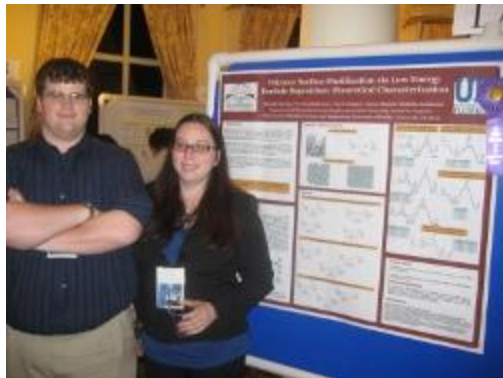


College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter

March, 2011

Chemistry Students Present on Computational Chemistry



Several members of the Chemistry Department attended the 51st Sanibel Symposium for Computational Chemistry at St. Simons Island, GA (Feb. 25 - March 1, 2011). Two undergraduate students, Michelle Morton and W. Joseph Barron, presented a poster on "Polymer Surface Modification via Low Energy Particle Deposition: Theoretical Characterization". Nedia Iordanova (Assistant Professor of Chemistry) accompanied the students on this trip.

Ceramics Students Fire Westville Wood Kiln



Three students from the Department of Visual Arts fired the traditional "Ground Hog Kiln" at Westville in Lumpkin, GA. The kiln was built in 1969 by the well-known Georgia folk potter D.X. Gordy and was most recently fired by Stephen Hawks. This event was the first time that this kiln was used in over three years.

The students fired over 130 pieces in a process that took nearly 48 hours. Pictured here with their work from left to right are ceramics students Doug Durrance, John Lin, and Sam Hendley.

A&S Professors Win Most Valuable Professor Awards



Seven Arts & Sciences faculty members won Most Valuable Professor Awards from the Athletic Department. The recipients were chosen by senior athletes. This year's MVP winners from Arts & Sciences are:

- Tom Weiland (Professor of Geology)
- Chuck Huffman (Associate Professor of Psychology)
- Glenn Robins (Associate Professor of History)
- Richard Hall (Professor of History)
- Brian Smith (Assistant Professor of Political Science)
- Jason Berggren (Assistant Professor of History)
- Andrea Miller (Assistant Professor of Psychology)

Berggren Celebrates Presidents' Day with Jimmy Carter



In commemoration of Presidents' Day, former president Jimmy Carter was enthusiastically welcomed by a standing-room only crowd at the Plains High School Auditorium. Jason Berggren (Assistant Professor of Political Science) introduced President Carter to the audience. Berggren spoke for about 10 minutes on the significance of Presidents' Day and the Carter presidency. For instance, he noted that with it being the 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War, it was important to remember that when Carter was elected in 1976 he was the first Southerner directly elected to the presidency since the antebellum period. At the conclusion of his remarks, Berggren asked the crowd to stand for "Georgia's favorite son, our 39th President, Jimmy Carter."

Third World Studies Seminar on the Challenge From China



Phil Szmedra (Associate Professor of Economics) gave a presentation entitled "The Challenge From China" for the Third World Studies Seminar series on March 17. The presentation focused on the emergence of China as a global economic and political power that poses a significant challenge to the preeminence of the United States. China has made strategic investments to prepare its society for a century of upheaval and social change. The United States, however, spins in a vortex of self reflection and doubt about its ability to compete, balancing budgets, and burgeoning public debt. The presentation suggested what needs to be accomplished to face the challenge of China within a democratic system of increasingly antagonistic political parties.

Laughlin Presents at a Music Conference



Dr. Mark Laughlin (Assistant Professor of Music) presented his research on Improvisation in Group Piano Curricula at the 2011 College Music Society's Southern Conference held February 26-28, at Rhodes College in Memphis, TN. Dr. Laughlin's research and teaching strategies on improvisation have been previously featured at regional conferences of the College Music Society. He has also presented his research on improvisation at the national conferences of the National Association of Schools of Music, the College Music Society, the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy, and the International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research in Music Pedagogy (Ottawa, ON).

Huffman Presents at Four Conferences



Chuck Huffman (Associate Professor of Psychology) gave presentations at four conferences in February. He gave a presentation on "Prior Learning Assessment at GSW" at the quarterly meeting of the USG Adult Learning Consortium in Atlanta, GA. At the Georgia Conference on College Teaching and Learning in Kennesaw, GA, he gave two presentations. The titles were "Transliteracy: Literacy Across the Media" and "Prior Learning Assessment in Georgia: Catch the Wave". Huffman finished the month with an invited address entitled "Teaching Social Psychology: Challenges and Solutions" at the 23rd annual Southeastern Teaching of Psychology conference.

Kostov and Hammer Paper Selected for the Cover of *The Physics Teacher*



Svilen Kostov (Assistant Professor of Physics) recently [published a paper](#) in *The Physics Teacher*, a peer-reviewed journal from the American Association of Physics Teachers. This paper was selected for the cover story of the April edition (see left).

Bragg Presents at a History Conference



Susan Bragg (Assistant Professor of History) gave a presentation at the annual conference of the Organization of American Historians (March 18-20). The paper was entitled "Civic Manhood and the 'Negro Problem': NAACP Anti-Lynching Protest Politics in the Early 20th c."

Bryan Presents at an English Conference

Eugenia Bryan (Assistant Professor of English) gave a presentation at the College English Association national conference (March 31 - April 2). The topic was "America Rising: The Fortunes of 'Thrown-Away Women' in Toni Morrison's *A Mercy*".

Womens' Studies Speakers Series Presentation

The Womens' Studies program hosted presentations on images of women. The presentations ranged from the art world to the popular media. Tonia Hughes (Instructor of Art) discussed "Women in Photography". Courtney McDonald (Assistant Professor of Sociology) presented on "Representations of Violence against Women in Popular Media."