

Concentrations:
Applied Development, Geography, Social Sciences, Sociology, Pre-Law

Certificates:
Paralegal Studies, Criminal Justice

Message from the Chair



Dr. Paulette Meikle-Yaw

Colleagues, students, staff, and friends of the Division of Social Sciences and History (DSSH), we have come to the end of another productive, challenging, and yet inspiring academic year. We have achieved much: students have received awards and scholarships, and professors have published in several journals, books and other sources. We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of our faculty this year, who have used diverse media to research and discuss various social, political, and historical issues that are of critical importance for understanding the society in which we live. I highlight just a few examples: Ms. Arlene Sanders

-The Black Freedom Struggle in the Delta; Dr. Daniel Glenn *-The Ideology of the Supreme Court and the Transformation of the Reconstruction Amendments*; Mr. Chris Bounds *- Adult Social Bonds Predict Substance Abuse among Various Racial and Gender Subgroups*; Dr. Mark Bonta *- Cycad Conservation, Peasant Subsistence, and the Military Coup in Honduras*; Dr. Debarashmi Mitra *-Women and Community-based Interventions: Sites of Activism and Resistance*. Dr. Alan Barton *-Smoking Bans and Education in the Mississippi Delta*. Dr. Charles Westmoreland: *Religion & Politics in the Modern South*. We are particularly proud of Gui Russo, a fall 2010 graduate of the Political Science undergraduate program who was recently admitted to the Ph.D. program in Political Science at Vanderbilt to study Comparative Politics. Gui was mentored by Dr. Fadiga-Stewart.

One of the most memorable events for the Division this past year was our hosting of the world-renowned scholar/political activist/linguist Noam Chomsky in January. Chomsky, professor emeritus at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on the current state of higher education in America. Students, professors, and community members came from several institutions in Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, and Alabama to this historic event. Professor Chomsky's visit was made possible by Professor Garry Jennings, Director of the Madison Center, and co-sponsored by Dr. Albert Nylander, Dean, School of Graduate and Continuing Studies.

This year, faculty members and students had several opportunities to travel overseas. Professor Jennings, DSSH, and Professor Susan Allen-Ford from the Division of Languages and Literature accompanied a group of students from the College of Arts and Sciences to Ireland in March. Students had an enlightening experience as part of an interdisciplinary course entitled "Irish Politics in Prose, Poetry and Music"; read more about this travel experience on page four. Dr. Mark Bonta recently returned from Honduras where he led a multidisciplinary team of Honduran, Mexican, and U.S. scientists and conservationists on a rapid assessment survey. This exclusive undertaking was supported by the Explorers Club and the Division; read more about Bonta's adventurous expedition on page 2. Mark has had a busy year and there seems to be no slowing down for him as he leaves for a three week stint in China during the month of June. While there, he will focus on student recruitment and faculty development. *Continued on page 3.*

Spring 2011

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Quote:

If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

Derek Bok



Gui Russo is a fall 2010 DSSH graduate and a 2011 Scholarship recipient for Vanderbilt University.

Q & A Session



Page Logan, Instructor
Social Justice &
Criminology

What was the first job you ever had?

I was the front cashier at a Walgreens. Complete with the green smock and a smile.

What were you involved in, in high school? I was on the school's competitive dance team, Homecoming court, SADD (students against drunk driving), it wasn't an activity but I was voted most courteous every year. Our school started its first women's soccer team my senior year, so I played soccer that year. We were terrible. I was on several planning committees- prom, Black Friday Kid's Camp, pageant boards, I organized the SADD events with our school, and started a mentorship group placing older students (of the same gender) with incoming freshmen. I was called into the Principal's office once to help mediate a racial conflict (I can't remember if that was my junior or senior year). It was a learning experience!

How long have you been at DSU? I was a student here from 2001-2007, and will complete my 4th year

teaching next month.

Outside of work, what is a current hobby of yours? I just recently learned how to crochet, so that's my new hobby. I've been making dish rags and pot holders for a few weeks now (along with a few mystery pieces). I'll be excited when I am able to make blankets!

If you were dropped on a flourishing deserted island in charge of re-establishing a society, which 3 occupations would you deem most important to be with you?

I would say a teacher, but that's my occupation. So I would choose an Agriculturalist (for farming, etc.), a Doctor (for obvious reasons), and it's a toss-up between a Mechanic or an Engineer. I would probably go with an Engineer. Let's just hope one of those 3 would have a sense of humor.

Honduras Biodiversity Expedition: Gualaco 2011



Photo by Robert E Hyman

Expedition members Mark Bonta, Mauricio Porras (artist, Hidalgo, Mex.), Melissa Medina (herpetologist, National Autonomous University, Hond.), Ricardo Steiner (conservationist, Hond.), Robert Hyman (Wash. DC, Explorers Club, holding expedition flag), David Medina (ornithologist, National Autonomous University, Hond.), Dr. Maria Teresa Pulido (botanist, National Autonomous Univ of Hidalgo, Mex.), Josiah Townsend (herpetologist, Univ. of Florida), Onan Reyes (botanist, National Agricultural Univ., Hond.), Dr. Christopher Begley (archaeologist, Transylvania Univ., KY). Not pictured: Rafael Ulloa (conservationist, Hond.). Also in photo: Honduran Emerald (logo on truck), large cycad cone (used for food).

In April, Dr. Mark Bonta led a multidisciplinary team of Honduran, Mexican, and U.S. scientists and conservationists on a two-week rapid assessment survey in northeastern Honduras supported by the Explorers Club. The team collaborated with local communities to document new and threatened species of plants and animals, endangered habitats, and at-risk archaeological sites. Highlights include the discovery of a new species of salamander from the hitherto-unknown cloud forest of the Montaña de Botaderos National Park (Honduras's newest national park), partial mapping of the Tayaco archaeological site (a very large post-Classic site built on a mountainside, with several levels of stone terraces, causeways, and plazas, as well as stelae), and numerous records of the endangered endemic Honduran Emerald (a hummingbird), as well as many tropical dry forest and rain forest plants that await classification. The team also documented the persistence of some of Central

America's last old-growth pine forests, and participated in the 4th Annual 'Feria del Teocinte', the world's only festival dedicated to a cycad (a primitive palm-like plant related to the ginkgo), in this case the endemic and threatened *Dioon mejiae*. In anticipation of the completion of a bilingual report that will be circulate widely, the team held two community meetings during the expedition to present preliminary findings. This and future expeditions are intended to aid community-based conservation of biological and cultural resources in one of the least-known but most diverse Neotropical countries.



Photo by Robert E Hyman

Honduran Emerald

Message from the Chair cont'd

As the semester ends, we are proud to welcome Dr. Daniel Graham from the University of California-Berkeley as a Scholar-in-Residence in the Division. Dr. Graham arrived on May 5th; he is a human geographer with regional expertise in Central America. His scholarship engagements include matters relating to peasant subsistence and environmental sustainability in Honduras. Working within the political ecology tradition at U.C. Berkeley Geography Department, he focuses his scholarly attention on the cultural politics of rural resource control in peasant communities, and he has a strong interest in developing ethical approaches to collaborative research that serve both scholarship and social justice. While here, Dr. Graham will teach "Community Filmmaking and Participatory Action Research" to undergraduate and graduate students. He is also collaborating with Dr. Bonta on a book manuscript that historicizes and interprets the ongoing socio-political crisis in Honduras. Dr. Graham will be conducting specialized lectures for various DSU classes and community based organizations in the Mississippi Delta. Welcome, Dan! We know that you will enjoy our University and the unique culture of the Mississippi Delta.

Finally, Dr. Jennings reports that two of his advisees, Millicent Lunsford and Darrell Dixon, will wed this summer. Mr. Dixon received the distinguished Cochran Fellowship in 2010 he is now a legislative aide to Senator Cochran and a graduate student at George Washington University. Ms. Lunford plans on attending graduate school. They will reside in the Alexandria area.

As we leave for the summer, we reflect on the year with gratitude and look to the upcoming academic year with enthusiasm, yet I have to say that we will really miss the presence of faculty members who have moved on to other endeavors such as Dr. Tom Boschert, Dr. Miriam Davis, and Dr. John Green. Very best wishes Tom, Miriam, and John!

To all: Have a fun-filled and fantastic summer 2011!

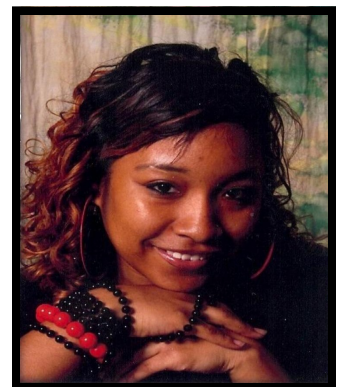
Sincerely,

Paulette Meikle-Yaw

Social Justice & Criminology Program News

Salena Moore is the newest recipient of the annual Jim Armishaw Award. With a major GPA of 3.7 and an overall GPA of 3.45, Salena is in the top 90th percentile of her peers. Salena has also qualified for honor societies across her major.

Spring 2011 Alpha Phi Sigma inductees are: Salena Moore, Jessie Ballard, and Kylie Rowland. Alpha Phi Sigma is the National Criminal Justice Honor Society. These students have a GPA of at least 3.40 overall and 3.40 in criminal justice courses.



Salena Moore

Professors Garry Jennings and Susan Allen-Ford led a group of students to Belfast and Dublin, in the Republic of Ireland.

Every other year, The Madison Center sponsors a series of lectures in Ireland. During spring break 2011, Professors Susan Allen-Ford and Garry Jennings led a group of students to Belfast, Northern Ireland, and Dublin, in the Republic of Ireland as part of this interdisciplinary course, entitled “Irish Politics in Prose, Poetry and Music.” The course challenged students to learn the history and politics of Ireland and to understand the struggles of the Irish over the past several centuries.

Students gathered on Sunday afternoons before the trip to study the politics of Ireland and the stories, poems and plays by Irish authors James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, Seamus Heaney and Sean O’Casey and others, in hopes of converting these texts into life-sized experiences on the trip. Our author-teachers in Belfast performed the task brilliantly for us, reports Dr. Jennings.



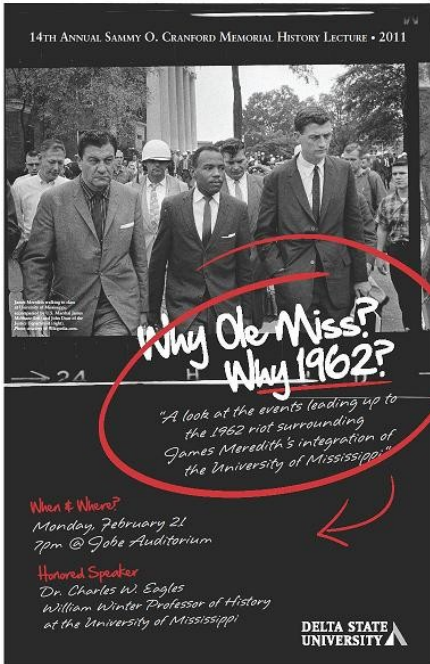
Students in Belfast, Northern Ireland

Lectures in Belfast

Danny Morrison, Damian Smyth and Glenn Patterson provided the focus of three lectures in Belfast. Danny Morrison, former director of publicity for Sinn Fein and IRA prisoner, discussed the origin of the Troubles and his work since the end of hostilities. Students were compelled by his description of the Republican cause and efforts to achieve civil rights in Northern Ireland. Damian Smyth, head of the Northern Ireland Arts Council discussed the role of the arts in reliving and evaluating the consequences of the Troubles.

Glenn Patterson, Writer-in-Residence at Queen’s University, offered readings from his novels that reflect experiences in Belfast over the last several decades. The Dublin portion of the trip involved tracing the steps of James Joyce, William Butler Yeats and others in this beautiful city. Students visited the Joyce Center and the Dublin Writers Museum, as well as the historical landmarks of the “1916 Rising.” This trip brought to life the history and literature of Ireland because students and faculty were transported to the location of living breathing politics. We believe that travel can enhance learning in ways that traditional classroom experience may not.

DSS Spring 2011 Events



Cranford Lecture Poster
Dr. Charles Eagles, University of Mississippi
"Why Ole Miss? Why 1962?"



Cranford Lecture Presenter, Dr. Charles Eagles and Faculty of the Division of Social Sciences and History



Rex Davis (Cleveland) earned his Master's degrees in the Fall



World-renowned scholar Noam Chomsky, from MIT, spoke at Delta State in January. This visit was arranged by Dr. Garry Jennings & the Madison Center. Professor Chomsky spoke on the current situation of higher education in Amer-

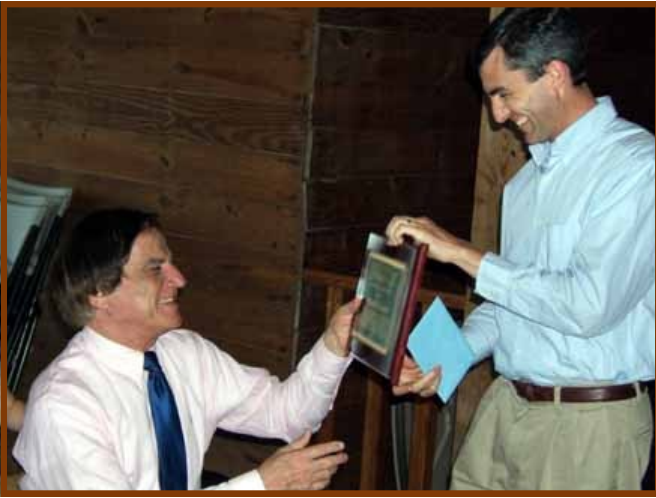


Cranford Lecture L-R Dr. & Mrs. Tom Boschert, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Eagles



Left to Right:
Dr. Paulette Meikle, Chair of the Division of Social Sciences, Presented Salena Moore, the Jim Armishaw Award; Kevin Edwards, the William Bryant & Madge Moore Scholarship and Joshua Huffman, the Howorth Award.

Spring 2011 Saying “Thank You” for your hard work, “Good Bye” and “Happy Retirement” to dear friends and colleagues



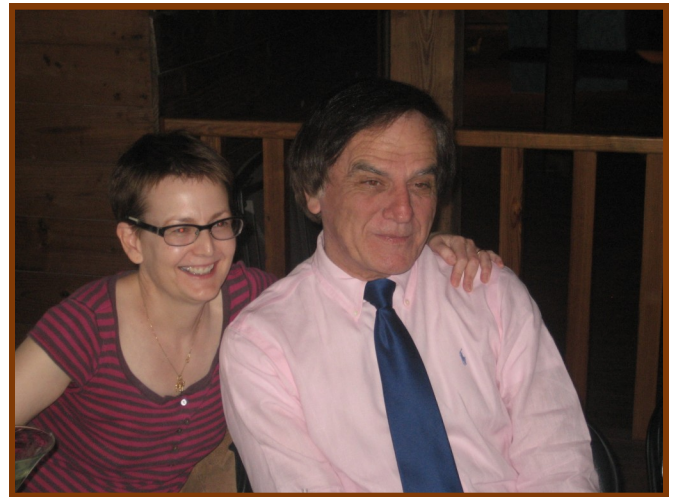
Dr. Dan Glenn (rt) presents special award to Dr. James Robinson for his outstanding contribution, vision, and dedication to the Department of History



Dr. Tom Boschert, Dr. Miriam Davis, and Eleanor Green, party at the Warehouse



Eleanor and John Green, party at the Warehouse



Dr. Miriam Davis and Dr. James Robinson, party at the Warehouse

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