

alumni

CLASnotes

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA, SPRING 2007

get a **clue!**
criminologists bust
TV myths

UF | UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

Chris Leak will go down in Gator history as one of the greatest football players ever to take the field. He came to UF in 2003 as the starting quarterback, and less than a month after receiving his bachelor's in December, led the team to a 41–14 victory over Ohio State in the national championship. Whether visiting the White House or appearing on the *Tonight Show*, the NFL draft candidate's life couldn't be busier these days, but he continues to make time for his alma mater.

Chris Leak (B.A., Sociology, 2006)

ACn: How did you select your sociology major and how do you think your liberal arts degree will serve you?

CL: You can do so many different things with a liberal arts degree, and that is what sold me on my decision. It was a great way to go because there are so many possibilities when you have a major that is very broad and flexible—and being involved in athletics helps open up even more doors for the future.

ACn: In addition to your own stunning success, your brother C.J. Leak is a football star in his own right, now playing for the NFL's Buffalo Bills. Where did all of this athletic talent come from?

CL: We got our athletic skills from our father, who played professional football for the Green Bay Packers, Pittsburgh Steelers, Los Angeles Rams and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. He introduced the game of football to us at a young age and we grew up with great love and passion for the sport.

ACn: How have you been able to stay so focused and level-headed, despite coaching changes, fickle Gator fans and quarterback controversies?

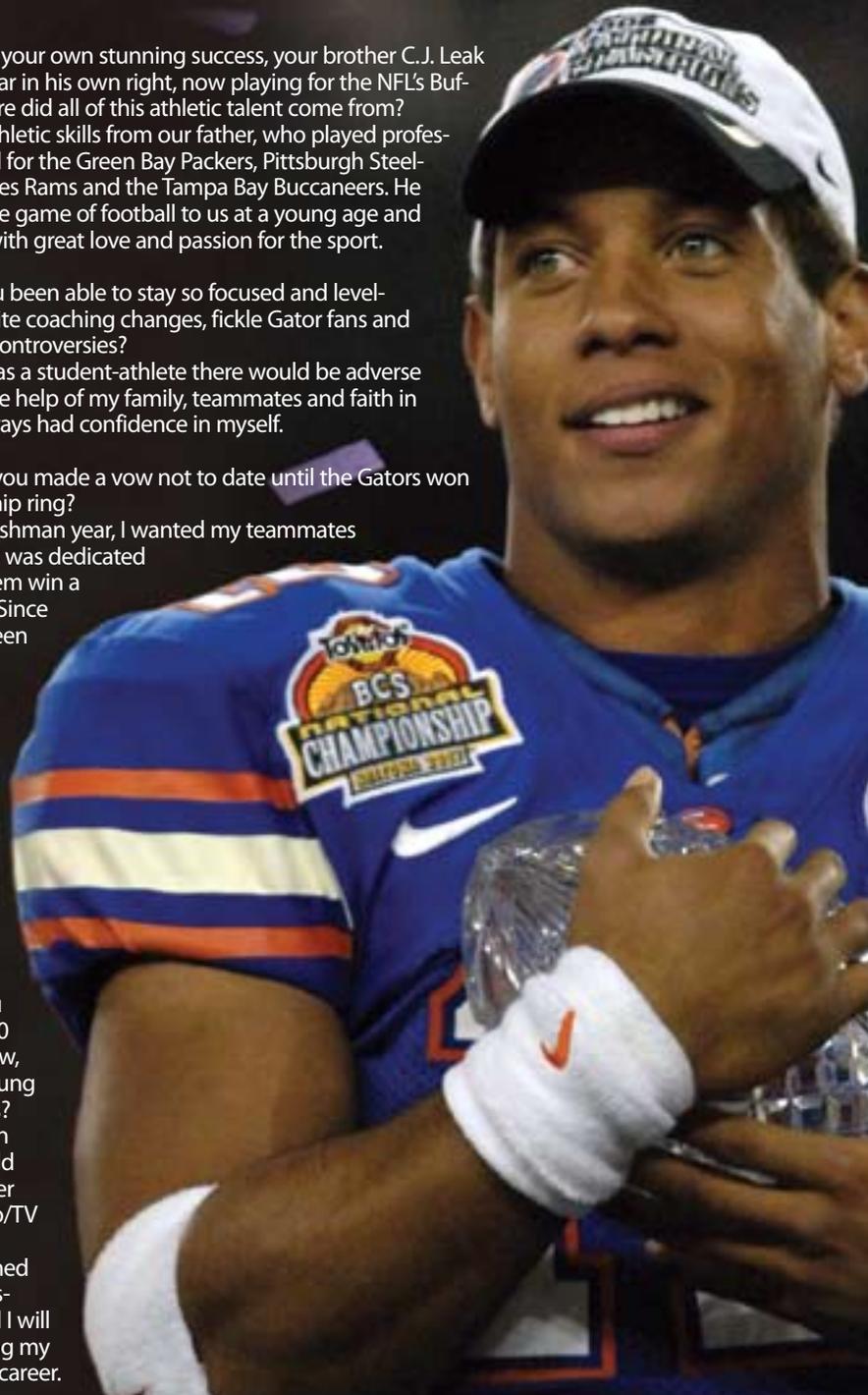
CL: I understood as a student-athlete there would be adverse times. With the help of my family, teammates and faith in the Lord, I always had confidence in myself.

ACn: Is it true that you made a vow not to date until the Gators won a championship ring?

CL: During my freshman year, I wanted my teammates to know that I was dedicated to helping them win a national title. Since then I have been in a relationship with a very special woman who is a Gator alum herself and has been very helpful and supportive throughout my career.

ACn: Where do you see yourself 20 years from now, after you've hung up your cleats?

CL: If I were not an athlete, I would pursue a career in sports radio/TV broadcasting. After I'm finished playing professional football I will begin pursuing my broadcasting career.



About CLAS

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the University of Florida is the largest college on campus, with more than 700 faculty members responsible for teaching the majority of the university's core curriculum to at least 35,000 students each year. CLAS has more than 12,000 undergraduate students pursuing a variety of disciplines through its 42 majors and 42 minors. Additionally, nearly 2,000 graduate students are attaining advanced degrees in the college.

About Alumni CLASnotes

Alumni CLASnotes is published twice a year by the University of Florida College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for its alumni and friends. Please send all correspondence to Editor, CLAS Dean's Office, PO Box 117300, University of Florida, Gainesville FL 32611-7300 or editor@clas.ufl.edu.

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on the **COVER** UF's top-ranked Department of Criminology, Law and Society challenges the misconceptions perpetuated in popular crime dramas. Page 4.

After working in the Provost's Office for five years, I have been fortunate to return to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. It feels like I have come home. I may be a little older and grayer (working in central administration often has that effect!) but hopefully a little wiser about the college's place in the universe and role in the university.

CLAS is the heart and soul of UF. Most UF undergraduates experience higher education in their first two years through the lens of this college, and many decide to stay on for their entire undergraduate education. Each of them contributes to the vibrant intellectual and social life of CLAS. Thanks largely to the quantitative, communication and critical thinking skills they develop through coursework and contact with faculty and graduate students, they become equipped to pursue a challenging major. Four years later they emerge among the nation's best, prepared to meet the challenges of their generation.

We are tasked with maintaining and improving CLAS educational and cultural opportunities, while grappling with the size and complexity of a university with 50,000 students and limited public funds. We also have the responsibility of refreshing the faculty and its research enterprise so we shine the brightest light on the problems of society and the mysteries of the natural world. We are challenged to bring



a note from the Dean

our students the individual attention, the latest technology and the most exciting thinking to help them become tomorrow's leaders.

CLAS will continue to excel with your support. We look forward to the maturation of several exciting initiatives: selecting a director for the Center for the Humanities and the Public Sphere, completing the construction of

Jim and Alexis Pugh Hall to house the new Bob Graham Center for Public Service and the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program, and enjoying our first opportunity to view the heavens through the world's largest optical telescope we have constructed with Spain and Mexico. Could I ask for a better homecoming?

—Joe Glover, Interim Dean

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get a clue!

criminologists bust TV myths

So you're an expert on crime—at least the crime you see on TV. You never miss an episode of *CSI*, in its many incarnations. You've been following *Law and Order* since the beginning of time. You treat the season opener of *The Closer* the way most people treat March Madness. But how much do you really know about crime?

While “realistic” crime dramas are all the rage on television—a national obsession that doesn't seem likely to subside any time soon—did you know that some of the nation's top experts on crime are right here at the University of Florida? The Department of Criminology, Law and Society is one of the top programs in the country, currently ranked 11th by *U.S. News and World Reports*.

The lines of research going on in CLAS are as varied as crime itself, but take a quick look at a few of them and a common theme emerges. Much of what the general public believes about crime, including who commits it and why, is just plain wrong.

Take theft, for instance. A crowbar-wielding culprit in a face mask often comes to mind when one thinks of this crime, but Criminology Professor Richard Hollinger will be the first to tell you the sandwich shop employee who slips a couple of packs of lunchmeat into his backpack on the way home is to blame for far more dollars lost.

“Retailers nationwide lose more than \$17 billion a year due to employee theft, \$10 billion to shoplifting and the rest to vendor fraud and administrative error,” Hollinger said. “None of the property crimes people worry about—

such as convenience store theft, bank robberies and household burglary—even come close to these numbers. And compounding the problem is that we all pay for this loss in terms of higher prices.”

For the past 16 years, Hollinger has polled major retail chains across the nation as part of the National Retail Security Survey and the yearly assessment has become the industry's way of identifying the best practices for preventing loss in stores nationwide. The data shows that store employees and organized shoplifting rings—not rebellious adolescents—are most to blame for retail property loss.

But what about other crimes attributed to teenagers and juvenile crime in general? The prevailing school of thought in society these days is “If you are old enough to do the crime, you are old enough to do the time,” but research by UF criminologists Lonn Lanza-Kaduce, Chuck Frazier and Jodi Lane has proven that trying and punishing children as adults is counterproductive.

“Our research over several years has shown clearly that these polices have failed,” said Frazier. “In fact, they have had an effect opposite of what was intended. Juveniles prosecuted and punished as adults do worse than com-

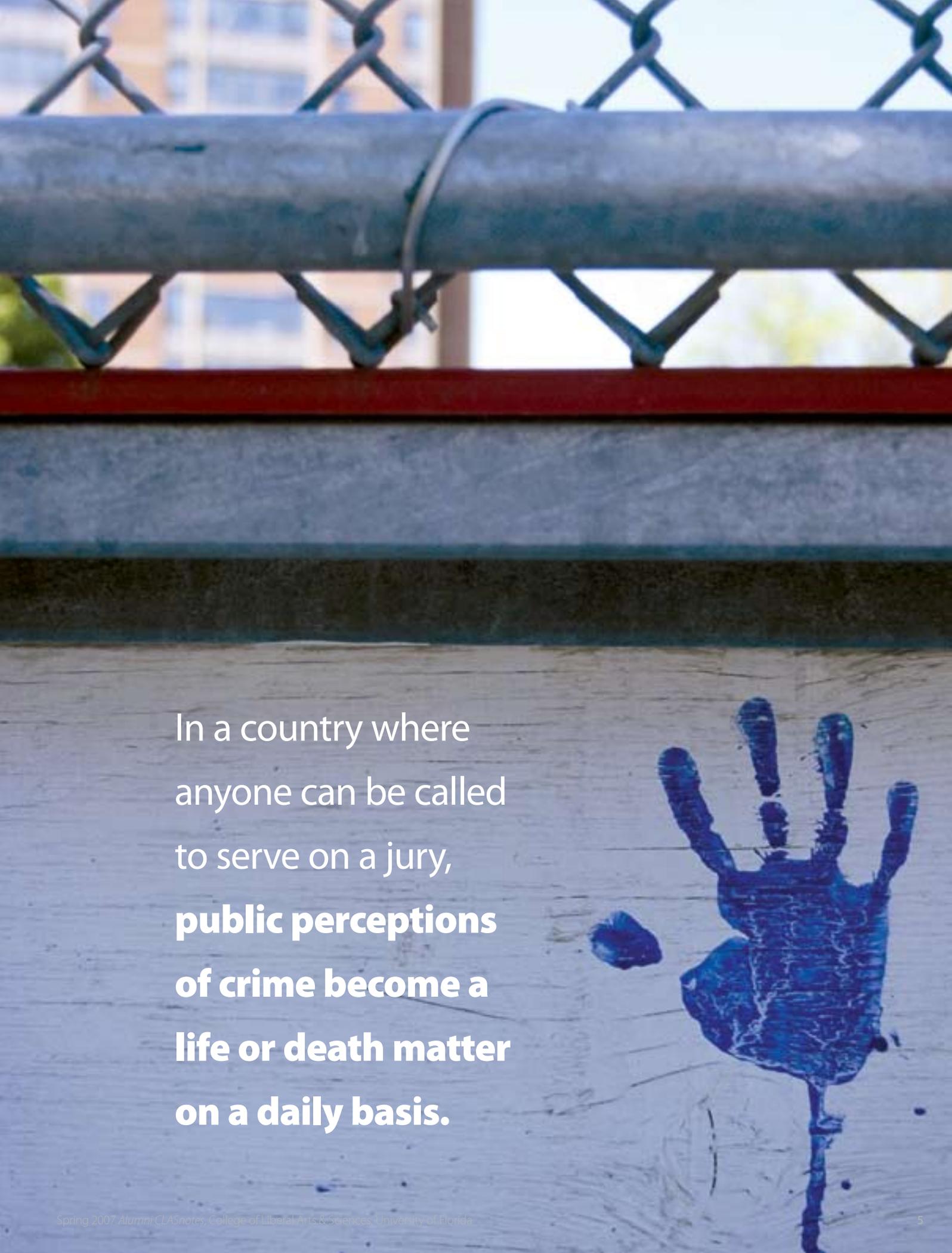
parable youth adjudicated and sanctioned in the juvenile justice system. They re-offend at higher rates, more quickly, more often and generally by committing more serious offenses.”

Frazier is collaborating with the Florida Department of Justice on a project funded by the U.S. Department of Justice to test alternative treatment programs for juvenile offenders with histories of abuse and neglect, a large segment of this population.

Bias against teens isn't the only unpleasant stereotype associated with crime in the public eye. Hollywood has featured plot lines pitting whites against blacks in crime dramas since cameras first began rolling. But in real life, interracial crime is actually pretty rare, according to Associate Professor of Criminology and Sociology Karen Parker. In fact, 90 percent of all homicides in the U.S. involve victims and offenders of the same race. In her new book to be published in 2008 by NYU Press—*Unequal Crime Decline: Theorizing Race, Urban Inequality and Criminal Violence*—Parker takes a look at the role racial inequality plays in affecting homicide rates in American cities.

“What you see in many black neighborhoods is widespread poverty, high rates of unemployment, limited

continued on page 6

A photograph of a chain-link fence with a red horizontal bar. Below the fence, on a wooden surface, is a large, dark blue handprint. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

In a country where
anyone can be called
to serve on a jury,
**public perceptions
of crime become a
life or death matter
on a daily basis.**

resources, limited access to education and family disruption,” she said. “As a rule, white neighborhoods don’t face those same kinds of conditions. Although fluctuations in white-white violence also correlate to shifts in the labor market, urban blacks are dealing with realities of starker disadvantage, which may go a long way toward explaining the higher rate of black-black homicide.”

You might think fear of execution would prevent just this sort of violence, but Criminology and Sociology Professor Ron Akers—a socially conservative ordained Baptist deacon—no longer supports the death penalty because his research has shown it does not serve as a deterrent to crime.

“I am opposed to the death penalty, but not on philosophical and moral grounds—actually, there are philosophical and moral reasons to support it as well,” said Akers. “I object because of the problems it has always encountered both in terms of fairness and justice and in terms of having any practical effect on homicide in society. I see no way these problems can be resolved in a democratic context in which due process and constitutional rights are given proper observation.”

Does all this talk about crime have you dreaming about the “good old days” when times were much simpler and safer? Then wake up! Jeff Adler, a professor of criminology and history, said when it comes to crime, there’s no time like the present.

“Looking at the long historical record provides a very different frame of reference,” Adler said. “American society was far more violent 30 years ago than today. Florida was, depending on the specific year, 10–15 times more violent during the 19th century. Medieval England—which was socially homogenous and intensely religious, and

people respected their elders and venerated tradition—was dramatically more violent than modern America.”

So why is all of this important? Well, in a country where anyone can be called to serve on a jury, public perceptions of crime become a life or death matter on a daily basis. Just ask Criminology Ph.D. student Dave Khey. He is writing a dissertation on how fictional crime shows influence jurors, and said if you expect the same level of forensic razzle dazzle shown on *CSI*, *Crossing Jordan* and *Bones* the next time you are selected to serve on a jury, you will likely be disappointed.

“There are two major camps when it comes to the *CSI* effect,” said Khey. “One says these shows miseducate jurors and lead them to expect a full forensic work-up for every case, while the other camp believes these programs cause prospective jurors to overestimate the value of scientific evidence and fail to distinguish between junk science and good science.”

Khey is in the process of interviewing former jurors and hopes to prove once and for all whether crime dramas have a real impact on the mindset of jurors and, in turn, the outcome of trials.

“So far in my research, it seems that no matter their exposure all of my respondents are expecting a lot more from investigators, specifically forensic evidence, than what they were given at the trial they served on,” Khey said. “Some individuals are reporting they specifically voted to acquit due to the lack of forensic evidence—and I must stress that these are largely run-of-the-mill trials that do not traditionally offer this type of evidence!”

Not all cases lend themselves to forensic evidence, and even when they do few are lucky enough to have forensic specialists like UF Anthropology Professor Anthony Falsetti—star of the forthcoming Court TV show *Positive ID: The Case Files of Dr. Anthony Falsetti* premiering in the fall—examining the evidence.

Bottom line: Don’t believe everything you see on TV.

—Buffy Lockette





THE PECULIAR RELATIONSHIP OF IMAGE AND TEXT!

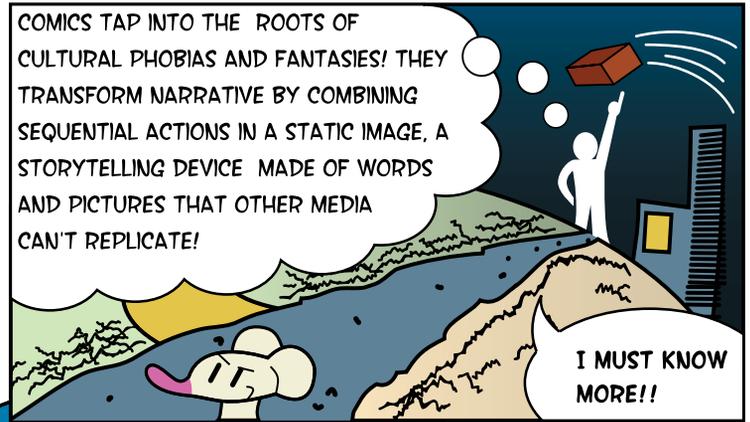
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INCREDIBLE! ROMANTICISM, COMICS, WILLIAM BLAKE, DONALD DUCK... THEY'RE ALL VISUAL-TEXTUAL LITERATURES - PART OF A CONTINUUM!

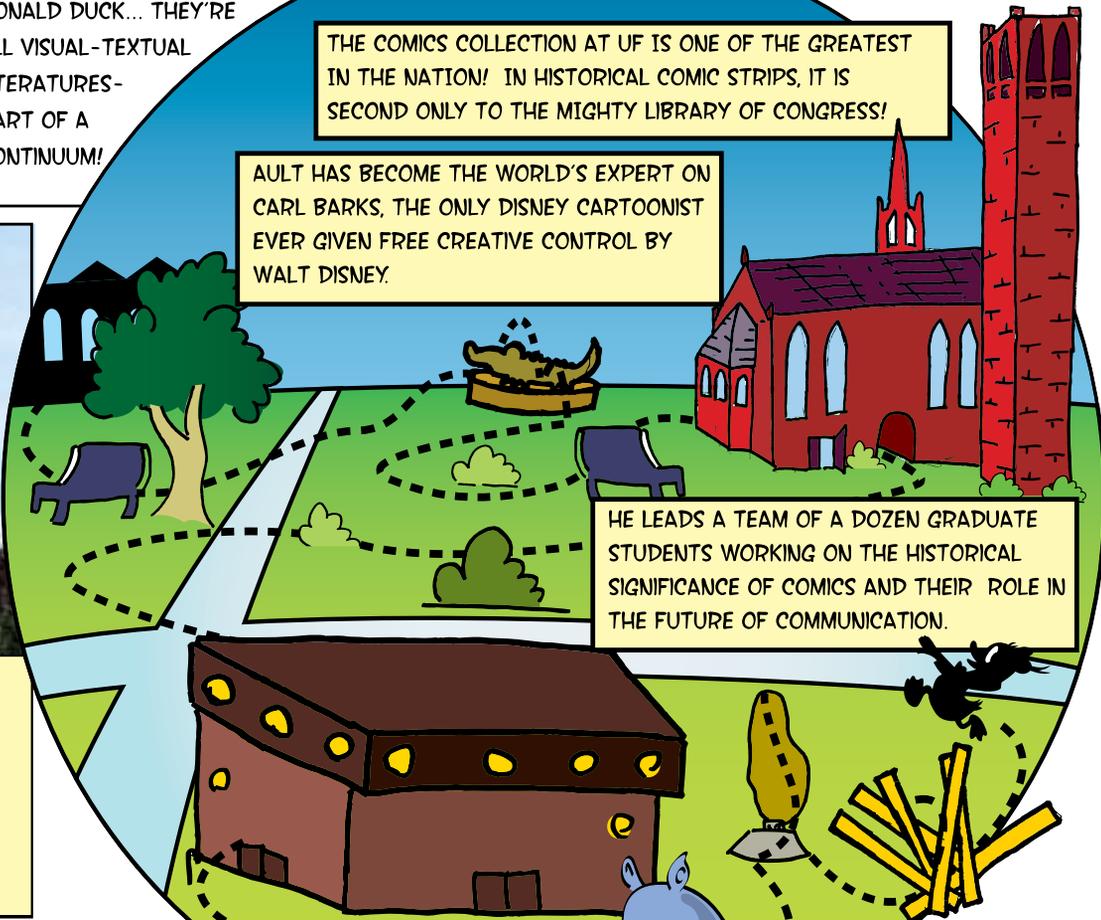
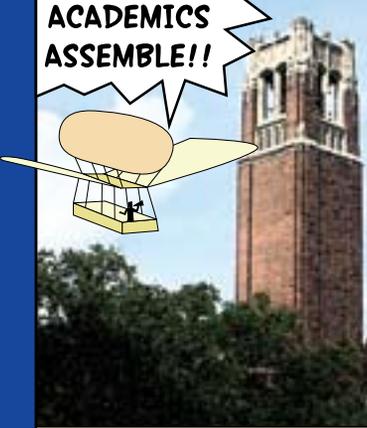
COMICS TAP INTO THE ROOTS OF CULTURAL PHOBIAS AND FANTASIES! THEY TRANSFORM NARRATIVE BY COMBINING SEQUENTIAL ACTIONS IN A STATIC IMAGE, A STORYTELLING DEVICE MADE OF WORDS AND PICTURES THAT OTHER MEDIA CAN'T REPLICATE!



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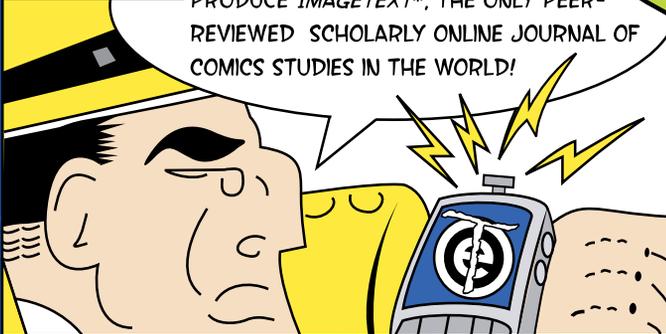


HE LEADS A TEAM OF A DOZEN GRADUATE STUDENTS WORKING ON THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF COMICS AND THEIR ROLE IN THE FUTURE OF COMMUNICATION.

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IN 2007, UF HOSTED ITS 5TH ANNUAL COMICS CONFERENCE, BRINGING INFLUENTIAL COMICS ARTISTS AND THEORISTS TO UF!

OUR INTREPID SQUAD OF SCHOLARS CONTINUE TO EXPLORE THE HUMAN CONDITION AND CONNECT CULTURES IN THIS GROUND-BREAKING AREA OF RESEARCH!

WILL YOU JOIN THEM IN THEIR EPIC MISSION?

surviving the sea

research initiatives give turtles a fighting chance

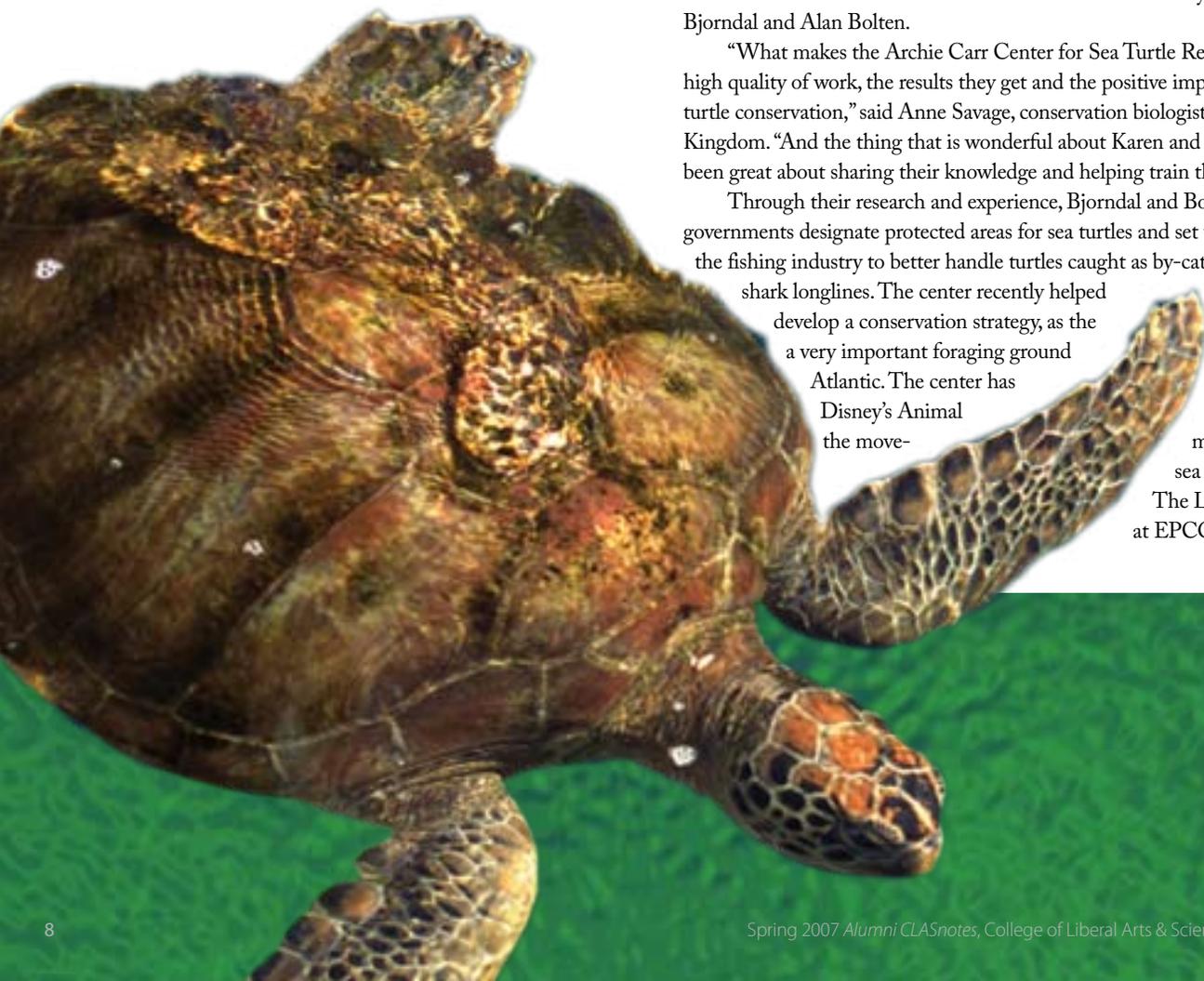
There is something about the sea turtle that captures the awe and imagination of humans. The Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research at the University of Florida is striving to secure the survival of these magnificent creatures through innovative research and education.

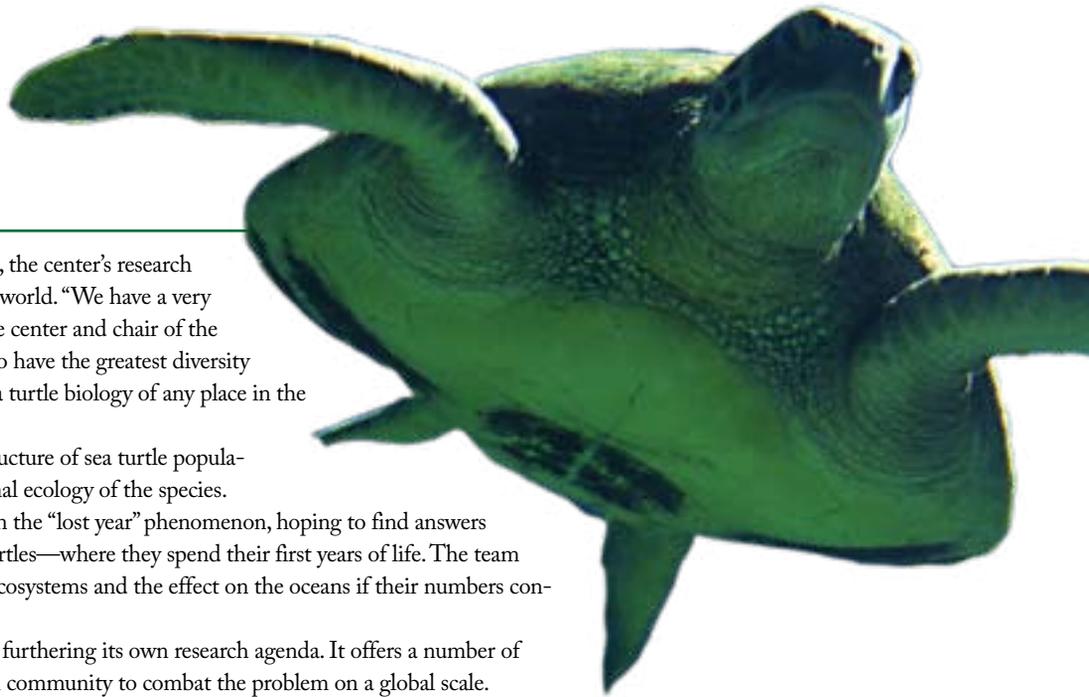
The CLAS center, which is housed in the Department of Zoology, was established in 1986 in memory of world-renowned UF sea turtle expert Archie Carr and brings together sea turtle biologists from across campus to conduct research, train students and further conservation efforts. The center is led by zoologists Karen Bjorndal and Alan Bolten.

“What makes the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research special is the high quality of work, the results they get and the positive impact they have on sea turtle conservation,” said Anne Savage, conservation biologist at Disney’s Animal Kingdom. “And the thing that is wonderful about Karen and Alan is that they have been great about sharing their knowledge and helping train the next generation.”

Through their research and experience, Bjorndal and Bolten have helped governments designate protected areas for sea turtles and set up guidelines for the fishing industry to better handle turtles caught as by-catch on swordfish and shark longlines. The center recently helped develop a conservation strategy, as the a very important foraging ground Atlantic. The center has Disney’s Animal the move-

The Bahamas islands serve as for turtles in the also worked with Kingdom to study ments of rehabilitated sea turtles released from The Living Seas aquarium at EPCOT back into the wild.





In addition to public outreach and education, the center's research initiatives are among the most diverse in the world. "We have a very broad program," said Bjorndal, director of the center and chair of the Department of Zoology. "We are fortunate to have the greatest diversity and concentration of researchers studying sea turtle biology of any place in the world."

Center researchers study the genetic structure of sea turtle populations, population dynamics, and the nutritional ecology of the species. Bjorndal and Bolten are currently working on the "lost year" phenomenon, hoping to find answers to one of the great mysteries involving sea turtles—where they spend their first years of life. The team is also looking at the role sea turtles play in ecosystems and the effect on the oceans if their numbers continue to decline.

But the center is not focused merely on furthering its own research agenda. It offers a number of resources to the entire sea turtle conservation community to combat the problem on a global scale. "We provide all of these resources as a service to the sea turtle research and conservation community because of our strong commitment to sea turtle conservation and the importance of international outreach," said Bjorndal. Resources include:

CTURTLE

A listserv discussion network aimed at improving communication among individuals around the world who are interested in sea turtle biology and conservation. The group currently has more than 1,200 subscribers in 60 countries.

Sea Turtle Online Bibliography

An online bibliography with more than 16,000 references on all aspects of sea turtle biology, conservation and management.

Turtle Tagging and Tracking

The center has developed the Cooperative Marine Turtle Tagging Program to centralize the process of distributing sea turtle tags, managing tagging data and exchanging tag information. The program is run in cooperation with the National Marine Fisheries Service Southeast Fisheries Science Center.

Marine Turtle DNA Sequence Patterns

To facilitate marine turtle population genetic studies, the center has established a website to coordinate the naming and cataloging of DNA sequence patterns.

Hematocrit and Plasma Biochemical Data

To monitor the physiological status of wild populations of sea turtles and ensure recovery of these threatened and endangered species, baseline hematocrit and blood biochemical reference intervals need to be established. The center collaborates on this project with the UF College of Veterinary Medicine, the St. Lucie Power Plant, the Marinelife Center of Juno Beach and the Clearwater Marine Aquarium. Data is presented on the web and updated regularly.

For more information on the Archie Carr Center for Sea Turtle Research, visit <http://accstr.ufl.edu/>.

—Buffy Lockette

"We are fortunate to have the greatest diversity and concentration of researchers studying sea turtle biology of any place in the world."

—Karen Bjorndal

following her heart

It is somehow fitting that Patricia O'Connor has become an accomplished professor of Romance languages. After all, she taught herself Spanish in middle school by listening to a Cuban radio station so she could communicate with cute Cuban boys at summer camp. But O'Connor would never let a guy take credit for her work, unlike Maria Martinez Sierra—the Spanish woman O'Connor discovered was responsible for writing most of the plays that made her husband, Gregorio, famous.

After earning a B.A. in 1953 and an M.A. in 1954 from UF in Romance languages and literatures, O'Connor decided to pursue a Ph.D. in the same subject and focus her dissertation on Spanish women dramatists. But when she informed her faculty advisor of her intentions, he told her there were no women dramatists in Spain and encouraged her to focus on the works of Gregorio Martinez Sierra, an important playwright whose scripts featured strong female leads. It was rumored in theater circles that Gregorio's wife, Maria—a well-known feminist elected to Parliament—had perhaps offered advice on the development of the female characters. Later, a discovery by O'Connor would turn this theory on its head.

"I began reading the plays, and the more I read, the more I thought they were not written by a guy," she said. "The critics of those days, all men, didn't share my position and cited some convincing circumstances: Gregorio had left Maria for a beautiful actress in his theater company who had made her reputation starring in those strong-women roles. No way, they said, would a feminist write for a cad like Gregorio, and she certainly wouldn't want to make his lover a star. But truth can be stranger than fiction, and I'm stubborn."

O'Connor completed her dissertation in 1962 on the portrayal of women in Gregorio's plays, but maintained a strong suspicion that Maria had been involved in the writing of them. O'Connor met a

niece of Maria's who suspected her aunt had written some of the female dialogue, but could never get a definitive answer from her aunt on the matter. Following Maria's death, a steamer trunk containing her belongs was shipped to the family in Madrid and O'Connor was invited to examine the unexplored contents.

"At the bottom of that trunk there were 144 letters from Gregorio that documented absolutely Maria's authorship," said O'Connor. "She had not been just an adviser, she was the author of most of the plays!"

With a discovery like this early in her career, it is not surprising that O'Connor has become a very successful academic. As the Charles Phelps Taft Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures of the University of Cincinnati, she specializes in contemporary Spanish theater and has authored 16 books—with another currently in press—and more than 100 research articles.

O'Connor is founding editor of *Estreno*, a journal that explores contemporary issues in theatre, and has been inducted into the Royal Spanish Academy of Language, the institution responsible for deciding the official orthodoxy of the Spanish language. The girl who originally learned Spanish so she could flirt with Cuban boys also learned French, Italian, Latin and Portuguese—and can even speak a little Russian. On February 3, she was one of seven CLAS graduates honored with an Outstanding Alumni Award (see page 15) and served as keynote speaker during a special luncheon held on campus.

"The major seeds of my career were sown right here," she told the audience. "I learned a lot about the man's world. When I arrived the student body was overwhelmingly male, and I had no female professors. As a graduate student in the M.A. and Ph.D. programs, I was one of only two women. But I wanted to think outside the box and not believe everything I was told—and my attitude was accepted, even encouraged. The university influenced my life in so many positive ways and helped make my professional work fun."

—Buffy Lockette

COURTESY PATRICIA O'CONNOR





picture THIS

If a picture is worth a thousand words, then Fred Ward could fill a library. The renowned photographer's images have graced the covers of *Time*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, and *National Geographic*. He has photographed everyone from Fidel Castro to Elizabeth Taylor. But the man who has chronicled the 20th century in photos started out as a teenage shutterbug mesmerized by the natural beauty of Florida.

"I began taking photos instantly, soon after I arrived in Florida," said Ward, who moved to Miami from Huntsville, Alabama at age 13. "My dad and I set up a dark-room in the kitchen so we could process and print the photos we took. I thought it was *absolute magic* watching an image form on paper."

Ward's debate teacher at Coral Gables High School, K. Werner Dickson, then sealed his fate. "Mr. Dickson did something unprecedented," said Ward. "He had a big 4x5 camera he had bought in Europe. He told me I needed something better than my point-and-shoot, so he gave me his camera for as long as I needed. I started taking photos for the school yearbook and newspaper. In the process, I became a photographer."

Dickson eventually gave

Ward the fancy Speed Graphic camera, which he put to good use. Ward worked his way through college at UF by snapping photos for the yearbook, the *Orange Peel*, and *The Independent Florida Alligator*. After earning a B.A. in political science in 1957 and an M.A. in journalism in 1959, Ward first tried his hand at TV production and then teaching at a community college—but neither fit. So in 1962 he became a freelance photographer for New York's Black Star agency and never looked back.

Among the many historical photos Ward has contributed to society, he captured some of the more famous ones early in his career while covering the Kennedy administration. He is responsible for the classic image of a pensive President Kennedy in his rocking chair taken in the Oval Office

two weeks before his death. And he took the famous *Life* magazine cover shot of Jackie Kennedy and children watching JFK's casket being moved from the White House following his assassination. Ward would also become one of the last to photograph Martin Luther King, Jr. alive, and once again, *Life* featured his portrait of King on the cover of the issue commemorating his death.

Ward then embarked on a 30-year career traveling the world as a freelance writer-photographer for *National Geographic*. He published a landmark story on the diamond industry in 1979, which was greeted so enthusiastically by readers that he turned it into a series on gemstones. Actress Elizabeth Taylor agreed to model her jewelry collection whenever Ward asked, and he found the star to be one of his most delightful subjects. "She was a pleasure to

work with—and the only person in my experience who never blinked when the flash went off!"

Intrigued by jewels, Ward began transforming the gem stories he had written for *National Geographic* into the Fred Ward Gem Book Series. Having published seven gem books, he is now working on an eighth, which features gems that exhibit optical phenomena, such as cat's eyes and stars.

Ward was honored by UF with a Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1985 and was named to the Hall of Fame of *The Independent Florida Alligator* in 2000. He is married to college sweetheart Charlotte Anne Mayes (B.S., English, 1958). They have raised four artistic children: music composer Christopher, actress Lolly, web and graphic artist David, and fashion designer Kim. They also have three grandchildren.

—Buffy Lockette

CLASmates



COURTESY MARK TROWBRIDGE

Bridging Business

It's common knowledge that a liberal arts degree can open the door to a number of fields. But how does a person with a degree in zoology make the jump from science to heading up the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce?

"My liberal arts degree at UF has given me the necessary tools to recruit and communicate with a diverse membership, work with our elected officials, forge partnerships and problem solve in our community," said Mark Trowbridge, who earned his B.S. in zoology in 1990. "I understand the value of my UF degree every single day as I work side-by-side with our business leaders to encourage commerce, build community and enhance our quality of life."

Trowbridge took over as president and CEO of the chamber in August. He had previously served as deputy executive director for business development for the Miami Parking Authority, where he was responsible for planning and managing capital construction projects and directing the agency's public relations and marketing strategies. He also holds a master's in education from UF and has been active in the South Florida community since moving to Coral Gables to become director of student activities at the University of Miami in 1992.

1980s

Dawn FitzGerald (B.S. & M.S., Psychology, 1987 & 1990) has been appointed CEO of QSource, a non-profit health-care consulting firm and the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization of Tennessee.

William S. Williams (B.A., Political Science, 1984) was recently appointed to the Board of Overseers of Stetson University's College of Law. He was also recognized as a Top Lawyer in the 2007 edition of *The South Florida Legal Guide* and is a partner at Lytal, Reiter, Clark, Fountain & Williams in West Palm Beach.

1990s

Marc Betinsky (B.S., Mathematics, 1995) resides in St. Paul, Minnesota and is working in his fourth appointment as a clerk for a federal judge.

Paul S. Comeau (B.A., Criminology, 1997) is operations manager for Martin Outdoor Media and is pursuing an MBA at Nova Southeastern University.

Juan Carlos Diaz (B.A., Political Science, 1991) was recently named vice president and relationship manager of commercial lending for Intercredit Bank. In September 2006, the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation honored him

as an outstanding professional for the South Florida market for his community involvement.

Jeffrey T. Donner (B.A., Political Science, 1996) recently established Donner Law Firm in Miami, concentrating in the areas of appellate, government, administrative and commercial litigation.

Edd Harrison, Jr. (B.A., History, 1995) is troop commander of the Second Stryker Regiment of the U.S. Army based in Vilseck, Germany.

Stuart J. Henderson (B.A., Japanese, 1993) is working as a Japanese translator for several businesses and is enrolled at Harvard University, where he is pursuing a master's degree in liberal arts.

Deborah J. Hooker (M.A., Latin American Studies, 1999) is a Cultural Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Maputo, Mozambique.

Steve Howell (B.A., Anthropology, 1993) has been an Army officer since 1994 and is an Afghanistan veteran. He received his master's degree in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College in 2006 and now serves with the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

He plans to spend a year in Iraq in the fall.

Gabriel A. Kotch (B.A., Political Science, 1999) is associate corporate counsel for a national real estate development company in Orlando.

Debbie Matisoff (B.A., Political Science, 1994) received her MPA from American University in 1996 and served in the Peace Corps in Lithuania from 1997-1999.

Nikitah O. Imani (M.A., Political Science, 1991; Ph.D., Sociology, 1995) serves as an associate professor of sociology at James Madison University. A poet, filmmaker, rapper and musician, he also runs his own entertainment company, Rea-life Multimedia Edutainment.

James Rose (B.S., Microbiology, 1994) is a liver disease specialist at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, where he serves as a transplant hepatologist.

Sean Simon (B.S., Psychology, 1994) opened a plastic surgery practice in July, having completed medical school at the University of Miami in 1999.

Eva Nowakowski Sims (B.S., Psychology, 1997) recently received a Ph.D. in social work

alumni bookshelf

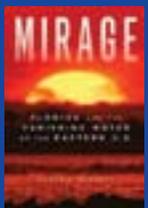
Beowulf: The Complete Story, Produced by Norman Gilliland, B.A. & M.A., English, 1971 & 1972. This audiobook offers a bold new interpretation of the oldest narrative poem in the English language. Dramatized by actors from Wisconsin Public Radio, the American Players Theater and Guthrie Theatre, the epic battles are brought to life in authentic Old English for this retelling of the classic masterpiece.



Beyond the Moon: A Conversational, Common Sense Guide to Understanding the Tides, James Greig McCully, B.A., English, 1962. The complexity of the tides is broken down into language everyone can understand, decoding the complexity of the tidal process by dissecting its many principles into witty and digestible prose. Recommended for all audiences—from science teacher to fisherman.



Mirage: Florida and the Vanishing Water of the Eastern U.S., Cynthia Barnett, M.A., History, 2003. Florida's parched swamps and sprawling subdivisions set the stage for an examination of the American East's water crisis. Investigative reporting and environmental history uncover how the eastern half of the nation has wasted its freshwater supply and is now facing problems once unique to the arid West.



from Barry University and is currently interviewing for faculty positions throughout the country.

2000s

Jill Bodgan (B.S., Chemistry, 2006) is a laboratory technician in the bioassay department of GEL Laboratories, LLC.

Jennifer Joy Campbell (B.A., English, 2006) is pursuing an M.S. in English education at Nova Southeastern University and teaches English and reading at Columbia High School in Lake City, Florida

Michael Deffenbaugh (B.S., Geography, 2004) is a professional land surveyor and project manager for Stroud Engineering in Wilmington, North Carolina.

David Feinman (B.A., Political Science, 2005) is a legislative correspondent for U.S. Rep. Robert Wexler, D-Boca Raton.

Matthew Fieldman (B.S., Psychology, 2000) was recently the distinguished 2006–2007 Roslyn Z. Wolf-Cleveland JDC International Fellowship, which he will use to serve as a management consultant to the Jewish community in St. Petersburg, Russia.

Aline Gubrium (Ph.D., Anthropology, 2005) has spent the past year as an assistant professor of comparative women's studies at Spellman College,

helping establish a health concentration. She is now an assistant professor in the School of Public Health at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Matthew R. Kelly (B.S., Computer Science, 2006) is a software developer at Blade Software in Gainesville.

Rian M. Kinney (B.A., English, 2004) is a law degree candidate at Nova Southeastern University.

Alexis Lambert (B.A., Spanish, 2000) served as the deputy finance director of the successful Bill McCollum for Attorney General campaign in 2006 and is an assistant attorney general in Tallahassee.

Kelly A. Mongiovi (B.A., Communication Sciences and Disorders, 2000) was awarded a Master of Education in student personnel and higher education from UF in May 2006. She is a counseling specialist at Santa Fe Community College in Gainesville.

Thomas A. Occhipinti (B.A., Sociology, 2004) is currently a Chef de Cuisine in the Islamorada islands in the Florida Keys.

Barbra Perlick (B.A., Sociology, 2001) is pursuing a master's degree in guidance counseling at Argosy University in Tampa.

Christine Portela (B.A., Spanish, 2004) is a digital media

producer at WTVJ-NBC6, the NBC affiliate in Miami.

Kristen Potter (B.A., Political Science, 2005) interned for U.S. Rep. Tom Feeney before earning an M.S. in business management from UF in 2006. She was recently named an account leader at Strategic Communications, a corporate communications firm in Jacksonville.

Eva Luz Rosales (B.A., French and Political Science, 2001) was recently named an administrator for the European Union's Cabinet of Humanitarian Assistance.

Michael A. Simon (B.S., Psychology, 1994) is a urologist in Weston, Florida.

Ally Taboada (B.A., Political Science, 2006) is a first-year law student at UF's Levin College of Law.

Jayne Truckenbrod (B.A., Spanish, 2002) graduates from medical school in May at the University of North Texas and will begin her residency in pediatrics.

David Winchester (B.S. & B.A., Microbiology and Sociology, 2000) earned an M.D. at the University of South Florida in 2005 and recently completed his residency at the University of Virginia. He is currently applying for fellowships in cardiology.



Sunny Forecast

CLAS alums from the 1990s may notice a familiar face the next time they click over to The Weather Channel to get the latest forecast. Meteorologist Stephanie Abrams, star of the series *Abrams & Bettes: Beyond the Forecast*, graduated from UF with a B.S. in geography in 1999. Ironically, co-host Mike Bettes is an alumnus of new rival Ohio State University.

"Mike and I made a bet," Abrams said. "If your team lost the national championship football game, then you had to wear the winning team's hat or shirt and do one of their chants live on the show. It was fun watching a Buckeye wear a Gator hat while chomping and singing *It's Great to be a Florida Gator* on national television. Our web producer also put it on our website, www.weather.com/ab, and it was one of our most popular clips!"

Abrams landed her job at The Weather Channel in 2003, having earned a meteorology degree from Florida State University one year earlier. She became unforgettable to millions of viewers during the record-breaking 2005 hurricane season, when she crossed her home state of Florida several times to cover three major storms. A year later she was given her own prime-time show, which premiered Sept. 25 as the first in the channel's 25-year history named after its personalities. It airs nightly at 8 p.m., EST.

send us your updates

Visit <http://clasnews.clas.ufl.edu/clasnotes/alumninotes/updates.html> and let us know what you are up to!

Monumental Ambivalence: The Politics of Heritage, Lisa C. Breglia, B.A., English, 1994; M.A., Religion, 1996.

This book investigates *heritage* as a realm where various private and public characters compete for the right to manage cultural possessions. Case studies of two archeological sites explore what happens when a multinational corporation, or even an indigenous village, owns a heritage site.



Rhythms of College Success: A Journey of Discovery, Change and Mastery, Steve Piscitelli, M.A., History, 1992. Through musical metaphors, *Rhythms* shows how respect, responsibility, reflection and renewal fuel student success. The instructor's manual includes two original songs, *End-of-the-Semester Blues* and *The Dot Commies*—addressing serious student issues in a humorous manner.



Sunshine in the Dark: Florida in the Movies, Susan J. Fernandez, Ph.D., History, 1987. Florida has been the location and subject of hundreds of feature films—from 1929's *Cocoanuts* to 2004's *Monster*. *Sunshine in the Dark* is a complete study of how the movie industry has immortalized Florida's scenery, characters and history, and the images and clichés that have captured the imagination.





head of the CLAS

Interim Dean Joe Glover may be new in his role as leader of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, but his relationship with CLAS dates back 25 years when he was first hired at UF as an assistant professor of mathematics. Since then, Glover has gone on to serve in the highest ranks of university administration, and he comes to the college having spent six years in Tigert Hall as associate provost for academic affairs.

A native of New York, Glover holds a B.A. from Cornell University and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of California, San Diego. He taught at the University of California, Berkeley and the University of Rochester before joining the UF faculty in 1982. His career accomplishments as a mathematician include two postdoctoral fellowships from the National Science Foundation and a mentoring award from the McKnight Foundation.

In 1993, Glover was named chair of the UF Department of Mathematics and found his true calling in higher education administration. He answered the next call in 1998 to become CLAS associate dean for faculty affairs. Just four years later he was tapped to serve among the university's top brass as associate provost for academic affairs, where his responsibilities included student

enrollment management and faculty tenure and promotion.

As an associate provost, Glover chaired the Task Force on the Future of the University of Florida, helped develop the university's current strategic plan, and represented UF on the executive board of the New World School of the Arts. For much of 2005, Glover was second in command of the university as interim provost and senior vice president.

Glover became interim dean of CLAS in January 2007, following the resignation of Dean Neil Sullivan who has returned to the Department of Physics to resume his career in teaching and research. Glover will oversee the college for the next year while a new permanent dean is recruited. To read a message from Dean Glover, see page 3.

Happy anniversary sociology! The UF Department of Sociology celebrated its 85th year of studying the development and structure of human societies on January 26 when faculty, alumni and students gathered at Gainesville's Savannah Grand to commemorate the department's long history at the university.

Opening its doors in 1921, the department was first combined with economics under the administration of Lucius Bristol, the first sociology chair. Just five years later, it branched off to become an independent entity. The department awarded its first master's degree as early as the 1930s, and by the 1950s created its Ph.D. program.

As the years progressed and reputation began to build, so too did noteworthy achievements. Two UF sociologists have served as president of the American Sociological Association, while others have held terms as president of the South-

ern Sociological Study, the National Council on Family Relations and the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

With these notable personas also came two UF buildings named after sociologists. The Beaty Towers are named in memory of Robert Calder Beaty, former UF dean of student personnel and professor of sociology. The newly restored Women's Gym has also been renamed in honor of Kathryn Chicone Ustler, a UF sociology graduate of the class of 1961.

As the department moves into its 86th year,

Sociology Celebrates 85 Years

it continues to grow both nationally and internationally. Areas of specialization include family and gender, aging and the life course, environment and resources, and race and ethnic relations.

"I hope that we continue to be a multifaceted department," said Chair Connie Shehan, "I believe we are going to become more international and bring even more research into the area of sociology, which already has reached such amazing goals."

—Karina Chavarria

in memory

Father of UF Chemistry Dies at Age 89

Distinguished Service Professor Harry Hall Sisler died on December 23 at age 89. During his 29-year career with the university he served in many leadership roles, including dean of CLAS, chair of the chemistry department, dean of the Graduate School and executive vice president of the university under President Stephen C. O'Connell.

Despite his varied experience in university administration, Sisler never lost sight of what mattered most—the students. He told *Alumni CLASnotes* in 2003, “The most important aspect of the university is the student body, from the undergraduate to graduate level, and what all administrators should understand is their job at the top is to allow the students and faculty to be able to perform their functions.”

Sisler retired in 1985 but continued to be an active part of the UF chemistry community until his death. “Harry Sisler was widely regarded as the ‘father’ of the modern UF Department of Chemistry,” said chemistry professor and former chair David Richardson. “Much of our current success as a department in research and teaching can be traced to the standards he set 50 years ago.”

outstanding alumni

The fifth annual CLAS Outstanding Alumni Awards were presented on February 3 during a special luncheon at Emerson Alumni Hall. Established in 2002, the award recognizes the achievements and contributions of some of the most successful alumni from the university's largest college. This year's recipients include (from left to right): **J. David Leander** (Ph.D., Psychology, 1971), head of Skagit Neuropharm Consulting and a retired researcher for Eli Lilly and Company; **Albert C. O'Neill** (B.A., Political Science, 1962), founding partner of Tampa law firm Trenam, Kemker, Scharf, Barkin, Frye, O'Neill and Mullis; **Frank A. Catlett** (B.A., Geography, 1973), president of Tampa real estate appraisal and consulting firm Trigg, Catlett & Associates; **Patricia W. O'Connor** (B.A., M.A. and Ph.D., Romance Languages and Literatures, 1953, 1954 and 1962), the Charles Phelps Taft Professor of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Cincinnati; **John W. Sheets, Jr.** (B.S., M.S. and Ph.D., Zoology, 1975, 1979 and 1983), worldwide vice president of research and development and chief technology officer for Johnson & Johnson medical supply company ETHICON; **Edwin W. Hickey** (M.S., Geological Studies, 1976), founder of Miami construction company HJ Foundation, Inc. Not pictured: **Nora C. England** (M.A. and Ph.D., Anthropology and Linguistics, 1971 and 1975), a professor of linguistics and director of the Center for Indigenous Languages of Latin America at the University of Texas.

L-R: J. David Leander, Albert C. O'Neill, Frank A. Catlett, Patricia W. O'Connor, John W. Sheets and Edwin W. Hickey



star struck

What do Emmitt Smith, Bob Vila, Faye Dunaway and a burning ball of gas located 45,000 light years from Earth have in common? They are all “Gator stars.” The newest illustrious figure on the list, LBV 1806-20, is a fiery behemoth five times brighter than the sun which was discovered by UF Astronomy Professor Stephen Eikenberry in 2004. As the biggest and brightest star in the universe yet known to science, the star was added to the *Guinness Book of World Records* this January. The previous record was held by Pistol Star, which was discovered in 1997 by Don Figer of Baltimore’s Space Telescope Science Institute. Eikenberry and the star will appear in the 2008 edition of the *Guinness* book series.

The Sun

a year in logic

In the field of mathematics, logic has entered a new phase of increased applications with other parts of math. On May 5–11, the UF Department of Mathematics will draw to a close its Special Year in Logic—a series of activities devoted to opening new lines of communication between the area of logic with the rest of the mathematical sciences—with the International Conference on Set Theory of the Reals. The event is free and open to the public.

Throughout the 2006–2007 academic year, the math, philosophy and computer and information science

departments have held weekly talks spanning a wide variety of topics in logic. Math has also hosted five major conferences, including the 2007 annual meeting of the Association for Symbolic Logic, funded by a grant from the National Science Foundation.

Mathematics Chair Krishnaswami Alladi said the Special Year in Logic is the sixth and final installment of a series of themed annual events focusing on different areas of interest in the field.

“The department has several internationally recognized research groups and the topics for each of

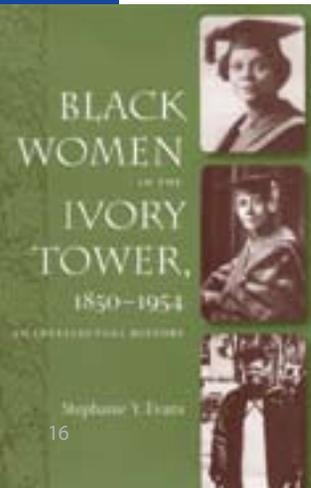
the special years were based on the areas of our strengths and traditions,” he said. “Each special year featured international conferences on the latest advances, training workshops for students and young researchers, and lectures throughout the year by eminent researchers. The special year program has invigorated the research atmosphere in the department, brought us increased visibility and recognition, and helped in the placement of our graduate students.”

For more information on the Special Year in Logic, visit www.math.ufl.edu/~jal/logicyear/.

Trailblazers in U.S. Education

As the first complete educational and intellectual history of black women in the U.S., *Black Women in the Ivory Tower 1850–1954* chronicles the stories of the first black American women to gain access to higher education. Written by first-generation college graduate Stephanie Y. Evans, an assistant professor of women’s studies and African American studies at UF, this important new book reveals how women like Anna Julia Cooper—who was born enslaved but went on to earn a doctoral degree—fought for the right to attend college against great odds and ultimately changed the face of American education.

University Press of Florida, 2007



religion in the new south



From its sweet peach cobbles to its enthusiasm for major league baseball, Atlanta is often thought of as an all-American city. But a sudden boom in Latin immigrants in the past two decades, particularly since hosting the 1996 Summer Olympics, is spicing up the city's distinctly Southern flavor.

With a growth rate of 995 percent, Atlanta has the fastest growing Latino population among the nation's 20 largest metro areas according to the U.S. Census Bureau. A new \$450,000 grant from the Ford Foundation will allow UF researchers to explore the role religion plays in shaping the lives of these immigrants.

"Since nontraditional destinations like Atlanta have few pre-established immigrant networks, religious organizations are crucial to the adaptation, survival and well-being of new immigrants," said Political Science Professor and Chair Phillip J. Williams. "When Latinos are able to form new churches or join pre-existing ones, they begin to join the community."

Williams and Associate Professor of Religion Manuel Vasquez will spend the next three years studying how religion and culture have a hand in generating, mediating and resolving inter-group conflicts. They are especially interested in identifying whether religious and civic organizations have been successful in bridging divisions and fostering under-

standing across cultural and racial lines.

The new study builds on the team's previous research in South Florida, where they examined the migration experiences and religious lives of Guatemalans, Mexicans and Brazilians—discovering that changes in the U.S. immigration climate following Sept. 11, coupled with their own economic and social vulnerability, has made it difficult for these immigrants to sustain strong transnational ties.

"The key challenge facing Latino immigrants seems to have shifted to securing their survival in the United States in what has become an increasingly hostile environment," Williams said. "In response, we would like to explore how Atlanta's Euro-Americans, as the dominant majority, and African-Americans, as the settled internal minority, see Latino immigrants and how Latino immigrants respond to these perceptions with their own forms of self-identification."

Williams hopes the new findings will provide alternative ways to frame the national discussion on immigration.

—Buffy Lockette

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Camp counselor Amy Metzger and Jayce Lee raft on Lake Crystal, one of three lakes surrounding the remote Montgomery Conference Center near Keystone Heights, Fla. In addition to water sports, crafts and games, campers receive the equivalent of 40 private speech lessons during the four-day experience tailored for children with cleft lip and palate.

camping **out**

summer camp gives voice to kids

Virginia Dixon-Wood is a board-certified speech pathologist, respected college instructor and clinical researcher. She can also lead a hearty round of *Kumbayah* as director of a summer camp for children with speech disorders.

The UF Craniofacial Speech Camp provides intensive speech therapy to kids ages 5-13 with congenital craniofacial anomalies, including cleft lip and palate. Held in rural North Central Florida, outside of Keystone Heights, the lake-side retreat also offers children a classic camp experience, with swimming, boating, archery, arts and crafts, and nature hikes.

Dixon-Wood opened the camp in 2003, frustrated with the lack of progress she was seeing in her patients at the UF Craniofacial Clinic. “The majority of children who come to the UF diagnostic center live over a hundred miles away,” she said. “They don’t have speech pathologists who know how to treat them and they don’t get enough therapy time in public schools.”

To bridge the gap, Dixon-Wood created a four-day overnight camp where children can have fun with new friends while receiving a

minimum of 20 hours of treatment, equivalent to 40 private speech sessions. Each camper suffers from congenital craniofacial anomalies, which occur in one of every 500 births and lead to severe speech disorders due to late diagnosis, poor or ineffective treatment and education, and inadequate follow-up by caregivers.

Once at the speech camp, Dixon-Wood’s team evaluates how each child makes certain sounds and develops an individualized plan for them to follow. The children go through individual therapy to see if they are capable of making new sounds, then interact in a group setting with other campers where they practice what they’ve learned while playing cards and board games.

“It is more than speech therapy,” said Tammy Lee, mother of 8-year-old Jayce who has attended the camp for the past two summers. “It also builds their self esteem to meet

and bond with other kids who are having the same problems.”

Speech pathologists from around the state make referrals to the camp and children seen at the UF Craniofacial Clinic are also selected for treatment. In addition to providing direct speech therapy services to Florida children, the camp also serves as a training program for UF graduate and undergraduate students.

Future plans include offering camps in additional areas around the state to help more children and train speech pathologists from rural areas where service availability is limited. “The best thing would be a camp in the Panhandle and in South Florida, keeping them small so we can continue to take a personal approach,” Dixon-Wood said. For more information, visit www.cleftspeech.com.

—Heather Read

CLASact

William Herbstman (B.A., Political Science, 1983)

Throughout his 28-year career, sports producer William Herbstman has collected 7 Emmy Awards and covered almost every major sporting event in the world. From the Kentucky Derby to the Super Bowl, he has worked more than 2,000 shows and flown over 2 million miles around the globe—but one of his favorites places continues to be the UF campus.

ACn: What does an associate director of sports production do and how did you tap into this field?

WH: I am the person responsible for integrating all the commercials and sponsored items. If you have ever seen a TV control room, I'm the one with all the stopwatches counting down to and back from commercial. I started out as a gopher for ABC Sports as a high school senior in Miami in 1979 and have been doing it ever since.

ACn: Which sporting genre do you enjoy the most?

WH: My favorite event to cover is the Olympic Games, because you are on site for a month and really get to understand and experience the city and its people.

ACn: What are some of your favorite memories of your time at UF?

WH: Watching movies on the Reitz Union lawn, eating at Skeeters in the middle of the night (loved those big biscuits!), going to basketball games at the Florida Gym just before the O'Connell Center was built, and realizing that it really does get cold in Gainesville in January and February.

ACn: What do you think about this spectacular year for Gator athletics?

WH: Following our football team's huge win back in January, I was proud to wear my Gator football jersey the next day for a 30-hour trip to Melbourne for the Australian Open—explaining to others from around the world how wonderful and powerful is the Gator Nation. I have never had the opportunity to cover Gator sports in recent years, but hopefully someone is listening out there and will send me to Gainesville for an event in the next year.

ACn: What impact did UF make on your life?

WH: Making the decision to go to UF was one of the easiest I have ever made. It is a great school, with outstanding professors and administrators, an incredible student body and a beautiful campus. I have always been proud to be a Florida Gator and will until the day I pass on. The Gator Nation lives on in me as I travel the globe documenting the world of sports.



mark your calendar!

Tibet: Mountains and Valleys, Castles and Tents at the Florida Museum of Natural History
Runs Through May 28
www.flmnh.ufl.edu/tibet

Summer Holocaust Institute for Florida Teachers
June 11–15
www.jst.ufl.edu/shift.shtml

The Producers at the UF Center for the Performing Arts
June 29–July 1
www.performingarts.ufl.edu/perf.producers.asp

From Dürer to Renoir: European Prints from the Harn Museum Collection
July 17, 2007–January 6, 2008
www.harn.ufl.edu

Gator Football Takes On Western Kentucky in Season Opener
September 1
www.gatorzone.com

UF Homecoming and CLAS Outstanding Alumni Brunch
November 3
www.clas.ufl.edu/alumni.html

Florida Experimental Film/Video Festival
November 8–10
www.flexfest.org

Imaging the Unimaginable: The Iconicization of Auschwitz
November 11–12
www.jst.ufl.edu/events.shtml

Grand Guard Reunion, Celebrating the Class of 1957
November 15–17
www.ufalumni.ufl.edu/events/

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