

IN THIS ISSUE

Notes from Nancy 2

Center for Civic Engagement 3
Alumni Corner: Anita PattersonGet to Know: Deborah Love 4
Get to Know: Dr. Anu Ghosh

Contacts and Campus Info 6

OGLETHORPE NIGHT CAP

An newsletter written and produced by Evening Degree Program students

MAKE A LIFE. MAKE A LIVING. MAKE A DIFFERENCE.



EDP Advisors Attend Academic Advising Conference

By Walena Bryant

The Oglethorpe Night Cap is keeping you informed about issues that affect you. Recently our student advisors Angela Dewberry and Wayne Leon attended the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) conference in Baltimore, Maryland. We asked Angela Dewberry to tell us about it.

Night Cap: Tell us a little about yourself and the position you hold here at Oglethorpe.

Angela Dewberry: December 1, 2007, marks my one-year anniversary as assistant director of advising and curriculum development in Oglethorpe University's Evening Degree Program. I have been at Oglethorpe for about 2 1/2 years and enjoy working with the adult student population. Wayne Leon has been at Oglethorpe for a little over two years in the capacity of assistant director for advising and recruitment for the Evening Degree Program.

NC: What is the National Academic Advising Association?

AD: The National Academic Advising Association currently has more than 10,000 members, and more than 3,000 participated in the October 2007 Annual Conference in Baltimore. The mission of NACADA is to advance academic advising and enhance student learning.

(Continued on page 2)

Course Evaluations go Paperless

No more No. 2 pencils. No more archaic Scantron-esque coloring inside the lines. Course evaluations: welcome to the 21st century.

This fall Oglethorpe piloted a new electronic course evaluation survey sent to students via OU email. According to survey administrator and Director of Institutional Research Janet Maddox, "The survey contains the identical questions asked in previous terms on our paper surveys."

Because the surveys are sent to Oglethorpe email addresses and students receive repeated reminders when they haven't completed the evaluation, some students have raised questions about the anonymity of the new system.

"The website provides secure access, and while the site generates a list of students who respond and those who do not, the actual responses are completely anonymous," says Maddox.

Whether questions of anonymity linger or students do not check OU email regularly, the overall completion rate for the Session I evaluations was only 64 percent, with some classes submitting fewer than half, says Nancy Keita, director of the Evening Degree Program. Maddox adds that they hope the response rate will improve this term; she says clicking the submit button at the end of the survey will ensure your survey is counted, and you will stop receiving the "annoying reminders" as soon as your survey is completed.

(Continued on page 3)

WHAT'S NEW AT OU

EDP Advisors Attend Academic Advising Conference

(Continued from page 1)



Photo by Douglas Primm

NC: How was attending the conference beneficial to your position as an Evening Degree Program advisor?

AD: This was my first year at the NACADA conference, and I found it beneficial on a variety of levels. It was nice to talk to fellow advisors who deal with the same joys and pains of advising students. I attended two keynote speeches that made me think about issues in higher education as a whole. I also went to many individual sessions to learn specific techniques and garner ideas I could bring back to Oglethorpe.

NC: Will the information you obtained at the conference be beneficial to EDP students?

AD: The information I learned at the individual sessions can be directly applied to my job. The very first session I attended was presented by Noel-Levitz Educational Consultants and provided data on what students want in an academic advisor. I was encouraged by the verification that students really do want the help Wayne and I try to provide on a daily basis. I also attended sessions on advising adult learners, designing an orientation course, aiding undecided students in choosing a major or career, advising students in academic difficulty and learning how to break bad news to students.

NC: How will you and Mr. Leon apply this information to the program?

AD: After the conference, Wayne and I met with Evening Degree Program Director Nancy Keita and later Provost Bill Shropshire to tell them about the experiences we had and the areas we would like to try to work on. Last year, Nancy Keita implemented the first-ever orientation for new evening degree students. With ideas from the conference, we are working to tweak and improve our new student orientation meeting.



Photo by Douglas Primm

Notes from Nancy: Galla's Pizza



It's the holiday season, which means I spend lots of time thinking about food, cooking food and eating food—preferably homemade, fresh and tasty food. Lunch around the evening degree table is pretty sparse. Wayne usually gets a bagel at the coffee shop or drives over to McD's, and Angie and I brown-bag it at our desks. Sometimes, though, we feel the need to break free and experiment.

Galla's, a new pizza parlor just down the street, has come to our rescue. They serve a special "slate crust" pizza (a Buffalo, N.Y., import), along with wings, salads and subs. And you all should know by now how much we love wings! We've tried the wings and the pizza, both times to-go, but Galla's dining room is quite inviting. The dining area is attractively decorated, with big comfortable booths. There are some well-placed televisions, and the entire room is wireless. Pizza can be ordered by the slice at lunchtime, between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., for just \$2! The restaurant is open 11:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m., and parking is plentiful.

Galla's is located at 4849 Peachtree Rd., between campus and Lowe's, on the right as you drive north up Peachtree. Check them out on the web, www.gallaspizza.com, but more importantly, check them out in person before or after class. Galla's would be a great place to do some last-minute studying or some socializing with fellow students. As they say on their menu, "Seven days without pizza makes one weak."

Editor's Note: NACADA's vision statement is to be "the leader within the global education community for the theory, delivery, application and advancement of academic advising to enhance student learning and development." While at the session on adult learners,

Angie learned of two websites EDP students may find useful: adultstudent.com, the companion site to The Adult Student's Guide to Survival and Success; and antshe.org, the site of the Association of Nontraditional Students in Higher Education.

YOUR EVENING DEGREE PROGRAM

Make a Difference in YOUR Community

Oglethorpe's Center for Civic Engagement integrates "the Oglethorpe educational experience with the city of Atlanta, enhancing student life through service learning, volunteer projects, student internships and leadership development." Participation is open to evening degree students and projects often take place at times convenient to evening students, including Saturdays.

Recent projects and activities include:

- Assembling health care kits and helping children get new school uniforms through the Assistance League of Atlanta
- Sorting discarded medical supplies to be redistributed through MedShare International
- Facilitating games and activities at Drew Charter School's Parent's Day Off
- Sponsoring an Alzheimer's Awareness presentation
- Spending time with children at Atlanta Children's Shelter
- Collecting old cell phones to benefit the Shepherd Center Auxiliary
- Sponsoring a free tour of Fernbank Museum and providing lunch in Little 5 Points

See the [Center for Civic Engagement page](#) on Oglethorpe's website for more information on the Center's initiatives, or contact CCE Director [Tamara Nash](#) or Assistant Director [Heather Staniszewski '02](#) to find out how you can participate.

Course Evaluations go Paperless

(Continued from page 1)

"Your opinions of your class experience are important to your instructor and to the university as we work to provide you the best educational experience possible," says Maddox.

Since professors use course evaluations to prepare for future courses, those of us who take classes with professors because we've had good experiences with them (sometimes multiple times, sometimes an embarrassing number of times) want them to know what they're doing well so they can keep doing it.

ALUMNI CORNER: My OU Degree Made a Difference



Anita Patterson

Editor's Note: This issue's Alumni Corner interview with Anita Patterson '97 highlights a particularly inspiring Evening Degree Program success story, and this grad is still giving back to our evening degree community.

Anita Stevenson Patterson is director of treasury operations and Patriot Act compliance officer for Manheim, a division of Cox Enterprises; a member of Oglethorpe's Board of Trustees; and in 2006, she became the first evening degree graduate to serve as president

of the Oglethorpe Alumni Board. Here she tells us how her Oglethorpe education prepared her for her successes and why it's important for evening degree graduates to have a voice in the alumni community.

Night Cap: What was your major and minor?

Anita Patterson: My degree is in business and behavioral science.

NC: What was your best memory at Oglethorpe?

AP: I was taking a class with Dr. Straley, there were only about nine of us in the class, and only two of us were evening students. Well, the other evening student dropped out immediately. I didn't and started plugging away. I have always prided myself on my good grades, but I wasn't seeing it here, and it wasn't for lack of trying! I was very frustrated with myself and decided my best bet would be to drop the class before drop/add day. I marched on down to the dean's office, walked in the door and he said no. My comment was, "what do you mean 'no'? I haven't even asked you a question yet!" He just chuckled and told me Dr. Straley beat me to it and said not to let me drop the class! So I didn't and I ended up fairing pretty well; it was one of the best classes I ever had! And it speaks volumes for why I love Oglethorpe: the professors and the deans care about the students and what we do!

NC: Why did you choose to attend Oglethorpe's Evening Degree Program?

AP: I had started college "way back when" in Florida. When I moved to Georgia, I put my

(Continued on page 5)

GET TO KNOW

YOUr Evening Degree Program Community

GET TO KNOW: Deborah Love Art from the Heart

By Che' Middlebrooks

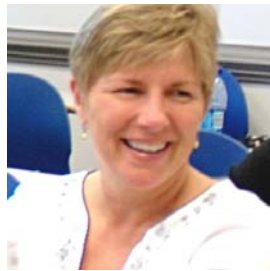
Over the Thanksgiving holidays I had a lovely conversation with Deborah Love, a senior communications major in OU's Evening Degree Program, about her life as an artist.

By day Deborah is a technical writer, but art is what brings meaning to her life. "Art is a saving grace for me," she says. Deborah says art fulfills many aspects of her life, and she believes having an outlet such as art makes people more productive in the workplace.

I was unable to visit Deborah at her home, which is where she does much of her work, so Deborah painted a picture for me with words to describe her true passion for art; she told me to imagine every possible kind of paint, clay, canvas, paintbrush and art supply know to man, then picture it all over someone's house. "I could create for years probably without ever having to buy supplies," she said.

Deborah has been creating art for five years. When she gets the notion to play in the clay, the technique she uses is called hand building, which is an alternative to the pottery wheel. "Hand building is like playing with Legos®; you start out with flat clay and play with it until you get something," Deborah says, adding that working with clay is "addictive."

Deborah enjoys pottery and painting. As I listened to her talk, the tone in her voice shifted when she expressed that although pottery is fun and cool, her heart belongs to painting. When she is painting, Deborah likes a private, serene and quiet environment when to create her unique,



Courtesy of kudzuartzone.org/



Courtesy of kudzuartzone.org/

(Continued on page 5)

GET TO KNOW: Anu Ghosh

By Rashawn Jones

As the day turns to night and the clamoring of the Oglethorpe University bell chimes, Anu Ghosh prepares for her Evening Degree Program class, Principles of Journalism. Though Ghosh is relatively new to the Evening Degree Program and her short stature and youthful appearance cause most students to mistake her for a student, quite the contrary is true. Professor Ghosh is at Oglethorpe to fulfill a lifelong desire to teach, enrich lives and manifest a love for writing in her students.



Ghosh was born in London; she received her bachelor's degree in history of political science and psychology and her master's degree in journalism in India.

Her vast journalism experience includes reporting in both Eastern and Western perspectives, but after working journalism's long and exhausting hours she decided to pursue her lifelong passion to educate. "I recall sitting in a newspaper office at 3:00 a.m. working on a beat report, telling myself this isn't going to work for me anymore. I really want to teach," said Gosh.

"I recall sitting in a newspaper office at 3:00 a.m. working on a beat report, telling myself this isn't going to work for me anymore—I REALLY WANT TO TEACH."

She moved to the States in 1999 where she received a second graduate degree from The Ohio State University. Ghosh humbly credits her father for the encouragement to aspire and achieve her goals. "He taught me to dream."

Ghosh attributes her success in teaching to her past instructors at Ohio State, specifically to Dr. Mark Tucker, who taught her to always put her students first and to communicate effectively. She made an oath to herself never to treat her students as if she didn't care about them. Ghosh's teaching principles and desire to provide quality education to students brought her to Atlanta in 2005, where she stumbled upon Oglethorpe while doing a search for liberal arts schools. She now describes the university as "my home away from home."

(Continued on page 5)

YOUR EVENING DEGREE PROGRAM

Alumni Corner: Anita Patterson

(Continued from page 3)

education aside for a couple of years. I then started taking classes at Agnes Scott College, but while they loved nontraditional students, they did not have an evening program. I took all the classes I could in the times that suited my schedule. So, next I moved on to what was then DeKalb Community College, but I was not happy there—no challenge. Then a friend introduced me to Oglethorpe. I visited campus and that was it; I found a home!

NC: What elements of the Evening Degree Program did you like the most?

AP: I enjoyed the flexibility and the quality of the classes offered and professors who taught.

NC: What advice can you share with current Oglethorpe evening degree students?

AP: Don't stop—finish your degree. I know how tough it is to work, raise a family and attend school; I did it myself. But it's worth it. I can't describe the sense of accomplishment and personal pride that I felt on the day I received my diploma. And plan to participate in the graduation ceremonies; I would not trade the experience for the world! You ARE a part of the Oglethorpe community—take advantage of the library, the museum, the student center, the activities—do all you can to make yourself truly a part of OU and not just a bystander!

NC: You are the Oglethorpe alumni board president; what do you think your service in this role says about the success of the Evening Degree Program?

AP: I hope that it says that there is recognition, not only from faculty and staff but from alumni that the evening program is just as important as the traditional day program. There are a variety of reasons why folks enroll in an evening program and most often it is simply that they did not have an opportunity to be a traditional student. Personally, I would have loved to have had the "college experience," but it was not to be, the finances were just not there. So, I did the next best thing—went in the evening when my work day was done. I know for many years evening students were looked at as not really college students—I can assure you we were and are—we're just there at night! We still had to take tests, write papers and listen to lectures! I know there is room at Oglethorpe for both the traditional and the nontraditional student.

NC: Do you have the same expectations for your future now as when you entered Oglethorpe? When you graduated? Where do you see yourself five years from now?

AP: I expected both when I entered Oglethorpe and when I graduated that my degree was just for me—a goal I had set for myself. I was at a place in my career that there was not much upward movement—no matter how much education I had! And at the age I was I did not expect to be changing careers. Well, I found that in 2006, I was going to be doing just that! And I know for a fact that my Oglethorpe degree made a difference in my job search and ultimate selection for the position I now have. And where do I see myself in five years—selling t-shirts on the beach! No, I'm just kidding; I plan to continue working to further my career all I can. There are opportunities out there for me; I just have to take advantage of them!

"Do all you can to make yourself truly a part of OU and not just a BYSTANDER."

Get to Know: Anu Ghosh

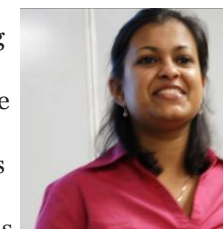
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She smiles as she speaks of the community at Oglethorpe—where she teaches Survey of Broadcast Media, Investigative Writing and Principles of Journalism—as well as the faculty, staff and students. She extols the student body in the Evening Degree Program and feels they are not only dedicated but that they also bring value and insight to the program. "I love being at Oglethorpe; mostly I love my students... I haven't found the quality of students anywhere else like I have found at Oglethorpe."



Anu Ghosh's passion for teaching and dedication to OU's evening degree students places her among Oglethorpe's acclaimed professors. She sums up her commitment to higher education by imparting what students should take away from her classes:

"Apart from the basics I would love for them to take with them a love for writing and a positive attitude for education and for some to go on to graduate school and become teachers."



Get to Know: Deborah Love

(Continued from page 4)

one-of-a-kind pieces, whereas she tends to be more social when she creates with clay.

As our conversation came to an end, Deborah's final thoughts and comments were beautiful and sincere. She expressed how blessed she is to have the life she does, and for art to be a part of her life is a joy; it is what really makes her happy and able to deal with life's stresses. "When you create something from the heart, something true, daily life doesn't get you down."



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(keyword: evening)

4484 Peachtree Road
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Evening Degree Program Information

OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Thursday: 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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Have a tip for the *Night Cap*?
Interested in contributing or giving us a piece of your mind?
Please contact [Julie Benz Pottie](#) to share your views with the evening degree community.

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Must-Have Campus Information

Campus Safety: Gatehouse 404.504.1998
Campus Safety is available at on-campus extension 1998.

Business Office: Lupton Hall 404.364.8302
Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Career Services: Emerson Student Center 404.364.8533
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
Other times are available by appointment.

Counseling Services: Emerson Student Center 404.364.8456
The Center for Counseling Services offers individual, group and couples therapy as well as outreach and consultation.
Please call to make an appointment.

Financial Aid: Lupton Hall 404.364.8354
Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Office of the Registrar: Lupton Hall 404.364.8315
Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.;
Wednesday and Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

IT Services: Goodman Hall 404.364.8518
help@oglethorpe.edu
The campus computer lab in Goodman Hall is available to students 24/7. The IT Help Desk is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Oglethorpe Bookstore: Hearst Hall 404.364.8361
Monday through Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Friday 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The Philip Weltner Library 404.364.8511
Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.,
Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Saturday from noon to 5:00 p.m. and Sundays from 2:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Weather Advisory Line 404.504.1800
In case of severe weather or other emergencies, Oglethorpe University will use the Weather Advisory Line to communicate appropriate information to our students, including school closings.

HOW RESILIENT ARE YOU?

Take the [resiliency quiz](#) from The Resiliency Center at AdultStudent.com.