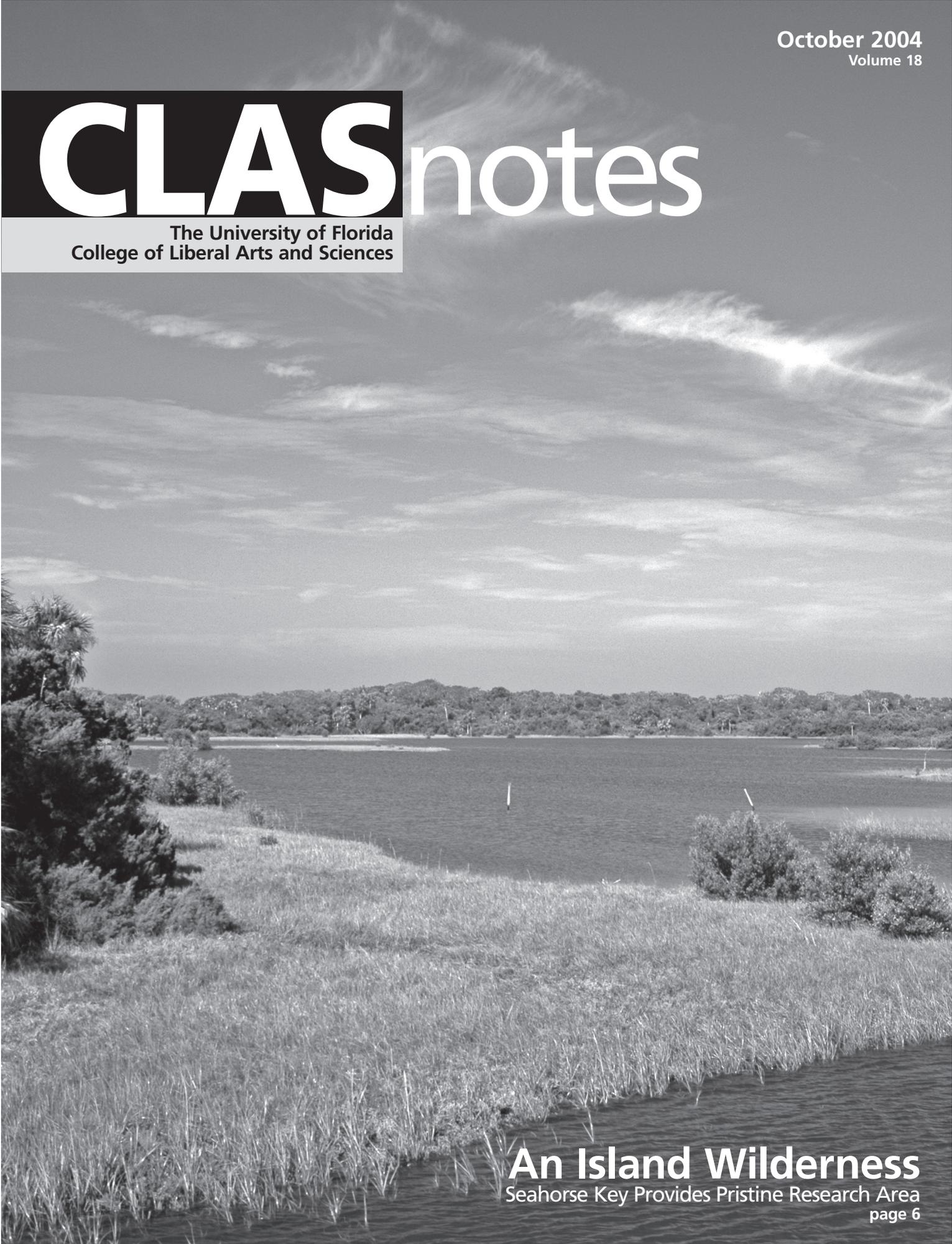


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CLASnotes

The University of Florida
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



An Island Wilderness
Seahorse Key Provides Pristine Research Area
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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!



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Courtesy William Conwill: p. 3 (Conwill)
Buffy Lockette: p. 5 (Matcheva)
Courtesy The Weather Channel: p. 8 (Abrams)
Nigel Smith: p. 12



The Dean's Musings

Environmental Studies and the Future

One of the most pressing challenges facing society, and researchers, educators and policy makers in particular, is the development of a deeper and more comprehensive understanding of the environment. The University of Florida and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have important roles to play in this field. With the large number of fragile ecosystems in the state from delicate coastal estuaries, such as Seahorse Key near Cedar Key, to the Everglades restoration, and the socio-economic impact of land and water use in one of the most rapidly developing regions in the nation, advanced research and broad educational programs are essential if we are to assure a high quality of life for future generations.

In the sciences, CLAS faculty members are using advanced scientific technologies (GPS/RS, mass spectrometry, isotope analysis) to carry out research projects on ecosystems, global climate change, and bio-complexity. The data obtained through these efforts will help guide policy makers in setting standards for the future. Interdisciplinary institutes such as the Land Use and Environmental Change Institute (LUECI) and the new UF Water Institute provide focal points for these efforts. Scientists also are participating in the National Science Foundation's nationwide infrastructure program, the National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) that will be part of continent-wide networked observatories to collect data on ecological and evolutionary processes.

A research project that highlights the strength of our environmental sciences is the \$2.4 million grant received from the Moore Foundation to fund a science-based conservation project in the Amazon wetlands. UF ecologists and geographers are collaborating with Brazilian and Peruvian researchers to stimulate agreements and legislation that will promote the conservation of aquatic biodiversity in the region. (See page 12 for more details)

There is a strong component of social and behavioral sciences faculty to study the effect of land-use from socio-economic factors arising from human and environment interactions, studies of environmental politics and global economy. The humanities also will play an important role with studies focused on ethics and environmental issues, and research into global climate changes that impact culture.

These efforts are truly interdisciplinary, reaching across all units and colleges and across our state. Florida can in many ways provide national leadership by carrying out the necessary rigorous research and training the next generation of researchers and educators who will implement the changes we will inevitably need.

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On the Cover:

Hundreds of different species of birds, fishes, invertebrates, plants, reptiles and amphibians inhabit Seahorse Key and its surrounding waters. Part of the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, researchers from UF and other institutions are able to visit the island and study undisturbed wildlife. See page 6 for full story.



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CLAS Welcomes New Faculty

CLAS welcomes more than 60 new faculty members this year. Over the next few months, CLASnotes will be introducing these new faces.



Sharon Austin is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science. Before coming to UF, she taught at the University of Louisville, the

University of Missouri, Columbia University and the University of Michigan. She earned her PhD in political science from the University of Tennessee in 1993.

Her current research examines African-American politics and poverty in the Mississippi Delta, and she has a book in press with the State University of New York at Albany Press, due out in late 2005, titled *The Transformation of Plantation Politics: Black Politics, Concentrated Poverty, and Social Capital in the Mississippi Delta*. At UF, Austin plans to teach courses in African-American, minority and urban politics, as well as American government.



Hélène Blondeau is an assistant professor of French linguistics in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. She completed

her PhD in anthropology in 2000 at the University of Montreal with a specialization in linguistic anthropology. After completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania in 2001, Blondeau served as an assistant professor of linguistics at the University of Ottawa.

Her research examines spoken data from the sociolinguistic corpus of French in order to describe linguistic variations and change in varieties of Canadian French. She is teaching a French undergraduate course, Composition and Stylistics, and a graduate course, Special Studies in French Linguistics.



Regina Bures is an assistant professor in the Department of Sociology. She received her PhD in sociology in 1998 from Brown University,

specializing in aging and demography. Bures completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago and served as a senior research scientist at the University of Albany before coming to UF.

Her research focuses on life course changes, uses of the health and retirement survey, and historical patterns of social change in Charleston, South Carolina. She is teaching Urban Sociology and Social Inequality.



Charles Bwenge is an assistant professor, jointly appointed between the Center for African Studies and the Department of African and

Asian Languages and Literatures, specializing in Swahili. He earned his PhD in linguistic anthropology from the University of Virginia in 2002 and served as a lecturer and the coordinator of the Swahili program at Princeton University.

Bwenge's current research project explores the sociocultural and linguistic aspects underlying the patterns of language use in the Tanzanian political setting, with particular focus on the national parliamentary proceedings and election campaign meetings. He is teaching *The World of Swahili*.



William L. Conwill is an assistant professor, jointly appointed between the African American Studies Program and the Department

of Counselor Education in the College of Education. He received his PhD in counseling psychology from Stanford University in 1980. Before coming to UF this fall, Conwill taught at the University of Tennessee in its mental health counselor and counselor education training programs.

His current research investigates how aware mental health professionals are when they interact along intersections of gender, race and class with their patients. This semester, he is teaching two courses—*The Black Experience: Psychological Perspectives and Counseling Theories and Applications*.



Takako Egi is an assistant professor in the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures. She earned her PhD in July 2004 from

Georgetown University, where she served as a lecturer in the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.

Egi's primary research areas are second language acquisition and teaching Japanese as a foreign language, specifically the effects of communicative interaction and feedback on learning Japanese and the roles of attention and awareness in second language learning. She is teaching *Beginning Japanese*.

continued on page 4



Gail Fanucci is an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry. She is a UF alumna, completing her PhD in chemistry in 1999.

She returns to UF from the University of Virginia, and her research utilizes site-directed spin labeling and electron paramagnetic resonance spectroscopy to study biopolymers such as membrane proteins.

Fanucci is teaching Physical Chemistry to undergraduates this fall and will be teaching a biochemistry and molecular biology lab during the spring.



Faye Harrison is a professor, jointly appointed between the African American Studies Program and the Department of

Anthropology. She earned her PhD in anthropology from Stanford University in 1982, and she comes to UF from the University of Tennessee, where she served as the Lindsay Young Professor of Anthropology.

As a political anthropologist, her current research concerns the politics and political economy of social inequality and human rights. Harrison presented her work at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance in 2001. She is editing a book based on some of the issues discussed at the event titled *Resisting Racism and Xenophobia: Global Perspectives on Race, Gender, and Human Rights*, which is in press with AltaMira Press. She is teaching a graduate course on diasporas this semester.



So Hirata is an assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry. He received his PhD in theoretical chemistry from the

Graduate University for Advanced Studies in 1998. He has held positions with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, the University of California, Berkeley, the Quantum Theory Project at UF, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and Hiroshima University.

Hirata's research focuses on the development of new many-body theories describing concerted motions of electrons in atoms and molecules in the gas and condensed phases and in crystalline solids. In 2003, he published the fifth edition of the Encyclopedia for Experimental Chemistry through The Chemical Society of Japan. He teaches Physical Chemistry II.



Michael Jubien is a professor in the Department of Philosophy. He earned his PhD in philosophy and logic at the Rockefeller

University in 1972, specializing in analytical metaphysics. He comes to UF from the University of California, Davis, where he served as a professor since 1988.

Jubien also held appointments at the University of Illinois, Chicago and the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His research analyzes the concepts of necessity and possibility, and he is teaching Metaphysics and a graduate seminar on modality.



Ingrid Anne Kleespies is an assistant professor in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies. She completed her PhD work at the

University of California, Berkeley in summer 2004, specializing in late 18th to mid-19th century Russian literature with special emphasis on Romanticism.

Her current research addresses the way in which images of nomads and wanderers become key cultural symbols in Russian and Polish literature of the Romantic period. She is teaching Russian language and literature courses.



Patrick De Leenheer is an assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics. He received his PhD in applied sciences from

Ghent University in Belgium in 2000. Since then, he has held positions at Eindhoven University of Technology in The Netherlands, Arizona State University and Rutgers University. His research area is mathematical biology, specifically chemostat and HIV models, and he is teaching Mathematical Methods for Engineers.



Virginia LoCastro is an associate professor in the Program in Linguistics. She comes to UF from Universidad de las Americas in Puebla,

Mexico, where she was a professor for the past six years. She received her PhD in linguistics and modern English language in 1990 from Lancaster University in the UK, specializing in discourse analysis and pragmatics.

Her current research involves a study on academic writing by Mexican Spanish students, but she is preparing for other studies at UF, one involving linguistic politeness in Mexican Spanish and another on academic spoken discourse with the Academic Spoken English program in CLAS. LoCastro teaches Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL) Methods and Materials.



Katia Matcheva is an assistant professor in the Department of Physics who joins UF in January 2005. She completed her PhD in

2000 from Johns Hopkins University and has held appointments at the Laboratory of Space Research and Instrumentation in Astrophysics at the Paris Observatory in France, as well as the Center for Radiophysics and Space Research at Cornell University.

Matcheva's research focuses on problems related to the physics and chemistry of planetary atmospheres in the solar system, involving numerical modeling and simulations for the relevant atmospheric processes.



Augusto Oyuela-Caycedo is an assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology. He received his PhD from the University

of Pittsburgh and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Calgary. For the past three years he has served as a visiting assistant professor at the University of Kentucky. Oyuela-Caycedo has also been an associate professor at the Universidad Nacional de Colombia.

His current research is on the historical ecology of the Amazon, with a focus on the frontier regions of Colombia, Peru and Brazil. He is teaching Historical Ecology, Ecology of Religion, and Shamanism.



Alioune Sow is an assistant professor jointly appointed between the Center for African Studies and the Department of Romance

Languages and Literatures. He completed his PhD in 2003 at The University of Paris-Sorbonne Paris IV. His dissertation studied the writings on childhood in African literature, both Anglophone and Francophone. Before coming to UF Sow taught at Cambridge University in the UK.

His research focuses on the protocols of childhood in African literature, but also includes the notion of democracy and literature in Mali, African tragedies, memory and literature. He is teaching two courses—Francophone Cultures and African Humanities.



Trysh Travis is an assistant professor in the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research. She received her PhD in American studies

from Yale University and specializes in 20th century American reading and publishing history. Before coming to UF, she held positions at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas and Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut.

Travis' research looks at the expansion of 12-step self help groups during the 20th century and their influence on the publishing industry and literary genres. She is teaching Interdisciplinary Perspectives of Women and US Women Writers.



Andrew Zimmerman is an assistant professor in the Department of Geological Sciences who came to UF in January 2004. He

received his PhD from the College of William and Mary and served as a research associate at Pennsylvania State University before coming to UF.

His research involves studies of coastal eutrophication, organic matter preservation in sediments and nanogeology. Zimmerman teaches Introduction to Oceanography and Organic Geochemistry.

An Island Wilderness

Seahorse Key Provides Pristine Research Area

The island of Seahorse Key, Florida has been home to an interesting mix of inhabitants over the years, from Seminole prisoners to Civil War soldiers. But in recent times, it has gone to the birds...and the snakes and the horseshoe crabs. Located off the shore of Cedar Key, about a 20-minute boat ride from the town's popular oceanfront boardwalk, the serene island paradise is uninhabited by humans, with the exception of researchers and educators utilizing the University of Florida Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory.

"It is a magical place," says Zoology Professor Jane Brockmann, who has been studying the island's horseshoe crab populations since 1989. "One of the things that makes the lab useful is, since the island is a wildlife refuge, we can study the behavior of a species and know that it has not been disturbed."

Part of the Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge, Seahorse Key serves as a safe haven for more than 100 different species of birds over the course of a year. Brown and white pelicans, white ibis, cormorants, and several species of egrets and herons flock to the island to nest and raise their young. A long-term agreement between UF and the US Fish and Wildlife Service allows the uni-

versity to conduct programs associated with its 50-year-old marine lab on the island. In exchange, UF helps preserve the island and maintain its historic lighthouse, which celebrated its 150th anniversary in August.

"People can come out here and study raw nature—from the marine sciences to coastal and estuarine ecology," says Harvey Lillywhite, a zoology professor and director of the Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory since 1998. He recalls a statement made by the late UF zoology professor and renowned sea turtle biologist Archie Carr, "The greatest thing about the marine laboratory is the island itself."

With the approval of Lillywhite

and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, researchers from across campus and other institutions worldwide are allowed to study wildlife on the key and its surrounding waters. In addition to the island's bird population, scientists have access to hundreds of species, including terrestrial vertebrates, such as snakes, numerous fishes and marine invertebrates, and terrestrial and marine plants. And while seahorses do inhabit the area, the island takes its name from its shape.

There are seven new research projects taking place on the island. A doctoral student from the Georgia Institute of Technology is investigating the mating system of dusky pipefish, while a student from Auburn University is studying the geographic distribution of segmented worms. A team from the Smithsonian Marine Station in Fort Pierce, Florida is studying the ecology and evolution of larval sponges and bryozoans. Students and professors from UF are studying a diversity of subjects ranging from the properties of submerged soils to plant surveys within the Cedar Keys.

Lillywhite is researching the island's unique snake population—made up mostly of cottonmouths—and its relationship with the nesting birds. The snakes tend to reside under the bird rookeries and feed on fish dropped or regurgitated by the nesting birds. Lillywhite and his research assistants believe they have found the answer to an interesting phenomenon that has left others scratching their heads—the fact that the nesting birds bypass most of the 800 acres of refuge space available to them in the Cedar Keys island chain and choose to nest at Seahorse Key. "We believe the dense snake population is a deterrent to potential nest predators including raccoons, non-native rats and arboreal snakes," Lillywhite says. "Raccoons reside on other adjacent islands where there are far fewer snakes, and the birds choose not to nest there. We also find an inverse relationship between the number of snakes and the number of introduced rats on the island. Where

Open Lighthouse October 16-17

If you would like the opportunity to visit Seahorse Key, mark your calendar for the annual open lighthouse event on October 16–17. Hosted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, UF Seahorse Key Marine Laboratory and the Florida Lighthouse Association, visitors will get the rare opportunity to tour the island, lighthouse and cemetery. Coinciding with the 32nd Annual Cedar Key Seafood Festival, the island will be open to guests, free of charge, from 8:30 am to 4 pm. Boat transportation to the island can be arranged through the Cedar Key Island Hopper at the city marina at the cost of \$14 for adults and \$7 for children under 12 years of age. Boats will depart the marina hourly from 8 am until 2 pm. For more information, visit www.cedarkeyislandhopper.com or call 352-543-5904. Private vessels are also welcome. Those interested in scheduling a research or education related visit should contact Harvey Lillywhite at hbl@zoo.ufl.edu or 392-1101.

Left to right: Director Harvey Lillywhite, Marine Superintendent Henry Coulter and Marine Mechanic Al Dinsmore round out the Seahorse Key staff. Coulter has been on the job for the past 26 years and Dinsmore for the past 12. They both reside in Cedar Key and boat to the island almost daily to do every job imaginable, including lawn care, boat repair and building maintenance.

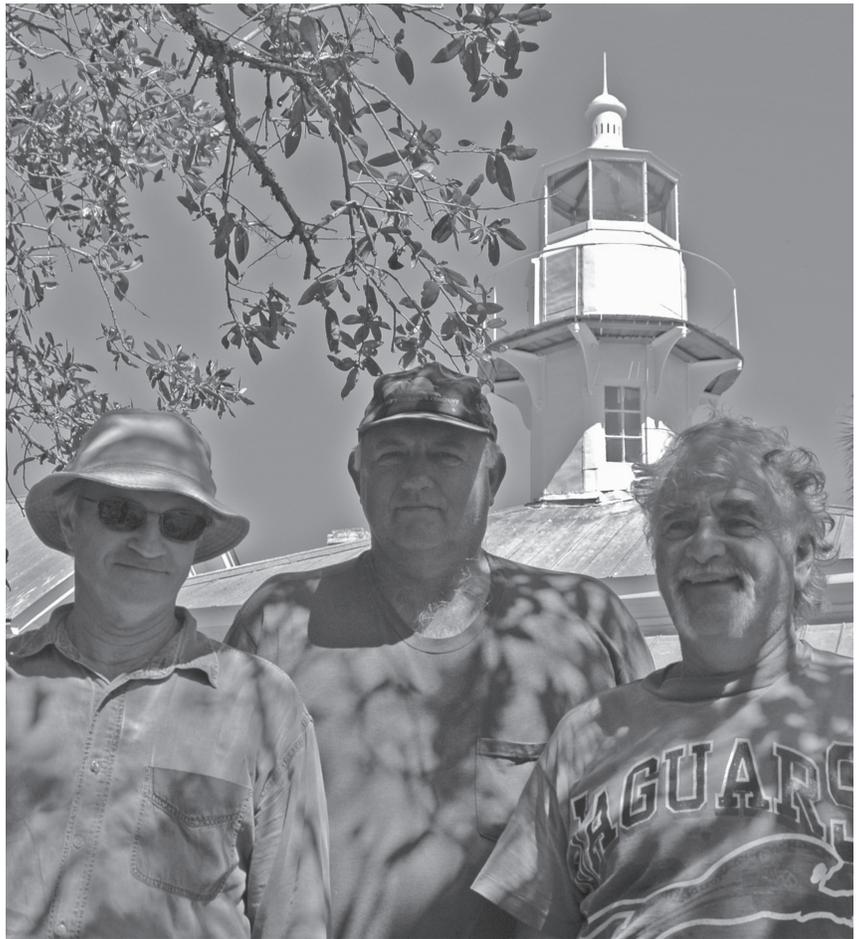
snakes are most numerous—at the bird rookeries—there are very few rats.”

Another interesting species on the island is the horseshoe crab. The prehistoric looking creature is helmet-shaped with a domed body and a long tail, which it uses to right itself when turned over. More closely related to scorpions or spiders than crabs, the 10-legged creature looks the same as its ancestors did over 100 million years ago, during the age of dinosaurs. Hundreds cover the beach during the high tide of a full moon to mate and deposit eggs. Brockmann is studying the crab’s reproductive and mating behavior, in particular why the crabs mate in groups and share parenthood.

“I started going out to Seahorse Key when I first came to UF in 1979, at first just taking classes out there,” Brockmann says. “Then around 1989–1990, I became really interested in the horseshoe crab. It is a very peculiar creature. For example, its eggs are laid in the sand and fertilized outside the body in the sand, unlike any other arthropod. There is just nothing else like it on earth, nothing that is still around anyway.”

Brockmann primarily works on the island during the spring, which is the height of the mating season. She has to do most of her work at night, when the crabs come ashore, so she stays overnight in the dorm space available inside the lighthouse. For a modest fee, up to 26 people can sleep in bunk-style accommodations within the lighthouse, which also contains two small bathrooms and a kitchen on each end of the house equipped with refrigerators, a gas stove, ice machine and microwave ovens. Filtered drinking water is pumped from a freshwater lens beneath the island, and electricity is provided by a generator. Other facilities include a small teaching and research lab, an outdoor pavilion with tables and holding tanks, storage sheds, and boats including a research vessel, the R/V *Discovery*.

According to the Cedar Key Historical Society, the Seahorse Key Lighthouse was built in 1854 and is based on a unique design by Lieutenant George Meade, who later became a famed American Civil War general, leading the Union Army in the Battle of Gettysburg. The island of Seahorse Key had already been established as an American military reservation in 1841 and was used to detain Seminole prisoners after the Second Florida/Seminole War. During the Civil War northern troops captured the island and used



it as a cantonment where confederate soldiers were imprisoned. The remains of a battery can still be found on the island, deep in a small wood, next to a graveyard where four Navy officers are buried, as well as a lighthouse keeper and his wife.

The lighthouse was constructed on the highest Pleistocene dune in the Gulf and showed the way for the ships sailing into the active Cedar Key port in the 1880s. A regular line of steam ships ran from Cedar Key to Tampa and Key West and a considerable amount of business was done with New Orleans and Havana. The Seahorse Key Lighthouse lit the way for all this traffic. By 1915, however, the lighthouse was deactivated, and its fourth order Fresnel lens was permanently darkened. Climbing through the beacon and stepping onto its observation deck reveals a spectacular 360-degree view of the island and the sea beyond, including the Cedar Key coastline.

During the 2003–2004 academic year, 19 different courses at UF used the facilities of the Seahorse Key Marine

Laboratory, representing disciplines in zoology, botany, environmental and coastal engineering, veterinary medicine, environmental chemistry, mathematics and entomology. Though the lab is administered by the Department of Zoology, any legitimate educator or researcher can use the site and its facilities. Numerous outreach and environmental education agencies and organizations also bring groups to Seahorse Key, including the Audubon Society, Florida Museum of National History, several area schools and training institutes for teachers. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts groups also occasionally tour the island.

“The influence on young people is very important,” says Lillywhite. “So many students, when they are young, go to a field station for the first time and they always remember it. The experience helps them to make career decisions, encourages stewardship, and is something they carry with them for the rest of their lives.”

—Buffy Lockette

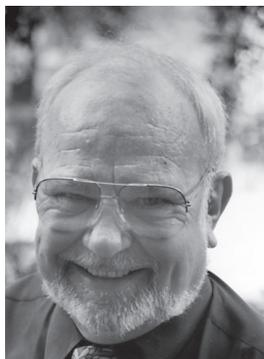
Mark Your Calendar

The 2004 Southeast Early China Roundtable will be held at UF on October 15–17. The keynote speaker of this year's conference is Lothar von Falkenhausen, a professor of art history and archaeology at the University of California, Los Angeles and co-editor of the *Journal of East Asian Archaeology*. His public lecture, "A Silk Route Oasis in History and Archaeology: Notes from a Recent Journey to Khara-khoto," will take place at the Harn Museum of Art at 6 pm on October 15 and is free and open to all. For more information, contact **Cynthia L. Chennault** at cchenna@aall.ufl.edu.

Moseley Named Interim Chair of Anthropology

Michael Moseley is the new interim chair of the Department of Anthropology, succeeding Allan Burns who left this fall, after six years, to become associate dean of faculty affairs for the college.

A distinguished professor, Moseley has been at UF since 1984 and has served as associate chair of anthropology for five years. He earned his PhD in anthropology from Harvard University in 1968 and his research focuses on human evolution in the Andes Mountains. He has gained worldwide recognition in his field for his current project studying ceremonial beer libation halls in the region. In 2000, Moseley was elected to the National Academy of Sciences.



CLAS Dean's Office Welcomes New Webmaster

Jeff Stevens has joined the CLAS News and Publications Office as the college's official Web master. He will be responsible for designing and maintaining the CLAS Web pages and assisting departments and centers with their Web sites.

Stevens previously served as a senior computer support specialist for UF's Student Financial Affairs office. He earned a bachelor's degree in history and mass communication from Florida State University in 1996 and a master's degree in mass communication from UF in 1998.



Around the College

Convocation Rescheduled for November 4 Weather Channel Meteorologist and UF Alum Stephanie Abrams to Deliver Keynote Address

Due to Hurricane Jeanne, the Fall Convocation, organized by CLAS, has been rescheduled for Thursday, November 4 at 6 pm in the University Memorial Auditorium. The college will recognize outstanding students and faculty from across the university.

The ceremony's keynote speaker is **Stephanie Abrams**, a meteorologist with The Weather Channel, who earned her bachelor's degree in geography from UF in 1999. Abrams also earned a bachelor's degree in meteorology from Florida State University and started working at The Weather Channel in June 2003.

During the recent hurricane season, she has given live television reports from Florida. Abrams also provides online video forecasts and weather information for The Weather Channel Interactive. She delivers local forecasts for more than 75 US cities as well as forecasts related to various activities and interests, such as golf, health and gardening. Abrams is a member of the American Meteorology Society and was president of the North Florida chapter of the AMS from



UF Ecologists Find Frozen North May Accelerate Global Warming

An article about assistant professors **Michelle Mack** and **Ted Schuur**'s research findings appeared in the journal *Nature* on September 23. The two found that ecosystems of the frozen north may act to accelerate global warming by releasing carbon—a primary culprit in the atmospheric greenhouse effect—from the arctic tundra.

The three to seven degree rise in temperature predicted by global climate models could cause the breakdown of the arctic tundra's vast store of soil carbon, releasing more of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide into the air than plants are capable of taking in, says Mack. "Our results suggest that climate warming in the arctic tundra may cause the release of much more carbon dioxide than previously expected, which has the effect of further increasing global warming," Mack says. "This type of positive feedback will make the Earth's climate change even more rapidly."

The findings were collected in a 20-year experiment on the effects of fertilization on the arctic tundra at the Arctic Long-Term Ecological Research site near Toolik Lake, Alaska. The National Science Foundation and NASA provided funding for the research.

Mack and Schuur joined the botany department in 2002.

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

Anthropology

Anthony Oliver-Smith gave a presentation titled "Social Science Disaster Research in International Contexts: Disaster Mitigation and Sustainable Development" to the Committee on Disaster Research of the National Academies during August in Washington, DC.

Classics

David C. Young gave a lecture at the Zappeion Press Center in Athens, Greece in August at the invitation of the Greek Ministry of Culture titled "The Modern Greek Origins of the Modern Olympics." In May, he lectured on "How Athens 1859 Led to Athens 2004" at a conference, Olympic Games: Past and Present, held by the Center for International Studies at Yale University.

Criminology, Law and Society

Paul Magnarella contributed a chapter titled "The Consequences of the War Crimes Tribunals and an International Criminal Court for Human Rights in Transitioning Societies" to the book *Human Rights and Societies in Transition*.

Germanic and Slavic Studies

Hal H. Rennert (German) recently presented a paper on "Mörrike-Reception, Renaissance and Translation 1950–1959," at the International Eduard Mörrike Convention in Ludwigsburg, Germany.

History

Jessica Harland-Jacobs has received the 2004 Walter D. Love Prize from the North American Conference on British Studies for her article "All in the Family: Freemasonry and the British Empire in the Mid-Nineteenth Century," which appeared in the *Journal of British Studies*. The prize is awarded annually for the best article written on British history by a North American scholar.

Linguistics

Diana Boxer was a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow during July and August at the Bellagio Study Center in Bellagio, Italy. The collaborative research residency was with Russian linguist Elena Gritsenko, and the two completed a manuscript titled "What's in a (Sur)name? Women, Marriage, Identity and Power Across Cultures."

Political Science

Ken Wald, graduate student **Kevin Fridy**, and **Adam Silverman**, who earned his PhD in political science in 2002, were authors of a

paper that recently received a best paper award from the American Political Science Association (APSA), sponsored by the religion and politics section. The paper, "Making Sense of Religion in Political Life," was presented at the organization's 2003 meeting.

Peggy Kohn's book *Radical Space* received an honorable mention from the Best Book Award Committee of the APSA's section on European politics and society. It was published by Cornell University Press in 2003.

Graduate student **Emilia Gioreva** won the Best Dissertation Fieldwork Award for her research comparing local-level economic development and democratization in Peru and Bulgaria. The selection was made by the comparative democratization section of the APSA. **Leslie Anderson** chairs Gioreva's dissertation committee.

Philosophy

David Copp's address, "Moral Naturalism and Three Grades of Normativity," given to the recent Ethic-Zentrum conference in Zurich, has been published in *Normativity and Naturalism*. His co-authored paper, "Morality and Virtue," recently appeared in the premier journal *Ethics*.

Robert D'Amico presented the paper "Quine's Inscrutable Natives" at the 27th annual IMISE Conference in Stra, Italy in July. IMISE Conference is an annual event bringing together social science, literature and humanities faculty from Europe and the US. He also presented "Spreading Disease: How to Resolve a Dispute about the Reality of Disease" at a conference on philosophical issues in the biomedical sciences in Birmingham, Alabama in May.

Michael Jubien was the keynote speaker for a special session on modality at the Pacific conference of the American Philosophical Association. His paper, "On Quine's Rejection of Intensional Entities," appeared in a special volume of *Midwest Studies in Philosophy* published in August.

Greg Ray co-organized the Society of Exact Philosophy's annual conference at the University of Maryland in May. The society is an international organization dedicated to providing sustained discussion among researchers who employ rigorous methods in the conduct of philosophical investigation.

Psychology

Manfred Diehl was one of four American

scholars invited to present his work on self-concept development at the fall academy of the predoctoral program in "Neuropsychiatry and Psychology of Aging" in Berlin, Germany on September 15–17. He presented a colloquium titled "Self-Concept Organization in Adulthood and Old Age: Implications for Aging Well."

Romance Languages and Literatures

Álvaro Félix Bolaños (Spanish) presented two papers, "El carnero Read Through Hispanism" and "Heterogeneity and Canon Formation in Latin America" at a recent Latin American studies conference at The Johns Hopkins University.

Daniele J. Buchler's (French) article, "Le Cercle dystopique dans 'L'Îcôna dins l'iscla' fable en occitan de Robert Lafont" has been accepted for publication and will appear in TENSO, the Bulletin of the Société Guilhem IX devoted to Occitan studies and published at the University of Louisville in Kentucky.

Carol Murphy (French) presented the paper "Black and White in Color: Jean Paulhan's Essay on Jean Fautrier" at the annual meeting of the UK Society for French Studies held at Cambridge University in July. On September 12, she delivered a keynote speech, "Marguerite Duras: affect, écriture, lecture en mouvement," at the Colloque Marguerite Duras at the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne in England. Her essay, "Re-presenting the real: Jean Paulhan and Jean Fautrier," appeared in the Fall 2004 issue of *Yale French Studies*.

Geraldine Nichols (Spanish) presented a paper, "No parirán: Resisting Orders in Post-war Spain," at a symposium held at Harvard University in May, in honor of writer Robert Spire.

Zoology

Colette St. Mary recently returned to UF after spending five months teaching and researching as a Fulbright professor at the University of Helsinki in Finland. She had the opportunity to collaborate with colleague Kai Lindstrom, a former Fulbright Fellow who visited her lab in 1999–2000, on a project exploring the role of sexual selection in the evolution of male parental care in the sand goby, a type of fish. She presented their work at the International Society for Behavioral Ecology meeting held in Jyväskylä, Finland in July. She also gave a plenary lecture on the topic at the European Ichthyological Society meeting in Tallinn, Estonia in September.

Grants

Predicting the Gifted Child

Though an estimated 3 million children in the United States have been identified as intellectually “gifted,” very little is known about them and their developmental needs. In an effort to better understand giftedness, the American Psychological Foundation has awarded Psychology Professor Keith Berg and graduate student Joe McNamara a \$75,000 grant to search for ways to identify giftedness at an earlier age.

By testing children from ages five to seven, Berg and McNamara hope to determine whether preschoolers and kindergartners with good executive functioning skills—or the ability to plan, organize and strategize—will later be tagged as gifted children in elementary school.

“Executive functioning is one of the last cognitive abilities to develop and one of the first to go as we age,” Berg says. “The earliest points we can see evidence of it is age three, and you start seeing it decline in the 50s. It’s a very vulnerable kind of ability, but it is a crucial ability for one to be able to do the most complex tasks in life, and is fairly crucial in things that aren’t so complex.”

A skill housed primarily in the frontal lobes of the brain, executive functioning enables humans to plan, sequence, initiate and sustain behavior towards a goal, incorporating feedback and making adjustments along the way. “You use your executive functioning, for example, when you go to the grocery store,” Berg says. “You have your list of things you want but you don’t follow it in order. If the spaghetti sauce is the first thing on your list, but you are standing in the bakery section, you don’t walk away from the bakery goods and get the spaghetti sauce only to have to return to bakery goods.” Berg says executive functioning also comes into play when drivers have to re-plan their trip home at the end of the workday in an effort to avoid a



Psychology graduate student Joe McNamara observes his niece Victoria playing a Tower of London game that tests executive functioning, a possible early predictor of giftedness.

traffic jam.

Disorders such as Tourette’s syndrome, attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder have long been associated with executive dysfunction, but until now no research has been done attributing advanced executive functioning skills to the academically gifted. Funded by an American Psychological Foundation grant, a subsidiary of the American Psychological Association, Berg and McNamara are recruiting 100 children from area daycares, schools and the community to participate in a three-year study. Participants will spend an hour with researchers once a year to work on puzzles that examine executive functioning, primarily the Tower of London task, which requires participants to

move balls on pegs to match an example pegboard in the minimum number of steps.

“I don’t think there is ever going to be any one task that is going to have a perfect correlation with giftedness because it’s far too complicated to expect that to be true,” Berg says. “But we will have taken a big step if we can find one that is a good predictor—if not a perfect predictor—of giftedness early on.”

Berg and McNamara are looking for five-year-old volunteers for the study. Testing takes less than an hour, and participants get to play computer games and take home stickers and prizes. To sign your child up for the study, contact Joe McNamara at jpm2@ufl.edu or 392-0601, extension 239.

—Buffy Lockette

Grants through the Division of Sponsored Research

May–July 2004
Total: \$19,793,524

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

Hanging Chads: The Inside Story of the 2000 Presidential Recount in Florida

The Democratic and Republican parties that bitterly fought over the 2000 presidential election outcome in Florida are gearing up for a similar confrontation again in November, according to UF History Professor Julian Pleasants who is the author of a new book on the subject.

“It’s difficult to imagine that we would go through a similar experience four years later, but I can assure you that both sides are prepared for that,” says Pleasants, director of the Proctor Oral History Program who wrote *Hanging Chads: The Inside Story of the 2000 Presidential Recount in Florida* published in September. “They already have their legal teams in place and briefs prepared. If, for example, voting machines break down in Palm Beach County, they are ready to argue that citizens were denied the right to vote.”

Although the elimination of punch-card machines will prevent any controversy this time over dimpled and hanging chads—incompletely punched holes in ballots largely responsible for Florida’s November 2000 presidential recount—the absence of paper records with the new touch-screen voting machines in some Florida counties raises the possibility of a different set of problems.

“Advocates of touch screens claim they are accurate and you don’t need a paper trail, but all of us who have worked with computers know that computers malfunction,” Pleasants says.

For the book, Pleasants interviewed 42 key players in the election recount in an attempt to understand their decision-making processes in what he describes as “the most controversial, tumultuous, and in many ways, significant presidential election in American

history.” Among his interviewees were a state Supreme Court justice, election supervisors, and judges and lawyers, including the heads of both legal teams, Dexter Douglass for Democratic candidate Al Gore and Barry Richard for Republican President George W. Bush.

A significant majority of these players agreed the Republicans won the recount because they were better organized, had more money and fought more vigorously. The interviews revealed that Gore, to his disadvantage, made many of his own legal decisions, rather than relying on his Florida attorneys, while Bush did not exert any influence.

In his interview, Richard said the Bush team gave him complete authority to plan and carry out the legal strategy. Richard indicated he talked on the phone with Bush only twice during the 36-day period that elapsed between the election and the US Supreme Court decision awarding Bush the election. Those conversations were to congratulate Richard or acquire additional information, and Bush never offered any legal advice.

“The Bush campaign hired the lawyers and let them do their job on the assumption that Florida lawyers knew more about election law than they did,” Pleasants says. “Gore micromanaged the process, and in doing that, went against the advice of his Florida lawyers. Had he listened to them, the argument is that he might have won.”

The most critical piece of advice Gore ignored was initially limiting his recount request to four counties, Pleasants says. Judges and lawyers from both sides agreed if Gore had called a statewide recount at the begin-

ning of the 36-day period, there would have been sufficient time to finish it.

Pleasants says the interviews confirmed what he has read in numerous books: It will probably never be known who won the election. “The one thing I think we can say—and some of the Republicans I interviewed agreed with this—is that more people intended to vote for Al Gore in Florida than intended to vote for George W. Bush.”

The only two people who refused Pleasants’ requests for interviews for the book were Al Cardenas, chairman of the state Republican Party, and former Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris, who certified the 2000 presidential vote and was later elected to Congress. Pleasants did interview her political adviser, Mac Stipanovich, and others who worked for her during the election.

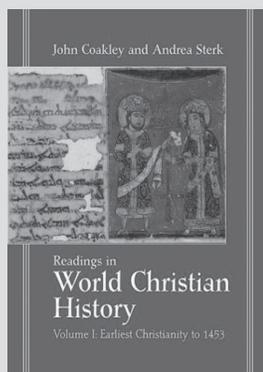
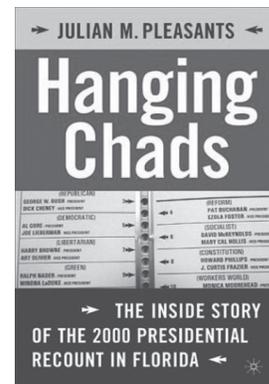
Some of the recollections Pleasants describes in the book are humorous, even bizarre, reflecting the extraordinary nature of an event in which legal decisions that normally take months were done in days, and in front of a media circus with the whole world watching.

For example, Craig Waters, the Florida Supreme Court’s public information officer, told of a collection of “run-of-the mill kooks” showing up at the courthouse, including a woman whose pet skunk performed back flips, and a group of people dressed in aluminum foil with satellite dishes strapped to their backs who were trying to channel energy toward the court.

George McGovern, a former US senator and 1972 Democratic presidential candidate, said he has read the book and strongly recommends it. “This is the most carefully researched and valuable book yet written on the Florida election of 2000,” he says. “It is a must-read book on a vital and controversial chapter of our political history.”

—Cathy Keen,

UF News and Public Affairs



Readings in World Christian History Volume I: Earliest Christianity to 1453, John Coakley and Andrea Sterk (History), Orbis Books

This companion to *History of the World Christian Movement* explores how varied and multi-cultural Christian origins and history really are. Through the advice of many scholars of Christian origins the selections here include texts that show students how Christianity developed and was lived in Asia, Africa and the Mediterranean. These texts show Christian life beyond the confines of Byzantine and Western Christendom as Christians enter the Mongol and Chinese courts, struggle to cope with Islam, and continue to live in places

such as Ethiopia and Egypt. Designed for the classroom, this book highlights the variety of Christianities that grew out of the Palestinian Jesus Movement of the first century.

—Publisher

Conserving the Amazon

Environmental Sciences Receive \$2.4 Million for Wetlands Research

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has awarded UF ecologist Michael Goulding and geographer Nigel Smith a \$2.4 million grant to fund a science-based conservation project in the Amazon wetlands. The unsolicited grant is the first given to UF from the four-year-old foundation established by the co-creator of the Intel Corporation, Gordon Moore, and his wife Betty.

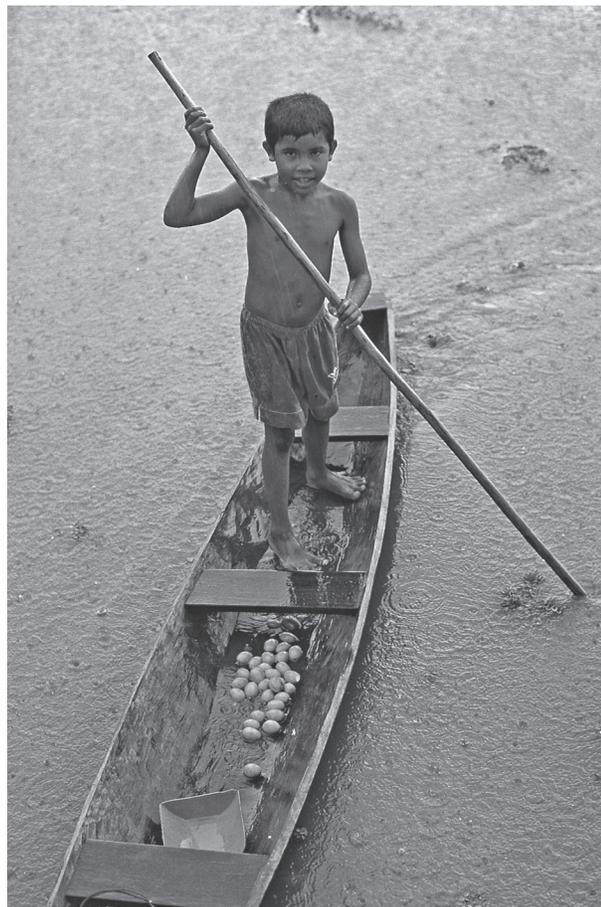
“The Amazon has had a lot of attention in the media in the last 20–30 years, mainly focusing on deforestation, building of highways, and opening up the Amazon for development and settlement,” says Smith, a professor of geography and co-investigator on the grant. “Since at least a sixth of all freshwater flowing off the face of the Earth comes out of the mouth of the Amazon, what we are trying to do is shift some of the focus to transnational changes that are underway in the river areas, from the Andes to the Atlantic.”

Smith and Goulding will collaborate

with Brazilian and Peruvian researchers to stimulate international and interstate treaties, agreements and legislation that will promote the conservation of aquatic biodiversity in the region and the river basin ecosystem on which it depends. Government agencies, non-profit organizations, development banks and educational institutions will use the research findings to promote better conservation strategies in the Amazon.

The grant will be used to fund fieldwork on the ecology of Amazon fish migrations as a means to focus attention on aquatic ecosystem functions. Major fieldwork also will be completed on the ecology of human impacts in Andes-Amazon headwaters. Finally, an educational book series on the ecology and geography of Amazon wetlands and their resources will be written by an international team of scientists.

—Buffy Lockette



Caught in a thunderstorm, a young boy on Marajó Island returns home from gathering bacuripari fruits in a floodplain forest at the mouth of the Amazon. During the rainy season, the only way to get around estuarine islands is by canoe. Geography Professor Nigel Smith captured this image on a research trip to the region in 2000.



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