

DEANotes

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WheelerNotes

Dr. Nivens: Helping Us Think About Undergraduate Research

Over the past several years, Dr. Delana Nivens in the Department of Chemistry has developed an enviable record of supporting undergraduate research on our campus, including serving as Co-PI on an NSF grant that provided summer support for students involved in this activity. She has agreed to spend the next twelve months (Jan '07-Dec '07) as special assistant to the dean thinking about ways to enhance this activity on our campus. At the end of this period she will submit a report making recommendations about new directions we might pursue in support of this activity. In the interim she will continue supporting research in her own labs, arrange conversations with colleagues (both to provide information and to learn about best practices across the college), be attentive to external funding opportunities, do some developmental work on an undergraduate research web site, and consult with the dean on a variety of matters. We are very grateful that Dr. Nivens is willing to extend her passion for undergraduate research to the whole college.

Hardship W after Mid-Term

On page 55 of the catalog is found this statement, "A student may not drop a course without penalty following the semester dates listed for midterm." However, for more than two decades, it has been possible to receive a W after mid-term *if the student experiences a hardship after the mid-term date passes*. Indeed, there is a special form that permits this award of a W. Because the catalog is silent on the policy and because the special form requires a signature from the Dean's office, it is important for faculty members to know how this policy is presently implemented in that office:

There are two essential criteria to qualify for a hardship W.

1. Some trauma or special hardship must have happened after mid-term. Examples of such hardships include: severe illness, debilitating accident, job change, illness or death in the family requiring special care by the student.
2. Typically the trauma or hardship should be severe enough to necessitate withdrawal from all current courses.* (If the student feels that there is a single course whose requirements can not be finished in a timely fashion, we recommend that a grade of *I* be considered a possibility.)

When we receive documentation verifying (1) and (2), a hardship withdrawal is virtually automatic. In most other cases, the hardship withdrawal is not permitted. Hopefully this information will be useful in counseling students about hardship withdrawal.

*Exceptions can be made when a work schedule change necessitates the drop

A Thanksgiving Feast ... for Hearts and Ears

Each Fall for the last 17 years, music students and faculty have prepared a delectable Thanksgiving feast for hearts and ears and served it at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in downtown Savannah. The sanctuary of Sacred Heart has near perfect acoustics, the students have near perfect pitch, and the results are delightful. The concert is given each Fall in memory of Dr. J. Harry Persse, former Department Head of Fine Arts at Armstrong. The 2006 concert occurred on November 19 and, if you missed it, I suggest that you hold a spot for the event on next Fall's calendar. My guess is that after you have sampled the feast, your heart and ears will overflow with joy.

If Fall 2007 seems a very long time to wait, I would recommend that you plan for the annual Showcase Concert that involves all our student music groups and occurs on February 20, 2007. You will be amazed what those scruffy students who slouch

through your classes can do when they don tuxedo and dress and climb onto a stage.

FinlayNotes

Governors Intern Program

The Board of Regents office has asked all campuses to become more actively involved in the Governor's Intern Program. The program promises to provide "the best, brightest, and most ambitious college and law students with practical professional experience before they enter the working world." Given the breadth of the state government, the program is not limited to those with an interest in politics. Juniors, seniors, and graduate students with a minimum GPA of 2.8 are eligible to apply; the deadline for the summer program is February 2, 2007. For details, see www.ganet.org/governor/intern.

Scholarship Opportunity

The Morris K. Udall foundation offers 80 scholarships of up to \$5,000 to students who are committed to the environment. To be eligible for an award, students must be: either a U.S. citizen, U.S. national or resident alien; currently a sophomore or junior; in a major related to the environment and have a B average. Native Americans and Alaskan Natives will be given priority consideration. Nomination materials are due March 5, 2007. For additional information or to receive nomination applications contact Dr. Sandy Streater, AASU Morris K. Udall Scholarship faculty representative – phone 921-5483, e-mail streatsa@mail.armstrong.edu.

Faculty Notes

Jim Todesca, History, presented "Queen Urraca (1109-1126) and the Preservations of Leon-Castile," at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association in Oxford, Mississippi.

Jose da Cruz, CJSPS, presented "The U.S. Mid-Term Elections of November 7th and Its Foreign Policy Ramifications," an Invited Lecture at the Universidade Federal Fluminense Centro Estudos Socias Aplicados e Centro de Estudo Gerais, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, November 22nd, 2006. He also has been appointed to the Board of Directors, Savannah Council on World Affairs, and to The Toyin Falola Africa Book Award Committee at the November 2006 annual meeting of the Association of Third World Studies.

Chris Baker, Languages, Literature, and Philosophy, was appointed to a three-year term of the governing council of the Sixteenth Century Society and Conference at this year's meeting.

Dr. Will Lynch and Dr. Delana Nivens, Chemistry & Physics, accomplished the following at the 58th Southeast Regional Meeting of the American Council (SERMACS), in November.

- Presented with student Jodi Hadden, "Reducing Sugars as the Bioreduction Agents for the Preparation of Metal Nanoparticles from Plant Extracts."
- With **Dr. Kelly Elkins**, and student authors Jessica Miller, Andy Waller and Derek Baudoin presented, "Isolation and Analysis of Humic and Fulvic Acids from Savannah, GA Marsh Soils."
- **Dr. Delana Nivens**, along with Faculty Summer Research Collaborative Students Cassandra Dyal and Jessica Moore also presented "Development of Functional Magnetic Nanoparticles for Environmental Sensors."
- **Dr. Will Lynch** and student Ramona Parsaei presented "Cobalt-59 NMR as an Accurate Probe to Investigate Outer Sphere Interactions in Cobalt Complexes." Ms. Parseai's poster won a top 10 prize for undergraduate student posters at the meeting.
- **Dr. Will Lynch** organized a symposium titled "Bioinorganic Modeling" with 8 speakers from around the Southeast as well as 3 Inorganic Chemistry sessions with 32 speakers total.

Holly Smith, adjunct instructor, Languages, Literature, and Philosophy, presented a hands-on workshop, "The Distance Between Us: The Power of an Image," at the Second Southeastern Scholarship Conference on e-Learning at Macon State University in September. We are sorry to report that Professor Smith moved to San Diego in December. We enjoyed her contributions to our community.

Clifford Padgett, Chemistry & Physics, published a paper in the *Langmuir Journal* entitled "STM, QCM, and the Windshield Wiper Effect: A Joint

Theoretical-Experimental Study of Adsorbate Mobility and Lubrication at High Sliding Rates.”

John Kearnes and Becky da Cruz, CJSPPS, led the Armstrong team of Adam Morrison and Brian Dotson that defeated last year’s national champion, Patrick Henry University, in the Final Round of the Southeast Undergraduate Moot Court (SEUMC) Tournament. Morrison and Dobson have secured a bid to the National Moot Court Tournament which will be held at Regents University in Virginia in January.

Deadlines and Dates

- Feb 26** Last Day of Class, Session 2
- Mar 1** Midterm, Session 1
- Mar 7** APARS & Faculty Evaluations due to VPAA