

Office of the Dean  
College of Arts & Sciences

# DEANotes

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## WheelerNotes

**Academic Reorganization:** In conversations throughout the summer, Vice President Whitford announced her intention to reorganize the School of Computing and College of Arts and Sciences to create two new colleges, one organized around the themes of Science and Technology and one organized around the themes of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. Citing national and regional trends, increased complexity of academic leadership, and local campus needs, Dr. Whitford will move forward with this reorganization on July 1, 2008. In order that we can manage the transition as smoothly as possible, Dr. Whitford has asked that faculty and department heads begin conversation about the transition. From that conversation she would like to receive communication about opportunities that the reorganization will create, pitfalls that should be avoided, and other suggestions that will facilitate this change.

**Tender, Loving Care for Gamble Hall:** On your next walk across campus to stretch your legs, wander through Gamble Hall. Thanks to the efforts of VP Brignati and Asst. to President Megathlin, the university purchased new classroom furniture for the second floor of Gamble. Further, careful relocation of quality desks from the second floor has given a new look to the first floor. Now that Gamble is no longer the final resting place of all the tired and weary student desks from 50 years of campus occupancy, we can focus on infrastructure needs. On this matter we have both present good news and future good news. While on your leg stretching tour, glance inside Gamble 106 to view a new computer-based laboratory for instruction in language, partially funded by a grant from the Southern Company (formerly SEPCO). But also look forward to a day when we will do a major renovation of Gamble. In new institutional priorities presented to the Board of Regents in June 2007, major renovation of Gamble was high on the list.

## FinlayNotes

**An Important Advising Tool:** Over the past few years, the Registrar's Office has gradually built a new tool that can be quite useful for advisors. It's called the Degree Evaluation, and it allows advisors to see how close a student is to completing the core. In some cases—Liberal Studies is the main example in the College of Arts and Sciences—the tool also shows a student's progress in completing the entire degree. In general, faculty advisors have access to the Degree Evaluation, but students do not.

This tool is especially useful for advising transfer students—whereas the Permanent Student Record often lists transfer credits with an "ELEC" designation, the Degree Evaluation often shows that the course has been plugged into the core requirements. Students are often relieved to see that ELEC courses actually do count toward AASU requirements. (The familiar procedure of requesting a course substitution is still valid for questionable courses, but this is not necessary in many cases).

It takes a few clicks to actually see this form:

1. In SHIP, go to the Faculty/Advisor Menu
2. Then go to Degree Evaluation, near the bottom
3. Then submit term
4. Then enter the student ID number (or name)
5. Then scroll to the bottom and click "Generate New Evaluation"
6. Then click the radio button for the program
7. Then click "General Requirements."

That sounds like a lot of steps, but compare it with the old method of using paper, pencil, and transcript(s) to enter data on a student's program of study or degree checksheet (not to mention filling out paperwork for unnecessary appeals for course substitutions). The degree evaluation shows which areas of the core are complete, which are not, how

many more credits are needed in each area, and it shows the grades for all courses.

At times, a course will appear on the Degree Evaluation in a place that is not most advantageous for the student. (For example, depending on other courses taken, a student could use HIST 1111 in Area B-2, E-2, or E-4, or if, a history major, in Area F). To make an adjustment, find the “Degree Evaluation Adjustment Form” linked to the top left of the page. Indicate the changes desired and submit the form to the Registrar’s Office. The revision will appear on the Degree Evaluation form within a few days.

Another useful feature is the “what-if analysis.” This allows the advisor and advisee to see what would happen if the student changed majors. For instance, if a student had passed MATH 1111 and 1113, and switched majors from Computer Science to English, the new evaluation would show those courses in Areas A and D.

For more information, contact Craig Morrison at 921-5425. Also, Craig is available to give hands on training, either in groups or individually.

**Faculty Expertise:** Over the summer, some officials from AASU and Savannah State University have been working to establish improved communication between the two institutions and possible collaboration among their personnel. As one step in this process, I agreed to collect information about the “Areas of Teaching Specialization,” “Current Areas of Scholarship,” and “Current and Past Areas of Collaboration with SSU Personnel” for the AASU faculty. With the help of deans, department heads, and faculty who responded during the summer, I have collected an imperfect set of data. That draft is now available for your review in the “Finlay” folder of “Exchange” drive (possibly labeled the “L” drive under “My Computer”). Please take a look at what has been written about you, and submit additions and corrections to me at [mark.finlay@armstrong.edu](mailto:mark.finlay@armstrong.edu).

### Faculty Notes

Members of the Psychology Department made several poster presentations at the annual conference of the Association for Psychological Science in Washington, DC. Students L.O. Long, K.N. Hinton, S. O. Breitenbach, and **Jonathan Roberts** presented a poster entitled “Relations Among Finger Length Ratios, Mental Rotation Task Performance, and Self-perceived Masculinity/Femininity.” **Roberts** and **John Kraft** also presented “Online Text in Introductory Psychology Course Leads to an Increase

in ‘Quitters’” and “Ratemyprofessors.com: Should We Give It A Chili Pepper for Accuracy?”

**Pang-Chieh Hsu**, AMT, was a featured artist at the Telfair Museum’s Jepson Center for the Arts in connection with the Savannah Asian Festival. In addition, the students of **Angela Horne**, AMT, submitted proposals for the logo for next year’s festival. The winner was **Jennifer Incorvaia**, a CIS staff member and senior art major.

**Delana Nivens** and **Will Lynch**, Chemistry and Physics, along with a former undergraduate student, Brian Helmly (presently completing his course work at Mercer Medical School) published “Preparation and Spectroscopic Characterization of MoS<sub>2</sub> and MoSe<sub>2</sub> Nanoparticles” in *Spectroscopy Letters* 40/3 (24 May 2007): 483-492.

**Olavi Arens**, History, presented a paper entitled “State, Power, and Legitimacy in Estonia, 1917-1920,” at the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference on Baltic Studies in Europe at Lüneberg, Germany. Two of his former AASU students, Jonathan L’Hommedieu and Matthew Adams also presented papers at the same meeting. L’Hommedieu is pursuing a doctorate at the University of Turku in Finland; Adams is pursuing a master’s degree at the University of Krakow in Poland.

**Mark Newell**, adjunct instructor of history, has been featured in the *Savannah Morning News* and on Georgia Public Radio for the archaeology research that he and his AASU students conducted at the Savannah-Ogeechee Canal. The discovery of remains of a lockkeeper’s house will add considerable insight on the history of southern canals.

### Deadlines and Dates

- Aug 13** Faculty Meeting, 10 AM
- Aug 14** New Faculty Orientation
- Aug 14-15** Advisement & Registration
- Aug 16** First Day of Class
- Aug 17** University Meeting, 12:15
- Aug 30** Items for A & S Curr Comm Due
- Aug 31** Faculty Lecture – David Lake
- Sept 3** No Class
- Sept 7** Promotion & Tenure Applications Due to Dept
- Sept 7** A & S Curr Comm
- Sept 10** Cybersecurity Event
- Sept 21** Faculty Lecture – Brenda Logan
- Oct 2** Social Event for New Faculty
- Oct 8** Midterm, Session 1