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To contact the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, please call (843) 953-5770 or log on to www.cofc.edu/~hines/schlhss.htm

Student Profile: Amy Speck

In the intensity of collegiate athletics, a team will often push its members to work harder, longer, and faster to achieve a goal. Occasionally, in the midst of pressure to perform, an individual team member can make decisions that compromise her overall health. College of Charleston Honors student Amy Speck is investigating such dangerous health behaviors through her bachelor's essay.

Under the guidance of Psychology professor Dr. Lisa Thomson Ross, Speck is researching health attitudes in female ath-

letes and family factors that influence the athletes' pathogenic eating behaviors. According to Speck, this is definitely a "hot button issue in the college environment and athletics community."

Speck is a senior in the Honors program, graduating in May with a major in psychology and a minor in Jewish Studies. Aside from being a founding sister of Sigma Delta Tau, coxswain for CofC's crew team, a volunteer at MUSC Children's Hospital and at Camp Happy Days, Speck is also an emer-



gency medical technician with both the College's First Responder Unit and with the County of Charleston's EMTs.

In her research, Speck found

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Truth Through Deliberation: Marian Currinder



Amidst a political atmosphere of diverging truths, the focus of Dr. Marian Currinder's deliberations draws you in to a world full of questions. Balancing time between teaching classes and research, Currinder falls easily into a relaxed but captivating discussion of political dynamics and power. Her intentions reach far beyond mere conversation, for Currinder is passionate about understanding the dynamics of American government and politics. She saw firsthand the importance of holding government accountable to its core purpose of representing the people's voice when she served as a congressional fellow in Washington, D.C. this past year.

Currinder, an assistant professor in the Political Science Department, was chosen from an elite international pool of highly qualified professionals to serve as an American Political Science Association (APSA) Congressional Fellow. She worked for nine months as the Foreign Policy and Defense Legislative Assistant (LA) for Representative David Price (NC), an 8th term congressman and a former professor of political science at Duke University.

Currinder's responsibilities included bill drafting and analysis, meeting with constituents, preparing Rep. Price for Appropriations hearings, and advising him on floor votes. She worked with Rep. Price to draft a bill that creates a con-

gressional commission to advise newly formed democratic parliaments (the bill is expected to pass).

Congressman Price praised Currinder's contributions to the field of political science, "As a political scientist myself, I feel certain that Marian's academic training prepared her well to jump with both feet into the fast-paced environment of a Capitol Hill office.

She arrived here as an astute observer and student of the legislative process; by the time she left, she was also an accomplished practitioner."

Currinder also had the opportunity to travel to Turkey and China as a congressional staff delegate, and to participate in an exchange with fellows serving in the Canadian parliament to

"...HONEST POLITICAL DEBATE AND COMPROMISE HAVE BEEN REPLACED WITH A LESS THOUGHTFUL, WIN-AT-ALL COSTS APPROACH TO LEGISLATING."

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Speck, continued

that characteristics shared by female athletes most prone to suffer from eating disorders are often the same behaviors that make them excellent competitors in college level athletics. Perfectionism, desire to work hard or even overwork to achieve a goal, and the ability to withstand pain or discomfort, are qualities seen in our most competitive athletes. But Speck wonders, to what extent will this focus and drive lead to pathogenic eating disorders?

Working to address this and other questions, she continues to expand the breadth and depth of her research.

Last semester, Speck sent out 200 surveys to college athletes, including members of CofC crew, dance, cross country and

the equestrian teams. She still hopes to get more participation from other Cougar teams to strengthen her findings. Survey participants have the option to send a separate parental survey to their mothers to explore maternal attitudes toward health and any possible relationship these attitudes might have with behaviors present among the participants.

Through her research, Speck hopes that athletes come to realize that eating disorders are not a choice they make, but are an intrinsic part of their individual natures. She encourages athletes who are not satisfied with their performance to do some introspection and discover healthy paths to self-improvement.

Speck wants to show that the eating disorders so common in college athletics are simply not sustainable in the long-term; rather than increasing athletic strength and stamina, they cause great harm and potentially fatal damage. Speck has found that the majority of athletes attempting to sustain such unhealthy competitive measures often experience performance deficits instead.

Finally, her hope is also to help parents and coaches better understand the risks involved and help them find effective ways to



Sometimes individuals can take competition to a dangerous level; Speck is trying to change this attitude through her innovative research on health attitudes among collegiate athletes.

moderate the pressure on collegiate athletes.

For her research, Speck received the Academic Year Research Award to cover other research costs. After graduating this spring, Speck aspires to earn her master's degree in nursing to pursue a career as a pediatric nurse practitioner. ■

Currinder, continued

compare America's federal government with Canada's Westminster style parliamentary government.

While this experience has offered Currinder a unique perspective to bring into her classroom, her experience working in Washington, D.C. began years before the fellowship. Currinder's initial interest in the field began in her senior year at Penn State, when she took a political science course that inspired her ensuing career. After graduating with a BA in Communication and a minor in English Literature, Currinder moved to DC and was hired on as a legislative assistant at the Center for State Policy Research. She worked in D.C. for six years before making the decision to go to graduate school. As a gradu-

ate student, she interned, then became a freelance writer for the Center for Responsive Politics (CRP). The CRP, a non-profit, nonpartisan organization, encouraged her to question the role of money in politics.

Currinder, who went on to earn an MA and a PhD in Political Science from University of Florida, found that her fellowship experience enhanced her understanding of policy making. According to Currinder, "Congress is the most partisan it has been in over 100 years, with the driving force being the close margin between the majority and minority parties. As a result, honest political debate and compromise have largely been replaced with a less thought-

ful, win-at-all costs approach to legislating."

Currinder hopes to inspire in her students a passion for being interested in what is occurring in the world around them. "There's so much that goes on [in politics] that impacts us," Currinder states, "and it's important for people to educate themselves." Infusing a philosophy of lifelong learning seems natural for a woman who embodies the ideals she so ardently fosters. Currinder emphasizes to her students that they "not fall to seeing only their limitations." Currinder believes that, "It's pretty incredible what you can do if you work hard and pursue every opportunity you can." ■

Redirecting the Compass

In the Faculty Accomplishments featured in Compass Issue I, the book *Self, Language and the Social in the Writings of Jules Valles (1832-1885): The Jacques Vingtras trilogy*. Lewiston, NY: The Edwin Mellon Press, 2004 was incorrectly attributed to Norbert Sclipa. The correct author is Robin McArthur Long. Our apologies for the mistake, and a most heartfelt congratulations for Dr. Long's accomplishment.

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Editor: Juliana Col

Writer: Maggie McMenamin

Contact: (843) 953-5770

Anna Katona, *English*

Derived from Dr. Katona's obituary piece

Distinguished Professor Emerita Anna Katona passed away in January 2005. She taught at the College of Charleston for 24 years, from 1975 through 1999, and was a respected and beloved colleague.

Katona, originating from Debrecen, Hungary, earned a Ph.D. in English and a Masters degree in English, German, French and Italian from the University of Debrecen, a Masters degree in Russian from the University of Budapest, and a Post-doctoral degree in Literature from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The recipient of the College of Charleston Distinguished Research Award, Dr. Katona was a prolific scholar with a mastery of many languages and subjects. Her research awards included a British Council scholarship in Cambridge in 1960 and in London in 1963, a Ford Foundation Scholarship at the

University of California, Berkeley in 1968, and an ACLS fellowship at Yale University in 1975. She presented papers and served as a convener at numerous international conferences including the Modern Language Association of America. She was a member of the Board of Trustees for the Dickens Society, the advisory board of The Canadian-American Review in Hungarian Studies, and was the Hungarian editor for *The Annual Bibliography of English Language* for over thirty years.

Dr. Katona provided funds for a grant to the College of Charleston that annually recognizes the graduating English major with the highest average in American Literature courses. She is survived by generations of devoted students and a host of loyal friends and colleagues in Hungary, the United States, and throughout the world. ■

Beatrice Stiglitz, *French*

Contributed by Marty Perlmutter

The College lost a dear friend in December 2004, when Beatrice Stiglitz passed away, after a long and valiant battle with breast cancer. Dr. Stiglitz was professor of French and Italian, spoke several other languages, and taught widely in a variety of disciplines, often under the rubric of the Honors Program. Dr. Stiglitz loved the life of ideas and was successful in motivating students to excellence. For that she was awarded the College's Distinguished Teaching Award, the highest recognition of teaching excellence the College offers.

Born in Russia, raised in Romania, Dr. Stiglitz arrived in New York City after a short stint in Paris. After earning her Ph D from City University of New York, Dr. Stiglitz came to the College in 1979.

Dr. Stiglitz was a fixture at cultural events in Charleston, whether they were plays, music, or dance. She

also adored cats, and all they represented.

Dr. Stiglitz used her bout with cancer to teach others the importance of a positive attitude, the power of will, and the value of dignity and grace. She would often remind her friends that there were *majors* and *minors* in life, and that it is necessary to separate the really important things from those that seem urgent but might matter less.

Dr. Stiglitz remembered the College in her will. There is a scholarship for students to travel to France that she endowed, and the language lab at the new Addlestone Library is named in her memory. Her residence on Queen Street was bequeathed to the College's Yaschik/Arnold Jewish Studies Program to house visiting scholars in Jewish Studies.

She will be missed by her many friends and students. ■

Select Faculty Accomplishments

- **Paul Allen & Carol Ann Davis**, English. Honored with the title "South Carolina Poetry Fellow," 5 published poems: *Twenty: South Carolina Poetry Fellows*. Hub City Writer's Project, 2005.
- **Zeff Bjerken**, Philosophy and Religious Studies. "Exorcising the Illusion of Bon 'Shamans': A Critical Genealogy of Shamanism in Tibetan Religions." *Revue d'Etudes Tibétaines* 6 (September 2004): 4-61.
- **Larry Carlson**, English. "The Inner Life of Fruitlands." *Lives Out of Letters: Essays on American Literary Biography and Documentation*. Fairleigh Dickinson UP, 2004.
- **Tim Carmichael**, History. Awarded Fulbright for teaching and research. University of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Spring-Fall 2005.
- **William F. Danaher**, Sociology and Anthropology. With Vincent J. Roscigno. *The Voice of Southern Labor: Radio, Music, and Textile Strikes 1929-1934*. University of Minnesota Press, 2004.
- **Angela Halfacre**, Political Science. Co-authored: "Community Participation in Preservation of Lowcountry SC Sweetgrass (*Muhlenbergia filipes*) Basketry." *Economic Botany* Summer 2004.
- **James B. Hittner & Kim May**, Psychology. With N. Silver. "Testing Dependent Correlations with Non-Overlapping Variables: A Monte Carlo Simulation." *Journal of Experimental Education* 73,1 (2004): 53-69.
- **Massimo Maggiari**, Italian. Editor: *The Waters of Hermes/Le Acque Di Ermes*. Le Finestra, December 2004.
- **Elizabeth Martinez-Gibson and Silvia Rodriguez Sabater**, Hispanic Studies. "The Hispanic Health Initiative." *Collaborative study with MUSC*, 2005.
- **Kim May**, Psychology. With T.S. Jackson. "IRT Item Parameters and the Reliability and Validity of Pretest, Posttest and Gain Scores." *International Journal of Testing* 5,1 (2005): 63-73.
- **Jane McCollough**, Political Science. Awarded "Who's Who Among College Teachers," 2004.
- **June McDaniel**, Philosophy and Religious Studies. *Offering Flowers, Feeding Skulls: Popular Goddess Worship in West Bengal*. NY: Oxford UP, 2004.
- **E. Moore Quinn**, Sociology and Anthropology. "Toasters and Boasters: John D. Crimminws's St. Patrick's Day (1902)." *New Hibernia Review* 8,3 (2004): 50-62.
- **Gregory Schmitt**, Communication. Photography Exhibition. *Spectra 2004 National Photography Triennial*. New Canaan, CT: Nov. 21- Dec. 22, 2004.
- **Robert Westerfelhaus**, Communication. With Robert Alan Brookey. "At the Unlikely Confluence of Conservative Religion and Popular Culture: *Fight Club* as Heteronormative Ritual." *Text and Performance Quarterly* 24 (2004): 302-326.

Bridging Worlds: George Fam

"Progress lies not in enhancing what is, but in advancing toward what will be." —Kahlil Gibran

When Professor George Fam implemented an Arabic Studies Program at the College of Charleston 24 years ago, he did not foresee the crisis of the Gulf War or the events leading to and resulting from September 11th, 2001. Instead, Fam recognized the lack of educational opportunities for students to better understand, to communicate with, and to professionally collaborate with individuals from Middle Eastern cultures. He set about creating a comprehensive Arabic Studies program that would honor both the aca-

democratic integrity and the cultural richness of the College of Charleston.

According to Fam, the primary goal of the College's Arabic Studies Program is "to enable students to communicate in standard Arabic in the shortest time possible." He created an Arabic Studies program that focuses on written and spoken standard Arabic, and introduces students to Arab society, history, and culture. Fam has ambitiously worked to meet this goal since the program's inception in 1980, but his



"baby," as he likes to call it, has journeyed to become "the most comprehensive" Arabic Studies program in the state of South Carolina.

The popularity of the program demonstrates the fruit of Fam's decades of investment. When Fam began the Arabic studies program at the College, he had only one student enrolled. By 1997, that figure rose to almost a

dozen, and since 2003, an average of 135 students enroll each semester.

The increase in interest and participation in the program is promising because of the heightened focus on Middle Eastern Studies as a national priority in the United States. The demand for Arabic

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A Return to His Roots: W. Scott Poole



Although South Carolina is home to many, for Dr. W. Scott Poole it has also been the source of inspiration for his successful scholarly career. After receiving an M.A. from Harvard University in 1997, and his Ph.D. from the University of Mississippi in 2001, the Powdersville, South Carolina native wanted to return to his home state. He returned in 2002 to join the College of Charleston's history depart-

ment, and says he "really could not have asked for a better place to teach and continue to do research on the history of South Carolina."

While Poole's recently published book, *Never Surrender: the Lost Cause in the South Carolina Upcountry, 1850-1903*, "assumes a highly

critical pose to some of the central themes in white South Carolina's history." His insights are drawn from a substantial understanding of the region where he was born and raised. Poole dedicates *Never Surrender* to his South Carolina ancestors. As a part of a long southern lineage, his ancestry includes "a revolutionary war hero, a Confederate veteran, and a biracial woman who lived during the

Reconstruction era." Poole also adds his great grandfather to the list, describing him as "an upcountry cotton farmer who worked as a sort of precinct manager for some of the upstate's most important political leaders in the 1920's and 30's." Poole points out that even beyond his "upcountry accent" he is "genuinely connected to the people and the place he writes about."

Never Surrender was recently awarded the George C. Rogers prize by the South Carolina Historical Society.

Continuing his excellence in presenting fresh perspectives on history, Poole has written another book, *Mother of Traitors: A Narrative of South Carolina's Civil War* (Mercer Press), which will be released

in the fall of 2005.

His most recent accomplishment was his work with the PBS documentary series "Slavery and the Making of America," which aired nation-wide on February 9, 2005. Poole both appeared in and consulted for the film, which documents the history of slavery in America and highlights the courageous stories of the slaves' experiences throughout the nation's development.

By returning to his roots with the intention of adding to the scholarship of South Carolina history, Poole has demonstrated not only that he is part of a culture that loves to remember its past, but also that he is an important contributor to its intellectual future. ■

Fam, continued

speaking people, Fam explained, is much more intense and “much wider in perspective” than previous trends. National security issues and a “tremendous increase” in the availability of jobs for Arabic speakers in both public and private sectors have made it one of the most popular offerings in foreign language studies.

Supplementing the intensive curriculum, the Arabic Studies Program also sponsors a club for students who are interested in Arabic languages and cultures. The club’s extracurricu-

lar activities include gatherings for Arabic conversations, Middle Eastern cooking classes, and belly dancing lessons.

Arabic classes appeal to a wider range of scholars than the traditional CofC students. Professor Fam has had a num-



ber of the College’s faculty enrolled in his program, including Dr. George Pothering, who began taking courses in the program in the fall of 2002. According to Pothering, what distinguishes Fam’s program from others is “the non-intimidating, enjoyable atmosphere Professor Fam brings to the

class.” Pothering adds, “You also get some interesting insights into Arabic culture.”

The Arabic Studies Program provides a vigorous strategy for gaining insights into crucial contemporary global issues as well as insights into the people around the world affected by these issues. Through offering students the linguistic and cultural tools necessary to help advance the ties between Western and Middle Eastern cultures, Fam and his colleagues have helped bridge these seemingly disparate worlds. ■

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In Memoriam...

This issue is dedicated to celebrating the beloved faculty of the School of Humanities & Social Sciences:

Anna Katona & Beatrice Stiglitz

A Letter from the Dean: *Samuel M. Hines, Jr.*

Dear Colleagues,

As we return from a much-deserved Spring Break, the campus takes life again, moving us inexorably toward yet another graduation. This summer our students will venture abroad to participate in overseas programs, many of which are staffed by Humanities and Social Science faculty. Dr. James Newhart will return to an exciting archaeological dig in Turkey. We have a newly approved major in Latin American and Caribbean Studies available to students. There are plans for a new interdisciplinary minor in archaeology.

This past winter two of our distinguished emeritae faculty passed away. Dr. Anna Katona of the English department who came to us from Hungary and Dr. Beatrice Stiglitz, Russian-born and Rumanian-raised: both added much to the international flavor of our campus. As I listened to their students pay respect to them at their memorial services, I was reminded what an impact faculty have. We will miss their contri-

butions. Their legacy will be the continued success of their students.

The College is in the process of defining areas of distinctiveness— areas we can build on as we pursue our goal of being a nationally pre-eminent liberal arts and sciences university. One of those areas is the study of classical and foreign languages. The College has long supported the goal of preparing students for a world in which knowledge of other languages and cultures is a particular strength. We are currently discussing the possibility of forming a new school with languages as the centerpiece. These discussions will continue over the remainder of the semester as we seek to design an academic unit that will build on existing strengths and create new opportunities for our students.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences is proud of the outstanding scholarly accomplishments of its faculty. Several of them are featured in this newsletter. I encourage you to

drop by our offices and see the display of scholarly books written by the HSS faculty. Dr. Chris Lamb, Professor of Communication, deserves special credit for having published two books this year.

A few weeks ago the School hosted its first Distinguished Visiting Teacher-Scholar-- Dr. Roger Masters, *Nelson Rockefeller Professor Emeritus* of Dartmouth College and winner of Dartmouth's Distinguished Teaching Award. Dr. Masters, an acclaimed translator of the works of Jean Jacques Rousseau and a distinguished political theorist, gave two public lectures, addressed a graduate seminar in Environmental Studies, and taught a philosophy class on Rousseau's view of human nature. His recent research in collaboration with a chemical engineer on the interaction of silicofluorides, degraded environments, and criminal behavior is attracting national attention as he and others call for a moratorium on the use of silicofluorides in water treatment systems. In the future we hope to have other teacher-scholars spend a week with us. I invite faculty to nominate individuals whom

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they believe could exemplify the teacher-scholar model.

As we complete the end of another successful year, I want to affirm the very important role our faculty serve as teacher-scholars. I am proud of my colleagues in the Humanities and Social Sciences and the value we add to this fine institution.

Warmest regards,

Samuel M. Hines, Jr.
Dean