WheelerNotes

Outstanding Access Institutions: All readers have been waiting in eager anticipation of my promise to reveal the final of three markers or characteristics of outstanding access institutions. In the November, I discussed the fact that at those institutions, special attention is provided to the best students. In December I discussed how those institutions learned to celebrate and encourage small markers of success. In this DeaNotes I identify the final item on the list. <bugle playing>

The academic community of an outstanding access institution finds that very important balance between requiring high standards and providing encouraging support.

There are two very easy things to do:

- Hold high standards without attention to support: As an access institution, we can focus on our high standards, disregard those students who don’t meet those standards, and successfully serve only the 25% of our students who would have succeeded at any college they attended. When we take this approach, we are arguing against a central mission which underlies the existence of our institution as an access institution.

- Move students to degree completion without ensuring they are acquiring the intellectual tools they need. When we do this, we are failing both our society and our students. We forward students to other institutions prepared only to fail, and we place college educated students in the economy unable to produce.

The hard thing to do, the thing that excellent access institutions do well, is maintain the standards, but provide policy, support structure and faculty commitment that ensures that significant numbers of our “at risk” for failure students move meet our high standards and move to success.

If Your Colleagues Look Distracted: Please do not be surprised to see your colleagues in Education and Nursing looking a bit distracted this Spring Semester. They are very heavily preoccupied by two important sets of dates:

February 8 – 10: Visit of Accreditation Team from the National League of Nursing reviewing accreditation for the BSN degree.
March 26 – 30: Visit of Accreditation Team from the NCATE reviewing accreditation for the baccalaureate teaching degrees.

As your preoccupied colleagues pass you on the sidewalk, please give them a word of encouragement; as team members pass you in hallways, please extend a warm Gordon welcome.

The Governor’s Teaching Fellows Program: One of the most impressive faculty development programs in existence nationally is the Georgia Governor’s Teaching Fellows Program. Each summer the program engages a community of scholars from across the University System on the question, “How we can improve teaching and learning in our classrooms?”, and the perks include access to leaders in technological innovation and a very nice stipend. It is a premium opportunity for faculty of a college where “Teaching Matters.” In order to apply for the program, you must have the endorsement of the President, and the committee that makes selections requests that we have no more than 2 endorsements from any one institution. For this reason we ask that, if interested, you present to President Nickel (a) a letter of intent describing what you hope to bring back to the campus from this program (b) a current curriculum vita and (c) a 1-2 page philosophy of teaching statement by January 31, 2011. President Nickel will choose from among those interested and submit one or two packets with endorsements.

For information, go to this website (http://www.uga.edu/ihe/gtf.html) or talk to Drs. Burstein and Osborne who were recent participants.
Thank you! I appreciate the effort by many faculty members, division chairs, and academic staff to move petitions through as quickly as possible this month. Your efforts helped some deserving students stay in school this term.

Online petition process: Computer Services and the academic divisions are continuing to refine a process for submitting and responding to petitions online. In this semester’s pilot, we will be processing, on a limited basis, the types of petitions that require documentation. We hope to have things running smoothly in the next few months so that we can “go online” in the fall. Our goals are to make the process easier and faster for all.

The Academic Literacy in the First Year (ALFY) task force will be meeting in a few weeks to review our progress in our Quality Enhancement Plan. “Academic literacy” refers to the “myriad academic and social characteristics that maximize a student’s potential for successful completion of a college course of study,” including knowledge of Gordon College policies and resources, appreciation of diversity, developing confidence and maturity in the classroom, appreciation of Gordon College’s history and community, and more.

Initiatives of the QEP included developing the ALFY task force; evaluating information collected from surveys of students, such as the CCSSE, which we are conducting this year; developing learning communities; and developing the Gordon First Year Experience course. If you would like to make comments or suggestions about the QEP or any of its components, I encourage you to communicate with an ALFY task force member. A revised membership list for the task force will be sent out soon by email.

Fulbright Scholars: If you are interested in lecturing or conducting research abroad, go to www.iie.org/cies for information on the Fulbright programs. The Core U.S. Scholar Program is closed for 2011-2012, and now is the time to begin preparing an application for 2012-2013. The application deadline is August 1. There are also other programs in which you may be interested.

Dr. Brenda Johnson has a chapter entitled “CAUTION! Implicit Leadership Theories at Work” in the forthcoming book Foundations of Contemporary Leadership, to be published this spring.

Dr. Alan Burstein’s presentation, “What Works for Me: Play Money as Classroom Reward” has been accepted for the Spring, 2011, Teaching Matters Conference.

Dr. Linda Hyde judged the Jackson High School Science Fair on December 15.

Dr. John George attended the Joint Meetings of the Mathematical Association of America and the American Mathematical Society in New Orleans, LA, from January 6th through the 9th. He attended a number of talks on teaching and research.

Drs. Cathy Lee and Mark Brinkman supervised students enrolled in Biology 2295, Special Research Topics course, for the past three semesters. The abstract detailing their work submitted to the 2010-2011 Annual Meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science (GAS) was accepted as a poster presentation. Three students who are enrolled in BIOL 2295 under Dr. Cathy Lee in the Spring 2011 Semester will present the outcome of their study at Gainesville College in March 2011 during the Annual GAS Conference.

Dr. Theresa Stanley (Biology Discipline Leader) reports that we have 41 unique students enrolled in our four-year program across four biology courses (an increase of three students over Fall). All courses are >80% full, and one is almost 20% overfilled.

Dr. Marwan Zabdawi will be a judge for the science fair in Engineering & Mathematics at Spalding High School in Griffin on Friday January 21st.

Please mark your calendars for the Brown Bag Conversations on Teaching and Learning on February 9 and March 30, both at 2:00. Watch for further details.

Dr. Don Butts once again reminds you that you can nominate candidates for President of Gordon by sending the nominee’s name and basic contact information to rcrawford@parkersearch.com.

The President’s Task Force on College Culture
At the behest of APC and the Faculty Senate, President Shelley Nickel created the President’s Task Force on College Culture in fall of 2010. The Task Force was charged with establishing a Gordon College cultural identity that emphasizes the following core values: pride in self and work performed, courtesy and respect for others, peer accountability, integrity, and pride in the institution.
Since being charged, the Task Force members have been hard at work: they have split into subcommittees and developed an “idea bank” of ideas to help improve the culture at Gordon. Task Force meetings are open to any interested member of the Gordon College family. To find out more about the Task Force or to join us at the next meeting, contact Dr Mark King at mking@gdn.edu or at 678-359-5088. Watch this space for further updates on the Task Force.

O’SullivanNotes

Please remind your students and advisees who plan to enter Gordon’s Early Childhood Education baccalaureate program next year that the applications for this program are now available in Russell 104. These applications are due February 14, 2011. Though we will continue to accept applications until the program is full, qualified students who have applications on file when the committee begins to meet in February will have the best chance for admission. Also, please be aware as you talk to advisees, that Gordon now has baccalaureate programs in Mathematics and Biology. Students who major in these two new programs may also have the option of completing a teaching certificate in order to teach at the secondary level. Please encourage students who might be interested in staying at Gordon to major in these offerings to contact either advisors in math or biology or to contact the Education Division for more information. There is an application process for the secondary education part of these programs, so it is never too early for students to begin to think about making application to the Education Division. Dr. Pam Bell is the secondary education coordinator, and students who think they want to teach biology or mathematics at the high school level should speak with Dr. Bell early in their programs. Thanks for your help in getting the word to students.

WhitelockNotes

Our Gordon College Theater Department will present Bruce Graham’s Early One Evening at the Rainbow Bar & Grille, directed by Rhonda Wooley and featuring the acting talents of our new adjunct Theater instructor Stephen Wisker, February 1 through February 20.

The tireless work of our music faculty, Dr. James Wallace and Dr. Neil Boumpani, brings us two world-class musical performances within the upcoming month. Flutist Eugenia Zuckerman will perform in the Fine Arts Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26. The next week, on Tuesday, February 1, Pianist Eugene Skvorodnikov will present a program of Franz Liszt at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Admission is free to Gordon College faculty and staff.

Marlin Adams completed and delivered a sculpture of Judge William Augustus Bootle, which was commissioned by Chief U.S. District Judge Ashley Royal and which will be installed in the William Augustus Bootle Federal Building in Macon, GA.

Peter Boltz interviewed two Gordon Military College alumni over the Christmas break for The President’s Report: Bobby Lee Cook (Class of ’43) and Charles Van Rysselderge (Class of ’60). In the process, Mr. Cook made a donation of $10,000 to the college. Mr. Cook, known for his high-profile cases, and Mr. Van Rysselderge, president and CEO of the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, agreed to publish their messages about Gordon on Youtube.

Mr. Cook: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eNeXyoas4E Mr. Van Rysselderge: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z11U-kjlgJQ&feature=related

Dr. Doug Davis was named editor of the SFRA Review, the journal of the Science Fiction Research Association, in December. He will also be co-editing a special issue of the Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts’ journal Configurations on the work of author Kim Stanley Robinson. Finally, his essay “The Technological Sublime in the Fiction of the New South” has been accepted for publication in Southern Quarterly.

Dr. Cortney Grubbs, Dr. Marc Muneal, and Dr. Edward Whitelock are serving as faculty advisors to a new student club, the Gordon College Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA). Our first meeting on January 19 drew over thirty students. Please feel free to direct interested students to any of the three advisors for further information.

Masoud Nourizadeh has a painting featured in the Member’s Room art exhibition of Lamar Arts at The Depot in downtown Barnesville. The exhibition runs through February.
## Dates & Deadlines

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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event / Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 7</td>
<td>GFYE 0097 &amp; STAR 0098 Mid-term Withdrawals after Feb 7 will be automatic WF except in cases of hardship as documented and approved by processing a Student Petition.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 3</td>
<td>Midterm – Withdrawals after Mar 3 will be automatic WF except in documented hardship cases.</td>
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<td>Mar 11</td>
<td>Residence Halls close at 4:00 PM for Spring Break</td>
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<td>Mar 14-18</td>
<td>Spring Break for Students and Faculty</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar 20</td>
<td>Residence Halls reopen at 4:00 PM</td>
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<td>Mar 23</td>
<td>Advisory Workshop 2:00 PM  Foundation Room (SC 209)</td>
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<td>Mar 23</td>
<td>Georgia History &amp; US Constitution Exam</td>
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<td>May 2</td>
<td>Last Day of classes</td>
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<td>May 3-6</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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