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CLASnotes

The University of Florida
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



celebrating graduation



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E-mail editor@clas.ufl.edu with your news and events information for publication in *CLASnotes*. The deadline for submissions is the 15th of the month prior to the month you would like your information published. Don't wait! Send us your news and events today!



**UNIVERSITY OF
 FLORIDA**

The Foundation for The Gator Nation.

**College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
 News and Publications**

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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

Congratulations to the CLAS of 2006!

One of the most joyous times of the year is in May when we come together as an academic family to celebrate the accomplishments of our graduating class. The years of hard work, scrambling to classes and panicking over exams finally come to an end for another group of students, with the completion of a liberal arts or sciences degree from the University of Florida.

This year our college has the largest graduating class in its history, with nearly 2,500 receiving CLAS degrees—300 of which have attained a well-earned master's or PhD. Their education from UF, quickly becoming one of the top-ranked public schools in the nation, sets them apart in the job market, as we are recognized by employers for the breadth of training and sound preparation of our students able to compete among the very best.

CLAS students are among the brightest in the nation, as evidenced by the numerous awards and achievements they have received (see page 6). They are recognized for not only excelling in the classroom but also for their concern for humankind, their commitment to others and their drive and ambition to improve the society in which we live. This new generation, unlike any other, is serious about its place in the world and has a better understanding of other world cultures and our need to strive for a global society in which all people are recognized.

I have great confidence in these new alumni and their ability to change the world.

Neil Sullivan

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On the Cover:

The college had its largest graduating class ever when almost 2,500 CLAS students received degrees on May 5 and 6, over 300 of them earning a master's or doctorate degree. CLAS held two commencement ceremonies and the traditional Baccalaureate ceremony. Former US Senator Bob Graham received an Honorary Degree of Public Service and was the undergraduate ceremony's keynote speaker.

pioneering research

UF Zoologist Receives \$1 Million from Howard Hughes Medical Institute

Lou Guillette, a distinguished professor of zoology, has been selected as one of 20 Howard Hughes Medical Institute, or HHMI, professors and will receive \$1 million during the next four years to support undergraduate science research efforts at UF.

“The scientists whom we have selected are true pioneers—not only in their research but in their creative approaches and dedication to teaching,” says Thomas R. Cech, HHMI president. “We are hopeful that their educational experiments will energize undergraduate science education throughout the nation.”

The institute awarded \$20 million to the first group of HHMI professors in 2002 to bring the excitement of scientific discovery to the undergraduate classroom. HHMI does not tell the professors what to do or how to approach science education. Rather, HHMI provides them with the resources to turn their own considerable creativity loose in their undergraduate classrooms. Some will design programs to attract more women and minorities to science. Others will turn large introductory science courses or classes for nonscience majors into engaging, hands-on learning experiences that challenge students to think like working scientists.

As an HHMI professor, Guillette plans to build a multigenerational mentoring program involving high school students, university freshmen and sophomores, advanced undergraduates, graduate students and faculty at UF. He wants to train young faculty and graduate students to be effective mentors

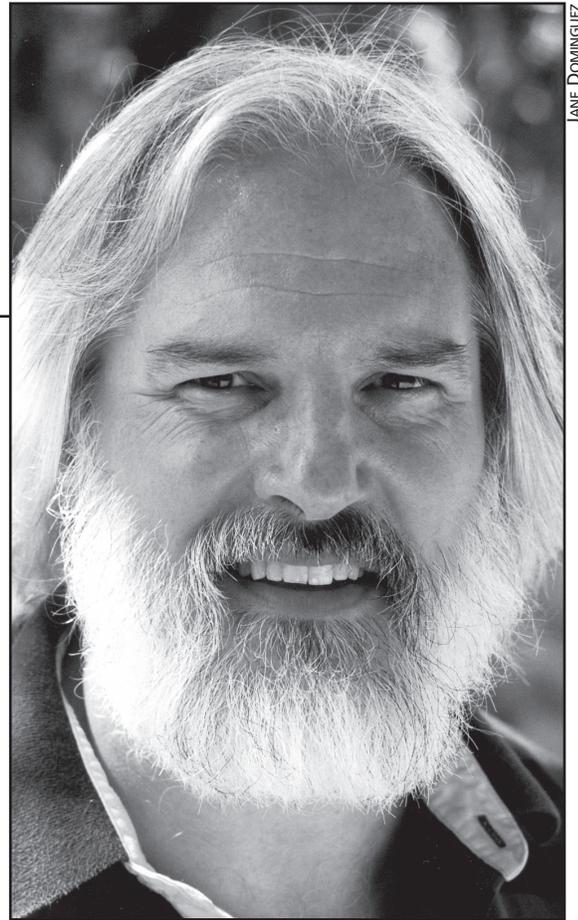
and to increase the numbers of undergraduates and high school students getting hands-on research experience both in his lab and in the field. “If we can get graduate students to see the value of mentoring undergrads and undergrads learning to mentor high school students, our impact on science will be much greater,” says Guillette.

Guillette also proposes a summer workshop on modern research techniques coupled with the Laboratory Research Experience, where students spend 10 to 12 hours per week in a research lab and several hours each week in lab meetings, learning the basics of being a scientist. Topics could include academic honesty, ethics, research, basic philosophy of science, data collection, notebook keeping and basic skills in science communication. Guillette plans to target new faculty and graduate student mentors with workshops, such as Mentoring the Next Generation.

“I believe if we develop a mentoring program early in a student’s undergraduate career that involves inquiry-based learning in a research laboratory, they will have not only gained an early appreciation of the difference between studentship—being a passive student and being taught—and scholarship—

“I believe if we develop a mentoring program early in a student’s undergraduate career that involves inquiry based learning in a research laboratory, they will have not only gained an early appreciation of the difference between studentship—being a passive student and being taught—and scholarship—the individual or group pursuit of new knowledge—but will have established a personal network of mentoring that can be drawn upon during their academic career.”

—Lou Guillette



JANE DOMINGUEZ

the individual or group pursuit of new knowledge—but will have established a personal network of mentoring that can be drawn upon during their academic career.”

A member of the UF faculty since 1985, Guillette has taught thousands of undergraduate and graduate students in Introductory Biology, Embryology and Reproductive Biology and other courses related to his research in comparative reproductive biology. Internationally recognized, he has advised countries such as New Zealand, Australia, Mexico and Botswana on the development of reproductive biology programs for endangered wildlife.

Guillette and his students work on a variety of organisms from alligators and fish to frogs and humans. His research examining the role of environmental contaminants as inducers of birth defects in various wildlife species and its implications for children’s health has drawn international attention and has been featured on national and international media programs, including *NOVA*, *FRONTLINE* and the BBC.

A nonprofit medical research organization, HHMI was established in 1953 by the aviator-industrialist Howard Hughes. Headquartered in Chevy Chase, Maryland, it is one of the largest philanthropies in the world, with an endowment of \$14.8 billion at the close of its 2005 fiscal year. HHMI spent \$483 million in support of biomedical research and \$80 million for support of a variety of science education and other grant programs last year. Visit www.hhmi.org for more information.

—Allyson A. Beutke



Competing in the nation's largest college forensics competition this year from UF were, from left to right: Colin Rawls, April Roam, Scott Stewart, LaToya Edwards, Eric White, Idania Herrera and Raju Vyas.

debating gators

While the University of Florida Gators and the George Mason Patriots were going head to head in the Final Four of the NCAA men's basketball playoffs during the first weekend in April, both universities' speech and debate teams were busy competing against each other for a national title of their own. Nearly 500 of the nation's top student speakers converged on the UF campus for the 29th annual American Forensics Association-National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET) on April 1-3.

"These students are the cream of the crop," says Kellie Roberts, director of the UF Speech and Debate Team. "They had to prequalify in order to compete, and many of them had already won major awards. It was very exciting to watch them square off against one another."

The event is the largest in college forensics and 2006 marks the second time UF has been selected to host the major tournament, which was last held on the Gainesville campus in 1996. "Schools have to put in a bid two years prior, then I visit the site to make sure everything is OK," says National Tournament Director Larry Schnoor, the retired professor and chair of the Department of Speech Communication at Minnesota State University-Mankato. "UF was chosen for its great classroom space, convenient location and the excellent reputation of coach Kellie Roberts."

The three-day event drew top-ranked speech and debate teams from 92 universities and colleges from across the US. The UF team placed 17th overall, but while the Gators might have

defeated the Patriots on the basketball court to go on and become the national champions, George Mason ranked higher at AFA-NIET, claiming 8th place.

"Our goal was to make it into the top twenty schools this year," says Roberts. "Compared to George Mason, and others who placed above us, we are one of the few programs without scholarships and one of the smallest squads. UF accomplished this top ranking with only seven students competing."

Scott Stewart, an economics junior, attained the team's highest honor this year by placing fifth nationally in impromptu speaking. Both Stewart and graduating public relations and political science senior LaToya Edwards reached the quarterfinal round in extemporaneous speaking. Public relations junior Idania Herrera made it into the semifinals for prose interpretation, while political science senior Eric White reached the same level for program oral interpretation. White was also a quarterfinalist in dramatic interpretation. Graduating seniors Raju Vyas and April Roam, along with junior

Colin Rawls, also represented UF in the national championship.

"There are so many events, it's easy to find something you enjoy," says Vyas, an economics major who served as the team's president this year. "Whether you are interested in politics, science or arts, there is bound to be something for you."

The first time Tennessee native Scott Stewart stepped on the UF campus was for a debate tournament his senior year of high school. He was so impressed with the UF Speech and Debate Team, particularly coach Roberts, he decided to come to UF. Roberts says hosting events like AFA-NIET helps raise the institution's academic image. "Because UF is best known for its athletics and research, it never hurts to show off what we are achieving academically," she says.

For more information on the UF team or AFA-NIET results, visit www.cwoc.ufl.edu/debate.

—Buffy Lockette

beating the odds

Liz Mikell does not remember the first day of summer vacation following her sophomore year of high school, when she and a friend decided to drive to the lake and get an early start on their suntans. She has no memory of giggling with her friend as they turned into the neighborhood of the Gainesville, Georgia lake house where they planned to spend the day, nor can she recall the moment a Dodge Ram T-boned the passenger side of the small Nissan in which she was riding.

She may not have any memories of the event that forever changed her life, but Liz has spent the past six years recovering from its effects. There was a time when

her parents thought she would never return to high school, but this spring she graduates from the University of Florida with highest honors.

Despite wearing her seatbelt, Liz received an intense blow to her head during the accident, causing a severe brain injury. When she finally began to awake from a two-week coma, the entire right side of her body was paralyzed. She had to relearn how to hold up her head, walk, talk, swallow, use the toilet and write. "I was reverted to infancy," says the 22-year-old.

Liz immersed herself in therapy, spending eight weeks in a rehab hospital. Amazingly, she was able to walk out of the facility and return to high school in the fall only a month behind and, for the first time, became an "A" student. "I think I came to the realization that I better work hard and get things done," she says. This May, Liz graduates from UF with a bachelor's in communication sciences and disorders having only earned one B+ her entire four years of college. She has been admitted into the university's MA program in speech language pathology and plans to work with patients with brain injuries.

"I have experienced the power of speech therapy and what it can do, so I really empathize with the people I am going to serve," she says. Liz has accepted a graduate assistantship through her department, as well as a position as a speech language assistant at Tacachale in Gainesville, the oldest and largest community for the developmentally disabled in Florida.

As an undergraduate, Liz has worked as a research assistant in the lab of Lori Altmann, an assistant professor of communication sciences and disorders. She is a member of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, where she met her boyfriend of nearly four years, Eric McKinney, a 2002 UF political science alumnus. She is also a member of Signing Gators, the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and Golden Key International Honour Society.

"Liz is so special, she has worked so hard," says her mother, Beth Splichal. "The hope of every parent of a child with a severe brain injury is for them to have independence, but every story doesn't turn out this way. It's just remarkable. She's my miracle child. I am so proud of her."

Liz believes she was spared for a reason, and plans to spend the rest of her life serving others. "After all that happened, it took me years to get to where I'm at now," she says. "It is just such a blessing I am even walking and able to go to college."



Liz Mikell's family was afraid she would never finish high school, but this spring she graduates from UF with highest honors.

—Buffy Lockette

distinguishing features

CLAS Students Stand Out



Donald Burnette



Jeffrey Wong



Ashley Bittner

Prestigious Scholarships for CLAS Students

The Goldwater Foundation recently selected three UF students to receive a Goldwater Scholarship, including CLAS students **Donald Burnette** and **Jeffrey Wong**.

Burnette, a sophomore majoring in physics and mathematics, plans to earn a PhD in physics and to research at a top institution specializing in the study of the properties of materials within condensed matter physics. He is involved in several outreach programs with K–12 students and has won science fellowships from the Center for Condensed Matter Sciences. Wong, a junior, has a double major in microbiology and cell science and biochemistry. A Beckman Scholar and Lombardi Scholar, Wong plans to earn an MD/PhD in molecular biology and conduct research focused on developing breakthrough platform therapeutics for cancer and infectious disease. **Lauren Culver**, a junior majoring in materials science and engineering, is the other UF winner.

Nationally, there were 323 Goldwater scholarships awarded for the 2006–2007 academic year given to sophomores and juniors from the US. The foundation selected scholars on the basis of academic

merit from a field of 1,081 mathematics, science and engineering students who were nominated by their colleges and universities. The scholarships cover the cost of tuition, fees, books and room and board up to a maximum of \$7,500 per year.

The Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation has selected two CLAS juniors as winners of its national scholarship program for students preparing for careers in leadership in public service.

Ashley Bittner, a history and political science double major, and **Bruce Haupt**, a political science major, have each received \$30,000 for graduate school.

Bittner is president of the Honors Ambassadors and has been active in the First-Year Florida course, the Florida Alternative Breaks program and the Center for Leadership and Service. She has interned with US Senator Bill Nelson in Washington, DC, and has been recognized as a J. Wayne Reitz Scholar, a Wentworth Scholar and a McLaughlin Scholar. She intends to enter a joint degree program for a master's in public affairs and a juris doctor.

Haupt is a Campus Diplomat and a member of Chi Phi and Students In Free

Enterprise. Before transferring to UF, he was president of Phi Theta Kappa international honor society, founder of Civic Rock and a student ambassador at Brevard Community College. *Florida Leader* magazine named him one of the top 20 student leaders of Florida in 2003. Haupt will pursue a master's in public policy and a PhD in higher education administration.

The Truman Foundation requires students to be nominated by their institution, and Bittner and Haupt are the only two students selected from Florida. In 2006, 75 students from 63 colleges and universities were selected as Truman Scholars from a pool of 598 candidates nominated by 311 colleges and universities. Bittner and Haupt will join other scholars in May for a week-long leadership development program at William Jewell College in Liberty, Missouri, and receive their awards at the Truman Library on May 21. Visit www.truman.gov for a list of 2006 Scholars.

Recent Truman Scholarship winners from UF, who are all CLAS graduates, include **Max Miller** (2004), **Teresa Porter** (2003) and **Michael Gale** (2002).



Bittner



Bruce Haupt



Jenna Battillo

ALL PHOTOS IN THIS ARTICLE BY JANE DOMINGUEZ

Go-Getter Gator Wins Scholarship for Graduate Study

Jenna Battillo, a junior majoring in anthropology and classical studies and minoring in geological sciences, is one of 20 national winners of the prestigious Beinecke Scholarship. UF was first invited to submit one nominee for the scholarship program in 2003, along with about 100 colleges and universities. This year, there were a total of 87 nominations nationwide.

A native of Hawthorne, Battillo participated in an intensive archaeological dig in Cyprus with

the Research Experience for Undergraduates program through the National Science Foundation in summer 2005. She is an Anderson Scholar and a member of Eta Sigma Phi classics honor society, Lambda Alpha anthropology honor society and the University Honors Program. She plans to pursue a PhD in anthropological archaeology.

The Beinecke Scholarship Program seeks to encourage and enable highly motivated students to pursue opportunities available to them and to be

courageous in the selection of a graduate course of study. Since 1975, the program has selected more than 315 college juniors from 94 different schools to support during their graduate study at any accredited university. Each scholar receives \$2,000 immediately prior to entering graduate school and an additional \$30,000 while attending graduate school.

Outstanding International Students

Several CLAS undergraduate and graduate students recently received Outstanding International Student Awards. They were nominated by their departments for exceptional academic achievement and honored during a ceremony held at the Reitz Union Auditorium in April. They are: **Xiaohui Feng**, chemistry; **Sophie Croisy** and **Nishant Shahani**, English; **Joel Black**, **Eunhye Kwon** and **Michal Meyer**, history; **Youssef Haddad**, linguistics; **Sung-Soo Kim**, **Gheorghe Lungu** and **Aravind Natarajan**, physics. Two CLAS students also received the Alec Courtelis Award, which is given each year to exceptional international students by Louise Courtelis in honor of her late husband, who was the former chairman of the Board of Regents. **Aparna Baskaran** (physics) received a \$3,000 prize and **Maisa A. Haj-Tas** (communication sciences and disorders) earned a \$1,500 prize. **Francesca Spedalieri** (mathematics) won a \$500 Diane Fisher Scholarship.

CLAS Act: UF's Top Student Teachers

The UF Graduate School recently honored the university's most outstanding student teachers for their excellence in the classroom with Graduate Student Teaching Awards. More than 50 students were nominated by their departments campus-wide and, following a rigorous selection process conducted by a faculty committee which included several classroom visits, 20 students were selected for the award—including nine from CLAS. Of these, the top two candidates were named Calvin A. VanderWerf Award recipients, established in memory of a former CLAS dean and chemistry professor. Both VanderWerf winners were from CLAS: **Rebecca Brown**, English and **Amanda Davis**, women's studies. The other recipients were **John Bowden**, chemistry; **Paul Corogin**, botany; **Deicy Jiménez**, Romance languages and literatures; **Julia (Raymer) Keller**, chemistry; **Adnan Sabuwala**, mathematics; **Nishant Shahani**, English; **Meredith Terry**, psychology and **Robert Uttaro**, political science.

Hyden Honored for Mentoring Graduate Students

Distinguished Professor of Political Science **Goran Hyden** has received one of five UF Dissertation/Mentoring Awards. Hyden received \$3,000 and an additional \$1,000 to support graduate students. Each year, the Graduate School recognizes five faculty members for excellence in mentoring doctoral students. A committee of faculty and students chose this year's recipients from among more than 200 eligible faculty members across campus.

Since Hyden's arrival at UF in 1988, he has served on 146 master's and doctoral committees in numerous fields and chaired 33 doctoral committees. He also has served as a graduate coordinator in his department and on the CLAS Graduate Committee.

Going Global

As part of the university's strong commitment to building a global campus environment, the UF International Center, Transnational and Global Studies Center and Research and Graduate Programs annually award "Internationalizing the Curriculum" grants to faculty seeking to add international components to an existing course or create new courses with substantial international content. For the 2006–2007 year, 21 awards of up to \$3,000 have been granted across campus. The following have been selected from CLAS: **Sue Boinski**, anthropology; **Richard Conley**, political science; **William Conwill**, African American studies; **Todd Hasak-Lowy**, African and Asian languages and literatures; **Bob Hatch**, history; **Jeffrey Keaffaber**, chemistry; **Won-ho Park**, political science; **Renata Serra**, African studies and **Anita Spring**, anthropology.



JANE DOMINGUEZ

Women's Studies Art Show

Frog Leggs, the latest art exhibit on display at the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research gallery, features the creations of someone near and dear to the department—office manager **Paula Ambroso**. Her acrylic canvases feature insects and animals painted in bold colors and simplified lines. A special feature of her paintings is they are hung from colorful hand-strung beadwork. The show also includes some of her fused glass pieces. Pictured above is Ambroso with one of her favorite pieces during the opening reception in March. In addition to her work at the center, Ambroso is working on her master's degree in social work.

Around the College

Duffy Receives State Department Fellowship

Physicist **James Duffy** has received an American Institute of Physics (AIP) fellowship from the State Department in Washington, DC. He will serve a one-year term that begins September 1. As a fellow, Duffy will choose an assignment designed to broaden the reach and visibility of scientific expertise within the State Department.

"The fellowship is a rare opportunity for me to observe and learn the process by which such difficult decisions are made and to influence some of them during my tenure," he says. "I am honored by the expectation of my peers that I can reflect the value and expertise of scientists in the quite different forum of political policy formation."

Through the development of the State Department fellowship program in 2001, the AIP became the first scientific society to financially support one scientist annually to work in a bureau or office of the State Department to provide scientific expertise to those who make the nation's foreign policy.

Faculty Discuss Research on National Television

Communication Sciences and Disorders Professor and Chair **Christine Sapienza** appeared on NBC's *Dateline* on April 16 as part of a segment on actor Michael J. Fox. She is the recipient of a \$280,000 clinical discovery grant from the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and is in the process of testing a device she invented, an expiratory muscle-strength trainer, which may have the capability of strengthening the swallowing muscles of Parkinson's patients. Aspiration pneumonia is the leading cause of death among those with the disease. Read a transcript of the entire segment at www.msnbc.msn.com/id/12332849.

Associate Professor of Anthropology **Michael Heckenberger** was featured in an episode of The History Channel's popular series *Digging for the Truth*. Heckenberger accompanied the entire filming of the episode "Lost Cities of the Amazon," which aired April 24.

The episode focused on his research in various parts of the Amazon, specifically the research that he directs in the Upper Xingu region in Brazil that debunks the view of small primitive tribes living unchanged in virgin tropical forest. Instead, the UF research demonstrates a large, vibrant population that had a productive agricultural and fishing economy, complex settlement patterns and technology, including major roads that linked towns and villages into integrated clusters. Throughout the centuries leading up to 1492, the native Amazonians had transformed the tropical forest into complex, managed landscapes that included a mosaic of forests, parklands, agricultural production areas and managed wetlands.

Visit www.historychannel.com/diggingforthetruth for more information.

New Faces in the Dean's Office

The dean's office welcomes two new staff members. **Sarah Fitzpatrick** (right) is the administrative assistant to the dean, replacing **Carol Binello**, who has taken a position with the College of Engineering. Fitzpatrick previously was the alumni affairs and special events coordinator for the College of Fine Arts. Prior to her work at the university, she worked at Interbrand, a branding consultancy in New York City. She also earned a bachelor's degree in English from UF. Fitzpatrick's main job duties will be coordinating the college's special events, including the staff recognition ceremony, Baccalaureate, commencement, convocation, new faculty reception, homecoming-related events and holiday activities. She also will handle elections of CLAS faculty members to the UF Faculty Senate and provide administrative support to the office.



JANE DOMINGUEZ



JANE DOMINGUEZ

Kimberly Browne (left) is the college's new budget coordinator. She has been the coordinator of university budgets in the provost's office for more than six years and has worked at UF for almost 20 years, serving previously as a program assistant in the physics department and the office manager for the history department. Browne earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from UF.



ED KELLERMAN

Malaysian professor **Zainal Ariffin Ahmad** is spending four months on sabbatical at UF at the invitation of the Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication. As deputy dean for research and graduate studies in the School of Management at Universiti Sains Malaysia, the purpose of his visit is to study the operations of the McKnight Brain Institute in hopes of establishing a similar research center at his university. Ahmad also is exploring collaboration options on neuroscience research between the two universities, as well as seeking to create a possible graduate student exchange program.



BUFFY LOCKETTE

Cheryl McNair (left), the widow of Challenger astronaut Ronald E. McNair, visited UF for the first time April 7 and 8, serving as the keynote speaker at both the annual McNair Research Day banquet and the University Scholars Program (USP) awards banquet. Above, she meets with psychology senior **Trista Perez**, a student in both programs. The McNair Scholars Program, established by the US Department of Education in honor of NASA mission specialist Ronald E. McNair, who died in the 1986 shuttle explosion, supports undergraduates from low-income, first-generation backgrounds progress toward earning a PhD. Of the 20 UF students awarded the prestigious scholarship this year, 12 were CLAS majors. In addition to Perez, these include: **Vera Brown**, women's studies; **Krystle Cadogan**, political science; **Vanessa Fabien**, anthropology; **Latori Griffin**, psychology; **Andrea Hayes**, psychology; **Amanda Herrera**, sociology; **Sheila LeMarre**, political science and women's studies; **Belkis Plata**, criminology; **Geoffrey Silvera**, psychology; **Lauren Thornton**, microbiology and cell science and **Desiree Wright**, psychology.

During the University Scholars banquet, zoology alumna **Emily Mitchem**, who graduated with her bachelor's degree in December, was awarded a 2005–2006 Best Paper Award for her project, "Native Florida Crustacean Predator's Preferences Regarding Non-Indigenous Green Mussel, *Perna viridis* (Linnaeus 1758)." She received \$250 and a framed certificate. Her paper will be published in a fall issue of the online *Journal of Undergraduate Research*, www.clas.ufl.edu/jur.

Department News

Academic Advising Center

Lynn O'Sickey has been elected finance committee chair of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA). The nonprofit organization has worked since 1979 to promote quality in academic advising and the professional development of its members. Being elected to a NACADA leadership position is not only a fine tribute to O'Sickey by her peers but also a recognition of her significant professional contributions to the field of academic advising.

Chemistry

PhD student **Julia (Raymer) Keller** has been named one of 60 graduate students to represent the US as part of the American student delegation at the 56th Lindau Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Germany in June. Nobel Prize winners in chemistry, physics and physiology/medicine will convene to lecture on this year's topic of focus—chemistry—as well as host small discussion groups and informal talks with the young researchers. The student delegation is sponsored by the US Department of Energy Office of Science, the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation Directorate for Mathematical and Physical Sciences and Oak Ridge Associated Universities.



JANE DOMINGUEZ

Kenneth Merz has been invited by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to serve as a member of the Center for Scientific Review's Macromolecular Structure and Function A Study Section. He will be involved in reviewing grant applications submitted to the NIH and making recommendations on these to appropriate national advisory councils or boards. He also will participate in surveying the status of research in his field of science. Merz will serve for the 2006–2009 term and was selected based on his own achievements in his research.

English

Two professors have received a Guggenheim Fellowship for the 2006–2007 academic year. **Jill Cement** will use her award to write a new novel, *Take All Heroic Measures*. *Subtropics* managing editor **Mark Mitchell** plans to use his fellowship to write a biography of the writer Frederic Prokosch. This year's winners include 187 artists, scholars and scientists selected from almost 3,000 applicants for awards totaling \$7,500,000.

The journal *Exemplaria* received a substantial review in the March 10 issue of *The Times Literary Supplement*. The review focused on volume 16, number 2, addressing each essay in the issue, offering generally favorable commentary on each and concludes: "...there is always enough substance to merit the most attentive reading; and the journal remains unique in encouraging new approaches in a way that is as inspiring and satisfying for fresh graduates as for more established medievalists and early modernists, and for non-specialists with an open mind as

to what medieval and early modern studies can tell them about other times and other texts." **R. Allen Shoaf** is the co-founding editor of the journal.

Sidney Wade has been elected as president of The Association of Writers & Writing Programs. She will be responsible for fundraising, overseeing the financial and budgetary state of the organization, advocacy issues, personnel and developing a broad-based survey of membership. Wade has been a member of the organization for 10 years, serving on the board for the past three and last year as co-vice president.

Mathematics

Douglas Cenzer was named an Exemplary Mentor at the 2006 Faculty Mentor Recognition Program of the South East Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (SEAGEP) on April 10. Cenzer mentors PhD student **Paul Brodhead**, who received a \$20,000 fellowship as a SEAGEP scholar.

The SEAGEP Program includes University of Florida as the lead institution and Clemson University and the University of South Carolina as primary partners.

PhD student **Hongchao Zhang**, with his advisor **William Hager**, will receive the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics' student-paper prize for his paper titled "A New Active Set Algorithm for Box Constrained Optimization." The award, including a certificate and a \$1,000 cash prize, will be presented at the 2006 SIAM Annual Meeting in Boston in July. Zhang and PhD student **Sujeet Bhat** each have received a two-year postdoctoral position through the Institute for Mathematics and its Applications. PhD student **Andriana Nenciu** has received the Van Vleck Assistant Professorship at the University of Wisconsin.

Romance Languages and Literatures

At the invitation of the Louisiana Board of Regents, Emeritus Professor of French **Raymond Gay-Crosier** has chaired the selection committee for the "Review of Humanities Enhancement Proposals" for the fifth time in the last 15 years. This competition takes place every three years and allocates approximately \$1 million to \$1.5 million to winning programs in public and private institutions in Louisiana.

Zoology

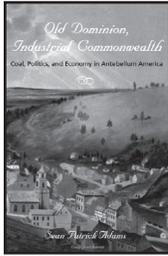
Jamie Gillooly has received the George A. Bartholomew Award from the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, which is given to the best young scientist in integrative biology.

Brian Silliman received a Young Investigators' Prize from the American Society of Naturalists. Four of these awards are presented nationally each year to recognize outstanding and promising work by scientists who have received their doctorates in the last three years.

Bookbeat

RECENT PUBLICATIONS FROM CLAS FACULTY

Old Dominion, Industrial Commonwealth, Sean Adams (History), The Johns Hopkins University Press
Sean Patrick Adams

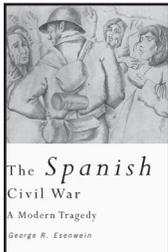


compares the political economies of coal in Virginia and Pennsylvania from the late 18th century through the Civil War, examining the divergent paths these two states took in developing their ample coal reserves during a critical period of American industrialization. In both cases Adams finds state economic policies played a major role.

Using coal as a barometer of economic change, this book addresses longstanding questions about North-South economic divergence and the role of state government in American industrial development, providing new insights for both political and economic historians of 19th-century America.

—Publisher

The Spanish Civil War: A Modern Tragedy, George Esenwein (History), Routledge: London/ New York



The Spanish Civil War has rarely failed to arouse the passions of and stimulate interest in scholars and nonscholars alike. This book provides a dispassionate and illuminating analysis of this complicated event, identifying major social and political themes and breaking new ground in assessing the impact of cultural issues like race and gender.

The author uses a wide range of carefully selected primary source material to support the text, allowing participants and contemporary observers of the Civil War to speak for themselves. The reader will gain insight into the variety of perspectives held by both famous figures and minor ones previously overlooked by Civil War scholars.

—Author Summary

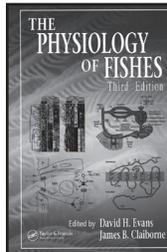
The Word and the Being in Unamuno's Poetics, Luis Alvarez-Castro (Spanish), Salamanca University Press



This book unveils the work of Spanish writer and thinker Miguel de Unamuno (1864–1936) as a literary theorist. While Unamuno never wrote a monograph on poetics, his ideas on the nature, significance and purpose of literature can be traced throughout his complete oeuvre. By contrasting all those ideas, this book arranges and systematizes for the first time Unamuno's literary theory. The main tenets of such a theory are quite conventional, yet Unamuno perceives them as existential categories more than aesthetic values. Ultimately, Unamuno's theory combines philosophy and philology in order to inquire how literary discourses determine the formation of writing and reading subjects.

—Author Summary

The Physiology of Fishes, David Evans (Zoology), CRC Press; second edition



As with the best-selling first edition, this second edition is a comprehensive, state-of-the-art review of the major areas of research in modern fish physiology. International contributions from leading experts detail current knowledge of locomotion and energetics, gas exchange and cardiovascular physiology, homeostasis, and neurophysiology and neuroendocrine control.

This volume includes a systematic index organized by genus and species, enabling rapid access to information on topics unique to particular fish.

—Publisher

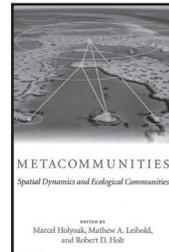
Reflections of an Aspiring Curmudgeon, Felix Berardo (Sociology), iUniverse Inc.



Why would anyone aspire to be a curmudgeon? Because, among other things, they mock and debunk pretense and hypocrisy. Curmudgeons disdain mediocrity and fraud, and use humor as their principal weapon. In the tradition of Mark Twain, Berardo relates his personal experiences and observations on human behavior to larger societal trends and changing values. Often hilarious, always profound, these essays enlighten and entertain.

—Publisher

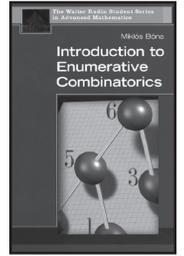
Metacommunities: Spatial Dynamics and Ecological Communities, Bob Holt (Zoology), University Of Chicago Press



This book takes the hallmarks of metapopulation theory to the next level by considering a group of communities, each of which may contain numerous populations, connected by species interactions within communities and the movement of individuals between communities. In examining communities open to dispersal, the book unites a broad range of ecological theories, presenting some of the first empirical investigations and revealing the value of the metacommunity approach. Encouraging community ecologists to rethink some of the leading theories of population and community dynamics, *Metacommunities* urges ecologists to expand the spatiotemporal scales of their research.

—Publisher

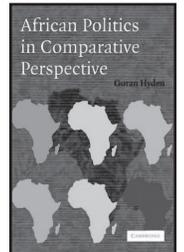
Introduction to Enumerative Combinatorics, Miklos Bona (Mathematics), McGraw-Hill



Written by one of the leading authors and researchers in the field, this comprehensive modern text is written for one- or two-semester undergraduate courses in general combinatorics or enumerative combinatorics taken by math and computer science majors. *Introduction to Enumerative Combinatorics* features a strongly developed focus on enumeration, a vitally important area in introductory combinatorics, crucial for further study in the field. Bona's text is one of the very first enumerative combinatorics books written specifically for the needs of an undergraduate audience, with a lively and engaging style that is ideal for presenting the material to sophomores or juniors. This book is part of the Walter Rudin Student Series in Advanced Mathematics.

—Publisher

African Politics in Comparative Perspective, Goran Hyden (Political Science), Cambridge University Press



This book reviews 50 years of research on politics in Africa by synthesizing insights from different scholarly approaches and offering an original interpretation of the knowledge accumulated throughout the years. It discusses how research on African politics relates to the study of politics in other regions and mainstream theories in comparative politics and focuses on such key issues as the legacy of a movement approach to political change, the nature of the state, the economy of affection, the policy deficit, the agrarian question, gender and politics and ethnicity and conflict.

—Publisher

Seeds of the Kingdom: Utopian Communities in the Americas

Anna L. Peterson (Religion), Oxford University Press

The repopulation movement of Catholic peasants returning to former war zones in El Salvador proved a natural choice of study for Religion Professor Anna Peterson, whose previous books addressed progressive Catholic social movements in the region and religion-based environmental ethics. Peterson also chose to include the Old Order Amish in

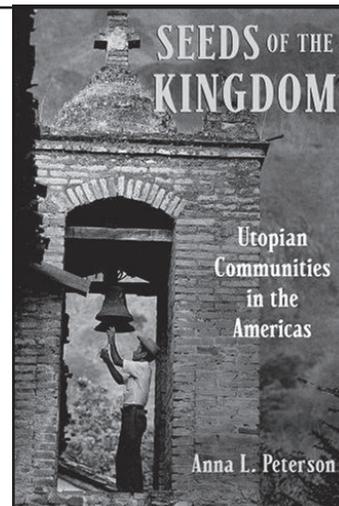
her study, as both communities share a utopian Christian ethic expressed in agrarian community settings.

“I was looking at how people from certain religious traditions lived out their ethics,” Peterson says. “Most people don’t—there’s a huge gap between what they say and do. I wanted to find people who walked the talk.”

Seeds of the Kingdom tells of two communities that, rather than wait for the arrival of an ideal society, attempt to create societies bound by social and environmental ethics founded in religion. Both groups, Peterson says, subordinate certain values in order to live out their faith and community. “You have to give things up. It’s not a utopia in the sense that everyone’s happy and there’s no conflict, instead there is constant negotiation. It’s a process.”

While surveys show 80 percent of Americans claim environmentalism is important to them, only 20 percent do anything about it. This disconnect between people’s expressed values and what they do reflects a common dilemma, says Peterson, who is affiliated with the Center for Latin American Studies and the School of Natural Resources and the Environment.

Communities that combine values and actions do teach us something, Peterson says. Their message: individuals can’t do it alone, but with strong community structures and supportive policy, it is possible. “These communities are saying you can. That’s the take-away message. Not that we should replicate them, but that they challenge us to close the gap a little. There will always be



that gap, but does it have to be as vast as it is right now?”

There is a price. Individual interests sometimes give way to the social, Peterson says. Suffering high rates of alcohol abuse, some repopulated villages banned alcohol, even for those who drank only a single beer after work. The Amish refuse higher education. “It’s a trade off,” says Peterson. “You cannot have it all, and you have to decide what’s important to you. We have things in the US that we say are important, but we don’t act on that. We tend to fall into things, not make real choices. And the things we end up not having are often precisely the things we say we value the most.”

—Michal Meyer



JANE DOMINGUEZ

Provocations to Reading, Dragan Kujundzic (Germanic and Slavic Studies), Fordham University Press

This book is a marker of the “state of theory” today. Its rich array of wide-ranging essays explores the dimensions and implications of the work of J. Hillis Miller, one of the most eminent literary scholars in America. For nearly half a century, Miller has been known for his close and imaginative engagement with the implications of European philosophical thought and for his passionate advocacy of close reading.

A provocation to reading for new generations of students and teachers, these essays offer important resources for grasping the question of language in historical perspective and in contemporary life—a task essential for any democratic future.

—Publisher

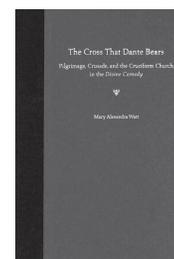


The Cross that Dante Bears, Mary Watt (Italian), University Press of Florida

Watt proposes that *The Divine Comedy* employs a series of strategically placed textual cues to create a meta-textual structure beyond Dante’s literal narrative. As the pilgrim wends his way through the three realms of the afterlife, references to medieval maps and to medieval cruciform churches, together with images of crusading and pilgrimage, ultimately reveal the shape of this structure as the reader becomes aware that Dante’s journey traces the figure of a cross.

Watt explores the textual cues, codes and other strategies that Dante employs to discover how and why he conjures up the shape of a cross. While the image of the cross within *The Divine Comedy* has been frequently noted, Watt approaches the observation and the poem in holistic fashion by arguing that this image is a clue to the greater underlying structure that gives form and therefore meaning to the entire work.

—Publisher



pointing the way to success

This August, the first group of students will be initiated into the Cooperative Academic Achievement Program, or CAAP, which hopes to improve the retention and graduation rates of Hispanic-Latino students at UF. The program was established and approved for funding in fall 2005, based on the success of CAAP's sister program Pledging to Achieve Academic Competence Together (PAACT), which aids African-American students.

Initiated in 1998, PAACT provides academic support services and guidance to facilitate African-American students' transition from high school to university. The retention rate of PAACT students by the end of their junior year in 2004 was 95 percent. That same year, the retention rate for non-PAACT Afri-

can-American students by the end of their junior year was 62 percent. CAAP will use PAACT's successful program model to improve the retention rate for Hispanic-Latino students.

The program's first event, the CAAP Kickoff, will serve as an orientation for incoming Hispanic-Latino freshmen. Faculty speakers, campus tours and a scavenger hunt will introduce the students to important people and services on campus. "CAAP will take away students' fears and intimidation and make them feel more comfortable with resources all over campus," says Diana Armas, the coordinator of the program.

Students in the program will submit follow-up progress reports each semester, to allow CAAP to address any



JANE DOMINGUEZ

academic issues immediately, while giving students the initiative to communicate and form valuable mentor relationships with professors.

"I hope CAAP helps Hispanic-Latino students accomplish their goals at UF and leads to even more accomplishments in their lives after college," Armas says.

—Tiffany Iwankiw

critical thinking SHARP OPINIONS RECOGNIZED BY PEERS

English professor **William Logan** has won the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism for his book *The Undiscovered Country: Poetry in the Age of Tin*. Logan accepted the award at the NBCC annual awards ceremony in New York City on March 3.

"Winning was like being struck by lightning," Logan says. "The best aspect of the honor is that even my friends seem impressed. I'm sorry that my parents weren't alive to see it—they always said I was too critical, but they would have been proud."

The award-winning book includes essays about Shakespeare's sonnets, Whitman's use of the American vernacular, the mystery of Marianne Moore and a groundbreaking

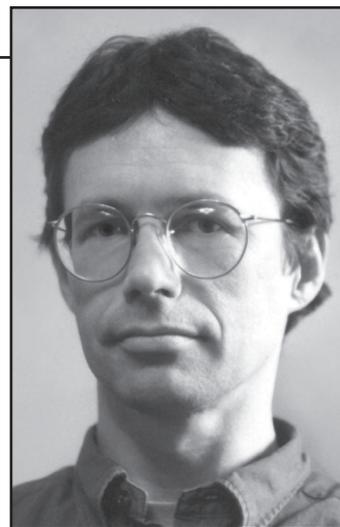
analysis of Sylvia Plath's relationship to her father, as well as the chronicles of the poet whose sharp opinions of contemporary verse have sometimes been controversial.

The NBCC, a 700-member nonprofit organization founded in 1974, honors authors for quality writing in five categories: fiction, general nonfiction, biography/memoir, poetry and criticism. The members, all book reviewers, elect a 24-person board of directors, which nominates and judges books for the awards.

Logan, who was a finalist for the award in criticism in 1999, is the author of three other books of criticism, *All the Rage* (1998), *Reputations of the Tongue* (1999) and *Desperate Measures* (2002). He says poets com-

monly react to his criticisms with a blissful—or perhaps a stunned—silence. "On some occasions a poet has threatened violence, either jokingly (in the case of the Pulitzer Prize winner who offered to run me over with his car) or not so jokingly (in the case of another Pulitzer Prize winner who offered to give me the beating I 'so richly deserved')," he says. "Mostly, though, poets have hides thick enough to take criticism, and perhaps some poets need even thicker hides to accept praise."

Logan was director of UF's Creative Writing Program from 1983 to 2000. He continues to teach poetry workshops and seminars on modern poetry. "Apart from writing more criticism, I'd like to think that when I clear my desk I'll be back writing



COURTESY ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

poems, which is, after all, where my imagination seems happiest."

Logan is on research leave from UF and living in England until August.

—Tiffany Iwankiw



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