When historians look back at The Finlay Year and the beginning of AASU’s new College of Liberal Arts, the picture may not be very pretty. The national economy plummeted as soon as the new academic year began. The statewide budget crisis was manifested in terse memos about travel restrictions, unfilled staff positions, virtually no upgrades in computers and other technologies, freezes on faculty salaries, cancellations of important classes, and a library book budget of zero. The resignations of two very valuable young faculty members—Dr. Williams (HIST) and Dr. Hammers (CJSPS/GWST) made it plain that some faculty members will seek and find better opportunities outside of the University System of Georgia. The retirement of Dr. Miller (AMT) creates a loss in theatre programming, and the retirement of Dr. Nordquist (LLP) leaves a gigantic hole in many many areas, most importantly in his service as the conscience for the faculty. The USG issued oppressive mandates on credit checks, background checks, P-Card policies, and more, and we all learned to revile Peoplesoft. In all, it was a pretty dismal year.

Despite these hardships, there were some bright spots. For me, perhaps the most gratifying experience was to learn more than ever of the dedication of the Liberal Arts faculty as committed teachers and engaged scholars. Reading eighty-five APARs for the first time was an eye-opening view into the unsung work of our faculty. Did you know, for instance, that Dr. Reese (AMT) routinely plays with The Darius Rucker Big Band; that the professors in Economics (Drs. Saadatmand, McGrath, Toma, and Cebula) answered over one hundred requests from local media for analysis of the national and local economic issues; that Dr. José da Cruz (CJSPS) was interviewed on NPR to discuss a Brazilian musical instruments in connection with the Savannah Music Festival; that Dr Eaton (LLP) was invited to discuss Richard Wright’s contribution on the African Diaspora at a conference in Portugal; that Dr. Tatlock (HIST) has developed an ethics course that fosters students’ engagement and activism with human rights issues; that Dr Schultz (AMT) organized and facilitated yet another residency by the vocal coach Hank Hammett; that Dr. Mertz-Weigel (LLP) has developed weekly communication between her students in Georgia and others in France? It also was a year to celebrate the doctorates earned by Jane Rago (LLP) and Becky da Cruz (CJSPS). Unfortunately, space does not permit me to include a complete list of all faculty milestones. Successes were also manifested in numerous student accomplishments. History student Samanthis Smalls earned a full ride scholarship to study African American history at Duke. Student-athlete and economics major Parker Hayden won admission to North Carolina State’s Global Management Program, which includes funding to cover a semester near Aix-en-Provence, France. LLP Jordan Howell won as assistantship to study literature at the University of Delaware; CJ student, Taylor Brickley, did the same at Clemson. MALPS student Sally Stallings-Lopez earned admission to the School of Law at Northwestern University, and LLP student Felix Montanez-Resto earned admission to the Cornell University School of Law, certainly the two most prestigious law school admissions in recent memory.

A few steps in the right direction became possible in April and May, when the months of belt-tightening meant that some monies were still in reserve as the fiscal year neared an end. As a result, we were able to invest in new computer technologies that will impact every student in music theory classes; buy new equipment to outfit a vital piano laboratory; and essential updates to the teaching software used in economics and graphics design classes. One of the most interesting days was May 15th, when Doug Frazier and I engaged in a flurry of button-clicking at amazon.com that led to the purchase of 253 new and used books in the liberal arts for the library.

We also made progress in some other areas. Our three new hires associated with the First-Year Experience initiative—Jane Rago, Mary Anne Brock, and Bonnie Emerick—all worked to launch a broad commitment to first year students beginning in Fall 2009. All faculty positions vacated in the past year have been filled with tenure-track or one-year full-
time replacements. The renovations to Jenkins Hall and the Fine Arts Auditorium were also completed during this year. Spearheaded by Tom Cato, former dean Ed Wheeler, and others, these improvements have drastically improved the facilities that most directly connect the College of Liberal Arts with the outside world. Other efforts may also help the college become better poised for future successes: cultivation of AASU’s relationship with the Skidaway Community Institute; campus-wide discussions on environmental concerns; development of promotional materials for graduate programs in MALPS and Criminal Justice, among others.

My year as interim dean also allowed me to more fully appreciate the work of various support staff, most especially the Queen of FACE, Diane Sellers. She is professional in every way: dedicated, conscientious, meticulous, and efficient. What’s more, she has not at all complained that she now—as a result of staff reductions—must do 100 percent of the office work, and she is recognized across campus as an indispensable resource for all new secretaries and support personnel.

I also would like to highlight the work of not one but two interim assistant deans, Dr. Howells and Dr. Winterhalter. Both accepted their new roles will skill, efficiency, and dedication; both offered objective evaluation of the college’s needs and priorities; both took the lead on important new initiatives. Both are natural administrators and will continue to serve the university in vital ways. It also was a pleasure to work with five dedicated department heads, none of whom needed much direction from me. Each department head recognized that I was an inexperienced dean, but they remained helpful, respectful, and did not complain too loudly when I made mistakes.

My year of attending meetings with the other deans and upper administrators proved interesting and informative, and I gained a special respect for the values and integrity of my immediate boss, Dr. Whitford. Perhaps most importantly, my year as interim dean yielded a sense of optimism that the university is headed in the right direction, and that better years than The Finlay Year lie ahead for AASU’s students, faculty, and staff.

In closing, I would like to thank all who helped in this transitional year, and to ask everyone to welcome and support our new dean, Dr. Laura Barrett.

Howells Notes

Southern Poetry Review News Release:
The National Endowment for the Arts announced that the Southern Poetry Review, now celebrating 50 years of continuous publication, is the recipient of the NEA’s 2009 Literary Access to Artistic Excellence Grant. The $5,000 grant follows two other grants that Southern Poetry Review received for 2008-2009: a $1,500 grant from The Georgia Council for the Arts, and a $750 grant from the Southern Arts Federation. The funds from these grants will be used to improve public access to the journal and to the art of poetry by developing a publicly accessible online archive of the journal, sponsoring festival readings in coordination with The Savannah Book Festival, and publishing a special 25th anniversary issue highlighting winners of Southern Poetry Review’s Guy Owen Award. Southern Poetry Review is housed on the Armstrong Atlantic State University campus, in Savannah, GA. Congratulations to Drs. Tony Morris and James Smith!

AMT Action
As we all know from Mario’s news blasts, a lot has been happening in AMT with numerous weekly performances, exhibitions, and recitals. A few highlights: Kudos to Kevin Hampton for February’s successful PianoFest with performances, workshops, and competitions for students and teachers—an excellent way to showcase our new spaces! Congratulations to Lucinda Schultz and her vocal students who participated in the 2009 Georgia National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) Student Auditions. Over 450 students and 61 teachers were at the auditions. Of the seven AASU students, two placed in the top three in their respective categories: Matthew Jones and Ashley Adams.

In other AMT news, it was a special Homecoming for AMT with the Annual Juried Alumni Exhibition as well as the Annual Music Showcase Concert and the re-opening of the Fine Arts Hall Auditorium. We now have quality spaces to showcase the excellence of our performances.

FLCs at AASU
At April’s First Friday Faculty Forum, Greg Anderson, Mary Anne Brock, Bonnie Emerick, and Jane Rago presented definitions of, data about, and ideas to think about when it comes to Learning Communities. Nationally and locally, students report a positive experience in FLCs and, based on the data we have, seem to persist at a higher and more successful rate. FYE instructors Brock, Emerick, and
Some of our faculty are doing their part to bring the It's a Small World world to our classrooms. At the recent forum on making the curriculum more international, Dorothee Mertz-Weigel talked about using webcams and Skype in her classes so students can communicate with students in France, sharing both English and French in dialogue. Stemming from their past work in Argentina, and supported in part by a Spring Collaborative Research Grant, Rachel Green and Angela Horne have created a website that facilitates their teaching of Andean weaving and dying techniques and sustainable development.

Flex Term Findings
According to a recent survey of session 3 students, far more “traditional” students are enrolled and interested in such courses than was suspected. These students would like to see more sections and more offerings in order to expedite their progression toward graduation. Some faculty, however, wonder about the pedagogical success of these compressed courses, and some administrators may see this format as an opportunity for expansion. We wonder about your thoughts.

It’s a Small World
Some of our faculty are doing their part to bring the world to our classrooms. At the recent forum on making the curriculum more international, Dorothee Mertz-Weigel talked about using webcams and Skype in her classes so students can communicate with students in France, sharing both English and French in dialogue. Stemming from their past work in Argentina, and supported in part by a Summer Collaborative Research Grant, Rachel Green and Angela Horne have created a website that facilitates their teaching of Andean weaving and dying techniques and sustainable development.

Oui, Oui!
The French Club, with the College of Education, the Department of Languages, Literature & Philosophy and the Office of International Education, hosted the university’s first Francophone Film Festival April 16-18 in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Five recent Francophone films were showcased: Persepolis (2007), Her Name is Sabine (2008), Grand Voyage (2004), Blame it on Fidel (2006), and The Chorus (2005). This year’s event will allow for future festivals sponsored by grant from the FACE Tournees Festival organization, linked to the French Embassy. Kudos to Dorothee Mertz-Weigel for launching this event.

Faculty Notes
As University Relations tries to keep abreast of all of our accomplishments, they have asked us to encourage you to submit all presentations and publications to our Faculty Notes so we can pass them on to them. In other words, don’t be shy, feel free to brag, and let us know what you are up to!

Kelton Sage Tipton (AMT) was selected for participation in the Society of Stage Directors and Choreographers (SSDC) National Directing Fellowship Program for the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre Festival (KC/ACTIF) Region IV, Festival 41 in Greensboro, North Carolina for excellence in directing for her production of Mr. Marmalade.

Dorothee Mertz-Weigel (LLP) presented “Entertaining the Mind: A Medieval Cure for Melancholy?” on December 5th as part of the AASU Faculty Lecture Series.

Chris Baker (LLP) published “Five Questions from Missouri” in the December 2008 issue of The Teaching Professor. He also presented “A New Testament Analogy for the Porter Scene in Macbeth” at the annual South-Central Renaissance Conference in Arkansas in March 2009 and concluded his term as the organization’s president.


Michael Toma (ECON) presented on the economic crisis, Savannah, and the housing market to the Bryan County chapter of the Savannah Home Builders and to the staff of Melaver/Mouchet Inc, commercial developers, and to the Savannah area chapter of the Appraisal Institute. He served as a judge at the annual Academy of Economics and Finance
Conference in Pensacola, FL and presented with Dr. Cebula (see above) at the conference.

Kalenda Eaton (LLP) presented “Mother, Son, and Holy Ghost: Reading Flannery O’Connor’s ‘Everything that Rises Must Converge’” here in Savannah at the Flannery O’Connor House and travelled to Portugal to the University of Beira Interior to present “Jumping Up to Get Beat Down?: Reflections on the Perils of Black Progress in Richard Wright’s ‘12 Million Black Voices and Black Power” at the Richard Wright Centennial Symposium. She delivered the keynote address for the Savannah District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers’ African-American History Month program.

Tony Morris (LLP) had his poem "Pulling at a Thread" nominated by the editors of the Connecticut Review for a 2009 Pushcart Poetry Prize. The poem was published in the spring 2008 issue of Connecticut Review.

Nancy Remler (LLP) received an $830 grant from the Georgia Council of Teachers of English to set up a teacher education resource center in Gamble Hall.

James Smith (LLP) edited Don’t Leave Hungry: Fifty Years of Southern Poetry Review, published by University of Arkansas Press.

Michael Hall (HIST) presented on Jorge Amado’s novel Gabriela, Cove and Cinnamon to The Landings’ Professional Educational Organization in January.

Hans-Georg Erney (LLP) presented “Voting Humanity Off the Island, or Is There Life after people,” at the meeting of the Association for the Study of Literature and the Environment at Victoria, British Columbia. He also presented “Human Extinction Fantasies” as part of the AASU Faculty Lecture Series.

Jim Todesca (HIST) presented “Means of Exchange: Islamic Coinage in Christian Spain, c.1035-1252” at Princeton University’s colloquium on Coinage in the Age of the Crusades. He also organized a session and presented a paper on medieval Spain at the 44th International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Mark Finlay (HIST) has published Growing American Rubber: Strategic Plants and the Politics of National Security (New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2009).

Olavi Arens (HIST) presented “Writing of History in Exile: The Estonian Learned Society in Sweden,” at the annual meeting for the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Studies at Madison, Wisconsin. He also represented the Association for the Advancement of Baltic Studies at the annual meeting to the American Council of Learned Societies meeting in Philadelphia.

Kathleen Burke (CJSPS) presented “Micro-financing & U.S. Illegal Immigration Dilemma: Merging the Interests of Public Policy and Private Enterprise” on Mar. 27th as part of the AASU Faculty Lecture Series.

Randall Reese (AMT) performed with the Georgia Association of Jazz Educators Directors Band at the in-service conference of the Georgia Music Educators Association in Savannah.

Deborah Jamieson (AMT) presented “The Alhambra: Multiple Perspectives” at the 13th Georgia Consortium for International Studies.

Richard McGrath (ECON) organized annual meeting of the Academy of Economics and Finance (AEF) and was elected president of the organization.

Jose and Becky da Cruz (CJSPS) were recognized as co-recipients of the Department of Political Science’s 2009 Alumni of the Year award at Wright State University by the College of Liberal Arts at their annual alumni recognition dinner this April. Jose da Cruz also gave the commencement speech last month at Colegio Saleziano, Jacarezinho in Rio de Janeiro.

Bonnie Emerick (LLP) presented “Like a Figure Eight: Memory and Intertextuality in Martha Ronk’s ‘Vertigo’” at the Louisville Conference on Language and Literature since 1900. Her poem, “Ventriloquy,” will be published in the next issue of How2.

Junseob Moon (CJSPS) co-presented the following two papers at the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences meeting in Boston: “The Influence of Supervisors’ Philosophy on the Probation System in South Korea” and “Suspect Gender and Police Suspicion: A Test of Differential Exposure Theory in New York City.” He was also appointed an editorial board member for the Korean Security Science Review.

Jason Tatlock (HIST) presented “Kindled Kin: Burning and Burying Children in Ancient Mediterranean Religions” on April 10th as part of the AASU Faculty Lecture Series.
TIPS FOR FILLING OUT EXPENSE REPORTS ON PEOPLE SOFT

(Note: Procedures for Travel Authorizations and Travel Expenses are similar)

To get to Travel Authorizations and/or Expense Reports, click on the following from the AASU home page: Faculty/Staff, Human Resources, PeopleSoft ESS, (enter your user ID (same as email) and your password), Travel and Expense Home, Employee Self-Service, and Travel Authorization or Expense Report – Create.

- **Quick start:** Template. Select the “template” that best fits your travel plan, then click “go,” or you can list each expense manually by clicking on the blue arrow under Expense Types.
- **Fill in Description, Business Purpose, and the Default Location (click on magnifying glass, change from “Expense Location” to “Description,” and type in first 3 letters of the city for a list to appear; then click on correct city). Comment section is optional.

- **Accounting Defaults:** For routine COLA travel Requests, use the following budget “string.” Fund (travel) – 10000; Dept. – 1025030; Program – 11100, and Class – 11000. If you have registration fees, that string only needs to be changed from 1025030 to your own departmental account string. Departmental strings are: AMT -1001030, CJSPS - 1001040, HIST - 1001050, LLP -1001060, and ECON - 1001110.
- **Use Mileage – Tier 1** when driving your own car. Payment type – use N/A (e.g. mileage). Put in beginning and ending mileage and originating and destination locations by clicking on the magnifying glass and following the previous instructions. Click on Return to Expense Report.
- **Gasoline** – use this when you are in an AASU or an Enterprise rental vehicle. Enter payment type and the amount spent.
- **Meals** - click on “details” at the far right. When typing in the time, it is not the time you eat. It is the times you are gone from home on the trip. If it is the first day of your trip, type in the time that you left home and use 11:59 pm if you will be gone all day. When you are gone a full day, the times will be 12:00 am and 11:59 pm. If it is the day you return, then it should be 12:00 am and whatever time you got back to Savannah. Do Location the same as in previous instructions (changing from “Expense Location” to “Description”), put in the correct amount for the meal, and click on Return to Expense Report. Note: AASU only allows $7 – breakfast, $9 – lunch, and $20 – Dinner. Do not exceed these amounts.
- **Lodging** – click on “details,” put in payment type, number of nights, merchant (choose 1), location (same instructions as above), and enter total amount to be reimbursed. Return to Expense Report.
- **Receipts** – go to Armstrong home page and click on Business and Finance, Office Forms, then Receipts for Expenses form. Instructions are on the form.
- **When complete, click on “check for errors.”** If the red flags are gone, click on “submit.”

**EXTRA TIPS:**
- **Parking and Voice/Data** - use the day you paid for it.
- **When entering expense dates, click on the calendar to the right, then click on the correct day for that expense.**
- **After you’ve filled out the details for an expense, don’t use the “back” arrow to go back to the Expense Report. Always click on “Return to Expense Report.”**

If there are problems you can’t solve, see your departmental secretary or call Diane at 42523. If we can’t solve it, we’ll go to the People Soft expert, Daphne Burch, to get the answer.

**Deadlines and Dates**

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