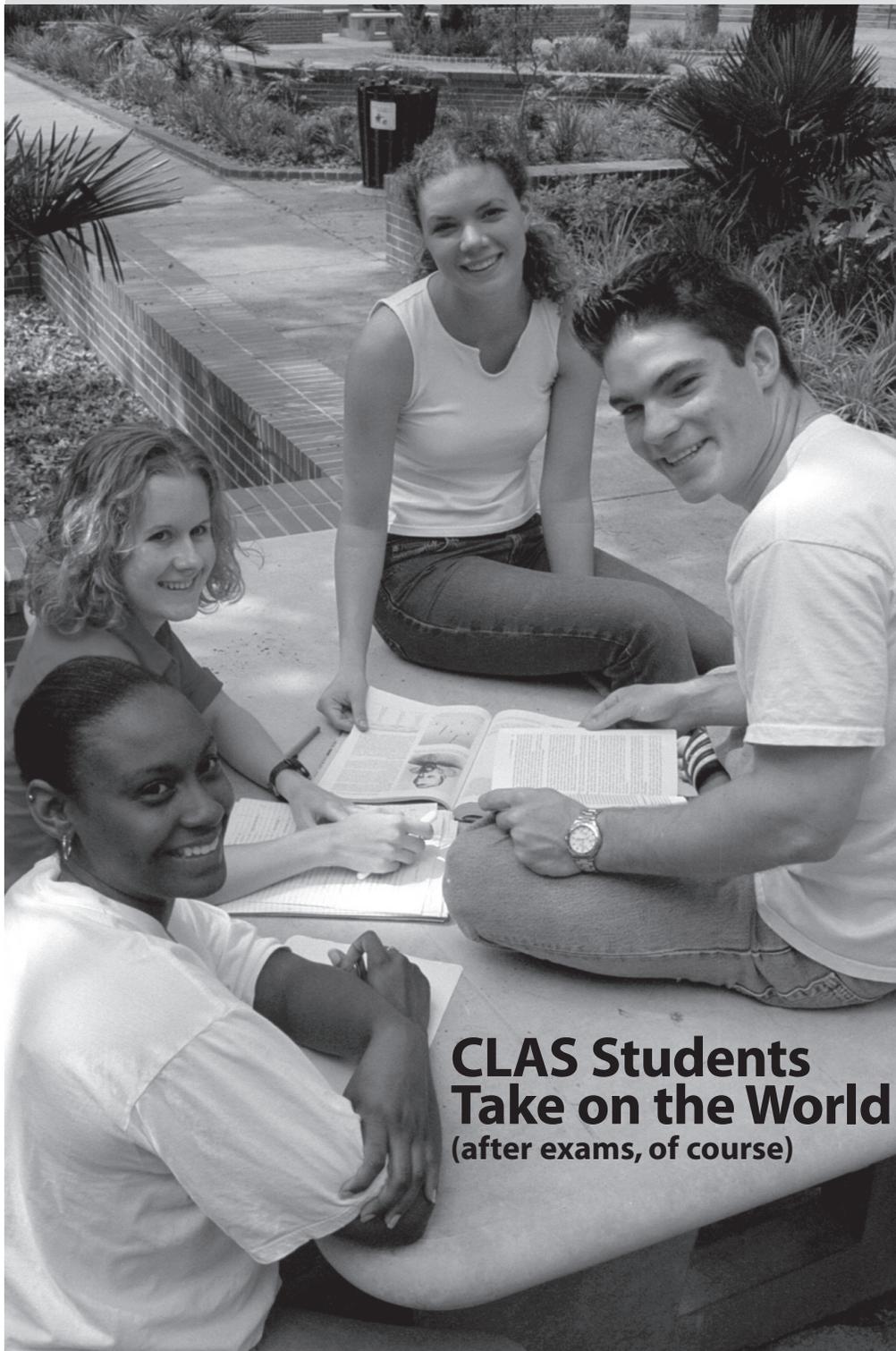


CLASnotes

Vol. 15

The University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

No. 5



**CLAS Students
Take on the World**
(after exams, of course)

In this Issue:

Around the College	2
The Dean's Musings.....	3
Award-Winning CLAS Students	4
History Graduate Wins Prestigious Fellowship	5
The Toughest Job You'll Ever Love	6
Academic Advising In CLAS and UF.....	8
Grants	10
University Scholars Program	11
CLAS Senior Named College Student of the Year.....	12

Around the College

DEPARTMENT NEWS

English

Mark A. Reid presented "Black Film Style at the Millennium" at CrossRoutes: Meanings of "Race" for the 21st Century, a conference in Cagliari, Sardinia, Italy on March 21-25. **James Gentry** and **Shane Verge**, two UF English department graduate students, presented papers at the conference as well. Reid also gave two invited lectures in April: "The Representation of French Caribbeans in Contemporary French Cinema" for the Espaces Series Program at the University of Maryland-Baltimore, and "Black Film at the Millennium" for the annual Lewis Lecture at Texas A & M University.

Geology

Yohan Guyodo, a PhD candidate in geology, won an Outstanding Student Paper award for "Environmental and Geomagnetic Changes Recorded in Sediment Drift Deposits off Antarctica (ODP

Site 1101)," which he presented at the American Geophysical Union Annual Meeting, held in December 2000 in San Francisco, CA.

Mathematics

Gerard Emch visited the department of information science at the Science University of Tokyo on March 17-31. There, he addressed the annual meeting of the Frontier Research Center for Computing Sciences. He also addressed the session on Quantum Information Towards the 21st Century at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto.

Psychology

Jennifer Woolard was a panelist at an April 24th US congressional briefing on violence and children's emotional and social growth. Woolard spoke about her research on developmental issues for children in the juvenile justice system. The briefing, titled "Understanding Violence from a Developmental

Perspective," was sponsored by Congressman Bobby Scott from Virginia.

The psychology department recently sponsored the Florida Cognitive Conference, an event to which faculty and students from the SUS campuses were invited to participate in a weekend of formal and informal research reports, dialogues, and socializing. This year's conference was held March 31-April 1 at UF. **Peter Delaney** served as program chair, **Michael Levy** was the conference director, **Ira Fischler** was the conference liaison for UF, and **Lise Abrams** served as social chair of the conference, which was the 14th meeting of the conference and the third at UF.

Romance Languages and Literatures

Bernadette Cailler organized and chaired a panel for the 2001

Meeting of the African Literature Association in Richmond, Virginia on April 4-8. The session was titled "The Interlingual, Intersemiotic, Interdiscursive Circle" and dealt with Maghrebi literature and cinema. Later this month, she will travel to Portland, Maine to participate in the 2001 Meeting of the International Council for Francophone Studies. The panel she has organized is a sequel to her 2000 panel on "Tunisia in non-Tunisian Literatures." Her own paper will deal with Caribbean poetry.

Geraldine Nichols recently participated in a colloquium at Harvard University on the subject of Spanish literary history. Her paper, "Espacios en blanco: España, la historia literaria y el tercer milenio," was one of eighteen read by specialists from Spain, England, Latin America and the United States.



USPS honorees pictured above with Interim Dean Neil Sullivan and Provost David Colburn.

USPS Recognized

A select group of University Support Personnel System (USPS) employees in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were honored on April 3rd for their commitment and years of service to the university at a reception in the Keene Faculty Center. Recognition was accorded to those employees who have given five, ten, fifteen, twenty, twenty-five, or thirty years of service to the university. Colburn, Sullivan, and University Personnel Services Director Larry Ellis each offered words of gratitude and encouragement. Recognized employees received a CLAS mug and pin, and a certificate signed by the dean. A reception followed the ceremony.

On the Cover

CLAS dean's office student assistants, clockwise from bottom left: Monica Stephens, Sonya Stephens, Shelley Deaux, and Bo Stanton.

The Dean's Musings

The LAS Graduate of the New Century

Today's liberal arts and sciences (LAS) graduate enjoys the broad spectrum of opportunities (and corresponding demands) of our global economy: an economy that was never envisaged twenty years ago, at least by most academics, and the impact of which is still not well understood today. With the dynamic and almost instantaneous connections at all levels of technological complexity between different nations, our current students, who are tomorrow's leaders, must be prepared to enter the work force with a world perspective. They cannot succeed or even compete without a real understanding of the cultures, traditions and needs of societies around the world.

LAS graduates are keenly sought after by international business leaders, government agencies, and foreign developers for top jobs in all fields in international settings. This interest in LAS graduates is not just because of their language skills or knowledge of different cultures. Their broad training, skills in problem solving, and ability to clearly articulate issues make them ideal for management and leadership positions.

What is particularly noticeable today is that LAS students at UF understand the potential of these opportunities and, consequently, demand more from their professors and their university. They are asking for new experiences in international affairs, information on ethics and the conduct of business and science, and an understanding of socio-economic factors on a global scale. The future of our students and our ability to emerge as a true international university will depend on how well we respond to these student and cultural needs.

Neil Sullivan

[<sullivan@phys.ufl.edu>](mailto:sullivan@phys.ufl.edu)



Land Use and Environmental Change Institute (LUECI) Director **Mark Brenner** (center right), accompanied by geology faculty **David Hodell** (center left) and **Jason Curtis** (right), receives a \$25,000 check from **Gary Myers** (left). Myers, who sits on the college's development council, graduated from CLAS in 1974 with a BS in geology. His donation will fund development of a Kullenberg sediment coring system and coring platform for the Florida Institute of Paleoenvironmental Research (FLIPER) at UF. Lake sediment cores are important archives of paleoenvironmental information and are used to study, among other topics, past climate and vegetation, impacts of human land use, and shifts in lake water quality. The new rig will enable retrieval of sediment cores from deep lakes and will provide important new field capabilities at UF.

Women's Studies Center Joins National Research Group

The Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research at UF has been invited to join the prestigious National Council for Research on Women (NCRW). Founded in 1981, NCRW is a working alliance of 92 university-based research centers, national policy organizations, and educational coalitions. In addition, the council has 3,000 affiliates and links with over 200 international research centers. Members include institutes at Harvard, Stanford, and the University of Michigan, as well as policy and advocacy groups such as the Institute for Women's Policy Research and the National Council of Negro Women. UF's center is the only member in the state of Florida.

Shewhart Medal

Statistics professor **John Cornell** has received the 2001 Shewhart Medal, an award given annually by the American Society for Quality (ASQ), for technical leadership in the field of modern quality control. Cornell received the medal during the Annual Quality Congress on May 7 in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Shewhart Medal is named after Walter A. Shewhart, the inventor of the control chart for monitoring the output of a production process. Statistics Chair George Casella says, "This award is one of the highest honors in our profession." Cornell has served the ASQ for more than 20 years as an editor of the *Journal of Quality Technology* and chairman of the Gordon Research Conference on Statistics in Chemistry and Chemical Engineering.



Read *CLASnotes* online at
[<web.clas.ufl.edu/CLASnotes/>](http://web.clas.ufl.edu/CLASnotes/)

Award-Winning CLAS Students

2001 Dissertation Fellowship Winners

Every year, CLAS invites students pursuing PhDs to apply for dissertation fellowships for the spring and summer terms. Awardees receive tuition waivers and \$3,150 stipends for one term. The fellowship winners for this year are:

Coffyn-Holmes Dissertation Fellow

Amy Zanne, Zoology

Gerson Dissertation Fellows

Yohan Guyodo, Geological Sciences

Quentin Hudspeth, Physics

Keith Lindley, Romance Languages
and Literatures

Mark D. Cohan, Sociology

Cristina Dockx, Zoology

Gibson Dissertation Fellows

John J. Langdale, History

Toru Matsuzaki, Linguistics

Thomas J. Nisley, Political Science

Brian G. Howland, Psychology

Brian Caffo, Statistics

Massey Dissertation Fellows

Marisa Lopez, Anthropology

William B. Gerard, English

McGinty Dissertation Fellows

Agazi Negash, Anthropology

Elizabeth Holmes, Astronomy

Maria del Carmen Martinez, English

McLaughlin Dissertation Fellows

Vanessa Slinger, Geography

Bernhard Bodmann, Mathematics

Nutter Dissertation Fellows

Terrance M. Weik, Anthropology

Patrick Brennan, English

O'Neil Dissertation Fellow

Jeremy van Blommestein, Sociology

Russell Dissertation Fellows

Brad Biglow, Anthropology

Juan Posada, Botany

Tianyi Zhang, Chemistry

Yaser Said Al Natour, Communication
Sciences and Disorders

Threadgill Dissertation Fellows

Matthew Smith, History

Jodi Bray, Linguistics

Tanush Shaska, Mathematics

Elizabeth Oldmixon, Political Science

Beth A. Pontari, Psychology

Krzysztof Kulawik, Romance Languages
and Literatures

CLAS Awards Study Abroad Scholarships and Recognizes International Students

CLAS recently recognized the importance of international study and exchange. On April 18, in a ceremony organized by UF's International Center (UFIC), CLAS awarded \$23,000 in scholarships to 26 undergraduate students who will be studying abroad this summer or during the upcoming academic year.

On April 25, in the Reitz Union Ballroom, Associate Dean Carol Murphy presented certificates to five international graduate and undergraduate students in CLAS who were nominated by their departments for outstanding academic achievement. The following students were honored and are working towards their degrees.

Yntiso Deko Gebre, Ethiopia (PhD, Anthropology)

Suhel Quader, India (PhD, Zoology)

Themis Castellanos, Peru (MA, Latin American Studies)

Paloma Rodriguez, Spain (MA, Classics)

Helene Marie Flohic, France (BS, Astronomy)

Visit <www.ufic.ufl.edu> for more information on the UF International Center and Study Abroad Programs.



Calvin A. VanderWerf Award Recipients
Patricia Campbell (left) and Lara Foley (right)

McQuown Scholarship Winners

The O. Ruth McQuown Scholarships honors CLAS female scholars in the humanities, social sciences, women's studies and interdisciplinary majors in these areas. Graduate and undergraduate women are selected based on their academic achievement and promise.

Undergraduate Recipients of \$1,000-\$2,000

Christina Cady, English

Victoria Gomez de la Torre, Women's Studies

Sophia Goode, Japanese and Journalism

Julie Maxwell, Psychology

Current Graduate Recipients of \$1,000-\$10,000

Natalie Brugman, Communication
Sciences and Disorders

Kristen Conway, Geography

Emilia Gioreva, Political Science

Leslie Houts, Sociology

Alayne Unterberger, Anthropology

Heather Walsh-Haney, Anthropology

Incoming Graduate Recipient of \$12,000

Meghan Audette, English

CLAS Students Receive NSF Graduate Fellowships

The National Science Foundation recently announced the 2001-2002 winners of its graduate fellowship awards. These competitive NSF fellowships offer three years of funding for advanced study to outstanding graduate students in the mathematical, physical, biological, engineering, and behavioral and social sciences fields, and to research-based PhD degrees in science education.

Three of the five winners from UF are CLAS students. Nermeen Aboeella received her BS in chemistry with highest honors in May 2000 and attends the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities. Joanna Schulman, also a May 2000 graduate, earned her BS in botany with highest honors and is pursuing graduate studies at the University of Texas at Austin. Hamp Sessions will receive his BS in chemistry in May 2001 and will attend Dartmouth College in the fall.

Several other CLAS students received honorable mentions from the National Science Foundation. They are:

- Marshall McCue, BS, Zoology (August 2001), will attend the University of California at Los Angeles
- Jessica Noggle, BS, Zoology (December 1999), studying veterinary medicine at UF
- Eric Spellman, BS, Mathematics (May 2000), studying computer engineering at UF
- Angela Stuesse, BA, Anthropology (May 1998), attending University of Texas at Austin

2000-2001 Graduate Teaching Awards

The following CLAS graduate students recently received university-wide recognition for outstanding teaching:

- Rupal Amin**, Physics
John Chadwick, Geological Sciences
Liliana Dorado, Romance Languages and Literatures
Gonzalo Estavillo, Botany
Kathy Kanuck, Philosophy
Erika Koch, Psychology
Jason Kozinski, Mathematics
Keith Lindley, Romance Languages and Literatures
Jason Parker, History
Arianna Reggio, Mathematics

Calvin A. VanderWerf Award

Recipients: (pictured above left)

- Patricia Campbell**, English
Lara Foley, Sociology and Women's Studies

History Graduate Wins Prestigious Fellowship

Former CLAS student Susan Jean has received a 2001 Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies. Jean, a May 2000 history graduate, was one of 85 national winners of the competitive merit awards for first-year doctoral students. She has decided to attend Columbia University in the fall to pursue her master's degree and PhD in history. "It was a tough decision, but one of the main reasons I chose Columbia is because living and going to school in New York City will be an entirely new experience for me," says Jean.

Mellon Fellowships are designed for exceptionally promising students as they prepare for careers of teaching and scholarship in humanistic disciplines. The fellowships provide graduate tuition and required fees for the first academic year and include a stipend of \$15,000. More than 1,700 fellows have been named since the competition began in 1982.

Jean started off at UF as an advertising major and was required to take an American history class. Her professor was Fitz Brundage, and his course sparked Jean's interest in history. "During his class, I learned just how interesting and useful history can be. His class is the reason I decided to become a historian."

Brundage also served as Jean's faculty mentor in the University Scholars Program (USP). She earned the Best Qualitative Research Paper award at the 1999-2000 USP Symposium with "When the Very Best Citizens Were Murderers: The Discourse of Lynchings in Florida." Her work evaluated the portrayal of lynchings by white south-

erners through newspapers, and the impact the coverage has on the understanding of lynchings today. In addition, this topic served as her history honors thesis, and Jean was awarded the prize for the best graduating history major. She also graduated with highest honors and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, an honorary scholastic society.

Brundage says Jean's record in history at UF is one of the most distinguished in recent memory. "She has been one of the most rewarding students—graduate or undergraduate—that I have worked with. It has been an uncommon privilege to watch her career unfold."

Jean applied for the Mellon Fellowship in December 2000 by submitting letters of recommendation, a personal statement, transcripts, and a writing sample. She was flown to Washington, DC in March for an interview with a panel of judges. Finally, during the first week in April, Jean saw her name listed on the Mellon Fellowship web site as one of the winners. "I was at work when I looked at the list and saw that I had won. Since I work

in the electrical engineering department, no one down there really understood what the fellowship is, so I called my parents and Professor Brundage."

Jean is proud of the Mellon Fellowship she has won, and she points out that many UF students could apply and win these prestigious fellowships. "I was the only winner from the state of Florida, while Harvard alone had 13 winners. The application process is not that difficult or lengthy. The only advantage that some private schools have over us is that their students are told from day one about these programs and how to apply."

Jean hopes to finish her PhD within six years and would like to teach history at the university level. "I would love to come back and teach in an environment like the University of Florida. It's a great place, and I'll miss it."

For more information about the Mellon Fellowships and the application process, visit <www.woodrow.org/mellon>.

—Allyson A. Beutke



“The Toughest Job You’ll Ever Love”

The Peace Corps was founded by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 to promote world peace and friendship. He issued his call to service with the well-known maxim, “Ask not what your country can do for you; ask what you can do for your country.” Since then, 162,000 Americans have served as volunteers in 134 countries, including six current US Congressmen and such well-known individuals as Donna Shalala (Iran, 1962-64) and Bob Vila (Panama, 1969-70).



Krysta Jones giving a presentation in Spanish about prostitution in Paraguay during her Peace Corps training.

The Peace Corps’ stated mission is threefold: to help countries meet their needs for trained men and women, to promote a better understanding of Americans in those communities where volunteers serve, and to boost Americans’ understanding of other people and their cultures. Volunteers are required to make a two-year commitment to live and work in a host country. In addition, they go through ten weeks of intensive language and cross-cultural training in their host country before they are sent to their individual sites. In line with the Peace Corps philosophy of encouraging volunteers to adapt to the cultures and customs of peoples with whom they work, volunteers are afforded few special privileges, and they often live in remote communities with only the most basic resources at their disposal. Their assignments range from teaching in local schools to helping start new small businesses to implementing AIDS-prevention initiatives.

To date, more than 825 UF graduates have served in 104 countries, making UF the leading source of Peace Corps volunteers in the Southeast. Thirty four graduates are currently serving, which ranks UF as the 24th highest volunteer-producing school in the nation. This year, out of those who applied from UF, a total of 59 students were nominated as volunteers. (Once they pass a medical exam, they will officially be accepted and will then be offered a host country assignment.) Michael Thomas, who is the UF campus Peace Corps recruiter, remarks that more students from CLAS join the Peace Corps than from any other college at UF. “It is one of the college’s best kept secrets!” he says. And, he predicts, because of the push from the Peace Corps administration to attract more volunteers as well as the growing interest among students in international careers, the numbers will continue to grow.

Thomas, like all Peace Corps recruiters, is a returned volunteer. From 1989-93 he worked as a tropical fruit crop extensionist in Tonga, a small archipelago that is the only remaining monarchy in the South Pacific. He is currently a doctoral student in botany in the College of Agriculture and works part-time as the campus recruiter. His office, which is located at 411 Peabody Hall, has an abundance of literature about the Peace Corps, and he encourages students to meet with him to discuss their interests and learn more about what a commitment to the Peace Corps entails. Thomas uses a variety of methods, such as attending career fairs and speaking to classes and student groups, to raise awareness and interest in the Peace Corps among students on campus. He also frequently refers interested candidates to the UF Peace Corps website <www.ufic.ufl.edu/peacecorps>, which he

says is an important tool to reach students.

CLAS graduate Krysta Jones, who is currently serving in Paraguay, is one of the volunteers Thomas has chosen to feature on the website. Jones, who graduated with a BS in political science in 1999, has been in Paraguay for almost a year and is working on municipal services development in the small town of Villeta, about an hour and a half away from the capital, Asunción. At the municipality office where she works, Jones is involved in a variety of community affairs projects. She also assists a women's group that is trying to beautify the neighborhood, and, like most volunteers no matter what their assignment, she teaches English classes in her free time.

Jones was drawn to the Peace Corps because she wanted a job where she felt that she was contributing to create a better future. Although her own future plans include going to graduate school in public policy or law, she wants to continue to focus on grassroots organizing and international development. Reflecting on her Peace Corps experience, Jones says she would not change a thing. "It is a wonderful chance to get to know another culture, the good and the bad. Even if you have already traveled a lot, serving in the Peace Corps allows you to see another side of a country. It truly opens your eyes to the world."

English senior Jason Maddix is about where Jones was a year ago, trying to prepare for his imminent departure on a two-year long journey. Maddix is headed to Romania with the Peace Corps, where he will be an English teacher. He specifically asked to be placed in Romania (volunteers can request country assignments but there is no guarantee that the requests will be honored) because he spent two weeks there last summer volunteering with Children on the Edge, an British organization that works internationally with orphans. "It

was an exhilarating experience," Maddix says. "And Romania is a very interesting place to be right now." Joining the Peace Corps has always been in the back of his mind, and his experience in Romania confirmed that he wanted to pursue the idea. He thinks that he may want to continue to teach or to work in a non-profit when he completes his service. "The Peace Corps will help me figure out where I want to go from here. I think it will be an informative and telling experience."

This spring, in order to prepare for his upcoming assignment, Maddix took a course, Introduction to Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL), taught by English Professor Kevin McCarthy. McCarthy is one of a number of CLAS faculty who have served in the Peace

"The Peace Corps will help me figure out where I want to go from here. I think it will be an informative and telling experience."

—Jason Maddix

Corps. He taught English in Turkey from 1963-65. "I joined the Peace Corps because I believed, and still do, that every American should give several years to this country, whether in the military or peacetime service like the Peace Corps," he explains.

McCarthy encourages his students to consider the Peace Corps and keeps literature around his office to give to students who are interested in learning more about the program. "The Peace Corps was the best job I have ever had," he says. "It dramatically changed my life for the better. It gave me a career choice (teaching),

"The Peace Corps dramatically changed my life for the better. It gave me a career choice (teaching), a feeling that I did some good while in Turkey, a love of traveling, and a knowledge of Turkish, which I used when I wrote my PhD dissertation."

—Kevin McCarthy



Jason Maddix has accepted an assignment to teach English in Romania.

a feeling that I did some good while in Turkey, a love of traveling, and a knowledge of Turkish, which I used when I wrote my PhD dissertation. My experience also instilled in me the desire to return to the Middle East, which I have done almost every year, whether studying Arabic in Egypt, teaching for two years in Saudi Arabia, or leading cruise groups in Ephesus and Istanbul."

McCarthy's experiences reflect a tested Peace Corps truism; no matter how "successful" a volunteer is in terms of how many projects one started or finished in a community—how many classes one taught, latrines one built or gardens one planted—the volunteer will never leave the community with less than what he or she has given. Volunteers learn much more from the people in their host country than they can hope to teach in return. The learning curve from when a volunteer steps off the plane until the close of service two years and ten weeks later is intense. Often the extent of how much volunteers have been changed by their experiences are not fully realized until they are back home and struggling to adapt to life in the US. Some say the return, in fact, is the most challenging and difficult part of the Peace Corps experience.



—Laura H. Griffis
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer
Guinea-Bissau, 1997-98

Academic Advising in CLAS and UF

Making a Good First Impression

Albert R. Matheny writes about Academic Advising's vital role in laying the foundation for student success

A maxim of effective advising is to make the initial contact with new students meaningful. The CLAS Academic Advising Center (AAC) takes that to heart in dealing with all of our students, whether they are first-year or new transfer students. The AAC is once again preparing for Preview, UF's first-year orientation program for new students entering in the Summer B and Fall 2001 semesters. At the same time, we are expanding our efforts to orient transfer students by working more closely with the state's community colleges in an attempt to prepare transfers better for the rigors of UF academic life. In pursuing both of these initiatives, the AAC works closely with the faculty of the college, the dean of students office, admissions, and the UF administration to make an impact on new students' first impressions of UF.

Preview is, of course, our biggest challenge every year. The AAC is responsible for the content and delivery of all academic advising for Preview. We employ and train 42 Preview Faculty Advisors (PFAs) from all parts of the university, with funding from Tigert. We also help to prepare 30 student Orientation Leaders (OLs). This year, PFAs and OLs will work together with an expected 6,250 first-year students who will

attend 22 two-day Preview sessions, stretching from May 17 through August 20.

Lynn O'Sickey, assistant director of the AAC and veteran leader of many previous initiatives, spearheads our efforts. This year, for the first time, we have developed "Preview Prep," a web-based exercise that all first-year Preview participants must take in order to be ready for Preview. Preview Prep helps students navigate the basics of UF advising, including immunization holds, GatorLink email accounts, calculus placement, and the basic vocabulary of curriculum requirements. These are all the details that first-year students should have under their belts when they arrive at their Preview session, so that we can spend more quality time on issues like UF's academic expectations, choosing a major, and registering for the right courses.

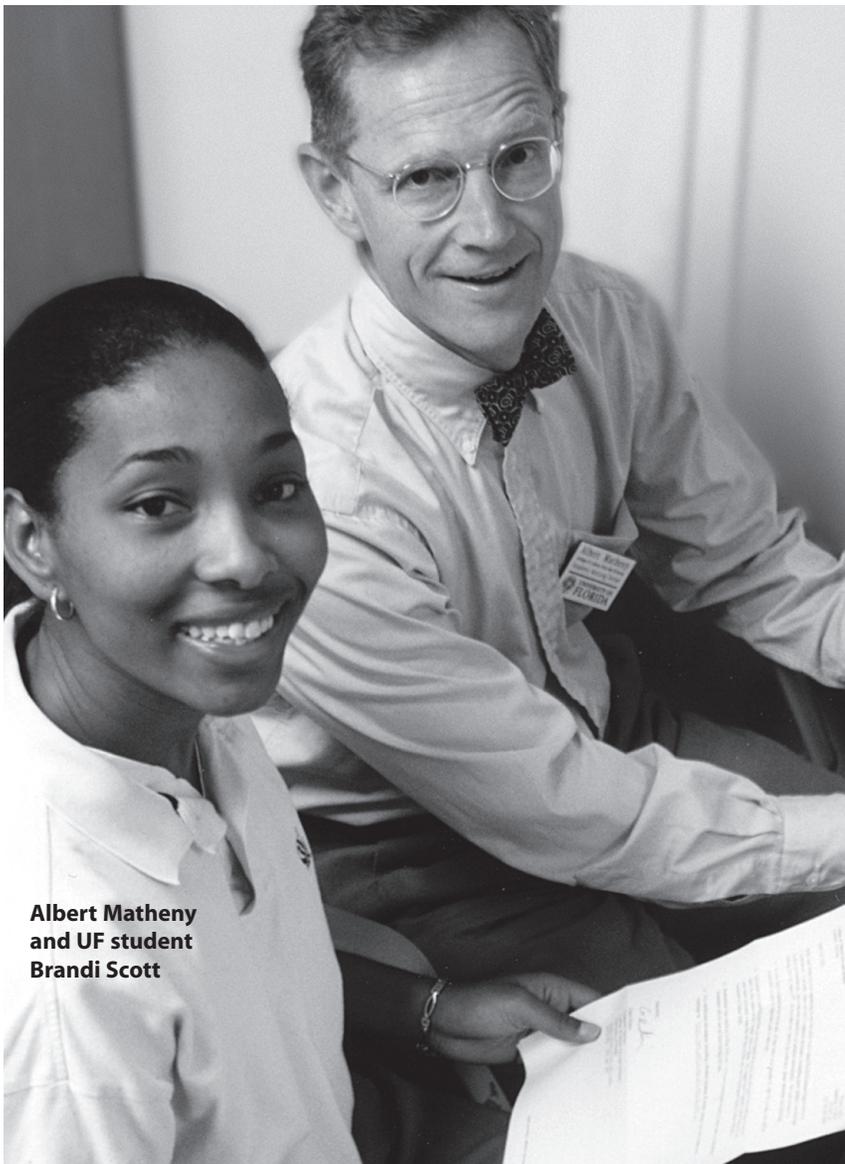
Transfer orientation is now required of all students who enter UF after their first year of college. The lion's share of these students are community college transfers coming to UF with an Associate of Arts degree. CLAS admits about 1,000 of these students per year. Many of our transfers struggle in their first semester while

adapting to UF, despite having good GPAs when they enter. Usually, their GPAs rebound in subsequent semesters. Lou Powers, the AAC's transfer

The Academic Advising Center works closely with the faculty of the college, the dean of students office, admissions, and the UF administration to make an impact on new students' first impressions of UF.

admissions coordinator, and Lynn O'Sickey have concluded that earlier outreach to students and advisors at Florida's public community colleges will address the problem.

Therefore, the AAC is reaching out on several fronts. We have dramatically increased personal contact with our primary feeder school, Santa Fe Community College (SFCC). Glenn Kopic, coordinator of the AAC's Learning Services Center, and Tim Young, director of the AAC's advising information systems, have



**Albert Matheny
and UF student
Brandi Scott**

Giving Sound Advice

Even though he turns 80 this year, Retired Faculty Advisor Dan Kelly does not plan to stop working at UF's Academic Advising Center (AAC) for several more years. "I like talking to students one-on-one. Why should I retire? I don't like watching television, and I don't go fishing. I like working here."

Kelly began his career at UF in 1961 as an English graduate student. He taught English at Gainesville High School and PK Yonge, and in 1964 he became an English professor at UF, teaching freshmen writing courses. Kelly says, "Back then, there were no paid advisors. Professors in each department volunteered to advise students. We had no resources and few budgets."

In 1980, Kelly became the CLAS Associate Dean for Student Affairs. He held that position for five years before retiring from his full-time duties. Albert Matheny, who currently holds this associate deanship, says Kelly's long-standing commitment to students is remarkable. "We are all completely devoted to him over here, and with good reason. He has a very quick mind and a well-developed

sense of how to balance rules with the flexibility that advising requires for individual students. He and John Newell, our other retired faculty advisor, are defining parts of our operation." Kelly has the same level of admiration for the academic advising staff. "We have a great bunch of advisors over here. They are so dedicated—many of them work well beyond 40 hours a week."

Kelly himself works around 20 hours a week at AAC. During peak advising times, Kelly says he might see as many as six students every hour. In addition to advising students about which classes to take and what majors to choose, Kelly says he tries to give them some practical advice. "There are a lot more opportunities to study abroad than there used to be. Students need to see that the world isn't made up of just Americans. Experiencing another culture makes them more well-rounded." Kelly also recommends that students choose electives that are not related to their field. "It would be nice, for instance, if our engineering students could take a humanities class. Everyone should have an appreciation for the arts."

Kelly says the biggest change he has seen at UF is the advancement in technology and the positive impact it has had on students. "Before computers and the telephone registration system, students would come in and see us, and we would tell them what classes to take. They would go back to their department to register and the classes would be full. We had no way of knowing which classes were still open."

Kelly says he continues to work at the AAC for one simple reason. "I just enjoy listening to students and their personal stories. I've heard many tales about their high school soccer games, why their parents wanted them to come to UF, and how they really don't know what they want to do. And I like hearing them."

—Allyson A. Beutke



Dan Kelly and Sherrel Brockington have worked together in academic advising for more than 20 years. Brockington is the office manager of the AAC, and Kelly says she holds the center together. "I hired Sherrel when she was seven-months pregnant, and now her daughter is a sophomore here at UF, so we've been through a lot together."

tested a pilot of video-advising between UF and SFCC. This could be expanded statewide, if it proves to be effective, thus linking AAC advisors "face-to-face" with potential transfers well before their first semester at UF. We are designing a transfer orientation web exercise, similar to Preview Prep, and will seek funding from the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) to implement that in the near future.

SFCC and UF will co-sponsor a NACADA Conference titled *Collaboration: Community Colleges and Universities Working Together*, on April 27, 2001, specifically focusing on student transitions from community college to four-year institutions. Glenn Kepic and Mutlu Citim-Kepic, advisor for the UF School of Music in the College of Fine Arts, are the primary organizers, and we expect 75 participants from all over the region. The personal contacts and information exchange will be invaluable ingredients in UF's transfer outreach strategy.

UF's "First-Year Florida" course, SLS 1102, is a one-credit elective designed to extend the Preview experience into actual practice during the students' first fall semester. Six AAC advisors (and yours truly) have taken on the extra challenge of teaching sections of this class, which will be available to 1,250 students and will use an academic setting to teach them about the challenges of student

life at UF. A pilot of this course was taught last year and was so successful that the administration is supporting its expansion this year.

Finally, UF will experiment with Camp Florida and Gator Days and Nights this fall. The former is a two-day "wilderness experience" in which new students can bond with one another before starting their fall

classes. Paul McLoughlin, one of the pre-health professions advisors in the AAC, has been a key planner of Camp Florida. Gator Days and Nights is a month-long introduction to a broad array of UF student organizations and activities. It begins in late August and runs through most of September. AAC workshops will be included in this event.

All of these efforts

should have a powerful influence on our new students. These points of positive contact will provide a good foundation for student success and persistence in the face of the many challenges that our students encounter during their undergraduate careers. The AAC is committed to being at the center of all these efforts, and the commitment appears to be paying off. Our number

of undergraduate majors in CLAS is at an all-time high and student retention has increased consistently since the mid-1990s. Perhaps first impressions are the most important!

—Albert R. Matheny is Director of the Academic Advising Center, CLAS Associate Dean for Student Affairs, and a Professor of Political Science

Grants *through the Division of Sponsored Research*

<i>Investigator</i>	<i>Dept.</i>	<i>Agency</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Title</i>
March 2001				Total: \$3,405,786
Corporate				\$191,336
Dolbier, W.	CHE	Synquest Laboratories Inc	10,740	Organic synthesis and mechanism.
Katritzky, A.	CHE	Multiple Companies	1,500	Software research support.
Katritzky, A.	CHE	Multiple Companies	1,500	Software research support.
Katritzky, A.	CHE	Multiple Companies	4,360	Miles compound contract.
Katritzky, A.	CHE	Trega Biosciences Inc	171,600	Synthetic strategies for nitrogen heterocycles.
Katritzky, A.	CHE	Multiple Companies	1,636	Miles compound contract.
Federal				\$3,202,855
Pina, R.	AST	NASA	42,195	UF participation in the airborne infrared echelle spectrometer project.
Boncella, J.	CHE	NSF	168,923	Organometallic chemistry of group 6 imido diamide complexes.
Duran, R.	CHE	NSF	9,780	A planning visit to establish an international igert program.
Colburn, D.				
Duran, R.	CHE	NSF	53,650	An REU in chemistry at the University of Florida.
Scott, M.				
Horenstein, B.	CHE	NIH	161,466	Reaction coordinate analyses—uracil DNA glycosylases.
Horenstein, B.	CHE	NSF	140,683	Glycosyltransferase mechanisms and inhibition.
Kennedy, R.	CHE	NIH	384,252	Design and use of methods for peptide secretion studies.
Reynolds, J.	CHE	US Air Force	57,548	Acquisition of electronic spectroscopy instrumentation.
Wagener, K.				
Richardson, D.	CHE	US Army	72,735	Instrumentation for CWA/BWA decontamination research.
Tan, W.	CHE	NIH	43,918	Underrepresented minorities program qhobosheaneglutamate bioanalysis.
Winefordner, J.	CHE	NIH	386,347	A new approach for biomedical imaging.
Wright, D.	CHE	NSF	289,238	Chemical and biological studies on natural modulators of cell signaling.
Yost, R.	CHE	US DOA	3,707	Identification of chemicals from human and animal hosts that attract mosquitoes and other blood-sucking arthropods.
Martin, J.	GEO	NSF	108,163	Assessment of importance of matrix flow in conduit-dominated karst aquifer: investigation of unconfined Floridian aquifer.
Screaton, E.				
Tegede, R.	HIS	EPA	40,583	A cross Florida greenway development and management plan, phase 1.
Noll, S.				
Glover, J.	MAT	NSA	12,000	Seminar on stochastic processes 2001.
Hueter, I.				
Adams, E.	PHY	NSF	142,069	Magnetic and thermodynamic study of solid 3He.
Buchler, J.	PHY	NSF	98,369	Nonlinear stellar pulsations.
Hebard, A.	PHY	NSF	140,722	In situ characterization of electrical and optical properties of air-sensitive ultra-thin films and thin-film interfaces.
Hirschfeld, P.	PHY	NSF	100,505	Transport in unconventional superconductors.
Ingersent, J.	PHY	NSF	78,000	An REU site in physics at the university of Florida.
Dorsey, A.				
Meisel, M.	PHY	NSF	48,180	Characterization of novel low dimensional magnetic systems.
Agresti, A.	STA	NIH	130,342	Statistical inference for sparse categorical data.
Agresti, A.	STA	NSF	98,495	Modelling repeated categorical responses.
Carter, R.	STA	DOH	15,000	CMS RPICC data system.
Carter, R.	STA	DOH / DOE	10,389	EIP HQ data advice and technical assistance.
Evans, D.	ZOO	NSF	15,000	REU supplement: paracrine control of fish gill function.
Levey, D.	ZOO	NSF	13,800	REU supplement: collaborative research: patches, corridors and the dispersal of insects and plants.
McEdward, L.	ZOO	NSF	144,442	Facultative feedings by planktotrophic larvae of echinoids.
Osenberg, C.	ZOO	US DOC	192,354	R/LR-B-52 fisheries habitat: a field assessment of the effects of artificial reefs and their role in fisheries management.
St Mary, C.				
Misc				\$11,595
Burns, A.	ANT	United Nations/Misc Donors	1,082	Student cost of education allowances.
Lieberman, L.	ANT	Komen Breast Cancer Fdtn	8,761	Lifting while we climb: removing barriers to breast cancer treatment for African American women.
Jeffers, S.				
Schanze, K.	CHE	Am Chemical Society	1,751	ACS editorship.

University Scholars Program

Providing Research Opportunities for UF Undergraduates

Since it began two years ago, the University Scholars Program has given hundreds of undergraduates and faculty the opportunity to conduct research together. The USP is administered through the Office of the Provost, and each year approximately 175 UF students receive a stipend of \$2,500 to do research with a faculty mentor and a travel allowance of \$500 to attend a scholarly research conference during the year. CLAS has an average of 40 scholars each year who work with faculty in the college. Students are accepted into the program in April and begin their research during the summer. They continue working through the fall and spring semesters, and then prepare their results for a presentation at the annual USP Symposium held at the end of March.

In addition to providing research opportunities for students, the USP has formed a partnership with the Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication. Several writing classes are offered through the center that USP students are encouraged to take. The center also sponsors an annual writing competition in which a panel of faculty judges select the two best qualitative and two best quantitative papers. This year, three out of the four award winners were CLAS students. His-



Goley



Brauss



Patel

tory senior Jason Goley received the Best Qualitative Paper award, while Katherine Brauss, a senior criminology and psychology major, received the Excellence in Qualitative Research award. Manish Patel graduated in December 2000 with a interdisciplinary studies major in biochemistry and molecular biology. He received the Best Quantitative Paper award.

Criminology Professor Jodi Lane served as Katherine Brauss' mentor this past year. She says the USP gives faculty the chance to teach the research process to their best students. "I have watched Katie not only 'learn the ropes,' but also produce a terrific research thesis on an important policy



Krithi Karanth's USP research project focuses on the changes in land-cover and land-use in the small village of Sisaket, Thailand. She worked with Geography Professor Michael Binford, and her paper is published in the May issue of the *Journal of Undergraduate Research* <web.clas.ufl.edu/CLAS/jur>.

topic. Her research findings are so interesting that they will be included in a larger final grant report, which will be given directly to policymakers. By participating in the USP, Katie may actually affect policy, or at least policymakers." Chuck Peek, a sociology

the advancement of a discipline. Working with USP students has also helped to expand my areas of interest, and has suggested new applications of theories and modes of inquiry that otherwise might not have occurred to me."

Students do not have to conduct research with a faculty mentor from their department or even their college. Several students from other colleges are working with CLAS faculty, and the majority of students who work with College of Medicine faculty mentors have CLAS majors such as biochemistry, chemistry, microbiology, and psychology. Krithi Karanth, who participated in the 2000-2001 USP, has a double major in geography (CLAS) and environmental science (College of Natural Resources and Environment). She says her research experience as an undergraduate opened up an opportunity for her to attend graduate school at Yale this fall. "Being involved in research has provided new challenges and possibilities for me.

The USP has been the most interesting and rewarding experience I've had as an undergraduate at UF."

Perhaps one of the most unique aspects of the USP is the outlet for research publication. The online *Journal of Undergraduate Research* <web.clas.ufl.edu/CLAS/jur/> is one of the few journals of its kind. The *JUR* exclusively publishes the work of undergraduates from a wide variety of academic disciplines. All USP students have the opportunity to publish their research, and due to the recent interest in the journal, all undergraduates at UF are now encouraged to submit research papers. The editorial staff reviews the papers and an average of five are published each month, in addition to feature articles, research summaries, updates on projects in-progress, and photographs.

For more information on the University Scholars Program and a list of the 2001-2002 scholars and mentors, visit <www.scholars.ufl.edu>.

—Allyson A. Beutke

"Being involved in research has provided new challenges and possibilities for me. The USP has been the most interesting and rewarding experience I've had as an undergraduate at UF."

—Krithi Karanth

professor and mentor for three years, says the USP benefits faculty as well. "From these relationships, I have gained an experiential understanding of the essential role that mentoring plays in the development of individual careers and in

CLAS Senior Named College Student of the Year

Brian Dassler has been selected as the 2001 Florida College Student of the Year by *Florida Leader* magazine. The Gainesville-based magazine awarded Dassler, an English major, the honor during a ceremony on April 13 in Tallahassee. The awards program recognizes students who support themselves through college, excel academically, and are involved in community service and political activism. It has honored Florida's most outstanding campus leaders with nearly \$50,000 in scholarships and prizes for the last 14 years.

Dassler is a member of the Admissions Task Force, the Affirmative Action Council, and the Minority Affairs Task Force at UF. He also serves on the Accreditation Steering Committee, the Greening UF Steering Committee, and the Gainesville/Alachua County Cultural Affairs Board. Dassler has spent the majority of his college career educating students, parents and communities at large about the disadvantages that minority students face within the Florida educational system. He has striven to develop policies that ensure equity and quality for all Florida scholars.

Perhaps Dassler's most distinctive achievement was his appointment by the late Governor Lawton Chiles to Florida's Post-secondary Education Planning Commission in 1998. During his year-long term, Dassler attended monthly meetings on campuses

across the state and presented workshops to student groups on higher education issues.

"Brian Dassler is among the most outstanding students that I have worked with in my 32 years of experience in higher education at three different universities," says James E. Scott, vice president for student affairs. "His dedication, commitment and passion for service is second to none. Students look to him for his honesty and integrity. He is very admired."

In addition to his multitude of leadership roles, Dassler has served as the student director of Preview orientation and maintained a 3.64 GPA. Starting this fall, he will pursue a master's degree in secondary education through the Proteach program at UF. Dassler plans to teach high school English in South Florida when he graduates next year.

—Allyson A. Beutke



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UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

2008 Turlington Hall
PO Box 117300
Gainesville FL 32611-7300
<editor@clas.ufl.edu>
<web.clas.ufl.edu/clasnotes/>

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Interim Dean: Neil Sullivan
Editor: Laura H. Griffis
Contr. Editor: Allyson A. Beutke
Layout/Illustration: Jane Dominguez
Copy Editor: Bill Hardwig

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