

DEANotes

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Finlay Notes

The Most Important Fifteen Minutes of the Semester (Volume 2):

For years, Dean Wheeler included the following reminder in DeaNotes: “November rushes toward us and with those halcyon days of cooler weather and Thanksgiving comes hordes of students seeking advisement. Please remember that for many of these students, the advisement period is the single most important fifteen minutes (twenty minutes, twenty-five minutes) of the semester. This may be the only time during the semester in which a trained academic helps the student develop aspirations and find connections between those aspirations and the program of study that he or she is completing.”

We’d like to honor his traditional message and find his words do ring true because those of us who have taken part in meaningful advisement sessions feel that in these few minutes we really are making a difference in our students’ lives, academically, professionally, and personally. As you post your advisement hours in the next few weeks, keep in mind the value of these sessions. You might also consult the newly revised Faculty Advisors Handbook, thanks to **Greg Anderson** and **Mary Ann Brock**:http://www.advise.armstrong.edu/Docs/Faculty_Advisors_Handbook.pdf. The resources there can ensure that you are well prepared to guide students. Finally, be current with your departmental exit exams, major and minor curricula, and graduation requirements, as research shows that good advisement can make the difference between a student staying a major and changing majors, or even between graduating and leaving school.

Peoplesoft Headaches

I have attended a few training sessions regarding PeopleSoft and I have made some progress. One person even had his forms filled out completely correctly and soon will be reimbursed for his travel!! For the rest, we are getting closer. In the long run, the system will become easier to manage, and it

appears to be a pretty efficient tool for managing budgets and streamlining reimbursements.

I am encouraging departmental secretaries to complete as much PeopleSoft training as possible, so that they can help faculty members fill out the forms and avoid some of the hassles of mastering this software. I am also assigning to departmental secretaries the task of entering authorizations for travel-to-teach expenditures particularly for part-time instructors.

Here are some miscellaneous notes that will answer some questions and avoid some--but not all--headaches.

- Before you begin, make sure you are in Internet Explorer. If Firefox or something else is your default browser, be sure to switch.
- The place to begin is under the Human Resources webpage, <http://www.hr.armstrong.edu/>, then the box called ESS. You’ll need to enter your ID and password under ESS before you can get to the travel and expense screens.
- Avoid the “back” arrow at the top of your screen if at all possible. Instead use the software’s hyperlinks at the bottom of most screens to go back to the previous screen.
- Before you go on your trip, fill out the Travel Authorization Form. It is important that this is done before you travel. This process is more time-consuming than before, since you need to fill out several details about dates, lodging plans, meals, parking expenses, etc. It’s also useful to give this document a sensible title in the “description” box, something like “Georgia History 2008 Macon” instead of “present paper.” Please also use the comment box for some details about the trip, like the title of your paper or the reason for your trip.
- I submitted several of the old paper Travel Request forms before the changeover in September, especially for our untenured faculty. But many tenured faculty members will find that they need to fill out

the new online Travel Authorization Form. Again, allow the secretaries to help you as much as possible.

- Here's another wrinkle: Registration fees cannot come out of travel funds (and supposedly they never did); they must come out of departmental operating budgets (and supposedly they always have). That means that a form requesting approval or reimbursement for registration fees will be routed to both your department head, who monitors the operating budget, and to the dean, who (for this year only??) monitors the travel budget.
- The "budget string" for the typical travel request using Dean of Liberal Arts funds is: GL Unit-24000; Fund-10000; Department—1025030 [this will vary if another department's funds are used. If it's for travel to teach, use 1003020]; Program—11000; and Class 11000.
- Once your travel is completed, fill out an Expense Report. This process will be much quicker than before, since all the data you entered about your trip on the Travel Authorization Form is already stored in the system. You merely need to replace your estimated expenses with actual costs.
- Forms are electronically routed to the dean's office for travel authorizations and reimbursements. They will first go to Diane Sellers, who will check for errors and problems. If there are some, you'll be notified by email to correct the problem. If there are none, she will send them on to me for approval.
- Save your receipts, but don't submit them to the dean's office. Instead, complete a Receipt for Travel form (found on the business and finance website under office forms) and attach your receipts to it. Send them to the Financial Services office.
- Once everything is approved, you will receive reimbursement through direct deposit into your bank account. There will no longer be separate checks for travel reimbursements.
- For questions, contact our expert, Daphne Burch @ 42785.

Skidaway Community Institute

Would you like to teach a class...

- Composed of bright, well-educated students
- Composed of students who read their assignments and want to discuss the reading
- In which you do *not* do any grading

If so, you might be interested in working for the Skidaway Community Institute. The SCI is a group of several hundred residents of the Landings who are looking non-credit courses, seminars, and lectures. Most of the audience is retired and have moved to Savannah from various parts of the country. Many have traveled and/or lived in places around the world. Their backgrounds are varied, their interests are broad, and their interest in intellectual growth is sincere.

They are particularly interested in courses on:

- World Affairs, Current Events
- Noted Authors and Experts
- History and what it tells us about now
- Economic Issues
- Religions of the World
- Art Appreciation
- Great Books
- Music Appreciation
- History and Natural History of the Savannah Area
-and more

The SCI has three semesters, (Fall (October, November); Winter (January, February); and Spring (March, April). The optimum course times are one day per week, sometime in the mid to late afternoon.

The compensation—typically \$400 for a 5 session course is not quite too good to be true—but perhaps it will be enough to help. In addition, the SCI will donate profits from their tuition fees back to the AASU Foundation, and instructors may designate which fund or department they would like to see receive the monies.

If you have an idea for such a course, a team-taught course, or perhaps a one-time lecture or field trip, please contact me for more information.

Check Out the Gallery

If you haven't done so already, check out the exhibition "Viaje Andina: Art Inspired by Northwest Argentina" in the AASU Fine Arts Gallery. The exhibition features digital prints, fiber pieces, ceramic pottery, mixed media pieces, lith and gelatin prints, and more, all linked to the department's ongoing relationship with a community of weavers in

Argentina. This work is also a byproduct of a summer collaborative research grant awarded to Rachel Green, Angela Horne, and their students. Visit the gallery weekdays now through November 7 to view the exhibition.

Howells Notes

Call for Proposals, Learning Communities:

Greg Anderson and I are beginning to develop our slate of learning communities for Fall 2009. Learning Communities come in different shapes and sizes. For a full description of the current communities presently in session, please take a look at the Advisement Office web site http://advise.armstrong.edu/flc_index.html

Many of the faculty members who have taught in learning communities have spoken enthusiastically of the experience. In general, these have proven to be successful learning experiences for students, a good opportunity for faculty development, and an initiative that has made a dent in improving student retention.

There are also rewards for faculty who participate. Core class sections are smaller than normal, interdisciplinary approaches are required, and faculty can bring their creativity and willingness to work with creative colleagues into their freshman classes. As in the past, we plan to offer travel stipends to participating faculty and some funds for extracurricular activities. The only obligation is that we will require each learning community create a minimum of one out-of-class experience for all students in the community.

If you are interested, please send a brief email with your ideas to Beth.Howells@armstrong.edu In framing your proposal, remember that the target population is not honors students, but the wider student population that makes up all of our courses.

Oh, What a Beautiful Day!

Last week, we got to enjoy all of the AASU Day festivities, and the following day, I had the opportunity to travel to Armstrong's Fine Arts theatre at Savannah Country Day School (a temporary solution while our own theatres are under construction). There, **Lucinda Schultz** presented her audience with a vocal master class performance. Having worked intensively with renowned instructor and vocal coach--Hank Hammett, our students performed excerpts from *Così fan tutte* and *Oklahoma*. Having come to Armstrong now for the

third time to teach a master class, in his opening remarks, he celebrated our students for their ability, their preparation, and their enthusiasm. Even someone as musically impaired as myself could appreciate the performance and share in **AMT's** pride.

Seven Revolutions

The Seven Revolutions presentation shown at the Armstrong Center Thursday, October 2nd, courtesy of the VPAA's office, highlighted seven impending revolutions for our world in terms of population, resources, technology, information, integration, conflict, and governance. These areas of revolution should prove to significantly shape our future environment in future years, and they might be important touchstones in your teaching and research. For the detailed discussion, consult www.csis.org

Going Global

As we consider our core requirement in global perspectives, our University System's strategic plan emphasizing global perspectives, or our personal interests in broadening our students' world views, we might consider some of the international opportunities on our campus:

- Direct your students toward our ever-growing study abroad opportunities: <http://www.intl.armstrong.edu/abroad.html> Many of our Liberal Arts faculty are investing in developing and nurturing these programs and would welcome your support.
- Under **Dorothee Mertz-Weigel's** enthusiastic mentorship, the French Club has become quite active in the past year. You might contact her about future activities or events or stop by one of the upcoming movie nights:
 - Thursday, November 6 at 7pm in UH 157 a showing of *Salsa*, as well as a French dinner to begin at 6:30
 - Tuesday, December 2 at 7pm in UH 157 a holiday film TBA

Fast Workers

New **LLP** faculty members **Bonnie Emerick** and **Monica Rausch** arrived on campus, discovered a need, and set about finding a solution, immediately. Working in collaboration with student writer **Amanda Dickey**, these faculty members launched a writing group for those interested in creative writing. The group meets from 12 to 1 on the first and third Mondays of the month. The remaining fall semester meeting dates are: Monday, Nov. 3; Monday, Nov.

17; and Monday, Dec. 1. Share this information with your students or come join in! Contact Bonnie and Monica with any questions.

Student Affairs Notes

The Office of Student Affairs has provided the following information on Armstrong's new PirateCard system: Scheduled to launch on November 6, the new card will go beyond the old identification card to include commercial, event participation and facility access applications. Users who transfer funds to their card can use it for campus dining, vending, bookstore and printing services. Initially, twelve beverage and five snack machines will accept PirateCards, and by early spring semester, two newly equipped residence hall laundries will accept the cards as well.

Wireless card readers will verify enrollment or employment status for participation in athletic, art, music, theatre, Campus Union Board, intramural and other university events. A combination of portable and wired readers will also be used to manage access to the Student Recreation Center, University Tennis Courts, Compass Point Clubhouse and both residential laundries.

Approximately two thirds of AASU students, faculty and staff have converted to the new PirateCard since the beginning of fall semester. Those who haven't are encouraged to do so as soon as possible. The Card Services Office is located in room 214 of the Memorial College Center. For more information (cash or credit card transfers, canceling or replacing lost cards, etc.) visit sa.armstrong.edu/pirate_card/.

Welcome New Faculty!

Junseob Moon (CJPS) is an assistant professor in the department of criminal justice, political and social science, and joined AASU fall of 2008. He earned his MS in Criminal Justice from Michigan State University and is currently pursuing a Ph.D from Sam Houston State University. Before joining Armstrong, he taught at Sam Houston State University as a doctoral teaching fellow and University of Houston-Downtown as an adjunct professor. He teamed up building online-based educational programs for law enforcement officers with Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards (TCLEOSE). His field experience includes work at TCOOMMI (Texas Correctional Office for Offenders with Medical and Mentally

Impairment) under the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) in 2005. He also worked in the Korean Institute of Criminology as an intern researcher in 2002. Junseob's publications and current research are in the area of criminal psychology, with particular interest in offender/victim profiling, racial profiling, the public health in criminal justice, the distance learning system in criminal justice, juvenile delinquency, and crime mapping.

Gracia Roldan (LLP) joined us this fall to teach Spanish. She describes her diverse background in this way: "In 1995 I came to the United States (Ohio) with a Bachelor in Law (Labor) from the University of Seville, Spain. When I crossed the Atlantic Ocean, my academic career also crossed over from Law to Literature. At the University of Cincinnati I completed both a Masters Degree and a Ph.D in Contemporary Spanish Literature. There my two passions were combined to define me as person who is highly motivated in the studies and support of the minorities. My investigation studies the consolidation and development of the figure of the Moor in the Spaniard's collective imagination. The historical common perception of Muslims has been formed by very negative social constructs, which were based on, and sustained by, socio-political considerations.... In the last issue of DeaNotes I discovered to my joy that my colleagues and I have a common interest in interdisciplinary studies. For me the perfect course is one in which I can combine literature, historiography, sociology, literary theory, and film. Last year I had the opportunity to teach this type of course, and I was very gratified to observe the positive response, enthusiasm and interest showed by students. My teaching goal has always been to teach students to learn, respect and appreciate the positives values that a different culture always has to offer."

Faculty Notes

As University Relations tries to keep abreast of all of our accomplishments, they have asked us to encourage you to submit all presentations and publications to our **Faculty Notes** so we can pass them on to them. In other words, don't be shy, feel free to brag, and let us know what you are up to!

Chris Baker (LLP) presented a paper entitled " 'I think my wife my wife be honest and I think she is not': Othello's Tragic (K)notes" at this year's October meeting of the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference held in St. Louis, MO.

Richard J. Cebula (Economics) published "Estimating the Percentage of the U.S. Population without Health Insurance: An Ecological Approach" in the August 2008 issue of *International Advances in Economic Research*. He and **Holly Meads (Economics major)** published "An Inquiry into the Contemporary Differential between Female and Male Voter Turnouts" in the September 2008 issue of the *Atlantic Economic Journal*. The economic crisis has kept Dr. Cebula extremely busy: an economics interview appeared in a late September issue of *Coastal Courier* as well as in a recent issue of the *Inkwell*; he was interviewed on the WSAV-TV news; and he began working as an economics advisor to U.S. Congressman Kingston.

José de Arimatéia da Cruz (CJPS) published an article entitled "Africa in the Neo-Liberal World (Dis)Order" in the fall 2008 issue of the *Journal of Third World Studies*. He delivered an invited lecture to the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at their Fall Conference 2008: Advancing Africa's Promise: Africa and Security (October 2-3). The presentation's title was "The New United States African Command (AFRICOM): Building a Long-Term Partnership or the Militarization of U.S.-Africa Relations?"

Bill Daugherty (CJSPS) recently gave three presentations on Iran, Iraq, and Middle East issues in general for the faculty and students at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. In addition, Daugherty has been named to the Editorial Board of the *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*.

Elizabeth F. Desnoyers-Colas (AMT) presented a lecture as part of the Telfair's *Freedom's March* program entitled "Having our Civil Rights Movement Say: Celebrating the Feminine 'Freedom Speak' of Ellen Baker and Fanny Lou Hammer" on October 21 at Armstrong.

Kalenda Eaton (LLP) presented a lecture as part of the Telfair's *Freedom's March* program entitled "This Side of the Mountain: Fictionalizing Girls within the American Civil Rights Movement" on October 28 at Armstrong. As part of the AASU Fac Lecture Series, she also presented "Breakout, Before You get Bumrushed!: Migration, Community Building, and Self-Defense in the Black American West, 1898-1968" in September.

Mark Finlay (History) presented a paper entitled "Consumerist Terrorists": Battles over the Technological Risks and Benefits of Agricultural

Antibiotics in Postwar Europe and America," at the Society for the History of Technology meeting in Lisbon. [No College of Liberal Arts funds were used]

Carol Jamison (LLP) presented "The 'New' Seven Deadly Sins" at the 23rd Annual Conference on Medievalisms at Wesleyan College in Macon.

Deborah Jamieson (AMT) presented a paper entitled "Franz Mayer and Company: An American Stained-Glass Legacy" at the annual Southeastern Art Conference (SECAC) Sept. 24-27 in New Orleans, LA. This presentation incorporated some of the research she compiled through an AASU Research and Scholarship grant she received last fall.

Ned Rinalducci (CJSPS) has received the Meritorious Service Award from the Georgia Association of Sociology.

Michael Toma (Economics) and Darren Grant (Sam Houston State University) published an article, "Elemental Tests of the Traditional Rational Voting Model" in the October 2008 issue of *Public Choice*. Toma also gave an invited presentation, "Coastal Empire Economic Indicators" at the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta's Local Economic Analysis and Research Network conference on. He followed that up with a presentation to the Downtown Kiwanis Club entitled "US and Savannah Economic Update & Financial Market Meltdown."

Learotha Williams and Barbara Fertig (History) presented "Interpreting the North End" unearthing the history of Ossabaw Island on October 10th as part of the AASU Faculty Lecture Series.

Deadlines and Dates

- Oct 31** Liberal Arts Curriculum Comm items due
- Nov. 2** Phi Kappa Phi induction, Armstrong Center
- Nov. 2-7** International Week
- Nov. 3** Advisement begins
Freedom's March lecture by Lee Williams
- Nov. 4** Department Heads meeting
- Nov. 5** Registration begins
- Nov. 6** French Club, Dinner and a Movie
- Nov. 7** Faculty Forum; Liberal Arts Curriculum Comm meeting; Session 3 Midterm
- Nov. 8** Pirates Preview--Fall Open House
- Nov. 10** Faculty Senate meeting
- Nov. 14** Faculty Lecture Series: Feske and Mateer
- Nov. 17-Dec. 12** Student Art Exhibition (Reception Nov. 21, 5:30)
- Nov. 19** UCC meeting
- Nov. 26** No classes
- Nov. 27-28** Thanksgiving holidays

