Greetings!

Spring is in full bloom at Georgia Southern: the azaleas have burst into color, the pine pollen has turned all the cars yellow, and students and faculty are making the final push toward the end of the semester and May commencement.

Soon a new group of graduates will join our alumni family. We hope you have enjoyed reading about their accomplishments this past year and are as proud of them as we are. We are especially proud of Alicia Carter, CLASS graduate in sociology and psychology, who was the University’s representative at the University System of Georgia’s recent academic recognition day (please see accompanying entry under Alumni News).

The upcoming Honors Day celebration will be filled with many CLASS students, and this month will see a much-expanded CURIO Symposium (Center for Undergraduate Research and Intellectual Opportunities) featuring student presentations from many of the programs in CLASS.

Elsewhere in the College, we are busy with plays, reading, recitals, and more than a few final lectures and discussions. We’d love to have you join us at any of our events!

Best wishes,

Curtis E. Ricker, dean

CLASS Advisement Center

The CLASS Advisement Center supports the mission and strategic agenda of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences by providing students with the resources and support services they need to achieve academic excellence. Beginning in 2012, the Georgia Southern University transitioned to a professional advising model which shifted academic advising away from faculty members and onto full-time staff members who could focus on each student’s individual success. Today, the CLASS Advisement Center is staffed with 15 full-time academic advisors who advise the college’s population of more than 4,500 students.

CLASS Advisors are known for excellence in their performance as well as pursuing professional development through research of the higher education and advising fields. For the current academic year, 13 CLASS advisors were nominated for an Outstanding Advisor Award at Georgia Southern. Nominations were received from faculty, staff, and students across campus. This year, the college’s own Christy Curley was selected as the 2015-16
Outstanding New Advisor. Christy is a "Double Eagle" graduate having earned both a Master of Education in Student Services Counseling and a Bachelor of Arts in English from Georgia Southern. In addition to advising English, Philosophy, and Writing and Linguistics majors, Christy teaches FYE 1220, volunteers on the University's Student Conduct Board, and participates in several academic committees. In October, Christy presented at the National Academic Advising Association's (NACADA) Annual Conference in Las Vegas, Nev. Along with her husband Scott, a fellow academic advisor at Georgia Southern, Christy presented on a model of academic coaching she has developed, using Newton's Law of Inertia as a framework for creating an academic success plan.

Christy will represent Georgia Southern University as an official nominee for the 2015-16 National Academic Advising Association's Outstanding New Advisor Award. Recipients will be honored at the Awards Ceremony held during the NACADA Annual Conference this fall.

This semester advisors Danielle Bostick (Sociology, Anthropology, Justice Studies), Veena Shankar (Music, Theatre), and Jennifer Youmans (Online General Studies) were also selected to present a panel discussion at the regional NACADA conference titled "Derailed: Coping with the Woes of Readmits through Advisement." They travelled to Orlando, Fla., earlier this month to present their experiences and processes for serving readmit students that includes a profile of these students, the process of helping students find or rediscover the program that fits them best, and the continuing challenges they face combining their personal and academic lives.

Bachelor of General Studies

The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at Georgia Southern University offers both an on-campus and fully online Bachelor of General Studies (BGS) degree. Recently, the college changed the name of the major within the BGS degree to "Interdisciplinary Studies," which accurately reflects the nature of the BGS program. This flexible and multi-disciplinary degree offers a well-rounded education that prepares graduates for a variety of careers and graduate programs.

Currently, this degree program houses 682 students, 285 of whom are on-campus, and 397 are in the fully online program. The college is seeing a trend for the online BGS program as a viable degree-completion option for 'non-traditional' students who began their college careers but had to stop for one reason or another and are interested in returning and finishing their degree.

The structure of the BGS degree allows for considerable flexibility in terms of the academic content and focus for the student. Three concentration areas are selected by the student to customize the content to the needs of the student. In many cases students participating in the fully online program have already established careers and are looking to complete their bachelor's degree to earn promotions or to compete for newer positions. Therefore, the online BGS program is ideal for many who are working or have families while also trying complete their degree. The online BGS program provides access from any location to help them move forward in their education or career plans.

The on-campus BGS degree offers over 23 concentration options including most majors and minors offered at Georgia Southern. For online BGS students, concentration options have expanded to six varied options including sociology, business, justice studies, writing, and the newest addition - public administration.

A future goal of the BGS program and of the college is to obtain funding for scholarships that can be awarded to students in the non-traditional population. This funding source is needed to assist in the financial burden that these students are often facing when considering a return to college and their education.

Department News

Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art

Sarah Bielski's, M.F.A., works "Yawn" and "Getting to Third" have been accepted into the exhibit "Contemporary Visions: Landscape in the 21st Century."

Santanu Majumdar, M.F.A., will be the keynote speaker at the East Georgia State College's Critical Thinking Conference on March 25, 2016.

Hope Carroll, M.A., has successfully defended her dissertation titled "Graphic Communications Teachers' Concerns and Beliefs Regarding Their Online Teaching of Graphic Communications Hands-On Classes." Carroll will graduate in May with an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction with the Integrative STEM Education program from Virginia Tech.

On March 5 five students from the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art represented Georgia Southern University in the annual Phoenix Challenge Competition, hosted in Fort Worth, Texas.
Hashiguchi also had an interview with Anisfield-Wolf Book Awards at Cleveland International Film Festival. "Good Luck Soup Interactive" have been invited to film festivals. "Good Luck Soup" will have world premiere scenes directed by students. Apr. 30, Center for Art & Theatre.

Festival, Original scripts by student playwrights, Apr. 15, Sanford hall Rm. 1002. Devised Theatre, an original & Theatre from Apr. 6-13. Other performances will be presented as follows: The 10th Annual 10-Minute Play Morris, semifinalist in the second year women's category. Travius Burch, fourth place in the Hall Johnson Spirituals category, and Tessa Students travelled to Stetson University this past weekend for Southeastern Region NATS Auditions, and several (USA), Hélio Góes (Brazil), and Marco Rodrigues (Portugal). Julliard in June. If one of them can't make the trip, Eric will take his place. The Larry Wiehe Solo Trombone Competition. The three top finalists will compete live for the top prize at the International Trombone Festival at 29th and worked with the clarinet students in a masterclass.

Clarinet Professor Linda Cionitti, D.M.A., presented a Guest Artist recital at the University of Alabama on March 9th and worked with the clarinet students in a masterclass.

Dir. of Bands, Robert Dunham, D.M.A., alongside a distinguished national panel of evaluators and clinicians, served as one of the adjudicators for the Cobb County District 12 - High School Large Group Performance Evaluations, held at Lassiter High School in Marietta, Ga., March 19 - 21. The team of 10 evaluators and clinicians adjudicated performances by and interacted with 48 high school bands and their conductors over the three-day festival.

As part of the Hillsborough Arts Council Artist Residency Program, Larisa Elisha, D.M.A., and Steven Elisha, D.M.A., presented "Elaris Duo" performances and gave master classes at several high schools in Tampa, Fla. Additionally, Steven Elisha shared the magical world of improvisation in his "Mr. Cello Stories" with over 700 elementary school students.

Clarinettist Professor Linda Cionitti, D.M.A., presented a Guest Artist recital at the University of Alabama on March 29th and worked with the clarinet students in a masterclass.

Senior Eric Spencer placed fourth in the International Trombone Association (ITA) Larry Wiehe Solo Trombone Competition. The three top finalists will compete live for the top prize at the International Trombone Festival at Julliard in June. If one of them can't make the trip, Eric will take his place. The Larry Wiehe Solo Trombone competition is for trombonists age 23 and under. The top three finalists (in alphabetical order) are Charles Dieterle (USA), Helio Goes (Brazil), and Marco Rodrigues (Portugal). Students travelled to Stetson University this past weekend for Southeastern Region NATS Auditions, and several won awards including Zach Futch, first in the second year men's category, Alex Smith, second in the third year men's category, Travis Burch, fourth place in the Hall Johnson Spirituals category, and Tessa Morris, semifinalist in the second year women's category.
Alumni News

Sheila Boone, who earned an M.A. in History with a Certificate in Public History, is now working as a Program Assistant at the Georgia Historical Society.

Documentaries created by David Waters (‘06) and his team at WJXT-Jacksonville, Fla., "Dora: Direct Hit" and "Tom Wills: 40 Years The Real Deal," were nominated for 2015 Suncoast Emmy Awards. David Waters started at WJXT-Jacksonville in June of 2006 and was promoted to Commercial Production Coordinator in June 2015. Along with commercials, his department also shot station promotions and documentaries. In 2015, he was Executive Producer, Editor and Photographer for the Jacksonville Jaguars "The Making of The Roar Swimsuit Calendar 2016." He said that he was influenced by former professor Kent Murray (Communication Arts) who passed away in 2015.

Shaunte Francois, a graduate of the Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art at Georgia Southern University, recently was hired by Mickey Lynn, Inc. in Atlanta, Ga., as production assistant for jewelry designs. This opportunity will allow her to learn from an established jewelry company with a web presence and expand her skills. Francois received her Bachelor of Fine Arts (3D Studios concentration) in 2015.

Jasmine Hines (BM in Music Education, Choral Emphasis, 2014) has spent the past two years teaching general music and elementary chorus at Wheelesea Road Elementary School in Augusta, Ga. Recently, Hines was accepted into the Master of Music Education program at University of Florida. She will be serving as a graduate assistant in the area of elementary music, starting in Fall 2016.

Jennifer Partridge (BM in Music Education, Instrumental Emphasis, 1999) was recently announced as a winner of the CMA (Country Music Association) Foundation's Music Teachers of Excellence Award. The recognition is part of the "Music Teachers at the Core" initiative. Jennifer is currently teaching music at Cumberland Elementary School in Nashville.

Alicia Carter was Georgia Southern University's representative at the state's academic recognition day. She is pictured (second row, fourth from the right) here with Chancellor Hank M. Huckaby and the representatives from other institutions.

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

**Friday, April 1**
Religion in Media: Undergraduate Research Symposium
The Center for Religious Studies at Georgia Southern University presents its Fourth Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium April 1-2 in the Arts Building.

Faculty Strings at Southern Music Festival
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Faculty Strings at Southern Music Festival at 7:30 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall.

**Sunday, April 3**
Strings at Southern Music Festival Gala
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Strings at Southern Music Festival Gala at 3 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall.

**Tuesday, April 5**
Guest Artist: Marine Corps All Star Jazz Band
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Marine Corps All Star Jazz Band at 7:30 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall.

**Wednesday, April 6**
A Game of Love and Chance
A Game of Love and Chance by Pierre Marivaux and directed by Lisa L. Abbott runs from April 6-13 in the Center for Art and Theatre. Tickets are $6 for students and $12 for general admission.

New Music at Southern
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the New Music at Southern at 7:30 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall.

**Thursday, April 7**
Georgia Southern Brass Studio Chamber Recital
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Georgia Southern Brass Studio Chamber Recital at 7:30 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall.

**Saturday, April 9**
Night of Wild Sax
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents a Night of Wild Sax at 7:30 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall.

Monday, April 11
General Student Recital #6
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the General Student Recital #6 at 1:25 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall.

Fifth Annual Distinguished Lecture in Irish Studies
The Center for Irish Research and Teaching is hosting its Fifth Annual Distinguished Lecture in Irish Studies with speaker Patricia Harty. Harty is the founder-editor of Irish-America Magazine at 7 p.m. at the Nessmith-Lane Auditorium.

Wednesday, April 13
La Table Francaise
The French Conversation Table meets at 5:30 p.m. outside the Russell Union Theater.

Georgia Southern Percussion Ensemble
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Georgia Southern Percussion Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall.

Wednesday, April 15
Student Brass Quintets Recital
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Student Brass Quintets Recital at 7:30 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall.

10th Annual 10-Minute Play Festival
Join us for original plays written, directed and performed by students at 7:30 p.m. in room 1002 of Sanford Hall.

Sunday, April 17
POPS Concert Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the POPS Concert Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Wind Symphony at 6:30 p.m. at Botanical Garden.

Tuesday, April 19
Psychology Department Colloquia with Rebecca Conrad
Rebecca Conrad will present a lecture titled "Disordered Eating Behaviors in the Female College Population" at 3:30 p.m. in room 2268 of the Carroll Building.

CURIOSymposium
The Center for Undergraduate Research and Intellectual Opportunities presents the 2016 CURIOSymposium April 19 at 6 p.m. at the Carroll Building.

Wednesday, April 20
Mesa de conversación
The Spanish Conversation Table meets at 4 p.m. in room 1311 of the Forest Drive Building.

Thursday, April 21
Faculty Series Recital with Tim Kitzinger and Tom Pearsall
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents a Faculty Series Recital with Tim Kitzinger, trumpet, and Tom Pearsall, piano, at 7:30 p.m. in the Carter Recital Hall.

Friday, April 22
DO NOT OPEN!
Join us for a student created original devised theatre piece at 7:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre. Tickets are $5.

Le nozze di Figaro
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents Le nozze di Figaro, an opera by Mozart, at 7:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center (PAC) April 22-23.

Monday, April 25
General Student Recital #7
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the General Student Recital #7 at 1:25 p.m. at the Carter Recital Hall.

Georgia Southern Guitar Ensemble
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Georgia Southern Guitar Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. at the Carter Recital Hall.

Tuesday, April 26
Georgia Southern Wind Symphony
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Georgia Southern Wind Symphony at 7:30 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center (PAC).

Wednesday, April 27
Great Minds Lecture Series with Jacek Lubecki
The Great Minds Lecture Series concludes with Jacek Lubecki’s presentation titled "ISIS and al-Qaeda as Global Rebels: A Broader Historical Perspective" at 5:30 p.m. in room 2048 of the Russell Union.

Georgia Southern Jazz Ensemble
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Georgia Southern Jazz Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. at the Averitt Center for the Arts.

Thursday, April 28
Georgia Southern Symphonic Wind Ensemble
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Georgia Southern Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Parris Island Marine Band at 7 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center (PAC).
**Friday, April 29**
Georgia Southern Choral Concert
The Georgia Southern Department of Music presents the Georgia Southern Choral Concert at 7:30 p.m. at the Carter Recital Hall.

**Saturday, April 30**
Directing Showcase
Join us for nine student directed 10-minute plays at 2 p.m. at the Black Box Theatre.

[ View Complete Events List on the Georgia Southern Campus Calander ]

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**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.