

DEANotes

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WheelerNotes

Moving the Honors Program On:

Our collective loss of Dr. Jill Miller was felt particularly heavily in the honors program, a program that she had served as Assistant Director for two years and Director for this academic year. Dr. Mark Finlay has graciously and vigorously accepted appointment as interim director through July 1 of this year. However, we must give thought to directions for the 2005-2006 academic year. Please email Dean Wheeler by April 25 if you would like to be considered for this responsibility or if you have a colleague who should be considered. (wheeled@mail.armstrong.edu)

Gifts Honoring Jill Miller

Several persons have asked how to direct gifts that they wish to give in memory of Dr. Jill Miller. The short answer is: Write checks to the Armstrong Foundation and send them to External Affairs with the note "For the Jill Miller Scholarship Fund." Jill's husband David, mother Phyllis, and father Nicki have established the Jill Miller Scholarship Fund to help art students and honors students who wish to study abroad. This was a project to which Jill had devoted her personal funds for several years.

27 ... 2000 ... 12,000 ... and still going

At 3:00 pm on Saturday, February 19, 2005, we closed the books on the twenty-seventh annual High School Mathematics Tournament sponsored by the Mathematics Department of Armstrong Atlantic State University. Completion of this event means that over the years our mathematicians have skillfully composed over 2000 challenging mathematics problems for the individual and team competitions, and that well over 12,000 talented students have spent a Saturday visiting on our lovely campus. Many thanks to the members of our community who made this year's event work well for 400 high school students. The fifty-five member team included the whole mathematics department, **Drs. Hizer** and

MacGowan from chemistry, **Dr. Guillou** from biology, **Professors Munson and Findeis** from our emeriti ranks, a double handful of faculty members from the School of Computing (who cosponsor the competition), one brave soul each from the library and the College of Health Professions, and many students who gave up a Saturday for this venture. Special thanks to **Dr. Dale Kilhefner** who led this effort and has worked in some capacity in each of the 27 events.

Too Much of a Good Thing??

We are pleased to announce that Dr. David Wheeler has agreed to join our community as Department Head of Languages, Literature, and Philosophy. Dr. Wheeler comes to us following twenty-four years of service at the University of Southern Mississippi, including eight years as chair of the Department of English at that university. Dr. Wheeler completed his doctorate at the University of Virginia, his masters at the University of Chicago, and has written more than twenty articles in the area of eighteenth century literature. Contrary to rumor, neither last name nor degree granting institution was a criterion in this search. However, in answer to the question, you can never have too much of a good thing (tongue firmly in cheek).

You Must Come See

On your next leisurely trip around the Armstrong Campus (or your next command performance in the Deans' Offices), please stop and admire the display on *Armstrong: The Greatest Generation* that sits in foyer of Solms Hall. This skillfully crafted public history display presents the students and faculty of Armstrong College in the early 1940's. It was designed and implemented by Caroline Hopkinson and Gayle Brannen in consultation with Dr. Janet Stone. Thank you Caroline, Gayle, and Janet for this taste of our history.

FinlayNotes

Advisement Tips

It's advisement season again. Here are some new bits of information.

1. The Core Curriculum at AASU has expanded recently. In Area A we have one new course, MATH 1001 Quantitative Skills and Reasoning.

- Note that this course serves as a prerequisite for MATH 2200 and 2900, but not for MATH 1113.
- Note that MATH 1101, Mathematical Modeling, is being phased out.

In Area B-1 (Ethics and Values) we have two new courses:

- CRJU 2020 Ethical Theories & Moral Issues in Criminal Justice
- HONS 2100 Honors Topics in Ethics & Values

In Area B-2 (Global Perspectives) we have two new courses:

- PSYC 2300 Global Perspectives in Developmental Psychology
- GWST 2102 Gender in Global Contexts

In Area D-3 (Non-Science Majors only), we have the course, PHYS 1010 The Physics of Sport.

2. The Office of Liberal Studies has prepared advisement templates that will assist students in developing a thematic series of courses to complete a Bachelors in General Studies degree. In particular, templates have been developed to assist students in developing a program focused on international studies, human services, science and technology, philosophy, or gender and women's studies. Students can access these templates by contacting Ms. Peggy Williams, the advisor for the Bachelor of General Studies degree located in Solms 210 (921-5991).

Wisdom from a senior Howells

In just three and one half years, Dr. Beth Howells has moved into leadership roles in many important AASU initiatives: the Campus Read, Learning Communities, retention efforts, mentoring of part-time instructors, Honors Program activities, and much, much more.

She must have developed some of this talent through her father, retired businessman Mr. John Howells. On March 23, AASU Career Day, the elder Howells delivered an interesting presentation of real-world advice and leadership development for the students in the Honors Program. Indeed, his points are valid for any professional, although they are not always remembered:

Among his reminders:

-Every meeting must have a point. Time is valuable.

-The first meeting is especially important in establishing impressions. One may have time to make a second impression at a social event, but not at a business meeting.

-In most meetings, both parties want something, but one person has more power. The person with less power needs to persuade the other that the proposal/idea/pay raise could benefit them both.

-Planning is essential. For an important interview or business meeting, plan every detail of your clothing.

-Don't tell jokes. Few people are truly funny.

-Planning is essential. Plan every aspect of what you wish to say.

-Avoid clichés, slang, and vernacular speech. Speak and dress like someone older and more successful than you are.

-Planning is essential.

Canadian Studies

Dr. Heather Nicol of the University of West Georgia's Center for Canadian Studies recently visited AASU to describe opportunities for course development grants, research grants, and other opportunities for those interested in integrating Canada into the curriculum. She said that the first stage of this process, a \$300 grant for books and other materials that will lead to a course with a significant Canadian component, is fairly easy to win. For details, contact her at hnicol@westga.edu. She also noted that the University System of Georgia may soon revise its North American Studies program, which would allow students to integrate coursework on Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

Student Notes

The following undergraduate economics students presented papers at the 2005 Academy of Economics and Finance conference in Myrtle Beach. **Charlene Hamilton**, "The Demand for Hunting and Wildlife Economics"; **Sarah Beth Link**, "The Effects of Fuel Efficiency Standards on the Automobile Fatality Rate"; **Tiffany Wernz**, "Historical Examination of Cohabitation Rates"; **Tatyana Zelenskaya** and **Christopher Hamilton**, "Preliminary Evidence of Political Influence on the Deployment of Military Power to Iraq." The latter paper was coauthored with **Mike Toma**, Economics.

Juan Aragon, senior double major in Chemistry and Biology, is a co-author of “Purified Argonaute2 and an siRNA form recombinant human RISC” published in *Nature: Structural and Molecular Biology* (April 2005) The research derives from Juan’s work at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Undergraduate Research Program in summer 2004. Juan was one of 25 students selected for this prestigious program, from among 485 international applicants.

Lucinda D. Schultz, AMT, and seven AASU students participated in the annual National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Spring Conference and Auditions held recently at Valdosta State University. Three AASU students garnered top singing honors in the state in their respective categories; **Lillis Weeks**, mezzo-soprano, placed third and **Hui Gibbs**, soprano, placed second in the category: Beginning Adult Women; **Wayne Ealey**, tenor, won top honors in the category: Advanced Adult Men and was selected to perform on the prestigious Honors Recital that concludes the competition. These students were accompanied by Lois Richter, piano, and are all the voice students of Schultz, who serves as the current Governor of Georgia NATS.

The following Honors Program students recently presented papers at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Conference: **Chris Shirley, Chris McCormick, Tatyana Zelenskaya, Sarah Beth Link, and Jeremy Windus**. The first three papers derived from work in one of Dr. Hollinger’s classes; the others derived from work in Dr. Finlay’s and Dr. Miller’s classes, respectively.

New Faculty Notes

As the teaching career of **Mary Anne Brock**, Temporary Instructor of English, has developed, she has become increasingly interested in the relationship between writing and human behavior. After earning an M. A. in Creative Writing from UNC-Wilmington, Brock joined the faculty of Fayetteville Technical Community College in North Carolina, where she taught learning support courses alongside freshman composition, creative writing, and survey literature classes. There, Brock experienced the excitement and transformation that can occur when students finally learn to tap into their writing talents.

After a few years as a part-time instructor at AASU and SCAD, Brock has now moved into a full-time temporary position at AASU. In her introductory writing classes, Brock implements exercises and activities to foster a sense of writing community and to encourage students to develop a sense of their voice, to understand their audience, to

evaluate the strengths of each other's arguments, and in some cases, to learn for the first time how to express their own ideas.

Brock's interest in writing communities has flowed naturally into work with AASU's Freshmen Learning Communities. These communities are formed from groups of 20-30 first-year students who take a cluster of courses together; as a result, students tend to gain an increased level of comfort with each other and to work more collaboratively. It also gives teachers like Brock the chance to craft writing projects that bridge more than one class and more than one discipline. For instance, next year, Brock will participate in two different learning communities. In the one with **Dr. Rinalducci**, writing assignments will encourage students to examine the sociology of the individual vs. that of the community. In the one with **Dr. Read** and **Mr. Anderson**, instructors plan to examine the foundations of human experience and perception, helping students to understand and analyze the benefits of broad-mindedness when undertaking leadership roles. In all, such integrated projects may enhance retention rates, increase students' awareness of opportunities for cross-disciplinary study, and hopefully enhance student learning.

Dr. Tony Morris, Temporary Assistant Professor of English, has also taken a few sharp turns in his career path. Working in his father’s factory, one that specialized in cutting paper from large rolls for use in the forms industry, Morris decided that it was finally time to try college. He began at the community college, became editor of the student newspaper, and moved on the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where he focused on coursework in journalism and communication. That led to a career with the cable network MSNBC, where Morris conducted research, wrote scripts, and helped in the production of television stories the network sent to affiliates across the country.

Meanwhile, his late-blooming passion for literature and poetry continued. He earned a master’s degree in English at UNCC for the fun of it, and then entered the Ph. D. program for Creative Writing at Florida State University. Morris’s poetry has been published in an elegant, hand-sewn, chapbook entitled *Fugue’s End*, a work that won the North Carolina Writer’s Network poetry book award in 2004. Morris’s experience in journalism and poetry naturally have steered him to assist two of AASU’s programs, as he serves as faculty advisor to the *Inkwell* and managing editor to the *Southern Poetry Review*. As a teacher, Morris asks his students to ask themselves the question that he asked himself at various times: “Why are you here?” For some

students, the answers become an important step in their own path of self-discovery.

Faculty Notes

José A. da Cruz and **Becky K. da Cruz** have published a review essay entitled "Brazil's Foreign Policy Behavior in the Post-Cold War International System," in the *Journal of Third World Studies* 21 (2005): 267-276

José A. da Cruz has published "Brazil's Foreign Policy under Luis Inacio 'Lula' da Silva: An Early Assessment of a Leftist President" in *Politics & Policy* 33 (March 2005).

As a member of a national retention task force for the American Association of Schools, Colleges, and Universities, **Beth Howells, LLP**, participated in a site visit at Montclair State University. The task force will produce a report on successful strategies to improve graduation and retention rates.

Andy Weinbach, Economics, has been quoted once again in the on-line version of *Forbes* magazine for his expertise in sports gambling. In an article entitled "Ten Betting Tips for March Madness," Weinbach and his colleagues offered several pointers on how one might win the office pool for the NCAA basketball tournament.

Donna Mullenax, Chemistry & Physics, has been elected Vice-President of the Southern Atlantic Coast section of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

David Taylor, LLP, has written two syndicated articles: "How to Conquer Writing's Top Five Myths" with Metro Editorial Services (article has

appeared in 80 newspapers from 09/04 - 02/05 with total readership of 2,813,640) and "Do You Have What It Takes to Be a Writer?" with Gannett News Service and Metro Editorial Services (article has appeared in 12 newspapers from 09/04 - 02/05 with a total readership of 342,060). He has also been appointed to the editorial board of the *Interdisciplinary Journal of Knowledge and Learning Objects* (<http://www.ijkl.org/>) published by the Informing Science Institute. He will be reviewing submissions concerning web-based learning objects. Additionally, Taylor developed a workshop presentation for the 7th Annual Student Success in First-Year Composition entitled "A Counseling Approach to Writing Conferences" on February 4, 2005. Available as a PowerPoint presentation at: <http://www.peakwriting.com/armstrong/Counseling%20approach.ppt>

Deadlines and Dates

April 18	FACE begins
April 20	Faculty Lecture, Teresa Winterhalter
April 22	Advisement Ends
April 26	Academic Council (2:30 p.m.)
April 28	Administrative Council (2:30 p.m.)
May 2:	Last Day of Classes
May 2:	Senior Grades Due
May 3:	Reading Day
May 3:	President's Leadership Awards Convocation
May 4:	Final Exams Begin
May 7:	Graduation
May 13:	Final Grades Due