

# DEANotes

C O L L E G E O F S C I E N C E A N D T E C H N O L O G Y

## W O N G N O T E S

### Cyber

We did it! On December 3, we were notified by the National Security Agency/Department of Homeland Security that Armstrong's application to be designated a "Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education" was successful. The designation was effective immediately. The recognition means Armstrong stands ready to meet the evolving demands of cyber security education: "Your ability to meet the increasing demands of the program criteria will serve the nation well in contributing to the protection of the National Information Infrastructure," the NSA/DHS Program Director stated.

Armstrong is one of only four institutions in the state of Georgia to hold this honor (look at: [https://www.iad.gov/NIETP/reports/current\\_cae\\_designated\\_institutions.cfm](https://www.iad.gov/NIETP/reports/current_cae_designated_institutions.cfm)).

We are now eligible to apply for federal funds to support cyber education and have already garnered interest from both governmental and corporate sectors in partnering with us.

Many individuals contributed to this endeavor. Special kudos to Frank Katz and the rest of "Team Cyber" (Kevin Jennings, Pete Hoffman, Wayne Willcox, Brent Feske, Becky daCruz, Jose daCruz, Hong Zhang, and Dan Skidmore-Hess). We also thank Caroline Hopkinson and Angel Howard for their assistance with our application.

Stay tuned for more developments on the Cyber front.



### Science Center Classroom Locks

At the beginning of the semester, Armstrong Police Chief Wayne Willcox and his crew installed on the doors of some of the Science Center classrooms a device that will allow

the occupants to secure (lock down) the door(s) to a classroom in the event of an emergency. Chief Willcox provided the following information:

Not every door was so equipped because they wanted to evaluate the effectiveness and durability of the devices this semester. If the devices perform as hoped, the rest of the classrooms on campus can be equipped later this year.

The device is very simple. During the normal classroom day/evening, the door(s) to these classrooms will actually be locked, but the device will prevent the door from latching shut by holding the door open no more than 3/8 inch. This small 3/8 inch gap should not adversely impact the classroom setting.

In the event of an emergency, the device is flipped and the door pulled shut. Since the door hardware was never unlocked, pulling the door shut will prevent anyone from entering the classroom without a key.

They started testing the devices the week of January 18th and the pilot study will go through the Spring Semester.

Chief Willcox also provided the following diagrams and additional information:

### School Safe lockdown device



To secure the door in an emergency flip the device down as indicated by the sticker on the door

(Cont'd on page 4)

## NEW FACULTY PROFILE: DR. PAUL DUNN, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOLOGY



Dr. Paul Dunn joined the Department of Biology in the Fall of 2015. Paul earned his BS in Integrative Biology at Brigham Young University followed by a PhD in Biology from the University of Oregon, where he studied the larval stages of worms that eat Dungeness crab eggs. After graduation, Paul made his way to Europe for four years, first as a post-doctoral fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research in Rostock, Germany, to study early-life mortality in marine invertebrates and then on to the University of Southern Denmark for his second postdoc studying aging and mortality in basal animals such as sponges. Dr. Dunn's current research interests fall into two main areas. His first project is a collaborative effort involving Dr. Jennifer Brofft Bailey here at Armstrong and Dr. Marc Frischer at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. They are studying a dino-

flagellate parasite of blue crabs that devastated the blue crab fisheries all along the East coast a decade ago and it may be making a comeback. His second area of research asks how much of observed early-life mortality in marine invertebrates can be attributed to major life transitions such as birth or hatching. While here for only one full semester, Dr. Dunn already has a research group of four students who are excitingly working with him on these projects.

### STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES BY: EILEEN SNYDER

#### Erica Cooper-Thornton, 2009, Forensic Chemist, US Customs and Border Protection, OIT.

##### **"Science and math are all about the possibilities"**

Erica's interest in science began early- middle school to be exact. Her Father, an accomplished chemist in the private sector was her main influence. Growing up in Myrtle Beach, Erica's mother was a special education teacher whose career brought the family South to Savannah.

Erica came to Armstrong as a non-traditional student. In fact, she already had a full time job and a young daughter when she decided to follow her dream of becoming a chemist. It wasn't an easy transition, there was a lot to work out but the desire was strong and she graduated from Armstrong with a BS in Chemistry in 2009.

As a student Erica participated in a paid internship with US Customs and Border Protection and upon graduation she was offered a full time position- that was 6 years ago.

She currently works in the Office of Information Technology or OIT as a forensic chemist. Working full time in a laboratory she has the responsibility of testing anything and everything that comes into her office. The items can be as varied as food products, tobacco or jewelry. In fact, on the day of our interview she was working on glassware from Denmark to insure that it up to specifications. Through testing she validates that the classification on all

imports is accurate; inclusive of country of origin.

The stability of working for a government agency was one of the benefits that Erica highlighted during our interview. Another is a career path into management which would require a move to another part of the country. She made it clear that she isn't interested in that right now; she loves the work she is doing and Savannah is her home.

Erica chose Armstrong for its strong reputation in the sciences and she did admit it was very challenging. But, with the help and support of her professors and academic advisor, Erica left Armstrong with a chemistry degree and as she put it, "awesome lifetime friendships." Professional friendships that make it possible for Erica to engage others interested in science to pursue their dream of a higher education at Armstrong. She will return to Armstrong on January 30<sup>th</sup> for the Science Bowl.

As our interview came to an end I asked Erica, "why science?" "Beyond my father's influence, science and math are all about the possibilities and with an education in chemistry, I now have the skill set to find out."

"Will your daughter become a scientist like you?" Surprisingly no. She is all about art and she will become an artist. She has no interest in science." Thankfully, for Erica's daughter, Armstrong has a Liberal Arts College.

## Feske Notes

### CST's Dean's Recognition as a Research Scholar Program

The college of Science and Technology is excited that this semester we will have our first transcript designation for students who conduct undergraduate research. Students who complete a list of criteria (described more below) will earn a transcript designation "Dean's Recognition as a Research Scholar" as well as an invitation to the Dean's reception where the student will be awarded a cord for graduation and a certificate.

At the end of Last December, I worked with the Department Heads to organize a CST Ad-hoc committee to discuss and determine what the criteria would be for a student to earn this designation. It is the hardest time of the year to try to put a committee together, so please thank the committee members for their time and effort on this: John Kraft, Ashraf Saad, Scott Mateer, Priya Goeser, and Joshua Lambert.

To earn this designation a student must conduct research with a faculty mentor for at least two semesters and receive a minimum of three research credits. Students must also write a substantial written product in research manuscript form that is approved by his/her research advisor. Lastly, the student must attend at least one professional meeting as well as give one presentation on his/her research. For all of the details you can find the application on the CST website at: <https://www.armstrong.edu/science-technology/cst-deans-recognition-as-a-research-scholar-program>

Lastly, I have one quick comment as a point of clarification. We plan to have a website that will document and archive the students who are awarded this designation each semester along with their written product. We think this is a great way to celebrate the students' achievements. With that said, we will **NOT** post any research related information (written product, etc) on this website until the research mentor gives approval. This way any novel data can stay secured until it is published. As this program and website matures we could also consider linking students' presentations or peer reviewed publications to their name. The details for the website still need to be worked out.

The committee is happy with what we have developed so far; however, we do think that this can be improved. Please talk to us with your feedback as we work to improve this program.



**WONG NOTES (CONT'D FROM PAGE 1)**

**School Safe** prevents the door from latching by keeping it slightly ajar. The **School Safe** lever extends about 3/8 of an inch out from the jamb or door, thereby preventing the strike from entering into the strike plate and latching. So the door, even though locked, will never latch until the **School Safe** lever is flipped thereby allowing the door to close all the way. Since it was already locked, the classroom is immediately secured without having to use keys.

If you have any feedback or questions, please send your comments/questions to Dr. Wong or Dr. Feske.

**Internships**

Many of our programs provide students with internship opportunities so they could apply classroom learning to a variety of work environments. With a new Director (Glenn Gibney) and Assistant Director (Crystal Goode) in our Career Services Office, they will work toward becoming a repository of internship information for Armstrong's students and the point of contact for community agencies that want to explore collaborating with Armstrong on internships for our students. Of course, faculty will continue to determine the suitability of the internships for their students and the suitability of their students for particular internship sites if the experience is to be completed for academic credit. More information will be forthcoming about the role of Career Services in our internship programs. However, as was previously the case, our University Counsel, Mr. Lee Davis, should review all formal Memorandums of Understanding with regard to internships.

**Dates and Deadlines**

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Midterm

March 4<sup>th</sup> – Post-tenure reviews, pre-tenure reviews, and faculty APAR/AFE's due to the Dean

March 11<sup>th</sup> – SRS proposals due

March 11<sup>th</sup> - Department Heads' APAR's due to the Dean

March 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> – Spring Break

March 30<sup>th</sup> – Science on Tap – Dr. Allison Brager

April 4<sup>th</sup> – Second year non-retention recommendations due to the Dean

April 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> – Student Scholars Symposium

April 27<sup>th</sup> – Science on Tap – Dr. Jeffery Secrest