WheelerNotes

Welcome Back: Those of us who have worked some or all of the freshman orientation sessions this summer have already felt the surge of energy elicited by hundreds of bright and eager faces contemplating the first days of their college experience. As you return to our community from your wanderings - be they travels to Greece, Peru, France, Spain, or the Netherlands, or scholarly missions to Ithaca or Cambridge or Williamsburg, or frequent trips to teach in the exotic postings in Liberty County and Brunswick - we welcome the return of your energy. As these two streams of energy intersect on August 19, we anticipate the inauguration of a very good year. Thank you for returning to us.

Giving Opportunities in Arts and Sciences: Gifts to the Armstrong Foundation by Armstrong faculty and staff have dual positive effects. Certainly money directed at projects you endorse contributes enormously to the success of those projects. Perhaps more important, however, is the symbolic statement made when members of our community contribute to goals of the community. This symbolic statement is very useful to fund raisers as they discuss potential gifts with friends outside the Armstrong family. You can find a description of Foundation Funds directly related to the efforts of the College of Arts and Sciences at the college web page (http://www.as.armstrong.edu). We would especially appreciate your attention to a new fund, Dean’s Fund for Excellence, that is described with others at that web location. Remember, in terms of making the symbolic statement mentioned above, the size of the gift is less important that the fact that the gift is made.

First Department Heads Meeting: In an effort to make the first week of Jane Wong’s first semester as stressful as possible, we will schedule the first meeting of Arts and Sciences Department Heads at 2:30 on Friday the sixteenth, immediately after she finishes her new faculty orientation. We will be meeting in Gamble 205. Agenda will be supplied later.

FinlayNotes

Highlighting Scholarship from A&S Faculty. The new Dean’s Office in Gamble Hall has space to highlight scholarship by A & S faculty. We currently have a display of books published by our faculty in a glass case; if your book is missing, please share a copy for the display. In addition, there is room on a bulletin board outside the office to display article offprints, book chapters, newspaper clippings, and other achievements under the banner of "Continuing Arts & Sciences Scholarship." Submissions will be on display on a rotating basis and then returned.

Visitor from Germany. Dr. Klaus Erich Pollmann, the Rektor [= President] of the Otto-von-Guericke Universität in Magdeburg Germany will be on campus September 2-6. Dr. Pollmann and his wife are both willing to make presentations and lectures in classrooms, in addition to a campus-wide public lecture. I believe that his expertise is in twentieth century German history, and hers is in the field of German language. In addition, they could share their experiences concerning the transitions that have occurred in eastern Germany since 1989. For more information, contact Dr. Anderson at ext. 5671.
UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS:

**August 16** - A & S Department Heads Meeting, 2:30 PM, Gamble 205.

**August 23** - name representative to the College Curriculum Committee. The 2001-2002 members were James Handley, Steve Taylor, Scott Buchanan, Judy Awong-Taylor, Leon Jaynes, John Kearnes, Richard McGrath, Dick Nordquist, June Hopkins, Carol Jamison and Selwyn Hollis.

**August 27** - Fall Semester CIRs due

**August 28** - Part-Time Pay Reports and Extra Compensation Forms due

**August 30** - Name elected representative to Tenure and Promotion Committee. Open seats exist in the departments of Biology, LLP, Chemistry & Physics, Economics, Mathematics, and History. The departmental representative shall be elected by vote of the full-time, tenured, and tenure track faculty of the department.

**September 6** - revised Spring schedule due

**September 9** - Promotion and tenure applications are due to the department head. William Daugherty, Michael Hall, Sabrina Hessinger, Mark Johnson, Richard McGrath, and Michael Toma are entering their sixth year toward tenure and must apply this year in order to be granted tenure.

**September 11** - University-wide commemoration of September 11, led by Dept of CJSPS

WHEELER AT HARVARD

Wheeler spent two good weeks in Cambridge, Mass. this summer at a workshop directed at higher education administrators. He learned a good deal about administration, but was surprised at how much he added to his knowledge of the Arts and Sciences disciplines. We have asked him to write a brief column for the next few issues detailing some of the wisdom that he gained in that experience. In this week’s column, he shares an exciting discovery in the physical sciences that was studied in detail during his two weeks.

Researchers at a major university have discovered the heaviest element known to science. Its name? Administratium.

This new element has no protons or electrons, thus having an atomic number of 0. It does, however, have 1 neutron, 125 assistant neutrons, 75 vice neutrons, and 111 assistant vice neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312. These 312 particles are held together by a force called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons.

Since it has no electrons, Administratium is inert. However, it can be detected as it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. According to the discoverers, a minute amount of Administratium causes one reaction to take over four days to complete when it would normally take less than a second.

Administratium has a normal half-life of approximately three years; it does not decay but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons, vice neutrons, and assistant vice neutrons exchange places. In fact, an Administratium sample's mass will actually increase over time, since with each reorganization some of the morons inevitably become neutrons, forming new isotopes. This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to speculate that Administratium is formed whenever morons reach a certain quantity in concentration. This hypothetical quantity is referred to as the "Critical Morass."

DEANotes is a quasi-weekly publication of the College of Arts & Sciences. Dr. Mark Finlay is the editor. Some of the content of the publication will be informational content directed primarily at department heads. However, other parts of the reading may be of interest to members of the faculty of the College of Arts & Sciences. In addition to a limited paper distribution, DEANotes will be posted upon publication at the Faculty Resources page of the web site for the College of Arts & Sciences.