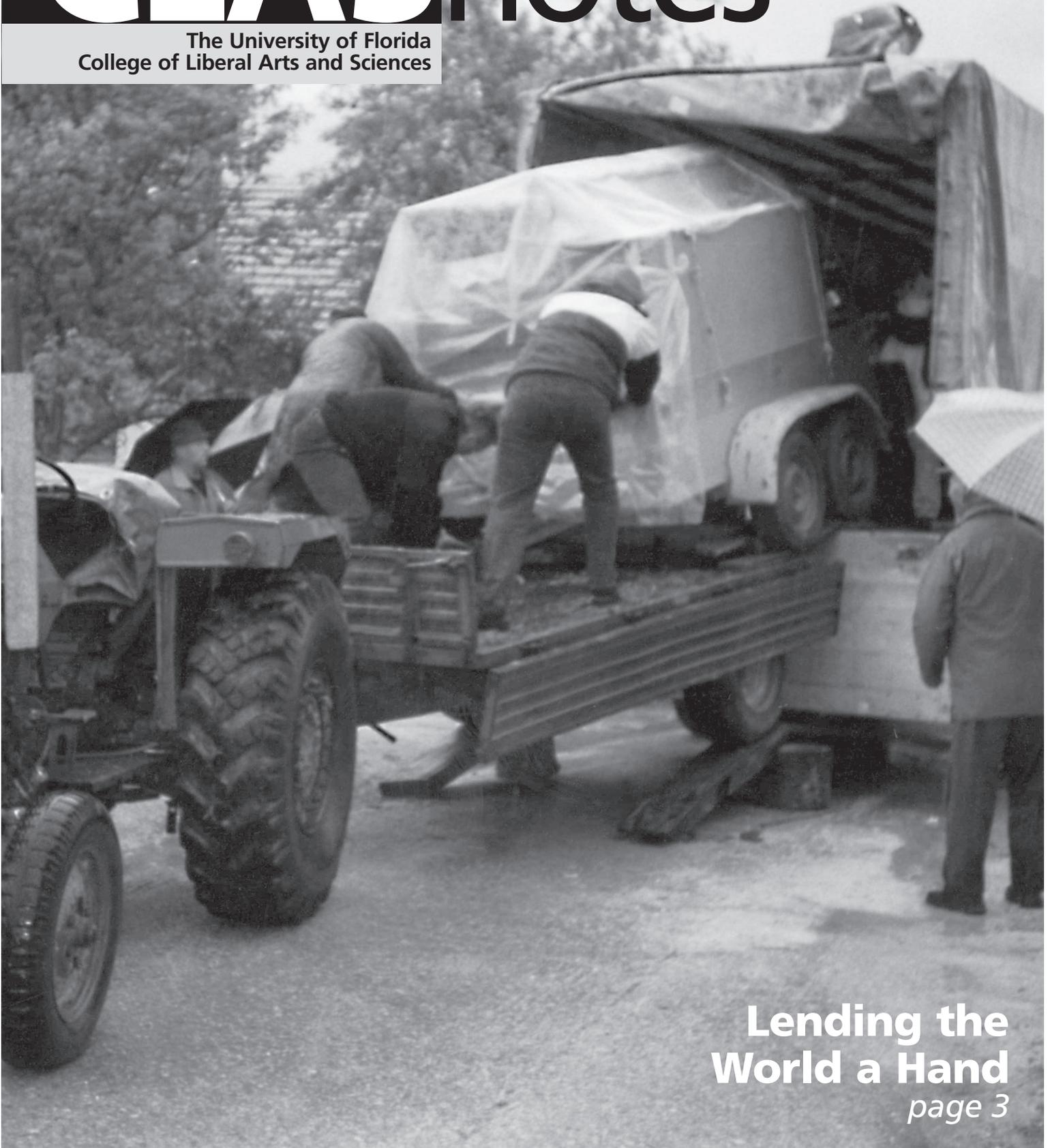


November 2003
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CLASnotes

The University of Florida
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



**Lending the
World a Hand**
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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 15th 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
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College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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CLASnotes is published 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

A New Helmsman

After a heated presidential search under Florida's blistering Sunshine law, the Board of Trustees, with wide university support, has selected James Bernard "Bernie" Machen as our new president. He brings a wealth of experience and understanding from a presidency at the University of Utah and a provost appointment at the University of Michigan. The commitment to appoint an academic leader who can move the institution to the next level of excellence was clearly set by the board's focus and energy on recruiting an outstanding group of candidates, all of whom had great interest in our university.

One outcome, unexpected perhaps by some in the community, was the articulation by all the candidates of UF's strengths, and a clear expression of their eagerness and confidence in being able to move the university forward extensively in the future. The selection process, as difficult as it was to execute, set a new standard for the university and the state.

We are all indebted to President Charles Young, who has led us to this point in our history, allowing us to truly believe we are at the threshold of a bold new step. His efforts to bring the university together to consider a strategic plan for selected growth, and his insistence on true faculty involvement in shared governance, are two very important accomplishments, without which the future would be uncertain. Young has shone the beam forward, and now it will be up to our new helmsman to steer us along his selected course.

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On the Cover:

With the help of psychology graduate student Marco Gemignani and other volunteers from the International Orthodox Christian Charities, Serbian refugees return to Bosnia.

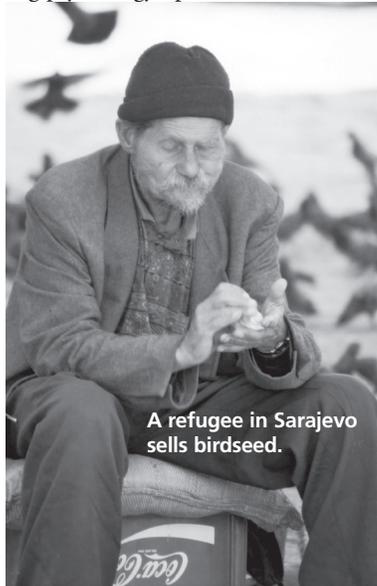
Becoming A World Citizen

It has been more than 30 years since Coca-Cola inspired the world with one of the most memorable television jingles in history, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing." Today, the company continues to keep the spirit of world harmony alive through the sponsorship of UF's Coca-Cola World Citizenship Program. Coordinated by the UF International Center, the program enables graduate students to work on environmental and humanitarian assistance projects in developing countries.

"It's a unique internship opportunity for graduate students," says Dennis Jett, dean of the UF International Center. "It puts them to work in non-government organizations in countries where they gain practical experience. It is more than just something they can put on their resumes, as many of them come back with a totally changed outlook on their future careers."

Since 2000, the program has sent 49 graduate students to countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America. This year, six students from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences participated in the program. Teamed with one of ten partner organizations—CARE, UNICEF, Red Cross, The Forest Management Trust, International Orthodox Christian Charities, The World Conservation Union, World Vision, UNAIDS, Mercy Corps and AirServ—students are assigned jobs tailored to their specific areas of expertise and interest. They spend Summer C, May to August, working on projects ranging from habitat conservation to educational programming, health, nutrition, agriculture and economic stability.

Marco Gemignani, a PhD candidate in counseling psychology, spent the summer of 2003 working



A refugee in Sarajevo sells birdseed.

at a counseling center in Belgrade, Serbia, where he helped Kosovar refugees overcome the psychological concerns acquired during the war in their region in the 1990s. "It was a very traumatic experience for many of them," Gemi-



Marco Gemignani (forefront) and his partners in the International Orthodox Christian Charities rebuild Serbian homes that were destroyed in the 1990s.

gnani says. "They lived with the huge noise, the smell, the fear—and you still see it in the population. A lot of people, for example, have trouble sleeping, particularly during thunderstorms, because the sound of thunder is very similar to the sound of a bomb."

Gemignani met with clients, participated in reconstruction and development projects, and interviewed several international humanitarian organizations working in the area to familiarize himself with their missions and to extend the visibility of the organization he worked for, International Orthodox Christian Charities. "One of my main interests was to see what way a war—that seems so far in the past—has deep, psychological consequences for the population."

Anthropology PhD candidate Omaira Bolaños went to El Salvador, where she helped Mercy Corps examine how a new housing project to be built in the region will affect local communities. She also developed and implemented gender training workshops. "From this internship, I gained valuable experience and a better understanding of the different factors embedded in development agendas," Bolaños says. "I was required to put into practice and integrate my own skills and knowledge, and the experience made me more culturally aware and increased my commitment to my present and future role as a development practitioner."

Each fall, applications are solicited on campus for master's and doctoral students wishing to participate in the following summer's World Citizenship Program. A preliminary selection is made by a team

of UF administrators, and then applicants who pass the initial round are interviewed by representatives from the program's partner organizations. The number of students chosen each year varies, though usually 10–20 are selected.

Once accepted into the program, students are provided with round-trip airfare to the country of their internship, a stipend to help cover living expenses, all necessary immunizations, and medical emergency insurance. The program has not started accepting applications for next summer, but plans to open up the pool within the next month and make decisions by early spring. For more information on applying to the program, visit www.ufic.ufl.edu/wcp/.

"This kind of first-hand experience in the developing world is something I haven't seen in other programs," says Jett. "When you go to school and major in something, it's often an exercise in academics, hypothesizing about what you want to do in the future. This experience is invaluable—this kind of practical real-world experience can fundamentally affect how you see your career plans."

Gemignani agrees, saying the program changed his view of his professional life. "I cannot imagine being in an office, doing very theoretical stuff, and forgetting what happens out there," he says. "It gave me a reality check, and most academic activities change their meaning after such an experience."

—Buffy Lockette

Introducing New Faculty



Charles Baer is an assistant professor of zoology. He received a PhD in biological sciences in 1998 from Florida State University and was awarded a postdoctoral fellowship from the National Institutes of Health for 2001–2003. His

research interests include empirical population and evolutionary genetics, comparative evolutionary biology of mutation, evolution of quantitative genetic architecture, and phylogeography of freshwater fishes. His current research constitutes the first systematic investigation of mutational properties over a known phylogeny, using Rhabditid nematodes as a model system and mutation accumulation as the underlying methodology.



Richard Burt, a professor of English, comes to UF from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, where he taught English for 17 years. He received his PhD from the University of California, Berkeley in 1984, and his dis-

sertation was on Shakespeare's comic form, gender and scapegoating. He has authored numerous articles on Shakespeare, Renaissance drama, film, literary theory, the erotics of pedagogy, and censorship, and he has published two books—*Unspeakable ShaXXX-speares: Queer Theory and American Kiddie Culture* and *Licensed by Authority: Ben Jonson and the Discourses of Censorship*. Burt edited a forthcoming multi-media reference book, *Shakespeare Alive*, and is currently writing three books. This fall, he is teaching two courses—Psycho-Cinem-Analysis and Renaissance Remakes: Post-National Film and the Infidelities of History.



Eve Brank recently became an assistant professor of criminology, after serving as a lecturer in the Department of Statistics for the past two years. She received a JD in 2000 and a PhD in social psychology in 2001, both from the

University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Her dissertation was titled “Paying For the Crimes of Their Children: The Legal and Psychological Perspectives on Support of Parental Responsibility Law.” Her research focuses on children and families, and she is working on two research projects—one that evaluates a family group conference program, and the other, a US Department of Education funded project to develop a national middle school youth violence survey. Brank is teaching Research Methods for Criminology and Psychology and Law and is a member of the Florida Bar.



Nina Caputo is an assistant professor in the Department of Religion and the Center for Jewish Studies. She earned her PhD in Medieval Jewish history from the University of California, Berkeley in 1999. Before coming

to UF, she was a Mellon postdoctoral fellow at the University of Pennsylvania, a visiting assistant professor at the University of Michigan and an assistant professor at Florida International University. Her research focuses on Iberian Jewry in the High Middle Ages, and on Nachmanides' conception of history and community. This fall, Caputo is teaching Jewish History 711-1492 and Apocalypse and Millennium.



David Copp is a professor in the Department of Philosophy. He earned a PhD from Cornell University in 1976 and taught at Simon Fraser University, the University of Illinois at Chicago, the University of California,

Davis and Bowling Green State University before coming to UF. His research focuses on issues in moral and political philosophy, and he is working on a book, *Moral Necessities in a Contingent World*. In 1995, he published *Morality, Normativity, and Society*. This fall, he is teaching a graduate seminar, Metaethics. He will be teaching undergraduate courses in moral and political theory in future semesters.



Stephen Eikenberry is a professor of astronomy. He received a PhD from Harvard University in 1997, and his primary areas of research focus on infrared instrumentation and observational studies

of black holes. He is co-heading two instrument projects—the FLAMINGOS-2 infrared imager and spectrograph for the Gemini 8-meter telescopes in Chile and Hawaii, and the FISICA integral field unit spectrograph. He is also leading the CIRCE camera project for El Gran Telescopio Canarias being built on the Canary Islands. This fall, he is teaching Discovering the Universe.



James Goodwin is an assistant professor of Russian in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies. He received his PhD in August 2001 from the University of Southern California, and his dissertation was titled

“The Debate Over Bakunin and Dostoevsky in Early Soviet Russia.” His research explores the notions of state and revolution in Fyodor Dostoevsky’s work and its impact on Russian political culture, particularly during the Soviet period. His research seeks to explain the cultural response to Dostoevsky in light of changing attitudes toward Russia’s experience with revolution. This fall, he is teaching a course on Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*, as well as a class on the Russian press.



Mitchell Hart is an associate professor of history. He received his PhD from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1994 and has been a professor at Florida International University since 1995, where he served as director

of the Jewish studies program from 1997 to 2000. He has also been a visiting professor at the University of Michigan and a Skirball fellow at the Oxford Centre for Jewish and Hebrew Studies in Oxford, England. In 2000, Hart published *Social Science and the Politics of Modern Jewish Identity*, the winner of the Salo Baron Book Prize for best first book in Jewish studies. He is presently working on a book that studies the fate of Jewish knowledge during the Third Reich, exploring the confiscation and utilization of Jewish libraries by Nazi scholars. This fall, he is teaching a course on American Jewish history.

LaMonda Horton-Stallings is an assistant professor in the Department of English. She received a PhD in English from Michigan State University in May 2002, and her research connects black folklore, African-American literature and culture with gender and sexuality studies. She is currently completing a book-length project that examines the use of trickster figures in African-American literature. This semester, she is teaching a class on neo-slave narratives, as well as a course thematically concerned with gender and sexuality in black folklore.



Abdoulaye Kane, an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology, received a PhD from the University of Amsterdam in January 2001, completing his field work in Senegal and among the Senegalese migrants in

Europe and in the US. His current research focuses on the transnational networks of Senegalese migrants living in different countries and continents around the world. This fall, he is teaching a Wolof language course.



Ana Margheritis is an assistant professor of political science. She received a PhD in political science from the University of Toronto in 1997 and was the Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow at Tulane University in 2002–2003

and the Neil Allen Visiting Chair of Latin American Studies in the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University in 2000–2002. She is also a former professor and researcher at the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella and the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Her research interests center around the international political economy and foreign policy. This fall, Margheritis is teaching an honors course on international relations.



Masangu Matondo is an assistant professor in the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures. He received a PhD in linguistics from the University of California, Los

Angeles in June 2003. He is currently writing a book, *Phonology and Morphology of Kisukuma*, based on his dissertation research on the Bantu language spoken in Tanzania. He is also collecting data for a book called *Reduplication in Tanzanian Bantu Languages*. This fall, Matondo is teaching Elementary Swahili I, and in the spring, he will teach Elementary Swahili II and Language and Society. Next year, he will add Introduction to African Languages and Culture, as well as Introduction to African Linguistics.



Susan O'Brien is an assistant professor in the Department of History. She is currently working on a book manuscript that builds on and revises her doctoral dissertation, which she completed in 2000 at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Based on more than two

years of archival and ethnographic research in northern Nigeria, her research examines the historical relationship between Islam, gender and healing in the history of the Hausa-Fulani people. Specifically, her research focuses on a set of heterodox beliefs and practices, centered on spirit possession, that continue to shape Islamic identity and healing strategies in this area despite sporadic state suppression during the last two centuries. This fall, she is teaching History of West Africa and a junior seminar on religion in Africa.

continued on page 6

New Faculty continued from page 5



Daniel O'Neill, an assistant professor of political science, received a PhD in 1999 from the University of California, Los Angeles. He is finishing a book manuscript tentatively titled, *A Revolution in*

The Burke-Wollstonecraft Debate, which focuses on the adversarial interpretations of the French Revolution put forth by the two most important figures in the emergence of modern conservatism and feminism, Edmund Burke and Mary Wollstonecraft. O'Neill is teaching two undergraduate courses, Great Political Thinkers: Machiavelli to Marx and Problems of Democracy. During the spring, he will teach an honors course on political ideologies, as well as a graduate course on liberalism. In the future, he plans to teach Great Political Thinkers: Ancient and Medieval and Introduction to Political Theory.

Amy Abugo Ongiri is an assistant professor of English. She received a PhD from Cornell University in 2000 and, before coming to UF, was an assistant professor at the University of California, Riverside and a fellow at Duke University's John Hope Franklin Center for International and Interdisciplinary Study. Her research interests include African-American literature and culture, film

studies, and gender and sexuality studies, and her current book project, *Spectacular Blackness: The Cultural Politics of the Black Power Movement and the Search for a Black Aesthetic*, explores the cultural politics of the Black Power movement. This semester, she is teaching the graduate seminar, Black Body Politics.



Marina Oshana is an associate professor in the Department of Philosophy. She received a PhD in 1993 from the University of California, Davis. Her research explores the value of autonomy, the interface between

autonomy and free agency, and the phenomenon of moral accountability. She is currently working on a book dealing with personal autonomy. This semester, Oshana is teaching Philosophy of Law.



Chuan-kang Shih is an assistant professor of anthropology and Asian studies. He received a PhD in anthropology from Stanford University in 1993 and is working on an anthropological study of the impact

of different family systems on demographic configurations among four Chinese ethnic groups. Funded by a National Science Foundation CAREER Award, the project allows him to combine both of his disciplines. His upcoming book, *Quest for Harmony: The Moso Systems of Sexual Union and Household Organization*, has been accepted by Stanford University Press and is due for publication this year. He will be teaching Anthropological Demography and Peoples and Cultures of China in the spring.



David Smith, a professor in the Department of Psychology, received a PhD in psychology from the University of Michigan in 1986. He comes to UF from Duke University, where he was

an associate research professor in surgery. His research involves the study of biophysical influences on the function of cochlear implants, often referred to as the "bionic ear." He also examines the effects of the descending auditory neural system on peripheral function and perception. At UF, he will help build a new olfactory animal psychophysics laboratory as part of the UF Center for Smell and Taste.

African Drummer Brings Teaching & Talents to UF



African artist **Mohamed DaCosta** recently joined the faculty as a lecturer in the Center for African Studies and the Department of Theatre and Dance. As one of a select number of cultural authorities on the traditional performing arts of Africa, DaCosta will share his expertise on African music and dance by teaching courses on world dance, intercultural performance and African drumming.

But this is not his first experience teaching at the university. DaCosta served as an artist-in-residence at UF in the fall of 1997. "When it came time for him to leave, no one could stand the thought of him going away," says Joan Frosch, assistant chair and an associate professor of the Department of Theatre and Dance. "Faculty and students alike had an enormous affection and respect for him, both as an artist and a person, so it is truly thrilling to have him join the faculty."

Originally from Boke, Guinea, DaCosta speaks English, French, Arabic, Susa, Fulani, Wolof and Mandinko. He is a world authority on West African culture and has served as a choreographer and performer in the African Ballet of Gambia. In 1996, he performed across Europe as a featured drummer with *Culture Movement*, commissioned by the US Department of Defense. DaCosta has also been featured in the internationally renowned Chuck Davis African American Dance Ensemble.

At UF, DaCosta will be performing in the Agbedidi Africa Dance Ensemble as a featured performer. The group will perform on campus December 4-7 at the Constans Theatre. Admission is \$12 for the general public and \$8 for faculty, staff and students. To order tickets, contact the University Box Office at 392-1653.

—Buffy Lockette

Saving An Endangered Language

It is a language dating back to the 1600s, rarely heard of and not even listed in the dictionary, but anthropology doctoral student Santiago Ruiz has always been interested in preserving the language he grew up speaking: Garifuna. From developing a Garifuna language course at UF to speaking with the US Congressional Black Caucus and the World Bank's Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development Unit, Ruiz is making strides in preserving the language and sharing it with those who may not have otherwise heard of it.

A mix of Afro-Caribbean and American Indian languages, especially Carib and Arawak, the Garifuna language is spoken mainly in Honduras, Belize, Guatemala and Nicaragua, as well as in New York, New Orleans, Chicago, and California—with the US having the second-largest concentration of the language. “While the language has a unified grammar structure, there is a different vocabulary for men and women, based on the influences of the two languages,” says Ruiz. “We estimate there are 300,000 people living in Garifuna communities worldwide, but only half speak the language. Despite the concentrations, there is no formal teaching of the language anywhere in the world.”

After completing his master's degree at UF on the strength of Garifuna in Belize, Honduras and other Central American countries, Ruiz spoke with anthropology chair Allan Burns and Center for Latin American Studies director Charles Wood about beginning such a course. The course was widely accepted, and Ruiz took time off to conduct research in Belize and Honduras and compile course materials. This fall is the second semester the course is being offered.

Burns says Ruiz's efforts are making an

impact on students and the education community. Course materials created by Ruiz are being used in Belize and Honduras, and a DVD version of the course is being placed on the Web as a distance-learning course.

“The Garifuna class certainly enhances the mission of the college and university to strengthen teaching and learning about the different languages, literatures and cultures of the world,” Burns says. “The best universities in the country are known for their great language programs, and this course helps put UF up with the best.”

Students in the class do more than learn, they help develop the course. “Each semester, students must give something for the next class,” Ruiz says. Students use their own talents and interests to further develop the text and course materials. One student created a DVD in Belize about the reactions to the course syllabus. Several students have applied for Fulbright scholarships on topics such as ethno-medicine in Garifuna communities, and one will complete a master's degree in comparative studies of amphibians in Garifuna communities. Others have dedicated their thesis research to related fields, such as migrants in Belize. This semester, students



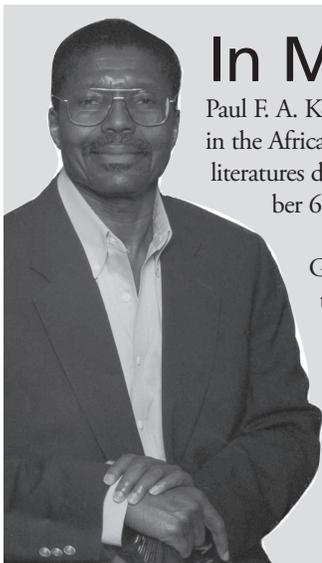
Santiago Ruiz

will record three- to four-minute conversations for the spring class to use in comprehension exercises.

While UF is playing a large role, Ruiz says it is necessary to build partnerships across the globe to ensure success in the program. Already, he is working with the Inter-American Foundation in Washington, DC to develop a bilingual education bachelor's degree program in Honduras and coordinating with Howard University for research visits to Honduras next summer.

“We're trying to make history,” Ruiz says. “This language is in danger of disappearing, so unless we do something to prevent it, there may no longer be a Garifuna language. We're pioneering a program, and it's spreading.”

—Kimberly A. Lopez



In Memory

Paul F. A. Kotey, an associate professor in the African and Asian languages and literatures department, died on October 6. He was 65 years old.

Kotey was born in Ghana, Africa and came to the US for graduate work after receiving a bachelor's degree from the University of Ghana in 1965.

He received a master's degree from Harvard in 1967 and a PhD from the University of Wis-

consin, Madison in 1969. Kotey served as an assistant professor at Howard University and Michigan State University before coming to UF in 1972.

He played a major role in the development of African studies at UF and the curriculum for African languages nationwide. He was chairman of the African Language Teachers Association and past chairman of PK Yonge Laboratory School Association. He also served as associate dean of graduate studies at UF from 1981 to 1983.

While at UF, Kotey taught the

Akan language, African Humanities, African Folktales, Black African Cinema and Introduction to Linguistics. Kotey spoke Akan, also known as Twi, a language of Ghana. He wrote several books, including a Twi/English dictionary, a Twi language textbook, and a book on African linguistic trends.

Survivors include his wife, Phyllis Kotey, sons James Kotey and Frank Kotey, daughter Francesca Kotey, all of Gainesville; and brothers Solomon Kotey, Joseph Kotey and John Kotey, all of Ghana.

Fellowship Allows Continued Research

Lawrence Dodd turned a cartwheel after completing his doctoral work in political science at the age of 24. Now, the political science professor has a new reason to jump for joy. The Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars has awarded him a \$76,350 fellowship to conduct research in Washington, DC during this academic year.

"I'm 32 years older now and a lot less limber," says Dodd, the Manning Dauer Eminent Scholar Chair in Political Science. "I would have turned a cartwheel if I could because I felt validation that the project which has been the core focus of my career, and one that has been controversial within my field, would be honored in this manner."

The fellowship will allow Dodd to investigate how sudden changes to the US Congress occur after gridlocks seem to prevent institutional action. From his observation, Dodd argues Congress is more dynamic and resilient than scholars realize and more prone to partisan change and reform than they believe. As Dodd conducts interviews and further research, the theory will

be tested and compiled into a book, *Re-Envisioning Congress: Theoretical Perspectives on Congressional Change*.

As a professor at UF since 1995, Dodd has taught undergraduate and graduate courses, including the Scope of Epistemologies of Political Science. He is married to fellow UF Political Science Professor Leslie E. Anderson.

"One of the most remarkable things in my life has been the good fortune of finding early on a career studying and sharing with others what I love the most."



after gridlocks seem to prevent institutional action. From his observation, Dodd argues Congress is more dynamic and resilient than scholars realize and more prone to partisan change and reform than they believe. As Dodd conducts interviews and further research, the theory will

Around the College

CSD Graduate Student Receives National Scholarship

Communication sciences and disorders doctoral student **Cynthia Puranik** has been named a Bamford-Lahey Children's Foundation Scholar for 2003–2004, receiving a \$3,000 scholarship to help with her studies. The award is given to students who intend to specialize in children's language disorders and hold clinical certification in speech-language pathology. Puranik earned her undergraduate degree in economics and statistics at the University of Bombay, India, and her master's in speech-language pathology from UF. Her areas of interest include disorders of oral and written language impairments in preschool children. In the area of written language, she is pursuing research under the supervision of Linda Lombardino.

The foundation was established for the purpose of conducting and supporting programs that will enhance the linguistic, cognitive, social and emotional development of children. Its current focus is on developmental language disorders of children. Visit www.bamford-lahey.org for more information.



CLAS Welcomes New Advisors

The Academic Advising Center has four new advisors this year to guide CLAS students and work with other UF groups.

Jamie Jenkins advises CLAS undergraduates and also works half-time in the Office of Student Life, advising walk-on student athletes. She earned her BS in sports management from UF, as well as her master of education and education specialist degrees, and is working on her PhD in mental health counseling.

Robert Kwong has been the chief pre-health professions advisor since January. He holds a BS in chemistry from Loyola University in Chicago and a master's degree in biomedical sciences from Barry University in Miami.

Sara Mock is a pre-law advisor and spent three years as assistant director for experiential education at UF's Career Resource Center. She earned her MA from Bowling Green State University in May 2000.

Christine Richmond advises general and pre-health students. She earned two degrees from UF, a BS in psychology in 1997 and a master of education degree in May 2003.



Left to right: Christine Richmond, Jamie Jenkins, Sara Mock, Robert Kwong

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 American Studies

Marilyn Thomas-Houston has received the Most Valuable Mentor Award from the Florida Education Fund for her influential support of **Edward Shaw**, a UF anthropology doctoral student and McKnight Doctoral Fellow. Established in 1984, the Florida Education Fund's McKnight Doctoral Fellowship Program has increased the number of African Americans who have received PhDs in under-represented, crucial disciplines and fields of study where African Americans have not historically enrolled and completed degree programs. More than 350 fellowships have been awarded to African Americans pursuing a PhD at various universities in Florida.

Classics

Hans-Friedrich Mueller presented the paper "La reglamentación nocturna en la antigua Roma" at the recent International Nova Tellus colloquium held in Mexico City.

Geography

Peter Waylen was one of the keynote speakers at the international workshop Hydrological Extremes and Climate in Tropical Areas and Their Controls, held at the University of Brescia, Italy in October. He presented the results of his research on the use of climate forecasts to optimize the generation of hydropower in Colombia, in collaboration with his colleagues from the National University of Colombia, Medellín.

Geology

Aided by a \$626 million grant from the National Science Foundation, geologists from all over the nation, including UF, have joined forces to launch a scientific drillship in the world's oceans. Through the Integrated Ocean Drilling Program, the 18-member Joint Oceanographic Institutions (JOI)—of which UF is a member—will investigate a wide range of earth system processes. **Neil Opdyke** serves on the JOI Board of Governors, **Paul Mueller** is an alternate member, and **James Channell** and **David Hodell** will be among the first to conduct research on one of the program's research vessels next year.

Jewish Studies

Warren Bargad, the late Melton Professor of Jewish Studies and Professor of English, was posthumously named a finalist for the 2003 Independent Publisher Book Awards. In a competition with more than 1,500 titles entered by 952 publishers, Bargad's final work, *No Sign of Ceasefire: An Anthology of Contemporary Israeli Poetry*, was honored in the poetry division. The citation praised the book for its translation of works by Israeli poets who "ponder lust, spirituality, family, the Arab-Israeli conflict, nature, sexuality, science and history, and provide a thought-provoking exploration of contemporary Israeli society." The book, co-edited by Stanley F. Chyet, was published by the Skirball Cultural Center of Los Angeles. Bargad died in Gainesville on June 25, after suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

Linguistics

Gary Miller will present the paper "The Morphosyntactic Legacy of Scandinavian-English Contact" in Poland in November as part of the Medieval English Studies Symposium. He also will speak on "Prepositions and Particles in Theory, Typology, and the History of English" at the Adam Mickiewicz University School of English.

Mathematics

Nicolae Dinculeanu, who retired in June, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Bucharest, Romania on June 30. In July, he was elected as a member of the Romanian Academy and attended the Congress of Romanian Mathematicians, where he presented "Stochastic Integration in Banach Spaces."

Political Science

Leslie Anderson presented the paper "Trust and Rivalry in a New Democracy: Bridging and Bonding Social Capital in Nicaragua and Argentina," at the triannual conference of the International Political Science Association, which recently met in Durban, South Africa. Anderson also acted as one of three official representatives of the American Political Science Association to the governing Council of the International Political Science Association.

A group of faculty and students at Lund University in Sweden have established the Hyden Award for the best undergraduate paper in development studies in honor of their mentor and colleague, **Goran Hyden**. Lund is Hyden's alma mater, and he taught there on sabbatical during the fall of 1997. The university's political science department first gave the award last year, which is open for senior dissertation students in anthropology, economic history, economics, political science and sociology. The 2003 Hyden Award was presented to **Kajsa Helmbring** for her paper "The Hidden Africa-Dummy: Is There a Social Capital Deficit in the Mozam?"

Romance Languages and Literatures

Raymond Gay-Crosier delivered a keynote address titled "La fiction absurde exige une esthétique de la révolte" at the October 6-10 conference on Albert Camus organized by the ÁGORA Theater in São Paulo, Brazil. Prior to his arrival, the *Folha de São Paulo*, the city's major newspaper, published an extensive interview with him on the contemporary views on Camus' work and political stances.

William Calin recently published six articles: "C.S.Lewis, Literary Critic," in *Mythlore*; "What 'Tales of a Wayside Inn' Tells Us About Longfellow and About Chaucer," in *Studies in Medievalism*; "Robert Lafont dramaturge," in *Auteurs en scène*; "René Nelli, Poet of Occitan Modernism," in *Sempre los camps auran segadas resurgantas*; "Dramatized Eclogues in Occitan," in *Theatrum Mundi*; and "Or/ordure: From Gold to Garbage, or Deconstructing the Anglo-Norman Romance 'Topas et Pleindamour,'" in *Proceedings of the Pseudo Society*.

Zoology

Alex Jahn and **Doug Levey** organized and convened an international symposium and workshop on austral bird migration, October 8-11 near Puerto Montt, Chile. Almost 30 scientists from throughout the Americas presented papers. National Science Foundation funding for the event was spearheaded by Jahn, a first-semester graduate student.

Scientists Probe Sea Slugs for Memory Clues

Armed with a nearly \$11 million grant, a team of University of Florida and Columbia University scientists will probe the genetic underpinnings of nerve cells, including those responsible for learning and memory, through research on a common sea slug with a very uncommon brain.

With a federal grant from the National Institutes of Health's National Human Genome Research Institute, the team will study the sea slug's unusual brain to try to unmask the role that genes play in its higher functions. The research at the newly created Center of Excellence in Genomic Sciences at UF and Columbia may help improve understanding of how the brain and its nerve cells function, identify the genetic basis of brain disorders such as dementia, and pave the way for new techniques or drugs to improve healthy people's ability to learn and remember.

"There is no way to discover real treatments using drugs, or understand diseases or understand our learning capability unless you understand how all the components of the system work, including the genomics," says Leonid Moroz, an assistant professor of neuroscience and zoology at UF's Whitney Laboratory

for marine biomedical research and biotechnology and one of the team's leaders.

In addition to Moroz, chemistry professors and nanotechnology experts Weihong Tan and Steven Benner will participate in the study, along with Eric Kandel, winner of the 2000 Nobel Prize for physiology or medicine and a professor at Columbia University; and Jingyue Jue, an associate professor of chemical engineering at the Columbia Genome Center.

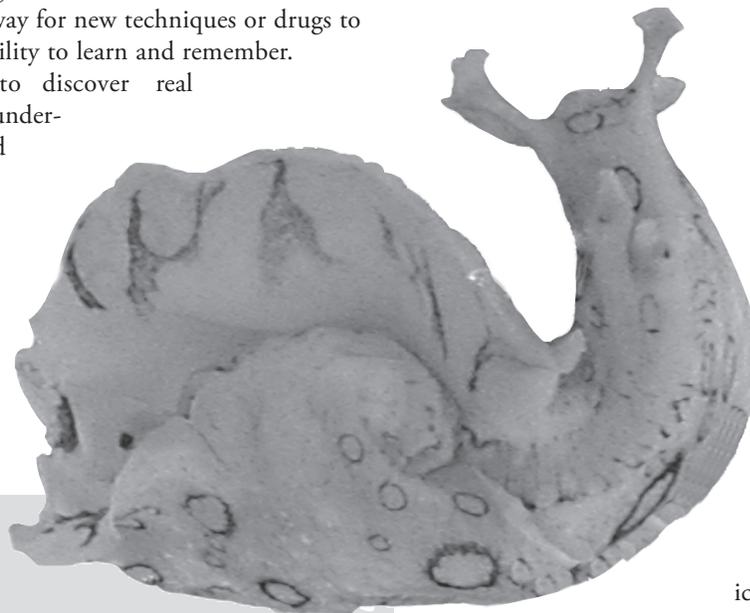
The purple-brown sea slug reaches six to seven pounds and is native to the West Coast, where it eats seaweed. While unremarkable in appearance, the slug has the biggest brain cells in the animal kingdom—with the largest, measuring one millimeter, which is far larger than microscopic human brain cells, making the slug cells simpler to examine and manipulate in the laboratory.

The sea slug shares as many as half of its estimated 15,000 to 20,000 genes with people, including genes implicated in Alzheimer's and mental retardation, so understanding how these genes work in the slug's neural cells will lead directly to greater insight into how they work in people's brain cells.

The slug brain's unique physical characteristics have made it the focus of research on higher brain functions for more than 50 years. The research already has resulted in significant breakthroughs—for example, spurring the development of drugs, now in clinical trials, expected to reverse memory loss in some elderly people. But most research has focused on the slug's neural cell properties rather than the genes that make the cells do what they do. "The real-time physiology has not really been linked to the molecular or genomic mechanism of how cells interrelate," says Moroz.

The research team plans to count and identify the genes active in single neural cells and learn how they work together. They also plan to develop new nanotechnologies for studying genes in single nerve cells. They also will use knowledge, among other things, to probe which genes are active during learning, and which are actively involved in memory—both of which the slug, through a range of observed behaviors such as its defensive reflexes and feeding habits, has shown itself to be capable.

—Aaron Hoover
UF News & Public Affairs



Grants

through the Division of Sponsored Research

August 2003

Total: \$7,542,038

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

Bookbeat

Recent publications from CLAS faculty



Islam and Ecology: A Bestowed Trust

Edited by Richard C. Foltz (Religion), Frederick M. Denny, and Azizan Baharuddin
Harvard University Press

UF has become one of the world's main learning centers on religion and the environment, and UF Religion Professor Richard Foltz is making new strides in the field with the book *Islam and Ecology: A Bestowed Trust*. The book further identifies UF, and specifically the religion department, as one of the core centers for the academic discourse on religion and the environment.

"This is the first book of its kind and represents the rather elementary state of the discussion on Islam and the environment so far," Foltz says.

The book discusses the Islamic tradition for environmental ethics and how Islam's message of social justice does not match many of the current environmentally destructive development models. Foltz also explores the current global environmental crisis, which falls hardest upon the world's poor, a disproportionate number of whom are Muslims.

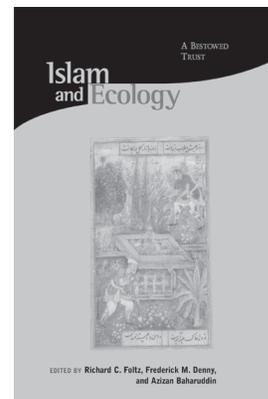
Though the discourse is young, Foltz says he hopes the book demonstrates that it is at least possible to generate an Islamic

response to the present crisis. "Given that one out of five people in the world is Muslim, I would say that avoiding global ecological collapse requires that an Islamic response be included."

The book is part of the *World Religions and Ecology Series* published by Harvard University Press. The series grew out of conferences held in Cambridge and New York from 1996 to 1998 and continues through the Forum on Religion and Ecology based at Harvard, of which Foltz is the Islam consultant.

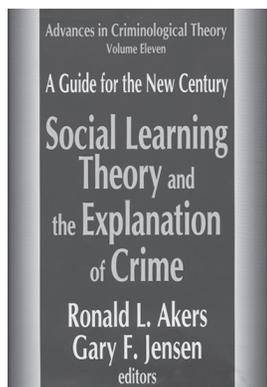
Based on his research, Foltz teaches a course on Islam and nature—using his book as the main text—and believes he is the only one in the nation teaching such a course.

—Kimberly A. Lopez



Social Learning Theory and the Explanation of Crime

Edited by Ronald Akers (Criminology) and Gary Jensen, Transaction Publishers

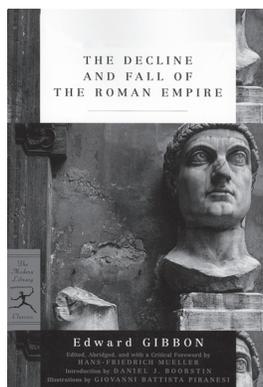


Social learning theory has recently been called perhaps the dominant theory of crime and delinquency in the US. Yet the theory is often misrepresented. Some equate it with differential association theory. Others depict it as little more than a micro-level appendage to cultural deviance theories. There have been earlier attempts to clarify the theory's unique features in comparison to other theories, and others have applied it to broader issues. These efforts are extended in this volume, *Social Learning Theory and the Explanation of Crime*, which focuses on developing, applying, and testing the theory on a variety of criminal and delinquent behaviors.

—Book Jacket

The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire

Written by Edward Gibbon, Edited by Hans-Friedrich Mueller (Classics), Random House

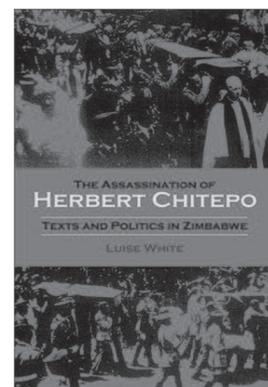


This classic book, written by Edward Gibbon in 1776 to 1787, chronicles the rise and fall of the Roman Empire and is widely considered one of the greatest works of history ever written. Originally published in seven volumes, this new edition, abridged and edited by Hans-Friedrich Mueller, retains the full scope of the original, but in a compass equivalent to a long novel. Casual readers now have access to the full sweep of Gibbon's narrative, while instructors and students have a volume that can be read in a single term. This unique edition emphasizes elements ignored in all other abridgments—in particular the role of religion in the empire and the rise of Islam. It includes a critical forward by Mueller.

—Book Jacket

The Assassination of Herbert Chitepo

Luise White (History), Indiana University Press



On March 18, 1975, Herbert Chitepo, an African nationalist in exile and chairman of the war council that struggled to liberate Zimbabwe from white-ruled Rhodesia, was killed by a car bomb. In this book, Luise White does not set out to resolve questions about who was accountable for this horrible murder. Instead, in a style that is as much murder mystery as it is history writing, she explores why Chitepo's assassination continues to incite conflict and controversy in Zimbabwe's national politics. White casts doubt on official accounts of the murder and addresses how and for whom history is written and how myths and ideas about civic culture were founded in war-torn Zimbabwe. Readers will discover how one man's murder continues to unsettle Zimbabwe.

—Publisher

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