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### CLASS Notes

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# CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF  
LIBERAL ARTS &  
SOCIAL SCIENCES



March 1, 2017



**GEORGIA  
SOUTHERN  
UNIVERSITY**

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Spring has sprung and our campus is starting to grow again.

Last week we broke ground on our new Interdisciplinary Academic Building, which will benefit our students and number of our departments including the Department of History and Department of Foreign Languages. Both departments will be relocated from the Forest Drive Building.

The \$33.6 million building, which is shared with the College of Health and Human Sciences, will be located between the Carroll Building and the IT Building where two temporary classroom structures previously stood.

Our students and faculty will greatly benefit from the addition of a variety of classroom spaces, office and meeting spaces, a digital humanities maker's space, a Public History Gallery, and the CLASS advisement center. The building will also be used for all of the interdisciplinary programs in the College.

Construction is set to be completed by June 2018, and we hope you can join us on campus soon.

Sincerely,



Curtis Ricker, CLASS Dean

## Department of Sociology and Anthropology

### Digital Humanities, A New Minor in CLASS

The Department of Sociology and Anthropology's focus this year has been on increasing students' opportunities to engage in impactful experiences which increase employability and acceptance into graduate programs. Towards that goal, the Sociology program has tripled its number of undergraduate students participating in internships under the direction of April Schueths, Ph.D. Students in the program are working with local organizations to improve the lives of children, the mentally ill, and senior citizens. In Adrienne Cohen's, Ph.D., Program Evaluation course students are engaged in service learning initiatives, including program evaluations for three community organizations. These evaluations will aid the organizations in improving their services to the community.

Similarly, the Anthropology faculty have completed a revision of their curriculum to include an internship and field school tracks. Under the direction of Ryan McNutt, Ph.D., 18 Anthropology undergraduates and graduate students are working this spring and summer on the Camp Lawton site. Our new Archaeology lab director/curation position has expanded opportunities in our archaeology labs, with 12 undergraduate students working to identify and curate artifacts under the direction of Matt Compton, Ph.D. Jennifer Sweeney Tookes, Ph.D., is currently securing placements for our first group of applied anthropology internship students. Students also have the opportunity to travel to Spain this summer with Heidi Altman, Ph.D., through the system's European Council Study Abroad Program.

Experience with academic research is also a powerful experience for many of our undergraduate and graduate students. Several graduate students from our Master of Arts in Social Sciences program, led by Eric Silva, Ph.D., have presented research papers at regional conferences in Sociology, Anthropology, Criminal Justice, and Political Science. Undergraduate students in our ANTH and SOCI capstone seminars, taught by Altman, William L. Smith, Ph.D., and Clare Walsh, Ph.D., are preparing their presentations for the College's Spring CURIO Undergraduate Research Symposium. Several students have worked with faculty co-authors on research being published in academic journals.

Follow the accomplishments of our students and faculty through Facebook posts, pictures, and videos on the Department's page, the Camp Lawton page, the Georgia Southern Laboratory of Archaeology page, and the Lambda Alpha honors society page.

- Marieke Van Willigen, Ph.D.  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Chair

## Department News

**Department of Communication Arts**

Seven students traveled with Rebecca Kennerly, Ph.D., and Claire Nelson, M.F.A., to the annual Patti Pace Performance Festival. The festival was hosted this year at Louisiana State University. GS students attended multiple events including invited performances directed by performance studies scholars and practitioners, a lecture related to the theme of the festival "Environmental Performance and the Sensorium," and a Mardi Gras parade. GS students also participated in workshops and created performances with other students from colleges and universities across the US.

### **Department of Foreign Languages**

Michael McGrath's, Ph.D., latest article, "Apuntes sobre el túmulo de Felipe III (1598-1621) en la Catedral de Segovia" ("Notes about Philip III's Burial Mound in the Cathedral of Segovia"), was recently published in [eHumanista](#), an online peer-reviewed journal.

Student Lotte Pummerer was awarded the Ibn Battuta Scholarship for Peace and Diplomacy which awards five students a full scholarship to cover the cost of Arabic course tuition and accommodation for the summer in Rabat, Morocco.

### **Department of Music**

Kyle Hancock, D.M.A. performed the role of Pandolfe in Jules Massenet's opera, Cendrillon (Cinderella), as a guest artist with the Valdosta State University opera program in Jan.

Allen Henderson, Ph.D., was bass soloist with the Savannah Philharmonic in their performances of Mozart's Requiem. He has also been invited by the National University of Singapore to present several master classes and teach singers at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music in April.

How can music performance research cross-over with kinesiology and movement research? Laura Stambaugh, Ph.D., presented a session on this topic at the National Association for Kinesiology in Higher Education Conference in Orlando in Jan. The title of her talk was "Interdisciplinary Collaborations between Music Performance and Kinesiology."

Stambaugh also published an article, "Implications of Extrinsic Cognitive Load on Three Levels of Adult Woodwind Players" in the journal Psychology of Music and presented a workshop titled "Oboe Refresher!" at GMEA (Georgia Music Educators Association).

### **Alumni**

Georgia Southern University had a strong presence at the GMEA In-Service Conference in Athens, Jan. 26-28. We were happy to catch up with many alumni at our Exhibit Hall booth and at the friends and alumni reception. Recent alumna, Mallory Tafoya (BM '16), presented her Honors Thesis at the research poster session with assistance from Stambaugh and David Langley, Ph.D., "The Beautiful, Refreshing Music: Child and Parent Voices from Community Choir."

### **Students**

The Magnolia String Quartet, under the direction of Larisa Elisha, D.M.A., was selected to present a performance at the 2017 GMEA In-Service Conference. The group performed a full recital program, which included works by D. Shostakovich and A. Dvorak. Following the performance, Elisha was presented with the Georgia Music Educators Association Appreciation Award for contributing to the program of the Annual GMEA In-Service Conference, 2017.

### **Department of Political Science and International Studies**

Jamie Scalera, Ph.D., has adapted Peggy Lindsey's, Ph.D., Writer's Boot Camp for use with her Honors students. Both Scalera and the boot camp were featured in an article on the [University System of Georgia's website](#).

Four students (Auburn Bell,Carolynn Nixon, Tony Hudson, and Charlotte McDonald) from the department have received travel funds from the Undergraduate Research Council to support their scholarly activities.

### **Department of Literature and Philosophy**

Olivia Carr Edenfield's monograph [Understanding Andre Dubus](#), was released on Feb. 28. This critical study is part of the Understanding Contemporary American Literature series published by The University of South Carolina Press.

## Alumni News

**Terry Harvin** (Communication Arts, 1991) was appointed by Georgia Governor Nathan Deal as a board member of Georgia Sports Hall of Fame Authority. Harvin was a four-year letterman and member of the 1986, 1989, and 1990 National Championship football teams at Georgia Southern University. He has served as the color commentator for Georgia Southern's radio broadcasts since 2006.

*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

[\[ View The Complete Events List on the Georgia Southern Campus Calendar \]](#)

## 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](#).

