

# College of Arts and Sciences Newsletter

October, 2010

## Tietjen Presentation on Wetland Ecology



Hap Tietjen (Professor Emeritus) presented a paper on "Observations on Spiders on Wetlands in Southwest Georgia" at the joint meeting of the Georgia and the South Carolina Entomological Societies at Hickory Knob State Park, SC. The paper was co-authored by Sarah Becker, Tara Muenze, and Steven Golladay of the Joseph W. Jones Ecology Research Center (Newton, GA). Dr. Tietjen and his colleagues used the spiders to reach a better understanding of the wetlands, one of the principal areas of research of the center. They collected and identified all of the spiders, as well as the three major types of wetlands, recognizing a relationship between spider species to each of the types.

## Psychology/Sociology Club Field Trip to the Sleep Disorders Clinic



The Psychology/Sociology Club visited the Sleep Center of Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital. The students watched patients being monitored for evidence of sleep disorders, such as sleep apnea. The technicians explained how the monitoring equipment works. The students also saw continuous positive airway pressure

devices that are used to treat people with sleep apnea.

## **Library Display for Mental Illness Awareness Week**



The Psychology/Sociology Club organized a display in the library for Mental Illness Awareness week (Oct. 3-9). The National Alliance on Mental Illness estimates that one out of every four adults experiences a mental health problem in any given year, and that approximately 6% of the United States population lives with serious and/or chronic disorders. Unfortunately, less than one-third of adults receive proper diagnosis and treatment, resulting in reduced life expectancy and other problems such as homelessness, incarceration, and higher health care costs. This display represents an opportunity to learn more about mental illness and reduce the stigma associated with it.

## **American Chemical Society Meeting and Presentation**



Georgia Southwestern State University hosted a meeting of the GA Southwest Section of the American Chemical Society in the GSW Faculty Dining room. The meeting included a business meeting of the Society as well as dinner and a presentation by a distinguished speaker, Dr. William F. Carroll, Junior. Dr. Carroll is a

past president of the American Chemical Society. He is currently the Vice President of OxyChem. The Title of Dr. Carroll's talk was "A Global Chemistry Enterprise: Do We Have a Future, or What?". Faculty from GSW, Valdosta State University and Andrew College attended the meeting as well as students from GSW and Valdosta State University and high school teachers from Americus Sumter High School, South Campus.

## **Glassblowing Open House at Duckbill Studios**



On October 2nd, GSW visual arts alumni, students, and faculty participated in the annual open house festivities at Duckbill Studios in Scottdale (near Atlanta). Tadashi Torii, a master glassblower and graduate of GSW's visual arts program, opened Duckbill Studios in 2005. He hosts this anniversary event that features food, drink, and plenty of entertainment supplied by glass artists as they rotate through their creative demonstrations. Some of the alumni in attendance included Zachary Hermann, Phillip Taylor, Chris Fiertner, Jeremy Alford, and Jeremy Hughes. Professor Emeritus Ralph Harvey was also on hand to demonstrate his glassblowing skills. This event has been a great opportunity to maintain and build new relationships between glass artists.

## **Music Faculty Member Receives an NEA Grant**



Dr. Mark Laughlin, Assistant Professor of Music, received a \$2,000 MENC Teaching Improvisation Learning and Leadership Grant from the National Endowment of Arts Foundation in Washington, D.C. The grant will support Dr. Laughlin to attend four Orff-Schulwerk Workshops, and membership into the Atlanta area chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association.

Dr. Laughlin's research and teaching strategies on improvisation have been previously featured at the International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research in Music Pedagogy, 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.

## **Agerton Observatory Open House Event**



On September 24th, Dr. Sam Peavy and Dr. Svilen Kostov (Geology and Physics) welcomed guests to the GSW Agerton Observatory Open House event. More than 30 students, faculty, staff, and visitors from the area attended, many with their children and grandchildren. Views of Jupiter (at its closest approach to the Earth in decades), the Moon, and a rare sighting of Uranus were enjoyed by all.

## **Faculty & Friends Music Recital**



The GSW Chamber Concert Series presented the Faculty & Friends Recital on October 14 in Jackson Performance Hall. The performance featured Lisa Davis, Julie Megginson, Mark Laughlin, and Alwen Yeung.

### **Art Presentation and Exhibit by Stephen Hawks**



The Department of Visual Arts hosted an exhibition by visiting artist Stephen Hawks from October 11 to 21. Hawks presented a lecture on the history of the "Facejug" and demonstrated a variety of throwing techniques for beginning and advanced ceramic students. His visit culminated with an artist's talk where Hawks described the influence of German Romantic poet Goethe and Anthroposophist Rudolf Steiner on his recent work.

### **Huffman Selected For University System Groups**



Chuck Huffman (Associate Professor of Psychology) was selected for the USG Adult College Completion Task Force and the USG Adult Learning Consortium RFP Review Team.

### **Smith Presents at Global Studies Conference**



Traveling as Director of the new Global Studies Certificate program, Dr. Brian Smith attended the 33rd annual Global Studies Conference hosted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha. The Global Studies Conference is an interdisciplinary conference with participants from all over the globe presenting on topics including business, art, health, education and politics. Dr. Smith presented a paper concerning political legitimacy in countries with low state capacity.

### **Fine Arts Faculty Members Jury Photography Contest**

Tonia Hughes and Keaton Wynn (Fine Arts) recently juried the Georgia State Fair photography contest reviewing collectively over 2000 photographs. Hughes and Wynn were selected as two of six expert judges serving this years competition.

### **Dramatic Arts Majors Present at the Georgia Theatre Conference**

Dramatic Arts Majors Megan Sleeth and Ashley Longacre gave presentations at the Georgia Theatre Conference State Convention in Savannah, Georgia. Megan Sleeth ran a workshop entitled "Introduction to Vocal Techniques and Application". The goal of this workshop was to teach young actors about their voices. Ashley Longacre ran a workshop on "Introduction to Stage Make-up". Her workshop was about showing kids the wonders of stage make-up.

### **Edison Receives a Grant From Georgia Power**

Bridget Edison (English, 2010) won a Georgia Power New Teacher Assistance Grant of \$1000 for teaching equipment. She teaches 7th-grade English at Early County Middle School in Blakely, GA.

## **Southwest Georgia Writing Project: INQ**

The Southwest Georgia Writing Project is beginning a new series: INQ - inquiry and coffee. They will meet at Cafe' Campesino to discuss, write, and share research on teaching. Teachers K-12 are welcome. The meetings for the next two months are:

- Monday, October 18, 6:30-7:30 pm
- Saturday, October 23 10:00-11:00 am
- Monday, November 8, 6:30-7:30 pm
- Saturday, November 13, 10:00-11:00 am

Contact Peg Ellington ([mae@canes.gsw.edu](mailto:mae@canes.gsw.edu)) if you have questions.

## **New Faculty: Paul Dahlgren**

Paul Dahlgren is a new Assistant Professor in English. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Irvine in the summer of 2010. His scholarly focus is on rhetorical studies, especially the history of rhetoric, composition pedagogy and critical theory. He has published in *Rhetorica*, *The Journal of Cultural and Religious Theory*, and *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Literary and Cultural Theory*. Dahlgren has also edited a chapter for UCI's self-published composition textbook and has participated in the program assessment for lower-division composition at UCI.