

Alumni

Spring 2003

# CLASnotes

The University of Florida  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences



honoring  
the past

shaping the future

The University of Florida  
College of Liberal  
Arts and Sciences

Spring 2003

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Cover:  
Awarding-winning CLAS students **Teresa Porter** (Truman Scholarship winner); **Anup Patel** (Goldwater Scholarship winner); **William Sexton** (2003 UF Outstanding Male Leader); and **Teessa McCrae** (Four-Year CLAS Scholar) prepare to shape the future. The background photo is Anderson Hall in 1931.

# a note from the Dean

CLAS honors the past and helps shape the future



Greetings from Turlington Plaza! During the first few months of 2003, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has engaged actively in a number of exciting new ventures, many of which are part of the University of Florida's strategic plan. These activities are especially significant this year since they coincide with UF's sesquicentennial, celebrating 150 years of academic excellence by "honoring the past, shaping the future."

Our new ventures are creating innovative and new programs that are among the best in the nation in their areas. In the field of astronomy and space sciences, UF has carefully nurtured its program, developing it from the first radio observatory in 1956 to the national reputation for excellence the program enjoys today. Past investment allowed UF to become a world leader in observational astronomy, developing an expertise in infrared detection. Now we continue to build on our accomplishments by developing a partnership with Spain to construct on the Canary Islands the world's largest optical telescope. In recognition of UF's investment in excellence in this field, the university recently was invited to join the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy (AURA), a select group of 29 US institutions

and six international affiliates.

In the past, UF's funding of basic research in biology, chemistry, and genetics supported the training of scholars like Marshall Nirenberg, who won the Nobel Prize in 1968 for his work in explaining the mysteries of genetics. More recently, the university has created the UF Genetics Institute, which fosters collaborative, interdisciplinary research in medicine, chemistry, engineering, agriculture and ethics, including making important advances in bioinformatics. For the future, the college is gaining strength in plant genetics with prominent participation in the National Science Foundation's multi-national Floral Genome Project, which looks at the architecture of flowers from 100 million years ago to determine what genes are responsible for flower production in plants today.

In the humanities, the college is busy expanding its already-strong international focus. In the past, our humanities programs in literature, sociology, languages, and the political sciences have made significant investments in creating opportunities for international learning, including the Center for African Studies, established in 1965, and the newly created France-Florida Research Institute. We continue to

build on these programs, garnering a renewed international visibility with our college's numerous conferences and programs sponsored by the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere. The college plans to endow a director of the center, which will serve as a magnet to attract famous scholars, writers, philosophers and historians who are especially relevant today as we search for more meaningful ways to teach our students about different societies and cultures in an ever more concentrated global environment.

The first steps of our college in developing UF's strategic plan are prime drivers in advancing the academic core of the institution. The future of our state depends critically on developing the skills, technology and international awareness that are needed to build a more diversified and stable economy. Florida needs a strong university institution that will provide the leadership, energy and ideas for the next generation of industries and services. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the University of Florida are helping shape this future.

Neil Sullivan, Dean

# a history of the college

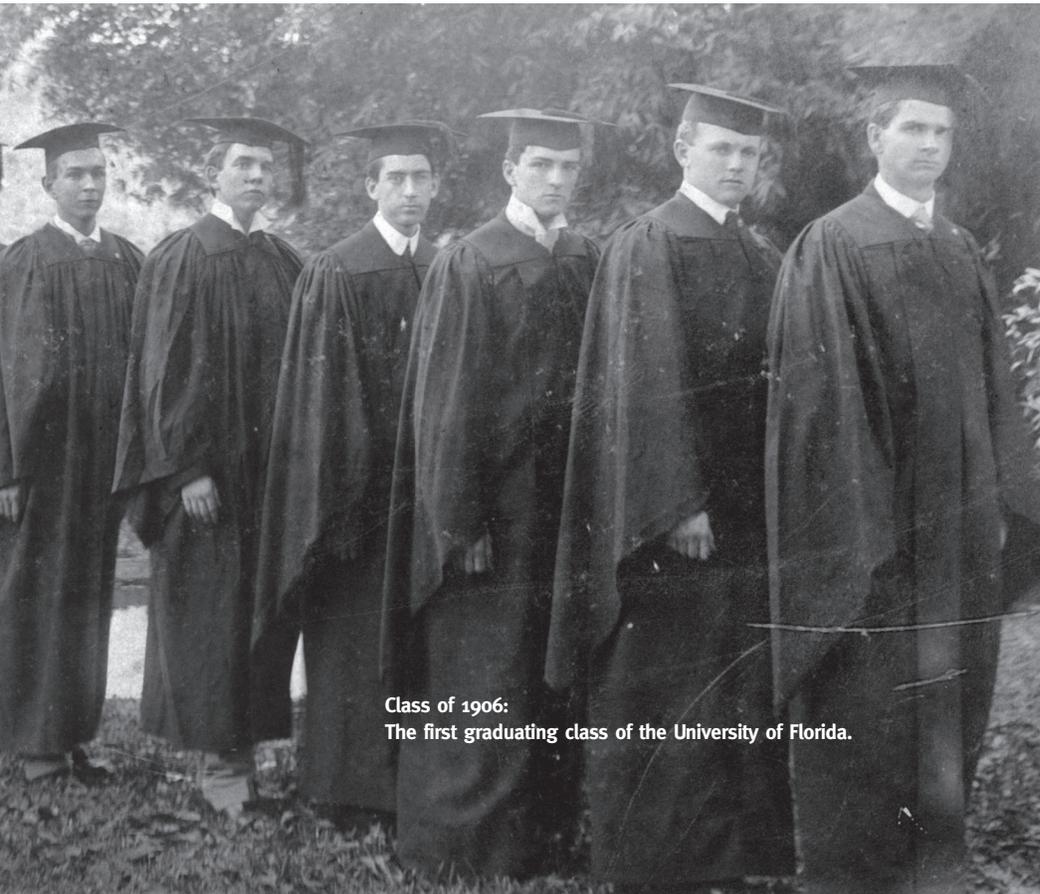
When the East Florida Seminary opened its doors in 1853 in a little village called Ocala, no one imagined this grammar school with three small wooden buildings and no student over the age of 14 would become the University of Florida we know today. This year, UF celebrates its 150-year history, from its humble beginnings in rural Florida through its evolution into one of the largest, most respected universities in the nation. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has been an integral part of the university, in some form, every step of the way.

## Humble Beginnings

In 1851, six years after Florida became a state, the legislature decided to set up institutes of higher learning in East and West Florida. The Suwannee River was used as the dividing line. "The legislature asked the communities of Florida if they were interested in having one of these institutes in their community, and what they were willing to put into the pot in the way of money or land," says Samuel Proctor, UF's historian. "The response was not great." A small private school in Ocala established for local children—the East Florida Seminary—offered its property to the state, which was the only proposal Florida received. On January 6, 1853, Governor Thomas Brown signed a bill allowing the state to financially support the institution. This is where UF gets the 1853 date on its seal. Many courses taught at the seminary can be traced to today's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, such as English, history, Latin and zoology. In 1866, the school transferred to Gainesville and gained the reputation as one of the nation's top liberal arts schools.

## University of Florida Officially Established

In the late 1800s, the state of Florida was struggling to maintain eight institutions. "The state was trying to support these institutions and was not doing a very good job at it," Proctor says. "None of them compared well with other schools in the South, much less the nation." So



Class of 1906:  
The first graduating class of the University of Florida.

## A Brief History of CLAS



In 1853, East Florida Seminary opened its doors in Ocala. The University of Florida marks this as its founding date, since this school was transferred to Gainesville in 1866. Many courses were

offered that can be traced to today's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, such as English, history, zoology and Latin.

In 1905, the Buckman Act created a

new University of Florida.

In 1906, the first master of science degree was awarded at UF to botany student Wilbur L. Floyd, who later became dean of the College

of Agriculture and a professor of agriculture, biology and physics. Griffin-Floyd Hall is named partly in his honor.



in 1905, Henry H. Buckman, chairman of the Florida House Judiciary Committee, drafted a bill to combine these schools into three universities—what are known today as UF, Florida State and

Florida A&M universities. The Buckman Act passed in May 1905, and Gainesville and Lake City were the top cities competing for UF. “Lake City thought it had it in the bag because it had a good campus with nice buildings; therefore, it didn’t make a good play for the university,” says Proctor. “Gainesville, however, formed a committee to promote the city. It offered \$70,000 cash, agreed to pave what is now called University Avenue, promised to provide low-cost housing for students until dorms could be built, and to provide free water to the campus.” On July 6, 1905, Gainesville won the bid with a six to four state Board of Control vote. “Lake City was so upset about it that for years no boy from Columbia County would come to UF,” says Proctor.

## College of Arts and Sciences Created

When the new UF opened its doors in September 1906, classes in the arts and sciences were taught in the School of Language and Literature and the General Scientific School. The College of Arts and Sciences was created in 1909 when the university divided into four colleges—Arts



The Women's Studies Program was established in CLAS in 1977, and a six-woman steering committee administered the Program in the early 1980s. From left to right: Jacquelyn Resnick (counseling psychology); Ruth McQuown (political science); Madelyn Lockhart (economics); Maxine Margolis (anthropology); Faye Harris (nursing); Irene Thompson (English).

and Sciences, Agriculture, Engineering and Law. The new college had a staff of 12 and offered degrees in 15 disciplines. Some of the original departments were later transferred to new colleges: education classes moved to the College of Education in 1913, economics joined the College of Commerce and Journalism in 1920, and military sciences became a separate division. A few departments—botany, chemistry, and physics—left the college for short periods and returned. Courses in the fine arts were added, and these eventually became part of the College of Fine Arts. New departments were created; some of the early ones were mathematics, religion, geology and biology, sociology and political science, philosophy and psychology, and speech.

## Memories of the Early Years

“Times have changed dramatically since I was a student,” says Proctor, who came to UF as a freshman in 1937 to major in political science. “The school was pretty

isolated. On University Avenue, from 13th Street all the way downtown, there were residences and fraternity houses. There were no recreational facilities on campus. The movie houses were downtown, but you could easily walk it. Freshmen had to wear these beanie caps—rat caps—which identified who you were, and they were very valuable. Very few people had cars, and if you wanted to travel around you had to hitch a ride, which you could do very easily wearing a rat cap. People had no hesitancy picking you up in those years.”

If students wanted to go downtown, Proctor says they stood on the corner of 13th Street and University Avenue and hitched a ride. When they were ready to return to campus, they stood in front of the Seagle Building and thumbed a ride back. Students could get a bite to eat in Dauer Hall, then the student union. Toast, coffee and juice were served at breakfast for 15 cents. There were restaurants that served students near campus. The most famous was the College Inn,

*continued on page 6*

In 1909, the College of Arts and Sciences opened as part of a reorganization of the university. The new college had a staff of 12 and offered degrees in 15 disciplines.

In 1909, James Nesbitt Anderson was named the first dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



In 1910, the College of Arts and Science graduated its first group of students. Five were granted bachelor's degrees.



In 1912, Language Hall was constructed to house history, mathematics and the languages. It was later renamed Anderson Hall,



in honor of Dean James Nesbitt Anderson.

In 1926, the Department of Speech was established. It was renamed the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders in 1997.



## Samuel Proctor

Samuel Proctor has not earned his reputation as the foremost expert on UF history by memorizing facts from tattered old documents and newspaper clippings. He has experienced it first-hand, in the making, over the past 66 years.

Born and raised in Jacksonville, Florida, he came to UF as a freshman in 1937 and lived with his uncle, then a chemistry senior, in a boarding house off campus. As an undergraduate, Proctor wrote for the *Alligator*. After receiving a BA in history in 1941, he went on to earn an MA in 1942 by writing a 560-page thesis on Florida Governor Napoleon Bonaparte Broward.

In 1943, Proctor was drafted into the Army during World War II and served at Camp Blanding, near Starke, giving illiterate recruits a basic education in reading and arithmetic. When he got out of the service in 1946, he planned to study international law. Proctor chose Ohio State and was living at home in Jacksonville, planning to start his studies in the fall, when William Carleton, chairman of the freshman social sciences program, called him about teaching at UF. "I asked him if he was crazy because I knew absolutely nothing about teaching and was going to start working on a law degree."

In the fall of 1945, about 600 students were enrolled at UF, but by 1946, enrollment swelled to 8,000 as World War II veterans began taking advantage of the GI bill. "In desperation they were turning to people like me," Proctor says. "Bill said if I didn't do anything more than stand up in front of the room and call the roll, they needed me."

Hoping to earn money for graduate school, Proctor came to UF and taught that summer. "The students were excellent and, in fact, I think they were in many ways the best students we ever had at UF. They were older, since they had lost three or four years to the service, and many times they knew more than the professors because they had traveled to far away places."

Carleton persuaded Proctor to remain at UF. President J. Hillis Miller named him university historian and archivist and commissioned him to write a book on UF history, in honor of the university's 100th anniversary in 1953. Proctor submitted the book as a dissertation, which he successfully defended in 1958. "We didn't have archives. Nobody even knew the names of the presidents. I became the historian and the archivist, collecting this information from everywhere."

In 1967, Proctor established the Oral History Program in the Department of History, with the purpose of preserving eyewitness accounts of the economic, social, political, religious and intellectual life of Florida and the South. The collection, so far, contains 3,900 interviews and more than 350,000 pages of transcribed material, making it the largest oral history archive in the South and one of the major collections nationwide.

Proctor retired in June 1996 but continues to serve as the official UF historian and as director emeritus of the Proctor Oral History Program, which has been named in his honor.

—Buffi Lockette

*continued from page 5*

which was known in more recent years as the Purple Porpoise bar.

Tuition to UF was initially free. "When I came here it was about \$60, but you weren't paying tuition, you were paying fees—\$5 went to the infirmary, \$10 for athletics because students could go to all football, baseball and basketball games free. They really didn't need to charge until after the war."

## Changes in the College

In 1935, UF President John J. Tigert created University College (originally referred to as General College) out of concern that students were not getting a strong liberal arts education. The attrition rate was very high at the time—roughly one-third of first and second year students dropped out. Through University College, students could gain a basic college education—and receive an associate of arts degree—before entering the college of their choice to complete a bachelor's degree.

"Tigert believed you needed less specialization," says Proctor. "A doctor needed to know more than just medicine; he needed to know about the arts, literature and so on. Some students came from such a poor background, they couldn't afford to stay in school for four years. Tigert reasoned that if you could give them a general education for a year and a half, and then they had to drop out, at least they would be better off than if they had just tried to specialize during that time."

Though arts and sciences courses were taught in University College, the College of Arts and Sciences continued to teach the same courses. Harry Sisler served as a college dean during this time. "I don't know of a university anywhere that is a first-class, leading institution that doesn't have an outstanding College of Arts and Sciences," says Sisler, who retired from UF in 1985. "One of the things I did immediately as dean was establish a functional student council in the college. I think it's essential that any administration have that kind of contact with students."

## First Women and Minorities

In 1947 when UF became co-educational, Dorothy Rethlingshafer became the first woman faculty member in the College of Arts and Sciences when she was hired by the psychology department to help develop the doctoral program and teach testing, development, learning and motivation courses. Ruth McQuown, a political science professor, became the first female associate dean of the college in 1976 and one of the first female campus administrators. She was an important voice in bringing the women's studies program to the college in 1977.

UF integrated in 1962, and the first group of African-American students enrolled. In 1970, UF hired its first group of African-American faculty and staff. The small group of eight included English professors Ronald Foreman and Betty Ingram—the college's first black faculty. "There were very few black students here at that time," says

In 1930, the Department of Psychology was established. Elmer Hinckley served as its first chair.

In 1934, Townes R. Leigh was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



In 1934, chemistry student John Morrow earned the first PhD awarded at the University of Florida. His dissertation was titled "The Dielectric Constant of Benzene."

In 1935, President John J. Tigert created General College out of the concern that UF students were not getting a strong liberal arts education. It was later renamed University College and offered associate degrees to all UF students.

In 1937, UF opened its chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, the oldest and most respected undergraduate honors organization in the US with the mission of fostering and recognizing excellence in the liberal arts and sciences.

In 1938, Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings, author of the 1939 Pulitzer Prize winner *The Yearling*, taught a creative writing course at UF for the Department of English.



Foreman. “We were trying to get our colleagues, whoever they might be—white, black, blue, green—to understand that diversity was what we wanted to have. My main point that whole time was that UF, as a public institution, had a responsibility to everybody in the state. It was not Duke, Yale or Harvard. It was public, and that is why I thought it should widen its gates and invite black people to come and do anything that was possible.”

## College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Takes Shape

After a long struggle, University College was merged into the College of Arts and Sciences in 1978, creating the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The merger made the college the largest on campus—with more than 13,000 students and more than 500 faculty. Merger talks began in 1976, when History Professor Michael Gannon was an assistant dean in the college. “From 1976–78, I worked with English Professor Harry Shaw to negotiate the merger. I visited the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to see how they had merged their two colleges by creating a College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, so I suggested UF follow this model.”

Charles Sidman was hired as dean of both colleges, and Gannon worked with him to get the new college underway. “When I was brought to the university, the faculty had already made the decision and the president had endorsed it,” Sidman says. “I wanted the transition to go as smoothly as possible that first year. I spent a lot of time talking to faculty members about their concerns, and I think the vast majority felt they were better off for the merger.”

When Sidman came to campus, Turlington Hall had just been completed. Home to the newly renamed College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the building was constructed on the site of the first building completed on the university campus, Machinery Hall. The structure first housed farm equipment, but was later turned into a chemistry laboratory. Turlington Hall was built on the site in 1978, at the cost of \$5.7 million, and named in honor of Ralph Turlington, former state education commissioner and UF business professor.

## Looking to the Future

In 2003, as the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences celebrates the sesquicentennial of UF, many new initiatives are on the horizon, including the construction of the world’s largest optical telescope on the Canary Islands and the continued development of the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere.

Dean Neil Sullivan has a bright outlook on what lies ahead. “As the intellectual core of the university, it is indeed the investment of the past in our fundamental disciplines that has allowed us to embrace today new interdisciplinary efforts that will expand our future and propel the university into its place as one of the top public institutions in the nation.”

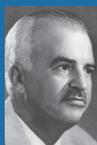
—Buffy Lockette

In 1946, the Department of Religion was officially established by Delton L. Scudder, though the department can be traced back to 1911.

In 1947, Dorothy Rethling-shafer became the first woman to join the faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences when the Department of Psychology hired her.



In 1948, Ralph Emerson Page was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



In 1948, the Departments of Geography and Geology were officially established, though geology can be traced back to 1909 and geography to 1926.

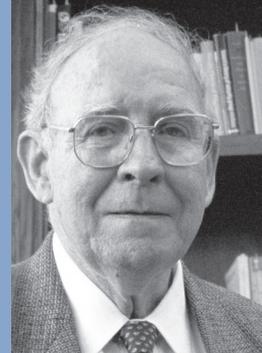
In 1948, a Department of Biology was established but was later merged into the Department of Zoology. After years of not having a biology major, CLAS is currently developing one.

In 1949, the Department of Political Science was officially formed with Manning Dauer as the first chair.



# Michael Gannon

UF Professor Emeritus of History Michael Gannon has written and lectured extensively about World War II naval history and Florida colonial history. But, in the early 1970s, Gannon helped *make* history at UF. As a catholic priest at the time, and a professor in the history and religion departments, Gannon was thrust into the role of mediator.



During the spring semesters of 1970, 1971 and 1972, several riots and protests erupted about the Vietnam War and the treatment of African-American students on campus. Gannon mediated during the three occasions to help maintain peace. “In 1972 students were aroused by the mining of Hai Phong Harbor in Vietnam. I don’t think anyone realized how out of control student anguish would become,” Gannon says. The students blocked the intersection of 13th Street and University Avenue for several hours, and that night, Florida Highway Patrol officers were called to break up the crowd. “Many students ran inside the Krystal restaurant on University Avenue, and one of the patrolmen had a gas grenade in his hand and had pulled back the pin, ready to throw it inside. I grabbed his arm and told him many students would be hurt or die jumping through the glass windows if he threw it. I was then clubbed over the head by another officer and taken into custody.” A member of the General Counsel’s office saw what had happened and told the officers to release Gannon because he was on the university’s side, trying to help the situation.

During these incidents, many students knew Gannon as Father Gannon. He was a priest at St. Augustine’s Church on University Avenue for 12 years. For nine of those years he was also a full-time faculty member in both the history and religion departments. “It was a lot of work, but I immensely enjoyed both jobs.”

Before becoming a priest, Gannon was a sports announcer at WIS radio in Columbia, South Carolina. “I was the voice of the Gamecocks, broadcasting the football games. It was fun, but I wasn’t making any special contribution to the human condition, so I decided to devote myself to a higher calling than radio.” He spent four years (1955–59) studying theology at the Université de Louvain in Belgium and became a priest in 1959. He received his PhD in history from UF in 1962 and worked at the Spanish Florida Research Center in St. Augustine, Florida for several years before joining the faculty in 1967.

Gannon decided to leave the priesthood in 1976, the same year he became an assistant dean in the college. He assisted in merging University College and the College of Arts and Sciences into the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1978. Gannon returned to full-time teaching in 1988 and officially retired in 1998. Through phased-retirement, he has taught a course each year for the past five years and regards himself primarily as a classroom teacher, estimating he has taught more than 16,000 students during his 36 years at UF. This spring Gannon is teaching his final course about the colonial history of Florida. “I’ll miss teaching, but it’s time to hang up my hat and let a younger faculty member have my office.” He plans to continue working on several book projects.

—Allyson A. Beutke

## CLAS Students Receive Prestigious Scholarships

**Teresa Porter**, a junior double-majoring in political science and sociology, has been named a Harry S. Truman Scholar. One of just 76 winners nationwide and the only recipient from Florida, Porter will receive \$3,000 to use during her senior year of college and \$27,000 for graduate school.



Porter

Truman Scholars are selected for their extensive record of community service and for their commitment to careers in government and public service. A St. Augustine native, Porter is president of the Panhellenic Council and a member of Phi Mu sorority. She has studied abroad at the University of Cambridge and teaches intermediate and advanced level dance at a local studio.



Abel

**Robert Abel**, a junior from Davie, Florida, and **Anup Patel**, a junior from Altamonte Springs, Florida, have each received a Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. The award was created to encourage outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering, and foster excellence in those fields. Abel is a mathematics major and chemistry minor who intends to pursue a doctorate in theoretical or computational chemistry. Patel is double-

majoring in biochemistry and molecular genetics and economics. He hopes to pursue an MD/PhD specializing in molecular genetics.

Each scholarship covers expenses for tuition, fees, books, and room and board, up to a maximum of \$7,500 annually.



Patel

# around the college

## CLAS Teacher / Advisor of the Year Awards

CLAS had eleven college-level award winners for 2002-2003. The awards recognize excellence, innovation and effectiveness in either teaching or advising.

**Darragh P. Devine**, *Psychology*

**Robert A. Hatch**, *History*

**Selman P. Hershfield**, *Physics* (Advisor)

**James C. Horvath**, *Chemistry*

**Konstantinos Kapparis**, *Classics*

**Benjamin R. Karney**, *Psychology*

**David D. Metzler**, *Mathematics*

**Ido Oren**, *Political Science*

**Sergei S. Pilyugin**, *Mathematics*

**Kathryn A. Rex**, *Academic Advising Center* (Advisor)

**Brian E. Ward**, *History*

## Keene-Flint Hall Dedicated

The dedication of Keene-Flint Hall was held on February 20. Janet and Kenneth Keene, who made the restoration of the building possible through a generous gift, and members of the Flint family were on hand for the ceremony.

Built in 1910 as Science Hall to house all of the experimental sciences taught at that time, the building was renamed Flint Hall in 1955 in honor of Edward Flint, the first professor of chemistry and resident physician at the University of Florida. Flint Hall fell into disuse in the 1970s and was condemned in 1978.

Keene-Flint Hall now serves as the home of the Department of History. The new annex building to the southwest provides advanced teaching facilities for the Department of Chemistry and accommodates a modern multi-media, 150-seat auditorium.

In 1951, the Center for Gerontological Studies was established as the Institute of Gerontology. UF Vice President John Allen assumed the position of chair through the first four years.

In 1951, the UF Marine Laboratory at Seahorse Key was established by E. Lowe Pierce, who served as its first director.



In 1960, four-time Pulitzer Prize winning poet Robert Frost was granted an honorary doctorate from the University of Florida. He lived in Gainesville,



off and on, between 1938 and 1958, in the Duck Pond area. He came to campus regularly to work in the library and held poetry readings.

In 1962, the Department of Astronomy was established by merging it into the physics department already in existence, thereby creating the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The two areas were split into separate departments in 1978.

In 1962, the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Sociology officially became separate departments, though anthropology can be traced back to 1936 and sociology to 1921.

## Major General Visits Campus

**Marianne Mathewson-Chapman**, the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Major General in the Army National Guard, visited campus in late March in honor of Women's



History Month. Hosted by the Center for Gerontological Studies, Mathewson-Chapman is a UF alumna with a PhD in nursing sciences and a gerontology minor. She gave two lectures on her experiences

rising through the ranks of the military and on her career as a nurse executive for the Veterans' Health Administration. She is pictured above with her two daughters who are UF students, Helena (left) and Heather (right).

## University of Botswana Dean Visits UF

For 10 days in April, **Nobantu Raseotsa**, University of Botswana Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, got a taste of how the University of Florida runs business. Raseotsa shadowed CLAS Associate Dean for Academic Affairs Yumiko Hulvey and met with different groups on campus. Her goal was to begin preparations for an agreement between the two universities that would allow for an exchange program. Raseotsa, who received a PhD in English literature from the State University of New York, says there are structural differences between UF and her university, which is only 21 years old, attended by 12,000 and is the only university in the country of 1.7 million, but that both want to enhance the sharing of knowledge for both its students and faculty. "The good thing is that both universities recognize the importance of collaboration and diverse interdependence that comes from a shared responsibility of going beyond and joining hands with the rest of the world."



## Zoology Professor is Teacher/Scholar of the Year

UF Zoology Professor **Karen Bjorndal** has been named the 2003 Teacher/Scholar of the Year, the highest honor bestowed upon a faculty member by the University of Florida. The award is given annually to a faculty member who demonstrates excellence in both teaching and scholarly activity.

Bjorndal, who received a PhD from UF in 1979, joined the faculty in 1987. As director of the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, she conducts a wide range of studies on the ecology, physiology and behavior of sea turtles. She has written more than 100 scientific publications



and edited several books on a variety of topics, from sea turtle biology and conservation to digestive processing in herbivorous reptiles. Bjorndal teaches an undergraduate course for non-science majors called Ecology, Evolution and Behavior. She also teaches graduate-level courses and seminars on nutritional ecology and sea turtle biology.

## History Professor Visits White House

In February, History Professor **Stephen McKnight** and his wife Rebecca traveled to Washington, DC for the National Council on the Humanities induction ceremony. During the trip, the McKnights met First Lady Laura Bush and other council members. President George W. Bush nominated McKnight to serve on the 25-person advisory council last fall, and the US Senate unanimously confirmed his nomination in January. He will serve a six-year term on the council, which is an independent grant-making agency of the federal government dedicated to supporting research, education, preservation and public programs in the humanities.



In 1963, the Department of Statistics was established. William H. Mendenhall served as its first chair.



In 1965, the Center for African Studies was established at UF as the first program of its kind in the South and the 11th in the nation.

In 1967, the Oral History Program was established by Samuel Proctor, who served as its first director. It has since been renamed the Proctor Oral History Program in his honor.

In 1968, biology and zoology alumnus Marshall Nirenberg won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for his work deciphering the genetic code.



In 1968, Harry Hall Sisler was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



In 1969, the Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies was established. The first chair was Egbert Krispyn.

## First Elected Female Student Body President Continues Political Work

Being the first UF woman to be elected student body president was a challenge, but it gave Charlotte C. Mather (BS, Political Science, 1984) the basis for her career. Now almost 20 years later, Mather continues to represent a diverse body serving as vice president of government relations and public affairs for the North Broward Hospital District, but UF was where it all began.

"Serving as Student Government President taught me everything I needed to know about politics, serving my community and working collaboratively with others to achieve the greater good for the people I am representing," she says. "One of my



priorities was to open up student government to students who never felt they could participate before." Mather says this commitment has not stopped and she is proud to work for an organization that is dedicated to diversity from bottom to top.

Working for the North Broward Hospital District has allowed her to meet inspirational people—including fellow Gators doing great things for Florida—while contributing to the health care needs of area residents. She oversees

# where are they now?

the hospital district's development, implementation and administration of strategic initiatives in legislative and public policy and represents the district before the federal, state and local levels of government. "Some of my friends say I work too much, and I probably do, but I feel what I do is important and I truly enjoy my work," she says.

In addition to serving the nation's sixth largest hospital district, Mather remains actively involved with several community organizations,

such as the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and Leadership Broward.

Mather says that while UF has played an integral part in Florida history during its 150 years of existence, she hopes to see more woman leaders in its future. "I think it is important for all women to know that they should never let a group of people or a person hold them back from pursuing their dreams."

—Kimberly A. Lopez

## Nobel Laureate Refuses to Retire

Marshall Nirenberg, winner of the 1968 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine, has known since childhood he wanted to be a researcher. "I have always been interested in science, from the time I was very young," he said.

After graduating from Orlando Senior High School in 1945, he enrolled at UF as a biology major. He was a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity and had a part-time job as a teaching assistant in nutrition labs. He graduated in 1948 and went on to receive a master's degree in

zoology from UF in 1952. "I can't tell you how much I enjoyed my time at the University of Florida," he said. "It was a wonderful experience, both as an undergraduate and graduate student."

Nirenberg earned a PhD in biochemistry from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1957 and received a post-doctoral fellowship from the National Institutes of Health. After two years, the NIH offered him a full-time job as an independent investigator, and he has worked for the organization ever since.

One of his first projects for the NIH was studying the

steps that relate DNA, RNA and protein. These investigations led to the demonstration that messenger RNA is required for protein synthesis and can be used to decipher various aspects of the genetic code. Nirenberg was awarded the Nobel Prize for his discovery in 1968, along with Robert W. Holley and H. Gobind Khorana.

Nirenberg continues to work for the NIH and is currently working on a project examining the genes that affect the nervous system of fruit flies. His wife of more than forty years, Perola Zaltzman, died last year. She



was a biochemist for the NIH. Nirenberg resides in Bethesda, Maryland and is still as fascinated by science as he was as a little boy and has no plans of retiring. "I plan to work as long as I'm able."

—Buffi Lockette

In 1969, the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures was established. J. Wayne Conner was its first chair.

In 1970, English professors Ronald C. Foreman and Betty Ingram became the first black faculty hired in the College of Arts and Sciences. The African American Studies



program was established at this time and Dr. Foreman served as its first director.

In 1970, the Linguistics program was established. John Algeo served as its first director.

In 1972, Calvin Anthony VanderWerf was named dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



In 1973, the Center for Jewish Studies was established. Barry Mesch served as its first director.

Each year, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences awards CLAS Term Professorships to outstanding faculty who excel in both scholarship and teaching. These professorships allow the college to recognize faculty who are making a significant difference in the classroom, as well as through their research. Funded entirely by private sources, the number of term professors and the amount of the award varies from year to year. For 2002-2003, the following professors have received a one-time \$6,000 salary supplement and an additional \$5,000 for their research.

James Button, *Political Science*  
Mitchell Magid Term Professor

Anthony Oliver-Smith, *Anthropology*  
Mitchell Magid Term Professor

Malini Johar Schueller, *English*  
Waldo W. Neikirk Term Professor

Christopher Stanton, *Physics*  
Jean and Robin Gibson Term Professor

Daniel Talham, *Chemistry*  
Jean and Robin Gibson Term Professor

Manuel Vasquez, *Religion*  
Waldo W. Neikirk Term Professor

# term professors & dissertation fellows

Each year CLAS invites PhD students to apply for dissertation fellowships to aid in their studies. The following awardees will receive a \$3,750 stipend to use during the spring or summer 2003 term:

**Gerson Dissertation Fellow**  
Ahmad Saleem, Communication  
Sciences and Disorders

**Gibson Dissertation Fellows**  
Virginia Battista, Sociology  
Dana Byrd, Psychology  
Keith Choe, Zoology  
Parakh Hoon, Political Science  
Natalia Hoyos, Geography  
Ellen Maccarone, Philosophy  
Yongyi Min, Statistics  
Vakif Onemli, Physics  
Sang-Hee Yeon, Linguistics

**Holmes Memorial Scholar**  
Youlanda Henry, English

**McGinty Dissertation Fellows**  
Geoffrey M. Blate, Botany  
Elizabeth Byron, Anthropology

**McLaughlin Dissertation Fellows**  
Joann Benigno, Psychology  
Sarah Bouchard, Zoology  
Mari DeWees, Sociology  
Kathryn Kanuck, Philosophy  
Rongliang Liu, Physics  
Andrea Mabry, English  
Elizabeth McKinney, Psychology  
Benjamin Miner, Zoology  
Stephen Ortiz, History  
James Penn, Geography  
Laura Ruiz, Romance  
Languages and Literatures  
Alberto Santana-Vargas, Chemistry

Guillermina Seri, Political Science  
Eri Sugita, Anthropology  
Lee Walker, Political Science  
William Whitley, History  
Jeffrey Thompson, Statistics

**Nutter Dissertation Fellows**  
Jeremy Cohen, History  
Lynn Usher, Chemistry

**Russell Dissertation Fellows**  
C. Bradley Dilger, English

**Threadgill Dissertation Fellows**  
Gonzalo M. Estavillo, Botany  
Stephen Lehman, Chemistry  
John Schultz, Anthropology

In 1973, the Center for Studies in Criminology and Law was established as a joint effort between sociology, psychology and political science. Merle Alexander served as its first director.

In 1974, the Department of Classics was established. Gareth Schmeling served as its first chair.

In 1975, the Asian Studies program was founded under the leadership of Austin Creel. Due to the retirement of key faculty, the program fell into demise and suspended its BA

program in 1993. In 2000, with the hiring of Michael Tsin as director, the program reopened and is currently reactivating its BA program.

In 1976, Ruth McQuown became the first female associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.



In 1977, the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research got its start, offering classes dedicated to exploring the perspectives of women.

# alumni spotlight

## UF Alumnus Becomes Entrepreneur with Microwave Technology

When Mike Collins graduated from UF in 1965, it was only the beginning of what he calls the “ultimate American Dream.” After receiving a PhD from the University of Texas, he went on to work for Celanese Corporation where he met the two men who would complete the name of the



microwave technology company he co-founded from the ground up: CEM.

But the “C” is not for Collins—it stands for chemistry. Along with expertise in electronics, “E,” and mechanics, “M,” the three started CEM out of a garage having only a vision of the potential impact microwave energy could have on scientific research.

“It’s been very rewarding starting a company and having the entrepreneurial experience,” Collins says. CEM has now reached far beyond the garage and currently has a worldwide staff of 200 people, revenues of \$45 million and worldwide leadership in the emerging field of microwave chemistry. The idea is that microwave energy can be used in the laboratory to cut down the time it takes to do chemistry—what once took 24 hours

to react now only takes five minutes with the use of the technology.

Collins made the decision to attend UF after his father’s military career led his family to Vero Beach during his senior year of high school. “I am very happy it worked out that way. UF is a large school where you get to interact with a lot of different people. It prepared me well to be in a large university with many opportunities for diverse experiences, which I found to be very beneficial.”

Though he had been distant from UF for some time, he reconnected with the university when his children decided to follow in the Gator’s footsteps. His two sons are both UF graduates, one in biochemistry and the other in chemical engineering, and his youngest daughter, Meghan, currently is a sophomore

majoring in molecular biology.

His recent reconnection to Gainesville, however, extends beyond his children. While traveling to visit them, Collins reconnected with the chemistry faculty. In March, he brought the first International Microwaves in Chemistry Conference to Gainesville. Collins says it is great to see the advancements the university continues to make in research and beyond, especially during its 150th celebration.

“It’s very significant that the school has endured for this period of time,” he says. “It is definitely one of the top 25 learning institutions in the country, and I know it will continue to develop and ultimately become one of the truly great institutes of higher learning in the US.”

—Kimberly A. Lopez

In 1977, philosophy student Billy Kynes was named a Rhodes Scholar.

In 1978, construction of Ralph Turlington Hall was completed.



In 1978, Charles F. Sidman was hired as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



In 1978, University College and the College of Arts and Sciences were merged into the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, instantly making CLAS the largest college on campus with 13,207 students and 510 faculty at that time.

In 1980, English Professor Donald Justice won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry for *Selected Poems*.



In 1980, the Center for Greek Studies was created.

# Women's Movement Pioneer Receives UF Honorary Degree

As former president of the National Organization for Women and co-founder and president of the Feminist Majority Foundation, Eleanor Smeal's name has become synonymous with the women's movement. But as a political science graduate student at UF in the early 1960s, the word "feminism" was not part of her vocabulary. "I started reading about women's history, and I was so staggered by the fact that I thought I was so educated, but I had never really read about Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton," she says. "This whole period of history had been dismissed."

Smeal decided to attend UF for a master's degree instead of going to law school. "A professor at Duke University told me if I went to law school, I would probably only find work as a law librarian, and I didn't see the point in that."

While she grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania, Smeal's family also had a home in Melbourne, Florida, so she was familiar with UF. "When I came to UF in 1961, I was the only woman in the political science graduate program, and I worked with Ruth McQuown. Ruth was definitely a feminist. She wanted a women's party and encouraged me to write about the women's movement for my PhD work."

In addition to reading about women's history, something personal happened that caused Smeal to get involved with the women's movement. After the birth of her children in the mid-1960s, Smeal went through a period of illness. "With almost anyone who really gets turned onto a cause, something has to hit home," she says. "For me, it was my medical situation. Women couldn't get disability insurance. I asked a doctor what happens to women when they get sick and have little children, and he told me they just have a lot of relapses. The attitude of

some male doctors and how they treated women as neurotic complainers was horrible." Smeal says this attitude, probably more than anything, led to her involvement with the women's movement.

Smeal finished her PhD classes at UF in the early 1970s and started working on her dissertation. She moved to Pittsburgh and became active in NOW, going from a local officer to the national board in 1973 and elected chair in 1975. The research Smeal started at UF eventually led to her discovery of the gender gap in elections in 1980. She found an eight percent difference between men's and women's votes for Ronald Reagan in his election over Jimmy Carter. "It was clear there were a lot of differences between male and female attitudes on a host of issues," she says. "Everything from social security and women's rights to Medicare and committing troops abroad. Women had been voting since 1920, but our voting power had been ignored for 60 years."

Smeal wrote her dissertation, which was published, with co-author Audrey S. Wells, as a chapter in *Women in Politics* (1974) edited by Jane S. Jaquette. However, she decided not to come back to UF to defend it. "I needed about two more months to add in footnotes, but there was so much to be done with NOW, so I didn't finish. Ruth always said I should call myself 'doctor' because I essentially got the degree."

Smeal served as NOW's president from 1977 to 1982 and 1985 to 1987.



In 1987, she co-founded and assumed the presidency of the Feminist Majority Foundation. The organization specializes in programs that combine research and action to develop long-term, cutting-edge strategies for the political, economic and social empowerment of women. The foundation was the first women's group to launch a Web site ([www.feminist.org](http://www.feminist.org)) and has developed five additional sites since 1995. It also owns *Ms. Magazine* and started a legislative advocacy arm, the Feminist Majority, as well as the Feminist Majority political action committee.

For Smeal, there are still many issues she wants to tackle. "I would like to eliminate discrimination in social security benefits," she says. "One of the reasons older women are in poverty is that they get about 60 percent of what men get. We still have the job of closing the wage gap, and women still aren't in sufficient numbers in leadership roles. We also need to solve the childcare problem in this country and make a bigger dent on violence towards women."

Smeal says jobs like hers won't make someone rich, but the work is too rewarding not to do. "If you're the kind of person injustices really bother, you shouldn't just feel helpless," she says. "You should empower yourself."

—Allyson A. Beutke

**At the CLAS commencement ceremony on May 3, Eleanor Smeal will receive an honorary Doctor of Science degree from UF. She also will be the keynote speaker. The ceremony starts at 6 pm in the O'Connell Center.**

In 1982, the Department of African and Asian Languages and Literatures was established. Haig Der-Houssikian served as its first chair.

In 1983, political science student Charlotte Mather became the first woman elected student body president at UF.



In 1988, Willard W. Harrison was hired as dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



In 1996, the William and Grace Dial Center for Written and Oral Communication was created to prepare UF students to use



effectively the conventions governing speaking and writing in their chosen disciplines.

In 1997, Kenneth and Janet Keene donated a generous gift, allowing the college to start restoration of Anderson and Keene-Flint





Ed Kissam

## Psychology Graduate Establishes Trust Fund for Student Scholarships

When Ed Kissam was an undergraduate at UF in the late 1940s, he enjoyed nature and watching the birds around Lake Alice. His bird-watching hobby is what Kissam attributes to helping him gain acceptance into medical school at Wake Forest University in the mid-1950s. "When I interviewed with one of the administrators up there, he asked me about my hobbies, and I told him I enjoyed bird watching. He also enjoyed this, and we spent about half an hour talking about birds, so I like to say that birds helped get me into medical school."

Kissam, who earned his bachelor's degree in psychology in 1949, has

recently set up a charitable remainder unitrust for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. His donation could fund up to \$88,000 for student scholarships and other college resources. "I've always thought you should work in a field you enjoy. I would have paid to do what I've done because I've loved it so much, so I've decided to give back and encourage today's generation to do the same."

Kissam completed medical school at Wake Forest in 1955. After specializing in general surgery and orthopedics and working in Augusta and Atlanta, Georgia, he came back to Gainesville and opened a private practice in 1960.

"In addition to seeing my own patients, UF football coach Ray Graves asked me to look after the football players. I would travel with the team, assess the players' injuries and operate if necessary."

Kissam retired in 1983 but did not slow down. "One week after I retired, I was on my sailboat sailing to Bermuda." He decided to sell his boat in 1995 when he turned 70. He now lives in his St. Augustine beach house and is the proud father of five children, three of whom graduated from UF, and nine grandchildren. "The kids keep me busy. They make me feel as young as ever!"

—Allyson A. Beuthe

## Maturo Endowment

Zoology Professor Frank Maturo (Doc) has touched many lives during his 44 years at UF. He is retiring this year, and to honor Doc's decades of service to UF as a professor and as an advisor to the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, the Frank Maturo Excellence Fund has been established. Your support is necessary to successfully complete this endeavor. A 50 percent match from the state of Florida can be applied for if the endowment reaches its goal of at least \$100,000.

This endowment will provide critical support to the zoology department through graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships. For information on how to contribute, please contact Krista Mitchell Cornell in the CLAS Development Office at (352) 392-5421.



The Center for Greek Studies presented a Distinguished Humanitarian Award to UF alumnus **His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas**, who is the bishop of Hong Kong and Southeast Asia, on January 10. He received the award for bringing a variety of philanthropic causes to Southeast Asia. His Eminence has consecrated several new Orthodox Christian churches in Asia. He earned a BA degree in religion in 1976 and a Master of Divinity from the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in 1980. Pictured left to right: Cookie Kallares, Rev. Nicholas Graff, His Eminence Metropolitan Nikitas, His Eminence's mother, Kalliope Lulias, and US Navy Vice Admiral Michael Kallares.

## Keep in Touch with CLAS

We want to hear from you!

Send your update to: Editor, PO Box 117300, Gainesville FL 32611. Please include your degree (BA, MA, PhD, etc.), major/minor, graduation date and e-mail address if you have one. Photos are welcome too!

You can also e-mail your update to [editor@clas.ufl.edu](mailto:editor@clas.ufl.edu) or visit <http://clasnews.clas.ufl.edu/news/alumninotes/updates.html> to fill out an online update form.

## Video Memories

Want to hear an alum sharing a favorite memory about UF and CLAS? Visit [www.clas.ufl.edu/150](http://www.clas.ufl.edu/150) and click on "College Memories" to view the video clips. You can also read more about the college's history and UF's sesquicentennial celebration.

Halls. The newly refurbished buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2000, English student Newman Nahas was named a Rhodes Scholar.



In 2000, the Land Use and Environmental Change Institute (LUECI) was established as a cooperative effort between the Departments of Geological Sciences, Geography, Anthropology, and the Center for Latin American Studies.

In 2001, Mathematics Professor John Thompson was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Bill Clinton, which is the highest honor bestowed upon



a scientist by the US government. Thompson was also a recipient of the Fields Medal in 1970.

In 2001, Neil Sullivan was named dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.



# alumni notes

## UPDATES FROM CLASMATES

### 1957

**J. Wanzer Drane** (MS, Mathematics) has been selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Health Behavior. The academy is a society of distinguished researchers and scholars in the areas of health behavior, health education and health promotion. Drane is a professor of biostatistics at the University of South Carolina.

### 1965

**Joseph Marinelli** (BS, Psychology) has been appointed president of the Association of Educational Service Agencies, a national organization with a mission to strengthen and support educational service agencies. Marinelli is a district superintendent of schools covering New York counties Ontario, Seneca, Wayne and Yates. He is also the CEO of the Wayne-Finger Lakes Board of Cooperative Educational Services in Newark, New York.

### 1975

**Dr. Richard A. Levine** (BS, Zoology) has worked for the past 17 years in a private practice at General and Preventative Internal Medicine in Boca Raton. He also serves as a clinical faculty member for Florida Atlantic University's affiliate medical school.

### 1985

**Steven B. Bass** (BA, Political Science) practices law in Miami-Dade County. He and his wife Lisa, who also graduated from UF in 1985 with a degree in business, celebrated the recent birth of their son Ethan Taylor.

### 1987

**John D. Riley** (BS, Zoology) and his wife Theresa Treep have opened their own home practice, Hoosier Housecalls, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Riley cares for about 500 adult patients and 75 percent of his work is in geriatrics. Treep, a pediatrician, has about 150 patients. The shared home business allows the couple to spend more time with their sons Danny, 3, and Timmy, 5.

### 1988

**Larry Nash White** (BS, History) finished his PhD in information studies at Florida State University in April 2002. He founded Organization Doctors, a knowledge management consulting firm based in Tallahassee, and now serves as executive director of the public library system in Washington County, Ohio.

### 1990

**Kelly J. McKibben** (BS, Psychology) was recently promoted to deputy chief legal counsel for the Florida Department of Children and Families in Orlando. She is responsible for providing legal representation in adult abuse cases, disciplinary issues and administrative hearings in four Florida counties. She also manages Child Welfare Legal Services in Brevard County. McKibben has been with the agency since graduating from the Cumberland School of Law in Birmingham, Alabama in 1994.

### 1991

**James Allen Bull** (BS, Statistics) was recently designated Fellow of the Society

of Actuaries (FSA) status after passing a series of eight exams. FSA status is recognized as the most demanding and prestigious designation available in the insurance and financial security industry. Bull works in annuity product development at American National Insurance Company in Galveston, Texas.

### 1992

**Edward Tombari** (BA, Geography) works in regulatory affairs for the National Association of Home Builders in Washington, DC. He received a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Michigan in 1994 and spent eight years in municipal planning in Florida before moving to DC.

### 1994

**Rachel Armel Gebaide** (BA, Political Science) is an attorney with Lowndes, Drosdick, Doster, Kantor and Reed in Orlando. She and her husband Robert H. Gebaide, who also graduated from UF in 1994 with a degree in finance, welcomed the birth of their son, Jordan David, on October 7, 2002.

### 2001

**Thy Nguyen** (BA, political science) has been accepted into Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies where she will pursue an MA degree. She has received a fellowship and will begin her studies at the university's Washington, DC campus during the Fall 2003 semester.

In 2001, UF partnered with Spain to develop one of world's largest telescopes, Gran Telescopio Canarias in the Canary Islands. The expected completion date is 2004.



In 2002, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences held its own commencement ceremony for the first time.



In 2003, as the University of Florida celebrates its 150th anniversary, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences celebrates 25 years as a college.



## Grand Guard

Class of 1953...

Your 50th Reunion is right around the corner!

Grand Guard Reunion weekend is scheduled for October 2-4, 2003. For more information, please visit [reunions.ufalumni.ufl.edu](http://reunions.ufalumni.ufl.edu), e-mail [ufalum@uff.ufl.edu](mailto:ufalum@uff.ufl.edu) or call 1-888-352-5866.

### College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

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Gainesville FL 32611-7300

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida is the largest college on campus, with over 700 faculty members who teach more than 35,000 students. CLAS offers 40 majors in 22 departments, three academic programs and five centers. It is home to 32 centers and institutes including the Center for Women's Studies and Gender Research, the Land Use and Environmental Change Institute and the Center for African Studies. CLAS occupies nearly 650,000 square feet in 22 buildings on campus.

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# outstanding alumni



In November, CLAS honored a group of exceptional alumni at its first ever Outstanding Alumni Brunch, held during homecoming weekend. Those recognized for their achievements and contributions were: (Front row) **James McClave** (PhD, statistics, 1971); **Robert Levitt** (MS and PhD, psychology, 1965); **Jeanne Fillman-Richards** (MA and PhD, geography, 1982 and 1990); **Storm Richards** (BA, anthropology, 1973 and MA and PhD, geography, 1978 and 1987); (Back row) **Gary Myers** (BS, geology, 1974); **Paul Tarrant**, representing **Alan Lovelace** (BS, MS, PhD, chemistry, 1951, 1952 and 1954); **Thomas Gibbs** (BA, philosophy, 1975); **Dorothy (Weik) Smiljanich** (BA and MA, English, 1969 and 1971); **Gloria Bryan** (PhD, anthropology, 1992). Not pictured are **Charles Black, Jr.** (BA, political science, 1969); **Pallas Comnenos** (BA and MA, classical studies, 1990 and 1993); and **Terry Smiljanich** (BA, English, 1969 and JD, 1972).