In the Zone

*Dr. Margaret H. Venable*

I ran across a Ted Talks YouTube video recently and it reminded me why I became an educator in the first place. It helped me get that feeling that I have when I’m “in the zone”. A three day weekend helps too! In the hope that it helps others reconnect with their passion for teaching, I encourage you to look for *Rita Pierson: Every Kid Needs a Champion*, a Ted Talks video on YouTube.

[View the Every Kid Needs A Champion Video](#)

We have a full agenda ahead of us this year. It sometimes feels like being at a buffet with too many enticing options. I want some of everything and I want more of some things yet it just isn’t physically possible to have everything….. I also call this the “Whitman’s Sampler dilemma”. Those of you who are chocaholics will understand. I shared with faculty the priorities for Academic Affairs for this year. It is an ambitious list but critical to our future. With your help, we will focus on the most important work and leave others for another time. My inspiration is the students we serve and the beautiful campus community we enjoy. They make the hard work worthwhile for me. What inspires you? When was the last time you were “in the zone”?

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**DegreeWorks for Faculty**

New faculty will be oriented on DegreeWorks at one of their New Faculty Orientation sessions (September 10) but there are also opportunities for seasoned faculty to review or learn more about this important advising tool:

Mrs. Kristi Hayes will lead each session, so sign up today!
Works in Progress
Both the Task Force on General Education Assessment and the Task Force on Reaffirmation Compliance Certification have held their initial meetings. Details of these important ad hoc committees will be posted on the college committees website. Stay tuned for updates on our SACSCOC Accreditation Reaffirmation processes.

In June of 2014, Gov. Nathan Deal announced that Georgia was one of three states chosen to receive a $1 million grant to lead an education initiative called Guided Pathways to Success (GPS). This grant is funded by the Lumina Foundation and Complete College America. Gordon State College has been asked to participate as a "vanguard" institution in the USG sponsored “Guided Pathways to Success” initiative. In a nutshell this initiative is about providing students with roadmaps to graduation that specify what courses they should take each semester. Also, when students veer off course the college intervenes. Guided Pathways to Success is one of Complete College America’s Game-Changing Strategies and is part of our Complete College Georgia effort. This is a project that will hopefully help us with our enrollment management efforts.

Teresa Betkowski has agreed to serve as the point of contact for Gordon on this work and the following have agreed to assist in these efforts: Jeff Knighton, Kristi Hayes, Jody DeFore, Alan Burstein and Gay Grubbs.

As a follow-up to last fall’s USG symposium entitled “New Models: MOOC’s and Beyond”, the USG has created a new task force, New Learning Models 2030 Task Force, which was launched just last week. Provost Margaret Venable was asked to participate in this work. Our first meeting was an all-day series of presentations and workshop activities to engage us in thinking about what the future might look like and how we might best serve the needs of students in the future. It sounds as if future meetings will most likely be held remotely by skype or similar technology. Watch this newsletter for updates.

Academic Contest
Based upon the recommendation of a team of faculty who have led this important project in past years, the college has decided NOT to hold this event this year. Schools who have participated in the past will be notified and we will spend this year developing a plan for how we will move forward with a similar event beginning next year. This has been an important part of Gordon’s history for several decades. Given the heavy workloads we are all experiencing, it makes sense to step back from this for one year and determine how we can ensure we are getting the most benefits and value for our efforts. Please contact Jeff Rogers if you have ideas!

Advising Tip of the Month
Before an advisement and registration period, contact students with generic information about what will be happening. Encourage students to make a notebook to maintain their academic records. If you maintain an academic plan sheet for individuals, send a blank copy to them so that they can begin their own record-keeping process. Ask them to bring in their academic plan and their academic worksheet so that both advisor and advisee become partners in the planning the student’s academic program.

Continuing Discussion of Study Abroad
Dr. Richard Baskin

Last Friday, we had a productive conversation about Study Abroad with Kevin Demmitt from Clayton State University. I am hearing some excitement from faculty members about adopting the approach that Kevin uses, and I encourage faculty members to contact Christy Flatt, Ed Whitelock, Mike Mahan, or me to learn more.

Dr. Joseph Eyles, from our own math faculty, will be presenting his own approach to Study Abroad on October 6, at 2:00 in NAHS 123. All are welcome to join us. Joe will talk about the trips he has led to France, and we will have the opportunity to ask questions and consider strategies.

Many of you know that study abroad can be a life-changing experience for young students. If you are interested in setting up or collaborating on a trip, this is a good time to get involved in the conversation.
Updates from the Department of Biology

Dr. Mustapha Durojaiye

Dr. Duffus has been asked to be involved in the organization of the 3rd International Symposium on Ranaviruses to be held in 2015 in Gainesville, FL. She has reluctantly agreed to this task.

Dr. Amanda Duffus has had the following articles published:


Dr. Amanda Duffus has had the following articles accepted for publication:


Dr. Amanda Duffus and Dr. Michael Bender have submitted the following new county record:


Dr. Mustapha Durojaiye participated in the 2014 American Society for Microbiology (ASM) Professional Development Meeting. The ASM General Meeting presented the central role of microbes in the biosphere by communicating today’s cutting edge science in the diverse areas influenced by microorganisms. The breadth of this meeting provided participants with opportunities for immersion in fields of specialization as well as forays into different disciplines.

Dr. Greg Hartman had a manuscript entitled “Diet of Rafinesque’s Big-eared Bat (Corynorhinus rafinesquii) in West-central Louisiana” accepted for publication by the journal The Southeastern Naturalist. Hartman is a co-author with Beau B. Gregory (Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries) and John O. Whitaker, Jr. (Indiana State University).

News from the Student Success Center

Mr. Peter Higgins

The Student Success Center is proud to introduce Martellis Curtis as our new Academic Success Advisor. Martellis earned a Bachelor of Science in Human Services degree at Macon State College in 2010. It was while working as a student assistant in the Academic Advising department at Macon State that Martellis first discovered his passion and interest in academic advising. He went on to earn a Master’s of Science in School Counselor Education from Fort Valley State and worked for a private counseling firm in Macon before joining the Gordon State team. Mr. Curtis is already proving to be an excellent addition to the SSC staff, and brings unlimited enthusiasm, passion, and energy to his job. If you get a chance, please drop by to welcome Martellis the GSC team.
New from the Department of Business and Public Service

Dr. Barry Kicklighter

This Spring, a new Gordon State College degree program will be launched that provides adult learners with an opportunity to balance life and work responsibilities while earning a bachelor of science degree in Human Services. Weekend College, an accelerated, flexible degree program, brings together adult learners in small-group cohorts that meet once a month at Gordon State at McDonough. Students complete the remainder of coursework online. Some adult learners may receive credit for on-the-job training and experience. Faculty who have committed to teaching the first, half-semester courses include Dr. Brenda Johnson, Dr. Christy Flatt and Dr. James Awbrey in the Department of Business and Public Service. Until the website is online, Gordon staff members who are interested in earning this bachelor's degree can learn more at its Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/gordonweekendcollege, email weekendcollege@gordonstate.edu, contact Dr. Melinda Hawley at mhawley@gordonstate.edu or 678.359.5388 or speak with intern Ms. Mary Browning, a Human Services major and adult learner. We encourage Gordon State faculty and staff to let others know of this new degree program.

We welcome our newest faculty members to the BPS fold!

Dr. James Awbrey will step in as Associate Professor of Sociology
Dr. Melinda Hawley will be stepping out of her temporary roll as Assistant Professor of Social Science and into her new roll as Associate Professor of Human Services
Tim Vick will step in as Assistant Professor of Business and Information Technology
Dr. Gary Norman will be stepping in as Assistant Professor of Economics
Jennifer Woodson will be returning to us as part-time instructor of Business

William Brent Carper, Ph.D., CPA, CGMA conducted a Continuing Professional Education Seminar at the American Accounting Association’s (AAA) annual conference in Atlanta, GA on August 2, 2014. The AAA is the largest community of accountants in academia, consisting of over 8,000 members worldwide. The course conducted by Dr. Carper identified and reviewed ways to increase enrollments in Graduate and Undergraduate Accountancy Programs through the incorporation of the Academy for Financial Services (AFS) / Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc.(CFP), and Registered Financial Planning Program (RFPP) as part of existing graduate and undergraduate accounting curricula. Dr. Carper reviewed the overall RFPP including specific topics in the curriculum. Additionally, he explained that the course is designed to develop and enhance participants’ knowledge about just how easy it is to adapt the AFS/CFP Registered Financial Planning Program to both existing graduate and undergraduate accounting programs while simultaneously complying with accreditation standards. The seminar participants consisted of accounting administrators and faculty looking for innovative ways to increase enrollments in Graduate and/or Undergraduate Accountancy Programs with little or no additional cost to the program, the school, and/or the institution.

Dr. Kalisha Smith and her husband welcomed a new edition to their family on Friday, July 11th - Baby Walker Logan Smith. Congratulations Kalisha and welcome Walker!

Dr. Qi Zhou’s presentation proposal entitled The effects of using LEGO blocks in helping blind students learn mathematics has been accepted by the 2014 School Science and Mathematics Convention which is going to be held in Jacksonville, Fl, November 6-8, 2014.
New from the Department of Humanities

Dr. Ed Whitelock

Tony Pearson designed scenery for a production of Les Miserables staged at the Grand Opera House in Macon this summer. 11thouronline.com had this to say about Professor Pearson’s set:

“Still, the person making best use of the extra space at the Grand may just be set designer Tony Pearson. The stage at the Grand is forty feet wide and forty feet deep, one of the deepest performance spaces in the Southeast. Accordingly, Pearson has designed a massive set, twelve feet high at some points, which transitions from dock-side town to Paris to the famous barricade – which is almost a character in itself.”

View 11th hour review

The show sold out every night and made somewhere around 60K off of the production.

News from the School of Education

Dr. Mike Mahan

Ms. Beverly Wolf of the Physical Education Staff has been fully certified as a Level I Challenge Course Practitioner.

Last week, the School of Education was notified by the Georgia Department of Education, that Gordon State College’s application for a Math and Science Partnership grant was approved. Gordon State will receive $103,555.00 for professional development work with the science and mathematics staff at Lamar Elementary School. The grant will run for two years and be refunded for 2015-2016.

The School of Education is participating in a Partnership Training Program with Henry County Schools, Lamar County Schools, Monroe County Schools, and Newton County Schools as our area partners. The program in Atlanta next week is supported through the DOE and the PSC and sponsored by a grant from the Race to the Top funding (RT3). Gordon will receive a grant of $10,000 to implement strategies for the partnership.

The Actor’s Nightmare is a short comic play by Christopher Durang. It involves an accountant named George Spelvin, who is mistaken for an actor’s understudy and forced to perform in a play for which he doesn’t know any of the lines.

The show opens on Wednesday, September 10th-through Saturday, September 13th at 7:30pm with a 2:00pm Matinee on Sunday, September 14th in the Fine Arts Auditorium.
More Updates from the Department of Humanities

Dr. Ed Whitelock

Dr. Peter Boltz, editor of Gordon State’s alumni magazine, sent the twelfth edition of the President’s Report to press on Aug. 21. This is issue marks the departure of the college’s past designer, Tonya Beach, and the introduction of its new designer Niki Walker. The cover features Alan Giles, a former Gordon Military College cadet, and his wife, Angela. The issue is expected to hit the streets by end of September.

Susan Hendricks’s Summer 14 World Literature II class created some amazing power points on authors they were researching. Their last slide was to imagine where their author would fit in today: what job might they have, what philosophy would they espouse, how would they dress, etc. You can view a few on Ms. Hendricks’s GSC Faculty webpage.

Dr. Adria Goldman co-edited an anthology, Black Women and Popular Culture: The Conversation Continues, with some of friends/former classmates from Howard, which is now on shelves! It released August 15th. Learn more about the anthology At the link below.

An international publishing company, Lambert Academic Publishing, solicited Dr. Cortney Grubbs’ dissertation in order to publish it as an academic book entitled Confessing Captivity: Queer Narratives of Trauma by American Women Writers (which is available on Amazon). Dr. Grubbs also published a poem entitled "country fair" in a zine called Seed.

GSC Applied Music Instructor, Scott Plato, is now a voting member of the Grammy Academy. His group, Atlanta Guitar Trio, has a movie soundtrack up for a Grammy nomination this year: Inheritance, Italian Style.

Dr. Nourizadeh escorted 85 of his students to Lamar Arts in downtown Barnesville to see the current art exhibition.

The ALG Textbook Transformation Grants Proposals are due September 8, 2014. Applications will be accepted in three categories: No-Cost-to-Students Learning Materials, OpenStax Textbooks, and Course Pack Pilots. Up to three grants may be awarded per campus. Additional information and links to the online informational meetings may be found in the ALG Newsletter at http://us3.campaign-archive1.com/?u=4566011fcaaa14d2fa0016092&amp;id=2b7fcee2c5. If you have questions or need additional information please contact Brenda Rutherford (brendar@gordonstate.edu) at Hightower Library (5076).
The Department of Mathematics and Physical Science sincerely welcomes Dr. Nolan McMurray, the new Department Head and Math professor to Gordon State College. Dr. McMurray comes to us from Benedict College in Columbia, SC with stops along the way at Texas State University and the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. Dr. McMurray earned a Bachelor’s degree in Computer Science and a Master’s degree in Mathematics Education from the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff. He then earned a Master’s degree and Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of Mississippi. We would tell you to give him a big Rebel yell when you see him on campus; but, since Ole Miss changed their mascot to a black bear, perhaps you could growl at him. Whatever you do, please make him feel welcome!

It was a very busy summer for Dr. Richard Schmude. He gave numerous talks and presentations listed below.

“Wideband J and H filter photometry of Mars, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn” given as the Mid-states Regional Meeting of the Astronomical League at Washington University in St. Louis, MO on June 7, 2014.


Wideband photometry of the planets” a 20 minute talk given at the National Meeting of the Astronomical League and the ALPO in San Antonio, Texas on July 11, 2014.


A poster titled “Mars activity in 2013-2014” given at the Eighth International Conference on Mare at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California on July 17, 2014.

“Wideband photometry of the Planet” a talk given to the Houston Astronomical Society at the University of Houston, Houston, Texas on August 1, 2014.

Dr. Schmude also published Instrumental methods for professional and amateur collaborations in planetary astronomy in Experimental Astronomy, Springer, New York, 105 pages (2014). The publication was written with 59 co-authors.

The MPS Department would like to extend our gratitude to Drs. Allen Fuller and Chad Davies for filling in as interim department heads for the past year. Dr. Fuller competently led the department from August, 2013 Through June 2014. He quickly learned how to navigate through the maze of tasks, procedures, and issues with which a department head must daily cope and deal. Even though Dr. Fuller never sought the job, he calmly and efficiency completed every task with cheerfulness. Thank you so very much for your service and for the adjustments you made in your personal life to make the past year run so smoothly. Some days, could have turned out to be a bit grim, if it had not been for your outstanding leadership and logical mind! The entire department extents our deepest heartfelt gratitude when we say, “Thank You!”

During July and August when daily temperatures were soaring close to 100 degrees, Dr. Davies graciously stepped up to the plate to fill in as the interim department head. To him we also say, “Thank you!” In spite of the heat, Dr. Davies kept a cool head and led the department admirably with efficiency, poise, and direction. Your skillful leadership is truly appreciated!
New at Hightower Library

Dr. Sonya Gaither

Now that the academic year has begun, students are buzzing around campus and professors are busy imparting new knowledge. With this in mind, the library staff would like to remind everyone of some existing services and resources as well as introduce some new ones to help the campus community have a successful semester.

If you would like for your class to attend a library instruction session in order to learn how to conduct research, please notify Professor Beth Pye or Dr. Sonya Gaither. An online request form is also available for your completion. Please provide us with your requests at least 24 to 48 hours in advance to allow for processing and confirmation.

We also have a database trial from Rittenhouse Publishing consisting of electronic nursing books. We would like your feedback on this product as well as upcoming database trials. More information will be forthcoming regarding other trials. Please complete the online form for the R2 database by October 31.

Also, remember that most of the library resources have some form of mobile access if you like to search on the go. There may even be an app for your favorite database.

Deans and department chairs will soon be notified regarding library budget allocations assigned to their departments and/or schools for the academic year. Monies may be used to purchase library materials that support the Associates and/or Baccalaureate programs offered in their discipline areas.

New Laptops

The library now has 24 laptops available for students to check-out and use inside the library. The laptops were purchased with student technology funds. Any student interested in using a laptop may ask for one at the Front Desk with their GSC ID.

Study rooms are also available for students to check out with their GSC ID. Inquiries can be made at the AV Office on the 2nd floor. If the AV Office is unoccupied then inquiries can be made at the Front Desk.

Did you know that GALILEO is accessible via D2L? Feel free to try it out. No password required.

Are you interested in finding out what new titles have been added to the library collection in your discipline? You may check by going to the GIL Catalog and selecting "New Titles" on the bottom of the screen. Choose your criteria then submit your search request to have a list of titles displayed on the screen.

We have also asked the deans to send electronic copies of all course syllabi to Dr. Gaither (sgaither@gordonstate.edu) so librarians will be able to better assist faculty with research assignments and help students with their questions.

As always, we are here to assist you. Please let us know how we can help. This is YOUR LIBRARY!