

College of Arts & Sciences

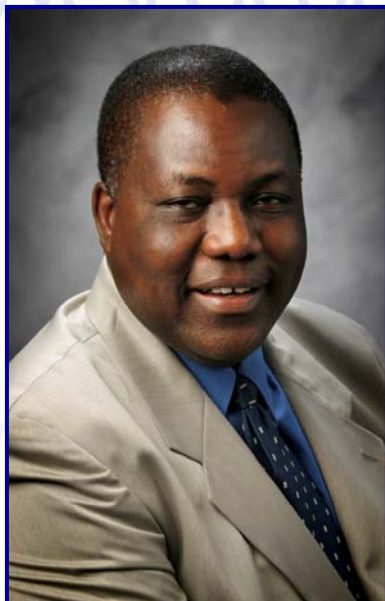
The Connection

"It all starts here!"

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Debut Edition!



A Special Message From the Dean

Since I assumed the position of the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences on July 1, 2009, I have been very impressed with the great sense of dedication and commitment of the faculty and staff of the college. Moreover, amidst the current economic crisis at both the state and national levels and the resultant adverse impact on financial, material and logistical resources, the faculty and staff of the College of Arts and Sciences are continuing their outstanding work.

For the faculty, this is reflected in excellent teaching, outstanding scholarship and great service to their respective departments, the college, the university and various external communities. For example, the scholarly outputs of the faculty are comparable to those of colleagues at research universities! Furthermore, several faculty members are nationally and internationally recognized in their respective fields as evidenced by their election to various leadership positions, the receipt of honors, awards and research grants.

As for the staff members, their great dedication is visible in the smooth and efficient operation of the Office of the Dean and the various departments in the college. In the case of our students, several of them continue to win various accolades and honors in the areas of undergraduate research, exhibition and performance. In short, amazing things are happening in the College of Arts and Sciences!

As we continue to build on the solid foundation that has been laid, I am fully committed to working with our faculty, students, staff, alumni, the various university offices and external communities in working to strengthen and expand the "culture of excellence" that is the hallmark of the College of Arts and Sciences in teaching, research and service. Specifically, I will work with the aforementioned groups in mobilizing the requisite financial, material and logistical resources that are critical to the maintenance of the "culture of excellence." I welcome the ideas of the faculty, staff, students, alumni and other interested parties about ways in which we can continue to build on the "tradition of excellence."

Finally, let me close by expressing my profound thanks and appreciation to the associate deans and staff in my office, the department chairs, center directors, the coordinators of interdisciplinary programs, the faculty, staff and student advisory committees, the executive committee of the faculty, the faculty, staff, students and the various offices at the University of West Georgia for their support and cooperation. I am looking forward to even greater things for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Warmly,

George Kieh

Dean and Professor of Political Science

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News and Events!

The COAS "Plan of Action"



A new "Plan of Action" has been unveiled for the College of Arts and Sciences. The "Plan" covers the college's "Vision" for advancing its academic mission. The "Plan" includes the retention of faculty, the recruitment of new faculty, support for the faculty's teaching, research and service activities, student retention, student advisement, undergraduate research, professional development for faculty, students and staff, new awards, "Alumni in Residence Program," and new lecture series and teaching and research programs. The "Plan" went into effect in September 2009, after discussions in the college. The "Plan" will help guide the college's teaching, research and service activities for the long-term.

Fundraising Campaign to be Launched

The College of Arts and Sciences will launch a major "Fundraising Campaign" in January 2010. The "Campaign" is intended to raise funds to help support the college's "Plan of Action." The "Campaign" will be conducted in two phases: internal and external. The former will involve the solicitation of contributions from the faculty and staff of the college. The latter will focus on the Carrollton community and others.



New Lecture Series, Research and Teaching Programs

The college has established various programs that are designed to enhance dialogue, teaching and research. The "Lecture Series Program" is intended to provide a vehicle through which speakers from various disciplinary backgrounds would give public lectures on various issues. "The Teaching Roundtable" will provide a forum for the sharing of ideas on issues of pedagogy and student learning. "The Research Forum" will provide an arena where faculty members in the college can share their research activities with the university community.

Dean Appoints Task Forces for Various Initiatives

The Dean of COAS has appointed various task forces to study and make recommendations regarding the implementation of the various "Initiatives" embodied in the college's "Plan of Action." The task forces cover Female Leadership Development, Leadership Development (general), Internationalization, Interdisciplinary Studies and Collaboration, Graduate Education, Resource Allocation, and Associate Deans, department Chairs et al. The memberships of the task forces include faculty members from the various disciplinary clusters in the college (Fine and Performing Arts and Humanities, Mathematics and the Natural Sciences and the Social Sciences). The task forces will submit their reports to the Dean by December 15, 2009.

New Grant Programs Established

As part of the college's "Plan of Action," three new grant programs have been established for faculty, students and staff. The faculty grant programs consist of "The Teaching Innovation Grant," "The Research Grant," and the "Curriculum Development Grant." The faculty grant program will be administered by the Faculty Development Subcommittee of the college's Faculty Advisory Committee. The "Staff Development Grant Program" is designed to give members of the staff in the college various opportunities for enhancing their skills and competencies and acquiring new ones. The "Undergraduate Student Development Grant" is intended to help support undergraduate research and related activities in the college.



Faculty and Staff Spotlights

Dr. Keith Pacholl, Department of History

Dr. Pacholl is currently teaching Early American History to honors and graduate students. He moved from California with his wife and two sons, ages nine and eleven, in 2004 when he began teaching at UWG. "I always wanted to be in one of the original 13 colonies . . . and look where I am," he said. Dr. Pacholl is currently conducting research on religion and how it was conveyed in early American periodicals published in Boston, Charleston, and Philadelphia. His research is obviously extensive - when you walk in his office you will notice a library of nearly 800 books (and a clean desk!). Declaring that history is the "greatest human soap opera you can get," Dr. Pacholl enjoys making connections with students as they encounter and get excited about history. In addition to his students, Dr. Pacholl enjoys working with his fellow faculty and staff members. "If I had to work anywhere, I would want to work with these people. They are like family," he said.



Dr. Janet Donohoe, Department of Philosophy

Dr. Donohoe is constantly on-the-go as a professor of nearly 130 philosophy students. She is the Philosophy Program Director, and the mother of two sons, ages four and six. Dr. Donohoe received her Ph.D. from Boston College and has educated students for over 11 years at the University of West Georgia. "I always took philosophy courses because I always had questions like 'why are we here' and 'what does existence really mean,'" she said. As an author of one book and nine recently published articles, Dr. Donohoe is currently researching about collective memory and the way in which we memorialize through specific objects and locations. She has previously traveled and studied in Russia, Belgium, and Germany. Her next stop will be at Hartwick College (which coincidentally resides on Maple Street) in Oneonta, New York on November 20, 2009. There she will lecture on the "Normative Power of Home," and how home has everything to do with how we view the world.



Dr. Shea Rose, Department of Geosciences

Dr. Rose is one of the newest arrivals to the Department of Geosciences after naming West Georgia her home just over one year ago. She currently teaches Physical Geography, Environmental Geography, and Geographic Information Systems. "I want my students to be able to explore their own interests and find what they are passionate about," she said. Much of her time is geared towards her students and her unique research studying urban development and its effect on weather. Even before she received her Ph.D. from the Florida State University, Dr. Rose has always been interested in lightning strikes and how they are intensified by overdeveloped urban environments. "My goal is to improve urban planning and seek better policy on developments through my research," she said. Her focus is on the outdoors and interestingly enough, much of her study is conducted on the computer through data that has been collected. Recently her students used infrared thermometers to measure the different surface temperatures around campus and learned how different vegetations affect the weather.



Mr. Harry Nelson, Department of Music

As Program Coordinator in the Music Department, Mr. Harry Nelson can be found with his door open in a friendly conversation with students while feverishly working on a demanding cluster of students Spring 2010 schedules. Mr. Nelson has a Bachelor's in Guitar Music from the University of West Georgia. "I enjoy getting to know students and helping them in the educational journey because I have been right here in their shoes," he said. Have you ever wondered who develops the musical programs for performances at the Townsend Center and Cashen Recital Hall? That's right, Harry Nelson is just the guy handling the communications for the Music Department. "It is my responsibility to get concert information out to Marketing and Communications, patrons, and newsletters," he said. With his spare time, one can find him performing on his guitar at the Tanner Hospital atrium for the "Harmony and Healing" series for hospital patients and family members.

Points of Interest

Get Your Achievements Recognized!

We want to hear from you! From awards, events, publications, research projects to grants, we believe that your hard work should be recognized. Please email your Associate Dean the information necessary - and who knows? You may be the next spotlight in "The Connection!"



Add the Online COAS Calendar to Your Favorites!

We want you to stay informed with our calendar of deadlines and events.

Click here (http://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=asfacts%40westga.edu&ctz=America/New_York) to access the COAS online calendar and "bookmark" or "add this page" to your favorites!

I'm Dreaming of a Red Christmas

starring UWG's own Steve Goodson and Pauline Gagnon!

Join the UWG Theatre Company on December 5th for a madcap fundraiser for much-needed equipment and scholarships! Dinner starts at 6:30pm and the show will begin at 7:15pm. Be sure to get your ticket as soon as possible! Tickets are \$25 per person. For ticket information, please call Jan Ridgway at 94700.



Newly Promoted and Tenured Faculty Members Honored

The newly promoted and tenured faculty members from the various disciplines in the college were honored with an "Appreciation Luncheon" in August, 2009. Each faculty member received a plaque as a symbol of the professional milestone.

The newly promoted and tenured faculty members are:

Promoted

Associate Professors Promoted to Full Professor

Amin Boumenir, Department of Mathematics
Muriel Cormican, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature
James Dillon, Department of Psychology
Scott Gordon, Department of Mathematics
David Newton, Department of English and Philosophy
Denise Overfield, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature
Majorie Snipes, Department of Anthropology

Assistant Professors Promoted to Associate Professors

Emily Hipchen, Department of English and Philosophy
Joshua Masters, Department of English and Philosophy

Instructors Promoted to Assistant Professors

Caleb Boyd, Department of Mass Communication and Theater Arts

Lecturer Promoted to Assistant Professor

Anne Gaquere, Department of Chemistry

Lecturer Promoted to Senior Lecturer

Lori Lipoma, Department of English and Philosophy

Tenured

Associate Professors Tenured

Margaret Mitchell, Department of English and Philosophy
Daniel Rocco, Department of Computer Science
Alison Umminger, Department of English and Philosophy

Tenured and Promoted

Assistant Professors Promoted to Associate Professors and Tenured

Eilis Crean, Department of Art
Euisuk Kim, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature
G. Dawn McCord, Department of Music
Gary Schmidt, Department of Foreign Languages and Literature
Rui Xu, Department of Mathematics

New Tenure Track Faculty Members Who Joined the College!

Several new faculty members from various disciplines have joined the college. During the college's general faculty meeting held in August 2009, the new faculty members were introduced by the chairs of their respective departments, and welcomed to the college and the university by the dean. The new faculty members are:

Barbara Ballentine (Assistant Professor of Biology) received her B.S. in Biology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel-Hill; her M.S. in Biology from Auburn University; and her doctorate in Biology from Duke University.

Melissa Cavallin (Assistant Professor of Biology) holds a B.A. in Biology from LaGrange College, Georgia; and a doctorate in Biology from the Medical College of Georgia.

Gary Chesnut (Assistant Professor of Physics) holds a B.S. in Physics and Mathematics; M.S. in Physics; and a doctorate in Physics, all from the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

Maria Jose Hellin-Garcia (Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Literature-Spanish) received her B.A. in Curricular Instruction and English Studies from the Universidad De Valencia, Spain; M.A. in Modern Languages and Literature from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and her Ph.D. in Hispanic Linguistics from the University of Minnesota.

Robert Kilpatrick (Assistant Professor of Foreign Languages and Literature-French) holds a B.A. in French and History from Truman State University, Missouri; M.A. in French Literature from Indiana University; and Ph.D. in French Literature from Indiana University.

Casey McGuire (Assistant Professor of Art) received her BFA in Art and Design from Alfred University; and her MFA in Art from the University of Colorado.

Mautusi Mitra (Assistant Professor of Biology) holds both his BSc. and MSc. in Botany from the University of Calcutta, India; and his Ph.D. in Biology from Louisiana State University.

Michael Orsega (Assistant Professor of Computer Science) received his BSc. in Physics from Penn State University; MSc. in Applied Mathematics from the University of Georgia; and Ph.D. in Computer Science from the University of Tennessee.

Paul Rutledge (Assistant Professor of Political Science) holds his B.A. degree in Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown; and his M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science from West Virginia University.

Fengrong Wei (Assistant Professor of Mathematics) holds a B.S. in Computational Mathematics from Wuhan University, China; and a doctorate in Applied Mathematics from the University of Iowa.

Sarah Westbrook (Assistant Professor of Mathematics) received her B.A. in Sociology from Auburn University; her MEd. in Counseling from Florida A & M University; her MSc. in Applied Mathematics from Auburn University; and Ph.D. in Mathematics from Auburn University.