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### CLASS Notes

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# CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES



May 31, 2015



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

Greetings!

May is always an exciting month as we watch many of our students walk across the stage toward the pursuit of other life dreams. We look forward to having our newest graduates as active members of the Alumni Association.

During the month of May, we also celebrate the accomplishments of our faculty by giving awards of distinction in scholarship/creativity, service, and teaching. The 2015 faculty recipient of the CLASS Award of Distinction in Scholarship/Creativity is Mr. Derek Larson, Assistant Professor in the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art. The 2015 faculty recipient of the CLASS Award of Distinction in Service is Dr. Larry Locker, Associate Professor of Psychology. The 2015 faculty recipient of the CLASS Award of Distinction in Teaching is Dr. Anna Alexander, Assistant Professor of History.

Congratulations to our graduates and to our accomplished faculty. Have a great summer!

Warmest regards,

Curtis E. Ricker, dean

## Study Abroad

"That was the best experience of my life!" "I never dreamed I could learn so much." "I now feel confident that I can live and work abroad." These are some of the more common responses that students provide as they report on their experiences in Georgia Southern University's Foreign Languages Study Abroad Immersion programs. As nations and economies become more interdependent, it is becoming ever more important that American students learn to compete globally. Learning a foreign language and living in a foreign culture provide students with the experience and confidence to navigate global issues successfully.

In order to provide Georgia Southern's students with this competitive advantage, the Department of Foreign Languages has established a variety of study abroad immersion programs. Although students do appreciate the beauty of the country and some of its cultural icons, cultural tourism is not the goal of the program. Students attend the program with the primary objective of gaining and improving linguistic and cultural proficiency. To this end, they are in classes five days a week, four hours per day, during which they meet in small classes (4-10 students) with native tutors to practice language skills at their particular level. In the evenings and on weekends, they attend mandatory cultural excursions. In most programs (where it is culturally acceptable), the students live with a local family, participating fully in family activities. An instructor from Georgia Southern accompanies the students on the programs and oversees all their linguistic and cultural development. The students keep a daily journal in the target language, have formal weekly oral interviews with the instructor in the target language, and prepare and produce a research paper in the target language on a topic of their interest.

Currently each year the department offers summer programs in France, Germany, Spain, Morocco, Costa Rica, and Mexico. Starting in summer of 2016, we plan to add two new programs to the slate: Kyoto, Japan, and Xi'an, China.



Costa Rica



France



Germany



Morocco

For more information about our programs, please visit our web page at <http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/foreign-languages/study-abroad/>.

- Eric Kartchner

## At the Head of the CLASS

I proudly graduated from Georgia Southern University with a major in International Studies and minors in French and Religious Studies in 2011. My French courses and study abroad with Dr. Seaman and Dr. Krug gave me the necessary skills to live and work successfully in France for the past two years. While living in Europe, I have been fortunate to travel to over ten countries and interact with people from all over the world.

Learning French has had a major impact on my life at the present and will continue to enhance my life in the future. Since graduating, every job I have successfully obtained has been due to my knowledge of the French language. I was chosen to be an

activities leader aboard the Disney Dream of Disney Cruise lines in order to interact and interpret for French speaking guests. After working at Disney, I secured a coveted spot in the Teaching Assistant in France Program, which gave me the opportunity to teach English to primary school students in Clermont-Ferrand, Auvergne. During the summer and school breaks, I am the assistant director at Nacel's American Village, where I co-manage a bilingual team and supervise operations for 50 French adolescent campers. Currently, I am an English lecturer at Université Rennes 2. Everything that I have accomplished professionally since graduating has been a direct result of my French knowledge. In the future I hope to obtain my Master's degree and continue working internationally.



Edea Bailey

-Edea Bailey

## Department News

Foreign Languages

Dr. Marcela Ruiz-Funes's article, "Exploring the potential of second/foreign language writing for language learning: The effects of task factors and learner variables," was recently published in the June 2015 volume of the *Journal of Second Language Writing*. This research aligns perfectly with the University's new focus on writing.

Dr. Michael McGrath recently published his book, *Teatro y fiesta en la ciudad de Segovia (siglos XVIII y XIX)*. Segovia, a city that has honored Dr. McGrath by granting him membership in its Academy of Arts and Letters for his prior attention to the city's religious celebrations (e.g., *Religious Celebrations in Segovia, 1577-1697*), continues to reap the benefits of Dr. McGrath's inspired research through the publication of this new volume.

Ms. Teresa Buzo Salas recently published her novel, *Las hijas de las horas*. Teresa has previously won awards for her short fiction, and this new novel has received high praise from a variety of renowned authors from around the Spanish-speaking world.

## Literature & Philosophy

Brad Edwards was one of three finalists for the Wells-Warren Professor of the Year award.

## History

Anna Alexander will be a fellow in a National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute entitled "Development Ethics and Global Justice: Gender, Economics, and Environment," held at Michigan State University. Anna Alexander also won the 2015 CLASS Award of Distinction in Teaching.

Robert Batchelor's article "The Selden Map Rediscovered" in the Winter 2013 issue of *Imago Mundi* was awarded the prize for best article in the journal for the past two years. It is available for free on the Taylor and Francis website. (<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03085694.2013.731203>) He will receive the award in Antwerp, Belgium, this summer. Batchelor and his "Technology and the Historian" (Spring 2015) students Murray Ruffner, Brandon Sharpe, Colin Hancock, Keimora Ellison, and Raven Williams won first place in the Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership (EEBO/TCP) "hack" contest for the entry, "The Posthumous HAK - Purchas His Pilgrimes (1625) and the East India Company." (<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/eebotcp/early-english-books-hackfest/>) It was an international digital humanities competition, which received entries from around the world. It was the only project involving undergraduate research to win an award. The group wrote a proposal and created a prototype website using Google Fusion Tables to map the routes of the first voyages of the English East India Company, using digitized seventeenth century books that have recently been made public by EEBO/TCP and the Bodleian.

Kathleen Comerford edited Volume 2, issue 2 of *The Journal of Jesuit Studies*, a special issue concerning Jesuits and their books. It contains an introduction written by her as well as articles about Jesuit book production and book collection in Colombia, Japan, Croatia, Canada, Ethiopia, and Syria/Lebanon. The *JJS* is a fully Open Access journal online (<http://booksandjournals.brillonline.com/content/journals/22141332/2/2>) and is available in print as well.

Paul Rodell presented an invited lecture titled "Islamic Southeast Asia: A History Rarely Confronted," as part of a special faculty panel at the Middle East Student Symposium on April 25 hosted by Armstrong Atlantic University. The event was sponsored by the Middle East Council of the University System of Georgia.

## Criminal Justice & Criminology

Dr. Laura Agnich won the University Award for Excellence in Service, which is designed to recognize and reward faculty who use their academic disciplines to provide non-compensated assistance to the community and region, as well as in the academic arena.

Dr. Agnich is the faculty advisor of the Mock Mediation Club, which is dedicated to teaching students the skills and values associated with negotiation, advocacy, and the resolution of multiple forms of conflict through mediation practices. The Club was recently awarded two 2015 awards, Small Student Organization of the Year and New Student Organization of the Year, by the Office of Student Leadership and Civic Engagement. In addition, four student members of the Mock Mediation Club participated in the first international mock online dispute resolution held by the International Academy of Dispute Resolution (INADR) on May 2, 2015.

The Mock Mediation Club held its first annual internal mock mediation competition on Georgia Southern's campus on Saturday, April 25. Four teams of three competed in three rounds of competition, judged by peer members of the organization. Several student competitors were recognized for their performance in the competition, including Justice Studies majors Roland Turner who won the "Rising Mediator" award, and Precious Marsh whose team took first place in

mediation at the competition. In addition, Master of Arts in Social Sciences student concentrating in Criminal Justice and Criminology, Jack Lightfoot, won first place for an advocate/client team.

## Art

Edward Rushton's artwork, Flight 370, was selected to participate in the National Art League's 85th Annual Open Exhibition at the National Art League Gallery in Douglaston, NY, May 4 - May 30.

Jessica Hines, photography professor, is included in the "Eyes on Mainstreet Outdoor Photo Festival" that opened in Wilson, NC, on May 9th and runs through September 7th. One hundred prominent and emerging photographers from 24 countries have joined forces to help revitalize Historic Downtown Wilson.

Foundations Director Jessica Burke's artwork has been accepted to Art Olympia Biennial 2015. The exhibition is to be held from June 13 - 28, 2015, in the Toshima Gallery located in Ikebukuro, Tokyo, Japan. Art Olympia is an open art competition held as a biennial event with the goal of discovering talented artists around the world and supporting their activities. The judging will be conducted by a panel of judges from both in and outside of Japan using a fair point system. Also, Art Olympia aims to promote world's cultural exchanges through art.

Jessica Burke, Foundations Director, has work accepted to Connections 2015: Glitter Bomb, a National Arts Festival located in San Francisco, CA. The exhibition will be at the SOMArts Cultural Center from June 4 - 27.

Jessica Burke's artwork has been accepted to the Art of the South, Hyde Gallery, at the Memphis College of Art in Memphis, TN. The juror for the exhibition is Wayne White.

Since January 2015, Elsie Hill has been selected to exhibit pieces from her newest body of work, *Visual Representations of Discarded Architecture*, in several nationally juried exhibitions. She also presented the work at the 2015 Annual Research Symposium here at GSU and won a Scholarly Pursuits Award from the Office of Research Services and Sponsored Programs at GSU.

Elsie Hill's artwork has been accepted to the 3rd Louisiana Biennial National Juried Exhibition held at Louisiana Tech School of Design. The Biennial is a multi-media show for 2D, 3D, and video works exploring any theme. Over 200 artists and 800 works were submitted from across the United States to Juror Naima Keith, Assistant Curator at The Studio Museum in Harlem, NY.

Artwork created by Elsie Hill has been accepted to the Fusion National Juried Exhibition. The juror of the exhibition is Olivia Ongpin of Luna Rienne Gallery, San Francisco, CA.

Elsie Hill, Assistant Professor, has artwork included in the Art Fields Regional Art Competition located in Lake City, SC. With \$100,000 in cash prizes given to artists from across the Southeast, ArtFields is the largest arts competition of its kind that lasts nine days. Winners are determined by votes from ArtFields attendees and a juried panel of visual arts professionals: William Pittman Andrews is the Director of the Ogden Museum of Southern Art in New Orleans, LA; William Underwood Eiland is the director of the Georgia Museum of Art at the University of Georgia; Leslie Rankow is the president and founder of Leslie Rankow Fine Arts, a New York based art advisory firm dedicated to the private collector of contemporary, modern, and American art.

Elsie Hill has artwork accepted to the Maria J. Howard Arts Center 53rd National Juried Art Exhibition. The juror, Edie Carpenter, is the Director of Curatorial and Artists Programs at Green Hill Center for NC Art has an art background that combines a wide-ranging knowledge of contemporary NC visual art with international art experience.

Sarah Bielski's painting "Pearl Necklace" won second place at the "At The Walker National Multi-Media Juried Art Exhibition Open Exhibition 2015."

Sarah Bielski's painting "Getting to Third" was featured in the catalog for the show "2015 Indiana University East Inaugural Juried Art Exhibition: Gender."

BFSDoArt Master of Fine Arts Candidate, Lindsay Tyson, assistant director of marketing and communications in the Office of Admissions, won a 2015 American Inhouse Design Award from Graphic Design USA magazine for her design of the Office of Admissions Freshman Road Piece Brochure (shown above). "Winning this award is an honor and I could not have done it without the help of my colleagues," said Tyson. "Having the privilege of being published in GD USA is not only an achievement for me, but for Georgia Southern as well. This gives our university the opportunity to be showcased and seen nationally by 100,000-plus professionals in the field." Tyson was one of only 900 winners out of 6,000 entries from across the nation. Graphic Design USA has sponsored the American Inhouse Design Awards for more than five decades, showcasing original and outstanding work by inhouse designers, recognizing them for their talent, for the special

challenges they face and for the value they bring to their businesses and institutions. Tyson also received her BFA in graphic design from Georgia Southern University in 2004.

## Alumni News

**Sienna M. Sewell ('09)** just recently moved to Augusta, GA, to work as an audio visual technician for Georgia Regents University.

**Aaron Ward ('14)** is now the lead Graphic Designer at Eclipse Web Media in Atlanta, GA.

**Lindsey Sullivan ('15)** is the new Marketing Design and Support Specialist at SNF Holding Company.

**Mallory Biggers ('15)** is the new Graphic Designer and Assistant Editor at the Statesboro Herald.

**Brittini Favorite ('15)** is the new Junior Developer and Designer at Electric Lemonade in Savannah, GA.

**Stephanie (Arends) Neal ('03)** was recently selected as one of Bulloch County's "20 Under 40 Community Leaders" for 2015.

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

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

## 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](#).

