What is on your summer reading list?
Anyone who knows anything about me knows that I have several guilty pleasures. Reading for pleasure is one I have little time for these days, but it is truly an escape like no other. I’ve been scanning the lists for ideas of new books to read this summer. Is there anything you can recommend? I admit to enjoying a wide range of types of books, but lately I have enjoyed escaping to other countries through a couple of charming series. I really shouldn’t share my guilty pleasures but then again why not? You might enjoy them too!

Set primarily in a small Irish village, the Irish Country Doctor series (by Patrick Taylor) is full of heartbreak and laughter and drama but all of it is wrapped inside a world where there are better days ahead and good friends to help along the way.

The No. 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency series (by Alexander McCall Smith) is another wonderful escape to another world. The mysteries to be solved by the clever Ma Ramotswe and her quirky associate in the small Botswana village are anything but typical of the crimes we read and hear about in the U.S., yet the lady detective’s observations of human character transcend all borders. I recommend each of these series if you are looking for some light reading this summer to distract you from grading or committee work or course development.

Let me know what you are reading. Bonne lecture!
Leadership Update
Dr. Margaret H. Venable

In case you missed the emails:
We are now approaching the end of our first year in our new organizational structure. It has been a challenge at times to make this transition and I appreciate everyone’s patience as we all adjust to the new structure and roles.

- I am most grateful to Dr. Ed Whitelock for agreeing to serve as the Interim Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences during this past year. He was one of many key people who made my job possible this year. Ed has agreed to return to the role of Department Head of the Department of Humanities in order to take on the critically important task of helping us prepare for reaffirmation. In addition to serving as Department head, Ed will chair our SACSCOC reaffirmation committee and serve on the Leadership Team for our reaffirmation work beginning officially July 1, 2014.

- To continue the success of the School of Arts and Sciences, Dr. Jeff Knighton has agreed to assume the role of Interim Dean beginning July 1. Dr. Barry Kicklighter has agreed to serve as Interim Department Head of Business & Public Service effective August 1, 2014. This means Jeff will be doing double-duty during the month of July. I know we are all grateful to both Jeff and Barry for their service.

- I must also be certain to thank Dr. Steve Raynie, Dr. Allen Fuller and Dr. Teresa Stanley for serving as department heads this past year. We anticipate an announcement of the new Department head for Mathematics and Physical Science by fall. In the meantime, Dr. Chad Davies has agreed to serve for the month of June. Dr. Mustapha Durajie has agreed to serve as Interim Department Head for Biology this coming year beginning June 19.

- As a reminder, Dr. Tom Aiello will serve as Department Head of History and Political Science (no longer interim) beginning July 1.

In the fall, a new search committee will be formed and we will re-advertise for the Dean of Arts & Sciences position.

New Director of Hightower Library

We are pleased to have hired Dr. Sonya Shepherd as our library director. Dr. Shepherd comes to us from Georgia Southern University, where she has served for 19 years as Learning Commons Director/Associate Department Head and as Library Assessment Officer. She has earned an Ed.D. in Educational Administration from Georgia Southern, an MS in Library Service from Clark Atlanta University, and a BS in Computer Science from LaGrange College. Her official start date is August 1, but she will probably be doing some work for us in July to help transition to her new position. No one will be more pleased than Brenda Rutherford. Thank you, Brenda, for your excellent work as interim director.

Adult Learning Consortium (ALC)

Dr. Richard Baskin

Several of us participated in the ALC Summer Institute at Stone Mountain this month: Dr. Mike Mahan, Prof. Margie Wright, Dr. Dennis Chamberlain, Ms. Nicole Williams, Ms. Tonya Moore, and Dr. Richard Baskin. We heard presentations on ways to help students with adult responsibilities navigate the challenges of earning a degree. Sessions included prior learning assessment, reverse transfer agreements, distance education (including eCore and eMajor), and more. Also able to join us were Gordon adult learners Olivia Gunn, Amanda Petroff, and Dorian Lamb. These students and Ms. Moore gave a well-received presentation on our Highlander Mentoring Program. Ms. Williams and Ms. Moore also contributed to an ALC presentation on public awareness campaigns.
An effective advisor is an effective facilitator. Know when, where, and how to refer. We have some wonderful resources and talented professionals on this campus! When you need to refer your advisee to someone else, please try to help pave the way. If possible, call first and provide some preliminary information. When your advisee sees you taking that extra step, he or she will be more inclined to follow through.

The summer term has been busy at the McDonough Campus. Five classes are being offered at the campus with 61 students in those classes. We also have been busy over the last few weeks working to improve services for students and faculty. A special thank you goes to Brenda Rutherford and Beth Pye from the Hightower Library for conducting onsite library orientations to the 4 classes that are currently meeting in the evenings. We even began a program to transport library books for research to students taking classes at the campus.

In addition, we hired Joy Jester as our security officer for the classes in the evening. Joy will be patrolling the campus classrooms and parking Mondays through Thursdays from 5 until 9. We look forward to working with Joy.

SSC News
Mr. Peter Higgins

The SSC is collaborating with Student Activities to launch the “Where Is Harry?” campaign for all students beginning Fall 2014. This 6-week experiential activity is designed to promote student awareness of campus resources and supports while also encouraging engagement with the institution.

The SSC is also collaborating with Residence Life to implement a pilot-program titled, “Highlander Journey.” This “passport-like,” incentive-based program is designed to encourage residential student retention, engagement, and connection with the broader Gordon State College community.

Advising Tip of the Month

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News from the Department of Math and Physical Science
Dr. Chad Davies

Richard Schmude, Jr. gave two presentations during May and the first week of June. The first was a presentation to the Flint River Astronomy Club on May 8, 2014, where he presented “Mars in 2013-2014”. The second presentation was on June 7, 2014 at the Mid-States Regional Meeting of the Astronomical League which was held at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri. Dr. Schmude’s presentation at the meeting was “Wideband J and H filter Photometry of Mars, Venus, Jupiter and Saturn”.
News from the Department of History and Political Science

Dr. Erica Johnson

Dr. Marvin Thomas gave a talk for the Barnesville Blues Sons of Confederate Veterans (Camp 2137) on June 5, 2014. Thomas spoke about Confederate major general John Brown Gordon (1832-1904) and Confederate naval officer John McIntosh Kell (1823-1900). Gordon was originally from Upson County, and Kell resided in Spalding County after the Civil War and was buried in Griffin’s Oak Hill Cemetery.

Dr. Brian Webb and Erica Johnson are currently participating in the College Board Advanced Placement Reading in Salt Lake City (June 12-18, 2014). Webb is reading AP exams for Political Science, and Johnson is reading AP exams for World History. Each June, AP teachers and college faculty members from around the world gather in the United States to evaluate and score the free-response sections of the AP Exams. AP Exam Readers are led by a Chief Reader, a college professor who has the responsibility of ensuring that students receive scores that accurately reflect college-level achievement. In addition to scoring the exams, being an AP Reader gives participants a chance to exchange ideas with faculty, teachers, and AP Development Committee members; establish friendships within a worldwide network of faculty members; and become familiar with the current AP scoring standards.

News from the Department of Humanities

Dr. Steve Raynie

Dr. Rhonda Wilcox published an article titled “Joss Whedon’s Translation of Shakespeare’s Much Ado About Nothing: Historical Double Consciousness, Reflections, and Frames” in the peer-reviewed journal *Slayage: The Journal of the Whedon Studies Association* 11.2 (June 2014). This was a special double issue edited by K. Dale Koontz and Ensley Guffey. Charlie Coile and Rhonda Wilcox served as copy editors for the issue.

Stephen Powers went to Washington, DC, on June 15th, and read poems from his new book, *Hello, Stephen*, as part of the Joaquin Miller Poetry Series.
It gives us great pleasure to announce that Dr. Barry Kicklighter has agreed to serve as Interim Department Head of the Business and Public Service Department beginning August 1. He has been a valued colleague for many years, and over the past year has been instrumental in the successful implementation of our Human Services baccalaureate. His creativity, calm demeanor, and dedication to our students will serve all of us well over the next year.

As of now we have 85 declared Human Services baccalaureate majors and 26 additional associate majors. For a total of 111 declared majors. 10% more than our goal. We are thrilled to have had such a positive response to this new program!

Among the many excited graduates to walk in our Spring 2014 Graduation held on May 9th, Emily Mumford was our first student to graduate with her Bachelor of Science in Human Services Degree. Debra Adamson was our first student to be presented with her Associate of Science Degree in Human Services. We are very proud of Emily and Debra and congratulate them both on such a momentous accomplishment!

Dr. Alan Burstein attended the Teachers of Accounting in Two Year Colleges (TACTYC) conference hosted in New Orleans, LA in May.

It is with mixed feelings that we announce the retirement of Dr. Evelyn Schliecker. Dr. Schliecker has been a Psychology Professor here for 9 years. We are sad to see her go but we wish her all the best in her next adventure! Best of luck Evelyn, you will be missed!

We are sorry to see Mrs. Bethany Johnson go as Full Time Instructor of Sociology, but we are very glad that she has agreed to stay on as part-time Instructor of Sociology in the Fall!

We wish our fearless leader, Dr. C. Jeffery Knighton, the best of luck in his new position as Interim Dean of the School of Arts & Sciences. This transition will take place on July 1st. We are sorry to see you go but wish you all the best!