

## CLASS Notes

August 31, 2015

Georgia Southern University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/class-notes>

 Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#), and the [Higher Education Commons](#)

For supplemental articles, click on the link in the recommended citation.

---

### Recommended Citation

Georgia Southern University, "CLASS Notes" (2015). *CLASS Notes*. 72.  
<https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/class-notes/72>

This newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the Arts and Humanities, College of - College Publications at Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. It has been accepted for inclusion in CLASS Notes by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons@Georgia Southern. For more information, please contact [digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:digitalcommons@georgiasouthern.edu).

# CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES



August 31, 2015



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

Greetings!

The excitement on campus from the return of over 4,500 CLASS majors is unmistakable. We certainly are looking forward to a productive term and an exciting academic year.

CLASS events will begin late this month; be sure to stay current on what is coming up by visiting the College and University calendars and catching the monthly advertisement in the *Statesboro Herald*.

CLASS is currently in the process of developing our next five-year strategic plan and timeline. We will share these on our website once they are finalized.

We are pleased to give special congratulations to Ruffin Cup award recipient Douglass Thomson, Professor in the Department of Literature and Philosophy, and to CLASS Award of Excellence recipient Laura Stambaugh, Associate Professor in the Department of Music.

Warmest regards,



Curtis E. Ricker, dean

## Communication Arts

Communication Arts has settled into Sanford now, and the faculty enjoy seeing our students on a daily basis in classes, in the halls, or in one of the studios working or rehearsing, often on interdisciplinary projects. If you have not been to Sanford, take the virtual tour (<http://class.georgiasouthern.edu/commarts/>) created by alumnus and Multimedia Advisory Board member Joseph Smith. Since moving, faculty and students have continued to bring home awards, study abroad, and look ahead to future opportunities. While the department has received recognition at a variety of levels, we still acknowledge the importance of remembering and creating new legacies for Communication Arts.

### Award-winning

This past year is particularly noteworthy for the theatre program as its production of *Race: A Play* by David Mamet was one of four productions in the region selected last fall for a performance at the regional theatre conference. In the spring, the play received the national Kennedy Center Hilton Worldwide Award for the Distinguished Performance of a Contemporary Play, and the play's director, Lisa Abbot, received the Faculty Directing Award.

### Studying Abroad

A number of Communication Arts and other Georgia Southern students took advantage of opportunities to study abroad with Dr. Pam Bourland-Davis in Montepulciano, Italy, and with Dr. Michelle Groover in London. Pictured below are students overlooking Rome, and students and Dr. Groover at Hampton Court Palace.



### Hosting

The Department served as the local host for the annual Georgia Communication Association meeting in 2015 and will serve as the local host for the Patti Pace Performance Festival January 29-31, 2016, with the theme of "Performing Disabilities."

### Challenging

We are starting the 2015-16 academic year with new faculty members who will help us challenge the students and connect them with the profession through more awards and film festival recognitions. They join a number of faculty providing hands-on experience for our students. Examples of this work include the following:

Jason Knowles, who worked with students this summer on a feature film project

<https://www.facebook.com/RelicsOfTheMadreVena>, which was covered by the *Statesboro Herald*

<http://www.statesboroherald.com/archives/67670/preview>.

Mehmet Caglayan brings his film experience by teaching a course in environmental film production, a unique opportunity for the MMFP majors. His work can be seen through <https://youtu.be/il3M3mcio0M?list=PLUMkiHyFfGUtX8YvuR9DpFFPd3vAO4xIY>.

New faculty all bring in work recognized at a variety of film festivals and/or with Emmy recognition. They include the following:

Dr. Dean Cummings, who brings significant news production experience from Ohio, including sideline coverage of the Cleveland Browns for Fox Sporttime Ohio. He will be working with our students to produce a daily newscast to develop their abilities for on-the-spot and deadline reporting. Recent work include "18 Holes with Jimmy Hanlin." (US Open preview special) <https://vimeo.com/126796514> and a documentary on Cleveland's Gateway Project <https://vimeo.com/97962625>.

Matthew Hashiguchi, whose work includes documentaries such as *The Lower 9: A story of Home, New Orleans & Katrina* and *Good Luck Soup*, a transmedia documentary on post WWII experience of Japanese Americans in the Midwest, the latter of which can be found at: [www.goodlucksoup.com](http://www.goodlucksoup.com).

Abbey Hoekzema, a documentary filmmaker and photographer with work on youth, conservation, women, natural disasters, and migration. Samples of her production experience include Producer/Sound on "Kicking All Odds": <http://www.kickingalloods.com/> (expected spring 2016); Cinematography for an interactive documentary <http://www.thestoryofthestuff.com>; and Producer for "Into the Canyons" <https://vimeo.com/101680309>.

### Remembering

The Department continues to recognize legacies and invites our alumni and friends to join us by making contributions to the Foundation to endow accounts for naming the broadcast studio after Kent Murray (who passed away in June 2014) and for naming a classroom after Dr. Clarence McCord (our department's first chair). These accounts will support scholarships and departmental programs.

This past spring, we celebrated 30 years of African-American Theatre at Georgia Southern University, with an exhibit of costumes and set pieces from past performances, a panel on "Everyman Theatre," and a gala event featuring visiting artists Robert Gossett and Charles Floyd Johnson, along with a host of other performers and alumni.

The celebrations helped established an account creating the Mical Whitaker African-American Theatre Scholarship which will support, when endowed, the study and/or performance of African-American Theatre at Georgia Southern University.



Executive Producer; Pam Bourland-Davis,  
Department Chair; Mical Whitaker, Honoree &  
Assistant Professor Emeritus.



Everyman Panel, recalling Street Theatre of a 1970s  
New York City: Mical Whitaker, Marianna Houston,  
and Robert Gossett

### Awarding

We are especially grateful to alumnus and charter Public Relations Advisory Board member Don Rountree who established a new scholarship this year. Rountree is president of Rountree Group Integrated Communications, based in Atlanta, and is an active member of PRSA. He received the Georgia PRSA Chapter's 2011 Luminary Star Award recognizing his service to the community and profession. The scholarship will be awarded annually to recognize excellent work by a public relations major. These scholarships are vital to recruiting and supporting strong, high-performing majors, and we appreciate Rountree's recognition of this departmental and program need.

## Connecting

Watch for an e-mail about a drop-in "tailgate" at Sanford Hall for alumni and students. The event will be held Saturday, September 12, before the first Saturday home game.

Finally, watch for more information as we finalize plans for Communication Arts INC-- an Internship, Networking, and Career Fair this October. We are recruiting alumni and internship supervisors to meet with prospective interns and/or provide career coaching for students.

As always, if you are interested in additional information on any departmental events or legacies, please let me know-- [pamelagb@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:pamelagb@georgiasouthern.edu).

- Pam Bourland-Davis

## At the Head of the CLASS

My name is Sarah Mooney, and I am a senior Public Relations major and Marketing minor. I am a Zell Miller HOPE recipient and a Southern Ambassador, but I have also had the privilege of working in the Communication Arts Department and experiencing everything it has to offer. I joined the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA) as a freshman and PRestige, a student-run PR firm, as a sophomore, but now as a senior, I have made my way up to Executive Director of PRestige, and I served as Treasurer last year for PRSSA. I also had the opportunity to serve as a conference committee chair last year when the Georgia Southern PRSSA was selected as one of ten chapters nationally to host a regional conference. Both of these departmental organizations have given me real-world PR experience, a fun environment to explore my career path, and other opportunities to get ahead.

Another favorite event from the Communication Arts Department is Comm. Arts, INC, an internship, networking, and career fair paired with a mini-conference for all communication arts students. Last year, I was fortunate enough to be in a Conference and Meeting Planning class that organized this exciting event. Not only did I benefit from the actual career fair and mini-conference, I also got to learn about the behind-the-scenes work of hosting an event. It was a lot of work, but I loved every minute of it. Working with my team to put on Comm. Arts, INC reassured me that public relations is the field I want to be in.

Also through the Communication Arts Department, I had the joy of studying abroad this past summer. I spent an entire month in Montepulciano with Dr. Pam Bourland-Davis learning about feature writing and the people of Italy. Study abroad provided an exciting, but challenging, learning environment. I was able to see beautiful art and architecture that I had only read about and experience things I never even knew I was missing. My experiences this summer have changed my life. I learned so much about writing and the Italian culture, but I also learned a lot about myself. I'm so thankful to be in a department that offers so many wonderful opportunities for its students and encourages them to go above and beyond to succeed.

-Sarah Mooney



Sarah Mooney

## History

Paul Rodell published an article "USG Asia Council: Teaching Southeast Asia Workshop," in the Spring 2015 issue of *Education About Asia*, the pedagogical journal of the national Association for Asian Studies. He also was the co-convenor and discussant for a special two session panel "Southeast Asian Religions on the Periphery," at the 8th Euro Southeast Asian Studies conference, August 11-14, hosted by the University of Vienna and the Austrian Academy of Sciences.

Johnathan Bryant's new book, *Dark Places of the Earth: The Voyage of the Slave Ship Antelope*, was reviewed positively by the *Wall Street Journal*. Dr. Bryant appeared as a guest on News One Television, on the Roland Martin Radio Show, and on Georgia Public Broadcasting's *On Second Thought* with Celeste Headly. On August 5th his book talk and signing at the Ships of the Sea Museum in Savannah was attended by 160 people. On September 5th he will present about the book and do a signing at the Decatur Book Festival. Dr. Bryant has been named to the Southern Historical Association's Membership Committee and is President-elect of the Georgia Association of Historians.

Eric Hall's lecture on Arthur Ashe delivered at the Virginia Historical Society was shown on C-SPAN3 Sunday, Aug 23 at 7 PM. <http://www.c-span.org/video/?327261-1/life-legacy-arthur-ashe>.

## Criminal Justice & Criminology

Dr. Laura Agnich received the University Award for Excellence in Contributions to Service. This award recognizes 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 engages in service in three primary areas: as faculty advisor to the Mock Mediation Club, through fundraising for Statesboro Regional Sexual Assault Center (SRSAC), and by evaluating active shooter trainings for local police. The Mock Mediation Club took home a first place award in advocacy at the 2015 International Law School Mediation tournament in March (link: <http://news.georgiasouthern.edu/2015/03/27/georgia-southern-wins-top-advocacy-team-at-international-mediation-tournament/>), and the organization actively engages the campus and local community through disseminating conflict resolution skills to Georgia Southern and local K-12 students. In addition to her university and community service to prevent and reduce the harms caused by violence, Dr. Agnich was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Southern Criminal Justice Association (SCJA) and serves the discipline of criminology through her engagement with regional, national, and international academic organizations.

Dr. Bryan Miller attended a workshop on strategies for substance abuse recovery at the Chatham County Sheriff's Office. Dr. Miller is working with the Center for Addiction Recovery at Georgia Southern University and the Chatham County Jail to develop and evaluate substance abuse treatment for offenders.

Dr. Bryan Miller in collaboration with Dr. John Stogner (UNC Charlotte) recently had their article "The Dabbing Dilemma: A Call for Research on Butane Hash Oil and Other Alternate Forms of Cannabis Use" published in the journal *Substance Abuse*. This article describes the growing trend of using butane hash oil (BHO) and other marijuana concentrates and outlines the research needed to better inform public health practitioners and policy makers. Their research on marijuana dabbing has been featured and discussed by numerous media outlets.

Dr. Bryan Miller in collaboration with Drs. John Boman (University of Wyoming) and John Stogner (UNC Charlotte) recently had their article "Assessing the Impact of Divergent Drinking Patterns on Perceptions of Friendship Quality" published in the *Journal of Child and Adolescent Substance Abuse*. This work examines the impact that various levels of drinking among friends has on several dimensions of friendship quality. Findings indicate that partners who drank less frequently in dissimilar friendships did not perceive the friendship to be of significantly lower quality than did their more frequently drinking peers. Since high-rate drinkers perceived higher friendship quality to low-frequency drinkers than non-heavy episodic drinkers, they likely place more value in the opinions of low-rate drinkers. They argue that abstinence-based alcohol intervention programs may utilize this information in efforts to decrease early dropout rates.

Laurie Gould has accepted the position of issue editor for *The CUR Quarterly*, the peer-reviewed journal for the Council on Undergraduate Research. Her first issue will be published Fall 2016, and the theme will be "Undergraduate Research and the Curriculum."

Georgia Southern University criminology professor Chad Posick, along with his colleagues Michael Rocque of Bates College and Steven Barkan of the University of Maine at Orono, have recently been featured in the Bangor *Daily News* refuting the so-called "Ferguson Effect." Some commentators have noted what they call a Ferguson Effect where police are now reluctant to engage with people of color and enforce zero-tolerance policing strategies - resulting in a spike in crime. As the criminologists note, there is no scientific evidence of such an effect or even a steady rise in crime throughout the US. Any such claim must be backed by empirical evidence, and, at this time, it simply does not exist.

On July 15th and 16, Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology professors Chad Posick and Adam Bossler attended a planning meeting in New York City for a new antiviolence initiative in Savannah called Project Ceasefire. The group that traveled to NYC for the workshop included Mayor Edna Jackson, City Manager Stephanie Cutter, Chief Joseph Lumpkin and other representatives from SCMPD, Assistant County Manager Michael Kaigler, Presiding Chatham County Juvenile

Court Judge LeRoy Burke III, Chatham County District Attorney Meg Heap, Chatham County District Attorney Public Information Kristin Fulford, officials from the ATF and FBI, US Attorney Edward Tarver, representatives from probation and parole and the Sheriff's Office, Armstrong Atlantic State lecturer Dr. Maxine Bryant, and community members from West Savannah, Cuyler-Brownville, and Edgemere-Sackville. The team met with John Jay University researchers and Professor David Kennedy to begin planning the Ceasefire initiative which targets the most prolific and violent offenders for intervention and/or suppression. This marks the beginning of a long-term collaboration between the City of Savannah and Georgia Southern University's Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology on violence prevention and intervention strategies.

Dr. Adam Bossler, along with graduate student Justin Hoyle, recently completed their Bureau of Justice Assistance funded evaluation of a Smart Policing Initiative in Evans County, Georgia. Their report entitled, "Evaluation of the Evans County Smart Policing Initiative" examined how the implementation of technologies in rural law enforcement agencies in Southeast Georgia impacted the agencies' communication and technology capabilities.

Dr. Adam Bossler, along with colleagues Thomas Holt at Michigan State University and Sriram Chellappan of Missouri Science and Technology, recently submitted their final report for their National Science Foundation-funded grant entitled, "Collaborative Project: A Multi-Disciplinary Framework for Modeling Spatial, Temporal and Social Dynamics of Cyber Criminals." The major goals of the project were to (1) derive spatio-temporal models of cyber criminality; (2) apply and evaluate existing criminological theories to study cyber crime; (3) process real and continuously collected Internet data to derive features related to cyber-crime; and (4) design strategies to predict cyber-crime trends from relevant features correlating with cyber-crimes.

On August 3rd and 4th, Adam Bossler attended a two-day work session held by John Jay researchers at the SCMPD Professional Development Center. The work session focused on collecting information on the groups most responsible for violence in Savannah (i.e. group audit) and reviewing three years' worth of homicides and 18-24 months' worth of aggravated assaults with guns (i.e. incident reviews). The work session was attended by agents, officers, and representatives from the SCMPD and other local municipalities, ATF, and the federal and county prosecutor's offices.

Dr. John Brent, in collaboration with Drs. Thomas Mowen (University of Wyoming) and Aaron Kupchik (University of Delaware) recently published their article "The Aftermath of Newton: More of the Same" publication in the *British Journal of Criminology*. This work examines the political responses following the school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Connecticut. They find that responses from across the political spectrum favor increasing invasive security measures. Further, they argue policies advancing school securitization within American schools often dismiss responsive, remedial, and evidence-based practices found to reduce violence.

Dr. John Brent had his article "Situating the Criminalization of School Discipline in Economic Context" accepted for publication in the journal *Punishment and Society*. This article considers the financial aspects influencing schools to adopt criminal justice-based disciplinary practices. Though prior efforts lend noteworthy explanations for the rise of a punitive disciplinary code in schools, this work examines the impact of large-scale economic factors. Specifically, he contextualizes the criminalization of school discipline within changes within the post-industrial labor market; federal incentives and markets prioritizing greater school security; tightening financial resources amid budget cuts; and the criminalization of the youth consumer economy.

Chris Booker is involved in an effort to improve the relationship between the African-American community in Statesboro and local law enforcement. The Beloved Community Steering Committee has held one facilitated listening session with members of the community and law enforcement officers and is now determining what the next steps should be.

### **Writing & Linguistics**

Christina Olson's poetry collection has been selected by Stillhouse Press for publication in December 2016.

### **Communication Arts**

Shaheen Solomon (Public Relations alumnus) recently moved to Georgia Regional Hospital at Atlanta Medical Center to work as Director of Community Resources from Southeast Dairy Association where he worked as Public Relations Program Manager.

### **Art**

Christina Lemon, Professor of Jewelry, had her work *Uncommon Culture* selected for an exhibition at the Florida Craft Art Gallery, St. Petersburg, FL.

Derek Larson, Assistant Professor of Animation, spent the summer as faculty teaching in the Post-Baccalaureate Summer Studio Program at Virginia Commonwealth University. Larson taught Art Theory Seminar, Professional Practices, and held studio critiques with visiting artists. D'Antre Harris (one of Larson's students at Georgia Southern) attended the 7-week

program. Larson had a solo exhibition of his artwork at ADA Gallery in Richmond, VA, in July, and he's been invited as a visiting artist at the Rhode Island School of Design in September, where he will give a lecture on his work and studio visits with the MFA students.

The CX1200 label printer purchase was funded by a grant received by the College of Graduate Studies to further research into digital label printing. Hans Mortensen and Hope Carroll attended training for the is equipment at the Primera world headquarters.

Hans Mortensen conducted site visits with GCM interns working at printing plants in the region. During the visits, student interns conducted a tour of the company and highlighted the areas they spent time in during their internship. Sarah Bielski, Assistant Professor, Foundations/Painting had her work selected for inclusion into (3) national exhibitions:

- 2015 California Open, Tag Gallery, Santa Monica, CA\*  
Jim Morphesis
- 2015 Navigating the Natural, Visual Art Exchange, Raleigh, NC\*  
Nicole Pietranton
- 2015 64 Arts National Exhibition, Buchanan Center for The Arts, Buchanan, IL\*  
Juror: Frank Saliani

Jessica Hines, Professor, Photography/Digital Imaging, had her work selected for inclusion into (3) national exhibitions + (1) international exhibition:

1. *Visions of War: A Cultural Context*, one of four invited international photographers to exhibit at the 20th anniversary of the Dayton Peace Accords and the 10th anniversary of Dayton Literary Peace Prize which celebrates the power of literature to promote peace and global understanding." It is the only international literary peace prize in the United States. It is held in conjunction with "Ten Years of the Dayton Literary Peace Prize" conference, which will be held at Wright State University, the exhibition is scheduled to run in Stein Gallery from October 18th - November 15th, 2015. (The other 3 artists are American photojournalist, Larry C. Price - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larry\\_C.\\_Price](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Larry_C._Price), Canadian documentary photographer, Louie Palu - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louie\\_Palu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louie_Palu), and Bosnian photographer, Ziyah Gafic - <http://ziyahgafic.ba/photo.php>).

2. *Les Recontres d'Arles, Ladies Only*, invitational international group exhibition, ten images from *My Brother's War, Place Voltaire*, curated by Tina Schelhorn, Arles, France, July 2015.

3. Venice Vending Machine III, invitational international, Serra Dei Giardini, during the Venice Biennale, Spirit Stories, September 22 to October 4, 2015.

4. Feature Shoot: Photographer Jessica Hines Discovers Beauty on the Surface of a Swamp, 2015, [http://www.featureshoot.com/2015/02/photographer-jessica-hines-discovers-beauty-on-the-surface-of-a-swamp/#disqus\\_thread](http://www.featureshoot.com/2015/02/photographer-jessica-hines-discovers-beauty-on-the-surface-of-a-swamp/#disqus_thread).

Jason Hoelscher (Assistant Professor and Gallery Director, BFSDoArt) is hosting a panel and presenting a paper at the SECAC conference this October in Pittsburgh. The panel is titled "Art and Indeterminacy: Tactical Ambiguity in the Era of Standardized Testing", and alongside three other speakers he will present a paper on "Art, Ambiguity, and Generative Difference: On the Artwork as Complexity Engine". Professor Hoelscher is also presenting a paper titled "Preening for the Algorithmic Gaze: Bioinformatic Media and Performativity" at this year's Society for Literature, Science and the Arts "Beyond Biopolitics" conference in Houston.

Kelly Boehmer, Lecturer, has been selected to exhibit her work in the following exhibitions:

(A) State of Florida, Alfstad &, curated by Danny Olda, Sarasota, FL, June 13th - July 10th, 2015

(B) *Felt Sew Knot Bound, The Projects Contemporary Art Space*, curated by Leah Brown, Fort Lauderdale, FL, May 29 - July 17, 2015.

New Faculty Exhibition, two-person show with Jason Hoelscher, Georgia Southern University's University Gallery, Statesboro, GA, August 17 - September 18, 2015.

## Alumni News

**Kaylee Landress ('13)** is marketing coordinator for Gordon Hospital and has been awarded Gordon Hospital's prestigious



Extra Mile Award. This special award was established by the hospital's Employee Engagement Committee to recognize excellent employees.

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](#).



College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences \* Georgia Southern University  
P.O. Box 8142 \* Statesboro, Georgia 30460 \* 912-478-2527 \* [class.GeorgiaSouthern.edu](http://class.GeorgiaSouthern.edu)