alice Goffman: "On the Run: Fugitive Life in an American City"  
6:30 p.m. | Fielding S. Russell Union, Theater | 912.478.8030

April 14

#### **GREAT MINDS LECTURE**

Santanu Majumdar: "Interactive Teaching Methods: Engaging Students Through Responsive Learning"  
5:30 p.m. | Fielding S. Russell Union, Room 2048 | 912.478.2527

### ART

April 11

#### **COMMUNITY ArtsFest**

11 a.m.- 5 p.m. Sweetheart Circle | 912.GSU.ARTS

April 24-29

#### **GALLERIES Graphic Design Portfolio Reveal**

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

### MUSIC

April 2

#### **CONCERT Choral Recital**

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

April 7

#### **CONCERT New Music at Southern**

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

April 15

#### **CONCERT Percussion Ensemble**

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

April 16

#### **CONCERT Brass Student Chamber Recital**

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

April 17-18

**OPERA Die Fledermaus**

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

April 23

**CONCERT Jazz Band**

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

THEATRE

April 8-11

**THEATRE *The Mountaintop***

7:30 p.m., 2 p.m. Sunday matinee | Black Box Theatre, Center for Art and Theatre | 912.478.5379

April 17

**THEATRE Eighth Annual 10-Minute Play Festival**

7:30 p.m. | Sanford Hall, room 1002 | 912.478.5379

April 25

**THEATRE Directing Scenes Showcase**

2 p.m. | Black Box Theatre, Center for Art and Theatre | 912.478.5379

April 27-May 1

**EXHIBITION *Celebrating 30 Years of African-American Theatre at Georgia Southern***

Black Box Theatre, Center for Art and Theatre | 912.478.5379

April 30 & May 1

**THEATRE *An Evening of One-Acts***

7:30 p.m. | Black Box Theatre, Center for Art and Theatre | 912.478.5379

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

## 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](#).



