Teresa Teasley, DNP, recently presented at the Elsevier Faculty Development Conference on Jan. 2-5 in Las Vegas, Nevada. She was invited to present on the successful integration of Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) competencies into a School of Nursing curriculum. Teasley was among the first faculty trainers selected nationwide to attend the QSEN Training Institute. Upon her return she lead faculty in the incorporation of QSEN competencies into the School of Nursing mission, philosophy, conceptual framework, program and course student learning outcomes, learning activities, and evaluation methods. Teasley has also been able to share with other Schools of Nursing through presentations at national, regional, and state conferences in 2012 and 2013.

“The Longest Rescue: The Life and Legacy of Vietnam POW William A. Robinson” is the latest book of Glenn Robins, Ph.D., professor of History. Published in 2013 by the University Press of Kentucky, “The Longest Rescue” traces the life of Airman First Class William A. Robinson who was captured, along with two crew members, and held captive for seven and a half years in North Vietnam. Robinson’s story is woven together with interviews, personal correspondences, and government documents.

In addition to “The Longest Rescue,” Robins is the editor of “They Have Left Us Here to Die: The Civil War Prison Diary of Sgt. Lyle G. Adair, 111th U.S. Colored Infantry (Civil War in the North),” co-editor of “America and the Vietnam War: Re-examining the Culture and History of a Generation,” and author of “The Bishop of the Old South: The Ministry and Civil War Legacy of Leonidas Polk.”
Announcements

You are invited to join the Southwest Civic Chorus this semester. Rehearsals will be Mondays, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Jackson 206. The chorus will be joining several other local choirs in the Albany Symphony’s presentation of “An Evening of Italian Opera”. There are no auditions for the Southwest Civic Chorus and everyone is welcome to join. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Megginson, Ph.D.

The GSW Pre-Law Society will be hosting an admissions counselor from the Georgia State University College of Law on Monday, Feb. 3, 2014. The event will take place at 11:00 a.m. in Business/History/Polisci room 306. Anyone interested in law or GSU Law is encouraged to attend. It is open to everyone of all majors.

The GSW ANS (Georgia Southwestern Association of Nursing Students) are holding a fundraiser. To support the GSW ANS, dine at Roman Oven Pizzaria on Feb. 11, from 6:00 p.m. to closing, and mention “GSW ANS”. Ten percent of the sales will be donated. Roman Oven is located at 1604 E. Forsyth St. in Americus.

The next IRB committee meeting will be on Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 5:10 p.m. in English 206. Anyone who has proposals requiring a full review, please submit an electronic copy of all materials to Olga Godoy, chair of the Institutional Review Board, no later than Feb. 4.

Father Daughter Dance

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., will be hosting a Father Daughter Dance on Saturday, Feb. 8, 2014 at the Griffin Bell Golf and Conference Center from 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Tickets are $25 for one daughter and $35 for up to three daughters. To purchase your tickets, please contact a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc., or email omicronalphazeta1990@gmail.com. Tickets can be picked up from the 3rd floor of the Student Success Center.

Father and Daughter will have an opportunity to share a fun filled evening. There will be a DJ, photographer, and food. Semi-formal attire requested.

Implementation Science in Caregiving

Laura J. Bauer, MPA, and Leisa Easom, Ph.D., co-authored “Implementation Science in Caregiving: Best Practices” which has been published on Today’s Caregiver Magazine website. Easom is the executive director of the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving (RCI). Bauer is the director of National Initiatives for the RCI.

The article can be read on Today’s Caregiver’s website, here.

Radio Australia Podcast

Philip Szmedra was interviewed by the Radio Australia podcast while attending the World Diabetes Congress In Melbourne in December. In the interview, Szmedra describes the Community Theater project that is ongoing in Fiji.

To listen to the podcast, click here.

Caregiving in America

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter and Laura J. Bauer, MPA, were the featured speakers at the upcoming “Caregiving in America,” an event within the Washington Post Live’s series of caregiving forums around the country. “Caregiving in America” was held on Jan. 30, 2014 in Atlanta, Ga.

Volunteer Services

Volunteer services is currently recruiting students, staff, and faculty members for its volunteer database. Members of the database will receive updates on volunteer opportunities in the area and receive recognition of their service at various milestones. Please encourage your students to participate in this program. We are happy to work with classes which have a service component as a requirement. To become a part of the database, fill out the interest form or come by the Volunteer Services office in SSC 3410. For any questions, contact Katie Brock at katie.brock@gsw.edu.
And the band played on... and on...

During the Fall 2013 semester, the GSW Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Mark Laughlin, D.M.A., performed for the Andersonville Historic Fair, Innovations Senior Fall Festival, River View Senior Center (Oglethorpe, GA), Sara Cobb Elementary School, GSW Department of Music Fall Concert, Irving Berlin’s musical White Christmas, and was the featured entertainment at the 65th Annual Cordele-Crisp County Chamber of Commerce Dinner on Jan. 14, 2014. Scheduled upcoming performances include “Books for Sumter Children” Valentine's Day Gala, Americus Kiwanis Club, “Jazz Night” at the Americus Center for the Arts hosted by the Americus-Sumter Arts Council, Arts in the Park, and the GSW Department of Music Spring Concert.

Returning members of the ensemble include:
- Essence Williams, voice
- Daina Rosario, voice
- Michael Green, trombone
- Ashley King, baritone saxophone
- Quentin Lonon, guitar
- Kyle Dothard, bass
- Lenard Martin, percussion

New members are:
- Alex Brown, guitar
- Alex Helms, bass
- Lenard Martin, percussion
- Justin Harris, voice

Invitation to “Globalizing the Future”

Southern Polytechnic State University and office of International Programs, the Department of Social and International Studies, and the University of Pittsburgh Asian/International Studies Center are jointly sponsoring the Faculty Development and Curriculum Enrichment Conference on Globalizing the Future: Incorporating Perspectives on China Across the Curriculum on Feb. 14, 2014.

Speakers at this symposium come from the areas of History, Political Science, and Asian Studies.
Six faculty from GSW can attend this conference at no cost. GSW will cover any costs not covered by the membership in the International Studies Consortium. Covered costs include registration fees, mileage for one vehicle, and one night in the hotel.

This is supported, in part, by GSW’s QEP: Windows to the World. Participating faculty will be asked to share their experiences with the campus in some way.

The deadline to sign up for this event is Feb. 3, 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth Gurnack, Ph.D.

“The Night the Stars Fell from the Sky”

Theater, Communication & Media Arts students, faculty and alumni are featured in the newly released Project Potemkin production, “The Night the Stars Fell from the Sky.” Project Potemkin is a series set in the Star Trek universe.


To view the episode, click here.
It seems there is no end to the scandals that continue to plague big-time college athletics. For years now there have been major issues: athletes who graduate from college who cannot read or write; athletes admitted into universities with ACT and SAT scores so low that they predict almost certain failure; athletes who are being exploited by their respective institutions; coaches being paid as much as 100 times what the average professor makes at the same institution. The list goes on.

A recent CNN study revealed that some football and basketball players at 21 of the largest NCAA Division I university programs in the country were unable to read at more than a third grade level. The report also noted that freshmen recruited into these big-time programs came in with average ACT or SAT scores well below the average of their respective freshmen class. The University of North Carolina African-American Studies Program for several years gave good grades to athletes for courses that were on the books and scheduled but never met. A recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education reveals the great gap between spending on academics and spending on athletics at the larger institutions. For example, the largest gap is in the Southeastern Conference where universities spend $13,000 per student on academics while spending $176,000 per athlete on athletics. And we wonder why our colleges and universities are falling behind their counterparts in other parts of the world and why Americans are beginning to question whether or not a college education is a good investment.

Will this trend ever be reversed? Will big time football and basketball programs ever impose appropriate admission standards on athletes? Will athletes whose talents result in millions of dollars for their universities ever be fairly compensated? Will universities with big time athletic programs ever eliminate the fraudulent short-cuts to retention that are afforded these money-producing athletes? Will the NCAA ever step in and do what it would take to clean things up? My guess is, probably not, despite pressure from the media and many independent organizations such as the Drake Group. It seems most Americans love their football and basketball players much more than their intellectuals, and money will always trump academic integrity.

The good news is that Georgia Southwestern has not lost sight of its principal mission. That mission is to educate its students, unequivocally. At GSW, our athletes are students first and athletes second. We believe in the importance of intercollegiate athletics but refuse to let them undermine academic integrity. This is largely true of most of the colleges and universities that are members of NCAA Division II. However, even within the Peach Belt Conference of which we are a member, we stand out. Georgia Southwestern spends less on athletics than any other of the 13 institutions in the conference. Our annual expenses total less than $400,000 while the biggest spender is Young Harris, a private institution which invests over $4,000,000 annually on athletics. So, in contrast to the SEC, Georgia Southwestern is spending approximately $2,000 a year per athlete. In addition, our athletes come in as freshmen with average test scores and high school GPAs that are higher than the class average. Thanks to Gaye Hayes, her staff, and Lisa Cooper, I have numbers to support this claim (see Table 1). You will notice that over the past three years our incoming freshmen athletes have outdistanced institutional averages in all categories, most significantly in SAT math scores. What is not shown here is the fact that the six-year graduation rate for athletes at Georgia Southwestern is also consistently higher than that of the average student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GSW Averages</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SAT: Crit. Reading</td>
<td>497.3</td>
<td>498.8</td>
<td>495.9</td>
<td>496.0</td>
<td>492.4</td>
<td>505.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT: Mathematics</td>
<td>490.6</td>
<td>507.6</td>
<td>489.8</td>
<td>508.3</td>
<td>476.2</td>
<td>487.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School GPA</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td>3.28</td>
<td>3.23</td>
<td>3.20</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>3.13</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### UPCOMING EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>GSW PreLaw Society - GSU College of Law’s Admissions Counselor Business/History/Polisci Room 306. Anyone interested in law or GSU Law is encouraged to attend.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 3</td>
<td>Deadline</td>
<td>Deadline to sign up for Globalizing the Future: Incorporating Perspectives on China Across the Curriculum at Southern Polytechnic State University.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 4</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>GSW Chamber Series: Ensemble Chaconne Jackson Performance Hall For more information or for tickets, please call (229) 931-2204.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 5</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Jessie Durham, Visiting Artist, Art Exhibition - Opening Reception Fine Arts Building Gallery Free event; The exhibitions will be on display until Feb. 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 6</td>
<td>7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>GSW Chamber Series: Kontras Quartet Jackson Performance Hall For more information or for tickets, please call (229) 931-2204.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 8</td>
<td>7:00 - 10:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Father Daughter Dance - Sponsored by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. Griffin Bell Golf and Conference Center from 7 p.m. - 10 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>5:10 p.m.</td>
<td>IRB Committee Meeting English Room 206</td>
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<td>Feb. 14</td>
<td>Faculty Development Grants due for Spring to the VPAA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 24</td>
<td>6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Quentin Lonon Art Exhibition - Opening Reception Fine Arts Building Gallery Free event; The exhibitions will be on display until March 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 25</td>
<td>GSW Chamber Series: Kontras Quartet Jackson Performance Hall For more information or for tickets, please call (229) 931-2204.</td>
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</table>

Much of the credit for this goes to our coaches who work hard to see to it that their athletes do not lose sight of the real reason they are here. And this is not always easy. In a nation-wide survey conducted by the NCAA a few years ago, the results indicated that 46 percent of NCAA Division II athletes thought they would be playing professionally after they graduated. The fact is that fewer than five percent of Division II athletes will ever have even an opportunity to try out for much less make it to the big leagues. I admire the ambition of college athletes, regardless of the limits to their talents, but that irrational dream is simply one more challenge our coaches have to face as they work to make sure our athletes are truly student-athletes. Nevertheless, the coaches seem to be getting the job done. Most of our athletes graduate and leave Georgia Southwestern armed with not only a college degree but also a marketable skill set that includes the leadership experience, self-confidence, and ability to work as part of a team that results from participating in intercollegiate athletes.

Intercollegiate athletes, a uniquely American creation, have, at least at some larger institutions, ballooned into a corrupt and bloated enterprise that is eating away at the very core of higher education. It is unlikely that we who believe in the importance of education and view the grooming of the intellect as more important than the preparing of athletes for the professional ranks can reverse this trend or wean the American public from its obsession with big-time college sports. However, those of us who teach and work at institutions like Georgia Southwestern can resist the temptation to let our athletic program become the core of our identity and work hard to maintain a reasonable balance between supporting our NCAA sanctioned sports and investing in the classroom experience. We must, because, literally, our nation’s future is at stake.