

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

Welcome to our new faculty and staff and welcome back to those of you who are beginning another academic year with us! I hope you were each able to have some summer fun and are now re-charged and ready to begin anew.

The CST has had a busy and fruitful summer. Here are some updates/news:

We finished hiring full-time faculty and staff. We are pleased to welcome four new tenure track faculty members, seven new lecturers, three new limited term faculty members, and one new staff member. I look forward to getting to know each of you!

Armstrong's "Team Cyber" (Frank Katz, Kevin Jennings, Pete Hoffman, Wayne Willcox, Brent Feske, and Jane Wong) have been working hard on our application to the National Security Agency/Department of Homeland Security for our Cyber programs and new Center for Applied Cyber Education (CACE) to be designated a "Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance/Cyber Defense Education." Look at: http://www.armstrong.edu/Departments/cyber_security/csec_welcome for more information about our cyber programs and CACE.

Summer Research Session (SRS), 2015 – 32 students engaged in mentored research under the tutelage of 17 faculty members, representing four departments.

GA Power awarded Armstrong \$20,000 to fund Armstrong's "Georgia Power STEM Scholars" Program. In the inaugural cohort, 13 Georgia Power STEM Scholars conducted research projects, and 2 will conduct their research this fall. (Refer to insert for the summaries of the 13 Scholars' projects) Georgia Power liked this program so much that they have already donated an additional \$20,000 for the 2016 cohort.

Jay Hodgson, Aaron Schrey, and Austin Francis, Jr., all in the Department of Biology, were awarded over \$140,000 for their NSF IUSE grant entitled "Integrating

Evolution Across the Biology Curriculum," to re-vamp the labs for BIOL 1108. Please go to: [http://savannahceo.com/.../armstrong-biology-department-awa.../...](http://savannahceo.com/.../armstrong-biology-department-awa.../) to find out more about what Jay and his team will be doing.

Tricia Brown, MATH, was one of two Armstrong faculty members selected as a 2015 GA Governor's Teaching Fellow for the Summer Symposium program at the University of Georgia. She will serve as an Armstrong Teaching Fellow in 2015-2016.

Brent and I hope to see you at our quasi-monthly Open House at the Dean's Office – come by for some coffee and conversation! The first one will be in mid-September.

Wong's Comments on Faculty Obligations (revised)

Most faculty members (myself included) entered the professoriate so they could teach, mentor, conduct research, produce scholarly work, and otherwise contribute to their institutions and discipline. Many new faculty members, and some veteran colleagues, might rarely think about the legal, ethical, or administrative responsibilities that come with a faculty position. Fulfilling these obligations may seem peripheral or monotonous, but doing so is expected and required of each us. In some cases, the institution as a whole and/or the individual faculty member may face penalties for not fulfilling these obligations. Here is a list of the salient items, but it is not an exhaustive list. If you have questions, consult your department head, assistant dean, dean, or the appropriate administrative office.

Academic integrity in our teaching, scholarship, and representative of oneself is an overarching requirement.

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NEW FACULTY PROFILE: DR. NICOLE DAVIS, ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF BIOCHEMISTRY



Dr. Nicole Davis recently completed her first year at Armstrong State University, a Biochemist by trade, she found a passion for teaching as a graduate student attending Wake Forrest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Growing up in Jacksonville, Florida, Nicole began her college career at Florida State University majoring briefly in Music Education. In high school Nicole played the flute and piccolo and although she did well in all her classes, she had no interest in pursuing science at FSU. However, by the end of her first semester she switched her major to Chemistry and finally Biochemistry where she clearly found her niche.

As an Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, Nicole has focused her research on protein- lipid interactions. As an instructor she enjoys teaching smaller classes in which students are more relaxed and engaged; “Students feel less intimidated and will ask more questions especially if they don’t understand the material the first time.” Nicole encourages her students to visit her during office hours and maintain a good support system to cope with the adjustment to college life.

In her spare time she enjoys cross stitching, a form of embroidery in which X shaped stitches form a picture or pattern.

WELCOME NEW FACULTY AND STAFF TO THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The College of Science and Technology is thrilled to see so many new hires. There were a total of 15 hires this past year. Please take a moment and welcome them to Savannah, Armstrong, and the College of Science and Technology.

Biology

Paul Dunn (Tenure track)
 Sherri Cannon (Lecturer)
 Jessica Merricks (Lecturer)
 Aubrey Storie (Staff)
 Dechassa Duressa (FT Temp)

Engineering

Chris Williams (Lecturer)

CS and IT

Amar Rasheed (Tenure track)

Mathematics

Matthew Brown (Lecturer)
 Janel Smith (Lecturer)
 Kimberly Swanson (Lecturer)
 Joseph Roberts (FT Temp)

Chemistry & Physics

Nicole Davis (Tenure track)
 Nathaniel Shank (Tenure track)

Psychology

Taylor Ferguson (Lecturer)
 Allison Anderson (FT Temp)

Update on the STEM Success Center – This summer I have worked diligently with our new Director of the STEM Success Center (Matthew Brown). We had the room painted and developed better signage to help advertise and guide students to the location. End of year funds were utilized that will allow students to check out models so they may study anatomy and physiology as well as organic chemistry in the center. We are working on hiring dedicated A&P tutors to help students use the new models in learning human anatomy and physiology.

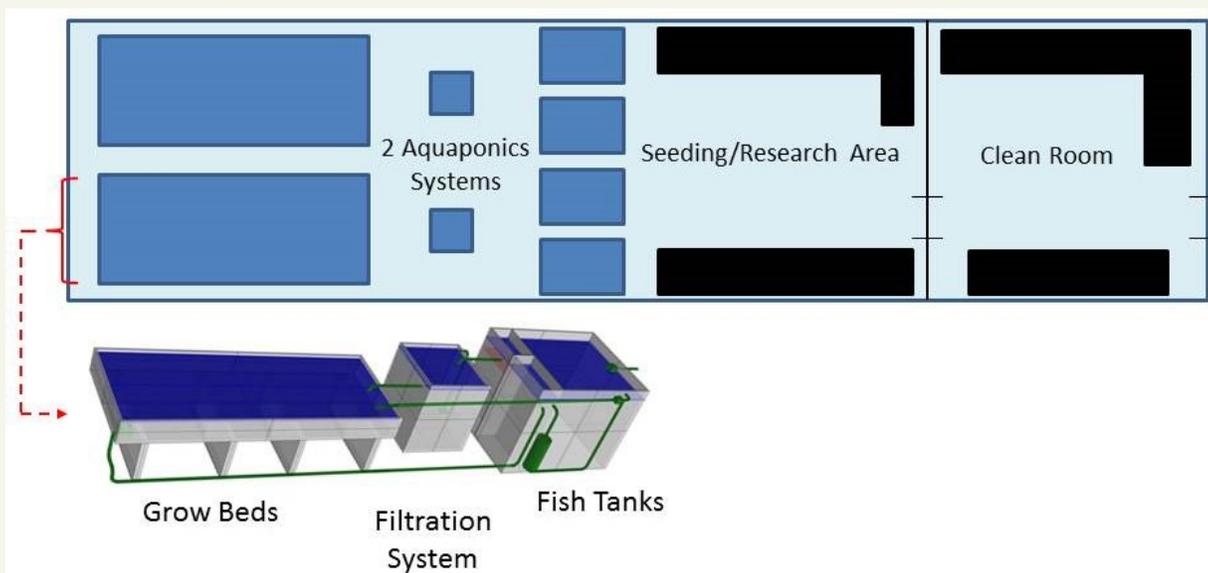
Please keep an eye out for an email from Matt Brown. He plans to contact professors that teach in courses for which we offer tutoring support and distribute updated tutor availability to professors throughout the semester. In addition, he may ask you for a few minutes of class time so he may introduce himself and the Center to your class.

A paper copy of all current textbooks for courses should be available for students and tutors to utilize.

We also plan to track students better by a card swipe system through the grades first system that should have 4000 student IDs programmed in -- of all freshmen, sophomores, and at-risk juniors -- to pinpoint the times of highest utilization and better schedule tutors to accommodate student demand.

Currently we have four computer workstations available for students to use for online homework, electronic versions of texts, exploring STEM related career resources, etc.

Update on Armstrong Aquaponics Facility – I know everyone working on this project hoped we would have a facility out by the parking lot by now. Unfortunately, we are learning that projects like these find ways to hit every possible snag in the process. The Foram Group Charitable Foundation Inc. delivered the first payment to the University in July and we have since ordered the greenhouse which will be the primary home of the aquaponics facility. To date, Foram has donated \$75,000 to support this project. The greenhouse is due to arrive on campus during the week of August 23rd. Shortly thereafter, a team will arrive from Alabama who will prep the site and assemble the structure. You can already visit Mount Armstrong (as we jokingly call it), which is thousands of dollars of donated top soil that will form the footprint of the facility. A specially designed fish system is being engineered and fabricated this month and will be completed and delivered by the middle of September. We are on target for live fish and plants by the beginning of October. If you are interested in hearing more please talk to myself or Matt Draud.



Wong's Comments on Faculty Obligations (reprinted) cont'd from page 1

Abiding by FERPA, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, is federal law. For detailed information, refer to: http://www.armstrong.edu/Departments/registrar/registrar_ferpa_faq

For example, never say "This student athlete from Country X does not even have the reading level of a sixth grader." (It could be fairly easy to determine to whom you've referred). Do not speak about an adult student's academic performance with his/her parent, unless you have written consent to do so, even if that parent is paying the bills and/or accompanied the student into your office.

Verification of student attendance/non-attendance during the Attendance Verification period at the start of each term. Failure to do so in an accurate and timely manner could put the student and the institution at risk of financial, and, sometimes, legal penalties. A good way to make sure one's attendance verification is accurate is to print out the Attendance Roster from SHIP and circulate it on multiple days for students to "sign in" during the attendance verification period. This would also have the effect of communicating that class attendance is important.

Submitting grades in a timely and accurate manner

Completing time cards accurately to reflect time taken off from work

Avoiding actual or apparent conflict of interests between one's university obligations and one's outside activities. When the activity involves financial remuneration or a substantial amount of the faculty member's time, the "Request for Approval of Outside Activity by Full-Time Faculty" should be completed and approved by the indicated administrators before embarking on the activities.

USG Policy 8.2.3 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.

ARMSTRONG

August 17th – First day of class

August 21st – Drop/Add ends

August 26th – Internal grant writing workshop

August 28th – Attendance verification due

September 5th – SRS summer reports due

September 25th – Internal grant applications due (Faculty development)

September 30th – 6 PM – Science on Tap (Matt Draud – "Our changing Earth")

October 7th – Midterm

October 21st – 6 PM – Science on Tap (James Brawner – "Math in the House: The Mathematics of Apportionment")

Science on Tap – Located at 215 W Liberty St, Savannah, GA 31401 – Coastal Empire Trading Company/ Savannah Coffee Roasters. Please arrive early if you plan to purchase food or beverages (beer and wine will be available for purchase).

