

## CLASS Notes

November 1, 2017

Georgia Southern University

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# **CLASS NOTES**

**FOR NOV. 2017**  
**FEATURING**  
**THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
**COMMUNICATION ARTS**

Representing Georgia Southern University and the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS), Communication Arts faculty and students continue to build recognition of our programs through their work as leaders within our fields of study.

## **Our Students**

Our students continue to receive regional and national recognition for theatre performance and design work. Specifically, Kennedy Center American College Theatre reviewers invited the production of "She Kills Monsters" to a regional performance, and they were one of only five shows selected. The show then went on to accrue nine national awards of excellence, including receiving one of only two awards given for Best Ensemble; the performers and show would garner an additional five commendations.

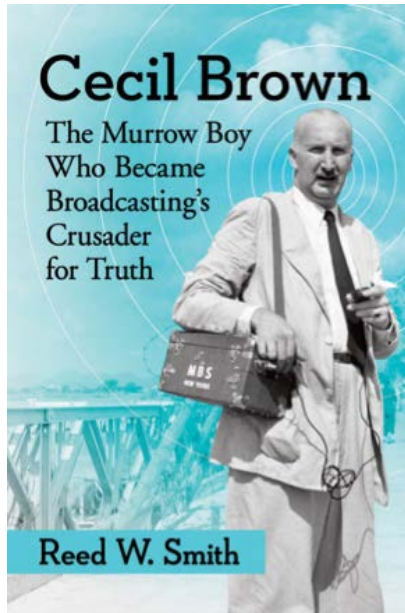
Five students were invited to present their research at the Theodore Clevenger Undergraduate Honors Conference held in conjunction with Southern States Communication Association, with Chris Geyerman, Ph.D., now having 20 students, consecutively, accepted for presenting at this conference.

Additionally, several students received recognition in the Campus Movie Fest this past spring, and others have been involved in projects recognized at various film festivals. Faculty members continue to develop on-campus opportunities for students to learn under real-time constraints, again teaming up with alumni professionals from WJBF in Augusta to host "MMJ for a Day" where students had a day to produce an evening news show, complete with editing notes and reviews by the professionals. Savannah WTOC alumni professionals also provided reviews of student work on final projects.

## **Our Faculty**

Faculty members continue to provide significant service to the discipline in our national organizations including Southern States Communication Association, Georgia Theatre Conference, Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival - Region IV, and Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. In addition to a number of faculty having served in a variety of rolls including division chairs, Lisa Abbott, M.F.A., has moved into a three-year

commitment to serve as Vice Chair of KCACTF's Region IV (to be followed by three years as chair), and Pamela Bourland-Davis, Ph.D., was elected 2nd Vice Chair of Southern States Communication Association.



In addition to a number of research publications, we are especially proud to announce the Reed Smith's, Ph.D., Cecil Brown - The Murrow Boy Who Became Broadcasting's Crusader for Truth, released this month by McFarland Press.

Additionally, Sarah McCarroll, Ph.D., was recognized with a CLASS Achievement Award.

### **Our Alumni & Friends**

We are thrilled to offer the first official Rountree Scholarship to a student in public relations this year, a scholarship sponsored by Don Rountree, President, Rountree Group Integrated Communications.

In the spring, Greg Pallone, News 13 Orlando, spoke at our annual awards ceremony as our Distinguished Communication Arts lecturer. He also met with students at the career fair, where he talked to students about covering the Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting and the need for journalists to remember the human side of stories.



We were also thrilled this year to have Dr. Clarence McCord's wife, Jean McCord, visit and tour Sanford Hall. McCord passed away a number of years ago and was the first chair of the department as it became a stand-alone unit in 1969.

(Pictured: Julie Turner Davis, Chair of the Public Relations Advisory Board, with Jean McCord.)

### **What's next?**

We will be working with our co-horts at Armstrong to build our programs in Theatre and Communication Studies, and we are thrilled to be offering a

graduate program in Professional Communication and Leadership next year. We are looking at a spring film festival with opportunities for high school submissions as well. More immediately, let us know if you're interested in being part of the Communication Arts INC - An Internship, Networking & Career Fair scheduled for Friday, October 20th.

Dr. Pamela G. Bourland-Davis  
[pamelagb@georgiasouthern.edu](mailto:pamelagb@georgiasouthern.edu)

### **Betty Foy Sanders Department of Art**

Jason Hoelscher, M.F.A., curated a multimedia art exhibition called POLLINATE, selected as a featured event at the HUBweek art/science/technology festival in Boston. HUBweek, a partnership between Harvard University and MIT was open to the public and strives to bring together artists, designers, tech companies, and science teams from around the world. In addition to Hoelscher, two other POLLINATE participants are from Georgia Southern, including Jeff Schmuki, M.F.A., who is part of the exhibition, and graduate student Jessamy McManus, who has contributed curatorial and organizational advice.

"War Is Only Half the Story" is a 10-year retrospective of the work of the groundbreaking documentary photography program, The Aftermath Project. Founded by photographer Sara Terry to help change the way the media covers conflict and to educate the public about the true cost of war and the real price of peace, The Aftermath Project has run a grant program for the past decade, supporting some of the best documentary photographers in the world working on post-conflict themes. The film, which features work by Jessica Hines, M.F.A., was released in advance of the 10th anniversary book that will make its debut at Paris Photo in November. <https://mediastorm.com/clients/the-aftermath-project>

Sarah Bielski, M.F.A., had her work accepted into the internationally juried show: The FL3TCH3R Exhibit: Social and Politically Engaged Art, juried by Anita Kunz, D.F.A. The show will be on display at the Reece Museum on the campus of East Tennessee State University until Dec. 15.

Master of Fine Arts candidate Courtney Ryan's solo exhibition "Domestic Consumption" was displayed at Columbus State University's Art Lab gallery. Ryan's work investigates the excessive and conspicuous consumption of domestic commodities. Through the use of ceramics, she creates sculptures of domestic spaces decomposing and returning to nature. This exhibition featured ceramic sculptures on hand-cut log pedestals as well as ceramic sculptures on the wall and on shelving.

Master of Fine Arts candidate Cyndy Epps's work was displayed at a national juried show Sense of Place at the Gertude Herbert Institute of Art in Augusta, Ga. Epps's work will also be included in a themed exhibition at 621 Gallery in Tallahassee, Fla.

### **Department of Foreign Languages**

Dolores Rangel, Ph.D., recently published an article "Multiplicidad dramática en Rumor de Mar" Gabriela Christie Toletti's Migración y dictadura en escena: Un acercamiento interdisciplinario a la obra del dramaturgo uruguayo Dino Armas (Norfolk, Virginia: New Dominion Press, 2017).

### **Department of Psychology**

Michael Nielsen, Ph.D., received the Ruffin Cup Award this year from the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences in recognition of his across-the-board excellence in teaching, scholarship, and service. Nielsen also recently completed his service as Past-President of Division 36 of the American Psychological Association.

Nielsen also participated in the International Symposium on the Kadesh Treaty: Celebrating Peace, Equality, and Unity, held Sept. 27-29 in Corum, Turkey. His presentation was entitled "Culture and Peace: A Social Psychological Perspective." Presenters came from several countries, with Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim giving the keynote address.

Nielsen was interviewed for the summer 2017 edition of Eye on Psi Chi, the magazine produced by the national honor society in psychology. The interview, "Does Technology Decrease Our Religious Beliefs?" stemmed from his invited lecture at the Southeastern Psychological Association meeting.

Janie Wilson, Ph.D., delivered the keynote address at the 24th annual Teaching Institute at the Association for Psychological Science, in which she presented her research on the importance of student-faculty rapport.

Nick Holtzman, Ph.D., Steve Carden, Ph.D., and Mike Stube from Washington University in St. Louis published an article in Frontiers in Psychology. The article provides software for probing an interaction in multiple regression.

Dorthie Cross, Ph.D., Tanja Jovanovic from Emory School of Medicine, and other Emory School of Medicine collaborators published an article, "Exposure to Violence Accelerates Epigenetic Aging in Children," in Scientific Reports.

Michael Nielsen, Ph.D., and Lotte Pummerer coauthored two papers at the International Association for the Psychology of Religion conference in Hamar, Norway. The first, "LDS Policies on Sexual Orientation and Their Impact," examined attitudes toward sexual minorities and suicide. The second, "Distinguishing Transcendence from Holiness for Christians and Religious Nones," summarized Pummerer's thesis research on transcendent experience among religious and nonreligious individuals.

Amy Luna, Ph.D., was recognized in the Statesboro Herald as an outstanding 20 under 40 community leader for 2017.

Shauna Joye, Ph.D., and student Zach Dietrich were mentioned in the New York Times for their research investigating wilderness therapy for the treatment of PTSD in veterans.

### **Department of Sociology and Anthropology**

The Anthropological honors society Lambda Alpha sponsored a fundraiser in early Oct. to raise funds to support hurricane relief efforts in the Virgin Islands. The students raised \$562 by selling baked goods and beverages. They were assisted by members of the Anthropology Society.

The Sociological Society sponsored a showing of the film 13th on Oct. 5th as part of our Fall Film Series. Approximately 90 students, faculty, staff, and community members attended. Our next film series showing will be Class Divide at 6pm on Thursday November 2nd in the Russell Union Theater. All films are free and open to the public. Free popcorn is provided, with drinks for purchase.

The Center for Social Gerontology held their second annual conference on Friday, Oct. 13th, at the Nessmith Lane Center. There were 11 breakout sessions including panels of local elder service providers and workshops by Georgia Southern Faculty. CLASS provided funds for 40 students to attend for free, and there were 15 student poster presentations. Over 80 students, faculty, and community professionals attended this annual fall conference.

On Oct. 7th Anthropology and MASS students Drew Antonisse, Rhianna Bennett, and Colin Partridge from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology joined the Society for Georgia Archaeology and Abby the ArchaeoBus for CoastFest in Brunswick, Ga., to share information about the archaeology of Georgia.

In early October MASS graduate student Nompumelelo Hlpohe presented her research in Texas with Georgia Southern Alumnus Lee Berger, Ph.D. Mpume, Berger, and other members of the "Underground Astronauts" team toured Texas schools and universities educating students about Homo naledi and the Rising Star Expedition.

In recognition of International Archaeology Day on Saturday, Oct. 21st, Fort Frederica National Monument hosted an International Archaeology Day event. The Georgia Southern University Laboratory of Archaeology had a table to share information about current research at Camp Lawton, our academic archaeology program, and archaeology in general with members of the public. Matthew Compton, Ph.D., and Ryan McNutt, Ph.D., and students Drew Antonisse, Rhianna Bennett, Scott Clark, Holly Fields, Cary Helmuth, Mpume Hlophe, and Colin Partridge represented the department at the event.

The Department served as a co-sponsor of the Bulloch County Beloved Community's Town- Gown Divide event on Friday, Oct. 20-Saturday, Oct. 21. Heidi Altman, Ph.D., and MASS alum Suzanne Shurling assisted in the organization of this event, and Marieke Van Willigen, Ph.D., served as a panelist. A number of department faculty, students, and alumni attended. This event is part of the organization's Bridging the Gap series which is ongoing.

Matt Flynn, Ph.D., has published his second book entitled Challenging Immigration Detention-Academics, Activists, and Policy-makers with Edward Elgar Publishers (Flynn, Michael and Matthew B. Flynn, editors).

Adrienne Cohen, Ph.D., and co-author Colleen Bennett published "Support network connectedness in the lives of community dwelling rural elders and their families." *Marriage and Family Review*. 53(6), 576-588. (2017).

William Smith, Ph.D., published "Prayer in an American Cistercian Monastery." Pp. 116-133 in *Monasticism in Modern Times*, edited by I. Jonveaux and S. Palmisano. New York: Routledge.

April Schueths, Ph.D., and two collaborators had published "An Evaluation of a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) Program in the Rural South." *Children and Youth Services Review*. Schueths has served as a board member of CASA since 2011.

### **Department of Writing and Linguistics**

Melissa Carrion's, Ph.D., article, " 'You need to do your research': Vaccines, Contestable Science, and Maternal Epistemology," was published in *Public Understanding of Science*.

Laura Valeri, M.F.A., just signed a contract with SFA University Press for *The Dead Still Here*, a short story collection.

Jinrong Li, Ph.D., was named one of two Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Fellows for 2017-2018.

Li's paper on "Preparing English language learners for academic writing: a functional linguistic approach" was accepted for presentation at Georgia TESOL in Oct. 2017.

Christina Olson, M.F.A., has new creative nonfiction in *Third Coast*. She also recently delivered a craft talk, "Weird Science + Poetry" at the Flannery O'Connor Childhood Home in Savannah, Ga.

Members of the Department of Writing and Linguistics served as the Local Host Committee for the Council for Programs in Technical and Scientific Communication (CPTSC) Conference, held in Savannah Oct. 5-7. Melissa Carrion, Ph.D., and Joanna Schreiber, Ph.D., also presented their research at the conference in a session titled "Toward a user-centered, sustainable TPC service course." Members of the local host committee were Joanna Schreiber (committee chair), Andrew Berger, Melissa Carrion, Tim Giles, Aron Pease, Amanda Schumacher, and Christopher Smith.

The Georgia Southern Writing Project has been working with Statesboro High and William James Middle School faculty this fall. Statesboro High has teachers from various content areas creating writing activities for their classrooms. In September, eight teachers participated in Assignments Matter workshop where they designed specific activities to help students use the writing to learn a concept in the specific course. Math, ROTC, and language arts were represented. At WJMS, we have been sharing writing for fun activities that teachers try out on themselves and then adapt to use in their classrooms. We've written to practice using specific details, to build vocabulary, and to review some grammatical concepts. More than 40 teachers in 6-8th grades have participated along with Principal Julie Mizell.

Timothy Giles, Ph.D., paper "Sophocles' Oedipus Cycle as a Rhetorical Artifact" has been accepted for presentation to the 103rd National Communication Association conference.

