Wheeler Notes

Gratitude and Anticipation: I would like to take a moment and thank members of the Gordon College community for the support, wisdom, and encouragement that you provided me during the six months of interim appointment. On the other side of a more permanent assignment, I also want to register my anticipation of the good work we will do together in the days ahead. The financial downturn will limit some options, but I am convinced that that we can build on the excellent work already being done in ways that will serve the interests of faculty members, students, and community.

Survive the exam period, have a joyful respite, return with energy for a new beginning.

Governor’s Teaching Fellow Program: Faculty members are strongly encouraged to consider applying for the Governor’s Teaching Fellow Program. The Summer Program is held in May and consists of two intensive weeks on the University of Georgia Campus. The Academic Year Program consists of six three day symposia. Fellows receive stipend, meals, and lodging. Applications are due on February 6 and March 6 respectively. Contact Lorell Almand for more information or visit http://www.uga.edu/ihe/gtf.html.

Gordon College Becomes a RETP Institution: Gordon College has a long history of sending highly qualified engineering students to Georgia Tech to complete an engineering degree. However, this Fall Gordon amplified this tradition by becoming a “Regent’s Engineering Transfer Program” institution. The title is more impressive than the reality. RETP is a fancy “Transfer Agreement” that roughly promises that if a good high school student articulates to Gordon and does well in the mathematics and science needed for engineering, they will get automatic admission to Georgia Tech. This TAG agreement is noteworthy primarily because Georgia Tech is one of the 10 best engineering schools in the country. More noteworthy is a comment received from Dean Jane Weyant in our communication relative to setting up the program. I quote: “As you can see, Gordon students have done very well. Of the thirty-seven students who have entered Tech recently, only three have been dismissed for academic reasons. That works out to a retention/graduation rate of nearly 92%. The average for all RETP students is 85%, so Gordon College will certainly be an asset to our program.” Congratulations to the mathematicians and scientists who are responsible for this good record.

Georgia Southwestern BBA Delayed/Cancelled?: We are disappointed to report that the University System of Georgia has asked Georgia Southwestern to delay implementing its Bachelors of Business Administration on the Gordon campus. Georgia Southwestern had neglected to get USG approval before announcing the launch of the program. They now have done the appropriate paperwork so we must wait to learn whether this program will be able to happen.

Human Subjects Review Committee: In preparing to conduct a study involving human subjects [ex: preparing to conduct a study in which your students are participants], remember that the plan for the study must be reviewed and approved by the Human Subjects Review Committee and that this review will take time. If the study is conducted by Gordon College faculty and or students, does not involve minors, involves only minimal risk, and does not result in off-campus dissemination or video taping, it is probably exempt and can be conducted without a formal proposal. Help in making that judgment can be obtained from the Chair of the Human Subjects Review Committee. On the other hand, if the study is being conducted with the intention of off-campus publication or presentation, it is important to prepare a formal proposal (following the guidelines described at http://www.gdn.edu/departments/resources/committees/HSR/process.asp) and deliver the proposal to the chair of the committee in timely fashion. To ensure smooth consideration, the completed proposal should be delivered the semester before the semester in which one hopes to implement, but, at the very least, the proposal should be delivered to the chair of the committee a month before desired implementation.

Higgins’ Notes

The Student Success and Retention Center will open for business on Monday, January 12. The Center will offer free walk-in tutoring in Writing and
Math during hours that will be announced as the tutors are hired. Tutoring in mathematics will begin on January 12; tutoring in writing will begin on January 20. Biology tutoring will also be available on a limited basis. Projected hours for the Center are as follows:

- M and W: 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM
- T and R: 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM
- Fridays: 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM

We also hope to start a series of live workshops and presentations on academic and personal skills topics that will help our students succeed. If you have any ideas for such a workshop, or if you are willing to present one, please email Peter Higgins at phiggins@gdn.edu.

We will be hosting an Opening Celebration for the Center. Please stay tuned for more information on the celebration.

If any faculty members have questions about what exactly we do (and don’t do) in the Success Center, please email Peter Higgins. We would be happy to oblige faculty members who are interested in giving their classes a tour of the Success Center.

Moore Notes
On November 19th, representatives from all the pharmacy schools in Georgia met with our Pre-Pharmacy students. They presented updates on their admission requirements, invited students to their campuses, and answered questions for our students. **Dr. Cris Fermin-Ennis** is the faculty advisor for these students.

The Earth, Wind & Fire Science Club (sponsor, Dr. Linda Hyde) hosted Emily Lakemaker of UGA’s Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources at their meeting on November 5th. Club members and guests learned about the wide variety of majors available and about Warnell’s small-school atmosphere despite its location on UGA’s Athens campus.

For a third year, **Mrs. Teresa Betkowski** coordinated a holiday giving campaign for The Division of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. This year’s donations totaling $450 helped to purchase activity books for the Lamar County Primary School **MATH MADNESS NIGHT**. To celebrate this event, the Division will have their annual holiday luncheon on Monday, December 8th. Students from Mrs. Susan Byars’ Early Childhood Education math class will give a presentation at 11:30 to the faculty and administration on the second floor of the IC building.

Also in attendance will be the Principal of the Primary School, Dr. Julia Steele.

As their final project before beginning their student teaching assignments, the Early Childhood Education (ECE) mathematics senior class at Gordon College hosted a MATH MADNESS NIGHT at Lamar County Primary School on December 2, 2008. Their instructor, Mrs. Susan Byars, coordinated this event. Approximately 150 students attended accompanied by a parent or guardian. The ECE students had a variety of activities for the children along with an activities book for the parents to use at home to reinforce the math skills. With the help of Mrs. Byars, areas in mathematics that have usually presented problems at state testing time were addressed through activities from the Georgia Performance Standards.

Faculty Notes
**Mr. Marlin Adams’** article, “The Realist Deal,” appeared in the November/December issue of *Scoop Magazine*. Marlin was the featured artist in that issue.

**Dr. Allan Gahr** finished conducting the Educator Workshops on Saturday, November 22nd, for the initial cadre of our ECE bachelor’s degree program. This certifies these pre-service teachers in three national programs which use aspects of the environment to provide “hands-on” learning opportunities for their students. The programs are Projects Learning Tree, WET, and WILD.

**Dr. Karen Guffey** presented two papers at the South Atlantic Modern Language Association meeting in November: "The Foolish Man Built His House upon the Sand: The Need for a Solid Linguistic Foundation" and "Writing Conventions: A Language Teacher's Point of View."

**Dr Joscelyn Jarrett** has an article published in the fall 2008 issue of *The American Mathematical Association of Two Year Colleges Review*. The title is “Areas and Volumes in Pre-Calculus.” Congratulations to Dr. Jarrett!

**Dr. Rhonda Wilcox** presented a workshop at the meeting of the Popular Culture Association in the South and continues to serve as editor of the journal *Studies in Popular Culture*.

Deadlines and Dates

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 9-12</td>
<td>Final examinations</td>
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<td>Gordon College Men’s Basketball</td>
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Dec 12  Nursing Pinning Ceremony
Dec 12-Jan 4  Faculty & Students Break for Christmas Holidays
Dec 22-Jan 4  College closed for Christmas Holidays
Jan 5, 2009  Staff Return from Holiday Break
Jan 6  Payment Deadline for Early & Open Registration
Jan 7  Faculty Return from Holiday Break
Jan 7-9  Open Registration
Jan 8  New Student Orientation & Registration
Jan 9  Payment Deadline for Jan 7-9 Registration
Jan 12  Classes Begin
Jan 12-13  Late Registration
Jan 12-15  Drop/Add
Jan 15  Last Day to Receive Full Tuition Refund for Total Withdrawal
Jan 15  Payment Deadline for Late Registration & Drop/Add Periods
Jan 15  Last Day to Register for Regents’ Test
Jan 19  Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday — College Closed
Feb 14  Call for Proposals—Paragraph Summaries due for Teaching Matters Conference