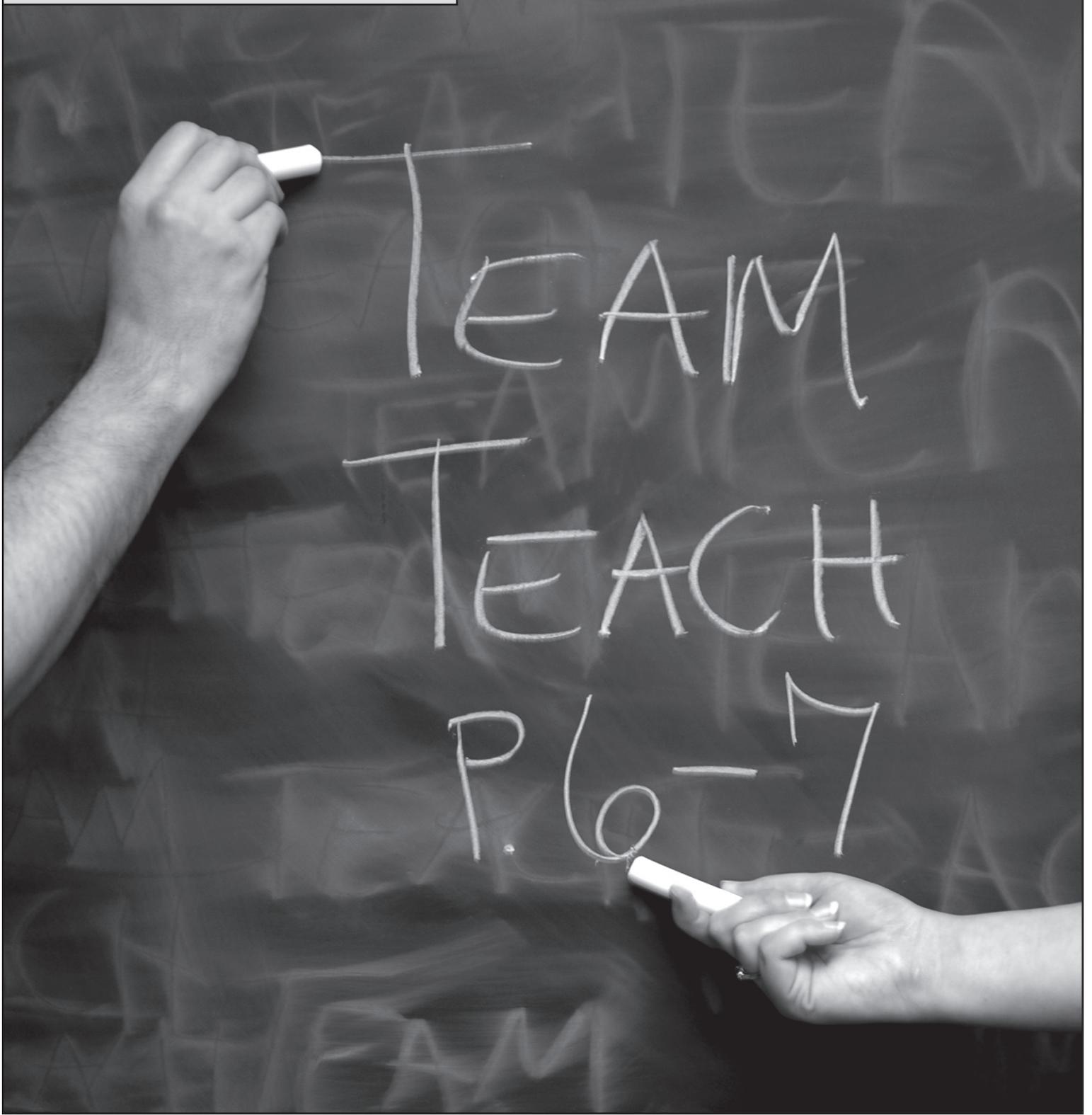


February 2006
Volume 20

CLASnotes

The University of Florida
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, news and events.

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The Dean's Musings

Teachers Without Borders

While we all take pride in teaching the basics of our core disciplines, and in doing it very well, some of the most novel and thought-provoking courses arise when we can bring opposites together to challenge our students and bring them into a research arena at an earlier stage in their careers. Our faculty are teaching these types of courses, combining astrophysics, religion and health in *The Cosmic Dance: The Integration of Science, Religion and Compassionate Love*, as well as exploring democracy, drugs and identity issues in Jamaica utilizing the expertise of dozens of our faculty. (See pages 6-7.)

All of these classes show how contemporary topics of scientific and global cultural importance can sometimes only be understood and taught in the context of an overlap of expertise from apparently distinct areas. The ability and willingness of our faculty to work together to bridge these areas creates greater opportunities for our students and provides a critical strength to our research efforts that cannot be realized otherwise. These teachers and researchers without borders are also experts in their basic disciplines, and it is the richness of their scholarly pursuit that is giving UF a competitive edge in developing challenging research frontiers and supplying the inspiration that our student body needs in today's multidimensional world.

These educational programs without rigid boundaries also teach our students the importance of tolerance and respect for different cultures, lifestyles, and belief systems. Perhaps in today's world, this is the most important lesson we can teach our students, who will become our future leaders.

Neil Sullivan
sullivan@phys.ufl.edu

On the Cover:

Many CLAS faculty have turned to co-teaching as a way of enhancing course curriculum. Some team up with colleagues in complementing fields to offer courses that feature the expertise of both professors, while others bring in guest speakers to deepen class discussions. Both methods foster a multi-dimensional exploration of the course material, taking the learning experience to the highest level of inquiry. See page 6.

COVER PHOTO: JANE DOMINGUEZ.

facebooking: the new fad in campus communication

What Web site connects students, faculty and staff and has more than 60 percent of its members sign in at least once per day? Facebook.com is a national site created for college students to connect with each other. As of September 2005 it had more than 37,000 registered users connected to the University of Florida, including the vast majority of the freshman class, which had 6,021 members signed up by the end of their first month at UF!

You might remember those hard-copy face books you got in college, where you perused the photos of your classmates (and of course made judgments about their appearance). Facebook.com provides an online version—allowing users to post photos, albums and a profile, and connect to others as friends and as classmates. Participants post comments on the profiles and send messages to each other. It's now even a verb—"facebooking" someone means to check out his or her profile and photo online. Students list their courses, and Facebook automatically connects them to others in the class via a link. They also can create and join virtual groups—such as by major, interests, or much sillier things like the groups I belong to, including "Seinfeld Maniacs" and "Beastie Boys are the Rulingest." Facebook.com also allows for paid advertisements specific to UF—which might be the new way to advertise on campus, as the rates are \$20 per day. The Web site projects 111,000 views per day at UF.

UF faculty and staff can benefit from it in several ways. First, a profile provides students with a slightly more personal look at you as an individual, making you more approachable. (You might want to leave out some of your REALLY personal preferences, of course.) Second, it is a much more reliable resource for student contact information, including e-mail addresses, physical location and cell phone numbers. Third, it is another way to help you remember students' names and faces, as they have their photos posted. You can also create your own group for a class or project.

However, the trend of posting a tremendous amount of personal information online also presents security considerations. *The Wall Street Journal* reported on December 8 that universities are discussing harassment, threats and even disciplinary incidents related to the use of Facebook.

Photos of underage students drinking at parties is one example of what can be found online. Also, the information students choose to put online about themselves can be problematic. The advice at Brandeis University for students is "post only things you would want your grandmother to see and limit sharing to what can already be found in the public domain."

At UF, the computer lab for student athletes in the Office of Student Life has blocked Facebook from its computers,

along with other popular time-wasting sites that tempt students away from their academic work.

One effect of the Web site was the huge jump at UF in pre-move-in requests to change roommates this year, with the Department of Housing and Residence Education reporting more than 100 roommate change requests that it believes were due to the ability of high school students to create and view potential roommate profiles and photos on facebook.com. Once a student has a Gatorlink address, he or she can get onto the UF site on Facebook.

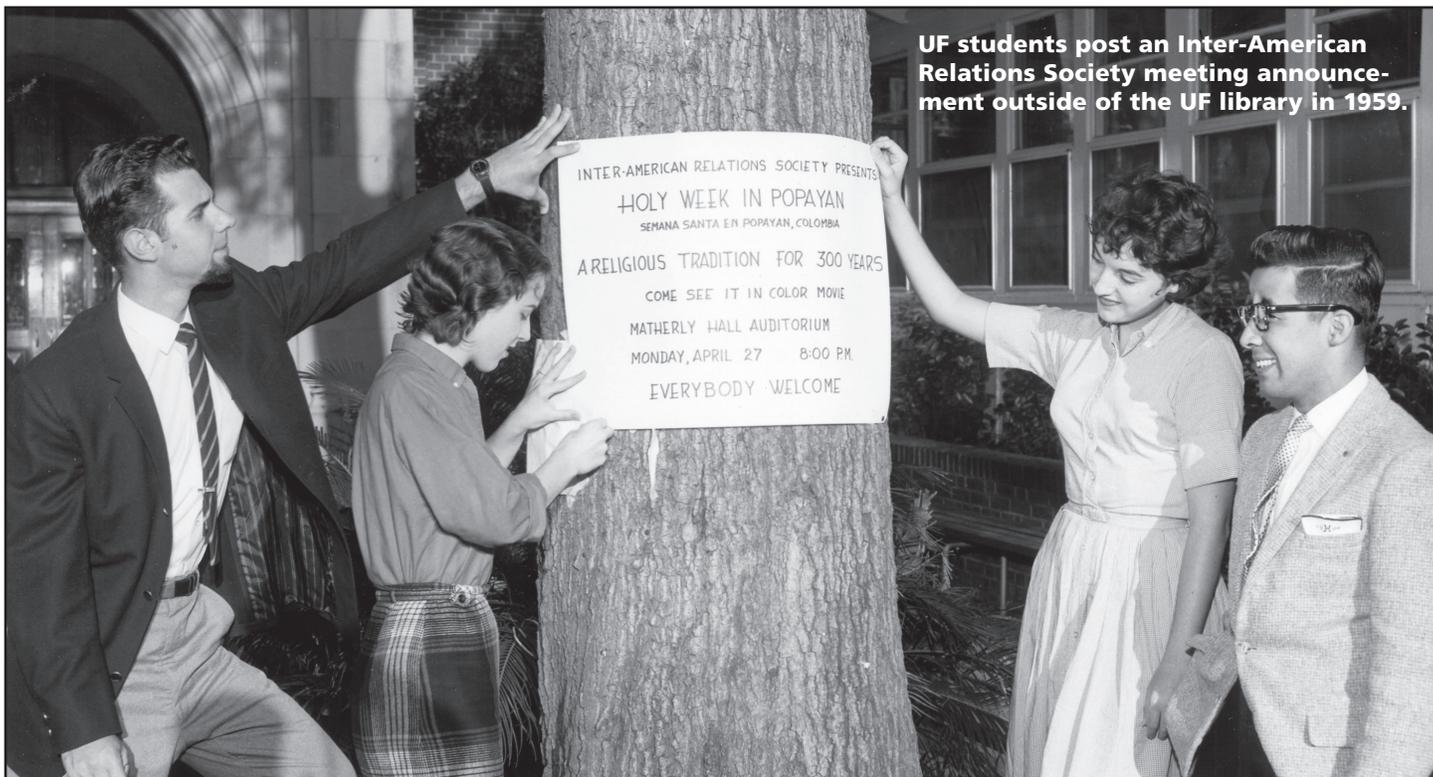
Whatever the reason, facebook.com is the newest craze on college campuses. Check it out yourself and see what all the fuss is about. Don't be shy—your students will be happy to see you online!

—Jeanna Mastrodicasa, Associate Director of UF's Honors Program. Mastrodicasa consults nationally about millennial college students and will be co-authoring a book with Reynol Junco, a 1994 UF psychology graduate, on this topic for NASPA, student affairs administrators in higher education, in 2006.

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying a Facebook profile for Jeanna Mastrodicasa. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://ufl.facebook.com/profile.php?id=2011836>. The profile page includes a navigation menu on the left with options like 'My Profile', 'My Friends', 'My Photos', 'My Groups', 'My Events', 'My Messages', 'My Account', and 'My Privacy'. The main content area features a profile picture of Jeanna Mastrodicasa, a 'Quick Search' box, and a list of profile details under the heading 'Information'. The details include:

- Account Info:** Name: Jeanna Mastrodicasa [add to friends], Member Since: October 27, 2004, Last Update: December 15, 2005.
- Basic Info:** School: UF, Status: Faculty, Sex: Female, Birthday: 08/03/1970, High School: Pittsfield High School '88.
- Contact Info:** School Email: jmastro@ufl.edu, Phone: 392.1519.
- Personal Info:** Political Views: Liberal, Interests: Travel, cooking, reading, politics, current events, dogs, Georgia football, Favorite Music: Beastie Boys, Joss Stone, Beck, Run-DMC, Jennifer Nettles.

Below the profile picture, there are links for 'View More Photos of Jeanna (3)', 'Send Jeanna a Message', and 'Poke Her!'.



UF students post an Inter-American Relations Society meeting announcement outside of the UF library in 1959.

COURTESY LATIN AMERICAN COLLECTION, UF LIBRARIES

then & now

Celebrating 75 Years of Latin American Studies

At the University of Florida's commencement ceremonies June 2, 1930, President John J. Tigert announced the creation of the Institute for Inter-American Affairs (IIAA), and as a demonstration of UF's commitment to international good will, awarded an honorary degree to the Cuban Ambassador to the United States, Orestes Ferrara. Over the next 75 years the institute evolved into what is known today as the Center for Latin American Studies. In honor of its first conference—held in February 1931—the center is celebrating its 75th anniversary this month. February also marks the 75th anniversary of The Plaza of the Americas

Back in 1931, some naysayers thought it novel that UF, a small land-grant institution in the Deep South, would seek to become a leader in foreign rela-

tions. President Tigert wanted to show that UF's location and its curriculum of applied arts and sciences made it especially suited to such work. In the summer of 1928, even before he had arrived in Gainesville, Tigert began to discuss his plans for a Latin American program at UF with Leo S. Rowe of the Pan American Union. Though Tigert had little background in Latin American affairs, he understood from personal experience the importance of international study. He had been a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University and was later an educational officer with the US Army in Europe during World War I. Having served as US Commissioner of Education (1922–1928), he was well aware of the growing interest in foreign affairs in the nation's academic, political and commercial centers, anticipating the “Good Neighbor

Policy” of the Roosevelt Administration.

During Tigert's first year as president, a small delegation of journalism students visited Havana with the support of the Associated Dailies of Florida, and upon their return, *The Alligator* proclaimed on April 6, 1929, “First International Good Will Mission of Florida a Success.” Tigert recognized his plans would require political support in Florida, as well as external funding from private foundations, and he carefully promoted his ideas in the press. His efforts were eventually rewarded with many more favorable reviews, in Florida and beyond.

Rollin S. Atwood, a 26-year-old assistant professor of economic geography, was named acting director of the institute. One of his responsibilities was to oversee international exchange

agreements and the enrollment of foreign students from Latin America and elsewhere. During the 1929–1930 academic year, there were only four international students at UF, among a total enrollment of 2,257 (three from Cuba and one from France). After Tigert announced the institute would provide support to foreign students, the total rose to 13 in 1930–1931. This included eight students from Latin America, and efforts were made to recruit more.

The institute also was active in outreach work. The university's new radio station, WRUF, was used to educate the general public about Latin American cultures. On Pan American Day, April 14, for example, the programming included Latin music and interviews with students from the region.

In 1933, just three years

CLAS Leads Global Gators in Rankings

The University of Florida ranks 11th nationally in the number of students studying abroad, according to the Open Doors report by the Institute of International Education. This annual report provides comprehensive data on the number of international students and scholars in the United States and on US students who study abroad.

"The statistics demonstrate we are making progress in our goal to internationalize our campus and curriculum," says Dennis Jett, dean of UF's International Center. "President Bernie Machen and Provost Janie Fouke recognize the importance of internationalization with regard to improving our standing as a major research university and in preparing our students to compete in an ever more globalized world, and this shows our efforts are working."

To earn the rank of 11th, UF had 1,537 students studying abroad in the 2003–04 school year, and 499 (32 percent) were in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. UF ranked 12th the previous year and was not even in the top 20 in the year before that.

"Experiencing different cultures is an important stimulus to personal growth and learning, and so CLAS has made study abroad offerings a priority," says Angel Kwolek-Folland, CLAS associate dean for centers, institutes and international affairs. "As the largest college at UF, and the most diverse in terms of curriculum, CLAS plays a very important role in providing a rich international experience for students and faculty. We want to offer students courses that are fun and just as challenging as any they would take on campus."

Kwolek-Folland says CLAS has increased the number of students and faculty involved in study abroad by adding courses, creating new kinds of abroad experience such as mini-courses, and raising funds for scholarships. "We have a research center in Paris, and are supporting efforts to create similar centers in Beijing and Munich. CLAS faculty develop about 10 new courses each year for our study abroad roster."

The Open Doors report also ranked UF seventh in leading institutions to host international researchers and faculty members, and 18th in the number of international students, rising from ranks of eighth and 24th, respectively, last year. In 2004–05, UF hosted 1,886 international scholars and enrolled 3,492 international students.

—Allyson A. Beutke

after the founding of the institute, Tigert's efforts were widely recognized when an international association of veterans of the First World War presented a medal to UF for its efforts to promote peace through education. The Carnegie Institution also made a grant to fund Atwood's research in Guatemala. In 1951, the functions of the institute were absorbed by the School of Inter-American Studies, which in 1963 became the Center for Latin American Studies.

Today, the center has 20 center-based faculty and professional staff members, and nearly half of the center's 140-plus affiliate faculty, spread across 50 departments and schools, are in CLAS. It offers an undergraduate certificate and minor in Latin American studies (LAS), as well as a master's degree and graduate certificates in Latin American, tropical conservation and development and translation studies. In 2004–2005, 11,790 undergraduate and graduate students were enrolled in 326 Latin American content courses, and more than 300 students pursued graduate work related to Latin America and the Caribbean.

Carmen Diana Deere has served as the center's director since 2004 and says that among her main initiatives have been the development of the center's first-ever

Strategic Plan and its plan for the upcoming UF Capital Campaign. "Working together with the deans and directors of more than a dozen campus units, we have put together a comprehensive plan for Latin American studies that targets some 30 endowed chairs or professorships across the campus —both in the core disciplines of CLAS and other colleges and in innovative cross-campus programs," explains Deere. "With CLAS, we are in the process of building a Latino studies program that adopts a comparative approach to the study of different Hispanic/Latino groups in the US and that is grounded in the study of the interdependence between the US and Latin America. Towards this end we filled a joint position this year in Latino politics with the Department of Political Science."

Since 2000, the center's research and training programs have received more than \$10 million in external grants. UF now has 110 international linkage agreements in 20 Latin American and Caribbean countries. The "jewel" of LAS at UF is its Latin American Collection, housed within the Special Collections unit of the Smathers Libraries. It is the sixth largest in the nation and the largest collection internationally on the Caribbean.

—Paul Losch, Assistant Librarian,
Latin American Collection

Latin America Today

In celebration of the 75th anniversary of Latin American studies at UF, the Center for Latin American Studies has organized a commemorative event on Thursday, February 16 at 4 pm in Emerson Alumni Hall. UF's Latin Americanist emeriti faculty will be honored, and Arturo Valenzuela, a political scientist and director of the Center for Latin American Studies at Georgetown University, will deliver the keynote address on "The US and Latin America in the Post-Cold War Era: More of the Same?"

Valenzuela is the former senior director for Inter-American Affairs at the National Security Council and served as deputy assistant secretary for Inter-American Affairs in the State Department under the Clinton Administration. A specialist on the origins and consolidations of democracy, Latin American politics, electoral systems, civil-military relations, political parties, regime transitions and US-Latin American relations, he has advised on political and constitutional reform issues in Bolivia, Chile, Brazil, Ecuador and Columbia.

The talk is free and open to the public. For more information, please call 392-0375, ext. 800.

creative curriculum **team teaching** spices up the classroom

When UF Pharmacology Professor Allen Neims was attending medical school at Johns Hopkins University, he never imagined himself teaching a college course on “cosmic dance,” but that is just what he is doing this semester alongside Religion Associate Professor Shaya Isenberg and Sociology Associate Professor Monika Ardel.

But the course isn't how it sounds. Don't expect to see these distinguished professors donning leotards and moving to the new age tunes of Enya. The course focuses on the integration of science and religion—taking its name from the 2000 book written by quantum chemist Giuseppe Del Re, *The Cosmic Dance: Science Discovers the Mysterious Harmony of the Universe*.

To adequately teach a course that attempts to bridge the gap between science and religion, the faculty members involved felt it was important to each bring in their own areas of expertise—Neims in hard science, Isenberg in religion and Ardel in human development. The result is a multi-dimensional

classroom that features the lecturing of all three professors.

“The class is designed to encourage students, in academic and experiential ways, to take an inner journey and examine how their personal and individual belief systems or worldwide views impact their being and doing,” says Neims, director of the UF Center for Spirituality and Health. “A critical component of the course is co-teaching because each of us—from careers in religion, sociology and biomedicine—model ways for people of different, yet overlapping, worldviews to participate in mutual inquiry.”

The course is one of several being co-taught by multiple CLAS faculty this year. This creative way

of enhancing the curriculum seems to lend itself particularly well to the humanities, where students can benefit tremendously from hearing complementing sides of critical issues.

“I find it very exciting that CLAS faculty are involved in these creative teaching efforts, involving an interdisciplinary approach,” says Associate Provost Sheila Dickison. “Students will find an interdisciplinary perspective offers fresh, new insights into issues. I am certain that lively interactions among students and faculty are a characteristic of such classes. I applaud the faculty members who have taken the initiative to provide these cutting-edge experiences for students. I know we have all found that it often is not easy to try something new at UF!”

As German Professor Franz Futterknecht prepared to teach a course on early modern German literature last fall, From Luther to Lessing, he worried how he was going to teach Martin Luther's Reformation without exploring how he was influenced by the Renaissance—an area Futterknecht has not studied since living in Italy 30 years ago. “I knew I needed more, so I walked down the hallway and asked our resident medievalist, Mary Watt, if she would co-teach a course with me that focused on the Renaissance, the Reformation and the Baroque.”

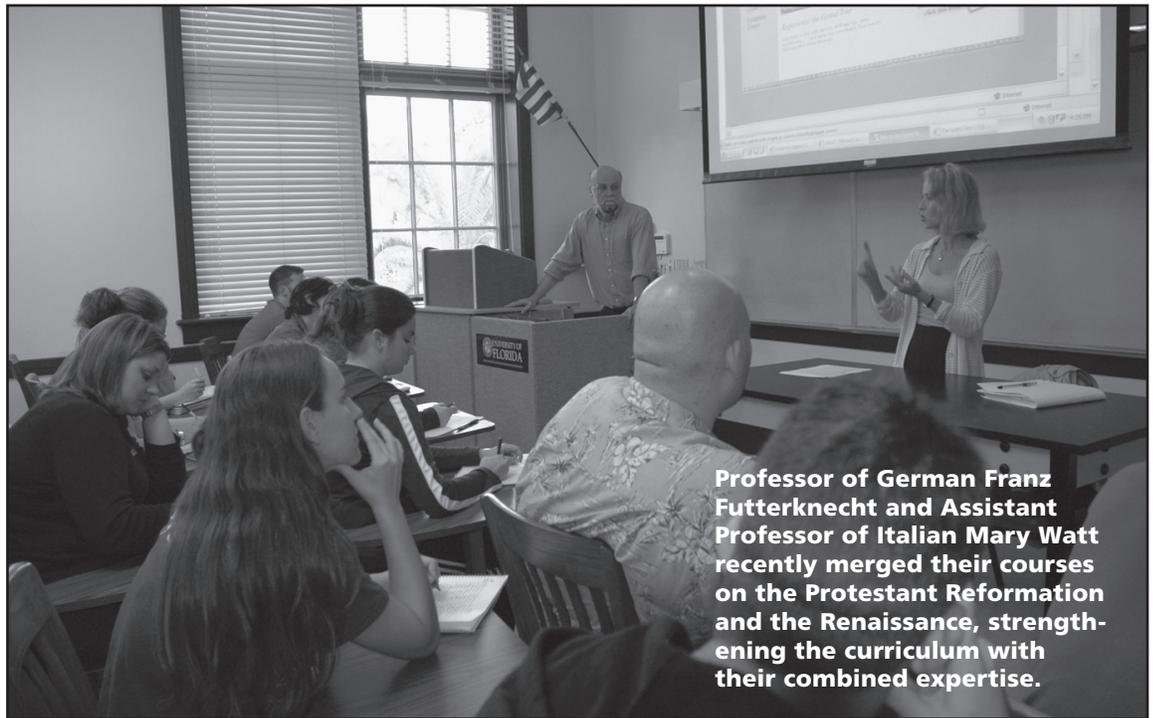


Professor of Political Science Leann Brown's (right) graduate course on crime in Jamaica features a series of guest lecturers to broaden class discussions.

Watt, an assistant professor of Italian and co-director of the Center for Medieval and Early Modern Studies, says “It worked perfectly because I had been teaching a course for several years on Rome and the city’s continual transformations and had noticed how the fortunes of Rome so often interacted with the fortunes of Germany. I had always felt, however, that my knowledge of Luther’s reaction to Rome, for example, and the role such reaction played in the Protestant movement was not extensive and certainly not my area of expertise. I had often thought how helpful it would be to have someone to comment on the German side. It was a perfect fit.”

In creating the course, Watt simply offered her course Italy and Pilgrimages and had her class move to the location of Futterknecht’s Luther to Lessing. Both professors attended every class and lectured tag-team style. While their students had separate assignments and exams, all benefited from the teachings of both faculty.

“With each of them bringing in their knowledge of the countries’ cultures, you get a much wider picture,” explains Dominik Jaschke, a master’s student in German. Journalism graduate



Professor of German Franz Futterknecht and Assistant Professor of Italian Mary Watt recently merged their courses on the Protestant Reformation and the Renaissance, strengthening the curriculum with their combined expertise.

JANE DOMINGUEZ

student Mike Tyler says, “They have two different wells of knowledge, and it has been interesting to see both the Italian and German perspectives on things.”

In *Cosmic Dance: The Integration of Science, Religion and Compassionate Love* this spring, Isenberg, Ardel and Neims all attend the weekly seminar class and contribute to the lecture. A number of religion and sociology majors are enrolled, but students from varied fields—including finance, education and medicine—are also in attendance. The course is funded by the Center for Spirituality and Health.

Political Science Associate Professor Leann Brown is experimenting with another creative way of spicing up the curriculum this semester. In her graduate course on governance and crime in Jamaica, she turns her podium over to other experts from across campus each week and moderates as the classroom dives into critical discussions on related topics, including human smuggling and trafficking, US foreign aid, governance and democracy, drugs, and identity issues.

“Most of the presenters’ work is not specifically about Jamaica,” Brown says. “But this will help my students think more clearly about their own work, and that is what comparative work is all about. It forces you to think outside the box.” The course is one among several activities the UF Working Group on Advocacy in Jamaica has undertaken in partnership with Management Systems International, a contractor for the US Agency for International Development (USAID). The group is awaiting funding from USAID to allow several students in the course to benefit from internships this summer in Jamaica to work with USAID to help alleviate crime in the island country.

“One of the reasons I am so excited about this course is because of its innovative format,” says political science master’s student Jessica Peet, who interned in Jamaica last June and is enrolled in the course. “I

feel that having a guest lecture every week will enhance the learning experience and contribute to greater, more comprehensive understandings of the subject matter. If there is one thing I learned about Jamaica when I visited there last year it is that it has an eclectic mix of cultural influences. I feel the format of this class will bring that to the forefront while keeping things interesting.”

Greek studies instructor Nicholas Kontaridis also is offering a podium of rotating expert lecturers this semester in his course, *Greece: Yesterday and Today*, with nine speakers scheduled to share their areas of expertise on the subject matter, including Greek tragedy, the Olympics, Greek science and technology, ancient Greek religion and more.

Whether interested in partnering with a colleague to co-teach a course or bring in different lecturers each week, faculty interested in stepping away from tradition when planning their courses should start by having a talk with their department chair. In some cases, courses need the CLAS Curriculum Committee’s stamp of approval.

For faculty thinking of following in her footsteps, Watt offers some words of advice. “While it might seem like it would be easier because you’re sharing the teaching load, it’s not,” she says. “The teaching hours are the same, but it is a lot more work. You have to research each other’s topics, and meeting weekly to plan the lecture is an additional time constraint you don’t normally have.”

At the same time, Watt and other co-teachers agree the experience can be deeply rewarding. “I *learned* from this course,” Watt says. “I am a student in Franz’ class and he is a student in mine. To actually learn from another professor is not typically part of the teaching experience. For me, it is the most rewarding aspect of co-teaching.”

—Buffy Lockette

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

Around the College

CLAS Honors Top Teachers and Advisors

CLAS recently presented 11 awards to its top teachers and advisors for 2005-2006. Students, faculty and staff nominated the winners, who exhibited qualities such as innovation, dedication and the ability to engage students. Three of the professors have been chosen to advance to the university-wide competition.

Yoonseok Lee, an assistant professor of physics who was named Physics Teacher of the Year in 2004, will compete for the UF Advisor of the Year award. Since Lee began teaching at UF in 2001, he has received several awards and grants, including a \$450,000 grant to support his research from the National Science Foundation's CAREER program. Lee teaches Applied Physics 2 and Advanced Laboratory 1.



JANE DOMINGUEZ

John Krigbaum, an assistant professor of anthropology, began teaching at UF in 2002 and earned his PhD in biological anthropology from New York University. Krigbaum, who teaches Introduction to Biological Anthropology and a graduate course on lab methods, Biological Anthropology Laboratory, was chosen as a candidate for the campus-wide Teacher of the Year Award.



JANE DOMINGUEZ

Amy Ongiri, an assistant professor of English, also will compete for UF Teacher of the Year. Before coming to UF in 2003, Ongiri received a PhD from Cornell University and was an assistant professor at the University of California, Riverside. Her research interests include gender and sexuality studies, as well as African-American literature. She teaches African-American Literature and also has taught courses through UF's Paris Research Center.



JANE DOMINGUEZ

The other CLAS advising award winner was **Keith Berg** from psychology. The college teaching award winners also include: **Jeffrey Keaffaber**, chemistry; **Khandker Mutalib**, physics; **Kathy Navajas**, Romance languages and literatures; **Nicole Piquero**, criminology, law and society; **Nigel Richards**, chemistry; **Ewa Wampuszyc**, Germanic and Slavic studies; and **Barbara Zsembik**, sociology.

Straight From the (Prehistoric) Horse's Mouth

Sarah Veeck, a high school junior from Kalamazoo, Michigan, spent a week conducting research in Anthropology Assistant Professor **John Krigbaum's** lab in December as part of a science project she is entering in the 2006 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Working with Western Michigan University anthropologist **Robert Anemone**, she obtained 55 million-year-old primitive horse teeth recovered from the Great Divide Basin in Wyoming. At UF, she ran stable isotope analysis on the tooth enamel from these teeth to elucidate the horses' past diet and ecology. Krigbaum and Anemone plan to use Veeck's findings in a pilot study that will also contribute to collaborative work on Paleocene-Eocene fauna with **Jonathan Bloch** at the Florida Museum of Natural History.



JANE DOMINGUEZ

"The methods and techniques are being done here because they don't have the right equipment at Western Michigan," says Krigbaum. "When Sarah gets back to Michigan, Bob will help her analyze the data."

Veeck is a 17-year-old student at Loy Norriz High School and a member of the Kalamazoo Area Math and Science Center, which paid for her trip to Gainesville. The fair will be held in Indianapolis in May and the top prize is a \$50,000 college scholarship. "I have had a great experience here at UF," Veeck says. "Dr. Krigbaum has been wonderful." A biological anthropologist, Krigbaum uses methods of bone chemistry to address paleodiet and paleoecological questions in human evolution. He recently received a CLAS Teacher of the Year Award and has been nominated for the university-wide competition.

Woodrow Wilson International Scholar

Brenda Chalfin, an assistant professor of anthropology, is a Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars this semester. Chalfin, who works in the center's African Program, is finishing a book on bureaucrats and neoliberal reform in Ghana and is researching a new project examining the politics, technologies and systems of meaning shaping international standards of border control.

The center was established by an act of Congress in 1968 and is the official living memorial to President Wilson, who emphasized the "common enterprise" of scholars and policymakers. The center awards approximately 20-25 residential fellowships annually to individuals with outstanding project proposals in a broad range of the social sciences and humanities on national and/or international issues.



COURTESY BREND A CHALFIN

CLAS Employee Excellence Award Nominations Due March 3

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has established a program to honor support staff (USPS/TEAMS employees) for outstanding and meritorious service. Two \$1,500 (pre-tax) awards and plaques will be presented this spring. Nominations will be accepted from any faculty, staff or student in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Self-nominations also will be accepted. Nominations are due to **Mary Anne Morgan** in the CLAS Dean's Office no later than Friday, March 3. Nomination forms and award guidelines are available online at www.clas.ufl.edu/staff_faculty.html.

DEPARTMENT NEWS

African and Asian Languages and Literatures

Cynthia Chennault (Chinese) delivered a paper titled "The Making of Buddhist Landscapes in Poems of the Liang to Sui Dynasties" at a conference on medieval China's intellectual history and culture, held January 6–8 at the National University of Singapore. In December, she spoke on a related topic at the Department of East Asian Studies at Princeton University.

Communication Sciences and Disorders

Pat Kricos was elected chair of the Board of Governors of the American Board of Audiology. The ABA is dedicated to enhancing audiologic services to the public by promoting universally recognized standards in professional practice. The board consists of seven elected members whose work settings represent the diversity of audiology practice. She will serve a two-year term.

English

William Logan's book *The Undiscovered Country: Poetry in the Age of Tin* is a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle award in the criticism category. It was named among the books of the year in *Newsday* and *The Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel*. His new book of poems, *The Whispering Gallery*, was named among the books of the year in *The Times Literary Supplement*. The National Book Critics Circle, founded in 1974, consists of nearly 700 active book reviewers, and the centerpiece of the group's activities is the annual awards for the best book in five categories, which will be announced on March 3.

Mark A. Reid presented a paper titled "Challenging and Resisting the Everyday Narratives of the Arab Male in Recent French Cinema" as part of the "Arab Pop Culture Speaks Back" panel at the Modern Language Association's annual convention in Washington, DC in late December. **Barbara Mennel**, who is jointly appointed in the department of Germanic and Slavic studies, presented a paper at the convention titled "The Global Elsewhere: Ursula Biemann's Multimedia Counter-geography."

Geography

Cesar N. Caviedes, a professor emeritus, is spending two semesters at the University of Heidelberg, Germany, at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies and the Institute of Geography. The Alexander von Humboldt Foundation is sponsoring his stay, and he also has given lectures at the universities of Stuttgart (Germany), Innsbruck (Austria), Basle (Switzerland) and the Austrian Geographical Society in Vienna.

Geology

Jim Channell received the William Gilbert Award of the Geomagnetism and Paleomagnetism Section of the American Geophysical Union at the group's annual meeting in San Francisco in December. The award recognizes "outstanding work in magnetism of Earth materials, and of the Earth and planets," and consists of a certificate and a "terrella," or little earth. The award is named for William Gilbert (1544–1603), who can arguably be called the founder of both experimental rock magnetism and geomagnetism.

Germanic and Slavic Studies

Nora Alter presented a paper titled "From Film Theater to Art Gallery" at the Modern Language Association's annual meeting in late December. **Dragan Kujundzic** also presented several papers at the MLA meeting, including "Kieslowski as a Franco-Polish Film Director" at the session on Franco-Polish Relations and "Absolute" at the Salute to Jacques Derrida session. Kujundzic was a roundtable participant at the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and Eastern European Languages' "Are We Post-Colonial Yet?" **Hana Filip** also was a roundtable discussant for "Czech Studies in American Higher Education" and a panelist for Negative Yes/No-Questions with the Positive Epistemic Implicature at the same conference.

Ingrid Kleespies presented "Russia's Wild East: Images of the Russian Frontier in Goncharov's 'Fregat Pallada'" on the panel East and West: Literary Explorations of Imperial Russia's Boundaries at the annual conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies in Salt Lake City in November. **Galina Rylkova** also gave a presentation at the conference titled "Limits of Representation in Semyon Aranovich's 'The Anna Akhmatova File.'" Rylkova presented "The Anxiety of Non-influence: Blok, Chekhov and Akhmatova" at the Aleksandr Blok 125th Anniversary Conference in Pushkinskii Dom, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Eric Kligerman presented a paper titled "Waiting for the Word: Reading Heidegger Through Celan" at the Association for Jewish Studies in Washington, DC, on December 20.

Hal Rennert presented a talk on "Friedrich Schiller's Use of Figures of European History in His Plays and Poems" at a meeting of a chapter of the Europa-Union in Backnang, Germany in December.

Mathematics

Chair **Krishnaswami Alladi** played a key role in the creation of the SASTRA Ramanujan Prize, which was awarded for the first time in December during the International Conference on Number Theory and Mathematical Physics in Kumbako-

nam, India. The international award is given to mathematicians not exceeding the age of 32 for outstanding contributions to areas influenced by the Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan. Based on Alladi's suggestion, the Shanmugha Arts, Science, Technology, Research Academy, known as SASTRA, is funding this annual \$10,000 prize, and Alladi chaired the selection committee this year. He is closely associated with SASTRA as one of the main organizers of its international conferences each December, and is also the principal investigator on a grant from the Indo-US Forum of Science and Technology that supports these conferences.

Alladi was one of four leaders of the Chairs Workshop conducted by the American Mathematical Society on January 11, in conjunction with the annual meeting of the society in San Antonio, Texas. This year's workshop discussed topics such as budget management, strategic planning, self assessment, and outreach. This is the second consecutive year that Alladi was invited by the AMS to lead the workshop.

Psychology

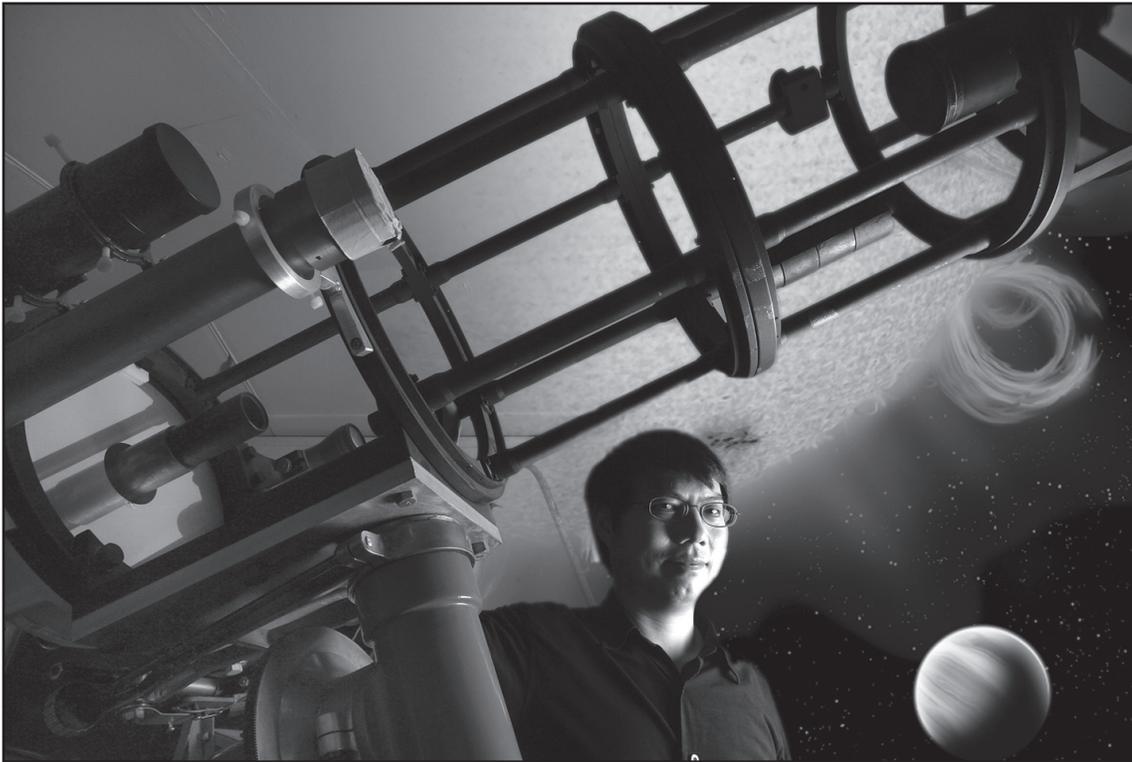
Elizabeth Athens, a doctoral student, was named the 2006 recipient of the prestigious Bijou Fellowship from the Association for Behavior Analysis International. The fellowship is awarded to graduate students studying child development from a standpoint of behavior analysis, and only one or two awards are given annually. Athens' advisor is **Timothy Vollmer**.

Manfred Diehl was elected a Fellow of the American Psychological Association's Adult Development and Aging Division. Fellow status is awarded on the basis of evaluated evidence of outstanding contributions to the field of psychology.

Bethany Raiff, a doctoral student in psychology, has received the Experimental Analysis of Behavior Fellowship from the Society for the Advancement of Behavior Analysis. This honor is given annually to one graduate student who displays exemplary promise for conducting experimental research in behavior analysis. Raiff's advisor is **Jesse Dallery**, and she also collaborates with **Timothy Hackenberg**.

Religion

Manuel Vasquez discussed the possible dramatic consequences of religious dynamics between the Americas on the public radio program "Speaking of Faith" on January 19. He talked about how religion will shape US population, as well as how religion itself may change in the global age.



Professor **Jian Ge** and the W.M. Keck Exoplanet Tracker (photo courtesy *Gainesville Sun*) against the backdrop of an artist's rendition of a very young, active star orbited by a planet like the one recently discovered by UF astronomer Jian Ge. Named ET-1, the planet is one of the first companions ever found with a star just 600 million years old (drawing courtesy of P. Marenfeld and NOAO/AURA/NSF).

Grants

Planet ET-1 Discovered by UF Astronomer

If there is life on distant planets in our universe, Astronomy Professor Jian Ge may very well be involved in its discovery. Ge and his team of planet trackers have just confirmed the existence of a new planet and, thanks to an \$875,000 grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation, finding life outside our solar system may not be so far behind.

Ge and colleagues within the department are in the process of building the world's best planet tracker, which will increase the current planet survey speed by two orders of magnitude over traditional technology. Named the W.M. Keck Exoplanet Tracker, the researchers plan to use the new Doppler instrument to search roughly 1 million stars to detect thousands of planets and discover new solar systems where life may be possible. The tracker will be used at the Sloan Digital Sky Survey's telescope at the Apache Point Observatory in Sunspot, New Mexico for the next two years, and the team is hoping to receive additional funding to

extend the survey to 15 years.

On January 11, Ge and colleagues at UF, Pennsylvania State University, Tennessee State University, the University of Texas and the Institute of Astrophysics in Spain's Canary Islands announced the discovery of a new planet orbiting a young star 100 light-years away, located in the direction of the constellation Virgo. The team used a single-object planet tracker located at Kitt Peak National Observatory in Arizona. The new Keck Exoplanet Tracker will allow for the observation of 60 objects at one time and look roughly 1000 light years into space, versus the current technology of 200 light years.

"Planet detection is a very challenging job," Ge says. "We need high precision, therefore you aren't able to look at many objects. This new instrument will allow us to get a much bigger sample and in 10 to 15 years we hope to have looked at a million stars. This is the first time this has ever been done in human history."

Ge received his PhD in astronomy from the University of Arizona in 1998 and served as an assistant professor at Pennsylvania State University before coming to UF in 2004. He and colleagues in the Sloan consortium at the Apache Point Observatory will collaborate on the largest ground-based astronomical survey in

human history, in hopes of discovering thousands of new planets where life may be possible.

While planet ET-1—so named in part as an abbreviation for Exoplanet Tracker but also as a tribute to Steven Spielberg's cinematic creature—is too close to its partner star to produce life, Ge is optimistic about finding life on at least one of the 10,000 planets his team hopes to discover.

"This is extremely important scientifically, but it is culturally important to the public as well," he says. "We always wonder whether we are alone in the universe. This project is a huge step toward answering that question."

—Buffy Lockette

Grants through the Division of Sponsored Research

November 2005 Total: \$2,525,189

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

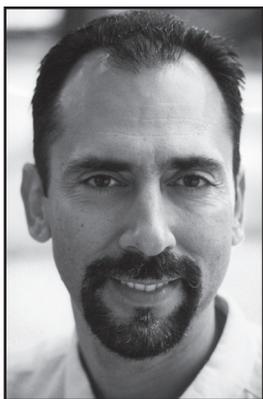
Bookbeat Recent publications from CLAS faculty

The Fate of Africa's Democratic Experiments: Elites and Institutions Edited by Leonardo A. Villalón and Peter VonDoepp (Indiana University Press, 2005)

Living in Niger in the early 1990s, Leonardo Villalón experienced African-style democratization first hand—the first-ever presidential elections, the sheer precariousness of the process and its stubbornness.

When a wave of democracy, linked to the fall of the Soviet empire, swept over Africa, change, and its possibilities, confronted a continent accustomed to autocratic rule. Some states, like Somalia and Rwanda, disintegrated, while others reinvented themselves. “One set of countries made what can

be called—at least in a narrow sense—a democratic transition,” Villalón says. “They adopted a new set of institutions and elected new leaders.” Ten countries that shared this experience are examined in



JANE DOMINGUEZ

The Fate of Africa's Democratic Experiments: Elites and Institutions, edited by Villalón, director of the UF Center for African Studies

and a political science professor. “In some the democratic system more or less took hold, in others it fell apart,” he says. “The relationship between elites and democratic institutions was critical in shaping these countries’ fates.”

While the book project predates Villalón’s arrival at UF in 2002, it includes strong UF connections, reflecting the university’s reputation as a center for the study of African politics. Villalón’s co-editor, Peter VonDoepp, is a UF alumnus; and other contributors include Michael Chege who directed UF’s Center for African Studies from 1996 to 2002; Richard R. Marcus who earned his PhD from UF; and Abdourahmane Idrissa, a current PhD student.

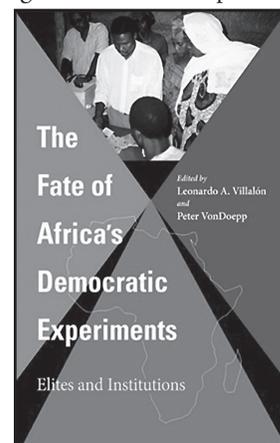
A limited number of countries underpin much of the theory of democracy, and that needs to change, says Villalón. “Africa, arguably the least studied region when it comes to democracy, has a lot to contribute to the broader theoretical discussions precisely because it challenges the conventional wisdom. By that wisdom Benin, Niger and Mali should have zero chance to establish or maintain democracies: they are extremely poor with histories of authoritarianism, ethnic and linguistic divisions, a difficult colonial heri-

tage and—in the case of Mali and Niger—overwhelmingly Muslim. However, today they are functioning democracies—despite imperfections and problems.”

The fate of democracy in Africa matters, Villalón says, to the lives of Africans and to historical processes. States that collapse brutally affect not only their own citizens; the waves of migrations and environmental disasters that follow affect the entire world.

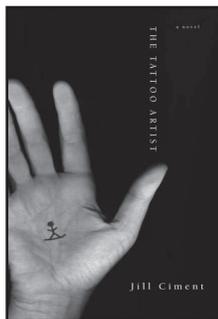
In the struggle between Afro-pessimists and Afro-optimists, Villalón urges readers to look squarely at the challenges. “There is a lesson here—there is no choice but to continue to struggle. What these cases suggest is that people can sometimes, if not always, make their own history, despite the odds.”

—Michal Meyer



The Tattoo Artist, Jill Ciment (English), Pantheon Books

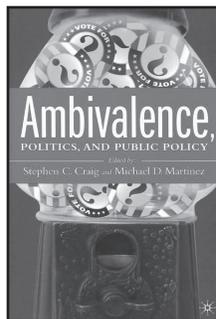
In her new novel, Jill Ciment turns her eye to a painter’s world in the early years of the twentieth century and tells the story of an American woman, an acclaimed artist who’s been stranded on an island for thirty years. The novel opens in New York in the 1970s. Sara Ehrenreich, who had been living on a remote speck in the South Pacific for three decades, has returned to New York to much fanfare. As Sara experiences all of the sensations of entering a new world, the novel flashes back to tell the story of her life.



—Publisher

Ambivalence, Politics, and Public Policy, Edited by Stephen C. Craig and Michael D. Martinez (Political Science), Palgrave Macmillan

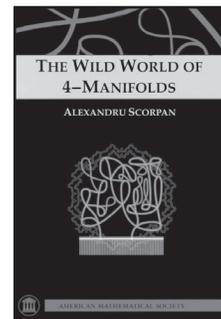
Exploring the extent and nature of attitudinal ambivalence on public policy issues, these essays by distinguished scholars of public opinion examine citizens’ conflicting attitudes about abortion, gay rights, environmental protection and property rights, crime and the police, and church-state relations. Using multiple approaches to measurement and research design, this volume helps build a sturdy foundation of knowledge about the phenomenon of ambivalence and its effect on politics.



—Publisher

The Wild World of 4-Manifolds, Alexandru Scorpan (Math), American Mathematical Society

This is a panorama of the topology of simply connected smooth manifolds of dimension four. Dimension four is unlike any other dimension; it is large enough to have room for wild things to happen, but too small to have room to undo them. For example, only manifolds of dimension four can exhibit infinitely many distinct smooth structures. Indeed, their topology remains the least understood today.



—Publisher

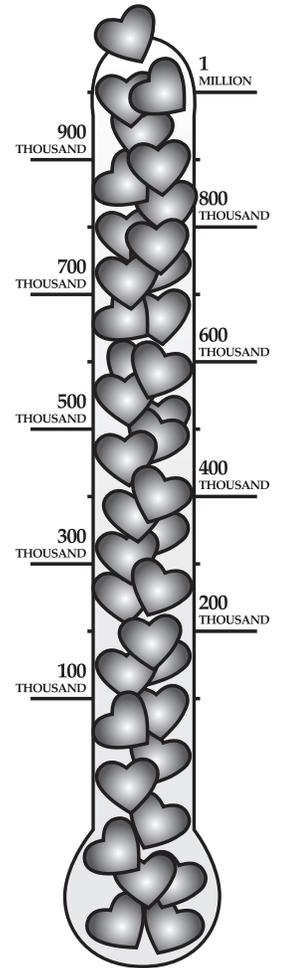
Gators Give More Than \$1 Million

The 2005 University of Florida Community Campaign, themed "Gators Give in a Million Ways," surpassed its \$1 million goal by nearly \$89,000, campaign officials recently announced. The new total also marks the first time the campaign, first launched in 1993, has topped \$1 million. The official final figure is \$1,088,952.94.

Teresa Dolan, chair of the 2005 UF Community Campaign and dean of UF's College of Dentistry, says

the campaign exceeded her already high expectations. "The faculty and the staff of the University of Florida truly care about their community. Their record-breaking generosity is yet another example of how the Gators give in a million ways," Dolan says.

In addition, the leadership campaign aspect of the drive, in which employees were encouraged to donate \$500 or more, broke another record. Almost 500 UF employees met that challenge and raised a total of \$507,575 toward the million-dollar goal. "UF faculty and staff members have stepped up to the challenge this year in an extraordinary manner to show their commitment to our community and have helped secure a better tomorrow for many of our neighbors," says CLAS Dean Neil Sullivan, who chaired the leadership campaign and will serve as next year's campaign chair. The 76 local agencies that benefit from this year's campaign cover a wide spectrum of support services, ranging from child care, recreational opportunities, counseling and legal help to environmental protection, disease prevention and medical assistance.



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