

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

In my first three plus months in the Dean's Office, I've been amazed by the many great things that are happening in our College. This list is certainly not exhaustive; indeed, I suspect many things are happening that never reach my awareness. However, I wanted to share with you some of the achievements of which I am very pleased and proud.

- Heather and Eileen have taken over, with great enthusiasm and competence, our advisement of incoming students, particularly reaching out to at-risk students
- Brent taking over the Assistant Dean's responsibilities with acumen
- Nineteen students are employed as Supplemental Instructors (SI's) in classes with high DFW rates (e.g., BIOL 1107, CHEM 1211, MATH 1111)
- Fourteen students are working as Research Assistants through funds from Complete College Georgia
- Mirari Elcoro (Psychology) served as a Governor's Teaching Fellow this past summer and is serving as an Armstrong Teaching Fellow this academic year
- Sara Gremillion (Biology) was selected to serve as Assistant Honors Director beginning January, 2015
- Brent, partnering with Darton State College and East Georgia College, submitted Armstrong's first recent NIH grant proposal, Bridges to Baccalaureate, which endeavors to increase the numbers of minority STEM majors and graduates in south Georgia. Twenty CST faculty members, representing five departments, submitted projects for inclusion in this proposal
- Michael Tiemeyer (Math) is serving as peer mentor to our four new tenure track faculty members
- Armstrong and South University School of Pharmacy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that guarantees qualified pre-pharmacy students preferred consideration during South University's rigorous admissions process for its Doctor of Pharmacy program
- Armstrong signed a MOU bringing "Plantonics" to our campus (more to come about this in a future issue of DeaNotes)
- In Summer, 2014, the final summer of our NSF-STEP grant, 40 STEP students, 17 Summer Research Session students, and 17 faculty members collaborated on various research projects. Thank you, Scott and Traci, for shepherding these students
- Of the STEP students who started in Summer, 2009, 21% have graduated, compared to 11% of Armstrong's and 5% of CST's students who started in Fall 2009
- The new Biochemistry major is off to a strong start
- Armstrong's Each One Teach One program (coordinated by Cameron Coates, Engineering Studies) was awarded an Excellence in Education certificate from the Savannah-Chatham County Board of Public Education for its outreach to elementary school children

Based on these, I'm confident there are so many more that I've left out. Drop in and share with us your good news!

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Cynthia Graves, Executive Assistant to the Dean, represented us in the Making Strides (against breast cancer) Walk and Fundraising Campaign. Armstrong's Staff Advisory Council's team, "Pirates in Pink", ranked 6th out of 69 teams participating and Cynthia ranked 5th out of 588 individual participants, raising a total of \$600. Way to go!!



FESKE NOTES

FERPA – Did you know?

- FERPA was primarily passed into Federal Law as a way to give access/rights to the students with regards to academic transcripts and data.
- That you are NOT allowed to mention specific student grades in your recommendation letters for students without receiving permission, in writing, from the student (Armstrong email is ok).
- Records that come from Armstrong’s employment, medical, and law enforcement offices are NOT covered by FERPA.
- You are allowed to talk to other Armstrong employees about a student transcript if they are considered to have “legitimate access” aka – it is part of their job.
- A FERPA waiver only gives the parent access to information and it does not allow the parent to act for the student (such as drop a class, etc.)
- If you have a child that attends Armstrong you should protect yourself, have them sign a FERPA waiver!
- That you have easy access to all the FERPA waivers!
 - Log in to Port
 - Click on “Port Apps”
 - Click on “Registrar’s Office”
 - Click on “FERPA waiver forms on file”
- This should be helpful next time you have a parent standing in your office with their child.

NEW FACULTY PROFILE: DR. DUC VAN HUYNH, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MATHEMATICS



Duc received his BS in mathematics from Armstrong Atlantic State University. With the help and support from his professors at Armstrong, he decided to pursue a Ph.D. in mathematics. Duc received his doctorate in extensions of local fields from the University of Florida in May of 2014. His thesis was on the study of Galois modules and the enumeration of totally ramified extensions of degree p . He wishes to extend his results by classifying Eisenstein polynomials of prime power degree.

Duc came to Savannah 21 years ago from Vietnam. He fell in love with Savannah for its southern charm. He loves to walk along on the soft sand of Tybee Island, take a stroll around the historic squares of Savannah while eating addictive Leopold’s ice-cream, and get lost in Georgia Coastal Botanical Garden. However, he still dislikes the summer weather of Savannah and those terrible mosquitos.

NOTES FROM THE FIELD EILEEN SNYDER

Jaleesa Sauls — BA in Psychology
“It was not my first choice”

When Dr. Wendy Wolfe asked her aspiring interns to fill out a form stating their choice for an internship, Jaleesa Sauls never imagined that she would work with juveniles within the criminal justice system, “It was not my first choice,” she confessed. Instead, the experience proved to be rewarding, and she credits her Supervisor, Mary Jo, a licensed clinical social worker and mental health coordinator with changing her mind.

As an intern, Jaleesa had the opportunity to demonstrate her course content knowledge by making as-

sessments that challenged the children’s stated diagnosis. Additionally, she learned how to operate within a professional environment and to understand, first hand, the impact of collaborative efforts between the mental health coordinator and the court system; whereby if done correctly the outcome was a persuasive argument to find a better path for the child in question. “Mary Jo’s passion for her work was contagious”, Jaleesa remarked, “and I came to see myself doing this

work as a paid professional.”

Overall, the work Jaleesa accomplished changed her perceptions, and the moment of truth came when she had the chance to observe some of the juveniles in court. She came to realize that the child never looked as she imagined from reading the case notes. It was that experience that became the catalyst between classroom instruction and working within a real world, high stakes environment.

Jaleesa’s internship ended in late July and she truly misses the work.

Her proudest moment was the certificate of achievement that she received and the words from her supervisor that she was the best intern in the six years the program has been active. Jaleesa took it as a testament to her hard work and dedication inside and outside the classroom.

Congratulations, Jaleesa.

Travis Draud, BS Marine Biology
 “A Biology degree is not a linear path”

Travis Draud is a junior at Armstrong working toward a BS in Marine Biology. Last year he completed an internship at the UGA Marine Science Extension Aquarium, that not only garnered him 3 credits toward field research but it gave him the opportunity to work with animals and reptiles and learn first-hand about what it takes to manage a business. A business in which the head curator has the custodial responsibility of caring for the cherished ma-

rine life within a highly controlled environment; making sure that all continue to thrive in order to promote and educate the public on the importance of ecology.

“The best part was conducting tours through the facility” Travis remarked. In fact, his supervisor forwarded an email that complemented him on his depth of knowledge and his ability to engage a diverse audience, making Travis confident in

his ability to teach. He described the work as “coming from a place of knowledge and building on a foundation.” A foundation that begins in the classroom and extends to the workplace. Travis observed how people interacted day to day to keep the flow of work going, “there is a great deal of prioritizing and delegating to the interns and that is the challenge of running the facility.”

He spoke with enthusiasm about possibly following in the footsteps of his father Dr. Matt Draud, but he would consider other opportunities, “a biology degree is not a linear path, one can seek to work or go on for more education, and today you need expanded education to do more advanced work or to teach.”

Either way there is more education in Travis’s future.

Congratulations, Travis



Kathleen McKenna, BS Psychology, December 2014
 “I was taught to ask the right questions”

Katy is leaving Armstrong State University with a BS in Psychology and a job! She will embark on a career working for the same organization that provided her with an internship opportunity as a student. Katy did her internship at *Reaching Milestones*; an organization that provides behavioral therapy to children with autism. She credits Dr. John Kraft with persuading her to pursue a Psychology degree. Katy began as an undeclared student; it was a meeting with Dr. Kraft that

sold her on Psychology when he asked her what she wants out of a career, “he said it in such a way that it would benefit me”, she commented, “he helped me figure out the thought process instead of telling me what to do.”

Katy’s internship was a validation that she was going in the right direction and made the right career choice. She was amazed that the language of her colleagues and supervisor came right out of her textbooks. She enjoyed working one on one with a

child and being surrounded by professionals that are passionate about their work; sharing experiences and demonstrating creativity in performing assessments only deepened her commitment to the work. “I was taught to ask the right questions at the right time and engage with other therapists on best practices.”

Katy will graduate in December and as a mother of a nine year old little boy she managed to juggle school, family life, work and engage in ser-

vice with Alpha Phi Omega while pursuing her degree. And, this is only the beginning, Katy is still planning her next steps. She will begin her new career in January and while completing supervised hours at *Reaching Milestones*, she will attend graduate school in pursuit of BCBA certification.

Congratulations Katy.

DEAN WONG'S COMMENTS ON FACULTY OBLIGATIONS

Attending the mandatory Title IX Awareness Workshop has opened my eyes to an obligation I did not previously know faculty had – reporting any revelations made by a student of having been sexually assaulted or harassed to Armstrong's Director of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Ms. Deidra Dennie, or her designees. The faculty member's obligation is to report the revelation, not to investigate it. Discovering this obligation was extremely eye-opening for me, perhaps particularly because, as a clinical psychologist, maintaining confidentiality has been a paramount professional obligation, except in cases where I had the obligation to be a mandatory reporter (e.g., in cases of child abuse or imminent harm to the client's self or others). I had carried the professional obligation of confidentiality into my work as a faculty member and as an administrator (beyond FERPA; see Brent's article). As faculty members today, we are mandatory reporters of any knowledge of a student having been sexually assaulted or otherwise sexually violated.

At the Title IX Workshop, we were also reminded about USG Policy 8.2.3 that states a faculty or staff member is prohibited from having an amorous relationship with any student who the faculty or staff member supervises, teaches, or evaluates in any way. Consistent with this policy, we are also prohibited from having an amorous relationship with any other employee if either employee supervises, evaluates, or in any other way directly affects the terms or conditions of the other's employment. Any individual who violates this policy is subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

ARMSTRONG

DATES AND DEADLINES

- Oct 20th - Advisement begins
- Oct 31st – Gignilliat applications due to dean's office
- Nov 24-30th – Thanksgiving break for students
- Dec 5th – Last day of class
- Dec 6-11th – Final exam week
- Dec 13th - Commencement
- Dec 15th – 9 AM Final Grades Due
- Jan 12th – First day of class

