

DEANotes

May 2007

Vol. VI, No. 7

WheelerNotes

Three Special People ... Many Special

Contributions: Three members of the Arts and Science community were honored with major awards at the University Awards Day on April 27. Since one of the honorees could not be present, and a number of Arts and Sciences faculty could not attend the event, we would like to highlight a few of the winners and their contributions on page 4 of this month's DEANotes!

Winding Down with Gratitude: Well, another academic year has evaporated. For those of us with many years on our resumes, the year flew by so quickly that we need to pause a moment and realize how full and significant this year has been. Please know my appreciation of faculty and staff, full-time and part-time, who have enabled us to bring nearly 1000 students across the graduation stage during this year and initiate another class of freshmen into the mysteries of higher education. Special thanks go to

- The Department of Criminal Justice, Social and Political Science for providing us with our first national champions in moot court competition with special kudos to coaches John Kearnes, Becky da Cruz, and AMT's Elizabeth Desnoyers-Colas.
- A team of fine arts faculty and staff who have worked diligently with architects on exciting new plans for Jenkins Hall and the Fine Arts Auditorium, plans that will "dress up" the Armstrong public face for many years to come.
- Scores of faculty members who served our campus and our region with careful attention to science fairs; art exhibitions; choral, band, and mathematics competitions; theater workshops; economic development activities; op ed editorials, lectures, and panels.
- Six faculty members and their student colleagues who formed the first Summer Student-Faculty Collaborative teams and the many other faculty members whose

scholarly collaborations with students led to scholarly presentations by the students in off-campus venues and publications in juried journals.

- Judy Awong-Taylor and Bill Daugherty who brought honor to all of us by winning major off-campus awards, respectively the Regent's Teaching Excellence Award and the Paolucci/Bagehot Book Award.
- Chris Hendricks, Dan Skidmore-Hess, Karen Hollinger, and David Wheeler for new books published this year, and a host of other faculty for nearly 50 juried papers and scores of presentations in scholarly contexts.
- Teresa Winterhalter and the Gender and Women's Studies faculty for a new major and "The MAJOR Event."
- Dick Nordquist and his team for a fine week spent reading and analyzing *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.
- The faculty and staff of the Department of Art, Music, and Theater who cooperated in producing more than twenty concerts, art exhibitions, and dramatic productions.
- Sabrina Hessinger and the many mathematics, science, history, and education faculty members who are working to implement PRISM in our region. Special kudos for receiving this year's "Special Citation" from President Jones.
- Janet Stone, Dale Kilhefner, and John Kearnes for 85 years of devoted service to the university and its students. We will miss you!

However, at the end of the day (and the end of this article) we must return with gratitude to the 130 full-time faculty members and the 50 part-time faculty members who completed another year of inspired teaching on our campus...teaching carefully crafted classes...and continuing to improve our high-quality majors, minors, and graduate degrees.

Suggestions for Promotion & Tenure Documents:

Some faculty members are even now thinking about preparing portfolios that will support their application in the promotion and tenure process in Fall 2007. Because each candidate submits a large amount of material that many persons read, it is important to organize that material as effectively as possible. Conversations with the College Promotion and Tenure Committee, department heads, and Council of Deans have yielded these suggestions.

(1) We suggest that the materials be organized with a small, 1" to 1.5" *master folder* and one or more larger folders with contents as found below:

Master folder contains:

- Letter requesting promotion or tenure
- Vita
- 1-2 page summary of FACE documents
- Reflective statements about teaching, scholarship and service
- Annual Faculty Evaluations and APARs
- Report on departmental vote and recommendation of department head (included by department head)
- Table of Contents for the other folder(s)

Other folder(s) contains:

- At least five years of FACE results
 - Other materials required by department
 - Samples of scholarly products
 - Other materials that the candidate wishes to include
- (2) Candidates should minimize the use of plastic sheaths since they increase bulk without increasing information.
- (3) In general, more is not better. The whole story needs to be told, but present information as succinctly as possible.

Calendar for Tenure and Promotion Process

- Candidate Application to Department Head: September 8
- Departmental Recommendation to Department Head: mid to late September
- Departmental Recommendation to College: October 8
- College Tenure and Promotion Committee to the Dean: December 1
- Dean to Vice President and Deans: Roughly January 15
- Vice Presidential Recommendation to President: Early Spring
- Official report back to faculty member: Late Spring

FinlayNotes

Honors Senior Projects: This May another twelve students will march across the stage as graduates of the AASU Honors Program, tying the Program's all-time record. In all, over eighty AASU students have completed the three components of the Honors Program: Bs or better in a minimum number of Honors in the Core classes (usually four); a final GPA of at least 3.20; and the most challenging part—satisfactory completion of the advanced and independent research that is required of the Honors Senior Project.

I have attended nearly all of those senior presentations, and I can say that this year's batch included some of the most professional and sophisticated scholarship that I have seen to date. Student research projects addressed the intricacies of knee surgery, the complexities of feminist theory, the challenges of independent filmmaking, the emerging field of green chemistry, and several other sophisticated topics. These were product of the students' own academic talents, but also are a tribute to the hard-working mentors and faculty advisors who helped bring these projects to fruition. Dr. Jonathan Roberts, Psychology, also deserves credit for managing both the ever-growing program of enthusiastic students who enter the Program as freshmen and the dedicated students who make it to the end.

Student honors presentations are open to the public and deserve a wide audience. Next year, take a look at the Honors Program website, or contact Dr. Roberts or me, for information about the schedule of senior projects.

Grant Advice Workshop: Mike Price, Anne Montgomery, and Kerry Lloyd-Reid recently held a workshop with useful advice from the Office of Sponsored Programs (OSP). Among other things, they offered these pointers and tidbits:

- Grant writers should strenuously look at their proposal from the perspective of the granting agency, rather than from their own perspective as an academic specialist.
- The OSP website [<http://www.grants.armstrong.edu/>] offers access to multiple databases that are updated daily. Some of these sites require some expertise to navigate, some require passwords, but both are available through the OSP.
- The OSP will perform custom searches for grants pertinent for any good idea.
- Grant writers should realize that granting agencies take all parts of the proposal seriously. The articulation of your great

idea is not necessarily the most important part; writers also need to carefully think about and explain sections on budgets, outreach, assessment, etc., and to be sure that all parts fit together.

- Grant writers need to offer frank, realistic, and achievable “deliverables.”
- Recall that AASU policy insists that grant proposals are submitted one week before the official deadline, so that they can snake through the process of obtaining consent and signatures from a long list of administrators.
- For grants that are funded, the OSP offers full service to help handle complex and tedious budgetary issues.
- Upon request, the OSP is willing to repeat their workshop, with advice tailored to specific departments, faculty members, or students.

Faculty Notes

Daniel Skidmore-Hess, CJSPS, is co-author of a new book, *Free Agency and Competitive Balance in Baseball* (McFarland, 2006). The other co-author is Ronald W. Cox of Florida International University.

Richard J. Cebula, Economics, and Daniel Hulse, and AASU economics major, have published "The Poll Results Hypothesis," *Atlantic Economic Journal* (March, 2007): 33-41.

Jim Todesca, History, presented “The Revolt of the Burgurers of Sahagún (León),” at the 28th Annual Medieval and Renaissance Forum at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire. Yvonne Terry, an AASU graduate student, presented “Cologne’s Economic and Political Rise” at the same conference. That work was the product of one of the College’s Summer Collaborative Research Grants.

Nancy White, History, was among a group of Flannery O’Connor scholars who participated in a panel discussion that addressed the multifaceted challenges of establishing, supporting, and advancing the history and legacy of Mary Flannery O’Connor both in Savannah at the Childhood Home and in Milledgeville at Andalusia.

Elizabeth Desnoyers-Colas, AMT, has received a grant from the American Association of University Women to support her book on African American women’s service in the Gulf Wars. Dr. Colas adds, “Dick Nordquist wrote a wonderful letter for me as part of my package. I also feel it was the support that

I have received over the last two years since my arrival at Armstrong has allowed me to pursue the possibility of writing such a book.”

Lee Williams, Cathy Adams, and Barbara Fertig, all History, recently delivered two presentations each as part of Savannah's Big Read. In addition to an on-campus program, they also presented versions of their research at Big Read final event held at Daffin Park. In addition, Dr. **Williams** participated in the Banks-Pierro-Rutland-Bellamy Social Sciences Colloquium at Fort Valley State University.

Chris Hendricks, Barbara Fertig, and Mark Finlay, all History, all served on the planning committee, organized and/or led tours, and contributed articles to the massive *Field Guide* that accompanied the Vernacular Architecture Forum’s 2007 annual meeting in Savannah. Several past and present AASU students and staff members also contributed to the field guide.

Also from the History Department, **Chris Hendricks’s** new book, *The Backcountry Towns of Colonial Virginia*, has been nominated for the Library of Virginia and James River Writers People’s Choice Award and the Fred B. Niffen Book Award of the Pioneer America Society.

Deadlines and Dates

May 5 Graduation
May 8 Final Exams End
May 11 9AM, Final Grades Due
Final Revisions for Fall Schedule
May 31 Registration for Summer
June 1 First Day of Class, Sessions A, B, C
June 3-4 Late Registration
June 14 Midterm, Session B
June 15 CIRs Due to Dean
June 21 Midterm, Session C
June 20-July 13 Registration for Fall 07
June 27 Midterm, Session A
June 28 Last Day of Class, Session C
July 3 Grades Due, Session C
July 5 First Day of Class, Session D
July 16 Last Day of Class, Session B
July 18 Midterm, Session D
July 23 Grades Due, Session B
July 25 Last Day of Class, Session A
July 31 Grades Due, Session A
Aug 1 Last Day of Class, Session D
Aug 6 Grades Due, Session D
Aug 13 Faculty Meetings
Aug 16 First Day of Class