

# DEANotes

March 2008

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## WheelerNotes

### March Department Head Meeting,

**Email Number 1:** As I mentioned earlier, the March meeting will be crafted by a series of emails as issues arise and time permits. Please make Wheeler aware of problems that need to be addressed.

#### 1. **On housing applicants for positions:**

Traditionally many departments have asked candidates to charge their housing on their credit cards to be reimbursed later. Those who have continued to follow this practice have experienced some difficulty in that the candidates do not know to stomp their feet and demand that state tax be removed from the bill. Since we cannot reimburse for taxes charged, this results in candidates being shorted \$6-\$10 on their reimbursements. Here is a guaranteed system to avoid this problem:

- Call Nancy Gunter in the VPAA office and give her the names of the candidates and the dates the rooms are needed.
- She will make the reservations at Spring Hills Suite and arrange to have the bill sent directly to her (candidate will not pay)
- If the bill comes to her with tax, she will remove it before paying.

- #### 2. **On the new Core Curriculum:** If you go to the web site <http://www.strongfoundations.usg.edu/> you will find brief descriptions of two models being considered by the Core Curriculum Committee of which Mark Finlay is a part. You will also find a questionnaire that you can complete with your ideas and concerns. I encourage you and your faculty to review and comment as you find time. Drs. Finlay, Nordenhaug, and Anne Thompson will try to make some sense of it all at a Faculty Forum in Solms 110 on April 4 at 12:10.

## Finlay Notes

**Sigma Tau Delta Winner:** AASU student Jie Chen won first-place in the creative non-fiction writing category at the national meeting of Sigma Tau Delta, the international English Honors Society, held last month in Louisville. Ms. Chen's story, entitled "Light a Candle for a Monk," was one of 400 submissions for this award. Teachers and judges have described her work as "vivid and imagistic," and "polished, even elegant, in its descriptive qualities." Incidentally, Ms. Chen slept two nights in the car, even at 22 degrees, in order to save expenses.

**Model UN Team Wins Award:** AASU's Model UN team won a "Distinguished Delegation" award at last month's National Model United Nations Conference in New York City. The group drafted resolutions, chaired sessions, and wrote position papers that effectively represented the interests of the Kingdom of Lesotho. This award places AASU's delegation among the top eighth of the hundreds of competing schools. Last year's team, then representing the Principality of Liechtenstein, won an "Honorable Mention" award.

The team included staff member Sherry Cortes and students John Coburn, Rachel Porter, Erica Daly, Brandon Griffen, Josh Coleman, Luke Farmer, and Don Moone. The team was remarkably self-motivated and committed to the Model UN experience; thereby they learned important lessons in international diplomacy, and much more.

**Human Rights Conference:** All staff, faculty, students, family, and friends are invited to attend the AASU/SSU Inaugural Student Conference on Global and Domestic Human Rights Awareness, which will take place on the evening of April 25 in the Armstrong Center (6:30-9:30 pm) and the day of April 26 (8:00 am - 5:30 pm) in University Hall.

The inaugural address will be given at 7:30 on April 25 by Karin Ryan, the Director of Human Rights at the Carter Center in Atlanta. She will be speaking about US

foreign policy, Israel/Palestine, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Refreshments will follow.

Led by **Jason Tatlock**, History, and Davida Harris, Savannah State University, the project won financial support from the Armstrong Atlantic State University/Savannah State University Collaborative Teaching & Research Grant, an effort designed to expand contact between the two universities. Friday's poster session will feature student work on child soldiers, homelessness, and the use of religion to justify human rights abuses. Saturday's paper sessions will include discussions that range from the ancient to the modern eras, from China to Savannah, and cover topics such as AIDS, human trafficking, and human rights abuses in the Middle East.

Please RSVP to Peggy Williams ([pegpy.williams@armstrong.edu](mailto:pegpy.williams@armstrong.edu)) (921-5991) or Dick Nordquist ([richard.nordquist@armstrong.edu](mailto:richard.nordquist@armstrong.edu)) if you are planning to attend the inaugural address and reception.

**Southern Regional Honors Conference:** AASU's Honors Program was well-represented at the 36th annual Southern Regional Honors Council (SRHC) conference in Birmingham, Alabama. Sporting matching AASU Honors Program golf shirts, the delegation was among the largest at the conference.

Presentations included: **Shante Breitenbach**, Psychology, "Comparison of Ratemyprofessors.com and Official Student Evaluations"; **Cassandra Sulfridge**, Psychology, "An Interdisciplinary Look at Self Control"; **Rachel Caldas**, Spanish, "Sadomasochism: Pain for Pleasure"; **Mario Muscarella**, Biology, "A Method to Compare the Effectiveness of Different Washes on Removal Rates of *E. coli* from Plant Roots"; **Erica Daly**, Political Science, and **Lindsey Toole**, Music Education, performed "Classical German and Italian Arias"; **Lauren Caines**, Nursing and **Jessie Lastocy**, Radiology, "A Spring Break Well Spent: Feeling the Beat and Rubbing the Gel on a Medical Missions Trip to Guyana"; **Ernesto Ortiz-Ariza**, Law and Society, "Kicking Away the Ladder"; **Nick Smoot**, Joint Enrollment, "The Twins Paradox"; **Josh Coleman**, Joint Enrollment, **Monica Kessler**, Mathematical Science, **Billy Jean Stalwart**, Joint Enrollment, and **Erica Daly**, Political Science, with Honors Director **Jonathan Roberts**, Psychology, "Incorporation of Class Debates into an Honors Course"; **Stephanie Balsler**, Biology, painting entitled "Adventure"; and Honors assistant **Sherry Cortes**, staff, series of paintings and drawings "Administrative Assistants Can Have Hobbies Too."

### Faculty Notes

**Michael Toma**, Economics, made several presentations of "The U.S. and Regional Economy, and Regional Real Estate Activity" to professional groups in the region. The presentation was "custom-fitted" to accommodate the relevant geography of the following groups: Bryan

County Homebuilders Association, Effingham County Homebuilders Association, and the Skidaway Island Kiwanis Club. Aggregate attendance at the three presentations was approximately 200.

**Yassaman Saadatmand** and **Michael Toma**, Economics, have published "IMF-Induced Structural Adjustment Programs and Women in Ecuador" in *International Advances in Economic Research* (February 2008).

**Richard Cebula**, Economics, has published "Impact of Property taxes and Public Education Outlays on Housing Costs," *Journal of Global Business Issues* 2/1 (2008): 47-61. In addition, Cebula has been named a member of the Editorial Board for *Open Economics Journal*.

**Mark Budden**, Mathematics, along with student co-authors R. Jeremiah Eisenmenger and Johnathan Kish published "A Generalization of Scholz's Reciprocity Law" in the *Journal de Théorie des Nombres de Bordeaux* 19 (2007): 583-594.

At the 87th Annual Southeastern Mathematical Association of America, **Mark Budden** delivered his talk "Rational Residuacity of Prime Numbers" and **Sean Eastman** presented "Examining the Error of Linearization for a Duality-Based A-Posteriori Error Estimate." Additionally, one of the Mathematics Department 2006 graduates Elijah Allen spoke on "Landau's Problems" in Number Theory. Finally, a team of mathematics majors (comprised of Jaree Hudson, Russ Manning, Stephen Savioli and Scott King) competed in Math Jeopardy tournament, but lost to Auburn University, Montgomery. If partial credit for the answer  $1/8$  would have been given on problems such as "A is a  $3 \times 3$  matrix with  $\det(2*(A^{-1})) = 1$ , what is  $\det(A)$ ?" our team would have excelled.

Mathematics Department faculty members **Jim Brawner**, **Tim Ellis**, and **Lorrie Hoffman** presented a paper entitled "Impact of Peer Mentoring in a Tutorial Lab on College Algebra Grades," at the 8th Annual Georgia Tutoring Association Conference in Macon. The investigations were partially funded from an AASU internal Teaching and Learning grant.

**Jack Simmons**, LLP, has published "Why Greeks Tolerate Violent Student Protest," in *International Journal of Decision Ethics* 3 (Fall 2006).

**Lei Zhu**, Information Technology, **Jane Wong** and **Brad Sturz**, Psychology, and two other colleagues have published "An Integrated Evaluation Method for Module-based Undergraduate Information Retrieval," *Journal Computing Sciences in Small Colleges* 23(6) (2008): 148-154.

**John Kraft**, **Jonathan Roberts**, and student Shante Breitenbach presented a post entitled

“Ratemyprofessors.com: A Chili Pepper for Accuracy,” at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association in Charlotte.

**Wendy Wolfe, Forrest Files**, and student Shrinidhi Subramaniam presented a post entitled “Drinking and ‘Surfing’: Examination of Alcohol Use during On-line Activities,” at the annual meeting of the Southeastern Psychological Association in Charlotte.

**Richard Wallace**, Chemistry and Physics, continues to spread the word about his banana research. Recent examples include: “Banana Research in Georgia: Where Have We Been & Where Are We Going?” presented to the Effingham County Young Farmers Association, Effingham County High School; “How Many Bananas Is Too Many?” invited seminar to the Southeastern Palm Society Winter Meeting at the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens; “Recent Developments In Banana Research In Georgia,” presented at the Bamboo Farm and Coastal Gardens Spring Festival; “Exotic Fruits for the Landscape in Coastal Georgia,” presented to the Gardening for Food, Fun and Beauty course offered through the Life Long Learning Institute at AASU.

**David Wheeler**, LLP, has published "Placing Anna Seward: The 'Genius of Place,' Coalbrookdale and 'Colebrook Dale,'" *New Perspectives on the Eighteenth Century* 5 (2008): 30-40.

**Carl Weeks**, adjunct instructor in Languages, Literature and Philosophy, has published “*Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*,” in *New Georgia Encyclopedia and The New Georgia Encyclopedia Companion to Georgia Literature*, ed. Hugh Ruppensburg (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2007). In addition, he published an entry entitled “Peter Tondee” in the on-line version of the *New Georgia Encyclopedia*.

**Becky K. da Cruz**, Criminal Justice, **José de Arimatéia da Cruz**, Political Science, Armstrong Atlantic State University "Age-Graded Attachment Theory: Conduct Disorder and Juvenile Delinquency" *National Social Science Journal* 29 (2) (2008): 23-33.

**José A. da Cruz**, Political Science, has been elected to a three-year term as Chairman of the Americas Council for the University System of Georgia. In addition, **José da Cruz** has been appointed to the Governing Board of the National Social Science Association, the largest interdisciplinary association in the United States. Finally, both **Becky** and **José da Cruz** have been appointed to the Board of Editors of the *Law Enforcement Executive Forum*.

**José de Arimatéia da Cruz**, Political Science and student Laura K. Stephens, presented “Gender and

HIV/AIDS in Post-Authoritarian Brazil,” for the 11th Conference of the Americas held near Atlanta.

**Kalenda Eaton, Josephine Foster** of LLP, **Lee Williams**, History, and **Pam Sears** of AMT were part of an insightful, highly intellectual discussion panel that examined the social, historical importance and relevance of the award-winning play "For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow Is Enuf," performed by AASU Masquers.

#### Special Radio and TV Section:

**Kalenda Eaton**, LLP, was interviewed for an hour-long installment of "Visions in the Arts" on Savannah State University's WHCJ 90.3 FM. Eaton highlighted important trends in contemporary Black women's literature and discussed her work mentoring students interested in the field.

**Bill Deaver**, LLP, presented a paper entitled “Three Waves of Cuban Immigration: Waving (Wavene) the Flag of Patriotic Fervor,” at symposium on “The Hyphenate Writer and the Legacy of exile at the University of Central Florida. The symposium was televised and the paper will be published.

**José de Arimatéia da Cruz**, Political Science, was interviewed on the local NPR station about Hamilton de Holanda, a bandolim (a.k.a. mandolin) player who performed at the Savannah Music Festival.

**Mark Finlay**, History, was featured on a WGSU-TV production “Untold Stories: The Wizard’s Laboratory” that aired in Fort Myers, Florida in March. In February, he was interviewed for an hour-long installment of WGSU-Radio’s production of “Gulf Coast Live.” In both cases, the topic was Thomas Edison’s interest in finding a domestic rubber crop.

#### Deadlines and Dates

- Feb 29** *NY Times* in the Classroom luncheon
- Feb 29** Midterm Session 1
- Mar 7** Faculty Lecture by J. da Cruz
- Mar 7** A & S Curr Comm
- Mar 8** Saturday classes do meet
- Mar 17** Faculty Meeting
- Mar 25** Faculty Recital by K. Hampton
- Mar 28** Faculty Lecture by J. Barnard
- Mar 31** Advisement begins
- Apr 2** Pre-registration begins
- Apr 4** Faculty Forum on Core Curriculum
- Apr 4** A & S Curr Comm
- Apr 5** AASU Open House