Thank You 323 Times: Dr. Knighton reports that 323 high school students participated in the 2008 edition of Gordon College Academic Competition. Perhaps the more important number is 91, the number of Gordon faculty, students, and staff members who also contributed to this good work. Though the high school students who participated thought that the day was about competition and winning, we know that the main event of the day was a quality learning experience. Ideas used outside the classroom are so much more powerful than those used exclusively in a high school classroom. Things remembered, connections made, problems solved in the midst of the competition will be available to students many years from now, indeed, some of the things that students missed in their competition will become powerful parts of what they know. Many thanks to Dr. Knighton and his team of 90 for this service rendered to the students of Georgia.

A Big Change in Notification Requirements: As of this month Board of Regents policy no longer requires that institutions send letters notifying probationary faculty that they will receive a new contract; letters are only required when the faculty members will not receive a new contract. For the present time, Academic Affairs at Gordon College will continue to send these letters. However, we will not hand deliver them. Rather we will use the good offices of campus mail and/or the U.S. mail.

Questions Posed: Due to the good work of Evelyn Schliecker and Tom Aiello, we are about to publish our first edition of The Gordon College Advising Handbook. It will appear on your newstand shortly. We have had several faculty members reviewing the book and along with suggested improvements came some questions. Though we have tried to answer the questions for the individuals who posed the questions, some of the questions might have a wider audience. We repeat the answer to one such question here:

Question 1: In advising, should we insist that the student finish the core curriculum before taking elective courses?

Wheeler Answer: No, students do not have to finish the core before taking electives. To the contrary, if they are undecided about major or thinking of changing major, I would encourage them to take electives that will give clarity on that issue. If a business major is among the majors being considered, the student should fairly early take an introductory business course; if engineering is an option they should quickly jump into mathematics and science courses, including electives.

As we develop baccalaureate majors, this early attention to courses in the major is even more important. Currently education majors must give priority to the sequence of five mathematics courses and four science courses required in their curriculum. Should we implement a biology major, those students must give priority to courses in the major; the core curriculum will be completed slowly over a three or even a four year period.

Potential ADN nursing students who have learning support requirements to complete are well advised to take BIOL 1111 and perhaps BIOL 1112 before the BIOL 2210 and 2211 that are required in the nursing core. This will strengthen their biology background before they take the Anatomy and Physiology courses whose grades will be critical in their admission efforts. It will also ensure that they have made progress on the Transfer Core in case they do not get admission to nursing. Of course, as soon that the student completes learning support requirements, they must immediately give attention to BIOL 2210 and BIOL 2211.

Congratulations go to Dr. Alan Burstein whose recent Business & Social Science Forum presentation, “I Was a Wall Street Insider: Understanding the Financial Crisis” was also the subject of a front page feature in the October 14 issue of the Barnesville Herald-Gazette newspaper.
MooreNotes

Deadlines and Dates

Nov 3-21  Early Registration
Nov 6     Southern Culture Series #2,
          7:00 PM  Std Cntr Auditorium
          Matthew Hill
          “Upholding Slavery: The Antebellum South, Slavery and the Use of the Bible in Proslavery”
          7:00 PM  Student Center Auditorium
Nov 20    New Student Orientation
Nov 21    Southern Culture Series #3,
          7:00 PM  Fine Arts Auditorium
          Debi Hamlin – Music Presentation
Nov 25    Evening Classes meet as scheduled
          Administrative offices open
          8:00AM-5:00PM
Nov 25    Thanksgiving Holidays for Faculty & Students
Nov 26-28 Thanksgiving Holidays for Faculty & Students
Nov 27, 28 College closed for Thanksgiving
Dec 8     Regents’ Test Results available
Dec 8     Last day of classes
Dec 9-12  Final examinations
Dec 12-Jan 4 College closed for Christmas Holidays
Feb 14, 2009 Call for Proposals—paragraph summaries due for Teaching Matters Conference