

Office of the Dean
College of Arts & Sciences

DEANotes

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WheelerNotes

The Most Important 15 Minutes of the Semester

The familiar markers of a passing semester are upon us. Syllabi distributed, papers assigned, first test given, first test returned (groan), ... Lurking not too far in the distant future waits the advising period for spring semester. As this November advising period bears down upon us, I want to encourage all faculty to attend the **Faculty Development Forum on Advising**. The event will occur at **12:30 on Friday, October 3, in Solms 110**.

The 15 minutes (20, 30 minutes?) we spend with each advisee this November may be the most important educational experience the advisee has during the semester. In those brief minutes we help the student clarify academic goals, focus academic commitment, and chart a successful path through core and major in ways that never occur in the classroom. Although many of us have been at the advising task for years, the dual challenges of changing curriculum and aging neurons suggest that a review is in order for even the most senior of us. Hope to see you there.

Dean Search, College of Education

We are presently involved in a national search for a Dean of the College of Education. Filling this position well is important not only to the University and the College of Education but also to the College of Arts and Sciences. If you have colleagues from other institutions who would do a quality job in this position, please contact them and urge them to apply and/or give their names to Dr. John Hobe, Chair of the Dean's Search Committee, College of Education. He will be glad to communicate with them about their nomination.

In addition, the College of Arts & Sciences is conducting **department head searches** in the departments of mathematics, chemistry, and CJSPS. We would welcome your help in identifying quality candidates. As previously stated, please contact such candidates and urge them to apply and/or give their names to heads of the search committees – McMillan, Hizer, and Finlay, respectively.

Comprehensive Program Review

Those departments that are doing comprehensive program reviews should turn in the documents to the Deans' Offices in the window of October 1 through October 15. Said another way, the CRV's are due on October 15 (having been reviewed and discussed by the departments), but it would facilitate our reading to receive the CRV earlier.

FinlayNotes

Faculty Forum and Bonus Forum

The first faculty forum, Creating Effective Writing Assignments, was a big success. Drs. McGrath, Jodis, Mincer, Battiste, and Jill Miller all presented useful ideas and the large audience had many comments and questions.

The next Faculty Forum will be Friday, October 3rd at noon in Solms 108. Greg Anderson and the Committee on Recruitment, Advisement, and Retention will present a program that will offer advice and reminders about resources available for faculty advisors. There's a bit more about the importance of this issue in WheelerNotes.

One week later, on Friday, October 10th at noon in Solms 108, Lee Ann Kirkland, Director of Financial Aid, will come by to present some follow-up help for

advisors and administrators. I have always considered myself to be an informed advisor, but after hearing Lee Ann, I came to realize how much I did not know about the connections between academic advisement and the financial aid realities many students face. I have heard Lee Ann give a similar talk in the past and it was a real eye-opener. Also, ask yourself if you know answers to these questions, the kinds of questions that students really ask:

- When is the deadline for students to submit the FAFSA documents for the next academic year?
- Does the HOPE Scholarship cover summer classes?
- How is satisfactory academic progress defined, and why does it matter? How do W's affect satisfactory academic progress?
- What is the minimum number of hours required to maintain the HOPE scholarship?

Celebrate AASU Day

Celebrate AASU Day is on schedule for October 8. As in the past, the event begins at 11:50 and lasts until 6:00. In addition to the usual T-Shirts, booth contests, and musical entertainment, this year's event will feature a dedication of the Compass Point Annex at 1 PM. Faculty and students are encouraged to bring their children for balloon artistry and the like from 4 to 6 PM. Best of all, we will again have the annual ritual of soaking administrators and mathematicians in the dunking booth.

Recent Graduate Notes

Luciana M. Spracher, who earned an M. A. in History from AASU in 2002, has just published a new book entitled *A History of Thunderbolt Georgia*. Published in connection with the town's 270th anniversary, the book is well-illustrated and thorough addition to local history literature.

Lauren Mason, a 2003 Honors Program graduate with a B. A. in English, is featured in a new publication of the Georgia Humanities Council entitled *Collegiate-Student Perspectives on the Humanities and the World Today*. Lauren's piece describes her childhood in inner-city Philadelphia, her eight-year career in the army, and her realization that the "study of literature flexes the brain muscles and expands the world of the mind." Lauren is currently pursuing a doctorate in English at Michigan State University.

Note: Please do not neglect to let Dr. Finlay know of scholarly papers, publications, and other achievements of A&S faculty and the students they advise.

Deadlines and Dates

- Sept 26:** Deadline for submissions to the College Curriculum Committee
Sept 26: Faculty Lecture Series: Kevin Hampton
Oct 2 or 3: Next meeting of the College Curriculum Committee
Oct 3: Faculty Forum: Advice for Faculty Advisors
Oct 7: Promotion and Tenure Recommendations due to dean
Oct 8: AASU Day
Oct 8: A & S Dept Heads Meeting
Oct 10: Bonus Forum: Advice on Financial Aid
Oct 15: Workload Reports Due to Dean
Oct 17: Faculty Lectures Series: Steve Taylor
Oct 22: Budget, Assessment, and Planning workshop for Academic Units
Oct 24: Retention recommendations for 2nd year faculty due to dean. In the College of Arts & Sciences, these include: Elizabeth Barron [LLP], David Brown, [AMT], Paul Hadavas [Math], John David Leaver [History], Manuel Sanders [Math], and Jennifer Zettler [Biology]. Carol Ebel [HIST] and Joe Weaver [LLP] will be reviewed on a new clock, with this considered their first year.
Nov 7: Faculty Forum - Library Services and Creative Use of the Library

Charlie Belin's Marsh Walks

Charlie Belin of the Department of Biology leads marsh walks on the last Saturday of each month (except for September) from March through October. The walks are intended to acquaint visitors with three different ecosystems - a salt marsh, a maritime forest, and a freshwater marsh - all within 500 yards of each other. The walks start at 5:00 PM from the Aquarium on Skidaway Island and typically last about one hour or a little more.

Walkers should wear old clothes and walking shoes, and bring their favorite insect repellent. Dr. Belin is also willing to schedule walks at other times, and he does not charge for educational, environmental or 501(c)(3) groups.

DEANotes is a quasi-weekly publication of the College of Arts & Sciences. Dr. Mark Finlay is the editor. Some of the content of the publication will be informational content directed primarily at department heads. However, other parts of the reading may be of interest to members of the faculty of the College of Arts & Sciences. In addition to a limited paper distribution, *DEANotes* will be posted upon publication at the Faculty Resources page of the web site for the College of Arts & Sciences.

