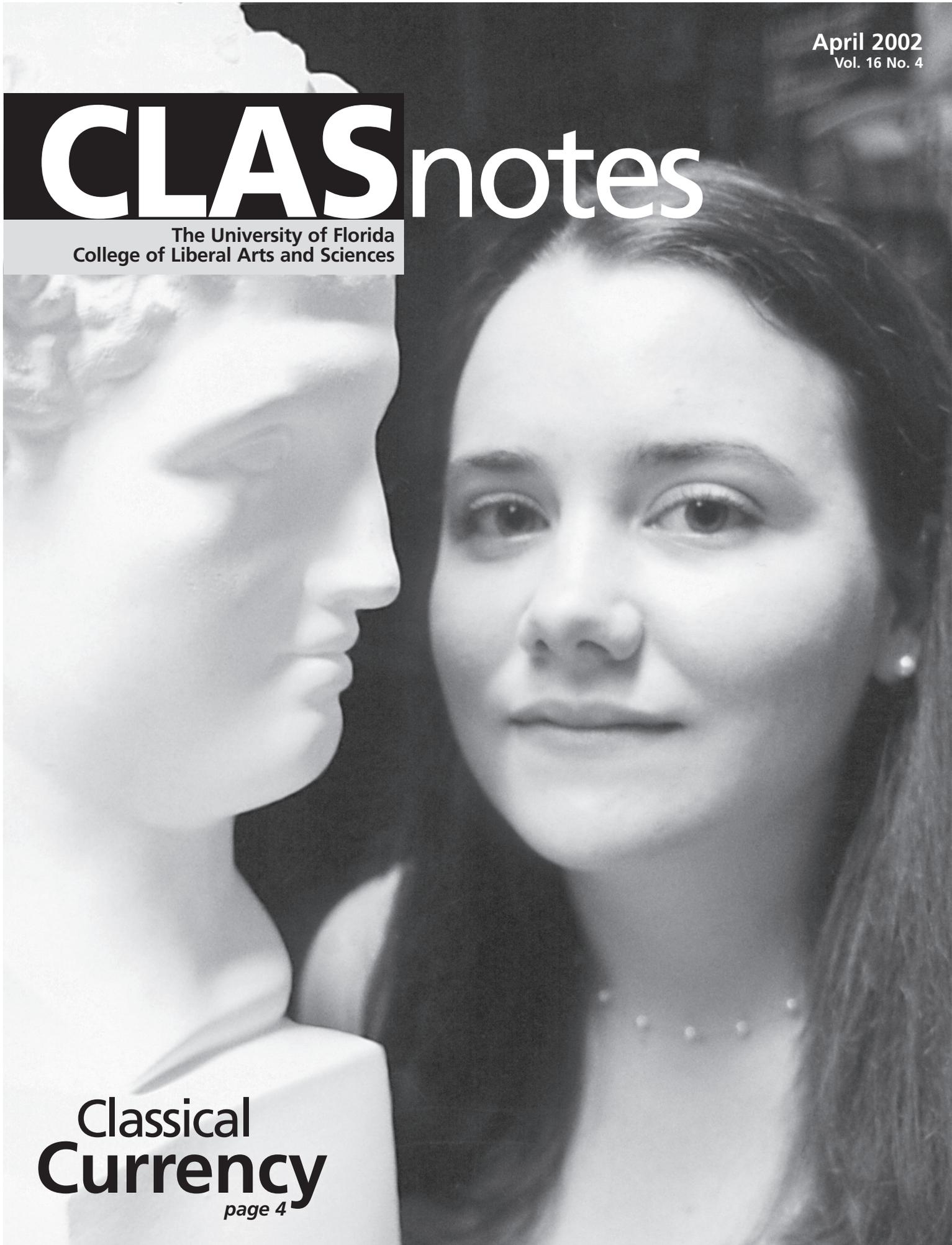


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CLASnotes

The University of Florida
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Classical
Currency
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E-mail editor@clas.ufl.edu with your news and events information for publication in *CLASnotes*. The deadline for submissions is the 10th of the month prior to the month you would like your information published. Don't wait! Send us your news and events today!



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The Dean's **Musings**

Ethics and the Institution

Today, more than ever before, students—undergraduate and graduate—and the public in all walks of life are asking questions about how we should behave toward one another. They are searching to understand the unfamiliar systems of beliefs and cultures in all corners of the world, realizing that we are bound together by the modern technology of the Internet, satellite communications, high-speed travel and an increasingly global economy.

Perhaps more importantly, there is now a more intense desire, particularly among the young, to re-examine how we set ethical standards of behavior in a complex, global and diverse society. Ethical problems occur in all aspects of everyday life. Many of the issues are far from abstract and often involve practical questions such as the availability of sensitive databases related to human genetic materials.

The primary role of the academic institution is to train students to think critically and to learn how to construct sound ethical judgments. Our students need to learn, as we all did, how to ask difficult but meaningful questions and how to question our answers. If we are unwilling to question our answers, we are at risk of holding on to false beliefs.

Thinking critically and arriving at thoughtful ethical judgments is part of what it means to be an educated person, and providing training in ethics is an explicit part of our college mission. Good ethical decisions can inspire colleagues in the workplace, strengthen a nation and provide a framework for a true international spirit.

Neil Sullivan
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On the Cover:

Rachel Brewer with a plaster bust of Hermes. The original complete statue was of Hermes holding the baby Dionysus and was found at Olympia. It is attributed to the sculptor Praxiteles (4 BCE).

Assembling the College

Forum encourages animated discussions on pressing issues

The College Assembly and its committees are the agencies by which faculty may act collectively in matters of concern to the whole college, according to the college's constitution. I've had the privilege of serving as the assembly's president pro-tem for this year, and I can report that the assembly has had an exciting agenda.

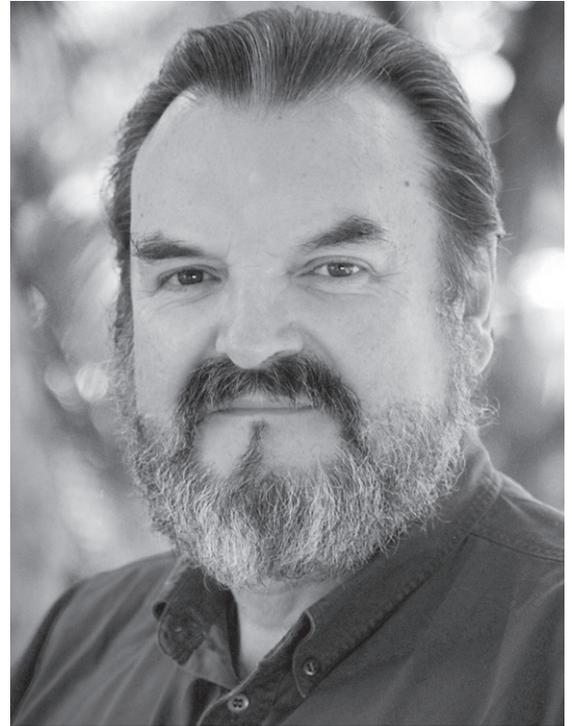
Dean Neil Sullivan is committed to the assembly becoming an important vehicle for faculty participation in the affairs of the college. The opening fall meeting was devoted to the introduction of new faculty members and a presentation by the dean on the challenges the college would face this year.

In its second fall meeting, the assembly heard two lucid presentations on academic freedom, an issue that has again become very important in the State University System after September 11. The discussion that followed was as enlightening as the presentations. One faculty member said academic free speech should not protect hateful or insensitive words in the classroom. Not all agreed. While we did not reach a closure of the subject, the discussion of this matter at the assembly allowed a better understanding of the complexities of this crucial issue.

The February 25 meeting was devoted to the discussion of salaries. Dean Sullivan introduced the topic and expressed particular concern for the salary levels of mid-career faculty. I focused the discussion on salary compression and inversion, inequities that I

believe are the result of a callous administrative decision. Responding to an objection from the floor, I noted that administrators do not suffer from salary compression at UF. The contrary opinion was voiced that universities like ours that are undergoing rapid growth might need

compression. The lively discussion was informative and candid, with the dean and associate deans participating actively. Among the issues we discussed were the limitations of the PEP, STEP and similar programs to correct the accumulated inequities in salaries. On



Hernán Vera

motion from the floor, we voted to draft a letter asking that a procedure to bring about faculty salary equity be created. The assembly will send the letter to several university and college-wide committees that are studying the reorganization of the university.

When English Professor Chris Snodgrass suggested that the university needs a comprehensive approach to secure adequate financing of a reward and advance system, the steering committee decided to invite him to make a presentation and lead a discussion at the April 10 meeting. Snodgrass is the chief negotiator for United Faculty of Florida (UFF), the union that will be negotiating a collective bargaining agreement with the administration later this year. A UFF task force has been working hard at such a comprehensive approach toward our salary policies.

The agenda for the assembly is prepared by its steering committee, which is presided over by its elected president pro tem. However, any faculty member in the college may forward items for the agenda. You may even submit items after the agenda has been set, and I encourage faculty to let us know about their ideas.

The College Assembly is a unique opportunity to participate in the governance of our college. This year we dealt with important, urgent issues. For me it was a great opportunity to learn from colleagues in other departments. The diversity of opinions allowed me to understand better where we are going in our college and university.

—Hernán Vera, Professor of Sociology

The last College Assembly for the spring

semester is Wednesday, April 10 at

3:30 pm in the Keene Faculty Center.

Classical Currency

Faculty and students engage in issues both modern and ancient

A poster for the movie *Gladiator* adorning the walls of the Department of Classical Studies? Considering the film was criticized for its historical inaccuracy, the scenario might seem a little counterintuitive.

But the poster is there, and it reflects two things about the department's attitude: a willingness to embrace the positive (in *Gladiator's* case, the continuing high profile of classical themes in pop culture) and a sense of comfort with the modern world.

"For me, the relationship between classics and the modern world is very deep and multifaceted. It always surprises me when we are sitting in class discussing something, and all of the sudden I see a relationship to something I read in the paper or saw on the news," classical studies senior Rachel Brewer says. "That is one of the major appeals of classics—you are constantly being surprised and challenged by what you learn."

Department Chair Mary Ann Eaverly, who has been at UF since 1986, says that many areas of classical studies enthusiastically engage modern issues on a regular basis. "It is important for us to step back and look at the roots of our own civilization and our own culture, and classics helps you do this. It gives you a perspective on your own society to look at this ancient society that is in many ways similar to ours."

Classics Professor Lewis Sussman, who has taught at UF since 1976 and was department chair

from 1993 to 2000, agrees. "People think everything was invented yesterday, including the ideas we think about and the problems that we face—terrorism, technology, problems in government organization, running a large, multi-national, multi-ethnic, multicultural state. But they were not," he says. "The Roman Empire had every race represented, and all different kinds of religion. You had the Greeks and Egyptians at the top of civilization, and people just coming out of barbarism in northern Europe. It took a lot of energy and enterprise to get this whole thing to work, and the Romans did it quite successfully. Everyone talks about the decline of the Roman Empire. Well, it lasted 1,000 years, which is not bad!"

Right now the department is experiencing anything but a decline. The number of undergraduate classical studies majors has almost doubled during the past five years. "We have 71 majors and 72 minors at last count. It is an astounding number. I do not know of any university in the country that even comes close," Sussman says. "Like a lot of programs, we have a large number of undergraduate students taking our classes—we are talking in the thousands sometimes. For example, we offer a mythology course twice a year to

300 students, we have an Egyptology course in which as many as 300 students enroll and courses in civilization and Roman civilization of almost equal size. Just a few classes like that and you are talking about huge, huge numbers, but that does not really talk about the strength of a department—especially classics. The number of majors shows the real strength of the program."

Sussman credits the fresh approach of classics professors and teaching assistants for the department's strength. "There are lots of ways to teach classics, and some of them are really bad," he says. "Classics programs across the country have folded because of a lack of enrollment. People in these programs do not present the material in an interesting way, or they do it in the same way that it has been done for years and years. Not to toot our own horn too much, but our department does a good job of putting together great classes."

Eaverly says that classical studies students also have played a part in the success of the department. "We are lucky to have an extremely active chapter of Eta Sigma Phi, the classics honor society. Our chapter won the Certamen, which is the national classics brain bowl, two years in a row. They are a great group."

Brewer, currently president of Eta Sigma Phi, says she has never taken a classical studies course at another college, but even without a direct comparison, she would not change a thing about UF's department. "The faculty and courses are so varied that I never feel like I am getting shorted in what classes I can take or how much interaction I have with the professors or other staff. Also, the professors always make time to sit down with students and answer questions or discuss graduate options. They put a lot of effort into 'customer service.'"

Another strong component of the classics department is the Center for Greek Studies, which was founded in 1980. "The center was created to bring together the faculty, students and interests on campus that are connected with things Greek, both ancient and modern," center founder and co-director Karelisa Hartigan says.

The center is one of

only three language-testing centers in the US that is certified by the Greek Ministry of Education. "That means that people who want to work in the Greek embassy in this country, who want to have a job translating from Greek or who want to go to Greece to get involved in business can come to our center to take a test created by the Greek government. They receive a certificate that says they are able to speak Greek at one of four levels," Hartigan says.

As the department's undergraduate advisor, Sussman gets to know a lot of exceptional students. "They are really interesting people. Many of them are double-majors. You find students that are also majoring in math and biology, and we have a couple of engineers. There are a lot of people in the sciences, many physicists. Some students just find it to be a good liberal arts major, and they like having classics knowledge for a background. That seems



Mary Ann Eaverly, Classical Studies Chair

to be the motivation for a lot of them. They also like the challenge."

Eaverly says there are also other reasons bright students are attracted to classics. "It is a fun major. Learning a language like Latin or Greek, that is not spoken, really sharpens your analytical skills.

British code breakers in World War II studied Latin, and had worked with patterns in language."

Brewer, who hopes eventually to earn a master's degree in Latin from UF and go on to teach the language in high school, says she originally came to UF with intentions of becoming a veterinarian. "My love for classics goes back to my first day of high school, when I stepped into my first Latin class. My high school teacher was great, and she motivated me to study hard and compete

at classics competitions," she says. "When I came to UF, even though I was an animal sciences major, I was determined to keep up my interest in classics and take at least one course from that department every semester. I loved the classes and the department so much that eventually I switched my major to classical studies and never looked back."

—Patrick Hughes

"For me, the relationship between classics and the modern world is very deep and multifaceted. It always surprises me when we are sitting in class discussing something, and all of the sudden I see a relationship to something I read in the paper or saw on the news."

—Classical Studies Senior Rachel Brewer

Speaking Out

Student council voices ideas

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Council (CLASSC) is wrapping up another very successful academic year. CLASSC serves as a non-partisan resource for CLAS majors and as an advocate for student issues within the college. In addition, CLASSC provides funding for programs and travel to conferences for about 30 student groups, ranging from the Undergraduate Comics Club to the Political Science Honor Society to Student Affiliates of the American Chemical Society.

In the last year alone, CLASSC members have served as student representatives on the CLAS Dean Search Committee, Teacher and Advisor of the Year Selection Committee, the Academic Petitions Committee and the CLAS Undergraduate Coordinators Committee. This year, with the support of the CLAS Dean's Office, the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Registrar, CLASSC spearheaded the movement to print a student's major on his or her diploma. The change also led to the end of "preliminary grading" requirements placed on UF faculty. CLASSC has also had a voice in recent commencement reforms, leading to this year's CLAS-specific graduation.

At the Spring 2002 Commencement on May 3, six outstanding graduating CLAS majors selected by CLASSC will be named to the CLAS Hall of Fame and recognized in front of their peers during the ceremony.

As we look ahead, there are several important student issues that CLASSC would like students, administration and faculty to address. Here are two areas we would like to focus on in the future:

Future CLAS Commencement Ceremonies

With more time to prepare, we would like to see increased student participation in the planning process. In the selection of a distinguished keynote speaker, for example, we believe that the major voice should be that of the students. At several other institutions, there are ways for graduating seniors to vote each year on who

will be invited to speak. As students, we would like to work with administrators to explore options of online voting or other techniques that will give us the capability of having a more "student-directed" graduation.

In addition, most students believe that we should have been given more time to prepare for this year's graduation changes. We would like to see that some mechanism—e-mail updates, information Web sites or some other avenue—is put in place so that future students are alerted to potential changes much earlier than this year's students were.

Liberal Arts and Sciences Career Fair

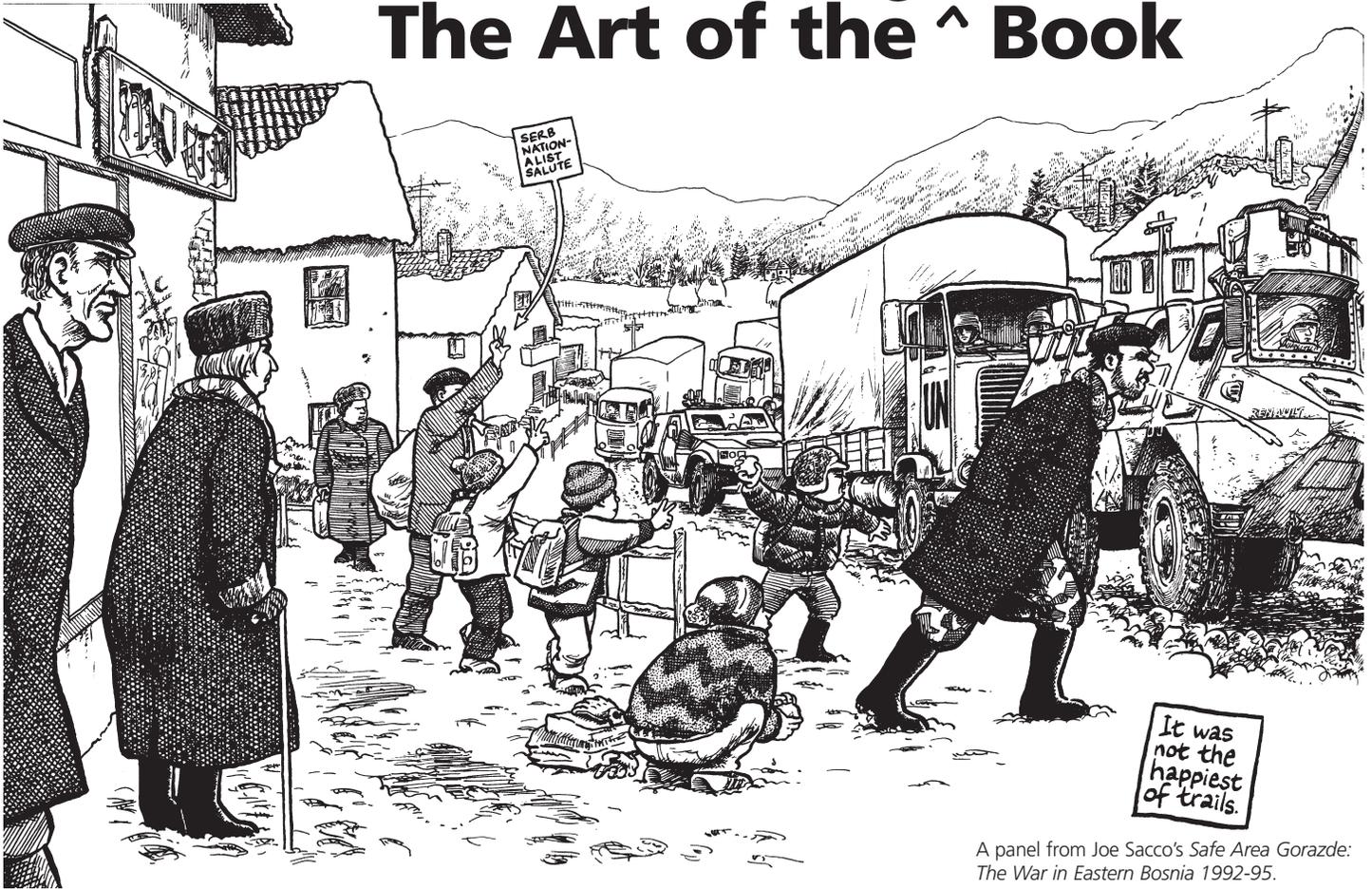
The Career Resource Center has worked hard to focus on CLAS majors, especially those in the liberal arts, who often unfortunately dismiss the relevance of UF's career fairs. We still feel, however, that the best situation for CLAS majors is a college-specific fair featuring recruiters, workshops, internships, graduate programs, fellowships, scholarships and more. CLASSC and Student Government have worked to develop some of these programs, but our resources and our knowledge in this area is limited. We would like to see advisors, faculty and administrators provide more direction and resources for these events. We encourage alumni-network development to bring in the best recruiters and keep the students informed about the opportunities that exist for them after graduation. We would like greater cooperation from faculty in allowing students some leeway in missing portions of class to attend such events, or providing incentives for going to the career fair.

We encourage all students and faculty to explore the issues that CLASSC works on each year. Please visit our Web site at <http://grove.ufl.edu/~classc> if you have questions or comments.

This article was written by the 2001-2002 CLASSC officers: Timothy Tinnesz, President; Richard Fagerer, Vice President; Jerrold Kielbasa, Treasurer; Ken Kerns, Secretary; Joel Leppard, Executive-At-Large; Chaim Mandelbaum, Executive-At-Large; Erin O'Connell, Executive-At-Large; Glenn Kepic, Faculty Advisor

As students, we would like to work with administrators to explore options of online voting or other techniques that will give us the capability of having a more "student-directed" graduation.

Comic The Art of the ^ Book



A panel from Joe Sacco's *Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-95*.

Will Eisner, who is recognized as one of the great masters of comic-book art, once told an interviewer, "Late at night, at 2:00 am, I really do believe I'm working in an art form. Then I wake up the next day and the world is consigning comics to the scrap heap."

English Professor Donald Ault, who recently conceived and helped organize the first Will Eisner Symposium at UF, says this anecdote illustrates the need for the conference. "There are few people who feel the comic-book medium should be taken seriously," he says. "But there are modes of narration, ways of organizing thinking and ways of awakening dormant aspects of human imagination in comics that simply can't show up in any other form." The conference was held February 20 and 21 at the University Centre Hotel.

Ault says there is not much precedence for the conference. "For years, Eisner has wanted to have a genuine academic conference on comics," he says. "Because artists like Joe Sacco and Daniel Clowes are receiving mainstream high-cultural status, he felt this

was the time to make an academic statement saying we have to take this medium seriously."

Eisner, Sacco and Clowes attended the symposium along with artist Eddie Campbell and Terry Zwigoff, who directed the *Ghost World* film based upon Clowes' comic. "Eisner has a career that spans late 20th-century comics, and getting him involved brought a certain amount of stature," conference organizer and English PhD student John Ronan says. "Sacco uses the graphic novel as a form of reporting and uses comics to remind us that journalism is a very subjective form of writing. Eddie Campbell is attuned to the history of comics, and his drawings are always encased in an awareness of the historical reality of his characters. Clowes takes characters he develops in comic books, then expands on them in longer forms. Having both Clowes and Zwigoff there was key, so the audience could see that comics aren't ghetto-ized and have relationships to other media."

Ronan feels the symposium was a success. "To have 150 people show up for

Eisner's keynote address, to sell out the Reitz Union screening room for a showing of *Ghost World* and have everyone stick around for the question-and-answer period, and to have 21 different academics from places like Brazil and Yale was very pleasing. It made us aware of the need for the conference, and we hope we can do even better next year."

In the meantime, Ault hopes the symposium is one step toward having comics taken more seriously. "I'm hoping that the power of the comic-book form can be brought into much more public attention," he says. "It's not like people go around saying, 'Novels are no good' because there are a lot of bad paperbacks published. In other words, don't condemn a medium because there are things in it that don't meet a certain criteria."

The issue has a personal resonance for Ault. "The reason I'm doing this, quite frankly, is that I learned to read by reading Carl Barks' Donald Duck and Uncle Scrooge comic books. I found them to be the thing that probably motivated my career and imagination more than any other single factor."

—Patrick Hughes

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

What a terrific looking newsletter, and it was interesting to read too!

I am impressed with the focus on children and families and how much diversity the March issue shows. Now if only the rest of the university could catch up!

Sheila Dickison
Associate Provost

CLASnotes encourages letters to the editor. E-mail editor@clas.ufl.edu or send a letter to *CLASnotes*, PO Box 117300, Gainesville FL 32611. *CLASnotes* reserves the right to edit submissions for punctuation and length.

CLAS Staff Receive Superior Accomplishment Awards

Several CLAS staff members recently received UF Superior Accomplishment Awards. This program recognizes staff members who contribute outstanding and meritorious service to the university and have improved the quality of life for students and employees. The divisional winners below will compete for university-level awards, which will be announced in May.

They are: **Susan Ciccarone**, Program Assistant, Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication; **Jane Dominguez**, Publications Specialist, Dean's Office; **Jon Fajans**, Teaching Laboratory Specialist, Zoology; **Kenetha Johnson**, Office Manager, Zoology; **Melvina Johnson**, Custodial Worker, Turlington Hall; **Karen Pallone**, Program Assistant, Zoology; **Kanitra Perry**, Program Assistant, Sociology; **Jim Yousse**, Systems Programmer, Psychology.

Correction

The middle name of **Richard Hare** was spelled incorrectly in the March issue of *CLASnotes*. The correct spelling is Mervyn.

Around the College

The Karst Frontier

The **geological sciences department** hosted the international meeting Karst Frontiers: Florida and Related Environments from March 6-10. Karst is a term used to describe a special type of geologic terrain that forms in soluble rocks, resulting in landscapes that include caves and sinkholes. It is common across North Central Florida and also occurs on a quarter of the earth's land surface, providing potable water to a quarter of the world's population.

The meeting brought together 89 scientists from 20 states and six countries to discuss current karst research. In addition to panel discussions, the group visited Ichetucknee Springs, the Santa Fe River Sinkhole and the Haile Quarries, which are north of Newberry.



Meeting participants get a lecture about the characteristics of the rocks composing the Floridan aquifer shown in the background.

UF Hosts National Debate Competition

UF hosted the 2002 Delta Sigma Rho-Tau Kappa Alpha (DSR-TKA) National Conference and Championship Tournament on the campus of Lake City Community College from March 15-18. This was the first time UF has hosted the event. The UF Speech and Debate Team, coached by **Kellie Roberts** of the Dial Center, won several awards, placing third overall and receiving the Chapter Community Service Award. Political science senior **Lauren Fackender** earned the national championship title in the informative speaking category, and **Brooke Errett** and **Wilbert Vancol**, both political science majors, were runners-up in parliamentary debate. DSR-TKA also presented UF Communication Sciences and Disorders Professor Emeritus **Donald E. Williams** with the 2002 Distinguished Service Award for his years of support, guidance and promotion of communication throughout the world. Founded in the early 1900s, DSR-TKA is the oldest and most prestigious organization that rewards speech and debate success at the college level.

Mark Your Calendars

The rededication of **Anderson Hall** will take place Friday, April 5 at 2 pm. UF President Charles Young will preside at the ceremony.

CLAS Junior Wins Prestigious Scholarship

Zoology junior **Michael Gale** has received the prestigious 2002 Truman Scholarship. Gale was one of 64 scholars selected from 590 candidates for his leadership potential, intellectual ability and likelihood of making a difference. The scholarship provides \$30,000 for graduate studies, and scholars also receive priority admission, leadership training and special internship opportunities within the federal government.

The Truman Scholarship Foundation was established by Congress in 1975 and awards scholarships for college students to attend graduate school in preparation for careers in government or other types of public service. More than 2,100 Truman Scholars have been selected since the first awards were made in 1977.

Scott Receives Sloan Foundation Fellowship

Michael Scott has received a two-year Alfred P. Sloan Research Foundation Fellowship. The fellowships were established in 1955 and are awarded to young scientists in the fields of math-

ematics, chemistry, physics, computer science, economics and neuroscience. The award includes an unrestricted grant of \$40,000, which Scott will use to support his research on the development of biomimetic copper oxidation catalysts. Scott received his



PhD in inorganic chemistry from Harvard University in 1994 and held a postdoctoral fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before coming to UF in 1997.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chemistry

Steven Benner's research was featured on Swedish television on March 11. The topic of the news piece was the use of molecular evolutionary analysis to understand genetic, genomic and proteomic data. The magazine *Science* will publish an article coauthored by Benner in its April issue about the joining of the geological, paleontological, and genetic records of life on Earth as a strategy to understand the biological function and biomedical significance of genes and proteins sequence data. Benner also gave a lecture at the American Association for the Advancement of Science's national meeting in February.

English

Judith Page has received a Skirball Visiting Fellowship to spend five months (January–June 2003) at the Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies at Oxford University. The fellowship will allow Page to work on her book, tentatively titled *Imperfect Sympathies: British Romanticism, Jews, and Judaism*. She will have access to the center's library and Oxford's main library, the Bodleian. Page will also participate in discussions with other fellows and give a public lecture on her research.

The center awards eight Skirball Fellowships each year. Recipients pursue research projects in all areas of Jewish history, literature, language and thought. Page joined the English department in 2000 and teaches courses on British Romanticism, Judaism and British women writers of the 18th and 19th centuries.

On March 1, **Mark A. Reid** chaired a panel discussion at the Azouz Begag From A to Z International Conference, which was sponsored by the Winthrop-King Institute for Contemporary French and Francophone Studies at Florida State University.

Mathematics

Krishnaswami Alladi recently gave a talk titled "New Weighted Rogers-Ramanujan Partitions and Their Analytic Representations" at the recent International Number Theory Conference in Marseille, France. The conference was in honor of noted

mathematician Jean-Louis Nicolas, who recently turned 60. Under Alladi's editorship, both the *Ramanujan Journal* and the book series *Developments in Mathematics* will publish special volumes of papers dedicated to Nicolas.

Political Science

Richard S. Conley's article, "Presidential Influence and Minority Party Liaison on Veto Overrides: New Evidence from the Ford Presidency," was published in the January 2002 issue of *American Politics Research*. Conley and fellow political science professor **Amie Kreppel** co-authored "Toward a New Typology of Vetoes and Overrides," which appeared in *Political Research Quarterly's* December 2001 issue.

Physics

Yoonseok Lee has received the Association of Korean Physicists in America (AKPA) President's Award. The award recognizes and promotes excellence in research by outstanding young ethnic Korean physicists in North America who are working at research institutions and industrial and government laboratories. Lee, who joined the physics faculty last year, received the award at the AKPA annual meeting in March.

Romance Languages and Literatures

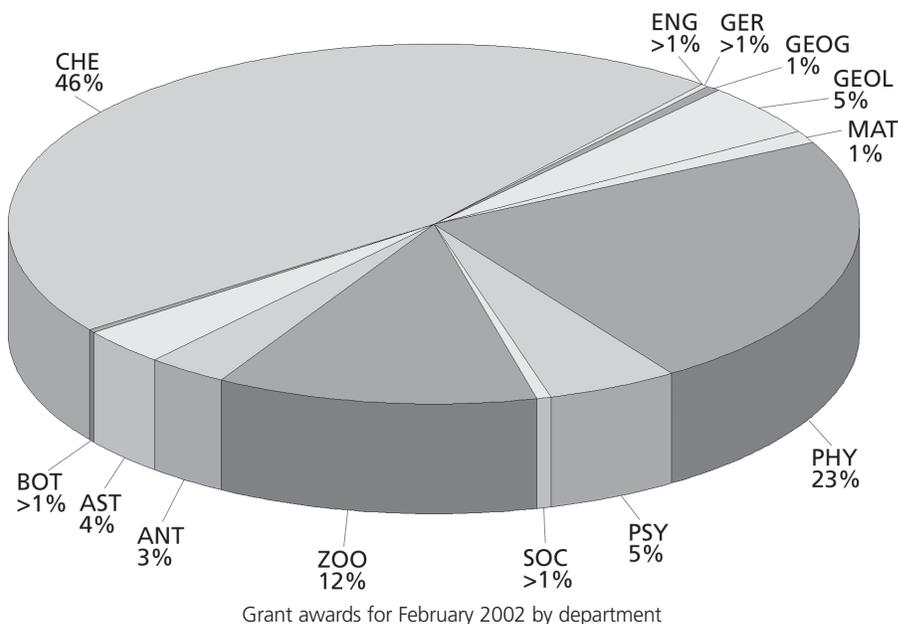
On March 1, **Nora M. Alter** presented the keynote address, "What Marlene Sawed," at the Southeast Conference on Foreign Languages and Literatures.

Sylvie Blum and **Bernadette Cailler** each chaired a session at the Azouz Begag From A to Z International Conference, which took place on March 1–2. Cailler also presented a paper at the 35th Annual Texas Tech University Comparative Literature Symposium on "Transnational Cultures, Diasporas, and Immigrant Identities in France and the Francophone World."

On March 5–6, **Raymond Gay-Crosier** gave a seminar titled "Printed vs. Electronic Sources" and a plenary lecture titled "Albert Camus Today" at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Grants through the Division of Sponsored Research

February 2002
Total: \$3,359,676



Crossing Boundaries

The fact that the sciences rely heavily on grants is a given. Associate Professor of English **Anne G. Jones** thinks the humanities should look more often to grants for funding, too, and she knows the opportunities are there.

“Florida is one of the few states that’s considered underserved by the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH),” Jones says. “I would like to see more people apply to the NEH, not just for seminars and institutes like the one I’m directing, but also for fellow-

ships of various kinds, challenge grants—there are a number of funding opportunities at the NEH that Florida really needs.”

Jones, who has been at UF since 1985, recently received a NEH grant for \$107,500 to direct the seminar “Boundary Lines: Women Rewriting the American South” in Charlottesville, Virginia from June 24–August 2. “It’s designed for teachers of literature, history, social studies or other humanities fields who want to learn more about women’s writing and the

South’s multiple ethnicities and cultures,” she says. “The idea is to think about and talk about works by a diverse group of Southern women writers in order to address the things that keep us apart. Boundary lines can also give us protection, so we’ll address that ambiguity.”

Jones has worked to ensure that both seminar curriculum and participants will be as diverse as possible. “There will be people of different races participating and attending from all over the country—California, Texas,

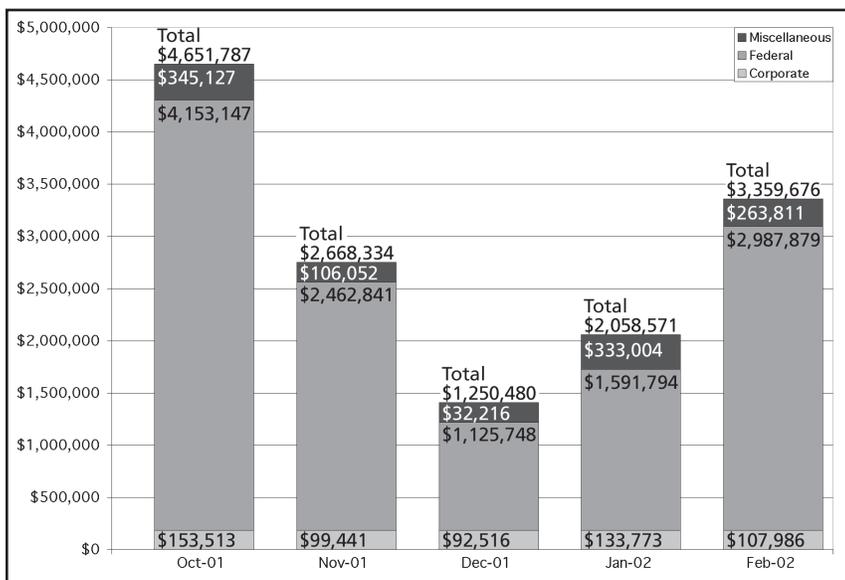
Florida, Virginia, Massachusetts,” she says. “The seminar will start off with stories by white writers trying to come to terms with racism. We’ll move from stories by white women to stories by black women, examine rural white cultures and continue with sto-

ries of Southern Native-American and Hispanic women.” Jones encourages those interested in writing a grant proposal to get in touch with her. “I would be happy to talk with anyone who’s interested in writing a proposal. I would love to see somebody else take advantage of these opportunities,” she says.

Jones also hopes eventually to hold a seminar at UF. “Unless I lose my mind running this seminar, which is entirely possible,” she says, laughing, “I’m going to apply to teach one here in 2004.”

The historical impact and current significance of Jones’ first book, *Tomorrow Is Another Day: The Woman Writer in the South, 1859-1936*, was the subject of a plenary session at the recent biennial conference of the Society for the Study of Southern Literature. Jones is completing the sequel, *Faulkner’s Daughters*, along with manuscripts called *Theory and the Good Old Boys* and *Faulkner’s Masculinities*.

—Patrick Hughes



Grant Award Totals: October 2001–February 2002

Read the full grants listing in this month’s issue of *CLASnotes* online at <http://clasnews.clas.ufl.edu/news.shtml>.

Bookbeat

Recent publications from CLAS faculty



Doug Levey

Seed Dispersal and Frugivory: Ecology, Evolution and Conservation

Most people have probably dabbled in some occasional frugivory, whether they are aware of it or not.

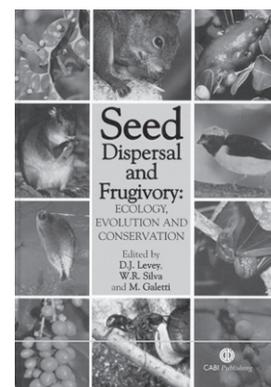
“Frugivory is simply the consumption of fruit,” Zoology Professor **Doug Levey** says. “In evolutionary terms, it is extremely important, because it is one of the primary mechanisms by which plants get their seeds dispersed.”

Levey says that in some tropical forests, as many as 80% of plant species produce fruits that are eaten by birds and mammals. “These animals ingest seeds and later defecate them away from the parent plant, where the seeds germinate and grow. Many studies have shown that such dispersal is necessary because mortality of seeds and seedlings near parent trees is incredibly high.”

Levey’s new book arose out of the Third International Symposium-Workshop on Frugivores and Seed Dispersal, which was held August 2000 in Rio Quente, Brazil and funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). “The NSF typically wants some type of publication from a large meeting of this type, so I promised that I’d help put one together. All invited participants were asked to contribute a chapter to the book, and all agreed,” Levey says, adding that because his co-editors speak Portuguese, he was primarily responsible for

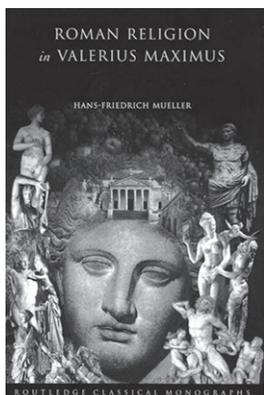
reviewing and editing the manuscripts. He is quick to point out, though, that his co-editors deserve equal credit because they were the driving force behind organizing the conference.

Levey hopes the book will give academics, managers and conservation biologists an appreciation for the complex tapestry woven by the interactions between plants and animals. “In the past, workers in this field have tended to overlook obvious but important ecological and evolutionary twists. In doing so, I fear the field has gotten a bit stuck,” Levey says. “The goal of both the book and the conference is to awaken people to new ways of looking at frugivory and seed dispersal and to chart a course for new research.”



Seed Dispersal and Frugivory: Ecology, Evolution and Conservation, Edited by **Doug Levey**, Wesley R. Silva and Mauro Galetti (CABI Publishing).

—Patrick Hughes



Roman Religion in Valerius Maximus, **Hans-Friedrich Mueller** (Routledge).

Roman Religion in Valerius Maximus

In his book *Roman Religion in Valerius Maximus*, Assistant Professor of Classics **Hans-Friedrich Mueller** illustrates what anecdote collector Valerius Maximus can tell the modern reader about the religion, rhetoric and historiography of ancient Rome, attacking several orthodoxies along the way. Mueller argues that Roman religion could be deeply emotional, that it was possible for Roman citizens to believe passionately in the divinity of their emperor and that Rome’s gods and religious rituals had an important role in fostering conventional morality. Mueller also uses Maximus’ work to reveal the prevalent attitudes and beliefs of the ruling class that caused the persecution of early Christians.

Maximus compiled his *Memorable Doings and Sayings* during the reign of Tiberius, from 14–37 AD.

Originally intended to be instructional, the handbook’s collection of deeds and sayings (arranged according to different virtues, vices, religious practices and customs) is considered an important source for studying the opinions of Romans in the early empire.

Mueller came to UF in the fall of 2001. He has had numerous articles and reviews published and has contributed to works such as the *Dictionary of the Ancient World* and the *Dictionary of Literary Biography: Roman Authors*. *Roman Religion in Valerius Maximus* is his first book.

Mueller received his MA from UF in 1989 and his PhD from UNC-Chapel Hill in 1994.

—Patrick Hughes

CLAS Commencement

CLAS Dean Neil Sullivan invites all faculty, staff and students to attend the inaugural College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Spring Commencement ceremony on Friday, May 3 at 6 pm in the Stephen C. O'Connell Center. In addition to recognizing spring graduates, the college will honor several individuals with Distinguished Achievement Awards.

The ceremony's keynote speaker will be Robert Weisbuch, president of the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation in Princeton, New Jersey. Weisbuch joined the foundation in 1997 following 25 years at the University of Michigan, where he served as chair of the English department, associate vice president for research, associate dean for faculty programs and interim dean of the Rackham School of Graduate Studies. He also taught classes on creative writing, American literature, Neoclassicism and Romanticism, and Victorian fiction.

Weisbuch earned his bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University and received his PhD in English from Yale University in 1972.

He has received numerous awards for both teaching and scholarship at Michigan. Weisbuch has authored several books about Emily Dickinson as well as the stormy relations between British and American authors in the 19th century.

Founded in 1945, the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation is an independent, nonprofit organization dedicated to encouraging excellence in education through the identification of critical needs and the development of effective national programs to address them. Weisbuch says the foundation is the place where educators should bring their most adventuresome and thoughtful ideas. "We've always extended opportunities to terrific students so that they can reach their potential. Now, with a changing American population, we can work to ensure that no group of people is left out and that we get the best from all for the good of the whole culture. And, more than ever, we will be a no-compromises voice for excellence in education."

—Allyson A. Beutke



Robert Weisbuch, keynote speaker for the Spring 2002 graduation ceremony.



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