February, 2012

Deriso Gives Chemistry Presentation

Jonathon Deriso and Nedialka Iordanova (Associate Professor of Chemistry) attended the 52nd Sanibel Symposium at St. Simons. They presented a poster on “Theoretical Characterization of Low-energy Particle Deposition on PMMA Surfaces”.

Pre-Engineering Students Visit Georgia Tech

On February 12, seven GSW Dual Degree students along with the pre-engineering program coordinator, Svilen Kostov, visited Georgia Tech to participate in “Experience Tech Day”- a set of information sessions and panel discussions focused on the transfer process to the acclaimed university. In addition, Kostov met with Georgia Tech administrators and received important information regarding our recently approved Regents Engineering Transfer Program (RETP), which will be open to GSW students beginning of Fall 2012.

Morrison Publishes Geology Paper

Shaunna Morrison, a Spring, 2011 GSW Geology graduate and current University of Arizona graduate student, has published her first paper entitled "Redetermination of kovdorskite, Mg₃PO₄(OH)-3H₂O " in the journal Acta Crystallographica. The article details the revised structure of the mineral kovdorskite as determined using x-ray diffraction techniques. Ms. Morrison learned x-ray diffraction as a part of her Senior Project research at GSW while working with Dr. Tom Weiland.
Students Participate in Georgia Music Educators Association Conference

Seven members of the Chamber Singers and two instrumentalists attended the Georgia Music Educators Association Conference in Savannah, Jan. 25-28. The singers (Deborah Beckler, Kristin Pair, Kalynn Partridge, Caitlin Ragusa, Brittany Wallace, Mark Watford, Essence Williams) participated in the All-College Chorus. The instrumentalists (Kyle Dothard, string bass, and Yun Ma, violin, students of part-time instructor Dr. Claire Fox Hillard), participated in the All-College Orchestra. Julie Megginson, Professor of Music, accompanied the students on this trip.

Students Present at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival

Six students from Theater, Communication, & Media Arts qualified through juried review of their work on campus to present at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival in Daytona Beach Florida, January 31 – February 4, 2012. Presenting in the Irene Ryan Audition showcase were Daina Rosario with her scene partner Mark Culpepper, and Sara Thompson with her scene partner Jesse Wade. Presenting the Barbizon Lighting Design exhibition was Lane Marchant. All students qualified to present on the basis of their work in the fall production of A Piece Of My Heart.

In addition, Rosario, Culpepper, Thompson, Wade, and Richard Thornton performed in an inaugural Devised Work showcase. A new national initiative, the prompt for the devised work was “Welcome Home.” The student’s constructed their performance to included live music, poetry by Walt Whitman, stylized movement combining Tai Chi and American Sign Language, and a personal narrative by each student, drawing on a challenging personal relationship with a family member.

The students were accompanied by Theater Technical Coordinator Ray Mannila. Jeffrey Green (Professor the Theater), who serves as Vice Chair of KCACT Region IV, coordinated the four-day Irene Ryan Audition showcase event with 230 presentations and 460 participants.
Murder Mystery at the Windsor Hotel

Theater, Communication, and Media Arts presented their annual Murder Mystery Dinner Theater at the Windsor Hotel on February 24th and 25th. This year’s production, entitled *Ballade des Soeurs Désolé*, was a speculation based on an actual murder of a hotel maid who was shoved down the elevator shaft. (Photos by William Searcy)
Students Attend Writing Conference

Six student writing consultants and Lauren DiPaula (Assistant Professor of English) attended a conference hosted by the Southeastern Writing Center Association at Eastern Kentucky University. The consultants had the opportunity to present, to see leading figures in the world of writing centers, and to meet consultants from other universities.

Honors Students Present at the Georgia Collegiate Honors Council Meeting

Five students from the University Honors Program attended the 2012 Georgia Collegiate Honors Council meeting at North Georgia College in Dahlonega, GA on February 17-18. The annual meeting brings Honors directors and Honors students from around Georgia to share ideas and interests and to discuss Honors education in Georgia. The five students, Alejandra Palacio, Jiachen Zhang, Taylor Trebotte, Elizabeth McDermott, and Kayla Johnson presented a panel centered on the following theme: “Jacob Bronowski’s Natural Philosophy and his Views of Social Responsibility in Light of Science.” Each student presented a short paper on a different topic from this theme. The presentations were a product of an Honors Seminar course entitled “The Ascent of Man”, offered Fall 2011 by Gabriele Stauf (Professor of English). The presentations were very well received and prompted a lively discussion from the audience. The group was accompanied by Elizabeth Gurnack (Associate Professor of Chemistry), who is co-Director of the University Honors Program.

Iordanova Wins Young Investigator Award

Nedialka Iordanova (Associate Professor of Chemistry) received a prestigious award in computational and theoretical chemistry: The Wiley-International Journal of Quantum Chemistry Young Investigator Award. Iordanova also served as a judge for the Griffin RESA Regional Science & Engineering Fair in Griffin, GA. She also gave a talk at the Chemistry and Biochemistry Seminar series at the University Of South Carolina in Columbia, SC. The presentation title was “Modeling Reaction Pathways of Low Energy Particle Deposition on Polymer Surfaces via First Principle Calculations”.

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A&S Faculty Members Receive MVP Awards

Seven faculty members from the College of Arts and Sciences received "Most Valuable Professor" awards from senior student athletes. The A&S award winners were David Berggren, Gary Fisk, Elizabeth Kuipers, Paula Martin, Brian Parkinson, LaVerne Worthy, and Jeff Waldrop. The winners were recognized during half time of the men's basketball game on February 15.

Huffman Presents at Two Conferences

Chuck Huffman (Associate Professor of Psychology) presented "Take a Ride in an RV: Teaching Reliability and Validity Using the Method of Loci" at the Southeastern Teaching of Psychology Conference in Atlanta, Ga. He also presented "Teaching PLA 2000" at the USG Adult Learning Consortium Winter Institute.

Cotter Presents at a Teaching Conference

Ellen Cotter (Professor of Psychology) gave a poster presentation on "Creating an Online Human Growth and Development Course" at the Southeastern Teaching of Psychology Conference on February 25. The presentation covered a general strategy for online teaching. It also included specific examples of exercises used in the Human Growth and Development course. Gary Fisk (Professor of Psychology) also contributed to the presentation.