Certificates - Chapter 2:
In the last edition of DeaNotes we discussed the facts that undergraduate certificates serve two important purposes. Primarily they serve an advising purpose, directing students toward collections of courses chosen because of personal interest or to complement their major studies. However, another important purpose is the fact that undergraduate certificates can help a student look more attractive to employers.

Another important purpose served by undergraduate certificates centers around the fact that a certificate can make undergraduate studies look attractive to persons who already have earned a college degree. Often the continuing education that a college graduate wants or needs is wrapped up and ready to deliver in a collection of sophomore-junior courses. However, some college graduates might feel it is inefficient to return to undergraduate studies. The ability to package those courses as a certificate can make such a return more attractive. Below you will find each of the undergraduate certificates offered in the College of Arts and Sciences together with a brief description. Notice that the two most recent certificates, the certificate in Financial Economics and the Certificate in Forensic Science, can be very attractive to college graduates with the right set of interests.

1) European Union Studies Certificate. The European Union Studies Certificate provides an in-depth study of the European Union (EU) and its relationship with the United States and other nations. The program includes EURO 2000, a foreign language requirement, and other courses and practicum experiences available at AASU and through study-abroad programs. Instructors may tailor relevant classes to count in this curriculum provided that at least 40% of a student's work in the course addressed European Union issues.

2) Certificate in Latin American Studies. The Certificate in Latin American Studies provides an in-depth study of Latin America and its relationship with the United States and other nations. The course of study is designed to be interdisciplinary and complementary to existing undergraduate programs. Instructors may tailor relevant classes to count in this curriculum provided that at least 25% of a student's work in the course addressed Latin American issues.

3) Women's Studies Certificate. The Women's Studies certificate offers an interdisciplinary examination of women's roles, achievements, and experiences, both historically and across cultures. Courses explore the relationship between cultural definitions of feminine behavior and the realities of women's lives. It considers the ways class, race, ethnicity, and age shape the female experience; and examines the ways in which gender is socially and culturally constructed rather than determined by biology alone. The program begins with WMST 1101 and/or 2101 and includes course offerings in history, sociology, psychology, art, literature, and other disciplines.

4) The Certificate in Financial Economics. The Certificate in Financial Economics offers an examination of various aspects of financial economics, ranging from capital markets and financial institutions to foreign exchange markets. Tracks are available for both degree-seeking undergraduate students and non-degree-seeking professionals. All coursework is within the Department of Economics.

5) The Certificate in Forensic Science. The Certificate in Forensic Science offers students whose primary training is in science to become criminal
justice professionals and practitioners in the criminal justice system to obtain a better foundation in the sciences. The program includes upper-level coursework in biology, chemistry, and criminal justice.

6) The Basic Law Enforcement Certificate Program enables students to become candidates for Georgia law enforcement certification. Law Enforcement Training courses only carry institutional credit.

An Aside To Basketball Lovers
If you haven’t seen an Armstrong basketball game this year, you will want to try to make it to the arena some time soon. You will enjoy seeing both the men’s team and the women’s team play, but be sure and see this year’s version of the Lady Pirates. They play an exciting, aggressive brand of basketball that has resulted in a 13-1 record and lots of joy for those who enjoy watching this game. Women play at 5:30 pm; men play at 7:30 pm. Next home game is on January 25; then games on February 5th and 8th.

FinlayNotes

Honors Program Update and Call for Proposals
The Honors Program continues to grow. Honors course enrollments for 2002-2003 total 205, in contrast with 159 in 2001-2002 and a previous record of 185 in 2000-2001. The Program sponsored sixteen different academic and social events in Fall 2002. And as in May 2002, we set a new record for the number of graduates at the December 2002 graduation.

We are also looking for one or possibly two proposals for Honors in the core classes for 2003-2004. These proposals are considered by both the Honors Advisory Committee and by interested honors student leaders. If you have an idea for such a class, please submit a description to Dr. Finlay by January 27. The proposal should specify how the approach taken would be different from that of a normal core course.

ArmstrongFest

Important! We need to win!
The first annual ArmstrongFest will feature a Faculty vs. Students Quiz Bowl on Monday, March 24, at the MCC at noon. It is my job to find four talented and gutsy faculty members willing to take on the students in a battle of the wits. It should be a fun event and an easy victory, but please let me know if you are interested (finlayma@mail.armstrong.edu).

Dean’s Office Hours
The dean’s office will be staffed from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. this semester. After 5:30 Dr. Finlay and especially Dr. Wheeler can be found in their offices.

State Business Transactions Disclosure
Georgia law requires that employees of the State of Georgia must disclose if they or members of their immediate family have conducted business with an agency of the State of Georgia. The complete instructions and reporting forms are available at www.usg.edu/admin/legal/bus_transact.pdf. The deadline is January 31, 2003. It looks like I am one of those who has to fill out this form.

UPCOMING DEADLINES AND EVENTS
January 17: Off-campus instruction travel expense estimates due and proposals due for presentations at Kennesaw State University meeting on Diversity in Education
January 27: Recommendation of First Year Faculty due. Those from A & S include, LLP-Barron; AMT-Brown; Math-Hadavas and Sanders; History-Leaver; Chem/Physics-Mullenax; and Biology-Zettler
January 29: Department heads submit nominations for Executive Committee and University Curriculum Committee following departmental elections
January 31: Items due for February A & S Curriculum Committee meeting
February 3: Faculty APARS due to department heads; dept head APARS due to dean
February 7: A & S Curriculum Committee meeting
February 8: Spring Open House
February 14: Nominations for Faculty Awards due (Service to the University, Profession, Community, Brockmeier, Probst) See http://www.faculty.armstrong.edu/

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
“Teaching is the choicest of professions because everybody who is anybody was taught how to be somebody by a teacher.”

Author Unknown

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.