

Office of the Dean
College of Arts & Sciences

DEANotes

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WheelerNotes



Campus-Wide Conversation on ECore

In the April faculty meeting the University Curriculum Committee recommended to the faculty that Armstrong Atlantic State University join six sister institutions in becoming an Ecore institution. Lively discussion followed, and the motion was tabled because of lateness of the hour. In order to provide all desired information and allow full discussion of this issue, Dr. Whitford and the academic deans have worked to schedule a special all-faculty conversation on this issue on *Wednesday, August 30 at 3:00 pm in UH 157*. Two important notes:

- Dr. Nancy Thompson and Jessica Sommers, the leadership team for Ecore, will travel from Athens to be present at the meeting so that full information will be available.
- The meeting will not only be for information; it will be perfectly appropriate to express concerns and/or support in the discussion

We will then bring this motion back to the floor in the September faculty meeting for a vote.

African-American Studies Minor:

The loss of Dr. Cannon to our community was a setback to our efforts to launch our African-American studies minor on our campus. We will miss Dr. Cannon both personally and professionally. However, we do have three pieces of very good news relative to this effort.

- In June the University System of Georgia gave the final approval to our African-American Studies minor. This was too late to make the current catalog (See page 127 for what we were able to include), but the minor exists nonetheless.
- Dr. Cathy Adams has graciously agreed to be coordinator of the minor in African-American Studies for this inaugural year of the program. Thank you, Dr. Adams.

- Dr. Desnoyers-Colas has agreed to join our coordinating committee. She joins Drs. Cathy Adams, José da Cruz, Mark Finlay, David Leaver, Zaphon Wilson, and Lea Williams on this important committee. Thank you all.

From Plant Operations to Art Studios

Last week our plant operations staff began the pilgrimage to their new space behind the Armstrong Center. Almost immediately we will begin a two-step renovation of Plant Operations Building to support our burgeoning art program. Step one will be a \$600,000 renovation to retrofit part of the space with two classrooms, two offices, and two ADA compliant bathrooms. This renovation is funded and is scheduled to be completed by January 2007 ... but we know how construction schedules slip. Step two will allow us to create a suite of spaces to support our excellent ceramics program and to create project laboratories for engineering students. We are still seeking funding for this step.

FinlayNotes

Filmmaker on Campus

On September 21 and 22, documentary filmmaker Ellen Perry will be on campus to discuss her award-winning film, *The Fall of Fujimori*. Described as a “character-driven, political thriller,” the film is the result of Fujimori’s first interviews since his fall from power as president of Peru. The film traces Fujimori’s rise to power, his controversial and Machiavellian tactics once in office, and his life in exile since he resigned in disgrace, through a letter he faxed to the Peruvian Congress in November 2000.

Her work is pertinent for non-Peruvian scholars as well. According to *Variety* magazine, “without comment, Perry allows the viewer to draw his own parallels between the current U.S. war on terror and the one Fujimori waged.” Perry also is known for her award-winning 1997 film, *Great Wall*

Across the Yangtze, an unauthorized study of the Three Gorges Dam.

Details of her visit are unsettled, but we hope to invite her to deliver a public lecture and to schedule several opportunities to meet with faculty and students. Let me know if you are interested in having her visit your class.

Constitution Day

On Friday, September 15 at noon in room 156 UH, Dr. John Kearnes, CJSPS, will present a lecture entitled, "We 'Builded' it Better than We Knew: The Conspiracy of the Fourteenth Amendment," as part of the annual Constitution Day event. In addition, the Department of CJSPS also will present the film entitled *A More Perfect Union* on Wednesday September 13, at noon in room 156 UH sponsored by P.A.D. A pizza lunch is planned for the students who attend this event. If you have any questions please call Dr. Zaphon Wilson at X5938.

Bird Flu Group

For several months, a group of AASU faculty have been chatting about the dangerous strain of the avian flu and its potential impact across several disciplines. We see this as a good chance for interdisciplinary collaboration among faculty members, and an opportunity for teaching a common topic in a large number of classes. Committee members represent the disciplines of nursing, biology, history, mathematics, information technology, education, respiratory therapy, and health sciences. We're happy to find new members, too. If you are interested in joining the group and/or incorporating something about this topic into your own classes, please let me know. The group will introduce the topic and the report on progress it has made in connecting the disciplines in a Faculty Lecture scheduled for October 20.

Faculty Notes

Three Big Announcements

1) Dr. **Will Lynch**, Chemistry and Physics, has been selected to serve a three-year term as College Mentor to the United States National Chemistry Olympiad (USNCO) Program. Every two years, **one** faculty member from a U.S. university is selected from a national search process to serve the program.

The U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad is a multi-tiered competition designed to stimulate and promote achievement in high school chemistry. The annual competition begins with over 10,000 students nationwide participating in a placement examination administered by the American Chemical Society on the local level. Twenty of the top-scoring students

from the USNCO national exam are invited to a two-week study camp held at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, CO.

Under the tutelage of three mentors, the students attend lectures and work in the laboratory. Typically, work at the study camp covers inorganic, organic, physical, analytical, and biochemistry at a second or third-year college level. The study camp helps mentors identify the four students who will represent the United States at the International Chemistry Olympics (IChO). In 2006, 264 students from 67 nations participated in the 38th IChO held in Gyongsan, Korea. The U.S. team won three silver medals and one bronze medal. Dr. Lynch will serve the 2007-2009 cycle, with the international competition being held in Russia (2007), Hungary (2008) and England (2009).

2) Dr. **Bill Daugherty**, CJSPS, has won the Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI)'s Henry Paolucci/Walter Bagehot Book Award for his book, *Executive Secrets: Covert Action and the Presidency* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 2004). The award identifies **one** book per year that "embodies the humane and liberal spirit" of the political analysts and historians Paolucci and Bagehot. Dr. Daugherty's book is a study of American presidents' use of the Central Intelligence Agency since 1947. Based on archived research and personal experiences, Daugherty argues that covert action is a legitimate, essential, and misunderstood aspect of American foreign policy. In October, Dr. Daugherty will address the ISI in Wilmington Delaware, where he will pick up a check for \$5000.

3) As mentioned in the faculty meeting, Dr. **Judy Awong-Taylor**, Biology, has been named winner of the Regents' Teaching Excellence Award for 2006. The award goes to just **one** professor among the 12 four-year colleges and universities in Georgia, and comes with a check for \$5000. Dr. Awong-Taylor's nomination packet includes letters that describe her as the "very embodiment of the student-centered professor" and one who "quite simply and without fanfare, inspires." Dr. Shannon Mendes, a May 2000 AASU graduate, writes that he would not be where he is today without Dr. Awong-Taylor's "excitement and unyielding interest in my success." And today he is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Neuroregeneration laboratories at Harvard Medical School.

Deadlines and Dates

Aug 25 Name Reps to College Curriculum Committee and T & P Committee
Aug 28 Fall CIRs Due
Aug 30 Reception for VPPA Whitford, 11:30-1:30
Aug 30 eCore Discussion
Aug 30 Attendance/Non-attendance rosters due
Aug 31 Off campus travel reports due
Sep 1 Nominations for Emeriti faculty due
Sept 1 Faculty Forum
Sept 4 Labor Day-one day only
Sept 8 Promotion and Tenure documents due to dept.

Sept 11 Revised Spring 2007 schedule due to dean
Sept 15 Scholarship of Teaching Roundtable
Sept 21-22 Filmmaker Ellen Perry on Campus
Sept 22 Faculty Lecture by Jack Simmons
Sept 28-29 Final review of Spring 2007 schedule
Oct 4 First Day of Class, Session 3
Oct 6 Midterm, Session 1
Oct 8 Promotion and Tenure documents due to dean
Oct 12-14 Fall Break
Oct 18 AASU Day
Oct 20 Faculty Lecture by Bird Flu Group
Nov 10 Faculty Lecture by Sabrina Hessinger