

Office of the Dean  
College of Arts & Sciences

# DEANotes

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## WheelerNotes

### Yes, the Semester will End!!!!

After several days of watching colleagues from history and English stagger by with stacks of papers to grade, I want to provide assurances to all that indeed the semester is ending and that our winter break is on the horizon. In this season when we have a well-deserved opportunity to rest and perhaps to reflect on those values that are most important in our lives, let me wish you much joy and thank you for an exceptional semester and a job well done. Among our accomplishments: teaching more than our fair share of 7000!!! students, the launch of MALPS, submission of a proposal for a Law and Society major to Atlanta, a host of plays, concerts, and exhibits, student research presentations/publications in a variety of disciplines, papers published and talks presented by faculty members in all departments, the initiation of PRISM learning communities and much more.

As you rest and reflect over the next several weeks, don't forget to muster a little excitement for next semester. Ahead we have

- \* our second annual Community Read (Wheeler began *A Lesson Before Dying* last night and got to bed way too late; put the book on your gift list)
- \* a proposal for a BA in chemistry to polish and get to Atlanta
- \* a statewide high school mathematics tournament
- \* planning for Fall 2005 learning communities
- \* many more PRISM activities
- \* the annual Teaching and Learning Workshop,
- \* and the chance to hire up to nine NEW faculty members to fill newly-created lines.
- \* and much that the ill-informed dean has not yet heard about



## FinlayNotes

### Graduate School Advising (and Fu Time)

A recent meeting of the Arts & Sciences Council generated some discussion about ways to better advise students who are contemplating attending graduate school. In general, the sooner that advisors are aware of students who have these interests, the better. In most disciplines, it is important that students take the advance coursework necessary for graduate school admission on a fairly aggressive timetable.

In some departments, departments meet with every new declared major as a way to immediately point out some of the considerations necessary to prepare for graduate school. In some departments, junior-level classes offer exposure to contemporary and ethical issues, career opportunities, and academic issues in their discipline. In some departments, meetings are held featuring recent graduates of AASU who are currently in graduate school, or new faculty members who recently have completed graduate training. Melissa Read, Psychology, has an especially valuable presentation on this topic. See [www.melissaread.com](http://www.melissaread.com).

Also along these lines, one such presentation took place recently. Dr. Joe Fu, Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics at University of Georgia, advised a group of math and engineering students on the topic of "getting into graduate school." At least at major universities like UGA, Fu stated, graduate programs consider it unreasonable to expect students to support themselves. As a result, every student who is admitted can expect to receive a fellowship that will cover tuition, living expenses, and a means of support in the summer months. Here are some of his other tips, ideas that may be useful when advising students with ambitions at this level:

-personal statements should aggressively explain why the student has a passion for years of study and research in the chosen discipline

-personal statements or letters of recommendation that focus on community service and other character issues do not help much; the main issue is academic ability and passion

-the GRE is taken very seriously, and the verbal score counts to a significant degree even in a Mathematics Department; (and quantitative scores count to a significant degree in many humanities programs)

-application deadlines are somewhat flexible, since spots in the entering class are not filled until about two months after the official deadline

### **Regents Center for Learning Disorders**

Dr. Tori Kearnes of the Regents Center for Learning Disorders (RCLD) in Statesboro was the featured speaker at a recent Faculty Forum. The RCLD is a partner with the Office of Disability Services at AASU, but offers more comprehensive services and facilities. For one thing, the RCLD offers thorough assessments of students with possible learning disabilities, one that costs less (albeit \$500), and is more comprehensive than those available from the private sector. (Financial aid may be available). Students must undergo an official evaluation of this type before they may present instructors with an official "student advocacy letter" that requests specific accommodations for their disabilities.

All instructors, part-timers included, would be wise to read a new flyer from the Office of Disability Services that outlines legal requirements, available accommodations, student responsibilities, faculty responsibilities, and related topics on this matter. The Office also offers handouts on topics such as how to overcome test anxiety, how to read strategically, and other study skills hints that would help a broad range of students.

### **New Faculty Notes**

#### **In the Foxhole with W. E. B. DuBois**

For Assistant Professor of History Lee Williams, Jr., a life changing experience occurred while reading DuBois' *Souls of Black Folk* in a foxhole during the Desert Storm campaign. After several years working with the military's satellite communications technology, Williams decided it was time to restart an educational journey that had been put on hold. After his return to college, Williams quickly earned the B.A., M. A., and Ph.D. in History, each from Florida State University.

Williams' specialty is African American politics of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His dissertation focused on Florida's African American political leaders of the Reconstruction period, and he

recently delivered a paper at the Southern Historical Association annual meeting on the Civil Rights Movement at Florida A & M University. In addition, Williams has interests that fit with AASU's emphasis on public history. He plans to help build an electronic database that will allow genealogists to trace records of slave and free black families. In his own genealogy studies, Williams learned many of his ancestors, from the era of slavery to the generation of his father, have been specialists in the construction and building trades.

### **Announcements**

The James Madison Foundation offers funding for at least one graduate-level fellowship of up to \$24,000 in each state. The grants are targeted for current and prospective secondary school teachers of American history, American government, and social studies, and will fund students pursuing the M.A., M.A.T., or M.E.d. For more information, see [www.jamesmadison.com](http://www.jamesmadison.com). The deadline is March 1, 2005.

Kennesaw State University will host a conference entitled "Stepping Up to the Plate in Diversity Education: Building an Intercultural Campus." Organizers seek papers and presentations on campus diversity initiatives, diversity as a curricular and pedagogical issue, and the like. The meeting will be held March 18-19, 2005 in Atlanta; the deadline for submission is December 17. For more information, see [www.kennesaw.edu/diversityeducation](http://www.kennesaw.edu/diversityeducation).

### **Martin Luther King Jr. Scholars Program**

The Department of Education seeks applicants for the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholars Program, which offers juniors, seniors, and graduate students the chance to study education policy in Summer 2005 in the offices of the Secretary of Education or one of her assistant secretaries. The Scholars will be paid \$11-\$20/hour, and will assist with the analysis and implementation of the nation's education policy. Students may be from any field of study, but must have a 3.3 GPA. The deadline for application is January 21, 2005. For more information, see <http://www.ed.gov/programs/mlk>.

### **Faculty Notes**

Richard Cebula, Economics, has three more publications: "Income Tax Evasion Revisited: The Impact of the Interest Rate Yields on Tax Free Municipal Bonds," *Southern Economic Journal* (October 2004): 418-423; "Census Response Rates: Empirical Tests of Nine Hypotheses," *Social Science Journal* No. 4 (2004): 575-585; and "Empirical Evidence on the Impact of Crude Oil Prices on

Domestic Inflation: The Case of Ecuador, 1950-1995," *International Economics*, No. 3 (August 2004): 265-274. In this case, Cebula's co-author was Economics major Santiago Carrillo.

In addition, Cebula has been named for inclusion in the 8th edition of *Who's Who In Science And Engineering*. Inclusion is based on the number of citations in the scientific literature.

The Mathematics Department hosted the twenty-first annual AASU Middle School Math Bowl. Nearly all faculty and office staff along with a number of undergraduate majors acted as question readers and graders. Almost 80 students from twelve Chatham county schools participated.

About 180 Georgia Art Education Association members were on campus in November to attend a series of workshops as part of the 2004 GAEA Conference being held in downtown Savannah. The entire art faculty presented workshops as part of the festivities, including:

Jill Miller, New Developments in Art History  
Rachel Green, Basketry Techniques: Twining  
Pang-Chieh Hsu, Portrait Drawing  
Linda Jensen, Hand Colored Gelatin Silver Print Demonstration  
John Jensen, The Potter's Wheel - Hands On  
Tom Cato- Making Student Portfolios Using PowerPoint

*(Note too that Dr. Cato has just concluded six years of service to the GAEA as President-Elect, President, and Past-President.)*

Dr. Tom Cato appeared before the Board of Regents at their November meeting. He and his Fine Arts Advisory Committee arranged for several very talented students to perform before the Board, and to make the case that the arts are the heart and soul of the university.

Mike Toma, Economics, presented a paper entitled "The Role of Political Information in Union Certification Elections: Preliminary Evidence from Selected States," at the International Conference on Politics and Information Systems, Technologies, and Applications (PISTA '04) in Orlando. Toma's paper was named the best of those presented in the session.

Will Lynch, Chemistry, and his students Brian Helmly, George Gergely, Jeremy Olson, Patrick Sisco, Joyce Chow, Bryan Jacobs, Pat Liloia presented "Cobalt-59 NMR correlated to electronic transitions - an inorganic experiment" at the

Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS 2004).

Dr. Selwyn Hollis of the Department of Mathematics presented his paper "Modeling Bark Beetle Infestations in Pine Forest Ecosystems" at the Southeast-Atlantic Regional Conference on Differential Equations held in Chattanooga, TN, on October 22-23, 2004.

Dr. Manuel (Bud) Sanders of the Department of Mathematics was invited to the International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics (ICTCM) held October 29-31, 2004, in New Orleans, by the publisher Addison-Wesley. Dr. Sanders participated in a panel discussion entitled "Calculus text design and raising achievement of algebraically underprepared students."

Bill Daugherty, CJSPS, recently addressed the faculty and students of the Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. In addition, Daugherty was the invited speaker for the graduation ceremony of the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center in Damneck, Virginia. The MAGTF Intelligence Officers Course (MIOC) broadens intelligence specialists by exposing them to national, theater, and service level functions and capabilities. Most officers leave MIOC for fulfilling careers as senior staff officers or leaders in national agencies.

Dr. Susan Hines, LLP, spoke at the National Alliance of Community and Technical Colleges Conference meeting on "The Next Generation for Distance Education."

Lee Williams, History, recently presented a paper entitled "'They Shall Walk and Not Faint': George W. Gore, Jr., and the Civil Rights Movement in Tallahassee, Florida, 1956-68," at the annual meeting of the Southern Historical Association in Memphis.

Ned Rinalducci, CJSPS, led a forum entitled "Internationalizing Sociology" at the Georgia Sociological Association in November. The forum addressed teaching sociology in international settings--everything from curriculum to the creation of new programs. Also at this meeting, Rinalducci took office as president of the GSA.



## Student Notes

The 2004 issue of *Calliope*, Armstrong's student magazine of art and literature, has won a first place award from the American Scholastic Press Association. This issue was edited by Brandi Kincaid.

Honors students Andres Escolar (economics) and Christopher Shirley (English) were among 3% of student presenters whose papers were juried into interdisciplinary research panels held during the National Collegiate Honors Councils' annual meeting in New Orleans. Shirley presented new readings of the novels of J. M. Coetzee in "Altruism, Dishonesty and Disgrace" and Escolar presented a multi-media analysis of "Heterosocial Relationships in the Films of Pedro Almodovar."

Joyce Chow and Nin Dingra, chemistry majors at Armstrong Atlantic State University won a second place award in the Inorganic Division for their undergraduate research presentation "Nanoparticle Mediated Photodefluorination Monitored by F-19 NMR" at the Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Chemical Society (SERMACS). The research is part of the National Science Foundation funded project aimed at introducing nanotechnology into the curriculum awarded to Drs. Will Lynch and Delana Nivens entitled "Vertical Threads for Nanotechnology in the Chemistry Curriculum".

In addition, Nin Dingra, Joyce Chow, Brian Helmly, Will Lynch and Delana Nivens presented "Semi-conductor nanoparticles for the photodestruction of biomolecules," and Liz Baker, Will Lynch and Delana Nivens presented "Intercalation and Deintercalation of Organic Compounds and Polymers into Minerals."

## Deadlines and Dates

- Dec 6** Senior Grades Due, 9 AM
- Dec 11** Graduation, A & S at the 2 PM ceremony
- Dec 13** Final Grades Due, 9 AM
- Jan 4-5** Advisement and Registration
- Jan 6** First Day of Class
- Jan 7** Items for A & S Curr Comm Due
- Jan 11** Corrected Spring CIRs due
- Jan 12** Part Time Pay Report Due
- Jan 12** Extra Comp Forms Due
- Jan 14** List for Off-campus Travel Expenses Due
- Jan 17** MLK Holiday
- Jan 20** Retention Recommendations of 1<sup>st</sup> Year Faculty Due
- Jan 28** Items for A & S Curr Comm Due
- Jan 29** Spring Open House
- Mar 2** Midterm for Session 1

