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CLASS *notes*

COLLEGE OF
LIBERAL ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



July 31, 2014

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

Greetings!

Though the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences generates exciting news, research, and events year-round, the most exciting time of the year is drawing ever closer. Soon, new and returning students will flock to Georgia Southern's campus to begin and/or continue in their academic pursuits. CLASS houses several of the core classes that Georgia Southern students are required to complete and therefore touches the lives of literally every student that comes to the University. Daily, the faculty members of CLASS help to prepare students - not only majors in the liberal arts and social sciences, but also technology, public health, education, business, and other majors enrolled in core classes and/or pursuing minors - to achieve academic excellence, develop their analytical skills, enhance their creativity, and embrace their responsibilities as citizens of their communities, their nations, and the world.

Below, you will find several examples of faculty members and students of CLASS embracing this mission through teaching, research, and service. For example, our featured student, [Assana Magagi-Alio](#), recently returned from a summer internship at the United Nations, where she utilized the skills she has learned in her MPA courses.

Another example at the forefront of CLASS' adherence to its mission is the [Rural Health Research Institute](#). Formally an independent entity directed by faculty members from CLASS and the Jiann-Ping Hsu College of Public Health, the RHRI is now housed within the College. Dr. Bryant Smalley, associate professor of psychology, continues to serve as its executive director and is excited to bring the Institute and its several grant-funded initiatives to CLASS. The RHRI focuses on interdisciplinary research and outreach designed to improve health in rural communities and to promote the development of researchers focused on rural health issues.

Though we are excited to welcome RHRI, it is bittersweet to announce that Dr. Sharon Tracy, professor of criminal justice, has announced her retirement. Tracy has taught courses in ethics, criminal behavior, juvenile justice, youth gangs, and organized criminality for more than 25 years at Georgia Southern University. Her research focused on youth and adult gangs with an emphasis on drug trafficking organizations and sovereign citizens groups. She recently completed the fourth edition of *Youth Gangs in American Society*; she is the author of articles and book reviews for several publications and serves as a reviewer for several journals. Tracy was a past advisor for the National Black Law Students Association, which won three national awards during her service. She has advised the Justice Studies Club and two professional student criminal justice societies. She also served as advisor to several law enforcement agencies and continues to be an active member of the Statesboro community, having served on the Statesboro Planning and Zoning Commission for 10 years. We wish her the best in her retirement.

A few administrative notes:

The Fall 2014 edition of *CLASS Connect* is being finalized. If you would like to receive the printed publication, please email your mailing address to class@georgiasouthern.edu.

Lastly, A Day for Southern is right around the corner. Last year, loyal alumni nationwide made the newly introduced online phase of ADFS a success. This year, ADFS is September 9, and we ask that you

please consider making a gift to support the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences. Donors can contribute to any of several accounts at the college or departmental level, including:

- * 0881: CLASS Dean's Scholarship Fund
- * 3721: Clarence W. McCord Memorial Endowment Fund
- * 0650: Dr. Gary B. Sullivan Scholarship for Study in Ireland
- * 0859: Jack N. and Addie D. Averitt Memorial Graduate Assistantships
- * 0691: Linda Rohrer Paige Award
- * 3230: Ruffin Cup Endowment
- * 0646: Ruffin Humanities Scholarship
- * 3718: Warren F. "Spike" Jones Endowed Scholarship

This is by no means a comprehensive list of funding opportunities available. For more information, please view the [online accounts list](#) or contact [Sue Bunning](#) at 912.478.2435.

The University is also looking for a few good Eagles to serve as alumni ambassadors during ADFS. If you're interested in sharing your love of Georgia Southern and CLASS with your online community on September 9, please [let us know](#).

CLASS Notes is as much about your news as it is about ours; keep us informed of the events, honors, awards, promotions, and successes of your life through our [online survey](#) or by sending us a note at atclass@georgiasouthern.edu.

Warmest regards,



Curtis E. Ricker, dean

At the Head of the CLASS

My name is Assana Magagi-Alio, and I am a Masters of Public Administration candidate at Georgia Southern University. I began my studies in the Institute for Public and Nonprofit Studies in Spring 2012 with the ultimate goal of becoming a public administrator in the international arena because of my background and having grown up in Togo and Niger, both in West Africa. I acquired my bachelor's degree in international affairs, with a concentration in diplomacy, from Kennesaw State University and understood that I needed to further my education in order to achieve my goal of working on international humanitarian issues.



First, I needed to learn how state and local governments are managed. Whether at the local, state, or international level, public officials share the goal of improving public services while consuming fewer resources. I immediately aimed to learn the skills necessary to balance planning, creating, and delivering high-value programs for citizens while slashing costs wherever possible. On the international level, it is extremely crucial that I understand performance management strategies and the powerful tools used to improve government agencies, programs, and operations. I have gained these skills through Georgia Southern's MPA program.

In the MPA program, I have had the opportunity to learn from high-caliber professors and to utilize the information they were giving me through hands-on experience. In Budgeting, for example, as we attempted to balance the U.S. federal budget, I learned the complex issues of give and take, which are essential in compiling a working budget. Through the Local Government Practicum and Nonprofit Management courses, I have worked with community organizations and municipalities in Statesboro and nearby cities and have helped to write a grant, revamp a community program for senior citizens, and develop a risk-assessment plan for a local city. The IPNS has a robust curriculum tailored to obtain high performance results from students through a hands-on approach from professors. This structure has helped keep me and other students focused on increasing our academic productivity while learning the demands and evolving needs of the public and nonprofit sectors. This has not only prepared me as a future public administrator, but has also stressed the importance of being a lifelong-learner.

An internship is required for the MPA program, and I was fortunate to be chosen to intern with the United Nations Economic and Social Council in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs within the Division for Public Administration and Development Management for summer 2014. I worked on the United National Public Service Day and Awards Ceremony, which takes place each year in a different part of the world. This year, the forum was in Seoul, South Korea, and its theme was "Innovating Governance for Sustainable Development and Well-Being of the People." Nearly 1,000 international and regional participants attended the event, including high-level UN officials and representatives of the Republic of Korea, in addition to world leaders, ministers, senior government officials, mayors, and representatives from civil society, academia, the private sector, and international and regional organizations. Being at the UN allowed me to attend with my supervisors closed meetings at the Secretariat, where UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's office is located, and to assist in the development of meetings with prime ministers, the heads of the ECOSOC, the chief of staff for sustainable development, and international negotiators. I also attended meetings

with ministers responsible for drafting new agendas to address global challenges under the new Millennium Development Goals.

The classroom- and hands-on-experiences I have gained from the IPNS prepared me tremendously for my internship. I used skills that I acquired from courses in budgeting, information technology, foundations of public administration, ethics, and public and nonprofit management. These information I learned in these classes contributed to me fully understanding every session I attended, every project I worked on, and the negotiations with which I assisted at the UN. There is no greater joy for me than applying what I have learned in class to real-life situations.

As I prepare to graduate in December and reflect on my experiences in the MPA program, I am able to say with confidence that I have received a solid academic foundation from a well-rounded and knowledgeable faculty. Not only have I had the opportunity to work on projects to build my resume, but I have also made great friends and future colleagues. I want to thank the IPNS faculty for the dedication and drive to see their students succeed that they display daily. I have come to value my degree even more through my experiences this summer, and I am looking forward to working in a field that allows me to serve the public.

Institute for Public & Nonprofit Studies

IPNS serves as the focal point for scholarship, teaching, and professional service in public administration and public policy at Georgia Southern University. The Institute was founded in July 2012 with the mission to advance excellence in public and nonprofit management, and our degree programs have had a dramatic and positive effect on the lives of our graduates and the communities they serve. The IPNS is home to the nationally ranked Master of Public Administration degree program and the online Graduate Certificate in Public and Nonprofit Management.

As IPNS prepares to welcome a new cohort of students and a new generation of public servants to its programs this fall, it is worth highlighting some of the accomplishment of the past year:

IPNS faculty and students continue to be highly active in research and community engagement and outreach. In a new partnership with the Georgia Municipal Association, MPA students were placed in communities to assist with projects ranging from revenue- and economic-development to risk-assessment and citizen satisfaction. The cities of Statesboro, Bloomingdale, Hinesville, and Metter hosted students during the Fall 2013 semester, and Dr. P. Cary Christian provided guidance and oversight of the projects and served as a resource for both the students and the municipalities involved. Christian will work with a new set of communities and students during the upcoming Fall semester.

Dr. Robbie Robichau joined the faculty in Fall 2013 as an assistant professor. She teaches courses in nonprofit management, program evaluation, and grant writing. Robichau is quickly establishing herself as a productive scholar, with work appearing in the *Journal of Policy Studies* and *Policy Studies Journal*. In the nonprofit arena, Robichau presented research at the annual conference of the Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action and recently represented IPNS at the summer retreat of the Nonprofit Academic Centers Council, of which IPNS is a full member.

Institute Director Dr. Trenton Davis presented work on employee motivation at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference. Coauthored with Dr. Jerry Gabris of Northern Illinois University, the research examines the prospects and challenges of motivating public-sector workers in the aftermath of the Great Recession. This work will appear as a chapter in the forthcoming edition of *Public Human Resource Management: Problems and Prospects*.

A large part of what is exciting about IPNS is the achievement of its students. As participants in a practice-oriented program, MPA students routinely engage and interact with government and nonprofit officials in organizations located throughout southeast Georgia and beyond. This past year, students completed internships in nearly two dozen public and nonprofit organizations throughout the U.S., assisted with writing grants for several local nonprofit organizations, and participated in various other service-learning projects. IPNS students are also active in scholarship. For example, Megan Baker, William Bell, Andrea Bennett, Cinnamon Dowd, Assana Magagi-Alio, Rosine Mbuento-Watat, and Samantha Reid all showcased their work at the University's Graduate Research Symposium.

Looking to the future, there is much to be excited about. For starters, in a few short weeks, IPNS will welcome more than 15 new students to the MPA program and its third (and largest to-date) cohort to the Certificate program. Dr. Christian has received a \$10,000 Faculty Research Award to examine the response of Georgia municipalities to fiscal distress from the Great Recession. He will be using the bulk of the funds to provide paid research positions to several MPA students. And, finally, the IPNS will be seeking to add to its faculty ranks by recruiting individuals with teaching and research expertise in nonprofit management and public policy.

Department News

Music

Maestro Adrian Gnam, conductor of the Georgia Southern Symphony and director of the International Conductors Workshop and Competition, and Dr. Gregory Prichard, associate director of the ICW, have [announced the winners](#) of the 2014 competition, sponsored by the Gwinnett Symphony Chamber Orchestra and Georgia Southern University. Of the 11 participants representing the U.S., Columbia, Spain, Honduras, China, Taiwan, Japan, South Korea, and Germany, the three winners are Eunseok Seo of South Korea, Ivan Nuno Guerrero of Spain, and Daisuke Nagamine of Japan.

Professor Tom Pearsall has been appointed to a two-year term, March 2015-2017, to the editorial committee of *AMT*.

Dr. Larisa Elisha's paper "Giants of French Impressionism in Music and Visual Art - String Quartets by Ravel and Debussy versus Famous Paintings of Renoir and Monet: Influential Ties between Music and Visual Arts; Techniques and Applications in Performing Arts, Based on the Understanding of Color, Texture, Images, Depth, and Dimensions" was published in the *International Journal of Liberal Arts and Social Science*. Elisha was also accepted to present at the 2015 American Strings Teachers Association National Conference in Salt Lake City.

Dr. Steven Elisha recorded the soundtrack for the documentary *The Wanderer Slave Ship: A Crime That Shaped America*, which will air on PBS. Elisha was also accepted to present at the 2015 American Strings Teachers Association National Conference in Salt Lake City.

Criminal Justice & Criminology

Dr. Laurie Gould was selected by the prestigious Council on Undergraduate Research to serve as the editor for the Social Science Division of the peer-reviewed journal *CUR Quarterly*. Gould was also elected to serve as a councilor for the Social Sciences Division of CUR.

Dr. Chad Posick, with colleagues Glenn L. Pierce and Tim Lyman of Northeastern University and Michael L. Radelet of University of Colorado - Boulder, recently had their article, "Race and the Construction of Evidence in Homicide Cases," published in the *American Journal of Criminal Justice*. The article examined how the amount of effort put forth by prosecutors in Louisiana in pursuit of homicide conviction varies by the race and gender of the victims and how the victims' characteristics relate to the severity of the offenders' sentences. The authors found that the prosecutors studied used the most effort to pursue convictions in cases with white

female victims and that offenders who were convicted of killing whites and women received the harshest sentences.

Dr. Bryan Miller and colleague John Stogner of the University of North Carolina - Charlotte recently had their article, "Not-So-Clean Fun: A Profile of Bath Salt Users among a College Sample in the United States" published in the *Journal of Psychoactive Drugs*. The study examines characteristics of users of synthetic stimulants marketed as "bath salts." Results indicate that users of bath salts were more likely to be male, Hispanic or Native American, student athletes, employed, identify as members of the LGBT community, and users of other substances. Miller had another article, written with Stogner and Julie Baldwin of the University of Arkansas - Little Rock, "It's Five O'clock Somewhere: An Examination of the Association between Happy Hour Drinking and Negative Consequences," published in *Substance Abuse, Treatment, Prevention, and Policy*. The study examines the relationship between young adults' drinking behaviors during happy-hour specials, the ways in which they change, and whether a link exists between happy-hour drinking behavior and negative consequences. The study lends support to the idea that alcohol-price specials should be regulated in an effort to reduce high consumption and alcohol-related negative consequences.

Art

The Department welcomes Robert Farber as its new department chair. Farber joins the Department from Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota, Florida.

Graphic Communications Management Professor Don Armel has completed documenting the first 180 years of printers in the U.S. Armel's study begins with Matthew Daye of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and is available online through the [Zach S. Henderson Library's Digital Commons](#).

Photography Professor Jessica Hines' solo exhibition *Spirit Stories* is currently on display at the [Forward Thinking Museum](#).

Foundations Professor Jessica Burke was among 50 educators invited to attend and participate in the Integrative Teaching International annual conference ThinkTank 8 Big Sky Vision - Grounded Strategy. At the conference, Burke was a panelist for the discussion "Critiques, Assessment and Rubrics: Measuring Success." Burke's solo exhibition *Perception Is Reality* is currently on display at the Boyette Gallery of the Turner Center for the Arts in Valdosta, and her *(Re)Play* will be on display during August in the City Gallery in North Charleston, South Carolina.

Graphic Design Professor Santanu Majumdar's paper, written with colleague Dr. Shainaz Landge, "Interactive Teaching Methods to Engage Students through Responsive Learning in Organic Chemistry," was accepted to the [21st International Conference on Learning](#) on July 14-17 in New York.

Sociology & Anthropology



The Department has added new seating to its lobby and new screens to the entrances and windows of the Archaeology Lab.

Sociology Professor Nathan Palmer's research was highlighted in *New York Magazine*. Palmer was also the recent recipient of some good karma, when a 12-year-old girl [reunited him and his lost camera](#).

Watch PBS' recent *Time Team America* highlight of Camp Lawton [online](#).

Writing & Linguistics

Student [Daja Hansel-Coates](#) and [Professor LeighAnn Williams](#) were recently profiled by *Connect Statesboro*.

Communication Arts

Student [Megan Muccillo](#) was recently profiled by *Connect Statesboro*.

Literature & Philosophy

Professor [David Dudley](#) was recently profiled by *Connect Statesboro*.

Psychology

Psy.D. students Amanda Rikard and Neil Martin, who are performing their predoctoral internships at the Georgia Southern Counseling Center, will begin full-time staff positions at the University's Counseling and Career Development Center on August 1.

Assistant Professor Ty Boyer was awarded a grant by the National Science Foundation for his project "How Proportional Reasoning Relates to Whole Number Operations and Numerical Estimation in Elementary School Children."

History



Dr. Bill Allison (left) was awarded the Outstanding Civilian Service Medal by the U.S. Army for his work as the Harold K. Johnson Chair of Military History at the U.S. Army War College from June 2012 - June 2014. Allison will participate in the annual Teaching Grand Strategy seminar at the Naval War College in Newport on August 6-8.

Dr. Michelle Haberland's class on oral history interviewed several retired police officers as part of its partnership with the Peace Officers Association of Georgia. The interviews provide a fascinating window into the history of law enforcement and the social history of Georgia and will be archived in the Zach S. Henderson Library.

Dr. Emerson McMullen will present "D-day and John Darley" on November 5 at 4 p.m. as part of the University's annual French Week celebration.

Dr. Jeffrey D. Burson's "Vitalistic Materialism and Universal Histories of Philosophy in the Contributions of Abbé Claude Yvon to the Encyclopédie" was published in *Réflexions Historiques'* special edition on religion and the Enlightenment. Burson's "The Papal Bul Unigenitus and the Forging of Enlightened Catholicism, c. 1715-1764" will appear in the August edition of *History Compass*.

Dr. Paul Rodell presented during the weeklong Teaching East Asia workshop for Georgia's middle- and high-school teachers at the University of Georgia on June 23-27. Rodell presented all of Tuesday's sessions. That morning, he made two presentations, the first on recent Chinese history and culture, and then a similar talk

about Japan. After lunch, he took the afternoon to cover Vietnamese history, from its origins to the American war. The workshop was funded by the Freeman Foundation with additional coordination from the Asia for Educators program at Columbia University's Weatherhead East Asia Institute.

Dr. Robert Batchelor sailed aboard the 1840's whaling ship *Charles Morgan* as a 38th Voyager from Provincetown to Boston on July 15. The trip was part of a Chairman's Grant funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities for a project about the marine chronometer with Mystic Seaport. Also on board were the director of the Greenwich Maritime Museum, which has a new exhibition about the chronometer and the longitude prize, and the head of the U.S. National Marine Sanctuary program. Batchelor's article "The Selden Map and the East and Southeast Asian Archipelago" appears in the fall edition of *Education About Asia*.

Rural Health Research Institute



The RHRI recently concluded the 2014 Disparities Elimination Summer Research Experience, which brought together a cohort of six students from across the country to receive intensive full-time research training and mentoring through the RHRI's NIH Center of Excellence grant. The students received training in research methods, statistics, health disparities, and research ethics; received peer mentoring and professional-development experiences; and prepared four manuscripts during the internship. Three CLASS faculty members served as the program's faculty, including Dr. Bryant Smalley (psychology), Dr. Janie Wilson (psychology), and Dr. Beverly Graham (communication arts).

Alyssa Hutcheson, a student participant in the 2013 DESRE program, was accepted into the rurally focused Doctor of Psychology program in the Department of Psychology.

The RHRI selected Dr. Nandi Marshall, an alumna of Georgia Southern and current faculty member at Armstrong Atlantic State University, as a scholar in its National Institutes of Health-supported Health Disparities Cybermentoring program. The program guides new faculty members through a formal career development and mentoring process designed to culminate with the receipt of NIH funding focused on health disparities research.

Advisement Center

The Center welcomes Kinsley Baker as the new advisor for public relations majors. Baker earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in counselor education from Georgia Southern. Her office is in Sanford Hall, Room 3001-B.

English, Philosophy, and Writing and Linguistics Advisor Christy Curley was selected to teach the extended orientation for a Fall First-Year Experience course.

Alumni News

Jolene Byrne has been elected president of the Savannah School Board.

Kate Beasley has written a young-adult novel, *Gertie*, which was sold in a two-book, mid-six-figure deal.

Jessica Rycheal has started her own apparel brand, The Underdog Co., which she said is inspired by "working-class dreamers." Rycheal printed the brand's first shirt design at Georgia Southern in 2010.

Jose Gil is working as a graphic designer at CBRE, a full-service real estate services company.

Michael Dickens is the gallery director at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee.

Greg Sapp, an Operation Enduring Freedom combat veteran, recently completed a handcycle marathon. The story is featured on page 17 in the Spring 2014 edition of *Georgia Southern Magazine*.

William Dooley ('76) is an associate professor of art at the University of Alabama and the director of the Sarah Moody Gallery of Art, where he oversees changing exhibitions of contemporary art and manages a growing permanent collection of modern and contemporary art. He is a practicing artist in painting and drawing and served as department chair from 1998-2008.

Carol Miller Lemke ('97) teaches K5 art in Liberty County and plays professional roller derby with the Savannah Derby Devils and the Fort Stewart Roller Girls under the alias LoBlo Van GoGo.

Elizabeth Chrisman Thomas ('02) has been working for Lockheed Martin since 2008, first as a material planner and now as a material engineer. She uses her degree to update and edit drawings and other documents for production engineers. She is active in her church and in taekwondo and recently moved back to the South after living in Littleton, Colorado, for three years.

Cindy Ann Kilgo ('10) earned her master's degree in higher education and student affairs from the University of South Carolina in 2012. Her master's thesis received the Gerald Saddlemire Master's Research Award from the American College Personnel Association. She is currently a third-year doctoral student in the Higher Education and Student Affairs program at University of Iowa and serves as a graduate research assistant for the Center for Research on Undergraduate Education. In 2013, she was awarded a fellowship from the Association for Institutional Research, the National Science Foundation, and the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics to attend the National Data Institute. She has research articles forthcoming in *New Directions for Institutional Research* and *Higher Education*.

Upcoming Events

PSYCHOLOGY

August 25

LECTURE Dr. Sobia Aftab: Mental Health Issues and the Role of Psychology in Pakistan

As a clinical psychology and registered hypnotherapist at the University of Karachi, Aftab has engaged in cross-cultural research on factors affecting U.S. and Pakistani citizens' mental health. She has studies at Goeriga Southern for the past year on a Fulbright fellowship, sponsored by the U.S. Department of State.

7 p.m. | Sanford Hall, Room 1002 | 912.478.5539

ART

August 18 - September 21

GALLERIES Derrick Buisch: Off Season

University Gallery, Center for Art & Theatre | 912.GSU.ARTS

August 18 - September 21

GALLERIES Joseph Peragine: Kingdom Under Glass

Contemporary Gallery, Center for Art & Theatre | 912.GSU.ARTS

COMMUNICATION ARTS

August 22

THEATRE Wham, Bam, Play Slam

Twenty-four-hour playwriting event introduces playwrights to actors and directors on Friday evening. Scripts are written overnight, rehearsals take place Saturday, and the curtain goes up Saturday evening.

7:30 p.m. | Black Box Theatre, Center for Art & Theatre | 912.478.5379

MUSIC

August 28

CONCERT Voice Faculty: Ives

7:30 p.m. | Carol A. Carter Recital Hall, Foy Building | 912.478.5396

[[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](#).



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