

DEANotes

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WheelerNotes

Rethinking the Core Curriculum: On two occasions as we have passed on campus, colleagues have asked, “Ed, we understand that we are revising the Core Curriculum this Fall. When do we start this work?” I believe that some clarification is in order. I will give a short version and a long version.

Short Version:

- In Fall 2006 the Chancellor began to push for a look at the core curriculum.
- In August 2007 the Board of Regents instituted a Strategic Plan that mandated a look at the Core Curriculum.
- At the present time, two USG committees are being formed to wrestle with this question. Dr. Whitford nominated Beth Howells and Mark Finlay to serve on these committees. Committees are not yet formed.
- Unless someone has already crafted a plan that will be quickly recommended, this issue will not reach local campuses this year.

Long Version: Under the Chancellor’s directive, a committee (including E. Wheeler and Whitford) met for two hours in Fall of 2006 for very limited conversation related to revisiting the core. After the meeting and some email contributions on side issues, the President of Georgia College and State University, Dr. Leland, prepared a report in which she recommended that we revisit the Core Curriculum. Further she argued that in addition to traditional emphases, the new core curriculum should give attention to global literacy, interpreting and validating new sources of information, thinking across disciplinary boundaries, and the ability to work with diverse teams. Finally she recommended that as part of the work, the System should create an “outcome-based core curriculum framework” with “student performance objectives” required for completion of the core curriculum requirements.

Little was heard for some time but in August 2007, the Board of Regents endorsed a new strategic plan that included in Strategy One this statement: “The University System of Georgia will re-examine its general education core ...”

In early September we were asked to nominate persons to serve on two committees. The first committee, the Core Curriculum Competencies Committee will be responsible for formulating initial recommendations regarding core curriculum competencies and learning outcomes. Dr. Howells was nominated for this committee. The second committee, the Core Curriculum Design & Assessment Committee will be responsible for recommending a competency based core curriculum framework that reflects project goals. Dr. Finlay was nominated for this committee.

Since these committees have not yet been formed, we do not expect a new core to be in place in the very near future.

Congratulations Drs. Hollis and Skidmore-Hess:

We are pleased to note that Dr. Whitford has approved Dr. Selwyn Hollis and Dr. Daniel Skidmore-Hess for granted Advanced Research Leaves in Spring 2008. Dr. Hollis will continue to improve his internationally recognized website that supports calculus students; Dr. Skidmore-Hess will complete his book, *The Prophet, the Saint, and the Revolutionary: Women, Resistance, and the Politics of Knowledge*. We are also pleased that these leaves are the third and fourth such leaves awarded to members of our College in recent years. If you would like to apply for such a leave, you will find the appropriate policies in the *Faculty Handbook* located at the Vice President’s website. The deadline for application for Spring 2009 is July 1, 2008.

Honoring Captain Korn and many others ...

November 9: Our 70-year history is replete with alumni who served, and in some cases, died, in military service. At least 375 of our current students have previously served in the armed forces. On November 9, in a simple ceremony located in the

area in front of the Student Recreation and Aquatic Center, the Armstrong ROTC unit will lead us in a remembrance of Veteran's Day and this tradition of service by both present and past members of the Armstrong community. The Cadet Commander will welcome those who have assembled at noon and give a brief history of Veteran's Day; at 12:05 Captain Patrick Jones will call for the posting of the colors and then deliver comments; and then we will have a special commemoration for Captain Edward Korn, an Armstrong alumnus who was killed in Iraq in 2003. At the conclusion of the short ceremony, Armstrong student Lia Patterson will play *Taps*.

You are invited to join us at noon on November 9, the Friday before Veterans Day, as we seek to honor those among us who have served. The College of Arts and Sciences and the Executive Committee of the university are the event's sponsors.

A Note on Fire Drills: Occasionally a fire alarm goes off in a building. In some cases the alarm goes off due to either a malfunction of the system or an inappropriate use of an alarm box. However, we are not able to assume this is the case, and *the building must be vacated* as quickly as safely possible. John McGuthry assures us that we can *know* that if classes are in session, *it is not a fire drill*. After the building is evacuated, it would be wise for a faculty member to dial University Police (921-5555) on their cell phone to make sure that they are on their way to respond to the alarm. For some buildings there is an automatic connection to University Police; in other cases there is not, but in all cases it is wise to supplement whatever automatic notification is in place with call.

FinlayNotes

Moot Court

From Dr. Wilson:

The AASU Southeast Undergraduate Moot Court Tournament will be held on November 9-10. As former National Champions, we are striving to reproduce another winning tournament while also providing the same professionalism and excellence that our fellow competitors from other universities have come to expect.

We always appreciate the efforts from attorneys and judges throughout the state to volunteer their time as judges for the tournament, as their schedules permit. We also depend on the support of our fellow faculty and staff members to provide assistance in the organization and implementation of the tournament itself.

We are asking for faculty and staff who are available to supplement the judging positions that may not be filled by the attorneys outside the university. The judging begins on Friday, November 9th at approximately 1:00pm with the preliminary rounds. Judges from outside the university will handle the final rounds.

If you are interested and available to participate in this important AASU event, please contact Dr. Paul Mullen Paul.Mullen@armstrong.edu or Debbie Grubb dg0069@students.armstrong.edu of the Criminal Justice, Social & Political Science Department.

Faculty Notes

Chris Baker, LLP, has published a new book, *Religion in the Age of Shakespeare* (Greenwood Press, 2007).

Nancy Remler and **Pat West**, LLP, are editors of *Collages: A Reader for Composition*, (Pearson Custom Publishing, 2007).

Judy Awong-Taylor and **Kathryn Craven**, Biology, along with staff member Laura Griffiths and undergraduates students Crystal Bass and Mario Muscarella have published "Comparison of Biochemical and Molecular Methods for the Identification of Bacteria Associated with Failed Loggerhead Sea Turtle Eggs," *Journal of Applied Microbiology*.

Richard Wallace, Chemistry & Physics, recently published "Ornamental Bananas: New Hybrids from a Group of Underutilized Landscape Plants" *Southeastern Palms* (Fall 2007). Co-authors included Dr. Greg Fonsah and Dr. Gerard Krewer of the University of Georgia-Tifton.

Richard Wallace and **Suzu Carpenter**, Chemistry & Physics, have served as consultants/lead teachers for Thomson Learning. They recently hosted two Webex sessions entitled, "Getting Started with OWL for Organic Chemistry." A recording of their presentation can be found at <http://www.thomsonedu.com/tlconnect/client/product/archiveSeminar.do?id=4>.

Will Lynch, Chemistry & Physics, has been elected to the American Chemical Societies Committee on Committees. The committee oversees the activities of 29 ACS committees and is composed of 15 Councilors from across the US. In addition, Dr. Lynch has been appointed to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II Student Athlete Reinstatement Committee.

Brent Feske, Chemistry & Physics, and **Scott Mateer**, Biology, made the following three presentations at the American Chemical Society's National Meeting in Boston. The underlined name is the presenting author; all the co-authors are undergraduate researchers from AASU.

- Archer, C.; Davis, E.; Patel, R.; Beers, M.; Mateer, S.C.; Feske, B. D. "Improving asymmetric reductions by building reductase chimeras and the investigation of reductase mutagenesis"
- Hammond, R.J.; Poston, B.W.; Feske, B. D. "Utilizing Engineered *E. coli* as an Asymmetric Reducing Biocatalyst towards Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors"
- Archer, C.; Davis, E.; Patel, R.; Beers, M.; Mateer, S.C.; Feske, B. D. "Targeted Mutation of the Yeast Reductase, YDL124w, Affects Enzyme Stereoselectivity"

Jonathan Roberts, Psychology, was part of a panel discussion entitled "One Size Does Not Fit All: Comparing Capstone Experiences Across Universities" at the "Beginnings & Endings: Best Practices for Introducing and Bringing Closure to the Undergraduate Psychology Major" Conference held in Atlanta.

Gwendolyn Stevens, a part-time instructor in Psychology, has recently published a book entitled *Personality and Bereavement: Weaving a Life* (Infinity Publishing, 2007).

Richard J. Cebula, Economics, delivered the welcoming address at the annual meeting of the International Atlantic Economic Society held in Savannah. Cebula also presented two additional

papers, one on Medicaid, another on the employment implications of asymmetric pollution abatement controls, and **Rick McGrath**, Economics, presented a paper on survey methodology. In addition four AASU students presented their research. They include: 2006 AASU Economics graduate and current Auburn University graduate student, Holly Meads, analyzing voter participation; Jay Carmichael, analyzing determinants of minor league baseball attendance; Heather Smith, analyzing tax evasion; and Reese Goldman, analyzing housing price determination in the Savannah Historic Landmark District.

Mark Finlay, History, delivered an invited talk entitled "American Rubber for War and Peace" at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California.

Deadlines and Dates

- Oct 17 Celebrate AASU Day
- Oct 19 Faculty Lecture—Tony Morris
- Oct 19 Internal Grants Applications Due
- Oct 20 Fall Open House
- Oct 26 Curr Comm Items Due
- Nov 1 Web Registration Begins
- Nov 3 Faculty Forum—Writing and Critical Thinking
- Nov 3 A & S Curr Comm Meeting
- Nov 4 Phi Kappa Phi Induction Ceremony
- Nov 9 Veterans' Day Event
- Faculty Lecture—David Wheeler
- Nov 30 Web Registration Ends
- Dec 7 Last Day of Class
- Dec 12 Faculty-Student Collaborative Research Proposals Due
- Dec 13 Navigate AASU Session