March 7 – Seasoned Advisors Invited:
At the January faculty meeting we announced an Advising Workshop to occur later this spring. However, the date we announced was the date that the College Culture Task Force has chosen for its inaugural event. Hence we make the following calendar adjustment:

Advising Workshop for Seasoned Advisors
2:00 pm on Wednesday, March 7
Foundation Room – SC 229
Tea & Cookies Provided - as well as Intellectual Challenge

Syllabi: Not long ago a faculty member caught me on the sidewalk and asked, “Wheeler, what has to be in the syllabus that is given to students on the first day of class.” Knowing that the “what has to be done” question must be answered carefully I pleaded temporary ignorance and retreated to my office to think a bit. Here is an attempt at an answer: These things should be in any syllabus:

- Name and Contact Information (with office hours) of the Instructor
- Brief description of material covered in the course and text(s) used
- Brief description of how grade will be determined
- Careful discussion of any behavioral policies that will be enforced beyond those found in Student Code of Conduct on page 275 of current catalog. [Class policies must not conflict with College policies]
- Any attendance policy

In addition to these things, we must give careful attention to requirements of accrediting agencies that might review the course. In some cases, these accrediting agencies will have very specific requirements of material to be in the syllabus. Beyond these mandatory pieces, there are many other useful things that an instructor may choose to put in the syllabus. These might include statements with more precise statements about academic dishonesty than found in the catalog, that show how the course is connected to the general studies objectives of the College, information about ancillary materials or services that support the courses, a statement reminding students of how to request disability accommodations and so on.

ADA Notes:
Some faculty members have expressed surprise that students occasionally present documentation for ADA accommodations, weeks into the semester. Please know that (1) by law, these late requests must be honored, and (2) a late request does not necessarily indicate irresponsibility on the part of the student or any office. In some cases, students are required to obtain and present extensive documentation to get the accommodations, and often this process can take weeks. In other cases, students are encouraged by one or more instructor or academic advisor to seek the accommodations and hence get started late in the semester.

18 months ago we began to offer a limited number of hours for supervised administration of special testing (quiet place, extended time, …) mandated by ADA accommodations. These hours are available in the Student Success Center. However, it is important to remember that this new service was not intended to solve the whole ADA testing problem. Prior to the availability of this service, all ADA testing was handled by individual faculty, and we still must request that testing that must occur outside of the hours available in the Student Success Center be handled at the faculty or Division level.
BaskiNotes

College Culture Task Force Event! John Thomas Grant, Jr., will provide the “Community, Diversity, and Service” address on March 21 at 2:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. Mr. Grant is the CEO of 100 Black Men of Atlanta (100) and has been a member of the organization for over 20 years. Under his leadership, the 100 has attained a level of visibility and prominence that underscores the importance of its philanthropic mission. He was selected by the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of 100 Most Influential Atlantans from 2005 through 2011.

Early Alert and Intervention: In the January faculty meeting, Dr. Burns and Dr. Wheeler mentioned the college’s continuing effort to improve student retention while maintaining appropriate standards of achievement. Part of this effort is the development of Early Alert reports, followed by an Intervention effort by our advisors in the Student Success Center. The goal is to help under-performing, first-semester students recognize early in the semester their work habits that will likely lead to failure.

The GFYE 0097 faculty members piloted Early Alert reports (formerly “ECP” reports) in the fall, and this spring they are able to use BannerWeb for a quick and easy reporting process. The Student Success Center advisors are piloting the Early Intervention initiative. The Academic Literacy in the First Year (ALFY) Committee has helped design and guide these efforts.

For the fall term, EA&I will be expanded to all first-term freshmen. Faculty teaching specified courses will be asked to report on first-term students in those courses. Details of this expanded effort will be communicated in August.

Non-Traditional Students’ Concerns: As Gordon College and our mission evolve, we continue to look for ways to serve our students better. Some recent developments on behalf of students age 24 and older:

- More than one student in this population has asked for a GFYE 0097 section targeted at their particular needs. For the fall 2012 term, we have created two sections for first-term non-traditional students: an online section taught by Steve Raynie and an in-seat class taught by Ed Whitelock.

- The new military veterans club on campus held its first meeting in early February. Student Affairs sent out invitations to the meeting to all vets who have identified themselves, and SA is in the process of trying to find others who have not self-identified. Additionally, Gordon College has joined the Soldiers to Scholars program as an institution agreeing to provide all the recommended services of S2S to our vets.

Fall Learning Communities: We have some great Learning Communities being prepared for the fall. When the schedule is published, I hope that you will familiarize yourself with the LC’s so that you can guide students appropriately.

The Lamar County College and Career Academy and Gordon College are finding ways to enhance connections between secondary and post-secondary education. If you are interested in contributing to this important partnership, please contact a member of the LCCCA Advisory Group here at Gordon: Chad Davies, Mike Mahan, Ed Whitelock, Jeff Knighton, Alan Burstein, Anne Purvis, and Richard Baskin.

GahrNotes

Dr. Jennifer Gardner attended the North American Veterinary Conference in January, attending 45 hours of continuing education classes all pertaining to anatomy and physiology. Dr. Gardner also addressed the Pike County Board of Commissioners during their last January meeting to address the lack of animal control and welfare in the county. Additionally, Dr. Gardner has been asked to sit on a panel of experts in May to address the Georgia State Bar to discuss Dog Bite Laws in the state.

Dr. Greg Hartman was a judge at the RESA Science Fair in Griffin, GA on 14 February 2012. He also had 3 abstracts for poster presentations accepted for presentation at the upcoming Georgia Academy of Science meeting: One co-authored with Dr. Michael Bender, another with Dr. Amanda Duffus and undergraduate Joseph Nestor as co-authors; and the third with Dr. Michael Bender and undergraduate Vwerosuo Uzezi.

Dr. Richard Schmude has given two talks: “Comets” given as a divisional seminar on February 6 and “Comets” given as the third talk in the Gordon Speaker series for 2011-12 on February 9. He will also be funded for a research project involving Jupiter storms this summer as part of the President’s Faculty Development Initiative. Finally he had two papers published which are: “Whole-Disk Brightness Measurements of Mars: 2009-2010” JALPO vol. 54, No. 1, pp. 25-29 (2012) and “ALPO Observations of Uranus and Neptune in 2010-2011” JALPO, Vol. 54, No. 1, pp. 33-38 (2012).
Note: JALPO is the Journal of the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers

**Dr. Marwan Zabdawi:** Abstract and paper submitted and accepted by the ICTCM “International Conference on Technology in Collegiate Mathematics”. Paper Title “Strategy for Plotting Polynomials & Rational Functions Using PowerPoint and the TI-83”. Paper will be presented in the ICTCM 24th annual conference in Orlando Florida.

**HigginsNotes**

On Saturday, February 18, the Gordon College Student Success Center tutors made their annual pilgrimage to the Georgia Tutoring Association (GATA) conference at Macon State College. This year the conference attracted over 230 tutors and tutoring center administrators from across the state. Charlie Coile, an SSC tutor, had been chosen to deliver a presentation, and her “Writing Workshops as a Tutoring Tool” was warmly received and widely complimented. I think it is worth noting that we do not pay the tutors for the time they spend at the conference; they are sacrificing an entire Saturday in order to hone their craft and better help the students who come into our Center. That so many would cheerfully do so is a testament to them and reflects their great commitment to helping our students succeed.

**JansseNotes**

The next deadline for admission to the Honors Program is March 1. Please encourage qualified students to apply.

Student Honors Council members Wendy Frye-Giere, Shannon Griffin, Sheila Kern, Laura West, and Dr. David Janssen attended the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Conference in Dahlonega last weekend. This was our Honors Program’s first participation in a professional conference!

The Honors Program Book Club had its first meeting in January. Ten Honors students, Dr. Frank Winters, and Dr. David Janssen all participated. We’re currently reading The Hunger Games. We will hold our next meeting on Thursday, Feb. 23.

Interested Honors students will be visiting The Carter Center on March 24.

On March 29, from 6 PM- 7 PM in the Foundation Room – SC 229, the Honors Program will be hosting a Trivia Contest, open to all students, staff, and faculty. The Student Honors Council and Dr. David Janssen will be leading the contest. Participants will be asked to form teams of 2-4. The Honors Council has insisted that no more than 2 faculty members be allowed on a team, AND that Drs. Muneal and King may not play on the same team! Further announcements and massive PR campaign forthcoming.

Honors students will be traveling with me to the Alliance Theater to see The Ghost Brothers of Darkland County on April 21.

This May, Shannon Griffin will be the first student at Gordon to graduate with Honors!!

**KnightoNotes**

Dr. Mark Milewicz recently had a paper accepted to the Journal of Political Marketing entitled, The Branding of Candidates and Parties: The U.S. News Media and the Legitimization of a New Political Term, to appear in print in the near future. He co-authored the paper with Dr. Chad M. Milewicz of the University of Southern Indiana. (And yes, that is his brother!)

On February 9, Dr. Jeff Knighton and Dr. Elizabeth Watts Warren gave a presentation to the Lamar County Family Connection Collaborative entitled “Human Services Baccalaureate at Gordon College: Collaborating to Prepare Students for Careers of Service.” The Collaborative consists of representatives from about 25 social service agencies in our area.

Dr. Prathibha Joshi attended the Academy of Economics and Finance Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, February 8-11, 2012. While there, she presented a paper entitled, “The Impact of Environmental Factors on Economic Growth.”

February is Black History Month. If you have not yet had an opportunity to take a look at the displays in the lobby of Russell Hall, be sure to do that. The History Club, guided by their advisor, Dr. Tom Aiello, has done a great job highlighting African American Heroes. But they’re not necessarily the heroes that often come to mind. For example, there are profiles on Bell Hooks, Carl Brashear, Vivian Thomas, and Dr. Mae Jemison. Military displays include Congressional Medal of Honor recipients, the Tuskegee Airmen, and Civil War participation by African-Americans. A really nice panel highlights the first African American graduates of Gordon College – Chester Butler and Barbara Bently. More displays will be added over the
coming weeks, and a Jazz Night is being planned for later in the month. The President of the club is Samantha Mena; other officers include Kayla Purvis, James Cordle, and Alan Wise. The History Club is open to all students, regardless of major.

The International Club is sponsoring an Origami workshop in IC building on March 7, from 11:00 – 2:30 p.m. The President of the Club is Andia Hackett, Vice-President is Keia Grant, and Secretary is Megan Demeter. Membership is open to all Gordon College students. Anyone interested can learn more from the officers, or the club’s advisor, Dr. Prathibha Joshi.

Dr. Elizabeth Watts Warren gave a presentation entitled, “School-Community Partnerships,” to the Spalding Collaborative Authority for Families and Children on December 14, 2011. The collaborative is comprised of approximately 350 public and private non-profit agencies working with families and individuals in the provision of social services.

MahaNotes

Dr. Mike Mahan has been named to the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) Committee on Pre-Service Teacher Training.

The Division of Education is prepared for a visit from the Professional Standards Commission (PSC) to review the Teaching programs that lead to the Bachelor of Arts Degree in Teacher Education for History and English majors.

Excitement continues at a high level about the construction to Smith Hall. The staff of the Division of Education has toured the building and are preparing to teach classes in Smith Hall beginning this summer (2012).

MooreNotes

GC@FVSU

Students participating in the GC@FVSU Spring 2012 Fitness Challenge will be creating a balance of the mind, body and spirit which in turn will help improve the retention and academic success of the (GC@FVSU) students. For three months the students have accepted the challenge to attend two boot-camp sessions per week with Math Instructor, Ms. Tammy Bhembe, Bible study sessions every Friday with Mrs. Tonya Moore and for one hour and weekly tutoring with designated instructors. But more importantly, the Fitness Challenge Program will develop well-rounded healthy students who will go on to winning performances in both their physical appearance and in the classroom. The Challenge Program prepares students for career and personal challenges by providing academic support and teaching life skills. The academic challenges at GC@FVSU are great, but so are the rewards.

WhitelockNotes

The Gordon College Theater Program will present Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing on the evenings of Wednesday, Feb. 22, through Saturday, Feb. 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. A matinee performance will also be presented on Sunday, Feb. 26, at 2:00 p.m.

Dr. Doug Davis will be presenting a paper at the Louisville Conference on Literature and Culture Since 1900 this February and, as editor, just published issue 298 of the Science Fiction Research Association’s SFRA Review.

Dr. Stephen Powers’ poem, “Dolly Floats,” was accepted for publication in Tapestry.

Longtime Instructor Rachel Scoggins has been taking doctoral classes at Georgia State University towards an English Ph.D. and reports that she has been accepted to participate in her first academic conference. She will deliver her paper, "The Lay of the Land: Physical and Gender Mapping of Early Century New York in John Dos Passos's Manhattan Transfer," at the Re-conceptualizing Cartography: Space-Time Compression and Narrative Mapping Conference at the University of South Florida in April.
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| **Feb 22-26** | **Much Ado About Nothing**  
Fine Arts Auditorium  
Feb 22–25: Doors open at 7pm  
Feb 26: Doors open at 1:30pm |
| **Feb 28 (T)** | David Coucheron, violin  
Fine Arts Auditorium  7:30 p.m. |
| **Mar 1 (R)** | Midterm – Withdrawals after March 1 will be an automatic WF except in cases of hardship as documented & approved by processing a Student Petition. |
| **Mar 1 (R)** | Deadline for admission to the Honors Program |
| **Mar 07 (W)** | Review Session on Advising  2:00 PM  
Foundation Room - SC 229 |
| **Mar 12-16** | Spring Break for Faculty and Students |
| **Mar 18 (Sun)** | Residence Halls reopen at 4:00 pm |
| **Mar 21 (W)** | Georgia History and U.S. Constitution Exam |
| **Mar 21(W)** | College Culture Task Force Event!  
John Thomas Grant, Jr., will provide the “Community, Diversity, and Service” address 2:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Auditorium. |
| **Mar 29 (R)** | The Honors Program Trivia Contest, open to all students, staff, and faculty  
6:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
Foundation Room – SC 229. |
| **Apr 2 - 20** | Early Registration for Continuing Students for Summer and Fall 2012 |
| **Apr 17 (T)** | Morehouse Glee Club  
7:30 PM  Fine Arts Auditorium |
| **Apr 18-22** | **Psycho Beach Party**  
**For mature audiences only**  
Fine Arts Auditorium  
April 18–21: Doors open at 7pm  
April 22: Doors open at 1:30pm |
| **Apr 25 (W)** | College Chorus  
7:00 PM  Spivey Hall |
| **Apr 30 (M)** | Last day of classes |
| **May 1 thru May 4 (T- F)** | Final Exams  
Book Buy-Back – Bookstore |
| **May 11 - Friday** | Graduation |