Welcome: Charles “Chuck” Davis, GSW’s new reference librarian/government documents supervisor

Charles “Chuck” Davis is GSW’s new reference librarian/government documents supervisor.

Davis was born in Fayetteville, Ark. while his father was a member of the faculty at the University of Arkansas. Later, his family moved to Pullman, Wash. Here, Davis attended K-12 while his father worked at Washington State University and served as a research argonomist with the USDA. Davis went on to receive his undergraduate degree from Washington State as well. He considers Pullman to be his hometown.

After graduating from WSU, Davis attended Florida State University where he received his graduate degree in library and information science, met his wife, and started a family. Since graduating from FSU, he has worked in Florida and Georgia, primarily in public libraries, technical college libraries and as a librarian for The Golf Channel.

Outside of librarianship, Davis’s interests lie in sports and music. He enjoys following his favorite college football and basketball teams as well as golf and listening to music. He also shares an interest in reptiles and freshwater aquariums with his son.

Davis appreciates all the friendly people he has encountered since arriving at GSW.

He said, “I’ve been at GSW for less than a week, but I can honestly say that I have not met a single person who did not have a smile on their face and a pleasant ‘Hello’ - For that, I am grateful.”

Katie the therapy dog visits during finals week

During finals week on Dec. 7 and 8, GSW students were treated to free stress-relief sessions at the GSW Library with Katie, a seven-year-old rescue dog who is part Blue Heeler and part Labrador Retriever. Katie and her owner, Laura Bauer of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, are a certified Pet Partner therapy team. Katie also enjoys visiting residents at the Mattie Marshall Center on the weekends. Pet Partners is the nation’s largest and most prestigious nonprofit registering handlers of multiple species as volunteer teams providing animal-assisted interactions. For more information, visit: www.petpartners.org. Thanks to Ru Story-Huffman for bringing Katie in to help lower student stress. A great time was had by all who stopped by!
Four GSW staff members attend Leadership Institute

In 2014, eighteen individuals from throughout Sumter County were chosen as the first cohort and very first graduating class of the Advancing Sumter Leadership Institute. The Advancing Sumter Leadership Development Program is a new curriculum-based leadership development program developed by the University of Georgia J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development. Four members of staff from Georgia Southwestern State University were among the graduates that successfully completed the program.

The leadership program curriculum consisted of training on: Understanding Community Leadership, Effective Communication, Valuing Community Diversity, Group Dynamics, Conducting Successful Meetings, Group Problem Solving and Decision Making, Managing Conflict, and Building Communities through Partnerships and Collaboration.

The graduates, coupled with those that provided the foundation for the program, will now form the basis for the Advancing Sumter Board and provide oversight and support staff to begin training other individuals in the community. These individuals will serve as facilitators for the next Advancing Sumter Leadership training sessions which are scheduled to begin on Jan. 20, 2015.

The GSW Testing Center

The Testing Center provides secure testing, accurate scoring, clear reporting and responsive service. For more information about the testing center, log onto http://gsw.edu/Academics/Academic-Resources/Disability-Services/testing-center/.

The Center currently offers the following tests:

- Georgia History
- Georgia Constitution
- TEAS
- Miller Analogies Test
- CLEP
- Proctor Service
- Compass Test
- GACE
- TOEFL

They will also be offering more tests in the near future.

The Testing Center is located on the third floor of Sanford Hall in Room 310.
Announcements


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Congratulations to Heather Kemp, clinical services coordinator in the School of Nursing, on the birth of her baby girl, Leanna Kate on Dec. 17, 2014.

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The GSW Food Pantry is asking for help restocking their shelves with food and personal care items so that they may help students in need during the coming semester.

Please contact Jason Wicker (jason.wicker@gsw.edu) or Josh Curtin (josh.curtin@gsw.edu) with questions or if you would like to make a donation.

GSW Chamber Singers

The GSW Chamber Singers performed for the Madrigal Dinner at the Windsor Hotel on Nov. 7-8. They are directed by Julie Megginson from the Department of Music.

MLK Convocation scheduled for Jan. 21, featuring Angela Walker

Georgia Southwestern State University will host its annual MLK Convocation Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 11 a.m. in the Convocation Hall of the Student Success Center. The keynote speaker is Angela Walker, associate dean of students in the Division Of Student Engagement and Success at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi.

Walker has been in higher education for almost twenty years. Her career began at GSW, where she worked in Student Affairs as the assistant director of Multicultural Affairs. She was then promoted to assistant dean of students for Minority, Multicultural & Student Judicial Services before moving to Texas.

During her time at Texas A&M, Walker has served as a member of the senior management team within the Division of Student Engagement and is currently responsible for the coordination of all aspects of the university’s student conduct policies, procedures and publication.

In addition, she provides educational programming and mediation and outreach services for the university community. Her background experience is in coordinating diversity and cultural programming, leadership development and conflict resolution.

Walker is also an active member of the Texas Association of College and University Student Personnel Administrators (TACUSPA) and the Texas Association of Black Personnel in Higher Education (TABPHE).

The MLK Convocation is sponsored by the Americus-Sumter Movement Remembered Committee, SABU, GSW Student Affairs, the GSW National PanHellenic Council, and the Student Government Association.
**Sirocco: “Journeys of the Soul”**

*Sirocco*, GSW’s arts magazine, is published in the spring of each year. The magazine features literary, visual, and musical works by students, faculty, staff, and alumni. This year’s theme is “Journeys of the Soul.”

**Literary Submission Guidelines**

**Deadline: Jan. 31, 2015**

Written works have the following length restrictions:
- Poetry – 40 lines
- Essay, short story, or 1 act – 3000 words

Proofreading is the responsibility of the author.

All submissions must be submitted to gswsirocco@gmail.com.

**Art Submission Guidelines**

**Deadline: Jan. 31, 2015**

All media (with the exception of time-based works) are welcomed. Preferred image format is 300 dpi in CMYK color mode. Please include the medium of the work in your submission.

Optional: You may include a short artist statement (250 word limit) with your entry.

Please send any formatting questions to gswsirocco@gmail.com.

**Music Submission Guidelines**

**Deadline: Jan. 31, 2015**

Must be original compositions or in the public domain.

Studio quality recordings are not necessary but are accepted. Submissions must be on a CD with your name, contact information, and a description of the piece(s) or of the inspiration.

If submitting multiple music submissions, please place them on the same CD.

Multiple submissions are allowed for all categories. All literary and art submissions must be submitted to gswsirocco@gmail.com. All music submissions should be turned in on a CD to Michael Moir (English 239).

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**Office of Campus Life Weight Loss Challenge**

Last semester, the Office of Campus Life hosted a very successful weight loss challenge. There were fifteen competitors that lost almost 150 pounds total with two individuals that lost nearly 30 pounds. The participants won $640.00 collectively by the end of the competition, and two gift cards were given to a team that lost weight each week.

The Office of Campus Life is holding its weight loss challenge again this semester. The main theme will continue to be “accountability,” as it seemed to be beneficial for those who lost lots of weight. The challenge will continue to have two levels of competition.

**Level 1**

You are competing to lose the most weight individually. As you change your life, you are required to join MyFitnessPal or Fitbit and log your daily eating habits Monday–Friday. If you lose weight during weigh-in, and have logged in your 5 days of weight loss, you will receive $5.00 back for that weight loss week. If you lose weight but don't report your meals on MyFitnessPal or Fitbit, you will not receive any money back.

**Level 2**

You will choose a weight-loss partner and hold them accountable for weight loss and working out. You can do this through encouragement, support from the MyFitnessPal app, Fitbit or by any means to help your partner lose weight, even if it means going their house at 9 p.m. and preventing them from eating a gallon of ice cream. For every week your partner and you lose weight and report it, you will put an entry into a raffle, to receive a “special prize” at the end of the competition.

The program costs $75 per person, payable by cash, check, or credit card. (Note: If paying with credit card, the total will be $78.75.) The competition lasts for 11 weeks from Jan. 8 to Apr. 2, 2015. Weigh-ins begin during the first week of the competition on Jan. 8. Weigh-ins take place on the Thursday of each week at 11:30 a.m. in the SSC SGA Conference Room.

To win the competition, participants must lose the most weight by percentage from start to finish. The individual competitor that does this wins one half of the pot and the team competitors who meet this goal win the other half.

Email Josh Curtin (josh.curtin@gsu.edu) if you are interested in taking part in the challenge. Talk to other people in your departments, spouses, etc. The competition is open to friends as well if they are willing to meet the needs of the challenge and weigh-in on Thursdays.
Dear Georgia Southwestern Friends and Family:

I have had the pleasure of being the Interim President of Georgia Southwestern State University for a little more than a week, and I could not be more pleased with what I have seen thus far. While my schedule has only permitted me to meet a few of our faculty and staff, and perhaps fewer students until classes begin, there is a sense of nervous excitement as the beginning of the semester approaches. Members of the Americus community have also been very helpful and gracious in assisting me, Colleen, and our son, Aidan, find a residence in Americus and become better acquainted with the overall community.

The relationship between a university and its community is symbiotic, each entity giving a piece of themselves and in return becoming stronger together. The University and the City of Americus share a heritage rich in history, architecture, and a vigorous community element that complements Southwestern’s many academic programs and service learning opportunities. Together, we will continue to grow in beneficial ways.

Understandably, there has been nervousness throughout campus and the community regarding university consolidations and what a potential consolidation could mean for Georgia Southwestern State University and its many stakeholders. The University System of Georgia has announced the most recent round of consolidations, which will include Georgia State University and Georgia Perimeter College, creating a university of approximately 54,000 students. A consolidation of this magnitude will occupy many personnel resources and the University System of Georgia has gone on record as saying that there are no other consolidations pending for South Georgia in the short term. These statements do not mean that future consolidations within the University System of Georgia will not occur. There will likely be future actions, through consolidations and through shared resources, as the University System looks to streamline services and reduce costs for higher education.

This does mean, however, that Georgia Southwestern State University is not part of the most recent announcements. Moreover, it means that we, as a united campus, should continue to plan for the future of this great institution. As faculty, staff and student leaders of Georgia Southwestern, we must move forward with dedication and a sense of purpose, regardless of the unknown. In the words of poet Wallace Stevens, “It is the unknown that excites the ardor of scholars, who, in the known alone, would shrivel up with boredom.”

Looking out the window of the Wheatley Administration Building, I can see glimpses of the past, present and future: historic buildings, new facilities and areas of campus that will soon be alive with faculty and students traversing the grounds. From my first visit to Georgia Southwestern many years ago until today, I have been lifted by the spirit of both campus and community. I ask that you join me and continue to dedicate yourselves to leading Georgia Southwestern State University and strengthening our future.

Sincerely,

Charles