

College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter

September, 2010

Harold Isaacs Edits the Spring Issue of the Journal of Third World Studies



Harold Isaacs, Ph.D., professor emeritus of history at Georgia Southwestern State University, has edited, "Celebrating Change: Defining the Future: Social Justice, Democracy and Cultural Renewal," the Spring 2010 (Volume XXV11, No. 1) issue of Journal of Third World Studies (JTWS), published by the Association of Third World Studies (ATWS). The 376 page volume, the 53rd issue of JTWS edited by Isaacs, contained selected papers presented at the 27th annual meeting of ATWS in Elmina, Cape Coast, Ghana, November 21-24, 2009. The contents included peer-reviewed articles, book reviews and book review essays. The articles were authored by scholars from the United States, Ghana, Iran, Kenya, Nigeria, and India.

POW Exhibit at the Library



The James Earl Carter Library displayed a POW/MIA Exhibit developed in honor of the National Prisoner of War/MIA Recognition Day by DeDe Reyes, Katrisha Lester, and Dr. Glenn Robins of the Department of History and Political Science. One display case contained information on Macon, Georgia native

Major Bobby Jones, who is still listed as MIA from the Vietnam War.

Geology Day for Local Cub Scouts



Seventeen Cub Scouts visited the Geology and Physics Department for Geology Day on Saturday, August 28. The session was led by Sam Peavy. The Cub Scouts learned about rocks, minerals and fossils. Each participant took home their very own mineral and fossil collections.

New International Program Focuses on the Natural History of Costa Rica



Bob Herrington and Tom Weiland recently developed and implemented a new international studies program for science majors and minors at Georgia Southwestern. The Natural History of Costa Rica Program provides an opportunity for undergraduate students to learn about tropical biology and Central American geology through field experiences and directed study. Coursework focuses on the regional geology, climate, ecosystems, and biologic diversity of Costa Rica, while field trips to the coastal and interior regions and active volcanoes show the relationship between elevation, climate, soil type and biodiversity. Participants complete field logs and answer specific questions based on the field guide, assigned readings and field experiences.

The program was offered for the first time during Maymester 2010. Twelve GSW students and five GSW faculty participated in the program. In addition to Tom and Bob, Ian Brown, Anh-Hue Tu and Gabriele Stauf also participated and helped with the program. The group traveled throughout Costa Rica during a ten-day trip learning about and directly observing the amazing plants, animals and landforms that characterize the region.

Third World Seminar on the Water Crisis



"The Water Crisis: Issues Confronting the Global Community," was the subject of the Third World in Perspective Program seminar held on September 15. A large audience was in attendance.

The program featured presentations by three GSW faculty members: Brian G. Smith, Ph.D., assistant professor of political science, "Water as a Global Issue" Jamie MacLennan, Ph.D., assistant professor of sociology, "Social and Economic Aspects of the Water Dilemma" and Philip I. Szmedra, Ph.D., associate professor of economics, "The Public Health Implications of Clean Water Access."

Harold Isaacs, Ph.D., professor emeritus of history served as moderator. The forum was co-sponsored by the Department of History and Political Science; Georgia Southwestern Foundation, Inc., Office of Continuing Education; and the Association of Third World Studies, Inc.

UNIV 4000 Trip to El Salvador



The UNIV 4000 class spent seven days during Maymester in El Salvador. The class studied the culture of the country and conducted an in-country service learning experience. The service project was building homes in conjunction with the Millard Fuller Center for Housing. Our students worked with the "Young Life" group from Kentucky to place the foundations and concrete walls of houses on the project site near San Luis Talpa.

Music Faculty Member Presents at an International Conference



Dr. Mark Laughlin, Assistant Professor of Music, presented his research on Improvisation in Group Piano Curricula at the 2010 International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research in Music Pedagogy. The week long conference was hosted by Universite' d'Ottawa in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Laughlin's research and teaching strategies on improvisation have been previously featured at the College Music Society's International Conference in Bangkok, Thailand, and the national conferences of the National Association of Schools of Music, the College Music Society, and the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy. He has also been the featured clinician on teacher education in improvisation at the Alabama, Maryland, Massachusetts and South Carolina Music Educators State Conferences.

New Faculty: Alwen Yeung



Alwen Yeung is a new full-time lecturer for Music and Chinese Language. Ms. Yeung has a master's degree in Piano Performance from the Florida State University. She has won various awards at the "Hong Kong Schools Music Festivals" including piano solo in Faure and Schubert class, piano accompaniment for Soprano Solo, Aria and Opera college divisions. Before she started to teach part-time at GSW, Ms. Yeung was a staff accompanist at Columbus State University's Schwob School of Music. She is currently pursuing her master's in Chinese (focusing on linguistics, literature, and pedagogy) at Middlebury College.

New Faculty: Courtney McDonald



Courtney McDonald is a new Assistant Professor in Sociology. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Colorado-Boulder in July, 2010. She also received a graduate certificate in Women's Studies in May, 2010. Her main scholarly interests are gender and sexuality studies, criminology, and violence against women.