WheelerNotes

Retention, Progression, and Graduation to the Fore: Over the last two months we have been writing a report on our progress on the RPG plan we presented to the Board of Regents in Spring 2010. It has been a difficult write. In Spring 2010 we established retention goals of 57% and 58.3% respectively for our Fall first-time, full-time cohorts. Unfortunately, we recorded retention of 52.5% for the Fall 2009 cohort and 46.3% for the Fall 2010 cohort. There are abundant reasons for this disconnection between goods and actual retention rates, and we explore them in our report. However, our lack of success over the past two years makes it ever more important that we be more successful during the next two years. In your classrooms, advising sessions, and conversations within your academic units, please give this issue your very highest priority. In our report we promise good things for the Fall 2011 cohort. Let’s deliver if at all possible. The current draft of the RPG report can be found on the Academic Affairs web site: http://www.gdn.edu/departments/academic_affairs

CCSE Survey: Last Spring Gordon College administered the Community College Survey of Student Engagement to a random sample of Gordon students. The full report on that survey can be found at this site: http://www.gdn.edu/pdf/2011_GC_CCSSE_Findings.pdf. Here are some highlights

Gordon students were surveyed on five scales and then compared to a 704 member national panel of colleges (The 2011 CCSE Cohort) and a 13 member statewide panel of colleges (the Georgia Consortium).

• Gordon students scored above both CCSE Cohort and the Georgia Consortium on three scales: Student Effort, Academic Challenge, and Student-Faculty Interaction.

• Gordon students scored above the CCSE Cohort (but not the Georgia Consortium): on two scales: Active and Collaborative Learning and Support for Learners).

Taken as a whole, this is very good news. Our students confirm that what we say is true about the opportunities at Gordon College is indeed true. We will continue to work on all five of these areas.

Thank you, Alan; Thank you, Jeff: Some months ago, Dr. Alan Burstein indicated that after seven years of service he would be stepping down as Chair of the Division of Business and Social Sciences. This Dean has been and will continue to be very grateful to Dr. Burstein not only for his service to colleagues and students but also his service to me and my office. In particular, I have been grateful for Dr. Burstein’s passion for the mission of this college. On the other hand, we will celebrate Dr. Burstein’s move to full-time service in the classroom.

On the other side of Dr. Burstein’s resignation, we are very appreciative of the fact that Dr. Jeff Knighton has agreed to serve in this leadership position on an interim basis. Those of you who have been active in Academic Contest or in the Assessment Committee are aware of Jeff’s good work. We look forward to a good Spring semester as Jeff and the division move ahead together.

Yes Richard … It is Now 10,000: Over the last three years I have used 9000 students as my rough measure of the enormous impact of the Gordon College Academic Contest over its multi-year history. Dr. Baskin pointed out that at 350 served per year, we have now eclipsed 10,000. Reflect on this for a minute, and you will understand why this is my favorite service event the College mounts.

Many thanks to the 59 faculty and staff and the 22 students that made this year’s version of Academic
Contest run without major problem. Collectively you served 343 students from 21 high schools.

This year we are particularly grateful for the critical contributions of new faculty. Eleven key faculty members of the Academic Contest team have been hired in the last three years. Finally, Dr. Tom Aiello, we salute you. Your good work in this your inaugural effort as leader of this endeavor promises many more successful Academic Contests in the future.

Health/Physical Education Faculty to the Division of Education: Slowly but surely, Smith Hall is being transformed to serve the needs of the Division of Education in the twenty-first century. When this newly renovated building opens its doors next summer, it will house an expanded faculty, a faculty that includes the health and physical education faculty. This reorganization will serve two purposes. On the one hand, it will recognize that health and physical education programs are often housed under the same leadership as education programs for the P-12 sector. This is partially because baccalaureate programs in health/physical education often have a certification track. Secondly, it will provide a little more balance to the numbers in our various divisions. In our case, we have the additional benefit that Dr. Mahan served for many years as Assistant and Associate Athletic Director at schools like Auburn University, Ball State University, and Rutgers.

BaskiNotes

Graduation changes: Two important new pieces of information:

- Remember that the date of the college ceremony has been changed from Saturday, May 12, 2012, to Friday, May 11, 2012.
- Students who want to walk (participate) in the ceremony, must register online at https://www.gdn.edu/graduate/. Note: Registering for the ceremony is not the same as applying for graduation. To apply for graduation, students must still fill out the application form, which can be found on the Registrar’s web page.

This information is being communicated to students through emails and snail mail.

Early Alert Report and Intervention: As part of our efforts to help high-risk students stay in school long enough to develop the habits that will lead to earning a degree, an Early Alert Report was piloted in the GFYE 0097 classes this fall. The report’s purpose is to help underperforming students new to college learning recognize early in their first term the need to develop those habits for success.

In the fourth week of the term, a report was sent by faculty members to students whose attendance and/or performance in class was likely to cause them to fail the course. This report has now been moved into Banner to make the process quick and easy. Academic Affairs is working with the Academic Literacy in the First Year Committee to plan for expanding the process to include all first-time first-year students. In addition, Student Success Center personnel are developing an Intervention component as a follow-up to the Early Alert Report.

More information on this initiative will be forthcoming as work progresses.


Accel Student Fees: Beginning fall 2012, Gordon College will be waiving college fees, other than the $20 application fee, for Accel students. The Accel program is a dual-credit program that pays tuition and certain other expenses for high school students who have a minimum SAT I score of 970 (combined verbal and math sections) or an ACT Composite score of 20, and who have a minimum 3.0 GPA in their academic college prep core. Waiving fees will help keep us competitive in attracting these students. Depending on the number of hours taken at Gordon College, the waiver could save Accel students up to $308 per semester in fees.

BursteiNotes

Criminal Justice major Jennifer Holcomb was awarded the Fall, 2011, Faculty Choice Award, honoring an outstanding student majoring in one of our division’s disciplines each semester. President Nickel presented the award.

Jeff Knighton is busily preparing to assume his new responsibilities as Interim Chair of the Division of Business and Social Science on January 1, 2012.

Elizabeth Watts Warren presented to the Georgia Sociological Association meetings in Savannah,
GA on October 22: “Designing and Assigning Deviance Commit Field Projects: Are There Ever Enough Safeguards?”

Joe Mayo presented a paper, “Cooperative Assessment Portfolio: A Social Constructivist Approach to Assessment Instruction,” at the 36th Annual Conference of the Georgia Educational Research Association held in Savannah on October 21st and 22nd

Christy Flatt will be a webpage organizer for the journal Gender and Society project titled “Gender in the Classroom, Gender and Feminist Methodologies.”

GahrNotes

Dr. Cris Fermin-Ennis arranged for Ms. Rachel Ridley of South University’s School of Pharmacy to be a guest speaker at the pre-pharmacy seminar held November 2, 2011 at Gordon College. This is an annual event held for the purpose of introducing the students to the admissions counselors. Updates regarding new admissions requirements are also addressed at this seminar.

Dr. Amanda Duffus has successfully given an Amphibian and Reptile Necropsy Workshop with emphasis on ranavirus pathology with Drs. Miller and Gray from University of Tennessee at the 65th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Fish and Wildlife Agencies in Nashville, TN on October 25th.

Dr. Amanda Duffus has also had the following article published in Biology Letters:


Dr. Jennifer Gardner recently attended the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association’s Fall Conference. She attended lectures pertaining to advanced techniques in radiography, tick-borne pathogens, and diagnosis of cancer via cytology. She also accepted an invitation to sit on the GVMA’s state Animal Welfare committee, and will seek to: proactively identify and prioritize animal welfare concerns and opportunities in Georgia, critically evaluate related information from individuals and groups internal and external to the GVMA, use that information to determine which issues fall within the role and influence of the GVMA and what actions or activities may be appropriate responses to those concerns and opportunities. Most specifically, Dr. Gardner will be focusing on a push to legislatively mandate all counties within the state to provide animal control shelters and officers to enforce animal welfare laws.

Dr. Lynn Rumfelt: The students of the Learning Community of Theater Appreciation (THEA 1100) with Mrs. Wooley and Introductory Biology I for non-science majors (BIOL 1111) with Dr. Rumfelt will present their creative works about biological concepts in a dramatic theater setting. Be prepared to see our students bringing the study of life (biology) to life through the drama skills they have been honing all semester! You are invited to attend an enjoyable, creative, and educational series of plays. It will be entertaining! It may cause laughter! The plays will be in the Fine Arts Auditorium for two performances: Monday November 28th 10:00AM-11:50AM and Monday December 5th 10:00AM-11:50AM. All are welcome!

Dr. Richard Schmude:
Publication


Talks

1. “Observations of Amazonas 2: A Geostationary Satellite” a 30 minute talk given to the Flint River Astronomy Club on November 10, 2011 in Griffin, GA. (13 attended)

2. “Jupiter’s Changing North Equatorial Belt” a 15 minute talk given at the Georgia Research in Astronomy (GRAM) meeting at Agnes Scott College on November 12, 2011. (~30 attended).

Telescope Viewing Sessions

2. Telescope viewing of the Moon given to Trick-or-Treat children on Oct. 31, 2011 in Barnesville, GA.
3. Telescope viewing sessions given at the Rock Ranch on Oct. 22, 29, Nov. 4, 5 and 11.
4. Telescope viewing of the Sun given to High School students participating in the Academic Contest on October 20, 2011.
On October 23rd, a group of fifteen Honors students traveled to the Atlanta Shakespeare Tavern to see a wonderful production of *Macbeth*. Despite the fact that the College van was booted by some unscrupulous parking attendants (!), a great time was had by all.

On November 16, The Honors Program hosted a book reading by one of our own, Stephanie Lauren Hogg, an English major and Honors Program member. The third installment in her *Pirate* series is scheduled for publication in December.

Advisors: please encourage students with the potential and aptitude for success in Honors sections to see me about registering for HIST 2111H and ENGL 1102H for Spring 2012.

Gordon College received National Accreditation for the Teacher Education program this past week. This was a monumental effort that began 4 years ago with Dr. Jerry Stinchcomb and was finished by Dr. Sheryl O’Sullivan and the staff of Teacher Ed. The effort was recognized as outstanding by NCATE as they approved the Accreditation with no areas of Improvement. The programs in Teacher Education are now Nationally Approved.

Two of our recent graduates have been awarded $1,000.00 grants by The Georgia Power Company. Georgia Power awards 40 grants each year. Twenty awards go to a new male teacher and twenty awards go to a new female teacher to assist the new teachers with classroom expenses. This past year, Marcia Proud from Lamar County Primary School and Dan Medders from Hampton Elementary were the grant recipients for Gordon. Congratulations to Marcia and Dan.

Ms. Stacey Brown was named the Employee of the Month at Cowan Road Middle School in Griffin. Stacey finished the program in May of 2011 and was certified as an Elementary teacher. Stacey also passed the additional certification to become a Middle School Teacher. She mentioned that Kristi Mathis (2011) also was named as Employee of the Month at her school.

Dr. Michael Borders and His wife, Donna, an adjunct at Gordon recently presented a paper on October 14th at Southern Tech for KSU’s Future Educators Retreat. The topic was Describing your Best Teachers: Is Teaching an Art or a Science?

Reports were submitted on-time for Title II of the Higher Education Act as required by law. There is a potential $25,000 penalty for not submitting on time. Teacher Education also filed a State report on Preparation Approval Annual Report (PAAR). These are required yearly to stay in compliance with the National Government, the State Licensing agencies and our NCATE certification.

Dr. Lydia Herndon has applied for a Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant in conjunction with the Division of Business and Social Science and Spalding County Public Schools for a program on American Values and Middle School Social Studies. The grants were read on the 14th of November and the details will be forthcoming on awards.

I contend that the biggest news (as in nine feet tall and four feet wide) in this issue of *Deanotes* comes from Dr. Neil Boumpani, who is completing assembly of the world’s largest marching band bass drum for the University of Missouri, a project he has been engaged in for the past two years. We hope to have pictures for the next issue!

Dr. Jason Horn announces that Dr. Joseph Mayo will succeed him as coordinator for Gordon College’s academic conference: “Teaching Matters.” Dr. Mayo has attended and presented at nearly all of the conferences for the past nine years and will present at the 10th Annual Conference in March, 2012. After ten years of coordinating the conference, Dr. Horn feels that it is time for a bit of new blood and is happy to see that one as devoted to the scholarship of teaching as Dr. Mayo is will be keeping alive the spirit of “Teaching Matters.” Have at it, Joe!


Dr. Masoud Nourizadeh attended the Southeastern College Art Conference (SECAC) in Savannah, Georgia. While in Savannah, he visited the campus of Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD), and the SCAD Museum of art, which has a nice permanent collection of African-American art (the subject of his spring colloquium course).
Dr. Stephen Raynie and Dr. Caesar Perkowski presented a paper "Should Online Instructors Have Smart Phones and BlackBerry Service?" at the Distance Learning Conference at Columbus State University in September.

Dr. Lawrence Weill’s art show continues through December 17th at Lamar Arts in downtown Barnesville.

In October, Dr. Rhonda V. Wilcox published a peer-reviewed article titled “Let It Simmer’: Tone in ‘Pangs’” in Slayage: The Journal of the Whedon Studies Association (9.1).

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<th>Dates &amp; Deadlines</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 17</td>
<td>New Student Orientation – Alumni Mem Hall Group Advising /Registration (Spring 2012 Semester)</td>
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<td>Nov 23</td>
<td>Administrative Offices are open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 23-25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays for Faculty &amp; Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 24-25</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holidays for Administrative Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 5</td>
<td>Last day of classes</td>
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<td>Dec 6-9</td>
<td>Final Exams</td>
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<td>Dec 19 thru Jan 2</td>
<td>College Closed</td>
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