University Personnel Meeting

Although the Dean (and Assistant Dean) will have an excused absence, he does urge members of the Arts and Sciences community to attend the AASU University Personnel Meeting on Friday, April 25 at 12:15 in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Chancellor Thomas Meredith will join us to speak and answer questions. In addition, the event will recognize retirees, employees for milestone years of service, and the “Staff Employee of the Year”.

Travel Monies

Many months ago we were forced by budget uncertainty to ask departments to slow their spending for travel. About one month ago, with help from Dr. Nordquist, we were able to allow departments to completely spend their travel budgets for this year. Though next year’s financial picture is still very uncertain, we seem to be avoiding further disasters in this year, so we are able to spend the limited funds in the Dean’s office. If you have opportunity to travel to make a scholarly presentation in the short time that remains this year (or if you have traveled to present without full compensation in the past), please work with your department heads both to maximize support from your department and to receive additional support from the Dean’s office if necessary.

Physics!

In a recent DeaNotes article we listed the majors housed in the new science complex … and neglected to mention the physics major. Our omission should not obscure our appreciation for the important work done by Professors Woods, Jaynes, and Mullenax as they deliver important parts of the core, provide service courses for hordes of engineering and science majors, and support the applied physics major.

Meeting for Old Folks (Oops) … Senior Faculty

Associate Professors and Full Professors in the College of Arts and Sciences are invited to join Dean Wheeler in the Faculty Dining Room on Tuesday, April 29, at 3:30 PM for a brief conversation. The brief agenda will be:

1. Post-tenure review
2. Issues on which you would like the Dean to cogitate during the summer

Light refreshments will be available.
FinlayNotes

Faculty Victorious in Quiz Bowl
The team of Drs. Byrd, Beare, Nordquist, and Finlay defeated students Gretchen Stewart, Andres Escolar, Jarrett Walsh, and Justin Lybarger in a Quiz Bowl match held on March 24, part of a kickoff to the Armstrongfest festivities. The final score was 710 to 30. That’s not a typo.

Fulbright Scholar News
The Fulbright Scholar Program offers annual opportunities for over 800 U. S. faculty and professionals to teach or conduct research in over 140 countries. Grantees come from all areas of the humanities, social sciences, and natural and physical sciences. A new two- to six-week grant program—the Fulbright Senior Specialist Program—may be especially interesting for AASU faculty. For more information, visit the website at www.cies.org.

Learning Communities
I recently attended a meeting where faculty seemed interested in the extent of the learning community program scheduled for the fall. Six different learning communities are planned. They are described in a slick new pamphlet available from the Office of Academic Orientation and Advisement, 921-5465.

FacultyNotes

Renee Soto, LLP, had two poems, “Martín” and “Palm Sunday Morning” accepted by the Crab Orchard Review.

Will Lynch and Delana Nivens, chemistry, have been awarded a $100,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for the development of nanotechnology in the chemistry curriculum.

Michael Toma, economics, was recently named by the Savannah Business Report and Journal as one of “40 under 40” notable business leaders in Savannah. In addition, Toma published an article with a former student, Joseph Hodges (now in enrollment services), along with B. Bart and T. Alemayehu of Savannah State University, “Economic Impact of Manufacturing in the Savannah Area, 2001,” Georgia Business and Economic Trends, 63(1): 23-29.

Jim Smith, LLP, delivered a paper “Jim Grimsley’s Mr. Universe: Take Apart the Brick Wall of Constructed Identity,” at the South Atlantic Modern Languages Association conference in Baltimore.

Mark Finlay presented a paper at the American Society of Environmental History meeting in Providence in March, and gave an invited talk for the School of History, Technology, and Society at Georgia Tech in April.


Beth Howells and Renee Soto, LLP, organized a panel at the Georgia Southern First Year Success Conference entitled "Reading the Word/World in First-Year Composition." Debi Reese, Lori Allen, and Nancy Remler, LLP also presented a session at that meeting.

Jill Miller presented "Physical Space and the Construction of Racial Identity at the 1904 Louisiana Purchase Exposition" at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa's second annual conference on "Race and Place" in March.

Student Notes

Elisabeth Vella, a senior theatre major has been nominated by the Kennedy Center/American College Theatre festival for the Barbizon Prize in light design for her work on Oleana. She will be present a portfolio of this design in the national competition this coming year. In addition, junior theatre major Kristi Snyder was nominated for the KC/ACTF Irene Ryan acting award for her role in the same production. Ms. Snyder will compete in the acting competition this coming February. This is Ms. Snyder's second KC/ACTF nomination, having been nominated for her performance of Adriana in this fall's production of A Comedy of Errors. Other KC/ACTF Irene Ryan nominees from this past academic year are: Maureen Yasko, Kimberly Swale, Cyrus Steele, Rebecca Braunstein, Dawn Peterson, Bess McCreary, and Matt Franklin.

Honors Program students Rena Dixon, Juan Aragon, Sarah Beth Link, Megan Iorio, and Katlin Kuidsoo presented a panel that highlighted their work in Dr. Nordquist’s ENGL 2100H class at the Southeastern Collegiate Honors Council meeting in Greensboro.
Several psychology students and faculty attended the Southeastern Psychological Association’s (SEPA) annual convention held in New Orleans, LA. Three of the students attending the conference presented the results of their collaboration with their respective faculty advisors. Kate Harris presented a poster co-authored by Dr. Stephen Taylor entitled, “Predicting Standardized Test Scores and Evaluating Public School Quality.” Christi Bethune and Kate Harris presented a poster co-authored by Dr. Jonathan Roberts entitled, “Task Difficulty, Not Dimension of Rotation, Elicits Sex Differences on Mental Rotation Tasks.” Also, Sean Fretwell presented a paper co-authored by Dr. Jonathan Roberts entitled, “An Analysis of 2-D Mental Rotation Complexity.”

Art majors Tristy Stephens and Charles Estes traveled to New Orleans in April for the Popular Culture/American Culture Associations’ annual meeting. They assisted their professor, Jill Miller, in presenting, “Using the Creative Process to Challenge Pedagogical Norms.” The presentation incorporated elements of performance art as part of a session titled, “Unorthodox Teaching Strategies in the Fine Arts.”

**Upcoming Deadlines**

**April 21-25** - April Research and Scholarship Exhibition  
**April 23** - Honors Program Research and Scholarship Presentations, 1:00 – 4:00 PM  
**April 24** - Honors Program Philosophy Colloquium, UH 156, 10:00 AM -1:00 PM  
**April 25** - University Personnel Meeting – 12:15 PM and Student Writing Symposium – 1:15 PM in UH 157 and 158.  
**May 5** - Senior grades due, 9:00 AM  
**May 7** - Possible department heads meeting  
**May 9** - Other grades due, 9:00 AM  
**May 10** - Graduation, 10:00 AM  
**May 12** - Deadline for revisions to fall schedule