

Office of the Dean
College of Liberal Arts

DEANotes

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Finlay Notes

Welcome to the AASU's new **College of Liberal Arts**. For old-timers like me, this transition brings to mind the university's original mission, when the entire college, arts and sciences alike, was housed in a nice home at the corner of Bull and Gaston Streets in downtown Savannah. Back in those days, (when science classes were held in a kitchen and feral cats helped introduce students to dissection techniques), the Associate of Arts in 'Liberal Arts' was Armstrong's primary degree, just as bachelor's and master's degrees in liberal arts remain among the most common AASU degrees granted today.

The university's close ties between the arts and sciences are further illustrated on a campus map, which show facilities in the fine arts, economics, and history near Science Drive, while the buildings that house biology, chemistry, computer science, and psychology programs dominate the landscape along Arts Drive.¹

While the long relationships between the arts and the sciences at Armstrong will endure, there will be certain bureaucratic changes. Here are the basics: the new College of Liberal Arts contains the Departments of Art, Music, and Theatre; Criminal Justice, Social, and Political Science; Economics; History; and Languages, Literature, and Philosophy, as well as programs in Liberal Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, Military Science, and a handful of interdisciplinary minors such as African American Studies, Leadership Studies, Religious Studies, and European Union Studies. Another element in this transition is that coursework in anthropology has moved into the CJSPS department. The college's website, still under construction, is at <http://www.as.armstrong.edu/>.

¹ Thanks to Dr. Janet Stone, Associate Professor of History Emerita, for historical anecdotes and observations.

The new College of Science and Technology now houses our old Departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Mathematics, and Psychology, which join the Departments of Information Technology, Computer Science, and the program in Engineering Studies from the old School of Computing. To learn more about them, and their new Dean, Dr. George Shields, see <http://www.cst.armstrong.edu/>.

In all, the reorganization may present some new challenges and opportunities, but it's unlikely to fundamentally change AASU or its mission.

CoLA Meeting

All full-time and part-time faculty in the College of Liberal Arts are invited to a meeting to be held on Friday August 22 at noon in UH 157. The agenda will include information from the dean's office about budgetary issues and priorities; information from Dr. David Wheeler, chair of the committee searching for a new dean for our college; and information from Andy Clark in Institutional Research about assessment needs. Perhaps most importantly, this will be an opportunity for faculty to share their issues and voice their concerns.

Core Curriculum Update

As explained in the August 2008 issue of *Armstrong Academics*, efforts last spring to revise the USG's core curriculum ran into numerous roadblocks, not the least of them a resolution passed by the faculty of AASU in April. By May, the USG's Chief Academic Officer and Executive Vice Chancellor, Dr. Susan Herbst, announced that it was "appropriate to take some time out to ponder all options and consider all opinions in a systematic fashion." It appears that this process will resume with a meeting in Atlanta in late August. Details will be forthcoming, I'm sure.

Faculty Development Opportunities.

The University System of Georgia has several faculty development opportunities available in 2008-2009. Workshop topics include: "Successful Grant Writing: Focus on Proposals to NSF"; "Scholarly

Communication”; “Assessing and Improving Student Learning in General Education,” and more. Most events take place at Georgia Tech on Fridays. For more information and registration procedures, see http://www.usg.edu/academics/fac_dev/fd_calendar.phtml.

Introducing Dean Howells

In case you had not heard, Dr. Beth Howells will serve as the Interim Assistant Dean of the College of Liberal Arts in Fall 2008. Howells joined Armstrong Atlantic in 2001 as assistant professor of literature and director of composition. She is the author of *Writing to Read/Reading to Write: A Composition and Literature Textbook* to be published by Pearson in 2009 as well as other works in both composition studies and Victorian literature. She holds a Ph.D. in composition and rhetoric and 19th Century British literature from the University of North Carolina, Greensboro, a master's in English from the University of Alabama, and a bachelor's in English and art history from the University of Notre Dame.

She has served in a number of administrative roles at AASU, including as director of composition supervising writing courses in the core curriculum, as coordinator of the Regents' Test administration, and as a leader on issues of student success on campus for the university system, and for the American Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities.

In her new role, Dr. Howells has been taking the lead on issues related to program assessment, building freshman learning communities, handling requests for core substitution credit, scrutinizing payroll sheets, and countless other important tasks. Thank goodness!

Some News about European Union Studies

For years AASU has offered a Certificate in European Union Studies in collaboration with the University System of Georgia and the University of Munich. The Introduction to European Studies course, EURO 2000, has been a regular part of the AASU spring semester offerings and counts in Area B.2. Now, through greater use of on-line courses, it is increasingly feasible for AASU students to earn the full certificate. Such coursework also will count for the minor in International Studies and may also be suitable for majors and minors in History, Political Science, Liberal Studies, and other disciplines. This fall, three 100% on-line courses in European Union Studies are available for qualified students:

-EURO 2000 Introduction to the European Union, 100% online Prereq: None; CRN 88312

-POLS 3990 (1) Special Topics in Political Science:

EU Science & Technology Policy, 100% online

Prereq: EURO 2000; CRN 88313

-POLS 3990 (2) Special Topics in Political Science:

EU Federalism and Multi-Level Governance, 100%

online Prereq: EURO 2000; CRN 88314

Although a bit cumbersome, enrollment in this course is being handled in the dean's office. Please send interested and qualified students to Solms 109.

Howells Notes

During my summer orientation in the Dean's Office, I've learned about part-time pay reports, withdrawals after mid-term, and Finlay's odd habits. I've also been educated in the subtleties of course substitutions in the Core. I thought I'd share some of what I learned from Greg Anderson and Mary Anne Brock's Faculty Advisor's Handbook and from Dr. Finlay's vast wisdom.

Useful General Information:

Review the new Faculty Advisor's Handbook developed by the Office of Academic Orientation and Advisement, located at

www.advise.armstrong.edu/ This extremely useful handbook provides an overview of the Core Curriculum and advising. It also addresses the above issues when advising transfer students.

Consult the University System of Georgia Core Curriculum Information website:

http://www.usg.edu/academics/programs/core_curriculum/index.phtml

This website discusses transferring Core Curriculum credit as well as guidelines, principles, and frameworks governing the USG's Core Curriculum.

Look for courses that substitute for AASU courses:

See the AASU Transfer Equivalencies Tables located at

<http://es.armstrong.edu/admissions/transferequivalencies.htm>

While many of these will be evaluated and recognized upon admission, these equivalencies are sometimes overlooked and can be reviewed here.

Identify courses that were Core Requirements at previous USG institutions. When possible, we'd like to consider courses that were required elsewhere. If the student is transferring from another USG institution, consult the Core requirements at the originating institution located at

http://www.usg.edu/academics/programs/core_curriculum/core_links.phtml

Do research into pre-requisites and core requirements at non-USG institutions. Consult www.collegesource.org to review the college course catalog, core curriculum, and course description in question. Determine if courses satisfied originating institution requirements and core areas to justify a course substitution at AASU.

Because of our realignment, math, science, and technology core course substitutions will need Assistant Dean Steve Jodes' approval in the College of Science & Technology. Send those requests directly to him, and keep those Liberal Arts requests coming my way.

A NOTE FROM RUSS WATJEN, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

Dear Colleagues,

I want to introduce myself to you and tell you how pleased I am to be a new member of the Atlantic Armstrong State University community. I am also writing to explain a policy and request your continued support for a procedure that has become very important to many of our students. I am referring to the unpopular federal regulation known as *Attendance Verification*. Great progress has been made toward compliance with this requirement that student attendance and non-attendance in class be confirmed, but the University is still not where it needs to be in regard to this federal regulation.

It is important for you to understand why the policy exists and why your help is vital. Attendance verification is how the University determines a student's eligibility for financial aid. The Registrar's Office coordinates attendance verification and cannot attest to a student's attendance in class without hearing from you. If a student attends class, but their attendance is not verified by the appropriate deadline, their aid is delayed. This results in frustration for the student and unnecessary work for all concerned. If, on the other hand, the University were to verify a student's attendance and they did not attend class, the University would be liable for repayment of the aid to the awarding authority. For attendance verification to work smoothly and correctly, the Registrar's Office must receive verification of student attendance in class by the published dates.

I very much appreciate all your efforts to deliver our students a quality education. Your help with this additional, but important piece of "administrivia" will help improve our service to students and make a significant improvement to the process. Thanks for taking the time to read this note and for all the

things you do to make Armstrong Atlantic State University such a wonderful place to work and study! I am excited about joining you in making a contribution to the advancement of this exciting institution. I hope to meet each and every one of you in the coming semester!

Sincerely,
L. Russell Watjen

Faculty Notes

José de Arimatéia da Cruz, CJSPS, Eduardo R. Gomes, and Laura K. Stephens, (AASU, 2008) have released *Business and Society: The Next Phase of Latin American Development* (Pearson Custom Publishing, 2008). The book includes articles by **Michael Hall**, History, and **Becky K. da Cruz**, CJSPS.

Richard J. Cebula, Economics, and his student Holly Meads have published "The Electoral College System, Political Party Dominance, and Voter Turnout, with Evidence from the 2004 Presidential Election," *Atlantic Economic Journal* (March 2008): 53-64. In addition, Cebula has been appointed co-editor of the *Open Economics Journal*.

Kalenda Eaton, LLP, presented "Moving Pictures With Sound: Diaspora, Spirituality, and Languages in Helen Oyeyemi's 'The Opposite House' and Erna Brodber's 'Louisiana'" at the Association of Caribbean Women Writers and Scholars conference in St. George's, Grenada.

Beth Howells, LLP, presented "Re-Presenting the Rhetoric of Retention and the Work of First-Year Composition: Learning to Revise as a WPA" 2008 at the Writing Program Administrators Annual Conference in Denver, CO in July 2008.

Allison Belzer, History, presented a paper entitled "The Ephemeral Feminine? The Transformation of the New Woman from World War I to Fascism in Italy," at the 14th Berkshire Conference on Women, held this time at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis.

Barbara Fertig, History, won a fellowship from the Gerald E. and Corrine L. Parsons Fund for Ethnography at the Library of Congress to support her summer research on the African American communities of the Georgia Low Country

Monica Hunt, part-time instructor in History, presented "Prototype for Organized Labor: Irish Migrants and the History of the Workingmen's Benevolent Society in Savannah, Georgia" at the

Associational Culture in Ireland & the Wider World, c. 1750-c1940 Symposium in Maynooth, Ireland. In addition, Hunt's article "Organized Labor along Savannah's Waterfront: Mutual Cooperation among Black and White Longshoremen, 1865-1894," has appeared in *Georgia Historical Quarterly* 92 (Summer 2008).

Mark Finlay, history, presented "Big Agricultural Science and Rubber Research behind Barbed Wire: The Juxtaposition of the Emergency Rubber Project and the Manzanar Internment Camp," at the annual meeting of the Agricultural History Society, Reno. His review essay, "Mastering the Vocabulary of Meat," appeared in *Annals of Iowa* 67 (Winter 2008): 82-88.

Let's also recognize some scholarly activities of these members of the former College of Arts and Sciences, work that occurred under the watch of former Dean Ed Wheeler:

Richard Wallace, Chemistry and Physics, presented talks entitled Phytochemical Analysis and Characterization, Exotic Fruit for the Southeast," and "Edible & Ornamental Banana Research In Georgia," all for an Educating the Educators Workshop at Fort Valley State University. The project was part of a United States Department of Agriculture funded project among Fort Valley State, Clemson University, Armstrong Atlantic State University and Wayne State University Cancer Institute. In addition, Wallace presented "Edible and Ornamental Banana Research In Georgia" at the Finnish Museum of Natural History at the University of Helsinki in May.

And from the Department of Psychology, (in that awful APS format):

Hessinger, S., Walker, V., Scott, V. B., Jr., Lariscy, M., Gay, A., & Gerido, L. (2008, February). Classroom impact of Southeast PRISM p-16 learning communities. Paper presented at the 8th Science in Savannah Symposium, Savannah, GA.

Hessinger, S., Walker, V., Scott, V. B., Jr., Lariscy, M., (2008, February). Generating teacher-driven science and math professional development: Outcomes of a professional development mini-grant program. Paper presented at the 8th Science in Savannah Symposium, Savannah, GA.

Pedigo, T. K., & **Scott, V. B., Jr.** (2008, February). A new look at evidenced based approaches in ADHD assessment. Mini-skills course presented at the

annual meeting of the National Association of School Psychologists, New Orleans, LA.

Pedigo, T. K., Pedigo, K. L., & **Scott, V. B., Jr.** (2008). Pediatric ADHD Screener: An evidenced based assessment system for screening attention and executive disorders. Clinical and users guide (2nd ed.). Okeechobee, FL: Targeted Testing, Inc.

Scott, V. B., Jr., & Farrell, S. K. (former psychology faculty member) (2008, May). Frugality and religion as predictors of subjective well-being. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science, Chicago, IL.

Hinton, K. N. (psychology student), & **Scott, V. B., Jr.** (2008, May). Beyond the laboratory: Reflections on expanding undergraduate research and learning opportunities. Poster session presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science and the Society for the Teaching of Psychology Teaching Institute, Chicago, IL

Please send news of publications, presentations, and other faculty accomplishments to Mark.Finlay@armstrong.edu.

Deadlines and Dates

- Aug 13** Welcoming Breakfast, University Meeting, Luncheon, Faculty Meeting
University Standing Committee Meetings
- Aug 14** New Faculty Orientation
Advising and Registration
- Aug 15** Advising and Registration
- Aug 18** First Day of Classes
- Aug 18-20** Late Registration and Drop/Add Period
- Aug 22** College of Liberal Arts Meeting, 12noon, UH 157
- Aug 29** Items for CoLA Curriculum Committee Due
- Sept 1** No Class-Labor Day
- (Approx.) Sept 2** Attendance verification reports due. (see pg.3)
- Sept 5** CoLA Curriculum Committee Meeting
- Sept 8** Promotion & Tenure Applications Due to Department
Faculty Senate Meeting
- Oct 6** Last Day of Classes, Session 2
- Oct 8** P & T Applications submitted by Dept.
Heads to Dean
Midterm, Session 1
- Oct 13-14** Fall Break
- Oct 20** Faculty Senate Meeting