

Office of the Dean  
College of Arts & Sciences

# DEANotes

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## WongNotes

### Thank you for a great semester!

As Dr. Finlay and I prepare this quasi-regular publication, many of you are busily preparing for the end of the semester: papers to be read, exams to be prepared and graded, grades to be calculated and submitted, commencement, and perhaps planning for a little R & R before the summer session starts (or summer activities begin in earnest).

One of my greatest pleasures this semester was learning about the many accomplishments of our faculty, students, and future colleagues in the CAS. From those of you who participated in events ranging from the African-American Read-In, to a conference on the Americas, to helping those who've lost their homes to the hurricanes rebuild, to the regional science fair, mathematics tournament, and high school juried art exhibition which brought hundreds of young people and their teachers and parents to our campus, to the many fine musical and theatrical performances offered on the *Southside's Cultural Center*, to sponsoring faculty and staff field trips, to networking with business and community leaders on our behalf, to organizing and hosting the annual Gender and Women's Studies Conference and the Savannah Reads activities, to providing our students with Learning Support and tutoring services, to bringing academic and service honor societies to us, to supporting the scholarly activities of students and colleagues in the COE, CHP, and the School of Computing, to partnering with our sister institutions and P-12 institutions to reform science and math education, ... there are just too many for me to count without running out of space or excluding someone...thank you!!! Most of all, *thank you to our unsung heroes who day after day and semester after semester teach in our classrooms, advise our students, plug away at scholarly projects, and serve our academic community in countless ways.* Thank you to all who've expanded the horizons of your Interim Dean, who knew nothing about most things when she started in this post, and now knows a little

more about a variety of things (and also that there are many

more things she still knows nothing about) that intersect with A & S. She is exhausted contemplating all that you do, but is grateful for the education you provided her.

### Thank You For 101 Years

As we contemplate the next academic year, we also bid farewell, with sadness and joy, to four stalwarts in A & S: **Dr. Deanna Cross**, who served us for 17 years, most recently as Assistant Dean for Adult Academic Services and the University's "search queen," **Dr. Laurent J. Guillou, Jr.**, who served for thirty-five years as Professor of Biology, **Dr. William L. Megathlin**, who for 33 years wore many hats, including that of Director of (what's known today as) Learning Support, Head of the Department of CJSPPS, and most recently Special Assistant to the President for Strategic Initiatives, and **Dr. Ken Relyea**, who served us for 16 years as Professor of Biology and as Department Head for most of those years. We are saddened that we will not have the benefits of these years of wisdom in our midst, but are glad Drs. Megathlin and Relyea will continue to serve us part-time and joyful that each will now have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their years of labor.

### ... and welcome to Dr. Judy Awong-Taylor

as Dr. Relyea transitions to retirement and part-time teaching, we are pleased that the Department of Biology will continue to be under the capable leadership of **Dr. Awong-Taylor**, a veteran of the Biology Department who began duties as Interim Head during the fall of '05. Dr. Awong-Taylor has shepherded scores of students' scholarly presentations at local, regional, and national conferences, was a recent winner of the Propst Award, and plays a leadership role in the State of the Art in Biology Organizing Committee. We belatedly welcome her to the A & S leadership team!

### **A New Hat For Dr. Hopkins**

We are pleased to announce that Dr. June Hopkins, who served this academic year as Interim Head of the Department of History, will be losing the "Interim" from her title this July. Dr. Hopkins is a 20<sup>th</sup> century United States social and political historian with particular expertise in the New Deal and the emergence of the American welfare system.

Last month, Dr. Hopkins participated in the keynote panel discussion on the history of American and British relations at the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee. Fellow panelists included former Senator Howard Baker and Winston S. Churchill (the grandson).

### **Capital Ideas**

Don't forget to submit ideas for the Capital Campaign to your Department Heads in time for her/him to get them to me by graduation. Remember to think big ....

### **Good News about Faculty Pay**

President Jones has announced an increase in the faculty salary raises that come with promotion. For promotion to Associate Professor, base pay will increase by \$2000. For promotion to Full Professor, base pay will increase by \$2500. Thank you, Dr. Jones!

## **FinlayNotes**

### **Women's Studies Conference**

For the fourth time, Teresa Winterhalter and the AASU Gender and Women's Studies Program hosted a conference that offered community leaders, AASU students and faculty, and scholars from around the country to engage in a stimulating conference and dialogue. Twelve AASU students participated in the student panels, and the following AASU faculty members presented papers: Angela Ryczkowski and Liz Desnoyers-Colas, both AMT; Pat West, Karen Hollinger, Tom Cooksey, Uzzie Cannon, Ana Torres, Carol Andrews, Jack Simmons, Margarete Froelicher-Grundman, and Holly Smith, all LLP; Nancy White, June Hopkins, and Yuxin Ma, all History; and Corie Hammers, Becky da Cruz, and José da Cruz, all CJSPS. Thanks to these and all others who supported this important event.

### **Reminder about Grades and Confidentiality**

At this time of year, all faculty should remember that it is inappropriate to send grades and other confidential information by email. Since we cannot be sure that the student is the one who actually

controls and sees an email account (particularly those accounts that are not issued by AASU), there is plenty of risk that someone other than the student will have access to confidential information.

## **Student Notes**

**Sarah Beth Link**, a senior Economics and Honors Program student, has single-authored a paper entitled "Do Government Purchases Crowd Out Investment?" accepted for publication in the *International Review Of Economics and Business*.

## **Faculty Notes**

**Dr. Sabrina Hessinger**, mathematics and PRISM, has been chosen for *The Business Report & Journal's* Seventh Annual "40 under 40" special issue. Along with 39 other young business leaders throughout the Savannah community, Dr. Hessinger was spotlighted in the March 13th issue.

**Lee Williams**, History, presented "In the General Interest of Work: Jonathan Clarkson Gibbs and the Board of Mission for Freedmen in North and South Carolina," at the Association of African American History, Research, and Preservation Conference in Seattle.

**Dr. Lorrie Hoffman**, Professor and Head of the Department of Mathematics, mentored Jenkins High School senior Julia Yu in the data design, experiment and analysis of her project "Use of Queueing Theory on Traffic Systems: A Case-Study in Savannah, Georgia." The purpose of the project was to assess the impact of the traffic light to be installed on Arts Drive and Abercorn Street.

**Richard Wallace**, Chemistry and Physics, is one of the collaborators in a two-year \$300,000 grant funded by the United States Department of Agriculture. The project will enable schoolteachers to gain hands-on experience in biotechnology topics, establish biotechnology facilities in schools, and help teachers implement this information into their curriculum. Other participants include faculty members from Fort Valley State University, Clemson University, the University of Rhode Island, and the Karmanos Cancer Institute at Wayne State University.

**Lucinda Schultz**, AMT, and six of her applied voice students, recently participated in the annual NATS Spring Conference and Student Auditions at Mercer University in Macon. Two AASU singers garnered top honors at these statewide Auditions; Matthew

Jones, tenor, placed second in the category: 4th Year College Men and Jonas Boyd, tenor, placed first in the category: Beginning Adult Men and earned a performance spot for the conference's Honors Recital.

**Becky da Cruz**, CJSPS, presented a program on how to develop an undergraduate moot court program at the Mitchell McConnell Center at the University of Louisville as part of its political leadership forum.

**Tom Cooksey**, LLP, has published *Masterpieces of Philosophical Literature*. He also has a contract for the next book, *Masterpieces of Non-Western World Literature*.

**Richard J. Cebula** and **Michael Toma**, Economics, have published "Preliminary Evidence on the Allocation of U.S. Army Deaths from Operation Iraqi Freedom," *Atlantic Economic Journal* (March 2006): 3-14, and "Determinants of Geographic Differentials in the Voter Participation Rate," *Atlantic Economic Journal* (March 2006): 33-40.

**Sabritra Brush**, Chemistry & Physics, has been awarded grants totaling over \$85,000 to support her efforts to enhance science education in Savannah-Chatham County. These awards will enable her to offer courses, free of charge, to elementary and middle school science teachers who want to become more effective in the teaching of science.



### Deadlines and Dates

- May 2** 9a.m. Senior Grades Due
- May 5** Ideas for the Capital Campaign due to Wong from Department Heads
- May 6** Commencement, 10a.m.
- May 11** Final Grades Due
- May 31** Registration for Summer School
- June 1** Classes start - sessions A, B, and C