

CLASnotes

The University of Florida
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



In this Issue:

CLAS Welcomes New Faculty.....	3
The Great Debate.....	6
Around the College	8
Grants.....	10
Bookbeat	11
Junk Mail Be Gone!	12

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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Buffy Lockette: p. 4 (Liu)
Jeremy Clark: p. 8 (Fugate)



The Dean's Musings

The Fundamentals

As important as our cross-disciplinary interactions are, especially in the applied sciences and social sciences, we need to remind ourselves of the critical importance of the fundamental academic disciplines—the essential units of mathematics, English, philosophy, history, the languages, natural sciences, behavioral sciences and social studies.

It is these core units that engage in the basic research that historically has led to some of the most far-reaching discoveries and the formation of new interdisciplinary programs. Inventions which have led to revolutionary technologies and analyses that have changed our understanding of societies and their behaviors have often had their origin the research of a challenging academic problem.

Our college has the responsibility of advancing these basic areas of inquiry by energizing fundamental research with support for promising interdisciplinary programs. These new areas will bring experts together in an environment that is free to challenge traditional thought and encourages the exploration of new frontiers. To emerge as a leading international research institution, we must succeed in this endeavor by selecting areas that are unique for UF and can attract the world's best scholars and students.

Neil Sullivan
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On the Cover:

UF junior **LaToya Edwards**, a political science and public relations major, debates US domestic policy against Cedric Logan, a student at the University of Rochester, during the National Student Vice Presidential Debate held at Case Western Reserve University as part of the events surrounding the vice presidential debate between US Vice President Dick Cheney and opponent John Edwards on October 5. See page 6 for full story.



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CLAS Welcomes New Faculty

More than 60 new faculty members have joined CLAS this year.



William Baber is a professor in the Department of Anthropology. He earned his PhD from Stanford University in 1979 and has

held positions at Tuskegee University, Purdue University and the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

His most recent research is on African American masculinity and HIV risk behavior. He also is working on a book-length manuscript, "The Social Ecology of Booker T. Washington," based on research funded by the Department of the Interior from 1997 to 1999 and research conducted at the Booker T. Washington National Monument in Franklin County, Virginia. Baber is teaching an African American studies course, The Social Ecology of Booker T. Washington, and Introduction to Applied Anthropology. He is also developing a course for the spring 2005 semester on environment and disease.



Juliana Barr is an assistant professor in the Department of History. After earning her PhD in 1999 from the University of Wisconsin,

Madison, she held a one-year postdoctoral fellowship at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas before becoming an assistant professor at Rutgers University.

Barr is currently revising a book manuscript, "Peace Came in the Form of a Woman: the Power Relations of Spanish and Indian Nations in the Early Southwestern Borderlands," that explores the gendered dynamics of European-Indian political and economic interaction in 18th century Texas. She is teaching two courses this fall, Early America and Native American History I, and will teach Native American History II and a graduate course on American history in the spring.



Laura Baudis is an assistant professor in the Department of Physics. She earned her PhD in 1999 from the University of Heidelberg in

Germany, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University in 2003.

Her main research interests are particle astrophysics and cosmology, in particular the domain of particle dark matter. Her present work is focused on the direct detection of non-baryonic dark matter with the cryogenic dark matter search experiment and with liquid xenon. Baudis teaches Physics with Calculus and Mechanics 1.



Peter Bergmann is an associate professor jointly appointed between the Center for European Studies and the Department of

History. He received his PhD in 1983 from the University of California, Berkeley, and his area of specialization is modern German intellectual history.

Before coming to UF, Bergmann was a professor at the University of Connecticut for 15 years. His present research project examines German and American exceptionalism. He is teaching Modern European Intellectual History, Nationalism and the Idea of Europe, and War and Society.



Chris Caes is an assistant professor, jointly appointed between the Center for European Studies and the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies. His specialty is Polish studies, and he received his PhD in 2004 from the University of California, Berkeley.

Caes' current research focuses on conceptions of selfhood and agency in the literature and cinema of Polish Stalinism. This fall he is teaching Polish Culture and Society of the 20th Century. In the spring, he plans to teach Modern Polish Cinema and The Absurd in 20th Century Polish Literature and Theater.

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continued on page 4



Alin Ceobanu is an assistant professor jointly appointed between the Center for European Studies and the Department of Soci-

ology. He earned his PhD in sociology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in May 2004, with a certificate of graduate specialization in Russian language and area studies. His dissertation was on the public sentiment of immigrants and immigration policies in Central and Eastern Europe.

Ceobanu's current research focuses on post-communist societies of East-Central Europe and enlargement of the European Union, cross-national aspects of nationalism, inter-group relations, and collective action and social movements. He is teaching Nationalism and Ethnicity in Europe and Culture and Identity in the New Europe.

Jian Ge is a professor in the Department of Astronomy. He received his PhD in astronomy from the University of Arizona in 1998 and served



as an assistant professor at The Pennsylvania State University. He also has held research positions at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the Steward Observatory and the Beijing Astronomical Observatory.

Ge's research involves extrasolar planet searches, planetary disks, brown dwarf and faint companion searches, quasar absorption line systems and optical and infrared instrument techniques.



Linda Hermer-Vazquez is an assistant professor in the Department of Psychology. She earned her PhD from Cornell University

in 1997 in biopsychology with a minor in cognitive studies. Before coming to UF she was a research assistant professor in the lab of renowned neurophysiologist John Chapin at the State University of New York at Brooklyn.

Her research includes studies of olfactory-based perception, learning, decision-making and motor execution. She collaborates with her husband **Raymond Hermer-Vazquez**, a new assistant scientist in psychology, and the two are studying the physiological basis for how different brain regions involved in these behaviors communicate with one another, in both frequency and time. They also are teaching a graduate seminar, Current Controversies in Neuroscience.



William Link is the Milbauer Eminent Scholar in the Department of History. He received his PhD in history from

the University of Virginia in 1981, and his specialization is the 19th- and 20th-century American South. Before coming to UF, he spent 23 years as a history professor at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro.

Link has written four major books, most recently, *Roots of Secession: Slavery and Politics in Antebellum Virginia*, in 2003. He currently is working on a project on the life of Jesse Helms and teaches a graduate seminar, Race and Politics in the American South Since 1850.



Xueli Liu is an assistant professor in the Department of Statistics. She completed her PhD in 2002 at the University of California,

Davis, and was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles for two years before coming to UF.

Liu's current research focuses on bio-informatics, specifically on gene expression data and tissue micro-array data. She also works on statistical genetics and functional data analysis and has collaborations with the McKnight Brain Institute.



Barbara Mennel is an assistant professor in the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies. She received her PhD in German studies

from Cornell University in 1998 and has held positions at Bates College and the University of Maryland.

She currently is completing a book project on masochistic aesthetics in 19th- and 20th-century German language, literature and film. Mennel's next research project concerns the cinematic representation of cities. She is teaching a graduate course on modern German literature, Gender and Sexuality at the Fin-de-Siecle, and an undergraduate film seminar, From Berlin to Hollywood: Film Emigration.



Conor O'Dwyer is an assistant professor, jointly appointed between the Center for European Studies and the Department of Political Science. He recently earned his PhD in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, specializing in comparative politics with a regional focus on European and East European politics. In 2004, his dissertation paper won Best Dissertation in the American Political Science Association's European Politics and Society Section.

O'Dwyer has held a postdoctoral fellowship position at Harvard University. His current research considers the connection between democratization and state building in post-communist Eastern Europe. He teaches The Politics of Post-Communist Eastern Europe and Introduction to Comparative Politics.

Mary Robison is a professor of creative writing in the Department of English. She received her master's degree from Johns Hopkins University, and was a professor at the University of Southern Mississippi before coming to UF. She also has held appointments at Harvard University, Oberlin College, Ohio University, Bennington College, the University of Houston and the University of Southern California, Irvine.

Robison has worked as a screenwriter and script doctor in Hollywood and is the author of three novels and four collections of stories. She also has published around two dozen stories in *The New Yorker*. At UF, she is teaching Introduction to Screenwriting and a graduate writing workshop.



Ray Russo is an assistant professor in the Department of Geology. He received his PhD in geophysics from Northwestern University in

1990, where he served as an assistant professor until coming to UF in 2004. He also has held positions at Universite de Montpellier II in France, the Carnegie Institution of Washington in Washington, DC and the University of the West Indies in Trinidad and Tobago.

Russo's research focuses on the flow of the Earth's upper mantle and its effects on tectonics of the surface plates. Currently, he has ongoing projects in Southeast Asia and China, Chile, Venezuela, Hawaii, Romania, the Caribbean and the central US. This semester he is teaching Introduction to Geophysics.



Benjamin Smith is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science. He received his PhD from the University of Washington in 2002 and served as an academy scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies at Harvard University.

Smith is working on a book manuscript on the politics of oil and state building and is teaching Introduction to Comparative Politics, Southeast Asian Politics, and Authoritarianism in an Era of Democratization.



Martin Sorbille is an assistant professor in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures. He received his PhD in His-

panic languages and literatures from the University of California, Los Angeles in spring 2004.

Sorbille specializes in 19th-century Spanish American literature, Spanish American film studies and psychoanalytic theory. He is teaching an undergraduate seminar, Poetry and Essay of 19th Century South Cone Literature.



Richard Wang is an assistant professor in the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures, specializing in

Chinese. He received his PhD from the University of Chicago in 1999. Wang has taught at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and at Swarthmore College.

His current research focuses on the religious dimensions of traditional Chinese fiction, and his most recent book is *The Romantic Sentiment and the Religious Spirit: The Late Ming Literature and the Intellectual Currents*, published in 1999. He is teaching Chinese Culture and Third-Year Chinese.

The Great Debate

Gators get an inside look at politics

There may not have been a clear winner of the vice presidential debate between incumbent Dick Cheney and Senator John Edwards on October 5, but Kellie Roberts, director of the UF Speech and Debate Team, says the University of Florida stole the show at the 2004 National Student Vice Presidential Debate, which took place at Case Western Reserve University on the days leading up to the Cheney-Edwards face-off.

As part of the festivities surrounding the only vice presidential debate this election cycle, UF was one of 15 universities asked to participate in the Race at Case—a program of activities organized by Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, the chosen venue of the Cheney-Edwards debate. “When we got the invitation to be part of this event, I knew it was a big deal,” says Roberts. “But I didn’t realize how big a deal it really was until we arrived. We had no concept of how unique and how special it was that we were invited.”

UF President Bernie Machen and Michael Rollo, associate vice president for student affairs, chose a delegation of five students to take part in the event, including two members of the UF Speech and Debate Team—political science and public relations junior LaToya Edwards and economics junior Scott Stewart. The other three campus leaders chosen to join the group were history and English senior Max Miller, a Truman Scholar; classics and finance senior Bryson Ridgway, president of the Student Senate; and religion senior Jamal Sowell, student body president. As director of the UF Speech and Debate Team and interim director of the Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication, Roberts was asked to lead the delegation.

In addition to UF, 14 other schools from across the nation converged on

the Case Western Reserve campus the first week of October to debate the issues central to the 2004 presidential campaign. UF was one of only a few public universities invited to participate. Other schools included Carnegie Mellon University, Cornell University, Duke University, Emory University, Fisk University, Johns Hopkins University, University of Miami, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ohio State University, University of Rochester, Stanford University, Vanderbilt University, Washington University in St. Louis, and Case Western Reserve University.

Upon arriving in Cleveland, the group of 73 delegates from across the nation split into two political parties—Democratic and Republican, depending on personal preference. Each party elected a chair, press secretary and party secretary and formed four policy groups to prepare for debate on key issues—domestic policy, the economy, national security and social issues. “When we arrived on campus, our Gators just took off,” Roberts says. “They sought out leadership positions immediately.”

Ridgway was elected chair of the economic subcommittee for the Republican Party. On the Democratic side, the delegates elected Edwards chair of the subcommittee on domestic issues and Stewart secretary of the subcommittee on the economy.

During the live student debate

on October 4, which was later televised on C-SPAN, Edwards and Miller represented their peers as two of eight debaters chosen to argue the views of their subcommittee during the actual debate. UF was the only university to have more than one student take part in the live debate. Edwards debated for the Democrats on domestic issues and Miller for the same party on social issues. CNN’s Judy Woodruff, in front of an audience of 500, moderated the 90-minute event.

“The most remarkable aspect of this experience was being able to watch these students really get involved in the process,” says Roberts. “I doubt that any of them had ever been to an event like this before, so to watch them really dig deep into the issues and the evidence, facts and opinions on the issues and then develop a platform that represented them and that would uphold the Constitution was very fulfilling. And our Florida delegation was just shining.”

During the afternoon following the National Student Vice Presidential Debate, only a few hours prior to Cheney and Edwards taking the stage, reporter Judy Woodruff interviewed UF’s own LaToya Edwards live on CNN, along with three other debaters from the night before. “It was the most amazing moment of the trip for me,” Edwards says. “Only four participants out of this sea of incredibly intelligent students were chosen. I was beside myself with excitement and pride. I remember sitting on the stage with Judy saying to me, ‘So, Miss Edwards, University of Florida, what are your thoughts?’ and it suddenly hit me that I was not just representing myself or my team, but the whole university. That is a huge responsibility, but exciting nonetheless!”

Edwards and Miller—along with the six other debaters—were the only people involved in the student debate invited to attend the Cheney-Edwards



debate. Everyone else enjoyed a VIP reception where they watched the debate together on a big screen. “We probably had more fun than they did,” laughs Roberts. “We were able to eat and laugh and hoot and holler at the debate while those attending the actual event had to sit in their seats, stiff as a board, for the 90-minute televised event.”

Though the National Student Vice Presidential Debate is now history, the UF delegation says it will not soon forget the experience. “I will take away great memories and a better understanding of both sides of the political spectrum’s ideology,” says Ridgway. Miller says he came back to Florida with an eye-opening view of American politics. “It was a good experience for me in that I started to understand the rigidity of party dogma, and I found with my debate preparation that it does not come down to taking a stand on an issue, but spinning it correctly. For this reason, I highly doubt I will ever be involved with party politics, and instead will focus on issue advocacy.”

For Edwards, the event was a great networking opportunity. “I am convinced that I have now made connections with the future movers and shakers of my generation,” she says. “They were all so impressive, insightful and energized about politics. I know many of them will run for office, and when they do, I will gladly give them my vote.”

According to Roberts, many of today’s successful politicians, lawyers, journalists and entertainers first learned how to make arguments and give speeches on their college debate teams, including Janet Reno, Richard Nixon, Tom Ridge, Oprah Winfrey, Tom Brokaw

Of the 73 college delegates at the National Student Vice Presidential Debate, only eight were chosen to argue the issues in the live debate on October 4. UF was the only university to have more than one student serve as a live debator. Pictured here, from left to right, are all eight students with the event’s moderator, CNN’s Judy Woodruff: Adam Hosmer-Henner, Duke University; Max Miller, UF; Ken Nesmith, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Cedric Logan, University of Rochester; Judy Woodruff, CNN anchor; Fitzgerald Heslop, Fisk University; Shaan Ghandi, Case Western Reserve University; LaToya Edwards, UF; and Sarah David, Johns Hopkins University.

and Johnny Cochran. At UF, the Speech and Debate Team has helped fine-tune the speaking skills of US Senator Bob Graham and former US Senator George Smathers.

Housed under the Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the UF Speech and Debate Team is open to all undergraduates and competes nationally against other colleges and universities from September to April each year. It prepares students for three areas of debate—policy/team debate, parliamentary debate and individual speech and oral interpretation events. Travel is funded entirely by UF Student Government, covering all transportation, hotel and entrance fee costs for the debaters.

Roberts has coached the team for the past 17 years and serves as its director, van driver, travel coordinator and bookkeeper. “I am frugal,” she says. “Some might even call me a tightwad when we travel. We certainly pack in those hotel rooms and minivans so that we are able to do this. Our travel budget is small in comparison to our counterparts who are able to fly everywhere when we cannot. I will drive 15 hours one-way, but

continued on page 10

Around the College



Cristina Beato, left, meets with Carolyn Tucker, right, and her research group.

Tucker's National Health Care Solution

Cristina Beato, the Acting Assistant Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services, visited campus on October 20 to award Psychology Professor **Carolyn M. Tucker** an additional \$286,539 extension to a grant from the Agency for Health Care and Research Quality she first received in 2000. Beato met with Tucker and the graduate students on her behavioral medicine research team to learn more about their work on cultural sensitivity in the health care system. "I try to go around the country and find what I consider to be the best practices and solutions for the nation," Beato told Tucker in the one-hour meeting.

The next phase of Tucker's research involves implementing an intervention plan to improve the cultural sensitivity of health care providers by altering the physical environment of clinics, training health care professionals, and teaching patients to respectfully obtain culturally sensitive health care.

CLAS Assembly Meeting November 15

The college will hold an assembly meeting at 4 pm on Monday, November 15 in the Keene Faculty Center. The agenda, prepared by the CLAS Steering Committee, is a panel discussion on faculty self-governance and rights with presentations by **Kim Tanzer**, Department of Architecture; **Kim Emory**, Department of English; and **Gary Ihas**, Department of Physics. Questions and comments are welcome after each short presentation. Visit www.clas.ufl.edu/governance/minutes.html to review the minutes of the September 14 meeting.

Education Specialist Joins Academic Advising Staff

Kim Fugate is a new advisor for the Academic Advising Center. She holds an education specialist degree from UF and is a PhD candidate in mental health counseling, specializing in crisis intervention. Before arriving at UF in 1998, she served as a resident director for Semester at Sea, an adjunct writing instructor at Santa Fe Community College, and an area coordinator for Appalachian State University and Murray State University.

At UF, Fugate has served in several graduate positions while attending school full-time, including hall director and leader/scholar program coordinator for Trusler Hall, crisis intervention consultant for the Department of Housing, and teaching assistant for counselor education courses. She also has completed internships with the UF Career Resource Center and the Student Mental Health Care Center.



CLAS Dean's Office Welcomes New Support Staff

Rebecca Dukes has joined the administrative staff of the CLAS dean's office. She comes to CLAS from the College of Medicine, where she has held positions in the chairman's office of the Department of Psychiatry and the chief's office in the Urology Division.

She will be handling various projects for the dean's office, including teacher evaluations, scholarship processing, annual administrative evaluations, elections, data gathering and reporting, academic activity reports, instructor workload reports, non-academic activity reports, class rolls, and Grade-a-Gator. She will also be assisting Associate Dean **Jim Mueller** on space assignments and physical plant projects.



DEPARTMENT NEWS

Chemistry

Adam Veige has received a \$50,000 New Faculty Award from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation, Incorporated. He is one of nine professors nationwide to receive the honor. Established in 1946 by chemist, inventor and businessman Camille Dreyfus as a memorial to his brother and fellow chemist, Henry, the foundation's purpose is to advance the science of chemistry, chemical engineering and related sciences. Veige was chosen based on his proposed research program, which aims to exploit structural, electronic and reactivity tenets to design reactive early transition metal complexes for the purpose of small molecule activation and catalysis.

Criminology, Law and Society

Paul Magnarella received the Distinguished Service and Leadership Award from the president of the Association of Third World Studies at its annual meeting in October.

Germanic and Slavic Studies

Nora M. Alter presented a paper, "Bringing Back Aesthetics and its Implications," at the German Studies Association's annual conference held in Washington, DC in early October. **Eric Kligerman** also presented a paper at the conference titled, "Ethics is an Optics: Anxiety and the Gaze in Resnais and Celan." During a chairs meeting at the conference, **Will Hasty** made a presentation on UF's nascent Institute for the Online Study of German Language and Culture and its web-based German studies courses.

Franz Futterknecht recently made a presentation on UF's web-based German studies courses at the 7th International Colloquium on International Engineering Education, held in Rhode Island.

Christina Overstreet presented the paper, "Effects of Question-Glossing in Online Reading and Look-up Behavior" at the 2004 University of Hawaii National Foreign Language Resource Center summer symposium.

Mathematics

James K. Brooks recently received an award from the London Mathematical Society, which included support for a lecture tour on his research on von Neumann algebras and abstract stochastic processes. He gave lectures at the University of London, Christ Church College, The Mathematics Institute and Reading University.

A research workshop conducted in March 2004 by students of the mathematics department has been reported prominently in the October 2004 issue of the *Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics News*. A special grant of \$9,000 from the National Science Foundation enabled the UF chapter of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) to host student participants from as far away as Korea and India. Topics discussed at the conference included optimization, imaging science, homogenization and finite element methods. The workshop was organized by graduate students **Jungha An, Beyza Aslan, Weihong Guo, Feng Huang, Shu Jen Huang, Sukanya Krishnaswamy, Arun Krishnaswamy, Adnan Sabuwala, and Hongchao Zhang**. The faculty advisors were **Yunmei Chen, Jay Gopalakrishnan, William Hager and Shari Moskow**. The conference was the first organized by the UF SIAM chapter.

Physics

Dwight Adams has received the 2005 Keithley Award from the American Physical Society. The award recognizes physicists who have played an important role in the development of measurement techniques or equipment that has had an impact on the physics community. Adams was recognized for his development of the capacitive pressure transducer, and for its application to the helium melting pressure thermometry and other scientific uses. He will receive \$5,000 and a certificate citing his contributions, both of which will be presented at the 2005 APS meeting in March.

Psychology

Lise Abrams was selected as one of the three recipients of the 2004 Women in Cognitive Science Mentorship Award from Women in Cognitive Science, an affiliate of the Psychonomic Society. The awards are designed to encourage established scientists, both male and female, to develop the research and publication skills of female students in cognitive science. Up to three awards are given each year to scientists who have demonstrated sustained, effective mentorship of female students and who also have served as a research advisor or supervisor to one or more female students during the academic year immediately preceding the nomination.

Religion

Mario Poceski has received a Center for East Asian Studies Fellowship in Chinese Studies at Stanford University for 2004–2005. At Stanford, he will be working on a book that explores the attitudes toward morality and monasticism within the Chan school of late medieval Chinese Buddhism. He will return to UF in the fall of 2005.

Romance Languages and Literatures

Professor of Spanish **Shifra Armon** has received a grant for her project, "Fray Antonio de Guevara: A Wake-Up Call to Courtiers," from the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport's Program for Cultural Cooperation. She will conduct research in Madrid at the National Library of Spain.

Women's Studies and Gender Research

Angel Kwolek-Folland has been selected as a J. William Fulbright Senior Specialist candidate, which will allow her to work with college and university departments outside the US on research and program development and curricular transformation. Senior specialists lead seminars, give lectures and hold workshops at host institutions.

Grants

Unraveling Leukemia

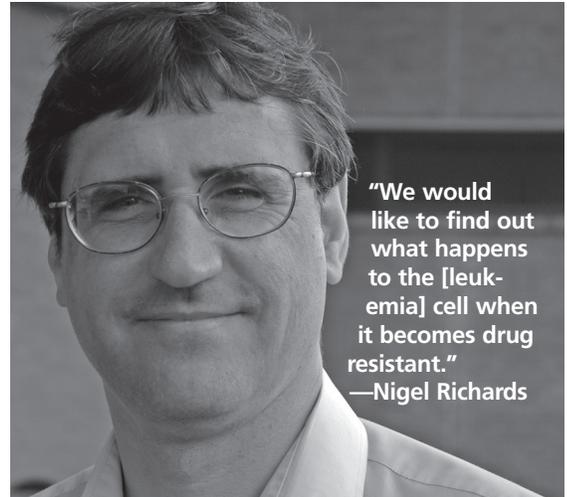
More than 33,000 people in the United States are expected to be diagnosed with leukemia this year, and once stricken with the malignant cancer of the bone marrow and blood, patients, on average, have only about five years to live. Chemistry Professor Nigel Richards and his colleagues in the College of Medicine have received a grant from the National Institutes of Health to lay the groundwork for the development of new methods of diagnosing and treating the disease.

“If you get leukemia, the treatment has really been fairly standard over the last 40 years,” Richards says. “What physicians do is give you anti-leukemia drugs and inject an enzyme into you that breaks down asparagine in the blood. By removing asparagine in the blood, the leukemia cells appear to be more sensitive to treatment with the drugs. The problem is that the enzyme injected into the blood causes an immune response—giving rise to severe side effects. In the event that the initial

treatment does not fully cure the leukemia, it begins again, and is then very likely to be resistant against renewed treatment.”

Richards and fellow researchers Stephen Hunger, associate professor of pediatrics, and Michael Kilberg, professor of biochemistry and molecular biology, have been awarded \$100,000 a year for two years to explore a hypothesis they have developed for better treating drug resistant leukemia. More specifically, the researchers will examine an enzyme called asparagine synthetase and the onset of drug resistance in leukemia cells. Using proteomics methods—a new science of coding human proteins revealed through the Human Genome Project—they hope not only to develop new methods for diagnosis but also to unravel the biological processes that cause human cells to become resistant to the drugs oncologists use to treat leukemia.

Through his prior research, Kilberg has discovered that patients become drug resistant because leukemia cells at some point start producing an enzyme



“We would like to find out what happens to the [leukemia] cell when it becomes drug resistant.”
—Nigel Richards

called asparagine synthetase, which makes asparagine inside the cells. It is unknown why this increase in the enzyme makes leukemia cells resistant to drugs, and this is the question Richards hopes the team’s research will answer. “We would like to find out what happens to the cell when it becomes drug resistant,” he says. “How does that even work—how does increasing one enzyme cause a cell to go from drug sensitive to drug resistant? That is an amazing thing—just one cellular event can result in a situation whereby we can no longer treat the disease.”

Richards, who has taught at UF since 1991, received a PhD from Cambridge University in England in 1984. In addition to this new project, he has long-term grant funding from the NIH for his studies of enzymes that have potential clinical use in treating and preventing kidney stone formation and related diseases.

—Buffy Lockette

Grants through the Division of Sponsored Research

August–September 2004
Total: \$8,663,056

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

Debate, continued from page 7

beyond that we fly. We try not to have the students miss class, but that does happen. Most of the other programs in the Southeast have major scholarships for the students that compete for them and very large budgets for travel. We are working with our alumni in hopes of providing scholarships in the future.”

Typically 70–80 students get involved with the team each year, though not all travel and compete in events. Before Roberts will allow a debater to compete in a national event involving air travel, he or she must have a strong performance record at the regional level. Roberts, however, takes as many students as she can pack in a minivan to regional competitions.

“Debate is an amazing activity,” she says. “A lot of students get

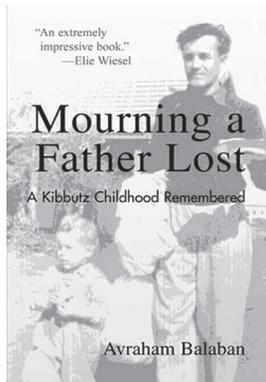
involved because they did it at the high school level and they are addicted. But we have many students who seek us out because they want to enhance their speech skills. Having a competitive speech program at a major university is a very important characteristic, I believe, because it demonstrates that our extracurricular activities can be academic and skill building.”

Students interested in joining the UF Speech and Debate Team are invited to attend one of its weekly meetings, held each Tuesday at 6:15 pm in room 211 of Rolfs Hall. Visit <http://grove.ufl.edu/~debate/> for more information.

—Buffy Lockette

Bookbeat

Recent publications from CLAS faculty



Mourning a Father Lost: A Kibbutz Childhood Remembered

Mourning a Father Lost is an account of parents who never experienced parenthood and children who missed out on childhood. Along with other kibbutz children of his generation, the book's author, Avraham Balaban, grew up in this type of Israeli community that included the collective ownership of property, communal living, and the rearing of children by people assigned to the job by the kibbutz rather than by their parents alone.

Balaban, professor of modern Hebrew literature in the Department of African and Asian Languages, stepped out of his academic role to write this very personal memoir in the aftermath of his father's death.

Published in Hebrew in 2000 and this year in English, the book has caused quite a stir with its vivid portrayal of the costs to children and parents of a kibbutz society that imposed an ideological straight-jacket on its members. It was a social experiment where everything was communally owned and children lived and slept together with little adult supervision in a building known as the children's house. It was a place where parents were allowed to see their children for only one hour a day and where Balaban's mother, a teacher, could not even leave her kindergarten group long enough to comfort her son once when he had fallen and hurt himself.

A childhood memoir was not the sort of book Balaban originally thought he could write. The book is based on actual events during his childhood but also includes fictitious names and conversations to convey certain aspects of kibbutz life. "I didn't want to write a documentary, but fiction, and it was difficult to satisfy the literary critic in me," he says. "It's a very demanding process. When I write scholarly works, I know my pace. I know that at the end of the day I will have three

or four typed pages. When I started writing fiction it was frustrating to sit from morning to evening and end up with a paragraph."

But the writing brought its own satisfactions. "I received so many letters from people who thanked me for telling their own stories. So many are sure these stories are about themselves." Some, however, are angry that he has ruined their idyllic view of kibbutz life. "I tried to say something about the flaws of the second generation, about the psychological toll, and I think this is what some people don't like."

The book is not the first to criticize the kibbutz educational system, but its literary power has given it a far greater impact in the public mind, as described by author and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel and Columbia University Professor Dan Miron, who each provided an endorsement quote about the book, with Miron writing, "An important, sensitive, extremely well-written literary work.... This crystallized elegy is written with restraint, wisdom, piercing insight, and impressive narrative and skill."

Publishing his memoirs has turned Balaban into a semi-official expert on kibbutz life. He was interviewed by the BBC and has been asked to write an introductory chapter for a book accompanying an exhibition on the children's house to be held next year at the Tel Aviv Museum in Israel.

—Michal Meyer

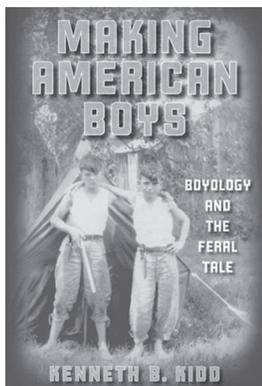


Avraham Balaban, African and Asian Languages and Literatures, author of *Mourning a Father Lost* (Translated by Yael Lotan, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers)

Making American Boys: Boyology and the Feral Tale, Kenneth B. Kidd (English), University of Minnesota Press

Will boys be boys? What are little boys made of? Kenneth B. Kidd responds to these familiar questions with a thorough review of boy culture in America since the late nineteenth century. From the "boy work" promoted by character-building organizations such as scouting and 4-H to current therapeutic and pop psychological obsessions with children's self-esteem, Kidd presents the great variety of cultural influences on the changing notion of boyhood. Analyzing icons of boyhood and maleness from Father Flanagan's *Boys Town* and Max in *Where the Wild Things Are* to Elián González and even Michael Jackson, Kidd surveys films, psychoanalytic case studies, parenting manuals, historical accounts of the discoveries of "wolf-boys," and self-help books to provide a rigorous history of what it has meant to be an all-American boy.

—Amazon



Environmental Politics and Policy, Walter A. Rosenbaum (Political Science), CQ Press

Coming to grips with today's environmental policy challenges is no small feat. What are the major environmental policy changes under the George W. Bush administration, and how do they compare with policies of previous administrations? What are the merits—and limits—of recent market approaches to environmental regulation and management? How can students best understand the concept of "acceptable risk" and other scientifically-based decision making tools with regard to the regulation of toxic substances? Rosenbaum's classic, comprehensive text—now in a totally revised sixth edition—offers definitive coverage of environmental politics and policy, lively case material, and a balanced assessment of current environmental issues.

—Publisher



Junk Mail Be Gone!

CLASnet Launches New Anti-Spam and Anti-Virus E-mail System

CLASnet has implemented a new anti-spam and anti-virus e-mail system for everyone using the CLAS server for e-mail. These changes are designed to catch more spam messages than the previous system and result in fewer misclassified messages.

The anti-virus system errs on the side of caution, so you will see more informational notices than in the past. However, rather than the cryptic "permission denied" message used in the former system, the subject line of your e-mail message will read VIRUS ALERT, which means someone tried to send you a virus, or BANNED FILENAME, meaning

someone tried to send you a forbidden attachment, most likely an executable one. If you were expecting an attachment from the sender, contact the sender and ask for the file to be sent as a ZIP attachment. At this time, about three percent of the total e-mail traffic is viruses or banned attachments.

The anti-spam system scores each message, using multiple criteria. If the score reaches a certain level, the message subject is prefixed with SPAM. If the message score exceeds the criteria, it is blocked. At this time, about 72 percent of



the total number of incoming e-mail messages are blocked or tagged as spam. Please visit www.clasnet.ufl.edu/howto/mail-filtering for more information about these new e-mail features.



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