

Office of the Dean  
College of Arts & Sciences

# DEANNotes



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## WheelerNotes

### Many Thanks, Dr. Douglass:

Some 18 years ago a thirteen old girl with braces and pigtails found her way to Dr. Keith Douglass' office seeking help with a science project. It will surprise no one to learn that within weeks the child had a whole colony of white rats prospering in her parents' garage and that the family, aspiring scientist, brother, father and mother, were occupied caring for the creatures for the next several months. However, the project was completed and judged positively at all the places in the state that such projects go. The trip to Dr. Douglass' office was repeated the next year ... and the next year ... and as a consequence the young woman won a trip to the International Science Fair, scheduled that year in Nashville, Tennessee. More importantly, she learned a great deal about science. Indeed, last week she walked across a stage in Athens, Georgia and received her Ph.D. in Science Education. She learned much along the way, but had no more important experience in science than the three years of tutelage by Dr. Douglass.

I note that Dr. Douglass graduated on June 30, 2006. On that date, he officially retired from Armstrong Atlantic State University, though he will stay around on a part-time basis for one more year to impact one more generation of Armstrong students. Many generations of students and many generations of colleagues have much for which to thank Dr. Douglass. However, I thought it appropriate at this time to thank Dr. Douglass for his labors on behalf of my daughter, Jodi Wheeler-Toppen, who learned much those many years ago.

## WongNotes

### Welcome Back, Dr. Wheeler!

By the time most of you are reading this, Dr. Ed Wheeler will be back at the helm of the College of Arts and Sciences. We look forward to the upcoming academic year under the leadership of the Wheeler/Finlay team. On behalf of the College, I

would like to thank Dr. Wheeler for working so hard over the last six to seven months with the upper administration, his academic deans, and faculty committees on several key developments that should directly benefit the faculty:

Advanced Academic Research Leave. Dr. Jones identified funds to award at least one such leave in the Spring Semesters of 2007, 2008, 2009, should there be strong proposals. The leave would allow the faculty member to be compensated for a semester while s/he completes a scholarly project unfettered by the day-to-day obligations of teaching and service. Proposals for Spring, 2007 will be due this fall.

Gignilliat Summer Faculty Research Fellowship. Since the inception of this endowment, Gignilliat funds have supported faculty members in a variety of scholarly and creative efforts. This spring, at the recommendation of the Faculty Development Committee, the fellowship has been revamped to focus on supporting faculty during the summer for scholarly and creative activities. Recipients of the award will receive 9% of their current base academic salary to devote time to a project. The first competition for these awards will occur this fall for the summer of 2007.

Dr. Jones made funds available to correct some of the pay inequities that have existed in the University. We thank Dr. Wheeler for working with the Deans, who in turn worked with their Department Heads, in this endeavor.

### Dr. Lynch Steps Into A New Position

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Will Lynch has accepted the position of Department Head of Chemistry and Physics. He will officially begin his duties on July 1, 2006. As many of you know, Dr. Lynch has served AASU since 1993, and is very well regarded for his mentoring of individual students, strong record of scholarship, and active involvement in the American Chemical Society. We look forward

to his service in his new capacity and welcome him to the College of Arts and Sciences leadership team.

## FinlayNotes

### Learning Communities Update

Greg Anderson and his staff have been working furiously to fill the Freshman Learning Communities. Thus far, communities # 1 (Intro to the Health Professions-Biology), #3 (World of Science) and #7 (Exploring the World) are full. Communities #2 (Intro to the Health Professions-Chemistry) and #8 (Building a Strong Foundation) are nearly so. Seats are available in #4 (Engineering Studies), #5 (The Artist Inside), and #6 (Intro to the Teaching Profession). If you happen to be advising an entering freshman at CHAOS or elsewhere in the next few weeks, please mention this possibility to those who might be interested. Thanks to all faculty and staff who have helped with this effort.

### Some Thoughts of Withdrawals after Midterm

The College of A & S policy on withdrawals after midterm reads: "Students with unusual medical or personal hardships that occur after midterm may appeal to receive the grade of W when withdrawing after midterm. Such permission should be granted only with the signature of the faculty member, and should not be approved for students who simply face academic difficulties." I typically insist on documentation for medical and other excuses, and I keep an eye on the dates of the circumstances that force students to request a withdrawal. In addition, I check to make sure that the "unusual medical or personal hardships" affected all of their classes, not just the ones that they choose.

### Some Notes from National Science Foundation Day

About a dozen AASU faculty members attended NSF Day at Georgia Southern University in April. One of the presenters was AASU Associate Professor of Computer Science Mark Burge, who is in the middle of his term at the NSF as Program Director of the Division of Undergraduate Education. Among other things, this means that we have someone to call in the office that is most likely to fund grants at smaller universities like AASU. In particular, this program encourages new coursework or teaching modules that open new areas of undergraduate research in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

In addition, presenters made these points:

- First-time applicants have a relatively good chance of being funded.
- Grants are awarded to universities, not

individuals. This means that universities have final say over how funds are spent, and funds do not automatically follow the faculty member if she/he moves to another institution.

- "My NSF" (at [www.nsf.gov/mynsf/](http://www.nsf.gov/mynsf/)) is a slick way to keep informed of new grant opportunities that most interest you.
- A good way to learn about the process is to serve as a reviewer of other proposals. Several AASU professors have done so in recent years.
- Deadlines are enforced absolutely.
- Those who do not apply have a failure rate of 100%.



## Faculty Notes

### Faculty Presentations and Publications

**Karen Hollinger**, languages, literature & philosophy, has had her third book, *The Actress: Hollywood Acting and the Female Star*, published by Routledge Press.

**Alex Collier**, biology, **Stephen Taylor**, psychology, V. Nair, & **Jennifer Zettler**, biology presented their poster "Risk of predation influences the development of *Rana pipiens* tadpoles," at the annual meeting of the Florida Academy of Sciences, Melbourne, FL, in March.

**Sara Farrell**, psychology, & L. M. Finkelstein (2006, May) presented their paper "Coworker Perceptions of Distributive Justice in Response to Rewarded Organizational Citizenship Behavior: The Role of Attributions," at the 18th Annual Convention of the Association for Psychological Science, New York, NY, in May.

**Jonathan Roberts**, psychology, & **Nancy Remler**, languages, literature, & philosophy, presented their poster "Communication with Students: Consolidation of an Honors Database," at the annual conference of the Southern Regional Honors Conference, Orlando, FL, in April.

**Vann Scott**, psychology, presented his poster "Rubric Creation as Professional Development," at the annual meeting of the Association for Psychological Science and the Society for the

Teaching of Psychology Teaching Institute, New York, NY, in May.

**Lorrie Hoffman**, mathematics, delivered the talk "Some Cautions on Applying the EM Algorithm to a Quality Assessment Application," at the 2006 Joint Research Conference on Statistics in Quality, Industry and Technology, in Knoxville, TN.

**Lee Williams**, history, published "Leave the pulpit and go into the school room: Jonathan Clarkson Gibbs and the Board of Missions for Freedmen in North and South Carolina, 1856-66," in *Southern Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal of the South*, New Series, Volume 13 (Spring/Summer 2006): 89-104.

**Cathy MacGowan**, chemistry & physics, presented "Organizing and Running a Departmental Community Outreach Program in the Physical Sciences," at the Enriching the Academic Experience of College Science Students conference in May at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor.

**Bill Deaver**, languages, literature & philosophy, and **Ana Torres** made presentations at the V Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica in Lima, Peru in March. Deaver presented "El retablo de las maravillas: mensajes crípticos para un pueblo invisible." Torres presented "El bolero como fenómeno social en La última noche que pasé contigo." In April they also took a group of Sigma Delta Pi Hispanic Honor Society students to hear Peruvian author Mario Vargas Llosa, the Ellman Distinguished Lecturer at Emory University, give a talk on Spanish philosopher Ortega y Gasset.

**Tom Cooksey**, languages, literature & philosophy, presented his paper, "Human Aspects: A Wittgensteinian Reading of the Beast Fable," at the American Comparative Literature Association in March, at Princeton University, part of a three day seminar "stream" on "The Animal Other in Literature, the Arts, and Culture."

**Suzy Carpenter and Richard Wallace**, chemistry & physics, presented "Student Resource CD for Organic Chemistry" at the ACS meeting in Atlanta in March. They also published "A Quick and Easy Simplification of Benzocaine's NMR Spectrum" in *Journal of Chemical Education* 83 (April 2006): 637.

**Cathy MacGowan**, chemistry & physics, presented a poster and participated in a symposium in the Chemical Education Division of the ACS spring national meeting in Atlanta. Her symposium talk was "Lessons Learned: Insights on Organizing and

Running a Successful Departmental Community Outreach Program," and the poster presentation was "Melding Chemistry with Geology: Across-disciplinary Program of Study for Middle/Secondary Grade Educators."

**Delana Nivens**, chemistry & physics, was invited to speak at the Nanoscale Science and Engineering Symposium at the Materials Research Society's spring national meeting in San Francisco in April. Her paper, "Infusion of Nanotechnology in Chemistry Courses Through Laboratory Designed Vertical Threads" which included **Will Lynch** and ten undergraduate students as coauthors, has been published in *Materials Research Society Symposium Proceedings* 931 (2006).

**Carolyn Smith**, mathematics, spoke on "Searching for the Algebra Lighthouse – Then and Now" at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual University System of the Georgia Learning Support Conference on St. Simons Island in April.

**Dr. Kathryn Craven**, biology, presented "Microbial Populations Associated With unhatched Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*) Eggs: A Comparison of Traditional and Molecular Identification Techniques" at the 26th International Symposium on Sea Turtle Biology and Conservation, in April in Crete, Greece.

**Dr. Judy Awong-Taylor**, biology, gave a talk entitled "The Invisible World Around Us" at the Week of the Young Child Conference on April 21st.

**Dr. Don Emmeluth**, biology, and **Dr. Cathy MacGowan**, chemistry & physics, gave a talk entitled "Science on a Shoestring at the Week of the Young Child Conference on April 21st.

**Dr. Scott Mateer**, biology, and **Dr. Brent Feske**, chemistry & physics, hosted a successful Biocatalysis Symposium on Friday, April 28th. Dr. Jon Stewart from the University of Florida gave a talk and students from Dr. Mateer's molecular biology class presented posters detailing the results of their molecular biology course projects.



## Faculty-Student Presentations

### Student presentations at the Association for Psychological Science meeting

"Two-Dimensional Versus Three-Dimensional Maps: Sex Interacts With Ability to Orient" Laurie Graham, **Jonathan E. Roberts**

"Effects of Verbal Encoding on Sex Differences in Incidental Memory" Julie Skutch, Beth Nelson, Diane Rogers, Jeannie Zwolinski, **Stephen A. Taylor**

"Effects of Self-Awareness and Self-Consciousness on Stereotyped Behavior" Kristen L. VonWaldner, **Vann B. Scott, Jr.**

J. Zwolinski, E. Cook, & **Sara Farrell** presented "Expectations and Rewards for Organizational Citizenship Behavior," at the 31st Annual Carolinas Psychology Conference, Raleigh, NC, in April.

**Brent Feske** and **Kelly Elkins**, chemistry & physics, presented posters at the American Chemical Society (ACS) national meeting in Atlanta in March. **Elkins** and **Matthew Dickerson**, biology major and chemistry minor student, presented "Flourescence spectroscopy study of Suwannee River fulvic acid complexation with Al(III) and comparative metal ions."

**Jenny Wheeler**, chemistry post-bac student, and **Elkins**, presented "Understanding the specificity of risperidone binding to catecholamine receptors."

**Jeremy Hammond**, chemistry student, and **Feske** delivered "Steroselective, biocatalytic reductions of b-keto nitriles using engineered E. coli."

## Deadlines and Dates

<b>July 18</b>	Summer FARS due
<b>July 29</b>	CHAOS III
<b>July 31</b>	Final Grades Due, Session A
<b>Aug 4</b>	Final Grades Due, Session D
<b>Aug 7</b>	CHAOS IV
<b>Aug 9</b>	Academic Council
<b>Aug 10</b>	AASU Faculty Meeting
<b>Aug 11</b>	Faculty Workshops
<b>Aug 14-15</b>	Registration and Advisement
<b>Aug 16</b>	First Day of Class
<b>Aug 25</b>	Name Reps to College Curr and T&P Comm
<b>Ag 28</b>	Fall CIRs/Pay Reports Due
<b>Aug 31</b>	Off campus travel reports due
<b>Sept 1</b>	Nominations for Emeriti faculty due
<b>Sept 1</b>	Faculty Forum
<b>Sept 4</b>	Labor Day-one day only
<b>Sept 15</b>	Scholarship of Teaching Roundtable
<b>Oct 12-14</b>	Fall Break

