

CLASS Notes

August 31, 2011

Georgia Southern University

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CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



August 31, 2011

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

Greetings!

Even though we offer classes and events throughout the summer, it's always exciting to gear up for the fall semester. Following a University-wide convocation of faculty on August 17, CLASS met to welcome 39 new faculty members--nearly half of the University's new faculty--to our college. We presented the college's Award of Excellence to psychology professor **Bryant Smalley**, and we awarded the highest CLASS honor, the Ruffin Cup, to history professor **Sandra Peacock**.

This year CLASS will continue to build on excellent teaching with a new initiative in Supplemental Instruction (SI), a peer mentoring approach to support students who are taking some of the most difficult classes in our college. Political science professor **Erik Brooks** will oversee this program. We continue to encourage research and creativity for both faculty and students, and I look forward to seeing some of these efforts at CLASS's 4th Annual Center for Undergraduate Research and Intellectual Opportunities (CURIO) Symposium, to be held this year on Friday, October 7.

Finally, we will continue to reach out to CLASS alumni and friends with a variety of music and theatre performances; with our Great Minds Lecture Series, to be held this year at the Averitt Center in Statesboro and at the new downtown City Campus; and with our forthcoming publication, *CLASS Connect*.

Finally, I am pleased to say that the eagles have landed! Artists are now being selected to design and paint the fiberglass eagles for Eagle Nation on Parade, and we plan to auction the completed eagles at an event in early February, 2012.

We're looking forward to a great year!

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael R. Smith".

Michael R. Smith, Dean

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

The Department of Political Science and Justice Studies is looking forward to another exciting academic year in 2011-12. The Department welcomes four new faculty members: Dr. John Stogner and Dr. Laurie Gould in Justice Studies and Dr. Courtney Jensen and Dr. Kevin Ward in Public Administration.

In the last two years, members of the department's faculty have won the University's highest teaching award (Dr. Christine Ludowise) and research award (Dr. Richard Pacelle). Dr. Ludowise also earned the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences highest teaching award, and Dr. Catherine Marcum and Dr. Krista Wiegand earned the highest CLASS research awards. Dr. Wiegand also won the CLASS Award of Excellence, the College's highest award for a faculty member in his/her first ten years at Georgia Southern. Professors in the department published a number of books this year, and a number more are due for publication over the next two years. Students at other institutions across the country are reading the books and articles published by Georgia Southern faculty.

Faculty members are also working with local communities to help improve the quality of life in the region. Professors Adam Bossler, Michele Covington, and Cathy Marcum are working on a project with the Evans County Sheriff's Department. Professor Nathan Grasse is working with non-profit organizations in Savannah. Professor Sharon Tracy works with Statesboro and local communities in dealing with youth crime and gangs. Professor Debra Sabia was honored with an award for her work in the Latino community.

Our students continue to shine as well. Just one week before protests in Cairo and throughout Egypt began reshaping the destiny of that region, Professor Wiegand took fourteen students to Egypt, where they immersed themselves in the local culture and did service work helping children with cancer.

Perhaps most notably, the students of Georgia Southern's Model United Nations delegation earned multiple honors at the world's largest Model U.N. simulation, which was held in New York City earlier this year. The National Model United Nations Conference included more than 600 delegations from every continent (except Antarctica). The Georgia Southern delegation was named an Outstanding Delegation and was recognized for Outstanding Position Papers. The numerous awards and recognitions the Georgia Southern University Model U.N. delegation received placed them in the top one percent of all the delegations who attended this year's event. In addition, the Georgia Southern delegates were chosen by their peers to address more than 600 students at the opening of one session of the Model United Nations General Assembly.

The Political Science Department had the largest contingent of Honors students at the May commencement, and a number of them, and our other graduates, will enter graduate programs and law schools this fall. Our alumni continue to distinguish themselves, serving in the State Department, Congressional offices, in key state and local positions, and throughout the business community. We welcome back our returning students and our freshmen, and we look forward to another banner year.

CLASS Department News

Art

The Eagle Nation on Parade public art project is under way. Seven eagle sculptures arrived on campus on Monday, August 15, and they will soon be in the hands of selected artists who will develop these unique works of art.

Communication Arts

Alumna Haley Higgs '11 has been elected Vice President of Regional Activity for the Public Relations Student Society of America.

History

Three faculty members in the Department of History have been invited to present their research at international locations this fall.

- Professor John W. Steinberg, a former Fulbright Scholar, has been invited to present "The Treaty of Brest-Litovsk from the Russian Perspective," at the German Historical Society's conference in London in October.
- Professor Laura Shelton, author of "*For Tranquility and Order: Family and Community on Mexico's Northern Frontier, 1800-1850*," published in 2010, has been invited by The Colegio de Sonora of Hermosilla, Mexico, to present and discuss her book.
- Professor Robert Batchelor will attend a colloquium organized around his rediscovery of the Selden Map of China, a unique document showing 17th century Chinese trade routes and navigational techniques, at Oxford University's Bodleian Library in September.

The international reputation of the University's history faculty continues to grow, providing increased learning opportunities not only for faculty, but for students interested in this area of study.

Literature & Philosophy

Department Chair David Dudley received prestigious acknowledgment for his novel, *Caleb's Wars*, a work *Kirkus Reviews* calls "provocative and interesting." The full review will appear in the September 1 issue of *Kirkus Reviews*.

Music

Alumnus Brent Whitaker was named the 2011-2012 Bulloch County Teacher of the Year. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees in music education from Georgia Southern University and is the Choral Teacher and Fine Arts Department Chairperson for Southeast Bulloch High School. An honor society student at GSU, Whitaker was nominated by his professors to Pi Kappa Lambda, a national musical honor society. He has taught in Bulloch County since 2001.

Sociology & Anthropology

Camp Lawton produced amazing new artifacts that were unveiled this month.

Alumnus Lee Berger, a paleoanthropologist at the University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, was featured this month in *National Geographic* for his findings among the Malapa (ancient human) fossils. Berger is the leader of a study, published in the journal *Science*, which suggests that a new human ancestor dubbed *Australopithecus sediba* may be the "key transitional species" between the apelike australopithecines and the first human species.

Writing & Linguistics

Writing and Linguistics major Axel Wright of Baxley, Georgia, will receive this year's Brittany "Ally" Harbuck Scholarship during a public reading and reception Thursday, Sept. 8, at Georgia

Southern University. Wright was selected by novelist and memoirist Katharine Weber of Connecticut, who will present the award at 7 p.m. in Room 1005 Information Technology.

Georgia Southern University Professor and Fulbright Scholar Lori Amy, Ph.D. was selected to present her research in Iceland.

Department Chair Randall McClure's article "Mending a Fractured Department: Strategies for New Chairs" was published as the lead article in "The Department Chair."

The Department of Writing and Linguistics is pleased to announce the launch of its new online version of *Fledge*, the journal of outstanding first-year writing written by students at Georgia Southern University. You can view the journal at <http://onlinefledge.wordpress.com/>.

Alumni News

News from the wire

Daniel E. Ellis '91 was recently appointed to the position of senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of Carmike Cinemas. Employed previously at Lodgian since 1999, he brings extensive corporate experience to Carmike.

Mark Diamond '10 took first place in Houston Grand Opera's 23rd annual Eleanor McCollum Competition for Young Singers in Feb. 2011. He has accepted an offer to join the Houston Grand Opera Studios in this fall.

Submitted news

Bill Muller '66 retired in 2000 from his position as director of the Bristol, Va., public library. After a short stint as director of the Albemarle Regional Library in eastern North Carolina, he and his wife, Pam, live in Creedmoor, N.C. He serves as president of the South Granville Rotary Club and as a member of the Granville County Public Library Board.

Vicki S. Harris '80 has returned to Wiesbaden, Germany, where she works as a human resources specialist for the Department of the Army. She is traveling the world with her 14-year-old son, Nicholas, enjoying life and providing Nicholas with great learning opportunities. "Working for the Army has been a great experience for both of us," she writes.

Derek Smith '80 is the author of a forthcoming book, "In the Lion's Mouth: Hood's Tragic Retreat from Nashville, 1864," to be published this fall by Stackpole Books. It will be Smith's sixth published book and his fourth on the Civil War. He resides in Williamsville, N.Y.

Kayla Rakestraw '11 is employed in Statesboro as a child advocate for Safe Haven.

The 2011 Great Minds Lecture Series

Debra Sabia, Professor of Political Science
"Democratic Dreams"
Thursday, September 29 at 7:00 p.m.
Averitt Center for the Arts, Multi-Purpose Studio

Something is fundamentally wrong with the American political tradition, and neither a new president, nor a new congress, nor a new law can correct it. We can't correct it because the political system is held together by some powerful myths. "What gets us into trouble," as Mark

Twain liked to say, "is not what we don't know...it's what we know for sure that just ain't so!" All societies are founded on and held together by myths, and this presentation will examine a few of America's most powerful ones. We will also entertain what might happen if Americans really understood their system. What if citizens wanted to work toward a new kind of society? What would that society look like and how might it be created?

F. Erik Brooks, Associate Professor of Political Science

"The Birth, Death, Burial, and Resurrection of Georgia Southern Football"

Tuesday, October 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Downtown City Campus

Georgia Southern University is a powerhouse in the football championship series of college football, and its winning tradition is as strong as the old oak trees on Sweetheart Circle. The Georgia Southern football program has captured six championship titles, but this success did not come without a price. This lecture reveals a fascinating look at the history of the Georgia Southern football program from its humble beginnings to its ascension to a football program synonymous with championships and athletic excellence.

Reed Smith, Professor of Communication Arts

"Historic Episodes in Georgia Journalism"

Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Averitt Center for the Arts, Multi-Purpose Studio

This lecture will provide three different stories about Georgia journalism as it evolved during the twentieth century. One story is from 1904, and concerns the role newspapers played in the lynching era in the South (including the Statesboro incident); the second comes from the World War II era, and considers a controversy between state politics and Georgia Tech's commercial radio station in Atlanta. The third story profiles two men: one in TV, the other in newspapers, and how they had an impact on not just reflecting but establishing Savannah's unique personality.

Upcoming CLASS Events

Art

September 1

Faculty Exhibition 2011

Center for Art & Theatre

Creative Writing

September 8

Novelist/memoirist Katharine Weber

Harbuck Scholarship presentation

7:00 pm

IT Building 1005

September 9

Novelist/memoirist Katharine Weber

Reading and craft talk

11:15 am
COBA 1124

Lectures

September 29
Great Minds Lecture
Debra Sabia: "Democratic Dreams"
7:00 pm
Averitt Center for the Arts, Multipurpose Studio

Literature

September 22-24
American Literature Association Symposium
Savannah DeSoto Hilton

Music

September 15
Faculty Showcase
7:30 pm
Performing Arts Center

September 20
Student Showcase
7:30 pm
Carol A. Carter Recital Hall

September 26
Georgia Southern Symphony
7:30 pm
Performing Arts Center

Theatre

September 6, 7, 8
What Use Are Flowers?
Black Box Theatre, 7:30 pm
Scholarship/Benefit Performance
Admission is free, donations benefit theatre scholarships

[Complete Calendar of CLASS Events](#)

Give to CLASS

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences aspires to be nationally recognized for its superior and innovative educational experiences across the humanities, the social sciences, and the arts. Our goal is to provide effective 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](#).

Find all the details about the [Eagle Nation on Parade](#) public art project on our [website](#). Contact Sue Bunning at sbunning@georgiasouthern.edu for more information.

Facebook

Stay connected by following our [CLASS Facebook page](#).

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