Honors and Recognition Ceremony highlights faculty and staff

GSW held its Spring 2016 Honors and Recognition Ceremony Monday, April 25. Held in Jackson Performance Hall, this event, in a more comprehensive way, recognized faculty and staff for excellence in teaching, scholarship, advising and service, as well as student excellence in each academic discipline.

“The format of the Honors and Awards Recognition Ceremony may continue to evolve in future years, but it was important to consolidate a few duplicated awards and elevate the visibility of the awards we’re providing that recognize excellence in instruction, service and scholarship,” said Interim President Charles Patterson when giving his opening remarks. “We take pride in our identity as a close-knit university where there are high levels of faculty-student interaction, and this event is just a small example of this commitment.”

The faculty and staff award winners were as follows:

- Faculty Excellence in Service Award: Elizabeth A. Kuipers, Ph.D., associate professor of English.
- Staff Excellence in Service Award: Janie Mooney, administrative assistant from the School of Business Administration.
- Faculty Excellence in Scholarship Award: Keaton Wynn, associate professor of Visual Arts.
- Faculty Excellence and Commitment to Teaching Award: Lauren DiPaula, Ph.D., associate professor of English.
- Faculty Excellence in Advising Award: Shannon Perry, senior lecturer and director of External Programs within the School of Business Administration.
- Staff Excellence in Advising Award: David Jenkins, assistant director of Admissions.
- Professor of the Year (sponsored by the GSW Alumni Association): Judy Orton Grissett, Ph.D., assistant professor of psychology.
- SGA Faculty Member of the Year: Robert Bennett, Ph.D., associate professor of management from the School of Business Administration.
- Oris Bryant Staff Member of the Year: Sam Miller, Ph.D., vice president for Student Affairs.

Additionally, faculty were recognized for promotion and tenure; faculty and staff were recognized for years of service to GSW; and faculty retirees that were granted emeritus status were recognized.
George Hooks to keynote GSW Commencement May 6

Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) will hold its Spring 2016 Commencement ceremony Friday, May 6 at 3 p.m. in Convocation Hall of the Student Success Center. The commencement speaker will be George Hooks. An Americus insurance agent, Hooks served 32 years in the Georgia General Assembly.

Hooks was first elected to the Georgia state house of representatives in 1980 and served for 10 years before he ran for the state Georgia Hookssenate seat vacated by Sen. Lewis “Bud” McKenzie's retirement in 1990. Hooks served in the state senate for 22 years representing the 14th district and earning the title “dean of the senate” for his status as the member with the most seniority. Upon his retirement from the legislature, he was named by Governor Nathan Deal to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia.

During his tenure in the General Assembly, Hooks received numerous legislative awards. He was been named Legislator of the Year by the Georgia Public Health Association, the Medical Association of Georgia, the Georgia Hospital Association, and he was named National Legislator of the Year in 1999 by the American School Counselor Association. In 2008, he was selected for the Outstanding Elected Official Grand Award by the Georgia Urban Forest Council. Hooks also received the Legislative Service Award in both 1991 and 2006 from the Georgia Municipal Association and the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia.

A sixth-generation native of Sumter County, Hooks graduated from Americus High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Auburn University. He also holds an honorary law degree from Mercer University. Hooks is married to the former Kay Felder Allen of Atlanta, and he has two adult children, Bardin and Mary Ann and one grand-daughter Anna Gail.

Faculty Senate President and Professor of Geology Samuel T. Peavy, Ph.D., will serve as the Macebearer during commencement. Jeffrey Waldrop, Ph.D., will be the Grand Marshal.

Over 200 students are expected to graduate. Limited seating will be available. Guests are encouraged to arrive early.

David Jenkins presents at SACRAO Conference

David Jenkins attended the 69th Annual Southern Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (SACRAO) Meeting.

Held February 7-10 in Oklahoma City, Jenkins presented 2 different sessions. SACRAO consists of over 500 member institutions from a 14 state regional area

Jenkins currently serves as President of the Georgia Association (GACRAO). As president, he also hosted a reception in Oklahoma City for the Georgia conference attendees.
Announcements

Pam Hudson has joined GSW as the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving’s new Senior Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. Pam is a 2015 graduate of Georgia Southwestern State University with a Bachelor’s in Business Administration.

Kassandra Tuten is RCI’s new Special Projects Coordinator. Kassandra is a 2014 graduate of Georgia Southwestern State University, having received her Bachelor’s in history, minor in sociology and women’s studies certificate.

Preston Weaver, Aramark residential location manager at Mercer University, was recently named Aramark food service director at GSW (GSW Dining). Having served as interim director since Feb. 1, Weaver’s first day as permanent director was March 15.

Dave presents at Teaching Matters Conference

Dr. Anish Dave, assistant professor of English, and his ENGL 4040: Issues in Professional Writing students presented at the Teaching Matters 2016 Conference at Gordon State College, Barnesville, GA, on April 1, 2016. The title of the presentation was “An Ethics-Based Analysis of Conflict Involving the Mall of America (MOA) and Black Lives Matter, Minneapolis (BLM): A Team Case Study.” The students who presented were Ronald P. Fordham, Brandon K. Foster, Kermit B. Marsh, Arul D. Thason, and Zachary W. Price. The 45-minute session analyzed a case study written by Dave and was presented by two student teams. The presentation was followed by a brief discussion with the audience.

Caring for You, Caring for Me to be held every Tuesday in May

The RCI will be offering Caring for You, Caring for Me sessions every Tuesday in May from 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm at the Rosalynn Carter Institute in Americus, Georgia. The Caring for You, Caring for Me program’s primary goal is to assist individuals and groups in developing an effective caregiver education and support program. The program is divided into five modules: What It Means to be a Caregiver; Taking Care of Yourself; Building Cooperative Relationships; Preventing and Solving Problems; and Accessing and Developing Resources.

Registration is $10 which covers the cost of all program materials. To register or for more information, contact Kassandra Tuten, Special Projects Coordinator at (229) 931-4281 or kassandra.tuten@gsu.edu

Department of Music holds Faculty & Friends Recital

The GSW Faculty & Friends Recital was presented by the Department of Music on February 25, 2016.

In photo, left to right: Robert Bryant, Julie Megginson, Tim Beck, Fred Bone, Lisa Davis, Mark Laughlin, Alwen Yeung.
Kathleen Tucker of Americus was awarded recently for her service to Georgia Southwestern State University (GSW) and the Alumni Association. Tucker was named the Leewynn J. Finklea Outstanding Alumni Award recipient at GSW’s Spring Alumni Event April 9.

The Finklea Award, named in honor of the university’s first alumni director, recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional service to campus life, the alumni association or the university.

Tucker has been a member of the GSW National Alumni Association Board of Directors since 2013, where she currently serves as the treasurer. She is also a lifetime member of the Alumni Association and a member of the 1906 Society cumulative giving program. During that time she has chaired the Poker Run, and she currently serves on the Fundraising Committee and Events Committees. Tucker’s dedication to the GSW Alumni Association is well illustrated, as she has attended and worked nearly every event during her tenure on the board.

Additionally, Tucker serves as a member and treasurer of the Sumter Historic Trust, the Historic Oak Grove Foundation and the Americus-Sumter County Chapter of the American Cancer Society Relay for Life.

Tucker serves as an operations officer at Citizen’s Bank of Americus. She earned a bachelor’s degree in human resource management from Westminster College in Salt Lake City, Utah, and an MSA and MBA from Georgia Southwestern.

Tucker is married to Dave Tucker, and they reside in Americus.

Snyder Wins 2016 Outstanding Staff Member Award

Stephen Snyder of Ocilla was recently honored with the 2016 Georgia Southwestern State University Alumni Association’s Outstanding Staff Member Award.

Snyder, who has been with the university for nine years, received his bachelor’s degree from GSW in 2004 and his master’s degree in 2010. He currently serves as the Director of University Relations for GSW.

The Outstanding Staff Member Award was developed to recognize members of GSW staff who have tirelessly assisted alumni above the call of duty. This award is not an annual award, but rather only as merited by the Alumni Association Board.

“Stephen goes above and beyond his job description,” Snyder’s nominator said. “He is at all of the alumni events and his work on the Aeolian is outstanding. He is very active in the Americus community and is always pushing the university.”
Brown competes in Boston Marathon

Ian Brown, Ph.D., professor in the Department of Biology, recently ran in the Boston Marathon on April 18.

Brown qualified for the marathon following his win at the Soldier Marathon at Fort Benning on November 7, 2015.

In Boston, his chip time was 3:03:49, with him placing overall 1950/26639 and 56/2032 for males 50-54.

GSW students travel to Spelman to present history papers

Five GSW students, along with Susan Bragg, assistant professor of history, attended the Georgia Regional Phi Alpha Theta History Conference at Spelman College on April 2nd. This conference drew faculty and student participants from across the state and even outside the region. Phi Alpha Theta is the national honor society for students of History.

GSW students presented their research essays produced in a variety of History and English courses. Bryan Crosby read “Apollo 11: Presidential Politics and the American Space Race” in a panel of 20th c. US Politics.


These students represented GSW admirably, gaining significant audience feedback and interest in their papers. The group also had the opportunity to see Spelman’s historic campus and visit with other students from around the state. This was the fifth consecutive time that GSW has been represented at the Georgia Phi Alpha Theta conference.

Bragg presents research at the Organization of American Historians Conference

Assistant professor of history, Susan Bragg, presented her research on gender and the history of NAACP activism at the Organization of American Historians (OAH) conference in Providence, Rhode Island on April 8, 2016. Bragg’s paper, “Building ‘Virile’ Youth Politics: Young Black Women and the Tensions of NAACP Youth Activism in the Early 20th century” was part of a panel on the politics of African American girlhood.

At a time when national leaders increasingly called upon a masculinized rhetoric of professional leadership, Bragg argues that young black women opened up critical avenues of participation and leadership in both the organization’s journal, The Crisis, and in youth branches across the nation. This conference is an important national meeting for American historians so participation brought significant opportunities of dialogue and conversation across research specializations.
University 4000 studies abroad in Peru

Dr. Nedialka Iordanova and Dr. Catalina Casaru traveled to Peru with their University 4000 students this semester. The course, which is a study abroad service learning class, partners with The Fuller Center for Housing and is designed to introduce students to international cultures through lectures and by helping build homes for less privileged citizens in other countries. This year’s study abroad portion of the UNIV 4000 class took place in La Florida, Peru. Seven GSW students participated in the class.

Huffman wins USG Textbook Transformation Award

Dr. Charles Huffman, chair of the Department of Psychology and Sociology, has been presented with a University System of Georgia Textbook Transformation Award.

This award is given to someone at each USG institution who has demonstrated exceptional support for the adoption and use of open educational resources (OER). USG OER Campus Champion, Dr. Judy Orton Grissett, nominated Dr. Huffman for the award because, “…he has overseen the transformation from publisher’s textbooks to open educational resources (OER) in six introductory and upper-division courses.” This includes a department-wide transformation of all PSYC 1101: Introduction to Psychology and SOCI 1101: Introduction to Sociology courses. Other courses that have adopted open materials include PSYC 2103: Human Growth and Development, PSYC 4431: Experimental Psychology, SOCI 1160: Contemporary Social Problems, and SOCI 4431: Methods of Social Research. These changes have saved students taking these courses more than $103,000 a year in textbook costs.

As an institution, GSW has received a total of seven ALG Textbook Transformation Grants, saving students more than $325,000 a year. Transformations from copyright-restricted textbooks to open textbooks or OER have occurred across the institution, in biology, education, library science, and music. Some of these transformations have occurred at the department-wide level, such as the Department of Biology, which has saved students taking BIOL 1107 and BIOL 1108 (with labs) approximately $130,000, and the Department of Music, in which students have saved $65,000 a year by transforming the MUSC 1100 textbook to a set of OER.

If you have questions about open materials, please contact ALG Library Coordinator, Ru Story-Huffman, or Campus Champion, Judy Orton Grissett.

RCI collaborators with Phoebe Sumter to ‘REACH’

RCI REACH, a program of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI) in collaboration with Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, is now available in Sumter and the surrounding counties.

Provided to caregivers of loved ones with memory loss, Alzheimer’s Disease or related dementia, REACH (Resources Enhancing Alzheimer’s Caregivers Health) focuses on the specific needs of the individual. Together, the caregiver and the caregiver coach decide what challenges should be addressed, and they work together to find solutions. The program is free for families served and all information is completely confidential. Data shows that at the end of this six-month evidence-based program, caregivers report reduced stress, depression, burden, and improvements in physical health.

Limited spots are available for this program. To sign up, call (229) 931.7108 or email swolfe@phoebesumter.org.
Green and Mannila Receive Kennedy Center Achievement Awards

Professor Jeffrey Green and Theater Technical Coordinator Ray Mannila both received Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival Meritorious Achievement Awards for their work on the Rylander Theater/CP Productions, Darton College collaborative staging Of Princes And Kings, Green’s original adaptation of William Shakespeare’s Henriad (Richard II, Henry IV pts 1 and 2, and Henry V). Green’s award was for directing; Mannila’s was for design. The awards were presented at the KCACTF R4 festival held in Charleston, SC, February 2 – 7, 2016. Green and Mannila also performed in the production as Henry IV and Falstaff respectively.

Laughlin presents at multiple conferences

Mark Laughlin, associate professor of music, presented a one hour lecture titled “Video Game Music: The Pedagogy Within” for the Humanities and Education Research Association’s national conference held in New Orleans, LA. At the conference he served as chairman for the panel on The Nature of Video Gaming. He also presented at the national conference of the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) on “Video Game Music: The Great Teaching Experiment” in Nashville, TN. Dr. Laughlin presented two poster sessions titled “Improvisation in the Group Piano Curricula: A 10-year Study” at the Southern, and Mid-Atlantic regional conferences of the College Music Society.

Laughlin presents at multiple conferences

Laughlin’s upcoming summer presentations include “Video Game Music: Beyond the Piano Bench” at the Conference on Meaningful Living and Learning in a Digital World, and “Video Game Music: The Innovation of Music Pedagogy” at the Curriculum Studies Summer Collaborative Conference in Savannah, GA.

Jazzing up the community

During the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters, the GSW Jazz Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Mark Laughlin, performed for the Andersonville Historic Fair, Innovations Senior Solutions Fall Festival, GSW Department of Music Fall and Spring Concerts, Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving Annual Gala, Books for Sumter Children: Valentine’s Day Gala, Jazz Night at the Americus Center for the Arts, Cordele-Crisp Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner, Albany Museum of Art, GSW Alumni Reception, Historic Trust of Schley County Christmas Festival, and the GSW Faculty and Friends Concert. Many members of the GSW jazz ensemble can also be seen performing at a variety of local venues each month as part of First Friday Americus.

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## Upcoming Events

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>April 27 - 30 &amp; May 2 - 3</td>
<td>Final Exams for Full Spring Term</td>
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<td>May 5 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Graduating Senior Grades Due by 8 a.m.</td>
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<td>May 6 3:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Nurse Pinning</td>
<td>Convocation Hall of the Student Success Center</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 6 11 a.m.</td>
<td>Commencement</td>
<td>Convocation Hall of the Student Success Center</td>
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<td>May 9 8 a.m.</td>
<td>Final Grades Due in RAIN</td>
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<td>May 26</td>
<td>First STORM Day for accepted students</td>
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