

# DEANotes

March 7, 2006

Vol. V, No. 5

## Wheeler/WongNotes

### Three years of Savannah-Ogeechee Regional Science and Engineering Fair ...Thank you faculty members and External Affairs

Despite several decades of excellence, 2001 found the Savannah-Ogeechee Regional Science and Engineering Fair (SORSEF) without a home. Concerned folks in the community contacted the College of A&S and begged for help. We responded that we certainly could provide faculty support and the university could provide space, but we did not have the resources to provide logistical support to "run" the operation. We turned to Dr. Leary Bell and External Affairs, and they agreed to provide the missing piece, a graduate assistant who would serve as the Director of the SORSEF under the capable guidance of Letty Shearer and the SORSEF Committee comprised of seven AASU faculty and staff members.

February 14-16 of 2006 found the Armstrong Sports Arena full of the labors of over 200 high school and middle school scientists representing 32 schools in eleven counties. Some 30 Armstrong faculty members, representing the departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Psychology, Health Sciences, Nursing, and the School of Computing helped judge the event. A&S's Todd Hizer served on the SORSEF Committee, and several A&S faculty presented in the awards ceremony. Heidi Hulsey, the graduate assistant Director of this event for two years, ensured that the fair was the largest yet in terms of student and school participation. Thank you all.

The location of the SORSEF at the AASU campus certainly seems to mesh right in with the day-to-day work of many A&S faculty and students. Individual research projects have become one of the hallmarks of many of our majors. By our estimates, over 100 AASU students leave campus each year to present their individual and small group projects at student and professional conferences in various disciplines. Many of these projects could also be viewed at AASU's Annual Student Scholarship Symposium.

## FinlayNotes

### Savannah Reads

The Third annual Savannah Read will take place from April 3 to 6. This year's book is *Mortal Lessons: Notes on the Art of Surgery* by Richard Selzer. Events include:

#### **All week special exhibition, Lane Library**

**Monday, April 3:** Across-the-Curriculum Discussion, Noon, University Hall 156.

Faculty from various disciplines will discuss selected essays from *Mortal Lessons*.

**Tuesday, April 4:** Stage Reading of Richard Selzer, 7pm, location to be determined.

Enjoy this stage version of Selzer's *Doctor Stories*, performed by Armstrong's Masquers.

**Wednesday, April 5:** Student-Led Community Book Club Discussion, Noon, University Hall 156. Join with other students and community members in this conversation about the essays in *Mortal Lessons*.

**Thursday, April 6:** Presentation and Grand Rounds by Dr. Selzer at Memorial Health University Medical Center

**Thursday, April 6:** "Richard Selzer Himself, Doctor as Writer", 7pm, Fine Arts Center Auditorium. Selzer will discuss his experiences as doctor and writer. He will be available for a question and answer session as well as a book signing following the event.

For more information, see [www.faculty.Armstrong.edu/read.htm](http://www.faculty.Armstrong.edu/read.htm)



## New Faculty Notes

**Angela Ryczkowski**, Assistant Professor of Art, brings energy and creativity to AASU's offerings in graphic design, computer art, and a newly created course in typography. Professor Ryczkowski completed a Masters in Fine Arts from Georgia Southern University, a program that included study abroad opportunities in France and significant experiences at the Georgia Southern Museum. Beyond the normal academic conventions, Professor Ryczkowski also boasts a "Ducktorate" degree from Disney University at Walt Disney World, part of a corporate training program that developed young leaders and community volunteers.

In her MFA thesis exhibition (which combined her own graphic art with a written thesis), Ryczkowski addressed the objectification of the body as a theme in American print advertising. While Americans in general have grown heavier and a bit taller in recent years, advertising's images have depicted women as much taller and thinner. This inconsistency, among other examples of the use of utopian imagery and themes in American advertising, fosters an anxiety among consumers that impels them to purchase goods beyond necessity and their economic means. Ryczkowski presented some of her own graphic works at last weekend's Gender and Women's Studies Conference, where she urged listeners to be more aware of exploitative and gratuitous forms of advertising. With greater awareness and engagement, consumers may learn to reject such advertising strategies.

From this background, it is understandable that Professor Ryczkowski's courses address the digital artist's responsibility to consider the ethical implications of their work. Ryczkowski also has made a contribution to her teaching through a Teaching and Learning Grant, which will enable her to bring to campus the innovative and internationally renowned typographer David Carson. Through these efforts, AASU students are becoming better prepared to find their place in a culture in which advertisers bombard each American with 3000 images every single day.



**Pam Sears**, Assistant Professor of Theatre, joined the tenure-track faculty this year after several years of work for AASU in adjunct and temporary positions. In this capacity, Sears already has directed numerous Masquers productions, including *Little Shop of Horrors*, *Oleanna* (which co-starred AASU Professor Peter Mellen), and the memorable *Orgasmo Adulto: Escapes from the Zoo*. Like many in the field, she

began her career with classical training and has performed in dozens of serious dramatic productions for theatre companies in Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. She also had the chance to work with some Hollywood producers, most notably in the 1994 film *The War*. In this experience (Roger Ebert gave it only 2 stars, but he had very high praise for the acting), she worked as a stand-in for Elijah Wood while the young actor was in school.

She has become convinced, though, that many of the career opportunities for actors and actresses are in commercials, instructional videos, and other forms of real-world communication. To that end, her teaching specialty has become "acting for the camera" and other techniques that train students to market themselves for those who hire and pay for their skills. (Indeed, while I was in her office, her student Jeffrey Hill came in with a report of his recent role in a U. S. Army video on sexual harassment and his prospects for additional jobs. Another recent graduate Jennifer Hagan appeared in a February episode of *America's Most Wanted*. And no, she was not the actual suspect.) In what seems like a previous life, Sears appeared in commercials for the *Atlanta Journal/Constitution* and Hardee's, an industrial training film for Chick-fil-A, and a public service announcement on safety for the South Carolina Department of Transportation.

Sears also has won an AASU Teaching and Learning Grant that allowed her to develop initiatives in "performance-based career planning." Through this grant, students were able to meet casting directors from Los Angeles and Atlanta, a process that may lead to additional employment opportunities for Armstrong theatre students. Influenced by her interest in natural and stylized physical rhythms, Sears' future research goals include investigating the actor's potential (and limitations) with green screen and motion capture technology. She ultimately hopes to incorporate this into her camera acting course sequence.



Temporary Instructor of English **Pat West** has the privilege to serve as Director of the Coastal Georgia Writing Project as her primary job duty. The Coastal Georgia Writing Project is one of 189 similar sites in the nation, each of which is committed to improving writing and learning in the nation's schools. Its principal annual project is to organize summer institutes for those who teach in local schools and universities, where participants develop their own skills as writers and master techniques that can effectively improve writing for the full range of disciplines and grade levels. AASU faculty might

benefit from the National Writing Project's interesting booklet "30 Ideas for Teaching Writing," and other resources, available free at [www.writingproject.org](http://www.writingproject.org). (Seriously--it has several good ideas). Another basic part of the CGWP Director's job is to lobby for funds, an effort that requires an annual trip to Washington and good communication with Georgia's Senators and Congressmen

West comes to AASU with an M. Ed. from Georgia Southern University and nineteen years experience in the public schools. There she became convinced of the literal power of the slogan "write for life." Indeed, she found that learning to take writing seriously could change a student's life, and in one case it helped prevent a suicide. Professor West then participated in and consulted for Coastal Georgia Writing Project institutes and workshops led by its previous directors, Dr. Pat Fox and Dr. Nancy Remler. (Dr. Fox, incidentally, has moved on to become a national field director for the National Writing Project). In her role as director, Professor West has been responsible for several initiatives, including a Fall Workshop and an African American Read-In Luncheon that featured the works of Toni Morrison, Jamaica Kincaid, Gloria Naylor, and other authors. On April 9, both Kincaid, (Visiting Professor at Harvard; author of *Lucy* and seven other novels), and Gaylor (author of *The Women of Brewster Place* and five other novels) will be in Savannah for a roundtable discussion of "Literary Voices of the African Diaspora." It also is notable that West once edited a nationally-distributed newsletter entitled *The Measuring Cup* that took a serious look at signs of cultural bias in various employment and academic tests.

### Upcoming Lectures

**Jerry Silverman**, CJSPS, along with Dr. Andrea Silverman, and Dr. Krista Wiegand, Professor of Political Science at Georgia Southern University will be discussing the history, purpose, and local impact of the World Bank in a public Forum that commemorates the 60th anniversary of the first meeting of the Executive Directors of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund in Savannah in 1946. Entitled *The World Bank at 60!*, this forum takes place at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 8, 2006 at the Unitarian Universalist Church, downtown. For more information, please contact Caroline Hopkinson at 236-3117.

**Steven Brower**, Associate Director of the Curtis and Elizabeth Anderson Cancer Institute, will speak on "Understanding Who is at Risk for Cancer" March 27 at noon in Solms 110.

### Faculty/Student Notes

**Becky da Cruz** and **John Kearnes**, both CJSPS, presented a paper entitled "Mooting as Pedagogy" at the American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning meeting in Washington, DC.

**Lucinda Schultz**, AMT, presented a lecture recital "Music of the Georgia Colony" as a part of the Georgia Historical Society's Georgia Days 2006.

Students and faculty from the Economics Department had a strong showing at the annual meetings of the Academy of Economics and Finance in Houston:

Economics student **Sarah Beth Link's** paper, "Determinants of State Level Abortion Rates, 2000" was recognized by the Academy as the Distinguished Undergraduate Research Paper at the conference. **Jeri Bice**, also an economics major, presented a paper, "Team Production and Labor Productivity in an Architectural Firm."

**Rick McGrath** was elected to serve as the Academy's Second Vice President. McGrath and **Mike Toma** will serve as co-local arrangements chairs for the Academy's meeting in Jacksonville, FL in 2007. Toma serves as the chair of the review committee for the Distinguished Undergraduate Research Paper competition.

AASU faculty presented the following papers: **Rick McGrath** and co-author **Mike Toma** presented "Determinants of Smoking Behavior among University Students and the Implications for Cessation Programs"; **Mike Toma** and student coauthor **Jay Kawamoto** presented "Determinants of Business and Establishment Growth in Virginia, 2001-2003"; **Andy Weinbach** presented "Consumer Behavior at the Track."

**Scott Mateer**, Biology, presented a poster and talk at the 2005 Annual American Society of Cell Biology Meeting in San Francisco, CA in December entitled "AIQGAP1-Stimulated Actin Assembly Linked to Growth Factor Receptor Activation."

**Yuxin Ma**, History, recently presented a paper entitled "Imagining the Peripheries of the China Proper: Non-Han People in Jin Yong's Martial Arts Novels," at the Southeast Conference of Association of Asian Studies in Atlanta.

The following faculty and staff attended the 2006 SOTAB (State of the Art in Biology) Conference in February: **Judy Awong-Taylor, Brett Larson, Jennifer Zettler, Gail Wynn, Scott Mateer, Don Emmeluth, Britta Swanson, and Mr. Laurent Guillou.** Dr. Awong-Taylor and Dr. Zettler serve on the SOTAB Organizing Committee. Dr. Larson and Dr. Mateer judged posters. Dr. Awong-Taylor, Dr. Zettler, **Dr. Katherine Craven,** and Dr. Swanson submitted a total of four posters that showcased some of the most recent undergraduate research projects conducted in the Biology Department.

**John Kearnes, Becky da Cruz,** both CJSPS, and **Liz Colas,** AMT, along with several local attorneys, coached two teams from Armstrong for the National Moot Court Tournament held on January 20th and 21st at the University of Texas at Arlington. AASU came in 4th out of 23 universities that competed in the competition. **Adam Morrison** was the 12th best orator out of 144 student competitors. **Nick Estridge, Brian Dotson,** and **Megan Herbert** also competed in this national tournament for the first time.

**Dr. Mark Budden,** and **Dr. Sungkon Chang,** Mathematics, presented talks at the American Mathematical Society Annual Meeting in San Antonio. Dr. Budden's talk was entitled "Local Coefficient Matrices and Shimura's Correspondence." Dr. Chang's talk was entitled "Quadratic Twists of an Elliptic Curve with Small Selmer Rank."

**Dr. Lorrie Hoffman,** Professor and Head of the Mathematics Department, recently published along with co-authors **Dr. Cynthia Hutchinson** and **Elayne Reiss** of the University of Central Florida the article "Training Teachers in Classroom Management: Evidence of Positive Effects on the Behavior of Difficulty Children," in *the Journal of the Southeastern Regional Association of Teacher Educators.*



### Deadlines and Dates

- March 10** Research and Scholarship Symposium abstracts due
- Mar 13-18** Spring Break
- Mar 20** Deadline for Curricular Items
- Mar 20** AASU Faculty meeting
- Mar 24** Faculty Lecture by Dr. Fertig
- Mar 24** A & S Curriculum Committee
- Mar 27-April 2** Armstrongfest
- Mar 31** Teaching and Learning Symposium
- Apr 1** Spring Open House
- Apr 3** Advisement for Summer & Fall begins
- Apr 4-7** Research and Scholarship Symposium, UH Atrium
- Apr 5** Registration for Summer & Fall begins
- Apr 9** Phi Kappa Phi installation and induction
- Apr 9** MACAS ceremony
- Apr 11** Retention Recommendations for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Faculty due



Happy St. Patrick's Day