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CLASnotes

The University of Florida
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

CLAS Students
Stand Out



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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!



UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA

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CLASnotes is published monthly by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to inform faculty, staff and students of current research and events.

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The Dean's Musings

Congratulations to the Class of 2002!

Every graduation is a special occasion as we celebrate the accomplishments of our students and the commencement of their careers following years of dedicated work and study. It is also a chance for everyone to have a little fun. This year is no exception, as more than 1,600 students representing 22 departments and 25 graduate degree programs receive degrees from our college on May 3.

Whether it has been in the classroom, in an interdisciplinary program, through interactions with fellow students and scholars, at a community function or even on the soccer field, the knowledge, abilities and character our students have acquired during their time at UF places them in an extraordinary position among their peers. The liberal arts and sciences curriculum our students experience is broad and diverse, equipping graduates with skills that will enable them to make smart decisions, compete with the best any school has to offer and embrace the new global society. Because our students possess these qualities, our graduates have been keenly sought by employers and national institutions as future leaders. Despite the slowdown of the economy, we believe this is true this year just as much as in the past.

The college extends its congratulations to all of our graduating seniors and graduate students, and to their families and friends who have helped make this day possible. We hope that as members of the Class of 2002, you will carry forward fond memories of your college and student days into future years. With the will to succeed and the courage to follow your hearts and minds, we are confident that you are well positioned to succeed in your future endeavors.

Neil Sullivan
sullivan@phys.ufl.edu

On the Cover:

Michael Swick, Scott Kennelly and Nour Kawa in Turlington Plaza.
Learn how their experiences as interns helped them stand out on page 4.

CLAS Students Share Their **Secrets** *of* **Success**

Tomea Sippio will graduate from UF's law school on May 18. At the age of 23, she has a clear idea of what she wants to do with her life. "I want to work with senior citizens and pursue a career in elder law. Sometimes we forget that older people have needs too."

As part of Sippio's career path, she chose to earn a graduate certificate in gerontology, a goal she has been working towards since she was an undergraduate at UF. "I was a political science major and sociology minor. I also wanted to earn the gerontology certificate, but I found out about it two semesters before graduating, and I was one class short at graduation time. After entering law school, I decided to earn the certificate at the graduate level."

Sippio's interest in working with senior citizens is a direct result of her childhood. "I grew up in Miami, and my family is a close-knit group. When I was young, my mother lost her eyesight, so my grandmother and her sisters helped raise me and my two younger sisters. Since they were all involved in senior citizens' clubs, I spent a lot of time with older folks," Sippio explains. "My mom even went back to school to become an adult education instructor, and she teaches basic reading and writing skills at a senior citizens center. Since she is blind and not able to do her paperwork, I was responsible for writing

see Sippio on page 6



On May 3, **Paula Palmer's** kids will be cheering for her from their seats at the O'Connell Center as she receives her bachelor's degree in sociology. "I want my kids to know that you just keep doing what you need to do, and you can achieve what you want," she says. "I'm going to walk at graduation because I want them to see what it's like and how excited everyone is for the graduates."

Palmer, who is the office manager for the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, has been working toward her degree at UF since 1995. She has taken one class each semester and has also earned a minor in criminology. "I received my two-year degree in 1984 from Santa Fe Community College, and I was tired of school at that point. I felt I would one day go back, and I did. However, I just kept taking classes at Santa Fe. I was really scared to enroll at UF. The enormity of it all frightened me."

Palmer eventually overcame her fears when Sandra Russo, who works at UF's International Center, offered her a piece of advice. "I'd met Sandra when I worked at the International Center, and I told her about wanting to take classes at UF. One day she said, 'Paula, *just take a class*,' and I did." Russo says she thought Palmer needed an extra vote of confidence. "Having done all that work without having the piece of paper is not good for one's self-esteem.-The fact that she took those classes while working full time and being a single mom has told me that she has a curiosity and intellect to explore and learn."

Palmer decided to major in sociology because of her interest in how people relate. "After taking a class on deviance with Marion Borg, I knew I had chosen

see Palmer on page 6

A Capitol Idea

CLAS Students Stand Out In Washington, DC

With one internship already completed, political science major Scott Kennelly is no stranger to firsthand experience in politics. But now he is looking forward to hitting the big time. “This summer, I’ll be interning with Congressman Ray LaHood from Illinois for two months at his Washington, DC office,” he says. “I interned with him for a month during the summer after my sophomore year at his Peoria office, which helped me, but I think being in DC is going to be a lot more exciting. It’s where the action is taking place.”

In addition to managing the general office duties he handled in his earlier internship, Kennelly anticipates tackling some new, exciting tasks this summer. “Congress will be in session when I am there, and I will definitely be doing some research on issues that are being considered on the House floor. Congressman LaHood likes to know what his constituents are feeling and what is in the newspapers to get all the information he needs before he votes. And I hope to be an integral part of that process.”

In Washington, Kennelly also expects to meet people who will help him achieve his career goals. “I definitely want to be involved in politics in the future, ideally as a congressman. But I am also interested in lobbying and political analysis,” he says. “I think this internship will help me make contacts not only with people that are in the field now, but also with other interns. A lot of interns in Washington are older, graduate-level students, so when I am getting ready to graduate I will be in contact people who are already involved in the political process.”

Nour Kawa, a UF senior majoring in political science and finance, interned at the FBI’s Washington, DC headquarters last summer. Making contacts was one of the things she enjoyed about her experience there. “I was one of 56 interns nationwide. An intern was chosen by every FBI field office to go to headquarters in DC. The other interns came from all of the country and were

involved in a wide array of disciplines. I met so many phenomenal, intelligent people, and I am still in contact with my former supervisors and the people who sponsor the program.”

Kawa says she was able to apply ideas she learned in political science classes during her internship. “The FBI recruits people from different backgrounds, including accounting, law and foreign-language study. Political science is one of the disciplines that is looked upon highly. Being pre-law, having experience in finance and being multilingual helped me fit the mold of what they wanted.”

Of course, Kawa also learned a great deal during her experience. “Because of security reasons it is hard for me to go into detail about what I did, but I worked under an agent and an analyst and had the chance to see what it’s like to be both an agent and a member of the support staff. FBI employees are very detail oriented, and working with them sharpened my analytical and investigative skills immensely. Following strict procedure is a large part of the FBI process, and ensuring that things went through proper channels gave me some insight into how government works.”

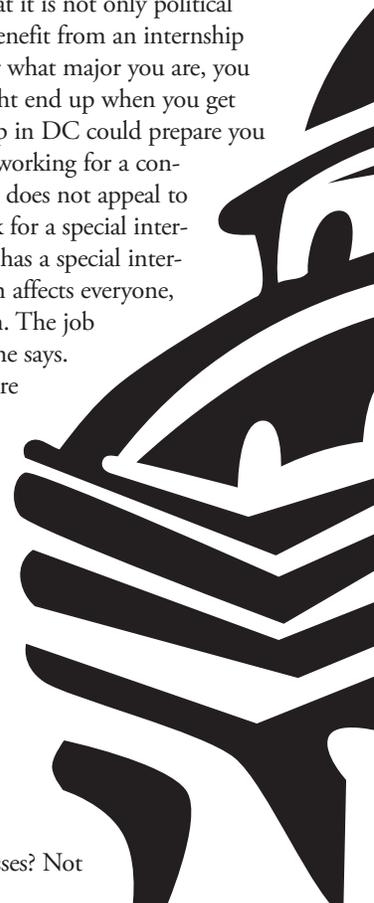
Even as an intern, Kawa got to take part in actual casework at FBI headquarters. “Interns are assigned to a division to work on projects. You get to help the unit you are working for and undertake specific tasks,” she says. “We also received some training similar to what new hires receive. For example,

the people who trained us on how to use firearms were FBI firearms instructors. It’s not the same as being a trainee, but we got a little taste of it.”

Overall, Kawa says it was a good learning experience. “I would definitely encourage all students to pursue an internship in DC. Students should at least pursue some kind of an internship—and if it is in DC, that is even better.”

Sophomore Michael Swick, who is majoring in physics and philosophy, interned at Florida Congressman Mark Foley’s Washington, DC office in the summer of 2001. Swick says that it is not only political science students who can benefit from an internship in Washington. “No matter what major you are, you never know where you might end up when you get out of school. An internship in DC could prepare you for law school, and even if working for a congressperson on Capitol Hill does not appeal to you, you could always work for a special interest group. Every profession has a special interest out there, and legislation affects everyone, from every single profession. The job opportunities are endless,” he says. “An internship is worth more than any class, and even if you are not a political science major, your knowledge of the basic working of government is furthered by working in DC. You actually see the legislative process in action.”

Swick says his Washington experience gave him a better understanding of what he is able to do with his major. “Will my internship help me in physics classes? Not



necessarily, but it certainly will help me in some applications of physics. One thing that I did in my internship was study energy policy, and energy policy is an application of physics in terms of research of new types of energy. I got an interesting feel of what the political climate, interest and attitude is toward the development of new sources of energy.”

UF Political Science Professor David Hedge, who is undergraduate coordinator and internship coordinator for the political science department, agrees with Swick. “Obviously from a political science perspective, the fit between the major and the internship is clear. But Washington is a big city, with a lot of people

doing different things connected to government. It would not surprise me to see someone involved in the sciences benefit from an internship in Washington,” he says. “Keep in mind the number of scientific institutes, defense contractors and software computing firms in DC. More and more of what businesses and scientists do is related to government. Whether it is the Department of Energy, the Office of Naval Research or different think tanks, an internship in Washington is not just for political scientists.”

Hedge says the number of UF political science students interning in Washington has doubled in the last two to three years. “In a typical year, we now have 70 or 80 students going off to Tallahassee, Washington or to government offices in their hometowns. It is a real priority for us to get students out there for this kind of learning experience,” he says. “My job is to make that happen, and to expand the number of opportunities and the number

of students taking advantage of those opportunities. And it’s been easy. A lot of students want to do internships, and we have been able to facilitate that. There are many people in Washington, including alumni and members of Congress, that are excited

“An internship is worth more than any class.”

—Michael Swick

about working with our students.”

UF alumnus Holly Campbell, who graduated June 2001 with bachelor’s degrees in political science and economics, has certainly found that to be the case. “I did two internships. The first was in the fall of 2000, in Washington, DC at Women’s Action for New Directions (WAND). WAND is a women’s peace group, and it does a lot of different things. Interning there gave me insight into how the different groups in Washington work. It had a grassroots organization, a political action committee and an educational arm. It was a really great experience,” she says.

Campbell’s second internship made a big difference in landing her a job with US Senator Bob Graham after graduation. “When I came back to Gainesville, I interned at State Senator Rod Smith’s office a few days a week,” she says. “When I was interviewing for jobs, a legislative aide there said to me, ‘We’ll write a letter saying you are an intern of ours and that we think you are wonderful and then put it on our letter-

head and fax it to Congressional offices along with your resume.’ They did that, and I think that when people get a fax from a state senator it makes them look at it a little more closely than the dozens of other resumes they receive every month.”

In addition to many learning and career opportunities, the culture, pace and general climate of Washington has a lot of appeal for students. “Most students that have interned in Washington say they want to stay in Washington,” Hedge says. “For political scientists, it is one of the most important and exciting cities in the world. It is a neat city, and the rate and velocity of government and politics there is just amazing.”

Campbell likes the international flavor of the city. “I ride the subway every morning, and see people from all around the world. I work next to a couple of embassies and always see interesting people passing by.”

Swick says that DC is his favorite city. “It has so much to offer, it is unbelievable. There is all the tourist stuff, but after a while you realize there are all these other places there such as nice restaurants and shopping districts. In DC, you can have the aura of all the things going on and the hectic pace of Capitol Hill, but then if you need a break, other areas are a little calmer. I do think I might look into another internship experience there. I would go back in a heartbeat.”

—Patrick Hughes



Sippio continued from page 3

the assignments and lesson plans, so I got to work with the senior citizens as well.”

Learning how to work with senior citizens is a skill Sippio thinks everyone should acquire. “Everyone is aging. It’s estimated that in the year 2050, 25% of the population will be over age 65. It doesn’t matter what field you go into, you’re going to work with senior citizens. People are living longer, and they’re staying in the workforce longer,” she says. The law school allows students to take six credits outside the law curriculum, and Sippio chose gerontology courses. “I took a health and disease course and an introduction to gerontology class. Since UF’s law school doesn’t have an elder law program, I also took classes that would help me work with the elderly, such as health care law, poverty law, estates and trusts, and taxation.”

Sippio says she did not pursue the gerontology certificate simply to boost her resume. “Underneath it all, you’re dealing with people, and if you don’t know how to address their needs, then you cannot effectively work with them and for them. I don’t know how I could be a legal advocate for the elderly if I don’t know what problems they face, so I wanted to supplement my legal education with this certificate.” Sippio will also receive a pro-bono certificate because she has volunteered for 60 hours at the State Attorney’s Office in Gainesville, working on cases related to the Department of Children and Families.

Betty Goodson, the office manager for the Center for Gerontological Studies, was the first person Sippio met when she walked into the center as an undergraduate four years ago. Goodson says just knowing Sippio has been an inspiration. “Nothing seems to stand in the way of Tomea meeting her goals. With all these accomplishments, I know she is not about to rest now. She is extremely focused on what she wants out of life.” Pat Kricos, director of the center, agrees. “Even though I have only recently become acquainted with Tomea, I have been amazed with her dedication and passion for law and the elderly. It is always a joy to see students meld their career preparation with the study of gerontology. In Tomea’s case, the combination of legal studies with gerontological course work ensures she will be prepared to meet the challenges of providing legal services to the older adult population.”

Sippio’s ultimate goal is to create a place called Heritage Academy. “I want to establish a day-care center for both children and senior adults in one building, so the sandwich generation can drop off their kids and their parents and not have to worry about them. A medical center will be there as well, and the children will learn from the older generation. That’s what I’m working for,” she says. “I’d like to open Heritage Academy in Miami. Even though I’m fed up with the city, I have to do something about it. As the old saying goes, ‘If you can’t say anything nice, then don’t say anything at all,’ or else change it, and I plan to change it.”

After graduation, Sippio plans to return to Miami and practice elder law. “I’m more interested in working with legal aid or small firms where you know your clientele. I feel that after practicing law for three or four years and then earning a master’s degree in health care administration, I will be qualified to open Heritage Academy,” Sippio says. “I’m not really impressed with myself. I won’t be until my dream is realized, and Heritage Academy is up and running.”

Sippio is engaged to her high-school sweetheart, and her 80-year-old great aunt will be the maid of honor at her wedding in November. “As you can probably see, my family is the most important thing to me. They have all influenced me in many positive ways. From my mom, I have learned that you can overcome just about anything. No matter how hard your life has been, you can find something positive to do with it.”

Palmer continued from page 3

the right major, and then I decided to minor in criminology. I’ve also taken a few family classes because it all comes together.” Palmer does not plan to stop with her bachelor’s degree, noting that graduate school is most likely in her future. “I’ll stay here or attend Florida State University. FSU has a social-work weekend program that I’m interested in, and getting a PhD is not out of the question. I’ve always liked school a lot, and I’ve had some really great support from my family and co-workers.”

Angel Kwolek-Folland is Palmer’s supervisor and the director of the Center for Women’s Studies and Gender Research. She recently nominated Palmer for the CLAS USPS Employee Excellence Award, and it comes as no surprise to Kwolek-Folland that Palmer received one of the two awards. “Paula is the backbone of our center. She is the one who is there when others can’t be, who first meets the public on the phone and in the office, who deals gracefully with students, faculty and other university personnel every day. I simply can’t imagine doing my job without her there making great suggestions and making me laugh.”

Even though Palmer will graduate with honors, going back to school while working full time and raising two children has not always been easy. “A few times I’ve missed classes for several days because I’ve had sick kids at home, or I’ve missed a meeting at work because I’ve had a class,” she explains. “Sometimes my kids and I are doing homework together. I’m typing on the computer, and I have another kid behind me working on a science project, or we both need to use the computer at the same time!”

In honor of Palmer’s college graduation, her daughter’s 5th grade graduation and her son’s 8th grade graduation, the three will reward themselves with a white-water rafting trip to North Carolina in May. Then Palmer plans to accomplish another feat. “I’m going to train for a marathon. I’ve run some small races, but I’d like to run a longer one.”

Palmer says the advantage of coming back to school has simply been learning. “There are so many things I never would have known if I hadn’t taken classes and earned this degree. I feel very fortunate to have been given such an opportunity, and sometimes I still can’t believe I’m finally graduating. Even though I had some initial fears, I’m over them now, and it all started when I just took that first class!”

—Allyson A. Beutke

Pursuing Nonprofit and Government Career Options

There is a growing concern among new college graduates about the state of the economy. Many are expressing their fears about finding a job in the current market. However, while it is true that many businesses will continue to cut back on the number of new hires, the federal government and nonprofit organizations are marching to a different beat.

With opportunities in the federal government on the rise, this is a perfect time to break into the field. The National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) recently reported an anticipated increase in job openings during the next three years. The growing availability is due both to the expansion of government opportunities, particularly in the area of post-September 11 security services, and the growing number of current workers who will be retiring in the coming years. It is projected that up to 30% of current workers will be eligible for retirement by 2005.

Many students have veered away from government positions because greater compensation could be earned working for private industry. Currently, the gap between salaries in the public and private domains has narrowed significantly. According to the NACE Job Outlook 2002 survey, nine out of 10 government employers plan to increase starting salaries for new professionals this year. The average starting salary for a new employee with a bachelor's degree in a non-technical field is \$33,175, only 2% lower than private industry.

Career options in nonprofit organizations are

also on the increase. Nonprofits include a wide range of organizations covering topics as diverse as advocacy and political activities, art and cultural/historical concerns, community development, fundraising, education, science and research, health care, religion and spirituality, and social service.

Since September 11, a renewed interest in public service has been brewing among the American populace in general, and among college students in particular. Government and nonprofit careers can offer a plethora of opportunities for professionals to help others while carrying out their daily work responsibilities. For example, a public relations specialist working for a nonprofit health organization can write newsletters and brochures to help inform the public about the benefits of safe sex. An information specialist trained in gerontology can

work with elders and their caregivers to ensure quality of care. A volunteer coordinator and trainer can ensure that a shelter is well staffed and that volunteers provide the highest quality of service to those in need. A lobbyist can persuade government officials of the benefit of passing laws that will protect the natural habitats of endangered species from future development.

All this is good news for CLAS majors. These students are sometimes the best candidates for public-service positions. Many opportunities call for skills in written and verbal communication, interpersonal interactions, persuasion, organization, grant writing and research. These are precisely the skills that CLAS students learn within their curriculum.

For more information on government and nonprofit careers, visit www.crc.ufl.edu or the Career Resource Center library.

Renewed interest in public service has been brewing among the American populace in general, and among college students in particular. Government and nonprofit careers can offer a plethora of opportunities for professionals to help others while carrying out their daily work responsibilities.

—Elaine Casquarelli,
Assistant Director for Career Development,
Career Resource Center

Dispatches to the Alma Mater

The following e-mail letter was sent to Math Professor Bruce Edwards from a former student.

Dear Professor Edwards,

I graduated in August 2000 from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences with a major in quantitative sciences. I believe I was the first student to graduate with this fairly new major, and I thought I would give you an update on my career so it may be used as a reference for students currently involved in quantitative sciences, especially those approaching graduation.

I was hired by BankAtlantic's Investments Department as a financial analyst two weeks after graduation. I work in the corporate office in downtown Fort Lauderdale. When I interviewed with the Chief Investments Officer, my current boss and an extremely straightforward man, he told me that I did not have enough knowledge in the areas of accounting and finance. I, being a very straightforward person also, replied that both accounting and finance are initially based in mathematics, and because I had extensive knowledge in that area, as well as computers, I would not only be able to perform the required tasks for the position, but also excel in them.

I have been at BankAtlantic just over a year and a half now and have lived up to my above comment. I am consistently commended for my daily, weekly and monthly achievements. I was promoted less than a year from my hire date and am starting a masters of science in finance program this fall. I was worried when I was looking for a job that no one would understand how much my degree in quantitative sciences would enable me to do, but the investments department at BankAtlantic has given me a chance to prove my abilities.

I hope this information will serve as some encouragement for students either already in this program or students entertaining the idea of entering it.

Sincerely,
Luciana C. Lawson

There are currently 19 students who are pursuing a degree in quantitative sciences through CLAS.

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.

Around the College

Fields Medalists Week in the Mathematics Department

The mathematics department's Special Year in Topology and Dynamical Systems came to a conclusion on April 12 with the fourth annual Erdős Colloquium. 1970 Fields Medalist **Sergei Novikov**, a faculty member at the University of Maryland as well as Moscow University, gave the talk "Topological Phenomena in Metals." His lecture attracted a wide audience, and he revealed surprising



Fields Medalist (left to right):
John Thompson, Daniel Quillen and Sergei Novikov.

applications of topology, one of three core areas of mathematics that deals with the study of geometric shapes and structures. UF Graduate Research Professor **John Thompson**, who also won the Fields Medal in 1970, made introductory remarks before Novikov's lecture.

During the same week, another Fields Medalist, **Daniel Quillen** of Oxford University, gave the lecture

"The Geometry of the Poisson Summation Formula." Quillen, who spoke at the second Erdős Colloquium in April 2000, received the medal in 1978.

Fields Medals, named in honor of famed mathematician John Charles Field, are awarded every four years at the International Congress of Mathematicians to mathematicians under the age of 40. The award recognizes existing mathematical work and future promise.

A collection of refereed papers from the math department's series of speakers will be published in a special issue of the journal *Topology and its Applications*. Math Professor **James Keesling** is the journal's managing editor.

USP Award Winners

On April 12-13, the University Scholars Program held its annual research symposium, where undergraduate student participants present their research findings. Each year at the symposium, the Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication presents awards for the two best qualitative and two best quantitative papers. This year, all four winners are CLAS students.

Biochemistry senior **Alan Tesson** was first-place winner of the Best Quantitative Paper with "Computer Simulations of the Kinetic Mechanism of Glutamine-Dependent Asparagine Biosynthesis." He graduates in May, and his mentor is Chemistry Professor Nigel Richards. The second-place winner for Best Quantitative Paper was **Helene Flohic**, who earned a degree in astronomy in December 2001. Her paper is titled "Studying the Formation of Stars in the Milky Way: A Comparison Between Molecular Cloud Structure and Its Embedded Stellar Content." Jonathan Williams, an astronomy professor, is her mentor.

English senior **Heather Lawson** received first place for Best Qualitative Paper for "A Reconsideration of the Impetus for John Locke's Replies to John Norris of Bemerton." Her mentor is English Professor Melvyn New. The second-place Best Qualitative Paper winner was sociology senior **Daniel Rose**. His paper is titled "Primary Lifetime Occupation and Late-Life Health," and his mentor is Sociology Professor Chuck Peek.

NSF Graduate Fellowships

The National Science Foundation (NSF) recently announced its 2002-2003 Graduate Fellowship Award winners. NSF Graduate Fellowships provide three years of support for advanced study to approximately 900 outstanding graduate students in the mathematical, physical, biological, engineering and behavioral and social sciences, as well as to research-based PhD degrees in science education.

Five of the seven winners from UF are former or current CLAS Students. **Jason Alicea** graduated in December 2001 with a major in physics and a minor in mathematics. He plans to attend the University of California, Santa Barbara. Botany major **Nicole Benda**, who graduated May 2000, minored in entomology and nematology and attends North Carolina State University. Psychology major **Arielle Borovsky**, who graduated May 2001 with highest honors, had a minor in classical studies and plans to attend the University of California, San Diego. Physics major **James Maloney** graduates May 2002 and will attend the California Institute of Technology. Zoology major **Marshall McCue**, who graduated August 2001 with highest honors, attends the University of California, Irvine.

Several other CLAS students received honorable mentions from the NSF. They are: **Fabian Fernandez**, interdisciplinary studies, May 2002; **Colleen Hanlon**, interdisciplinary studies, May 2001; **Melissa LaLiberte**, anthropology, May 2001; **Matthew Locey**, philosophy and psychology, May 2000.

CLAS Students Receive Prestigious Scholarships

Zoology junior **Michael Gale** has received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Morris K. Udall Foundation. The program recognizes outstanding juniors and seniors in fields related to the environment, and Gale was one of 80 winners nationwide.

Gale was also selected as a finalist for the 2002 Florida College Student of the Year Award given by *Florida Leader* magazine.

This competition honors Florida college students who excel academically, support themselves financially and volunteer in the community. Gale was one of seven finalists selected out of 150 applicants.



Gale

Gale has a minor in wildlife ecology and conservation as well as music performance. He is the director of the Student Government Environmental Affairs Cabinet and volunteers at the Florida Museum of Natural History at UF. Gale serves as a resident advisor on campus.

Two political science students have received 2002 James Madison Fellowships to

pursue graduate studies. Graduating seniors **Timothy Tinnesz** and **Jocelyn Tobin** are two of only 50 national winners. They will attend an intensive six-week institute at Georgetown University on constitutional history this summer and each receive \$24,000 to attend graduate school.

Tinnesz, who has minors in Spanish and secondary education, wrote his application essay about the need to teach high school students a significant understanding of the United States in order to be effective citizens. While at UF, he has served as president of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Student Council and on several university committees, including the CLAS Dean Search Committee last year. Tinnesz has maintained a 4.0 GPA during his undergraduate career and is the CLAS Valedictorian for the Spring 2002 semester. He plans to attend Georgetown University or George Washington University to earn a master's degree in American



Tinnesz

government. Tinnesz plans to teach American history or government at the high school level and would like to become involved in politics.

Tobin has a minor in secondary education, and her essay discussed the lack of extensive coverage of the US Constitution in secondary schools and the need to restore the knowledge of constitutional history to sustain a representative democracy. She has served as vice president of Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, secretary of Mortar Board National Senior Honor Society and director of The Children's Table Committee, a nonprofit organization that provides food and other emergency services to Alachua County children and families in need. Tobin will attend Teachers College at Columbia University this fall to obtain her master's degree. She would like to teach social studies, US history or government at the middle or high school level.



Tobin

DEPARTMENT NEWS

History

In March and April, **Geoffrey Giles** gave lectures on behalf of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum at the University of Denver and the University of Colorado at Boulder. He also gave talks at the Hippodrome Theatre in Gainesville and at the opening of a new exhibition at the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg about the persecution of homosexuals in Nazi Germany. Giles presented a paper at the University of Mississippi in Oxford at an international symposium on post-war Germany and spoke at the Yom Ha'Shoah commemoration at Tufts University in Massachusetts. Giles has been interviewed for two television documentaries that will air later this year on HBO and the History Channel.

Randall Stephens, a PhD candidate in the history department, has received a 2002-2003 Lilly Dissertation Fellowship through the Louisville Institute. The \$12,000 award supports the final year of writing of promising PhD and ThD dissertation projects dealing with aspects of American religious life which are related to the concerns of the Louisville Institute. Stephens' dissertation is titled "The Fire Spreads: The Origins of Southern Pentecostalism."

Award-Winning CLAS Students

Dissertation Fellows

Each year CLAS invites students pursuing PhDs to apply for dissertation fellowships for the spring and summer terms. Awardees receive tuition waivers and a \$3,750 stipend for the spring or summer term. This year's recipients are:

Aschoff Dissertation Fellow

Thomas Wunderli, *Mathematics*

Gerson Dissertation Fellows

Adam Howard, *History*

Cynthia Koenig, *Psychology*

Dean Swinford, *English*

Gibson Dissertation Fellows

Stephen Carino, *Chemistry*

Margit Grieb, *Germanic and Slavic Studies*

Carrie Hamilton, *Linguistics*

Holmes Memorial Scholar

Raina Joines, *English*

Massey Dissertation Fellows

Barbara Carlsward, *Botany*

Pimol Moth, *Astronomy*

McGinty Dissertation Fellow

David Kennedy, *Anthropology*

McLaughlin Dissertation Fellows

Brian D. Baker, *Physics*

Mark Brechtel, *Psychology*

Juan Carlos Callirgos, *History*

D. John Chadwick, *Geological Sciences*

Kristen Conway, *Geography*

Emilia Gioreva, *Political Science*

Kristin E. Joos, *Sociology*

Oana Mocioalca, *Mathematics*

Suhel Quader, *Zoology*

Diana Serrano, *Romance Languages and Literatures*

O'Neill Dissertation Fellow

Daniel Boisvert, *Philosophy*

Russell Dissertation Fellow

Roos Willems, *Anthropology*

Threadgill Dissertation Fellows

Sarika Chandra, *English*

Matthew Peters, *Chemistry*

Graduate Student Council Awards

The Graduate Student Council held its 2002 Graduate Student Forum on April 4 at the Reitz Union. The forum is a multidisciplinary symposium that gives students the opportunity to present research projects and creative works to other members of the university community. Presenters competed for first, second and third place awards, and university faculty judged the entries based on the presenter's ability to adequately represent their work. Nine CLAS students received top honors for their oral presentations and poster presentations.

Oral Presentations

1st place, Education

Carmen Tekwe, *Statistics*

1st place, Engineering and Physical Sciences

Douglas Ratay, *Astronomy*

2nd place, Engineering and Physical Sciences

Paige Eagen, *Chemistry*

3rd place, Social Sciences

Jason Gainous and Kevin Wagner,
Political Science

Poster Presentations

1st place, Environment, Agriculture and Life Sciences

Patricia Townsend, *Zoology*

2nd place, Health and Human Performance

Susan Baker, *Communication Sciences and Disorders*

1st place, Social Science

John Schultz, *Anthropology*

2nd place, Social Science

Nicole Alea, *Psychology*

3rd place, Social Science

Nancy Frye, *Psychology*

McQuown Scholarship Winners

The O. Ruth McQuown Scholarships honor 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 \$500-\$1,000

Ronique Bundrage, *Psychology*

Nour Kawa, *Political Science*

Laia Mitchell, *Anthropology*

Kavita Rajasekhar, *Sociology*

Brooke Schoeffler, *Communication Sciences and Disorders*

Graduate Recipients of \$2,000-\$8,000

Nadia Abdulhaq, *Speech-Language Pathology*

Julia Albarracin, *Political Sciences*

Yvonne Combs, *Sociology*

Heidi Lannon, *Geography*

Ellen Marie Maccarone, *Philosophy*

Shuala Martin, *Anthropology*

Incoming Graduate Recipient of \$15,000

International Awards

On April 25, in the Reitz Union Ballroom, Associate Dean Ron Akers presented certificates to 10 international graduate and undergraduate students in CLAS who were nominated by their departments for outstanding academic achievement. The recipients are: **Diana C. Alvira**, *botany*; **Jeanne Cho**, *mathematics*; **Mohamed Al Khairy**, *linguistics*; **Bernard Klingenberg**, *statistics*; **Rongland Liu**, *physics*; **Roberto Porro**, *anthropology*; **Guillermina Seri**, *political science*; **Xin Wang**, *geological sciences*; **Shufang Yu**, *chemistry*; **Karina Vasquez**, *Romance languages and literatures*.

Two CLAS students also received the Alec Courtelis Award, which is given each year to exceptional international students by Louise Courtelis in honor of her late husband, who was the former chairman of the Board of Regents. **Juan Carlos Callirgos** (history) and **Mohamed Al Khairy** (linguistics) each received this honor.

Graduate Teaching Awards

The following CLAS graduate students recently received university-wide recognition for outstanding teaching: **Jeff Chase**, *physics*; **Jodi Grace**, *psychology*; **Adam Howard**, *history*; **Raina Joines**, *English*; **Darin Penneys**, *botany*; **Barbara Petrosky**, *Romance languages and literatures*; **Diana Serrano**, *Romance languages and literatures*.

Calvin A. VanderWerf Award Recipient: **Helena Alden**, *sociology*.

Anthropology Scholarships

Two forensic anthropology graduate students have each received a 2002 William R. Maples Memorial Scholarship to pursue their dissertation research. With the funding, **Suzanne Abel** will travel to Greece this summer to collect data on recent human skeletal populations. **John J. Schultz** will complete soil analyses related to his work on the utility of ground-penetrating radar in site-formation processes and locating clandestine graves.

Several archeology graduate students are winners of 2002 Charles H. Fairbanks Scholarship awards. Each will receive \$900 to further their graduate careers. They are: **Keith H. Ashley**, **Bradley E. Ensor**, **C. Andrew Hemmings** and **Sharyn Jones O'Day**.

Bookbeat

Recent publications from CLAS faculty



Aida A. Hozic, author of *Hollyworld* (Cornell University Press).

Hollyworld: Space, Power, and Fantasy in the American Economy

For **Aida A. Hozic**, an interest in the film industry began early. Her father was an artist, and she studied theater directing at the University of Belgrade's Academy of Dramatic Arts. Before coming to the US, Hozic wrote theater and film reviews in Sarajevo and worked in various aspects of television, from serving as a production assistant to translating and writing subtitles for foreign movies.

"I grew up in the former Yugoslavia thinking about politics in terms of arts and culture," she says. Her book, *Hollyworld: Space, Power, and Fantasy in the American Economy*, is an expansion on her early thoughts.

A product of her dissertation, the book was six years in the making, including a year spent in Los Angeles interviewing people in the industry and researching archives at the Margaret Herrick Library at the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences.

"Hollywood is an industry that is very often neglected in analysis of the American economy, and yet it is incredibly fast-growing and strategically important, particularly in terms of exports," she says.

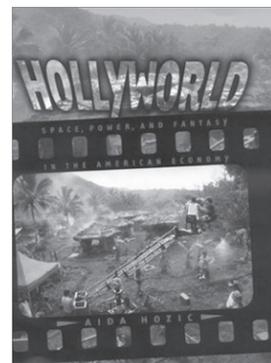
The book suggests that Hollywood's organization affects our everyday life more than we know, notably with respect to censor-

ship and moral surveillance.

When asked about the intended impact of her book, Hozic says, "I do hope it makes at least some people puzzle over the fact that we are nothing but a captive audience and/or extras in a big entertainment plot."

Hozic's current project, a book tentatively titled *Making of the Unwanted Colonies*, has grown directly out of *Hollyworld*. It will explore the relationship between media representation of ethnic violence and military intervention. "It looks at places that are being turned into undesirable quagmires, such as Bosnia, Kosovo and even Afghanistan, and how these places at the same time are being exploited by the media."

—Jenny Oberhaus



Hollyworld: Space, Power, and Fantasy in the American Economy, Aida A. Hozic (Political Science), Cornell University Press.

People Who Keep CLAS Working



After the ceremony, President Young and Dean Sullivan with the USPS honorees.

A select group of CLAS University Support Personnel System (USPS) employees were honored at a reception in the Keene Faculty Center on April 18 for their commitment and years of service to the university. UF President Charles Young, CLAS Dean Neil Sullivan and Personnel Services Director Larry Ellis each offered words of gratitude and encouragement. Recognized employees received a UF pin and a certificate signed by the dean.

At the ceremony, two CLAS employees also received the inaugural CLAS USPS Employee Excellence Award. Dean Sullivan presented a \$1,500 check to **Kevin Hanna**, a senior engineer in the astronomy department, and **Paula Palmer**, the office manager for the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research.

Hanna, who has been at UF since 1996, initially did not place too much importance on his nomination. "When I first heard about the nomination, I thought, 'It's just me. There's no chance I'll win anything unless everybody wins,'" he says. "When a friend of mine said, 'This is the first year they've had this, and you're one of the first ones to get it—that should tell you something,' then the significance dawned on me. It was quite an affirming and humbling experience."

Hanna oversees the design and construction of electronics systems that are used by infrared cameras on the biggest telescopes on Earth. "Kevin is one of only a few engineers in the world who can design and build these unique, state-of-the-art electronics systems," Astronomy Professor Charlie Telesco says. "During the last five years, Kevin has worked extremely long hours, often at distant observatories, to build, test and implement these advanced systems. His work ensures that astronomers can carry out the observational programs that have put UF's Department of Astronomy on the map. His dedication to his job is outstanding, and he has always succeeded in his tasks, overcoming all difficulties." Telesco and Astronomy Professor Robert Piña nominated Hanna for the award.

Palmer has worked at the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research since 1997. In addition to working full time, Palmer is graduating this semester with her bachelor's degree in sociology. To read more about Palmer, see page 3.



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