

Office of the Dean
College of Arts & Sciences

DEANotes

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WheelerNotes

Winding Down with Gratitude

Whew! It has been a full year. Please know my appreciation of faculty and staff, full-time and part-time, who have enabled us to educate 10% more students in this year than have been educated in any previous year in the history of Armstrong Atlantic State University. Special thanks go to

- The Departments of Economics and History for facilitating a move into newly renovated Hawes Hall and to the Offices of the College, General Studies, the Advisement Center, and the Tutorial Center who negotiated a similar move into Solms Hall.
- Scores of faculty members who not only served our campus but served our region with careful attention to science fairs, art exhibitions, choral, band, and mathematics competitions, theater workshops, economic development activities, op ed editorials, lectures and panels.
- Many additional faculty who served in leadership positions in their disciplinary organizations.
- Professors Emmeluth and Brawner for new books published this year, and a host of other faculty for more than 40 juried papers and 60 presentations in scholarly contexts.
- The Department of Criminal Justice, Social, and Political Science for a new Advisory Council.
- Professors Hendricks, Finlay, Relyea, and Professor Winterhalter and their teams of faculty and students for their work in bringing quality conferences to our city and region.
- Professor Howells and her team for our first-ever campus read.
- Professor da Cruz and his colleagues for their timely efforts to keep AASU in the spotlight of the G-8 phenomenon.
- The many faculty members whose scholarly collaborations with students led to scholarly

presentations by the students in off-campus venues and publications in juried journals.

- The faculty and staff of the Department of Art, Music, and Theater who cooperated in producing more than twenty concerts, art exhibitions, and dramatic productions (including an excellent Showcase Concert enjoyed by many of your colleagues).
- Professor Hessinger and the many mathematics, science, and education faculty members who are working to implement PRISM in our region.
- Professors Townsend and Nordquist who crafted our successful proposal for a Masters in Applied and Liberal Studies

However, at the end of the day (and the end of this article) we must return with gratitude to the 110 full-time faculty members and the 50 part-time faculty members who completed another year of inspired teaching on our campus .. teaching carefully crafted classes in classrooms that were bursting at the seams ... and continuing to improve our high-quality major and graduate degrees.

Saying Goodbye

We note with sadness that Pat Taylor, secretary in Chemistry, and Elliot Palefsky, Professor of Psychology, are retiring in May. Both of these folks have been valuable members of our team over many years and we will miss them. Dr. Palefsky will be participating in the Voluntary Retirement Program, so we will continue to enjoy his many gifts; however, we are losing Pat permanently to her grandchildren.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Campus and Community Read 2005
Featured Speaker:
Earnest Gaines
Author of *A Lesson Before Dying*

Thank you, Dr. Howells!

Saying Goodbye (cont.)

On this note, Dr. Ron Beumer will be retiring in August. In case another edition of this distinguished periodical fails to appear this summer, don't lose your chance to bid Ron farewell before he leaves.

It is Miller Time, 2

We are pleased to announce that effective June 1, 2004, Dr. Jill Miller will serve as Director of the Honors Program. Dr. Miller has done an excellent job as Assistant Director of the Honors Program for the past two years, working with Dr. Mark Finlay to provide an enhanced sense of community among Honors students through numerous academic and social events on and off campus. Thank you, Dr. Miller, for your willingness to serve this important program in days ahead.

At the same time we wish to express our appreciation to Dr. Finlay for 8 years of service as Director of the Honors program. In 1996 he recruited the first class of 25 honors students and has served as teacher, advisor, leader, and mentor of all classes since that time. Mark has been at the forefront of developing innovative honors curriculum, sometimes delivering the courses himself, sometimes facilitating the work of others (Darwinian Revolution, and the "Savannah and the G-8" courses are recent examples) We will miss his leadership in this venue, but will enjoy having his full energies devoted to being Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences.

Good News on Raises but ...

The good news is that we have every expectation of getting raises this year. We expect that the average raise provided by the state to the university will be 2%. However there are some stipulations that will accompany this raise.

- As always, these raises will be merit raises, not cost-of-living raises, meaning that there must be variation in the raises assigned. This means that some persons will have raises below 2% and some will have raises above 2%
- More problematically, the legislature has decreed that these merit raises will not go into effect until January 2005. Thus, although someone's base salary may change by 2%, that person will only realize a change in income of 1%, all occurring in the last half of the year.
- Raises due to promotion and due to degree completion will go into effect at the beginning of the academic year.

Women's Studies Instructors Wanted: Although many of the courses in the Women's Studies curriculum are based in disciplines, three introductory courses are available to be taught by qualified faculty members who are willing to put in the work to develop them. [Note: Since each course has been previously prepared on our campus, much important work is available to be shared.] If you are interested in teaching one or more of the following courses, please let Dr. Winterhalter (winterte@mail.armstrong.edu) know of your interest.

- WMST 1101 Introduction to Women's Studies
- WMST 2101 Ethics, Values, and Gender
- WMST 2200 Gender in Global Contexts

Our ability to schedule a specific course for a specific faculty member is contingent on both the needs of the home department and the needs of the Women's Studies program, but we desire to involve as many different faculty members in this effort as possible.

FinlayNotes

G8 and AASU Summer School

The AASU homepage now offers a link to further information about the G8 Summit, <http://www.armstrong.edu/g8/index.html>. Among other things, this page indicates the following policy that is pertinent for faculty and students involved in Summer Session 1, 2, and 3 courses: "The University anticipates that the G8 Summit will increase the volume of vehicular traffic in Savannah, between Savannah and Brunswick, and, especially, near St. Simons Island, June 8 - 10. Accordingly, students enrolled in summer courses should expect and plan for some traffic delays. Students from the Sea Island/St. Simons Island area are particularly encouraged to speak with their instructors during the week prior to the G8 Summit to reach an understanding on attendance-related issues. In the possible, but unlikely, event that demonstrations or other G8-connected events would lead to the prudent temporary closing of the University, such would be announced in the local media and on this web page."

G8 Activities

The recent visit of Dr. John Kirton, Director of the G8 Research Group at the University of Toronto will continue to pay dividends at AASU. In June, immediately following the G8 summit, Dr. Kirton's group of a dozen or so G8 scholars from Canada will meet with AASU students to assess the success of the summit. The AASU G8 course, team-taught by Dr. José da Cruz and Professor Pat Mizak, is the only

course in the United States devoted entirely to a study of the G8.

Military Science News

The Military Science program at AASU can boast about both the quantity and the quality of its cadets. First, AASU has exceeded its targeted quantity of commissionees for two years in a row. In addition, also for two years in a row, AASU cadets have scored well above the national average in the "Leadership Development and Assessment Course" testing that is conducted each summer. AASU cadets have achieved a 100% graduation rate at this challenging training camp.

Conferences: The Aftermath

As president of the Southeastern American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (SEASECS), Dr. Chris Hendricks hosted the group's thirtieth annual meeting in Savannah. SEASECS is an interdisciplinary group that includes English and French literature scholars, historians, art historians, musicians, and the like. Eighty scholars from the United States, Canada, and France participated. Elizabeth Barron (LLP), Barbara Fertig (History), Charlene Overturf and Kathy Adams, (History graduate students) assisted in planning and running the program. Adams presented a paper entitled "American Methodism in the South during the American Revolution," and Fertig gave paper entitled "The Sheftall Wedding Gown: Alteration as Rebellion."

Women's Conference a Success

Earlier issues of DeaNotes discussed preparations for the the 27th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Women's Studies Association. In the aftermath, we should thank Dr. Winterhalter and her colleagues for putting together a remarkable conference that featured over two hundred scholars, four prominent keynote speakers, and a small army of participating AASU faculty, students, and alums. Significantly, the conference generated a wealth of positive media coverage.

"Write Every Day," Lesson #1

"Write Every Day" was the lesson of three recent graduates of AASU who were on campus for a presentation on what graduate school in the humanities was really like. The panelists, Denise Shaw (completing a Ph. D. in English at University of South Carolina), Diane Coppage (completing an M. A. in English at George Mason University), and Lauren Mason (at the beginning of a five-year doctoral fellowship at Michigan State University) each stressed the rigor of graduate school, and the

need for students to work continuously on their writing.

"Write Every Day," Lesson #2

"Write Every Day" was the lesson of the guest speakers and students who participated in Dr. Remler's course on the Contexts, Audiences, and Styles in Professional Communication. AASU Foundation Board member Arthur Gignailliat heard the student presentations that concluded this course, one that brought the wisdom and experiences of nearly a dozen community leaders into the classroom.

FacultyNotes

Lucinda Schultz, AMT, was a featured performer on the Savannah Music Festival "Organ Stops" Concert Series. She joined organist Steven Branyon in a program entitled "Cadeaux deCouleur" at the historic St. John's Church.

Richard Cebula, Economics, has published several more articles: "Consumption Needs, Unemployment, and Tax Evasion," *Journal of Applied Economics* (March 2004): 7-18; "Inflation Impact of the Price of Imported Crude Oil in a Large Industrialized Nation: Japan," *International Economics* (August 2003): 315-322; and "Income Tax Rates and the Public's Attitude toward Government," *Public Finance* (2003, No. 3/4): 495-508.

Delana Nivens, Chemistry, organized, presided over and presented an invited paper at a symposium entitled "Undergraduate Research and Education: A Showcase of Faculty at Primarily Undergraduate Institutions" at the Pittsburgh Conference on Analytical Chemistry and Applied Spectroscopy held in Chicago. The title of her talk was "Introducing Undergraduates to Nanotechnology: Curriculum and Research Applications" with co-authors Will Lynch, Ronald Williams, chemistry students Brian Helmly, Nin Dingra and Beverly Briggs, and high school Project Seed Students Toland Michael and Monica Richardson.

Mark Finlay was an invited commentator at "The Business of Life: A Century of the Life Sciences, Industry, and Biotechnology in International Perspective," a symposium hosted by the Dibner Institute for the History of Science and Technology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

StudentNotes

Mathematics major Min-Jung Seo gave a talk at the Southeast Regional meeting of the Mathematics Association of America in Clarksville, TN entitled "The Southern Pine Beetle and Pine Forest Ecosystems"

The AASU Students In Free Enterprise (SIFE) Team matched its educational outreach projects against 37 college teams at the 2004 SIFE Regional Competition and Career Opportunity Fair in Atlanta. A panel of judges honored AASU's team with First Runner-up in the overall competition and as a finalist in the National Fiscal Fitness Month Competition. Students attending the competition included Emily Adams, David Brown, Lindsey Davis, Aliesha Pollino, and Tracey O'Neil.

Christian Gines and Matthew Mikell, both students of Professor Kim Frey in the Applied Physics program, attended the Georgia Academy of Science Meeting, where they presented a poster they created for the Chemistry & Physics Outreach program. Their project was entitled "Kill the Monkey."

Shylah Smithey, a senior art major and a student of Linda Jensen, created works accepted for "Photography Now!," a juried exhibition that will be held at Maryland's South Shore Art Center.

Nine AASU voice students participated in the Georgia National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Student Auditions held on the campus of Georgia State University in Atlanta. Two AASU singers won awards: Bess McCreary placed third in the state in the Music Theatre Category and Kevin Cartee placed first in the state in the Music Theatre Category. Both are voice students of Lucinda Schultz.

AASU voice student Wayne Ealey, tenor, was one of four area singers featured in a vocal master class taught by the internationally recognized and acclaimed mezzo soprano, Fredericka von Stade. Wayne, who is the voice student of Lucinda Schultz, joined singers from Georgia Southern University and Savannah Country Day School for this class sponsored by the Savannah Music Festival.

Dale King, the first student to complete the post-baccalaureate pre-med program at AASU, will graduate from the University of Pittsburgh Medical School in May.

Two AASU pre-pharmacy students have recently scored in the 99th and the 96th percentiles on the Pre-Pharmacy Admissions Test. (PCAT)

Psych Student Notes

Faculty members **Jonathan Roberts and Vann Scott** presented posters (listed below) with student authors **Amy Williams and Annie Cardell** at the 2004 Southeastern Psychological Association Convention in Atlanta GA in March.

- **Roberts, J. E. & Williams, A. K.** Correlations between water level and 2-D and 3-D mental rotation task performance. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Atlanta, GA.
- **Cardell, A. M. & Scott, Jr., V. B.** Eliciting affective reactions through classical conditioning. Poster presented at the annual conference of the Southeastern Psychological Association, Atlanta, GA.

Jared Russo, Daniela Salas, Sean Fretwell, Sarah Holcombe, Kristen Von Waldner, and Annie Cardell, along with faculty members **Keith Douglass and Vann Scott** attended the Carolinas Psychology Conference in Raleigh NC in April, 2004 where students presented the six papers listed below:

- **Russo, J. J.** Student centered teaching in an introduction to psychology class.
- **Cardell, A., Von Waldner, K., & Scott, Jr., V. B.** Can attitudes be classically conditioned?
- **Holcombe, S. L.** Sex differences and the effects of non-stationary platform training during phases of the estrous cycle on spatial learning performance in the morris-water maze.
- **Fretwell, S., & Taylor, S.** Effects of sex, practice, and post-test time on spatial ability.
- **Von Waldner, K., Cardell, A., & Scott, Jr., V. B.** Validation of the Anti-Muslim Prejudice Scale.
- **Salas, D.** Emotional non-expressiveness: Evidence of differences between type-c and alexithymic people.

Deadlines and Dates

- April 30** Submissions for Research & Scholarship Magazine
May 3 9 AM Senior Grades Due
May 7 2 PM Commemoration of Brown v. Board of Education decision, UH 156
May 8 10 AM Graduation
May 10 Final Grades Due

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.