


Office of the Dean  
College of Arts & Sciences

# DEANotes



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## WheelerNotes

### PRISM Initiative Funded

The University System of Georgia announced in late September that the National Science Foundation has funded a five-year, 35 million dollar proposal directed at increasing science/math achievement for Georgia students. Armstrong joins the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, and Georgia Southern University as one of the four universities participating in the project. One of the innovative features of the project is that it provides resources to enable higher education faculty to work collaboratively with K-12 schools and faculty in improving the delivery of science and mathematics curricula. Dr. Sabrina Hessinger has graciously agreed to lead College of Arts and Sciences' participation in this project. She will labor under the cumbersome title of Special Assistant to the Dean, PRISM Initiative, and, cumbersome title aside, she will gratefully receive suggestions and assistance from mathematics, science, and education faculty members in making progress on this worthwhile assignment. She will be joined in leadership by Professor Ron Lambert, recently hired by the College of Education to support the PRISM initiation. Outcomes we hope to see from this effort are:

- Increased conversation in the general public about the importance of completing challenging math/science courses for young people from all segments of our population
- Increased numbers, quality, and diversity of P-12 teachers teaching mathematics and science
- Improved student achievement in science/mathematics across demographic groups as a result of focused attention on these disciplines.

### Travel for Scholarly Presentation

Until College travel funds run out, the deans' offices will provide a supplement to departmental monies for faculty members who travel to make scholarly presentations. Please work with your department heads to both maximize support from departmental funds and, if necessary, to receive a supplement from the dean's office. The requests will be recorded on a Travel Request form and forwarded to Wheeler from the department head. In order to make these funds as widely available as possible, please limit such requests to one per faculty member.

### Advising Happens

In recognition of the fact that the advising period is only weeks away, the Faculty Committee on Student Recruitment, Advising, and Retention in concert with Professors Nordquist, Anderson and Finlay, have produced two excellent Friday forums on the advising process. On October 3, Greg Anderson gave an excellent review of advising basics for both new faculty and old faculty who needed refreshing (more than 60 in attendance). On October 10, Lee Ann Kirkland gave an excellent review of financial aid policies that color the advising process.

Although there is no way to review the enormous amount of information provided in those two sessions, find below a few very important highlights.

#### Important Web Address:

<http://www.advise.armstrong.edu/> At this address are found a host of resources for a faculty advisor including one button labeled *Advisor Resources* that leads to a Frequently Asked Questions page.

**Crucial Tool for Every Advising Session:** The *Advising Tranguide* located under the faculty resources page of SHIP.

**A Frequent Way Financial Aid Students Shoot Themselves in Foot:** *Withdraw unnecessarily from a course with a grade of W.* To continue to receive financial aid, students must maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP). Among the requirements for SAP, the student must pass (grade of A, B, C or D) 67% of all hours attempted each year. Semester hours in which one gets a grade of W count as hours attempted but not passed. Hence the following practices are very unwise for federal financial aid students:

- Withdrawing from a course to avoid a C or D<sup>1,2</sup>
- Withdrawing from a course because one dislikes the instructor<sup>1</sup>
- Enrolling in more courses than one intends to complete with intention of dropping one or more
- Replacing one course by another<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The calculations for HOPE students are somewhat different. They must maintain SAP but must also maintain a 3.0 average. Federal financial aid students must maintain a 2.0 so this may dictate avoiding a D.

<sup>2</sup>Students may drop courses and exchange courses during the first three days of the semester without receiving any grade, that is, without receiving a W.

## FinlayNotes

### Faculty Forum

The next Faculty Forum is entitled "Changing Lanes: What the Library Offers Faculty and Students in Anticipation of its Renovation." It will take place at noon (or a few minutes after) to 1:15 on Friday, Nov. 7 in Solms 110.

The forum will include a panel of faculty who will describe assignments they've used in the past to get their students to use the library in creative ways. In addition, library faculty will discuss services the library has to offer faculty and students and how library faculty and staff plan to offer services during the upcoming renovation.

### Faculty Development News

**Internal Grants Workshop.** The Faculty Development Committee and the Research and Scholarship will host an Internal Grants Workshop on Friday, October 17, Solms 207, 1:00-2:15. Keith Williams, new Director of Sponsored Programs, will be on hand to provide tips on how to prepare a successful proposal. Light refreshments will be provided.

**Campus Read:** AASU will launch a major initiative in Spring Semester 2004: a campus-wide read of *A Good Man Is Hard to Find and Other Stories* by native Savannah author Flannery O'Connor. Each section of ENGL 1102 and 1102H will be using this text, and instructors in other disciplines are encouraged to participate in this opportunity for interdisciplinary dialogue as well. Events will culminate with a week of activities April 5-9, 2004—including an exhibit of O'Connor books and artifacts, an "Across the Curriculum Discussion," a showing and discussion of the film "Displaced Person," a student-led community book club discussion, field trips to O'Connor's childhood home, and a performance of Beverly Fatheree's one-woman show, "Flannery O'Connor."

For a detailed itinerary and the texts of several O'Connor stories, please check <http://www.faculty.armstrong.edu/read.htm>. For additional information, please contact Dr. Beth Howells, Composition Coordinator, 927-5218, howellbe@mail.armstrong.edu.

### More Advisement Tips

Last November, FinlayNotes included a section that pointed out some of the "hidden non-prerequisites" of certain AASU core classes. As a reminder, recall that HIST 1112 can be taken before HIST 1111, ASTR 1020 can be taken before ASTR 1010, PHSC 1212 can be taken before PHSC 1111, and ARTS 2720 can be taken without ARTS 2710.

This year, I would like to highlight the "hidden prerequisites" within the AASU core classes. For instance, a 'C' in ENGL 1101 is required before a student may take ENGL 1102. Credit in ENGL 1101 is a requirement for several core classes: ETHC 2000, EURO 200, HIST 2000, PHIL 2201, PHIL 2251, POL 2290, and WMST 2101. (The EURO course also requires one of the Civilization courses, HIST 1111 or 1112). Credit in MATH 1101 OR MATH 1111 is required for MATH 2200, MATH 2290, or CSCI 1150. Credit in MATH 1111 is required for MATH 1950. Keep these in mind so students do not come back to you if they encounter the "registration error" screen.

Also, please consider the Honors Program as you advise star students, late bloomers, new transfer students, and others who have slipped through the cracks. The Honors Program is offering six or seven courses in the spring, many of which are open to students who receive the endorsement of their advisor. Contact Dr. Finlay (x5642) for the details.

Finally, please do not neglect your role in advising students about the Regents' Test. The Advising TranGuide form should indicate if your advisee is approaching the 45-credit hour cutoff (or second semester at AASU for transfer students). If this is the case, please insist that that your advisee take the Regents' Test on time. On-line registration is now available at <http://www.admissions.armstrong.edu/regents>

## FacultyNotes

Don Emmeluth, Biology, has recently received the Honorary Membership Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers. This is the highest award available from the NABT, and recognizes Don for his numerous contributions to biology and life science education. Don is past president of the NABT, the co-author of a biology text for high school students, and he soon will publish his third monograph on infectious diseases and epidemics.

## Recent Graduate Notes

### Medical School:

It may not be common knowledge that several AASU graduates recently have been admitted into medical school. These include Rebecca Beasley, Nicole Greene, Josh McKenzie, Eric Montgomery, Claude "Audie" Sanks, Christian Schrader, John Sorg, Diana Strasburger, and Jarrett Walsh. The chemistry department can claim that all seven of those who applied for medical school last year have been accepted.

### History Prize:

Brendan J. Buttimer, (B.A., AASU, 1999; M.A., AASU, 2001), has been named a co-winner of the Center for Georgia Studies' James C. Bonner Masters Thesis Award. The award is for Buttimer's work, "New South, New Church: The Catholic Public Schools of Georgia, 1870-1917," directed by Dr. David Gleeson. Buttimer is currently completing his Ph.D. at Mississippi State University; Gleeson is now on the faculty of the College of Charleston.

### Biology/Honors Program Seminar:

Two recent graduates of AASU, Cindy Achat and Shannon Mendes, both currently pursuing doctorates in Neuroscience at the University of Miami, will return to campus on Friday, October 24. Achat and Mendes won the Biology Department's two top awards in 2001, and Achat was also named the 2001 Honors Program Student of the Year.

Achat and Mendes will present papers based on their current research, and also present a nuts and bolts look at what graduate school is really like. The program is aimed at both science majors and Honors Program students, and will take place 12:00 noon – 1:30 in SC 1402.

## Deadlines and Dates

**Oct 17:** Faculty Lectures Series: Steve Taylor  
**Oct 24:** Retention recommendations for 2<sup>nd</sup> 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].

**Note:** For the purposes of retention evaluations, the two A&S faculty members who began their current positions at the Liberty Center in January 2003 are officially considered to be in their first year of service. Thus, the evaluations for Drs. Weaver [LLP] and Ebel [Hist] are due to the dean on January 23, 2004.

**Oct 28:** Academic Council

**Nov 3-24:** Advisement Period. Departments or designees should cover advisement to 7PM, Nov. 3- Nov. 6.

**Nov 7:** Faculty Forum - Library Services and Creative Use of the Library

**Nov 8:** Fall Open House

*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.