

December 2002 / January 2003  
Vol. 16 No. 12 / Vol. 17 No. 1

# CLASnotes

The University of Florida  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



**The New Language of  
Technology**

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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

## The Environment and Our Future

As we look forward to the holiday season and time with friends and family, it is a good moment to take stock of where we are today, where we will be tomorrow, and where we need to be 10 years from now and even 100 years (only academics seem to dare to look beyond four years).

The simple resources and advantages that we enjoy today are limited while populations continue to grow in number and expand their land use. The growing demands on our limited resources are increasing faster every decade.

It is urgent that we examine our uses of land and how population changes are affecting long-term processes in both local and global environments. The availability of potable water, temperature and large-scale global climate changes, and the effect of industrial and human by-products are issues we must explore. Advanced scientific methods that use Global Positioning System techniques to monitor large land and water areas help scientists discover alterations over long periods of time. These techniques coupled with accurate analysis of chemical, biological and physical compositions of accumulations in deep sediments in the ocean floor, or in ancient glacial ice deposits, can provide the reliable data needed to show trends and help us understand the physical processes affecting the environment.

Advanced institutes around the world such as UF's Land Use and Environmental Change Institute (LUECI) are leading the way. Many of the lessons we can learn from basic scientific studies of Florida's fragile ecosystems will be relevant to many other areas around the world.

Along with raw scientific data, there is also an urgent need to understand the socioeconomic and societal factors that will accompany these changes in our fragile ecosystems. How can we better preserve current resources and develop new food sources, as well as use new scientific developments to meet material needs as our standard staples and energy resources become scarce? We cannot wait until crises force us to look at these issues. We owe it to future generations to start asking the difficult questions today to better prepare for our future.

Neil Sullivan  
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## On the Cover:

Allison M. Gidel (standing) is pursuing her Master of Education in foreign language teaching, specializing in Spanish, and Nicole M. Benevento is working on her MA in Spanish, specializing in Hispanic linguistics. Both are learning how to use technology in the language classroom. See page 6.

# Ethics, Religion and the Environment

Bron Taylor has worn many hats so far in his life: professor, program director, board member, lifeguard, editor and environmentalist to name a few. These experiences have shaped his career as a pioneer in the field of religion, ethics and nature, and he brings his expertise to UF as the first Samuel S. Hill Chair of Christian Ethics in the religion department.

Perry Foote, Jr., a Gainesville physician, made the new chair position possible through a pledge during the “It’s Performance That Counts!” campaign. Foote wanted to honor UF Emeritus Professor of Religion Samuel S. Hill. Hill taught at UF from 1972–1994 and served as department chair from 1972–1977. “It is gratifying to have your name associated with anything positive, and I’m thrilled that Dr. Taylor has been brought in because he is well-suited for this position,” says Hill. “I’m glad there is specific attention given to ethics because it’s a topic our students need to learn about more than ever these days.”

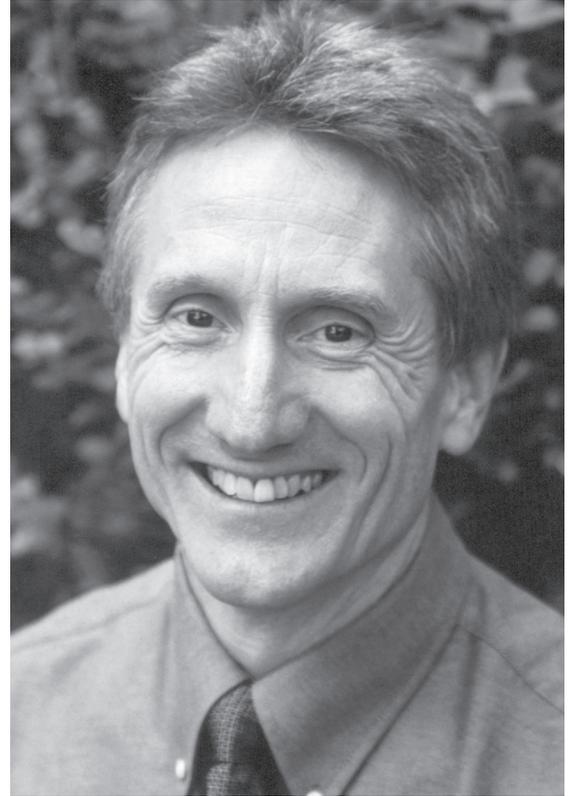
Taylor’s interest in environment ethics began during his childhood. “My earliest memories include being unable to bicycle home from a swimming pool because of air pollution-induced ‘lung burn,’ and the outrage I felt at the bulldozing for new homes of my woodland playground near Los Angeles,” Taylor says. Taylor’s family moved to the coast on this 13th birthday, where he discovered his love for the ocean. In 1977 he received his bachelor’s degree, double majoring in religious studies and psychology, from California State University, Chico, later earning a master’s degree in theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1980, and his PhD in social ethics from the University of Southern California in 1988.

During his college years, Taylor worked as a lifeguard along the Southern California coast, where he saw the California Brown Pelican disappear due to DDT poisoning and reappear, years later, after the pesticide was banned.

“About the time I was finishing my dissertation, exploring the impacts of affirmative action policies on ordinary people, and using my own empirical data as grist for ethical reflection about these policies, I noticed that environmentalists had begun to deploy sabotage in their efforts to arrest environmental decline,” says Taylor. “I soon surmised that, like the liberation movements I had studied, the emerging, ‘radical environmental’ groups were animated by religious perceptions and ideals. Intrigued, I left for the woods to learn more.”

This turned into a long-term research trajectory exploring the many dimensions of and forms of contemporary grassroots environmentalism, especially the most radical ones. One book he edited about such movements, *Ecological Resistance Movements: The Global Emergence of Radical and Popular Environmentalism*, has been adopted by more than three dozen universities for classroom use.

During the past 30 years there has been a tremendous debate over whether religion promotes or hinders environmentally responsible behavior. Providing part of the answer to this question, Taylor has focused attention on various forms of “green religion,” publishing numerous papers about such groups and presenting lectures about the relationships between cultures, religions and ecosystems around the world. He also brings strong program—building experience, having founded the environmental studies program at the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, and serving as its director for nearly ten years before mov-



ing to Florida.

At UF, Taylor will continue crafting the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Nature*, the first encyclopedia focusing on the relationships among religions, cultures and ecosystems. “I’ve been working on this for several years now. It’s been a tremendous learning experience to read what 700 scholars from diverse disciplines have to say about these relationships. The two-volume work will contain more than 1,000 entries.

Another project Taylor will play a key role in is UF’s new PhD program in religion. In the fall of 2003, the religion department will inaugurate doctoral programs in three areas of specialization: religion and nature, religion in the Americas and religions of Asia. Religion Chair Sheldon Isenberg says Taylor’s appointment comes at an opportune time. “Bron Taylor is the anchor for our PhD track in religion and nature, which is the first such program in the world. He has helped define this field of research, and prospective students are already knocking on the door.”

Taylor will teach courses in religious, social and environmental ethics and is also writing two books. “It’s wonderful to be at a first-rate research school because I will be able to more rapidly complete my research, and next year, when the first cohort of new graduate students arrives, I’ll begin to develop a variety of collaborative research projects. This will provide another exciting opportunity to help shape the field.”

—Allyson A. Beutke

## Florida Blue Key Honors Distinguished Faculty

During the November homecoming festivities, two CLAS professors were honored for their outstanding service and dedication to UF. Political Science Professor **David Hedge** and Zoology Professor **Doug Levey** were two of four faculty chosen from across campus to receive a 2002 Distinguished Faculty Award from the Florida Blue Key.

"All the nominees were outstanding, but we felt that the winners went above and beyond the call of duty," says Rahim Remtulla, chair of the six-member awards committee comprised of students and faculty. "Dr. Levey and Dr. Hedge have had a tremendous affect on the undergraduate and graduate students they teach."

Hedge and Levey were honored at the university's 73rd annual homecoming banquet and rode in the homecoming parade.

David Hedge serves as the undergraduate coordinator in the political science department. He received a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 1979 and came to UF in 1990. He specializes in American politics and teaches courses, including Legislative Process, State and Local Government, and Public Administration Theory. His current research projects include a study of the congressional and presidential control of federal regulations, the impact of social capital on welfare reform, and black state legislators. Hedge was the 1998-1999 CLAS Teacher of the Year and received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 2000.

Doug Levey received a PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1986 before coming to UF in 1987. He specializes in the ecology of bird seed dispersal and teaches Introductory Biology, Avian Biology and various graduate seminar courses, including Darwinian Medicine, Frugivory and Seed Dispersal, and Conservation of Migratory Birds. Levey researches the behavior ecology of fruit-eating birds. He was the 2000-2001 UF Teacher/Scholar of the Year and a recipient of the 2000 UF Research Foundation Professorship and the 1998 CLAS Award for Mentoring Undergraduates in Research.

—Buffy Lockette



## Introducing New Faculty



**Amian Biswas** is an assistant professor of physics. He earned his PhD from the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore in 1999. His research interests include transport and surface properties of magnetic and superconducting oxides. Biswas is currently teaching Physics 1.



**Fiona McLaughlin**, an associate professor in the African and Asian languages and literatures department, received her PhD in linguistics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1992. She is also affiliated with the linguistics program, and her research focuses on the interaction or reduplication with consonant mutation in Atlantic (Niger-Congo) languages. Currently, McLaughlin is teaching Introduction to the Languages of Africa, and in the spring, she will teach Issues in Phonology.



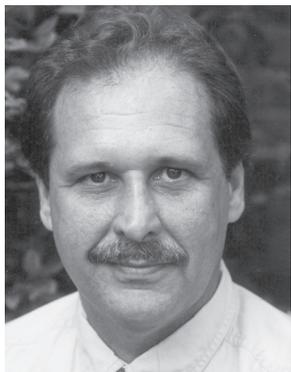
**Mike Daniels**, an associate professor of statistics, received his Doctor of Science degree in 1995 from Harvard University in biostatistics. His research focuses on Bayesian methodology, biostatistics, models for longitudinal data and missing data. Currently, Daniels is teaching a class on statistical inference for undergraduates, and in the spring, he will teach a graduate course on biostatistical methods.



**Todd Hasak-Lowy** is an assistant professor in the African and Asian languages and literatures department. He earned his PhD in comparative literature from the University of California, Berkeley this past spring. Hasak-Lowy is working on a book about the meeting of realism, modernism, and nationalism in Hebrew fiction. He is teaching Beginning Modern Hebrew I, and during the spring, he will teach Beginning Modern Hebrew II and a course on short stories in Hebrew literature.



**Tom Lyons** is an assistant professor of chemistry. He earned his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1998. His research focuses on the genetics and biochemistry of zinc metabolism. Lyons is currently teaching Biochemistry of the Cell and will teach Introduction to Biochemistry and Molecular Biology during the spring.



**Joe Meert**, an assistant professor of geology, earned his PhD from the University of Michigan in 1993. His research has focused on the Precambrian-early Paleozoic interval of geologic time (from roughly four billion to about 400 million years ago). His work examines how the Earth's magnetic field has evolved over time and how super continents might have assembled. Meert is teaching the Introduction to Geology course and First-Year Florida. In the future, he will teach exploration geophysics and some special topics related to geodynamics.



**Kenneth Rice**, an associate professor of psychology, received his master's degree and PhD in counseling psychology from the University of Notre Dame in 1988 and 1990, respectively. He also earned his BS in psychology from UF in 1986. Rice conducts research on perfectionism, late adolescent and young adult development and adjustment, and psychological assessment. He teaches Abnormal Psychology, Research Methods in Personality and Psychological Assessment II.



**Andrea Sterk**, an assistant professor of history, earned her PhD in the history of Christianity from Princeton Theological Seminary in 1994. Before coming to UF, she taught at the University of Notre Dame. Sterk specializes in European history and is working on two books, *Renouncing the World Yet Leading the Church: The Monk-Bishop in the Eastern Roman Empire* and *Readings in World Christianity: Origins to 1453*. She is teaching Western Civilization and Pagans, Christians, Barbarians: The World of Late Antiquity.

# A New Way to Chat

## Cutting-Edge Pedagogy Boosts Language Learning

While in graduate school at Pennsylvania State University, Spanish and Linguistics Assistant Professor Gillian Lord and classmate Lara Lomicka found themselves bored, at times, in class. “Every Thursday we would go to the language labs for our language classes, and there were some pretty dull activities,” Lord says.

Upon earning their PhDs in 2001 and becoming assistant professors—Lord at UF and Lomicka at the University of South Carolina (USC)—they vowed to make language courses more interesting for students. This fall, they have teamed up to bring technology to their classrooms. Through the new course Technology in Foreign Language Education (TIFLE), UF and USC foreign language graduate students are learning how to incorporate technology into their future high school and

college classrooms. The course is the first of its kind to be taught in the Romance languages and literatures department.

“I know technology courses have been taught in other areas for a while, but in the languages we are way behind the times,” says Lord. “It sort of passed us by. If you go to a conference on Spanish linguistics, most people just read from a paper and don’t even have transparencies. If you go to conferences in other fields, such as engineering, they have multi-media presentations.”

TIFLE students are learning to develop Web-based activities and e-mail assignments to be used in the classroom. They are also getting acquainted with technological tools, such as digital cameras, scanners and PowerPoint. The TIFLE courses at UF and USC are taught at the same time each week and meet in a chat room during class to discuss course work. Students are given reading assignments and virtual guests join them in the chat room to answer questions and discuss topics.

“For a shy student, who is more timid in the classroom and is afraid to raise their hand, this is a good way for them to participate in class,” says Sarah Kraemer, a master’s student studying Spanish linguistics.

Lord believes including e-mail and Web-based assignments in a foreign language curriculum keeps students interested in a subject that can be boring and overwhelming to those just taking it for credit. “Imagine if every week you were getting an e-mail from your pen pal in Mexico,” she says. “You could ask questions about their culture, what they did the night before, anything. There is research that says their language skills improve, but that is not my main concern. I want the students to bite down hard and keep going.”

Some UF students studying German already enjoy the benefits technology can bring when learning a foreign language.

Through the new Discover



Assistant Spanish Professor Gillian Lord promotes the connected classroom.

# International Spotlight

German course, offered by the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies, students can satisfy their language requirements while taking German courses that integrate online resources into the classroom environment. The entire text for the course is online and students complete their homework assignments via e-mail, research topics using the Internet, and discuss culture using electronic bulletin boards.

"I think the terrific difference between the traditional book-based course and the online course is that we can increase the cultural component," says Franz Futterknecht, a German professor who created the course along with German Professor Will Hasty and German Lecturer Christina Overstreet. "Our original insight was that our language courses focused too much on linguistic competence and underestimated the cultural competence you need to use the language properly."

Through the Internet, students can look up words in online dictionaries, practice pronunciation by reading German children's books online, and look up pictures of schnitzel and other German foods in online encyclopedias. They can shop in German stores, find out what show is playing at the national theater, take a virtual visit to concentration camps, and explore German school systems.

"We have taken a tour of Germany through the Web sites Dr. Futterknecht has shown us," says Justin Bleakley, a sophomore majoring in English. "When you have a textbook, it gets outdated really fast. We can go online and learn about modern Germany. I took Latin in high school, and I have picked up German much faster learning it this way."

Will Hasty, who taught the Discover German course in Fall 2001 and Spring 2002 during its first run, says he has seen a difference between the performance of students taking the regular German course and Discover German. "I noticed, just from my observations, that linguistically they are doing just as well. They are on the same level. Culturally, the Discover German students are way beyond."

Lord hopes that other language professors on campus will start incorporating technology into their classrooms, but she says the real change will come when the current generation of students starts teaching. "Even though I cannot make huge sweeping changes, if my students go out there and do it and then show their friends, I think eventually we will get there."

—Buffy Lockette

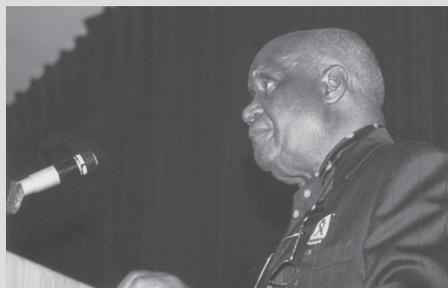
## Former Zambian President Speaks Out About AIDS

The founding president of Zambia, Kenneth Kaunda, visited campus in mid-November at the invitation of the Center for African Studies. Faculty and students from all over campus packed the Reitz Union Auditorium to hear Kaunda speak about

the children of AIDS-plagued southern Africa. "As adults, we can many times choose to avoid and protect ourselves from HIV/AIDS," he said. "Children do not have that choice. They are born infected by their parents so they are the innocent victims. Unlike the virus

that is not seen, these children are visible and human. They are not just numbers and there is no excuse for not doing something to help them. If we work together, we will conquer HIV/AIDS."

Kaunda was the first president of Zambia, serving from its independence in 1964 to 1991, at which time he relinquished power after a multiparty democratic election. He played an important role in the struggle for African independence, particularly in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Mozambique and Angola. He continues his fight to improve Africa through many initiatives, including the Kenneth Kaunda Children of Africa Foundation which works to help the children of southern Africa survive the AIDS epidemic. This year, Kaunda is serving as the Balfour African President-in-Residence at Boston University, which allows him to travel the US meeting with American business leaders, government officials, students and teachers.



## Noted French Actress Visits Campus

French actress Jutta Johanna Weiss of the Theater Company of Brittany in Lorient visited campus in November to lead a six-hour workshop, training students to perform a dramatic reading of *Summer Rain* by Marguerite Duras. French language students, along with theater students, had the opportunity to perform a public reading with Weiss in her performance of *An Actor, An Author*.

Also on campus for the first time in November were representatives from the French Consulate of Miami—Christophe Bouchard, Consul General, and Victoire Bidegain-Di Rosa, Cultural Attaché. Bouchard and Bidegain-Di Rosa met with faculty and students to discuss the activities of the French Consulate, of which there are nine in the US responsible for projecting the interests of French nationals.

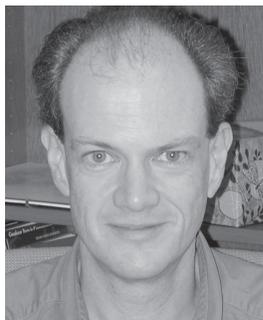
Both visits were hosted by the new France-Florida Research Institute at UF, which serves as an umbrella organization to centralize and promote the numerous existing partnerships between UF and French and Francophone research centers and academic institutions.



# Around the College

## Dorsey Named New Chair of Physics

**Alan Dorsey** is the new chair of the Department of Physics. His term began on November 30 when he took the reins from interim chair Jack Sabin, who has held the position since mid-August. Dorsey earned his PhD in physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1987 and was a postdoctoral fellow at Cornell University and served on the faculty at the University of Virginia before coming to UF in 1997.



Dorsey was recently elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society (APS). The APS Fellowship Program was created to recognize members who have made advances in knowledge through original research and significant contributions to the application of physics to science and technology. According to the APS citation, Dorsey was elected a fellow “for seminal contributions to the theory of magnetic flux dynamics and non-equilibrium pattern formation in superconductors.”

## Historians in the Headlines

US Secretary of State Colin Powell has asked Professor **Robert McMahon** to serve a three-year term as a member of the advisory committee on Historical Diplomatic Documentation.

As a member, McMahon will serve with eight other historians, political scientists, archivists, international lawyers and social scientists distinguished in the field of US foreign relations. The committee provides advice to the Department of State regarding the preparation of the “Foreign Relations of the United States” historical documentary series, the official documentary record of major US foreign policy decisions and significant diplomatic activity. The members meet in Washington, DC at least four times a year to monitor the editorial process of the series and give advice on all aspects of the preparation and declassification of the series.

Associate Professor **Robert A. Hatch** has received the Joseph H. Hazen Prize from the History of Science Society (HSS) for his outstanding contributions to the teaching of the history of science. As the world’s largest professional organization dedicated to understanding science, technology and medicine, the HSS sponsors initiatives to carry advanced knowledge about the history of science to the world.

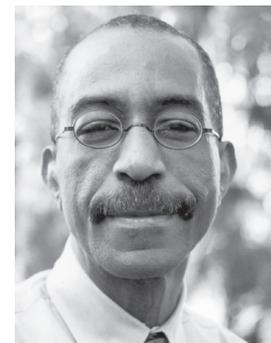
Hatch, as a history of science professor, helped establish UF’s history of science graduate program in 1989 and helped launch the “History of Science in Secondary School Curriculum,” a two-year program that brings high school history and science teachers together to develop lesson plans and bring the history of science into their regular classroom activities.

## Mills Named Assistant Dean

Assistant Sociology Professor **Terry Mills** has been appointed assistant dean of the Graduate School. His focus will be serving the Office of Graduate Minority Programs.

“As the new assistant dean for Graduate Minority Programs, I am very excited about this opportunity to build upon the existing foundation of support for students who are underrepresented in graduate education at UF,” Mills says. “My primary goal is to help the university achieve its diversity mission. Through cooperative efforts with graduate coordinators in every academic unit, the Office of Graduate Minority Programs will contribute to creating an intellectual environment that reflects diversity by attracting and retaining a student population of many different experiences, opinions, backgrounds and cultures.”

Mills will divide his time between the Graduate School and the Department of Sociology, where he will continue to research and teach. He has taught at UF since 1997.



Homecoming 2002: While waiting for the homecoming parade to begin, Alex Tipton checks out the baby alligators at the zoology petting pool. CLAS and the Warrington College of Business hosted a barbecue before the parade on the north lawn of Flint Hall.

*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.

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### African and Asian Languages and Literatures

Professor of Chinese **Chauncey C. Chu** has received the 2002 Ronald A. Walton Award from the Chinese Language Teachers Association for his outstanding contributions to Chinese language teaching. The award ceremony took place at the group's annual meeting in Salt Lake City in late November.

### Anthropology

The Florida Education Fund named **Allan Burns** the "William R. Jones Most Valuable Mentor" in the state at the 18th annual McKnight Doctoral Fellow's meeting in late October. The award is based on nominations from students. Burns was recognized for promoting diversity in the anthropology department at the faculty and student level and for his assistance as graduate supervisory committee chair for African-American graduate students.

PhD candidate **Kathryn E. Grant** has received the 2002 Margaret Clark Award for graduate writing in anthropology and gerontology. Her paper, "Age, Gender and Ethnicity in Physician-Patient Encounters: Cultural Semantics and the Hierarchical Relations of Biomedicine," was judged to be the outstanding graduate paper this year by the Association for Anthropology and Gerontology (AAGE). This annual competition supports the continued pursuit of the insights and practice ideals demonstrated by Margaret Clark, a pioneer in the multidisciplinary study of sociocultural gerontology and medical anthropology. An extended summary of Grant's paper will be published in the next AAGE newsletter.

### Botany

**Doug and Pam Soltis** traveled to Sweden in early December to accept the 2002 Rolf M.T. Dahlgren Prize in Botany from the Royal Physiographic Society of Sweden for their pioneering research on the phylogeny, evolution and classification of flowering plants. The society, which is funded by the king of Sweden, encourages and supports research in

the natural sciences, medicine and technology. The couple received the \$11,150 award at the society's 230th anniversary celebration and gave lectures at the Botanical Institutes of Lund and Copenhagen.

### Classics

**David Young** was the keynote speaker at The Olympic Games Yesterday and Today, a conference held at Hellenic College in October. Young's talk was titled "How Olympia 776 became Athens 2004: Origin and Authenticity of the Modern Games."

### Germanic and Slavic Studies

Professor of German **Otto Johnston** was named Teacher of the Year by the Association of Foreign Language Instructors in Community Colleges. Johnston was recognized for his work on the articulation agreement between Florida universities and community colleges, which provides a smooth transition for students studying foreign languages.

Assistant Professor of German **Eric Kligerman** presented a paper, "Crossing Lines: Respecularizing the Holocaust in the works of Felix Nussbaum and Daniel Liebeskind," at the annual German Studies Association meeting in San Diego. Associate Professor of German **Nora M. Alter** also presented a paper at the meeting titled "Berlin as Project: The DAAD's Artist in Residence Program."

### History

**Geoffrey Giles** recently served as a commentator on a panel about "Nazi Crimes and Private Assets in World War II" at the German Studies Association's annual meeting in San Diego. He also presented a paper at the German Historical Institute's international symposium Sexuality and Modern German History. Several of his works were recently published, including "The Denial of Homosexuality: Same-Sex Incidents in Himmler's SS and Police" in the October issue of the *Journal of the History of Sexuality*. In early November, Giles presented a workshop on

"Interpreting the Holocaust Sites: New Pedagogical Challenges and Opportunities" at the biennial conference of the Holocaust Educational Foundation in Minneapolis.

### Mathematics

The work of professor **Theral Moore** and his son **Steve Moore** was featured in an article, "Step-by-Step Prompts to Put the Blind on Track," in the October 17 issue of the *New York Times*. The article described an interactive personal navigation system developed at UF, which began as a master's thesis for Steve Moore when he was a student in the computer science and engineering department. Theral Moore, who is blind, helped test the system.

Evan Pugh Mathematics Professor **George Andrews** of The Pennsylvania State University will receive an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Florida during the commencement ceremony on December 21. Andrews was chosen for this honor owing to his eminence, as well as his close ties with the UF mathematics department. He is considered the world's greatest authority on the theory of partitions and the work of the Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. Professor Andrews has conducted research collaborations with UF professors **Krishnaswami Alladi**, **Alexander Berkovich** and **Frank Garvan**. Garvan is a former PhD student of Andrews.

### Political Science

**Margaret "Peggy" Conway** received the Manning J. Dauer Award from the Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) at its annual meeting in Savannah, Georgia on November 7. The award is given biennially to a political scientist who has shown exceptional service to the profession. It commemorates Manning J. Dauer, founding chair of UF's political science department and former president of SPSA. Conway, who specializes in American politics and political behavior, is a Distinguished Professor Emeritus. She came to UF in 1989 and retired in December 2000.

## CLAS Employee Excellence Award Nominations Due February 3

CLAS will once again sponsor a program honoring college staff performing outstanding and meritorious service. This year's program, the CLAS USPS/TEAMS Employee Excellence Award, will encompass all USPS and TEAMS employees. This includes those formerly classified as A&P employees, who were not eligible last year. Two award winners will receive \$1,500 and a plaque at the Service Pin Ceremony in March 2003.

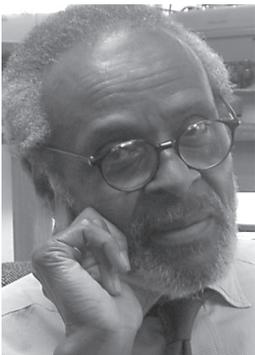
CLAS faculty, staff and students can submit nominations. Self-nominations will also be accepted. Nominees should have made a significant achievement or positive contribution that reflects the highest standards of quality, excellence and innovation. The evaluation committee will consider a list of criteria including strong work ethic, service-oriented attitude, dedication to the job and willingness to assist beyond normal expectations.

Visit <http://web.clas.ufl.edu/CLASannounce> to download an application form, or pick one up from the dean's office in 2014 Turlington Hall. Applications must be submitted to Mary Anne Morgan, 2014 Turlington Hall, PO Box 117300, no later than Monday, February 3, 2003.

Read *CLASnotes* online at <http://clasnews.clas.ufl.edu>

# Bookbeat

## Recent publications from CLAS faculty



**James Haskins**, author of *One Nation Under a Groove: Rap Music and Its Roots*, Hyperion.

### ***One Nation Under a Groove: Rap Music and Its Roots***

While teaching at an elementary school in Harlem in the 1960s, English Professor James Haskins had a hard time finding books about African-American role models to read to his students. He complained each night by writing in his diary about the lack of reading material written on African Americans.

“There was nothing in the public libraries or in our school library that had anything to do with African Americans,” Haskins says. “So when my diary fell into the hands of a publisher, and when the book got fantastic reviews in the *New York Times*, some publishers who heard what I had to say called me up and asked if I would be interested in writing books about African Americans.” Since then, Haskins has authored more than 100 books on African Americans, as well as other subjects. He has authored books with famous black legends such as Rosa Parks, Muhammad Ali and Stevie Wonder, but he has also written about those who are, what he calls, “undeservedly obscure,” such as jazz legend Lionel Hampton.

In one of his more recent books, *One Nation Under a Groove: Rap Music and Its Roots*, Haskins traces the history of rap music from its roots in West Africa hundreds of years ago to its booming popularity today in the US. Published by Hyperion Books in the children’s series “Jump at the Sun,” the book’s fun and easy-to-read format is geared towards a teenage audience. Haskins uses library research, television and magazine interviews and his own experiences of meeting rap stars like Sean “Puff Daddy/P. Diddy” Combs to bring rap’s history to life. He explores the early days of hip-hop when the Sugarhill Gang became the first to rap their way into the mainstream with “Rapper’s

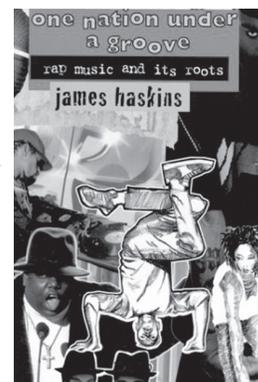
Delight” through the genre’s transition into one of the most popular forms of music today.

Covering topics such as women in rap, white rappers and the glamorous life today’s rap stars enjoy, Haskins takes a sociologist’s approach by exploring the genre as a cultural phenomenon. “I don’t really make a distinction between classical music and rap,” he says. “They are just different ways of expression. I don’t make a distinction between Louis Armstrong and Count Basie and Mozart and Beethoven because they are all just as accomplished in their area of expression as the other.”

Haskins admits he listens to classical music more often than rap and explains that his interest in the art form lies in its influence on American culture. He says he is often asked why he writes so many books about black musicians. “It is not part of my cultural experience to write about opera in Europe,” he says. “Jazz, blues and gospel are part of my African-American heritage. It comes out of our experiences and so does reggae and rap.”

Haskins teaches courses on children’s and adolescent literature, biography writing, racism, classism and sexism. He came to UF in 1977.

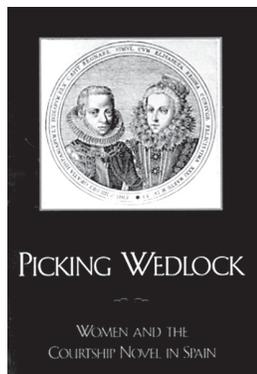
—Buffy Lockette



### ***Picking Wedlock: Women and the Courtship Novel in Spain***

**Shifra Armon**, Romance Languages and Literatures (Spanish)  
Rowman & Littlefield

In eras when women’s roles were heavily circumscribed, fictions about courtship and wedlock granted women writers an unassailable framework through which they contested orthodox beliefs about their place in society. In *Picking Wedlock*, Shifra Armon illuminates the remarkable convergence of three women novelists of Spain’s Golden Age: Maria de Zayas, Mariana de Carvahal and Leonor de Meneses. Armon considers these extraordinary writers together for the first time, appraising them in relationship to the historical and literary nexus that gave impetus to the publication of their work. Concerned more with theo-



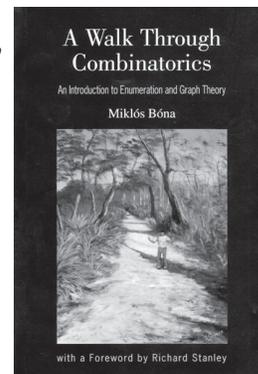
rizing patterns of commonality among texts written by women than with recuperating the individual texts, *Picking Wedlock* is fascinating literary history on the cutting edge of contemporary feminist literary scholarship.

—Book Jacket

### ***A Walk Through Combinatorics: An Introduction to Enumeration and Graph Theory***

**Miklós Bóna**, Mathematics  
World Scientific

This is a textbook for an introductory combinatorics course that can take up one or two semesters. It goes without saying that the text covers the classic areas, such as combinatorial choice problems and graph theory. What is unusual, for



an undergraduate textbook, is that the author has included a number of more elaborate concepts, such as Ramsey theory, the probabilistic method and—probably the first of its kind—pattern avoidance. As the goal of the book is to encourage students to learn more combinatorics, every effort has been made to provide them with a not only useful, but also enjoyable and engaging reading.

—Book Jacket

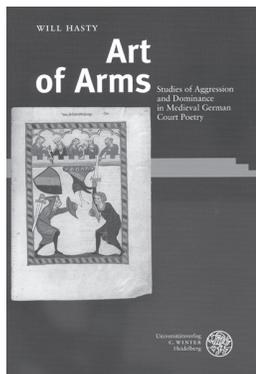
***Art of Arms: Studies of Aggression and Dominance in Medieval German Court Poetry***

**Will Hasty**, Germanic and Slavic Studies (German)

Universitätsverlag C. Winter

These studies of narrative and lyric court poetry composed in the German High Middle Ages—including the love lyrics, courtly romances, and heroic epics such as the *Nibelungenlied*—examine ways in which courtliness is involved in military and religious forms of aggression and dominance, situating the poetry in a time when, as the historian Benjamin Arnold has put it, “the German aristocratic mentality took for granted violence on a considerable scale.” In these studies, “courtliness” shows itself to be a manner of managing and employing aggression in the interests of dominance, rather than as a mode of interaction that is opposed to or beyond aggression—as which it has been understood in much of the scholarship dealing with German court poetry.

—Book Jacket



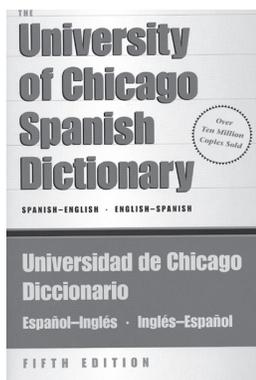
***The University of Chicago Spanish Dictionary: Spanish-English, English-Spanish***

Edited by **David Pharies**, Romance Languages and Literatures (Spanish and Linguistics)

University of Chicago Press

The *University of Chicago Spanish Dictionary* has been compiled for the general use of the American English-speaking learner of Spanish and the Spanish-speaking learner of American English. With this purpose in mind, the editors of the fifth edition—the newest since 1987—have introduced a number of significant improvements. One of the most important changes is the addition of many new words to bring the dictionary up to date with the latest technical advancements and cultural changes. New words include *anorexia*, *clone*, *HIV*, *CD*, *microwave*, *chat room*, *on-line*, *bungee jumping*, *sexual harassment* and *ditsy*. This dictionary is ideal for home, school and office use, and more than 10 million copies have already been sold.

—Book Preface

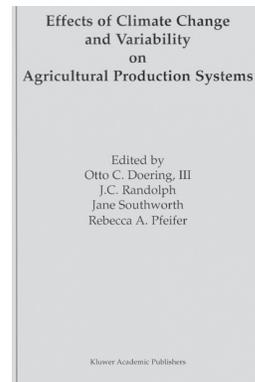


***Effects of Climate Change and Variability on Agricultural Production Systems***

Edited by **Jane Southworth**, Geography and LUECI, with J.C. Randolph, Rebecca A. Pfeifer and Otto C. Doering, III  
Kluwer Academic Publishers

Evidence shows that global climate change is occurring. Research and debate continue on the role of increasing atmospheric concentrations of greenhouse gases in influencing climate change. Many sectors are or will be influenced by changing climate and climate variability, including increasing global temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of unusual weather events. Agriculture and the world’s supply of food and fiber are particularly vulnerable to such climate change. This book provides an integrated assessment of global climate change’s impact on agriculture at the farm level, in the context of farm level adaptation decisions. Discussed are guidelines and useful analytical options for input suppliers, agricultural researchers, and agricultural producers to enable risk averting strategies and adaptations as global climate change plays out.

—Book Jacket

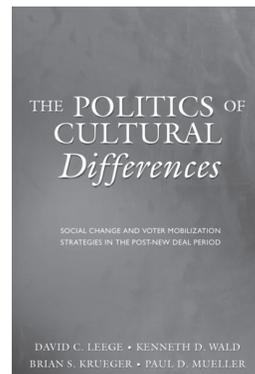


***The Politics of Cultural Differences: Social Change and Voter Mobilization Strategies in the Post-New Deal Period***

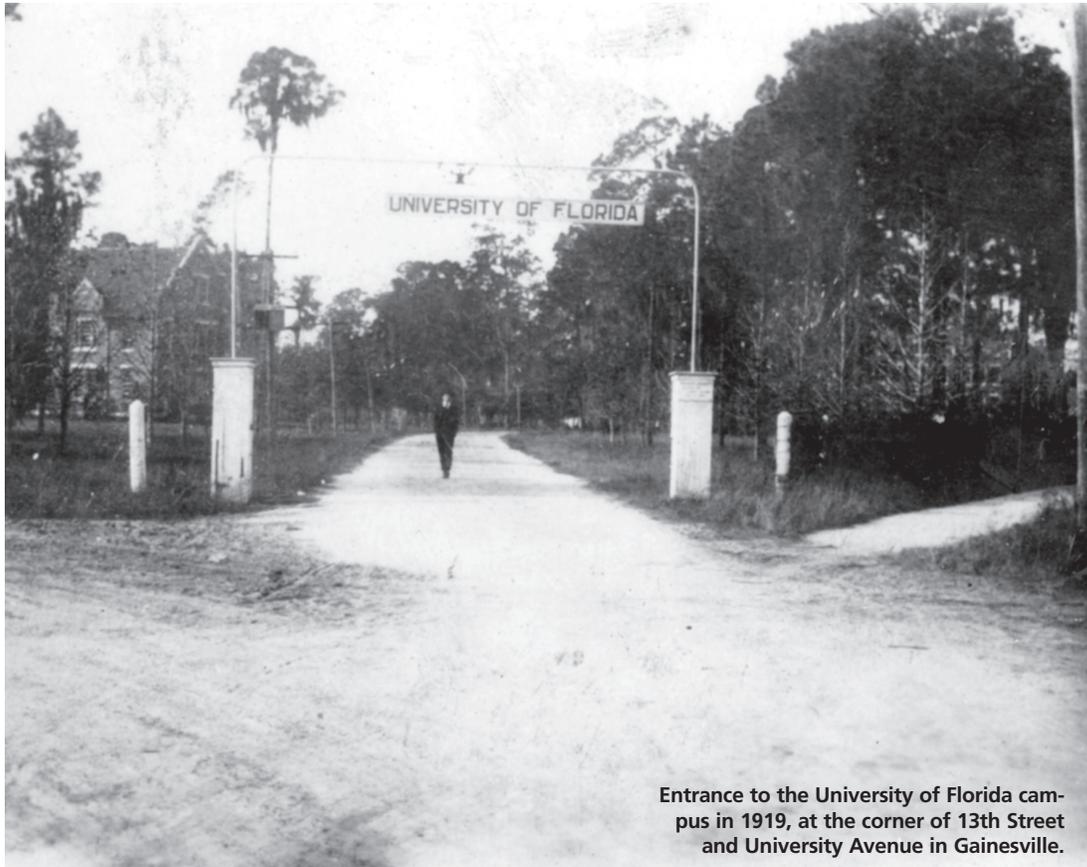
**Kenneth Wald**, Political Science and Jewish Studies, with David C. Leege, Brian S. Krueger and Paul D. Mueller  
Princeton University Press

How did Republicans manage to hold the White House through much of the past half century even as the Democratic Party held the hearts of most American voters? This groundbreaking study argues that they did so by doing what Democrats have also excelled at—triggering psychological mechanisms that deepen cultural divisions in the other party’s coalition, thereby leading many of its voters either to choose the opposing ticket or to stay home. This is the first book to develop and carefully test a general theory of cultural politics in the US, one that offers a compelling new perspective on America’s changing political order and political conflict in the post-New Deal period, 1960–1996. A theory of campaign strategies is formulated that emphasizes cultural conflict regarding patriotism, race, gender, and religion.

—Book Jacket



# Celebrating 150 Years



Entrance to the University of Florida campus in 1919, at the corner of 13th Street and University Avenue in Gainesville.

In 2003, the University of Florida will celebrate its sesquicentennial. The university traces its roots to 1853, when a bill was enacted providing financial support for the East Florida Seminary in Ocala. The seminary moved to Gainesville in 1866, winning recognition as one of the state's best liberal arts schools. In 1903, the college became the University of Florida.

The celebration officially kicks off on January 10, with a special convocation involving state leaders, dignitaries and key figures from UF's past. As part of the year-long celebration, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, in collaboration with other colleges, is presenting the Florida Frontiers Lecture Series, which will bring prominent speakers and performers to campus during the spring and fall 2003 semesters to talk about the frontiers of their specific areas. The series is free and open to the public and is also being offered as a one-credit class to UF students. Lectures will take place on Wednesday evenings. Visit [www.clas.ufl.edu/150](http://www.clas.ufl.edu/150) for more information about the series and UF's sesquicentennial celebration.



*Honoring the past, shaping the future*

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