

Office of the Dean  
College of Arts & Sciences

# DEANotes

January 30, 2006

Vol. V, No. 4

## WongNotes

### Greetings from the Desk of the Interim Dean

In the brief time I have been in this Office, faculty have asked various questions. Most frequently, Dr. Finlay or I had to dig around to find answers. Here are some answers to two questions about which you may have wondered:

*Q:* Why are classes that meet once a week scheduled for 2 hours and 45 minutes (165 minutes) when classes that meet two or three times a week are scheduled for 150 minutes total?

*A:* According to the Registrar's Office classes that meet one-day a week include a built-in fifteen-minute break. Faculty have the option of either ending the class early or taking the break. (This writer has overheard that even a fifteen-minute break is not sufficient for some "to use the cell phone" "to smoke," etc.)

*Q:* Can the Dean's Office help pay for a trip to a professional conference?

*A:* A wise Dr. Wheeler established the following criteria for aiding faculty travel:

The Dean's Office will provide up to \$400 to supplement each faculty member who travels to present on a scholarly topic ... with two caveats:

- Only one trip is supported each year for a given faculty member
- Only as long as money is available ... funds are distributed until they run out.

Since being in this office, the current writer has had the pleasure of granting such assistance to several faculty members. However, the time is quickly approaching that she will have to say "no" to all such requests, as the funds are running out. Yes, the paper or presentation must have been officially accepted before the funds could be encumbered.

## FinlayNotes

**Dr. Tim Berra**, Ohio State University-Mansfield, will be back on the AASU campus to present his lecture "Charles Darwin: The Man, 1809-1882." Dr. Berra last presented this scholarly, entertaining, and well-illustrated talk in 2002. It's time for a repeat performance. February 1, noon, Science 1402.

### Americas Conference and Welsh Visitor

The Office of International Education will again host the annual Conference on the Americas sponsored by the University System of Georgia and its Americas Council. The conference begins at 1:15 p.m. on Friday, February 10 and concludes at 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 11. All sessions are in Solms Hall. There is a reception at 5:00 p.m. on Friday in the Solms Hall Lobby. AASU faculty and students can attend the conference without paying the \$35 conference fee.

The keynote speakers are Julio Parada and Elvis Campos, both from the University of La Serena (Chile). Parada is speaking on "New Gender Issues in Chile: Dealing with the Election of a Female President" while Sr. Campos' topic is "A Look at Chilean Culture through Violeta Parra. Parra is one of the best known Chilean folk singers. Campos will perform some of her works too. Other international speakers attending are from Mexico, Brazil, and Ecuador.

AASU faculty presenting at the conference are Bill Deaver, José da Cruz, and Corie Hammers. Michael Hall is moderating two panel presentations by graduate history students.

In addition, Dr. Jon Roper, Chair of the America Studies Program at the University of Swansea (Wales) will be on campus February 6 and 7. Dr. Roper will be talk to students and faculty about opportunities to study in Wales and also will make a presentation at noon on Monday, February 6 in University Hall entitled "Presidential Power and

the Problem of Precedents" He will focus how the Presidents who are most remembered - Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, FDR - acted in the office in ways that have had problematic consequences when their successors have used the precedents they established for different purposes in different contexts.

### **ESOL Symposium Reminder**

As mentioned last month, the College of Arts and Sciences will host the area's first **English as a Second or Other Language (ESOL) Symposium** on Saturday, 18 February 2005, with registration beginning at 8:30 a.m. in Armstrong Center, Suite 24, and concluding at 11:45 a.m., with optional questions and conversation until 12:15. Refreshments will be provided.

With more than 20 speakers on the agenda, the ESOL Symposium will be a comprehensive gathering of individuals involved in teaching or providing services to the ESOL community in Chatham and surrounding counties. Area ESOL program directors (K-12, post-secondary, adult learners, literacy programs) will be joined by representatives of state and federal agencies, non-profits, religious organizations, and local businesses to exchange information on educational programs and services currently available to the ESOL community. In light of the rapid increase in speakers of other languages in our area, presenters and attendees will begin to identify area needs and possible gaps in instruction and services. To RSVP, or for more information, please contact Carol Anderson at [andersca@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:andersca@mail.armstrong.edu) or Holly Smith [smithhol@mail.armstrong.edu](mailto:smithhol@mail.armstrong.edu).

### **New Faculty Notes**

**Dr. Corie Hammers**, Assistant Professor of Sociology, not only doubles the number sociology professors on the faculty, she also brings new perspectives to the AASU curriculum. Dr. Hammers completed her Ph.D. at the University of Oklahoma in 2005, where her research focused on lesbian/queer public sex and sexualities. The study involved observation and interviews with participants at two sites: the Dinah Shore Weekend event in Palm Springs, California and a lesbian/queer bathhouse in Toronto, Ontario. Dr. Hammers's analysis provides additional insights into the political and social processes that shape female sexuality. One article rooted in this research is currently under review for the journal *Sexualities*, and she plans to continue this research this summer and to publish the larger project as a book. With this background, Hammers already has added to the GWST curriculum, and she has developed new courses on the Sociology of Gender,

the Sociology of Sexuality, and a Special Topics course on Social Stratification.

Dr. Hammers's training also includes a semester at the University of Utrecht's Research School of Women's Studies, and an M.S. in Sociology at Portland State University. Her thesis there examined the sex trade in Asia from postcolonial and feminist perspectives, and uncovered connections between economic globalization and the sex industry. Since coming to AASU, she also has launched a new project in collaboration with Dr. José da Cruz that examines the politics of AIDS in Brazil. This expertise on the sociology of the developing world will also help out one of the AASU Honors Program students, who currently is in Guatemala studying parallel impacts of globalization upon women involved in the coffee trade.

Dr. Hammers also stands out as one of the few Division I athletes on the AASU faculty. She played soccer first for the College of William and Mary, and then for Texas A & M University. Both programs reached the quarterfinals of the NCAA during her tenure.

In contrast, **Dr. Sean Eastman** admits that his research is not especially sexy. Eastman earned his Ph.D. in 2005 from Colorado State University, where he and his advisor are making contributions to the analysis of linearization error for *a-posteriori* error estimates of nonlinear differential equations. Their method extends the power method from linear algebra to a "nonlinear power method," which provides a computationally inexpensive way to analyze the linearization issue. Eastman has won an AASU research and scholarship grant that will support the continuation of this work. In the next year, he and his advisor will publish papers on both the theory and applications of their method. Through this grant and these papers, Eastman hopes to be in a position to seek NSF and other funding in the future, and to make contributions to AASU courses in Numerical Analysis and Real Analysis.

Before developing his interest in the errors of linearization, Eastman served in the Peace Corps in Namibia. Eastman taught high school mathematics in Rundu, a town in the northeastern corner of the country. He also was able to witness the early stages of the nation's independence from South Africa and the dismantling of its apartheid system. His African journey also included a six-day climb to the top of 19,340-foot Mount Kilimanjaro.

## Former Faculty Notes

**Dr. Melissa Read**, Assistant Professor of Psychology at AASU in 2004-05, has published a new book that may be of interest to you and your students. It's entitled *How to Get Out of Grad School: Eight Insights on Finishing Your Master's and Doctorate in Record Time*, and available at [www.melissaread.com](http://www.melissaread.com). The book traces Dr. Read's experiences (she earned a Master's and Ph.D. in Psychology and a Minor in Computer Programming in three years) and those of many other graduate students.

Here is a summary of her eight insights:

- Take an active role in your progress in graduate school.
- Understand and honor departmental politics. Work with them, not against them.
- Stay out of departmental gossip and silliness.
- Learn to say "no" to tasks (including jobs) that will slow your academic progress.
- Choose your research project and strategy wisely. When all else is equal, choose the most rapid method possible.
- Ask for and accept the support, guidance, and encouragement of others.
- Overcome perfectionism. View the thesis and dissertation as your first steps in a life of scholarship, not your final words.
- Ask about and take care of clerical tasks and deadlines.

## Faculty Notes

**Dr. Lucinda Schultz**, AMT, will be receiving a grant of \$6000 over a three-year span from The Endowment Trust to Sustain the Savannah Symphony Orchestra. These funds, along with matching money from the choral program, will be used to bring in a choral group in fall 2006 to correspond with the Southeastern Choral Arts Festival. In addition, it will support the work of musical theatre guest artists to work with music/theatre voice students in spring 2007.

**Dr. Jose de Arimateia da Cruz**, political science, and Eduardo R. Gomez, political science at the Universidade Federal Fluminense, in Nitero, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, have published *Latin America in the New International System: Challenges and Opportunities*. Da Cruz has also recently published a review of Bert Hoffman's *The Politics of the Internet in the Third World* in *The Latin Americanist* 49 (Fall 2005).

## Deadlines and Dates

- Feb 1** Midterm-Session 2
- Feb 3** College Curriculum Committee
- Feb 7** Faculty APARs due to Dept Head; Dept Head APARs due to Dean
- Feb 10-11** Americas Conference
- Feb 11** Open House
- Feb 12** Diane Sellers' Birthday
- Feb 17** Fern Illidge's Birthday
- Feb 17** Faculty Lecture-Olavi Arens
- Feb 24** College Curriculum Committee
- Feb 27** Last Day of Class, Session 2
- Mar 1** Midterm-Session 1
- Mar 2-4** Womens' Studies Conference
- Mar 13-18** Spring Break