

Office of the Dean
College of Arts & Sciences

DEANotes

September 9, 2004

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WheelerNotes

Rumor Confirmed, Save September 26

Faculty and staff of the College of Arts and Sciences are invited to gather on the campus of Skidaway Oceanographic Institute, stroll the banks of the Intracoastal Waterway, play lawn games, tour the research vessel Savannah, eat Low Country Boil, and listen to the music of Bob and Judy Williams. To join this event, please

- Fill out a registration form provided by your departmental secretary (please add names to form, we forgot to request this info)
- Give the departmental secretary \$5 for every person in your party eating low country boil or vegetarian lasagna
- Join us between 4:00 pm (walks, yard games, tours) and 6:00 pm (food, music) on Sunday, September 26. For maps and directions visit this web site <http://www.skio.peachnet.edu/> and pull down the About Us menu.

Getting the Deans Started in the Right Direction

The beginning of the academic year is a good time to think reflectively about the year ahead and the year past. Faculty members in the CAS are invited to join Drs. Finlay and Wheeler for a conversation for this purpose at 3:30 p.m. on Monday, September 20 in Solms 110. Conversation can go in any desired direction, but conversation is always appropriate on these issues:

1. In a time of fiscal constraints, the most critical resources that faculty members need to do their jobs are...
2. In a time of growing enrollments, the most critical issues that impact teaching, learning, and advisement are...
3. The challenges and opportunities in becoming a university with, eight, nine, or ten thousand students.
4. What in the world is "Low Country Boil?"

FinlayNotes

New Faculty Notes

With this issue, DEANotes will begin a new column that will feature news about new faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences. The plan is to feature one or two new faculty members with each issue, beginning with *Dr. Melissa Read* of Psychology Department and *Dr. Catherine Adams* of the History Department:

Don't You Just Love "Clippy"?

"Clippy" is that paper clip icon embedded in Microsoft Word that is always ready to offer helpful hints about writing letters, formatting columns, and the like. (Or, should one write, "who is always ready..." since Clippy behaves more like a person than a thing?) That's exactly the question that interests Dr. Melissa Read, Assistant Professor of Psychology. As part of her specialization in human factors psychology, Dr. Read studies how people react to and form social relationships with inanimate agents of technology like Clippy. In her dissertation research, Dr. Read focused on other aspects of human interactions with computers, and she will be collaborating with Dr. Vann Scott to study other questions involving intelligent agent technologies. Dr. Read is a native of Florida, and just completed her Ph.D. this year from the University of South Florida. As for hobbies, she mentioned her interest in poetry, cooking, and her pet Chihuahua.

How Much Do You Know About Slavery in New England?

Slavery in colonial and revolutionary New England is the research specialty of Dr. Catherine Adams, Assistant Professor of History. Whereas most textbook accounts of American history describe southern and antebellum systems of slavery in detail, they tend to gloss over slavery in New England. There, most slaves worked in domestic servitude or as manual laborers in the urban environment, and thus had an experience very different from the plantation South. Only rarely did two slaves live in

the same household, which significantly circumscribed slaves' opportunities to develop social and cultural networks. Dr. Adams' research focuses especially on the experiences of slave women and the early expressions of their social and political activism. Dr. Adams earned a fellowship at the Museum of African American History in Boston to support her research.

Dr. Adams just completed her Ph.D. this summer from the University of Illinois. As for hobbies, she mentioned her interest in poetry, cooking, and above all, her two children.

Grants Workshop

The Faculty Forum held on September 3 was a superb event in which experienced grant writers and reviewers Mark Burge (Computer Science), Dabney Townsend (External Affairs), Will Lynch and Delana Nivens (Chemistry & Physics), and Armstrong's Director of Sponsored Programs, Keith Williams, offered inspirational and informative tips on the grants process.

The next issue of *Armstrong Academics* will include a full summary of this event, but here are lessons that Mr. Williams and Dr. Lynch offered. The next issue of DEANotes will include some additional tips from the other panelists.

- * Copies of "Proposal Writing Tips" are available from the Office of Sponsored Programs (Victor 236) or the Teaching & Learning Center (Solms 209).
- * You may register with the Office of Sponsored Programs, (www.grants.armstrong.edu), for a regular service of grant searches.
- * Realize that return of indirect expenses can benefit your college and your department
- * AASU's new Grants Administrator, Ms. Kerri Reid, will be in charge of all the budgetary issues concerning successful grants, thus removing what had been a major headache for grant winners.

When seeking grant opportunities . . .

- * Do your homework: brainstorm grant ideas with colleagues; study the literature; attend disciplinary meetings and introduce yourself to successful grant-writers.
- * Be willing to conduct research in new areas of your field: follow trends in funding.
- * Seek programs that specialize in funding projects for "PUIs" ("Primarily Undergraduate Institutions," i.e., schools like AASU).
- * Look for multiple funding agencies, and don't hesitate to submit your proposal to more than one agency at a time.
- * Collaborate on grants—and be ready to work with others outside your discipline. Use collaborators to respond to your own weaknesses.

- * Reach beyond AASU and the University System for potential collaborators.
- * Treat the RFP as the law: read it, and follow it to the letter.
- * Proofread with a friend (or two)--both technical editing and format editing.

When your proposal is rejected . . .

- * Be prepared for rejection—and don't take the comments personally. Instead, try to learn something from them

Correction Regarding Kindergartners

In the last issue of DEANotes, I celebrated the work of the Psychology Department and their laboratory demonstrations to a group of kindergarten students who came to campus as an unofficial part of the PRISM Grant. The truth is that the Biology Department deserves even more credit. Dr. Awong-Taylor wrote the grant, Professors Zettler, Collier, Craven, Larson, Belin, and Wynn spent all day leading the children through a rotation of laboratory demonstrations, and students in the Biology Club did most of the legwork. The event was a big success, and Dr. Awong-Taylor hopes to lead a similar event this year.

Grant Awarded

Drs. Delana Nivens, Judy Awong-Taylor, Will Lynch and Jennifer Zettler have received a grant from the LICOR Genomics Education Matching Fund that funded the purchase of a DNA Analysis System. The equipment allows students to perform DNA sequencing and fingerprinting techniques that are widely used in chemical, medical, environmental, forensic, and other professional laboratories. The sequencing equipment will be used in 10 biology and chemistry courses, and will be especially useful in the Forensic Science Certificate Program. In addition, over 100 advanced placement high school students taking AASU classes will have the opportunity to use the equipment in their laboratories. For more information about the high school outreach program or this grant, contact Dr. Nivens (Chemistry) or Dr. Awong-Taylor (Biology).

New Newsletter

You may have seen the news that the Office of University Relations will begin producing its own campus newsletter beginning October 2004. It will include faculty, staff, and student news, calendar items, and other news of interest to the campus community, and thus overlaps somewhat with the information published in DEANotes. I see no reason, though, to discontinue publicizing the presentations, publications, grants activity, innovative teaching, and other work of the Arts and Sciences faculty and

students in our own newsletter. Please continue to submit noteworthy achievements to me at finlayma@mail.armstrong.edu. Know that as a matter of course, I will submit materials sent to me to the campus-wide newsletter.

For the campus-wide newsletter, send submissions to news@mail.armstrong.edu. Announcements will be due on the fifteenth of each month, beginning September 15, for inclusion in the following month's issue. For the sake of consistency, both newsletters will try to maintain this standard: publications and presentations will be publicized only after they have actually been published or presented, not upon acceptance.

With that in mind, please remember to inform me of any of your recent publications or presentations. For one thing, we would like to display your publications in the case at the entrance to Solms Hall.

Advisement Tips from Professor Carpenter

Suzy Carpenter advises scores of pre-pharmacy student who are attracted to AASU as a prelude for application to pharmacy programs at South University and elsewhere. Here are some tips for advising these students:

1. Pre-pharmacy students are NOT required to complete the AASU core. Some students have unnecessarily delayed their admission to pharmacy school by focusing on AASU's core requirements. Some classes in the core are required (e.g. ENGL 1101 and MATH 1161) but others are not (e.g. neither HIST 1111 or HIST1112).
2. The first semester in the program should be
CHEM 1211, 1211L**
MATH 1111, MATH 1113, or MATH 1161
if appropriate**
BIOL 1107
ENGL 1101
**If the student wishes to take less than a full load, the chemistry and math courses are the most important ones to take their first semester.
3. Direct the student to the Department of Chemistry and Physics for more information.

Honors Program Alumni Notes

Radha Narayanan ('00) is in the fourth year of her doctoral program in the Laser Dynamics Laboratory, School of Chemistry and Biochemistry, at Georgia Tech. Her own research focuses on the size, shape, and surface characteristics of platinum nanoparticles. She has two publications in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*, the most significant chemistry journal in the world, and two more in the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*.

Jessica Sabiston Mudd ('02) returned to Savannah after a brief stint in Wilmington, North Carolina. She is now a Medical Dosimetrist at Memorial Hospital

FacultyNotes

Chris Hendricks, History, will be one of the speakers in a four lecture series about the 1779 Battle of Savannah. He will be the second presenter, discussing the American Perspective on September 23 at 7:00 PM. Before him, Dr. Martha Keber (GA College & State University) will discuss the French Perspective; after him, Dr. Dan Morrill (UNC at Charlotte) will discuss the British Perspective, and Dr. Charles Elmore (Savannah State) the Haitian and African-American Perspective. The dates for these other speakers are the 16th, 30th, and October 7, respectively.

In August, Teresa Winterhalter, LLP, was a delegate and an invited speaker to Oxford University's Roundtable on Women's Leadership, Oxford, UK. She presented a paper entitled, "Risking Who One Is: Speaking Feminism in Public and Taking the Hit."

Deadlines and Dates

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| Sept 10 | Faculty Lecture by Jim Smith |
| Sept 16-17 | Final review of Spring Schedule |
| Sept 20 | Conversation with A&S Deans (3:30, Solms 110) |
| Sept 22 | Deadline for Items for A & S Curriculum Committee |
| Sept 23 | Reception for December Graduates and Recital |
| Sept 26 | A & S Event at SKIO—all invited (4:00 P.M. - until) |
| Sept 29 | October Meeting of the A&S Curriculum Committee |
| Oct 1 | Faculty Forum on Advisement Issues |
| Oct 6 | Midterm for 15-week classes |

