

Office of the Dean
College of Arts & Sciences

DEANotes

February 28, 2005

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WheelerNotes

Well, You Missed it Again!!

Those of you who forgot to mark February 22 on the calendar again missed the AASU Showcase Concert. Admittedly, it started a little slow. Someone had forgotten to clean the stage after the Jack Kingston Town Hall Meeting and a student was dispatched with a push broom. Then a second student and broom clumped on stage and a third and soon even the Dean realized we were in the midst of an “eight broom” piece by the percussion ensemble. The evening accelerated from there: The Jazz Ensemble wooed us with an “almost big band” sound, the Jazz Combo featured scat singing, the percussion ensemble followed the eight broom piece with a fully instrumented *Merengue*, a 60 voice University Chorale ranged from *Prayer before Sleeping* to *There were no mirrors in my Nanna’s House*, and the 16 voice chamber singers seduced us with Italian Part Songs and *My Funny Valentine*. And then ... then we sneaked a “ringer” on stage and Kevin Hampton, his piano, and the Armstrong Wind Ensemble created a Gershwin’s *Rhapsody in Blue* that brought the crowd of 500 to their feet. Many thanks to Professors Brown, Hampton, Harris, Johnson, Primatic, Reese, and Schultz who work daily to help these students, young and old, deliver such powerful performances on this special evening. And be sure to highlight the Tuesdays of February 2006 so you will be sure *not* to miss this event next year.

The I Grade can be Awarded On-Line:

Buried in a recent memorandum from the Office of the Registrar about attendance reports was a piece of *very welcome news*. In the future when you need to assign an incomplete grad of I at the end of the semester, you will merely enter the I into SHIP and then respond to inquiries from the system. (No paper form will be necessary.) Of course, it is always wise to also exchange a memorandum of understanding with the student involved so that both you and the student will have a clear picture of what is necessary to remove the I.

Adult Students and Minimesters: My sense is that as we moved from the quarter system to the semester system in 1998, we began to serve our traditional aged students better, and we began to serve our adult students less well. Students with very complicated lives (families, limited financial resources, demanding jobs ...) are better able to orchestrate higher education when it is available in 10 week chunks rather than 15 week chunks. Smaller terms make it easier to accrue the tuition, to plan a required business trip, or to work around a parent or child requiring surgery. Further, when a student must “stop out” a term in the quarter system, the student has several more terms left in the year.

In view of this reasoning the College of Arts and Sciences will begin next Fall to offer courses in the Evening College in the two seven week minimesters that are available in the Fall and Spring semesters. More specifically, courses will offered so that the core curriculum can be completed in two years taking courses exclusively in shorter terms. This will add another layer of difficulty to the lives of department heads who must meet many demands as they complete their schedules. However, these kind souls have reviewed a rotation that will accomplish this goal and believe it can be done with minimum disruption. Thank you department heads and faculty members for helping us serve our non-traditional students better.

FinlayNotes

Council of the Americas Conference

Dr. Jim Anderson and the Office of International Relations again hosted the Annual Conference on the Americas, sponsored by the Americas Council and the University System of Georgia Office of International Education. Presentations by AASU faculty included:

Ana Torres, LLP, “Interiores: El espacio poético de Esther Castañeda.”

Bill Deaver, LLP, "Linguistic Influence of Baseball Terms in Latin America"

José A. da Cruz, CJSPPS, "Brazil's Politics of AIDS: The Brazilian Government's Efforts to Stop the Pandemic in the Sleeping Giant of South America,"

José A. da Cruz and Becky K. da Cruz, both CJSPPS, "The UNRule of Law, Violence and Society in Brazil"

In addition, the conference offered many opportunities for AASU students to participate. The following undergraduate students of Dr. Michael Hall delivered papers on the history of US-Latin American Relations: Nathan Brown, Melanie Kessinger, Linda Reno, Terry Kidd, Michael Danforth, Matt Perry, Brian Gentry, Edward Sledge, and Desiree Spann.

The following graduate students of Dr. Hall presented papers on a panel entitled Commodities and International Relations: Charlene Overturf, Tim Osako, Derek Bentley, and Jamie Phillip.

The following students of Dr. José A. da Cruz, delivered papers on topics in Latin American Foreign Policy: Jose Aponte, Jeff Groover, Andres F. Escolar, Matthew Amasou, and Katherine Lancaster

Savannah Reads Gaines

Faculty and students in various disciplines will be meeting for AASU's second annual City-wide Read, April 4-8, 2005, to read and discuss the award-winning novel *A Lesson Before Dying* by Louisiana native Ernest J. Gaines. Readers will explore this story about a black man sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit and a teacher who is persuaded to counsel him as he awaits execution. The following events are scheduled for the AASU campus:

Monday, April 4: Across the Curriculum Discussion, Noon, UH 158

Tuesday, April 5: *A Lesson Before Dying*, Film Showing & Discussion, 7p.m., UH 156

Wednesday, April 6: Student-led Community Book Club Discussion, Noon, UH 156

Wednesday evening, April 6: A stage reading of the theatrical version of *A Lesson Before Dying*.

Thursday, April 7: Guest Speaker: Ernest J. Gaines, 7p.m., Fine Arts Auditorium.

If you have any questions about the events or book, please contact **Dr. Beth Howells, Composition Coordinator, at 927-5218, or howellbe@mail.Armstrong.edu**. For a list of discussion questions, go online to <http://www.faculty.armstrong.edu/read.htm>.

International Visitors

The International Studies Office is hosting several visitors whose work may be of interest to Arts & Sciences faculty. On Monday March 7, Heather

Nicol, representing the USG Americas Council, will be on campus to discuss the Canadian Studies Program at the University of West Georgia and grants available from the Canadian Consulate to help faculty revise their syllabi to include some Canadian aspects. The meeting is open in anyone interested, 1:30 p.m. in Solms 106.

That same day, March 7, Dr. Lassi Heininen, senior scientist at the University of Lapland, Artic Institute, will visit campus and deliver a presentation on northern environmental and security issues in Dr. José da Cruz's Third World National Security Class at 10:00 p.m in University Hall 111. If other A & S faculty are interested in bringing their classes to this event, please let Dr. Jim Anderson know (921-5671) so a larger classroom can be arranged.

On April 6, Robert Zimmerman, a Foreign Service officer, lawyer, and spokesman/press officer for the State Dept.'s Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs will be on campus. He will be focusing on U.S. policy toward Latin America and the Caribbean; he also is willing to talk about the possibility of careers with the states Dept. and Foreign Service. Details forthcoming.

On Thursday April 19, from 9:30 to 10:45 Franck Biancheri, President of Europe 2020, will provide a GSAMS interactive discussion on transatlantic relations and the future of European Union. AASU has not yet committed to participate. If you think this could be useful for your class, please contact Dr. Anderson.

Internship Programs: The Governor and His Rival

The Board of Regents office has asked all campuses to become more actively involved in the Governor's Intern Program. The program promises to provide "the best, brightest, and most ambitious college and law students with practical professional experience before they enter the working world." Given the breadth of the state government, the program is not limited to those with an interest in politics. Juniors, seniors, and graduate students with a minimum GPA of 3.0 are eligible to apply; the deadline for the summer program is April 1. For details, see www.ganet.org/governor/intern.

The governor's rival, Secretary of State Cathy Cox, also has an internship program that includes opportunities in the capitol museum, the elections division, and the press office. See www.sos.state.ga.us.

San Francisco Dreaming

If you are looking for a good time, a room full of 1500 directors, deans, and academic vice presidents

may not be the best place to look. Nevertheless, I found myself in that situation as a participant at the annual meeting of the Association of American Colleges and Universities in San Francisco.

Although one should take these brag sessions with a grain of salt, presenters offered a few suggestions that might be of interest at AASU:

- *Ideas on highlighting undergraduate research at a university not unlike AASU.

- *Ideas on integrating the humanities and the sciences through coursework that combined laboratory exercises with readings in the history of science.

- *Empirical analysis and assessment of the effectiveness of seminar teaching.

- *A program that integrated coursework in ecology, technical writing, and middle grades education.

- *Ideas on integrating programs between offices of academic affairs and student affairs.

- *Warnings on trends in the use of part-time faculty.

- *Results from programs that participated in the Hallmarks Program, (or something similar), focusing on the “first-year experience.”

Other conference highlights included hearing the Lee Shulman, President of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, speak on the scholarship of teaching; hearing Lani Guinier of Harvard Law School challenge assumptions about race, gender, and affirmative action; and jogging up Lombard Street and over the Golden Gate Bridge.

If you are interested in getting together to look at any of these issues in more detail, please give me a call (x5642).

New Faculty Notes

Any story about **Professor Dominica Devine**, Temporary Instructor of Biology, needs to mention that she once worked for a traveling circus. For four years, she juggled, designed costumes, assisted trapeze artists, and served as stage manager. Her work in costume design continued for the theatre, and for television programs such as the unforgettable “Battle of the Network Stars.”

Nowadays, however, Devine has a passion for teaching biology. After learning some of the secrets of nature in the completion of a biochemistry degree from Cal State-Long Beach, she asked, “How could you not want to learn more?” That led to admission into the doctoral program at UCLA, where she conducted research and taught courses in molecular biology. She left before completing the doctorate, but continued research through a biotechnology firm in Chicago that investigated the genes that are

activated in the emergence of diseases such as Alzheimer’s.

At AASU, she teaches a heavy load of BIOL 1107 courses, supplemented with work for the PRISM Project. After more than a semester with AASU students, she has become increasingly interested in how students learn to learn biology, and she envisions the possibility teaching the principles of biology to non-majors through a core course that focuses mainly the everyday subjects of health and nutrition. Moreover, Devine adds that she has come to appreciate the diverse backgrounds and experiences of the AASU students. And why not; who would have guessed that she used to work for the circus?

Dr. Britta Swanson, Temporary Assistant Professor Biology, joined the AASU faculty in January after more than two years on the faculty of San Francisco State University. A native of Texas, Swanson earned a B.S. in Biology from Midwestern State University and a Ph. D. in Medical Microbiology from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center.

Along the way, Swanson developed an unusual fascination with the organisms that cause disease. She is an expert on one of the nastiest pathogens out there, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. This bacterium is particularly nasty for its use of a “molecular syringe” system, through which it injects toxins into its target cell. Worse than that, *Pseudomonas* is found all over, and its toxins can readily cause death among those who suffer from cystic fibrosis, those with severe burns, and those who spend extended periods of time in hospitals. Swanson is still directing the graduate research of some of her SFSU students, work that is examining the mechanisms that activate the molecular syringe system. One day, this research may lead to means to turn off the syringe, and thus eliminate the bacterium’s toxic effects. In the meantime, this research should add to Swanson’s list of publications, which already include lead-authorship of works in the *Journal of Bacteriology*, the *Journal of Microbiological Methods*, and others. When not playing with pathogens, Swanson also enjoys competing in road races and triathlons. And she’s pretty fast.

Faculty Notes

The Academy of Economics and Finance has honored **Richard Cebula**, Economics, with the award of 2005 AEF Teaching Fellow in recognition of his outstanding achievement in the area of teaching.

Nancy Remler, LLP, received the Professor of the Year Award at the annual conference of the Georgia

Council of Teachers of English. The award recognized Remler's achievement through the Coastal Georgia Writing Project and as AASU Gignalliat Professor in 2004. In addition, **Heather Glover**, AASU graduate student and graduate assistant for CGWP, won the Outstanding Future English Teacher of Color Award.

Fugue's End, by **Tony Morris**, LLP, was awarded the 2004 North Carolina Writer's Network Mary Belle Campbell Poetry Book Award. The was published by Birch Brook Press in 2004 in a 30-page, letterpress, hand-sewn, limited edition.

Chris Baker, LLP, has published "Porphyro's Rose: Keats and T.S. Eliot's 'The Metaphysical Poets'" in the *Journal of Modern Literature*. In addition, his talk "Desperately Seeking Shakespeare" was part of a traveling exhibition entitled "Elizabeth I: Ruler and Legend" sponsored jointly by the American Library Association, the Newberry Library, the NEH, and the Georgia Humanities Council.

José A. da Cruz, CJSPS, has published "Brazil's International Relations at the Dawn of the Twenty-first Century," *Latin American Politics and Society* 47 (Spring 2005): 115-122. Da Cruz also presented the paper "Brazil's Rainbow Coalition Foreign Policy Under Luiz Inacio 'Lula' da Silva," at the Southern Political Science Association 2005 Conference in New Orleans.

Tom Cooksey, LLP, has published "'Been Believing in Nothing': Flannery O'Connor Reads Simone de Beauvoir" in the most recent issue of the *Flannery O'Connor Review*.

The mayor and city council of Cuernavaca, Mexico, have honored **Bill Deaver**, LLP, for his contributions to their city through study abroad efforts.

Carol Jamison, LLP, has published "Traffic in Germanic Women: The Role of the Peace Pledge" *Women in German Yearbook*, Volume 20 (2004).

Teresa Winterhalter, LLP, gave a benefit lecture for the Savannah Friends of Music Society, entitled "'The Common Fund of Experience': Virginia Woolf, Vanessa Bell, and Bloomsbury Interiors."

At the Southern Humanities Council conference in Richmond, Virginia, **Jim Smith**, LLP, participated in the poetry reading session as an invited reader of his own work, and he chaired a session entitled "The

Public Sphere in American Literature and Culture" (which included a paper on *A Lesson Before Dying*). **David Taylor**, LLP, has published "A No-Fret, No-Sweat Plan for Getting it Done" in *The Writer's Handbook 2005* edited by Elfrieda Abbe. He also presented the "Top 10 Reasons You are a Reading Teacher: And What to do About It" in the First Annual UMUC Writing Conference at the University of Maryland.

William Daugherty, CJSPS, recently received this email:

JOINT SUBCOMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE
COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE MIDDLE EAST AND
CENTRAL ASIA

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Chair

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM
AND NONPROLIFERATION

Edward R. Royce, Chairman

You are respectfully requested to attend the following joint OPEN hearing of the Subcommittee on the Middle East and Central Asia and the Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Nonproliferation, to be held in Room 2172, Rayburn House Office Building

DATE: Wednesday, February 16, 2005

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

SUBJECT: Iran: A Quarter-Century of State-Sponsored Terror

Details concerning Daugherty's testimony will appear in a future DEANotes.

Deadlines and Dates

March 5 Faculty Forum - Minority Affairs
March 7 Spring Workload Reports to Dean
March 19-21 Regents Test Dates
March 21 Faculty Meeting and Governance Forum
March 25 Faculty Lecture - Dr. Winterhalter
March 28 - April 1 ArmstrongFest
March 30 Deadline for April Curriculum Committee items
April 1 Faculty Lecture - Dr. Randy Reese
April 4 - 8 Campus Read
April 5 College Curriculum Committee (final meeting?)