

CLASnotes

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
SPRING 2010



inside the mind of
man's best friend

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UF UNIVERSITY of
FLORIDA

CLASact

Peter Posada

PETER POSADA (Political Science and Spanish, CLAS; Economics, Warrington College of Business Administration) always wondered about his father's childhood in Cuba and what life was like for his grandmother when she attended the University of Havana in the 1940s. After studying abroad the past two summers in Mexico and Peru, Posada decided to take the plunge and study this semester abroad in Cuba.

"Nothing in a classroom in the States can really prepare you for Cuba," he said. However, he added, "I would say that I was probably as prepared as I could have been by the cultural aspects highlighted in my Spanish and Political Science classes."

To read the full story written by Peter Posada, visit www.clas.ufl.edu/alumni/alumninotes/10spring/posada.html



COURTESY PETER POSADA

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

About CLAS

The College of Liberal Arts & 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 35 majors and 45 minors. Additionally, nearly 2,000 graduate students are attaining advanced degrees in the college.

About CLASnotes

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Dean

Paul D'Anieri

CLAS Communications & Outreach

Margaret Fields, Editor
Jane Dominguez, Designer
Jeff Stevens, Web Master
David Saenz, Intern
Aubrey Siegel, Intern

CLAS Development & Alumni Affairs

Zoë Seale, Senior Director
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Norman Portillo, Director
Christy Popwell, Associate Director
Melissa Tyrone, Associate Director

on the COVER

Psychology Professor Clive Wynne, author of *Do Animals Think?*, explores canine intelligence.

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Rover's No Rocket Scientist

(he's just very well adapted)

We've all seen the bumper stickers proclaiming, "My dog is smarter than your honors student." We've seen bomb-sniffing dogs in action. We've heard stories about dogs alerting their owners to a seizure or heart attack before it happens. But, what sort of intelligence do dogs actually possess?

"I love those bumper stickers because I think everyone instantly recognizes that there must be something wrong here: the intelligence of a dog cannot be compared to the intelligence of a child," said Clive Wynne, UF associate professor of psychology. Wynne has been conducting research in canine cognition and has authored a book in the field titled *Do Animals Think?* "And, that's a theme that is close to my heart: intelligence isn't a quantity, like temperature, that different species have more or less of, it's something that differs qualitatively between species."

Canine cognition has appeared in the news recently, featured in articles in the *New York Times*, the *St. Petersburg Times* and the *New York Post*, to name a few. And small wonder—with 75 million dogs in the United States, the equivalent of 40 percent of American households own a dog, many more than have children.

"My impression is that we know far less about dogs than about children," Wynne said. "So it doesn't surprise me that whenever we or another research group have a result, the public wants to know about it."

Wynne and his research team are currently conducting several different experiments to study cognition and the sociability of dogs and whether or not their sociability changes over time. These tests involve looking both at domesticated canines

and wolves to note differences between the groups; Wynne visits with wolves several times a year for his research.

"Wolves have intensity and focus that I find lacking in dogs," Wynne said. "My ideal would be to live someplace where I could visit with wolves on a daily basis."

One experiment involves testing the use of clickers, a popular form of dog training, and whether or not it has an impact on accelerating learned responses. Another experiment investigates how easily a dog can learn to go to the opposite location to where a human points.

"We have found that dogs are very resistant to the idea of going where the human is not pointing," Wynne said. "Wolves are more willing to do this."

Wynne's team is also studying the ability of dogs and wolves to look at people's eyes, a concept called "eye gaze," to track whether dogs can understand when a person can or cannot see them. In the experiment, a dog receives a treat if the person can see them. The research has shown that a dog's response is based on how the person's vision is obscured. If the person's back is turned or they have a book in front of their face, the dog will not ask for a treat. However, if the person's face is covered in a bucket, the dog fails to understand that this means they cannot see them and asks for a treat.

"The argument has been made that dogs are more willing to look at people's eyes than wolves are," Wynne said. "We haven't tested wolves for this yet, but we doubt the claimed difference between wolves and dogs will stand up to systematic test."

"Aside from the intrinsic interest in the research itself—which is always new, because you never really know what is going to happen—I like seeing how owners respond to their dog's performance," Wynne said.

Owners sometime bring two dogs to the studies, convinced that one is smarter than the other. However, Wynne and his team often find that the results of their tests are the opposite of what the owner expects.

Wynne and his graduate student Monique Udell first delved into canine cognition after reading about the minds of apes, chimps, orangutans, and gorillas, our closest animal relatives. A research project started by European scientists 10 years ago applied cognition tests that have been used to measure cognition of apes to dogs, and found that the dogs responded better to many of those tests.

"Actually their thinking is not all that similar to ours—and the human relationship with apes is slight," he said.

Wynne was born on the Isle of Wight, a small island off the south coast of England. He did his undergraduate studies in Human



Sciences at University College London. He then received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Edinburgh.

“I learned a lot in Edinburgh,” Wynne said, “but I rate my experiences as a post-doc as even more important to my development as a scientist.”

As a post-doctoral student, he worked under Juan Delius in Germany and John Staddon at Duke. Delius had studied under Niko Tinbergen, the most important European figure in the study of animals in their natural environment; Staddon had

studied at behaviorist B. F. Skinner’s lab at Harvard. “I had the good fortune to have mentors in both the North American and European traditions of studying animal behavior and I consider that plurality to be one of my strengths,” Wynne said.

Since moving to the United States, Wynne has not owned any dogs. However, he enjoys the day-to-day benefits of seeing his subjects’ interactions.

“Dogs bring a lot of pleasure to a lot of people, and probably provide some health benefits,” Wynne said. “I would like

to contribute to maximizing the upside and minimizing the downside of dog keeping.”

Wynne hopes his research will help people learn more about how dogs react to humans. This may lead to the prevention of dog attacks, especially on children.

“I have contemplated working directly on what factors precipitate dog attacks, but this would be rather dangerous research,” Wynne said, “so, I’m sticking to basic factors about dogs’ reactions to people.”

—Aubrey Siegel

an exchange of CULTURES



ESPARTA PALMA

Each year, a group of about 25 students study at one of the oldest universities in Mexico through the UF in Merida program during Summer B—late June through early August.

However, the relationship goes much farther than just a study abroad program.

Twenty-five years ago, the University of Florida and the Universidades Autonomas de Yucatan (UADY) signed an agreement that has greatly benefited both universities.

What began as a relationship between the anthropology departments now encompasses many other fields including: education, medicine, dentistry, animal husbandry, and veterinary medicine.

As a result of this agreement, UF and UADY have been awarded collaborative grants, such as the McArthur grant. Under this grant, the Center for Latin American Studies developed a Master of Arts program in development studies in Latin America and Africa. UADY is the partner institution in Latin America under a 25-year agreement.

“These 25 years of cooperation have served the students and teachers, enriched their knowledge, and broadened their vision, but above all, found friends and partners,” said UADY Director Alfredo Dajer Abimerhi in a news release.

Allan Burns, UF professor of anthropology and chair



Allan Burns with the students of the UF in Merida program visit a Mayan archeological site in the Yucatan.

"I thought the program was beyond astounding. Not only did we experience learning in a Mexican University where we could interact with local students, but we also got to explore the city in our afternoons and familiarize ourselves with the bus systems (a major mode of transport) and normal activities of the locals. On the weekends we went on excursions to other areas in almost every direction away from the city of Merida. The program allowed us to take advantage of every moment of our trip. I can't think of a better way it could have been planned."

—Meagan Kovacs

2009 UF in Merida Program Participant & Lombardi Scholar
Neurobiological Sciences Major, Music Theory Minor

of the Department of Anthropology, is credited with being a driving force in establishing this relationship.

"Burns is a professional who is committed to the Mayan culture and who has persuaded more than 1,000 students to stay in UADY," Abimerhi said.

The original agreement was signed in 1984 by Salvador Rodriguez Losa, director of UADY School of Anthropological Sciences; Alicia Gonzalez G. Canton, director of UADY's Language Center; and Allan Burns, chair of UF's Department of Anthropology.

Since that original agreement, Burns has carried out research and developed student exchange programs not only in Mexico, but also in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, and Belize.

"I remember the first group of students very well," said Burns. "One day during the program, I saw their picture in the Merida newspaper. They were outside of the U.S. consulate protesting U.S. military involvement in Central America!"

According to Burns, about half the students that go to UADY on the UF in Merida program study anthropology or environmental studies and about one-third are incoming Lombardi Scholars. Part of the Lombardi Scholars Program is summer-enrichment programs.

Burns' interest in Mexican culture began when he was young. He grew up in Chicago in a Mexican immigrant community. As a graduate student, he spent several years of his fieldwork among the Mayan people in Mexico on a Fulbright Hays fellowship.

"The friends I made there are still among the closest I've had in my life," he said.

He lived in a Mayan community for two years while learning the contemporary language. He has lived in communities and cities all over the Yucatan including, Señor, Quintana Roo, Ticul, and Merida.

"I can't think of anything I don't like about the Yucatan," he said. "It is quite hot during the summer, but like Yucatecan people jokingly say, 'the climate is wonderful if you don't think about the heat!'"

Burns and the students who have been immersed in the

Yucatan culture have been impressed with the people and families of the Yucatan.

"What I like most is the openness and friendship of the people there, and their spirit of creativity and innovation," Burns said.

Students of the UF in Merida program are housed with host families in the region.

"The students in the program are always surprised and impressed at the lengths to which the families go to make them comfortable in their homes and to go out of their way to take them to family events such as trips to the beach, family parties, (and) events in the city," he said.

Some students regularly e-mail Burns about how their lives have changed as a result of the program.

"About six or seven students have found Yucatan so interesting, that they have married people they met while in Mexico," Burns said.

The benefits of the program go both ways, enriching the experience of both the students and teachers.

Educator Alicia Peon Arceo, a native of Merida, Mexico, gave several lectures for the program on the history of the Yucatan and ethnography of the Mayan area.

"Burns' enthusiasm for UF and love for the program and Mexico inspired me to be part of the UF-UADY relationship," Arceo said. "During the program, he not only constantly shares

all his knowledge on Mexico and the Yucatan, but also his enthusiasm and good humor."

As a teacher, she was able to see how both UF and UADY students benefited from the partnership.

"The program opens a new window in their lives since they have to experience a new culture day to night," Arceo said. "(And) since I am from the Yucatan, my interaction with UF students helped me to have a better understanding of U.S. culture and student life."

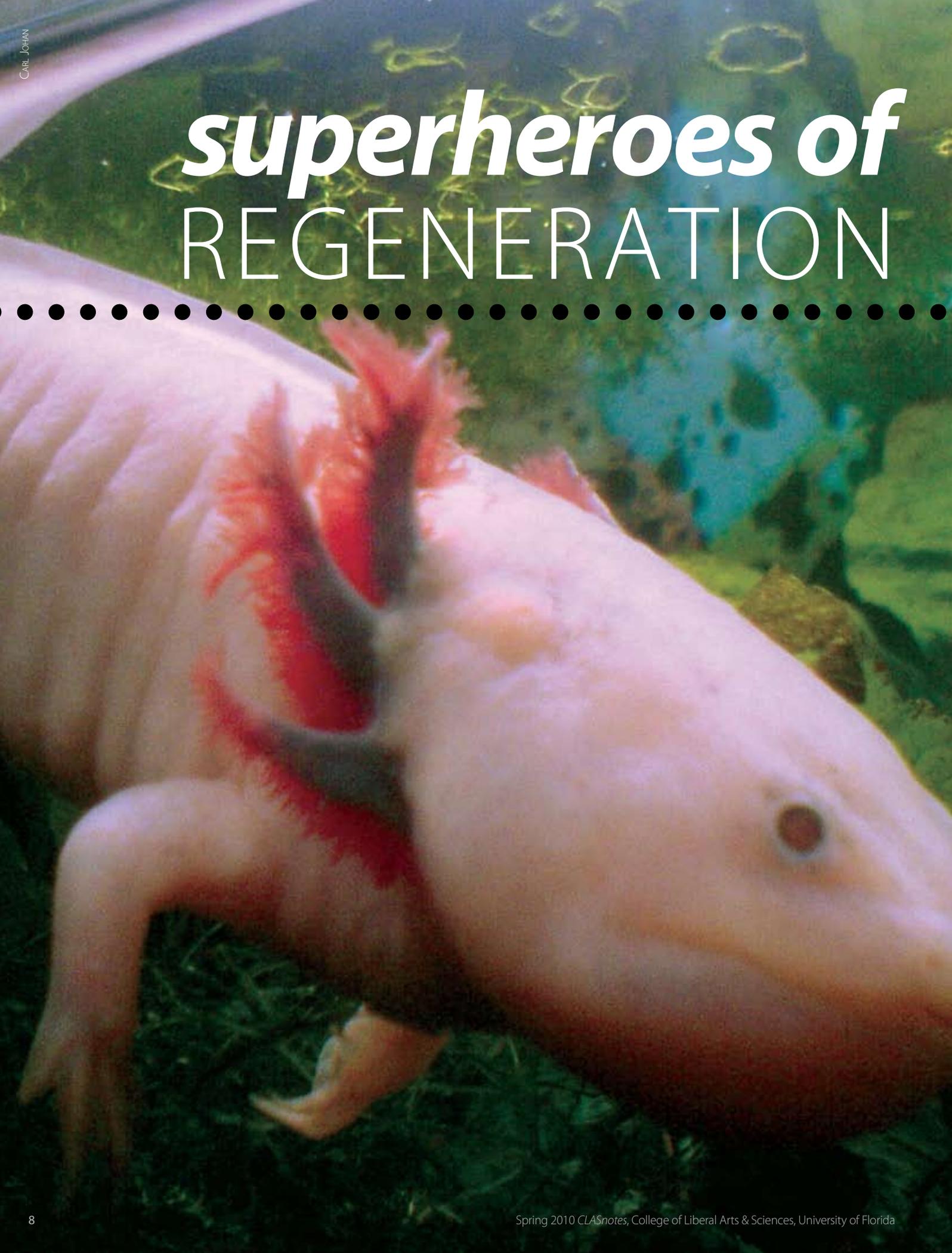
Aside from student experiences, both universities have collaborated on science research. For example, Mark Brenner of UF was a lead author on an article showing the collapse of classic Mayan society was brought about by a 200-year drought in the Yucatan peninsula. In addition, Professor Guillermo de Anda of UADY, has done work that is reshaping archeological knowledge of the ancient Maya with his discoveries of structures in underground rivers and lakes.

And, all of this has been done through collaborations between the universities.

Abimerhi, UADY director, said, "I have no doubt that the collaboration agreement with the University of Florida is one of the most successful and dynamic, with beneficial results for sciences and education."

—Aubrey Siegel

superheroes of REGENERATION





Salamanders: able to replace lost limbs, damaged lungs, sliced spinal cord—even bits of lopped-off brain. But it turns out that this remarkable ability isn't so mysterious after all—suggesting that researchers could learn how to replicate it in people.

Scientists had long credited the diminutive amphibian's outsized capabilities to “pluripotent” cells that, like human embryonic stem cells, have the uncanny ability to morph into whatever appendage, organ or tissue is needed or is due for a replacement.

But in a paper published in the journal *Nature*, a team of seven researchers, including a University of Florida zoologist, debunks that notion. Based on experiments on genetically modified axolotl salamanders, the researchers show that cells from the salamander's different tissues retain the “memory” of those tissues when they regenerate, contributing with few exceptions only to the same type of tissue from whence they came.

Standard mammal stem cells operate the same way, albeit with far less dramatic results—they can heal wounds or knit bone together, but not regenerate a limb or rebuild a spinal cord. What's exciting about the new findings is they suggest that harnessing the salamander's regenerative wonders is at least within the realm of possibility for human medical science.

“I think it's more mammal-like than was ever expected,” said Malcolm Maden, a professor of biology, member of the UF Genetics Institute, and author of the paper. “It gives you more hope for being able to someday regenerate individual tissues in people.”

Also, the salamanders heal perfectly, without any scars whatsoever, another ability people would like to learn how to mimic, Maden said.

Axolotl salamanders, originally native to only one lake in central Mexico, are evolutionary oddities that become sexually reproducing adults while still in their larval stage. They are useful scientific models for studying regeneration because, unlike other salamanders, they can be bred in captivity and have large embryos that are easy to work on.

When an axolotl loses, for example, a leg, a small bump forms over the injury called a blastema. It takes only about three weeks for this blastema to transform into a new, fully functioning replacement leg—not long considering the animals can live 12 or more years.

The cells within the blastema appear embryonic-like and originate from all tissues around the injury, including the cartilage, skin, and muscle. As a result, scientists had long believed these cells were pluripotential — meaning they came from a variety of sites and could make a variety of

things once functioning in their regenerative mode.

Maden and his colleagues at two German institutions tested that assumption using a tool from the transgenic kit: the GFP protein. When produced by genetically modified cells, GFP proteins have the useful quality of glowing livid green under ultraviolet light. This allows researchers to follow the origin, movement, and destination of the genetically modified cells.

The researchers experimented on both adult and embryonic salamanders.

With the embryos, the scientists grafted transgenic tissue onto sites already known to develop into certain body parts, then observed how and where the cells organized themselves as the embryo developed. This approach allowed them to see, literally, what tissues the transgenic tissue made. In perhaps the most vivid result, the researchers grafted GFP-modified nerve cells onto the part of the embryo known to develop into the nervous system. Once the creatures developed, ultraviolet light exams of the adults revealed the GFP cells stretched only along nerve pathways — like glowing green strings throughout the body

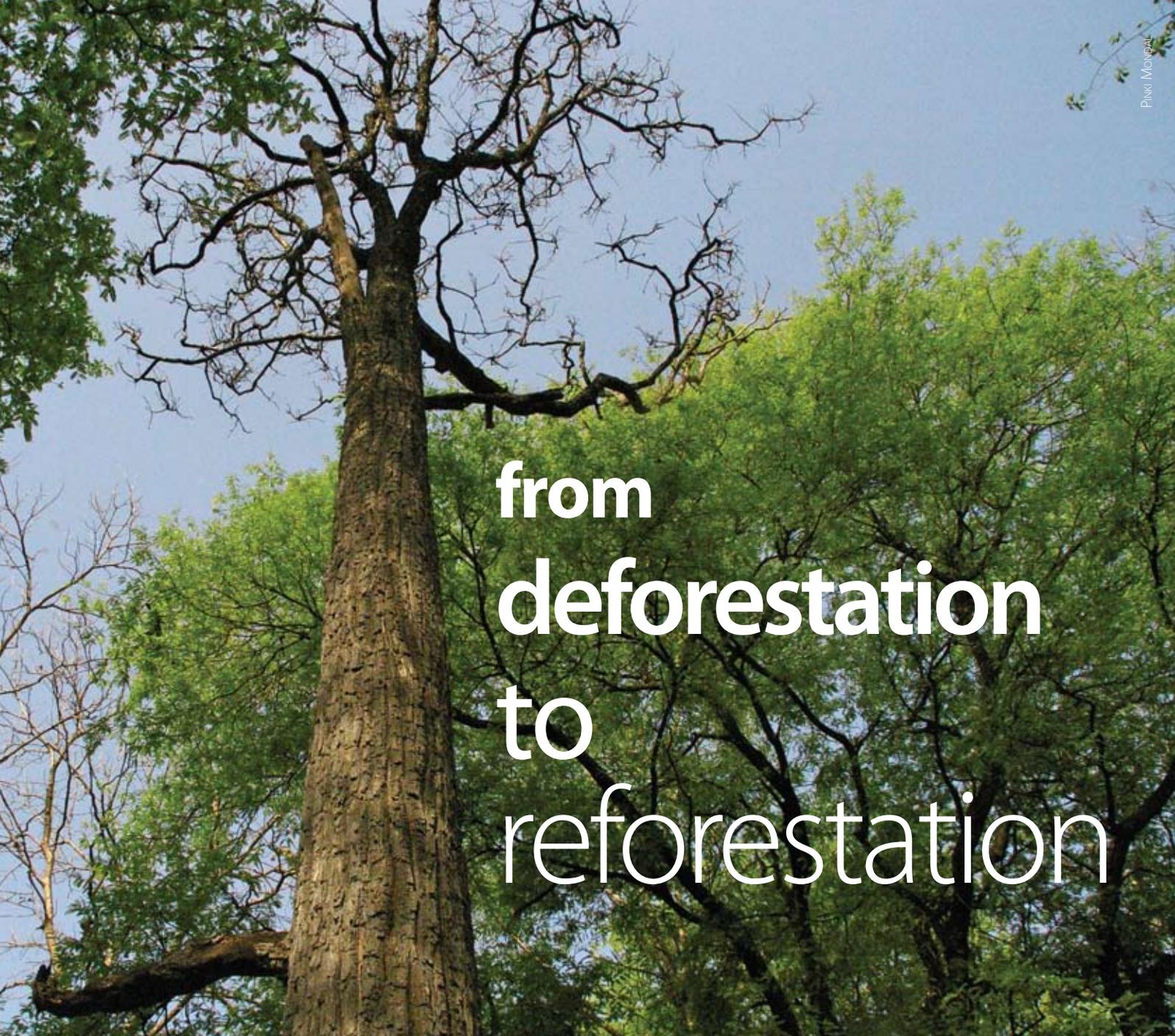
With the adults, they took tissue from specific parts or organs from transgenic GFP-producing axolotls, grafted it onto normal axolotls, then cut away a chunk of the grafted tissue to allow regeneration. They could then determine the fate of the grafted green cells in the emerging blastema and replacement tissue.

The researchers' main conclusion: Only ‘old’ muscle cells make ‘new’ muscle cells, only old skin cells make new skin cells, only old nerve cells make new nerve cells, and so on. The only hint that the axolotl cells could revamp their function came with skin and cartilage cells, which in some circumstances seemed to swap roles, Maden said.

Maden said the findings will help researchers zero in on why salamander cells are capable of such remarkable regeneration. “If you can understand how they regenerate, then you ought to be able to understand why mammals don't regenerate,” he said.

Maden said UF researchers will soon begin raising and experimenting on transgenic axolotls at UF as part of the Regeneration Project, an effort to treat human brain and other diseases by examining regeneration in salamanders, newts, starfish, and flatworms.

—Aaron Hoover



from deforestation to reforestation

A UF doctoral student's research project in an environmental park in India could mean big things for tigers in that area.

Pinki Mondal, a pre-doctoral fellow in the UF Department of Geography researched forest cover in and around the Pench Tiger Reserve-Maharashtra in central India and found a promising increase in forest cover.

Much research has been done on global deforestation trends and its implication on climate change and species extinction; however, no research had been done on the changing landscape dynamics of the Pench Tiger Reserve-Maharashtra.

The Pench Tiger Reserve-Maharashtra became a national park in 1975 and was declared a tiger reserve in 1999.

"Regular monitoring of these parks is

needed," Mondal said, adding, "particularly in developing countries with high human population density because parks are often threatened with encroachment, ineffective management, and lack of financial aids."

It is essential for tigers to have adequate habitat and forest cover. The Pench Tiger Reserve-Maharashtra is only 257 square kilometers, or about 100 square miles, which is a relatively small area to hold a sustainable tiger population. The forest cover within the park is adequate as it is strictly protected, but more forest cover in the surrounding areas is necessary for continued viability of the tiger population.

"It is not possible to bring all

"It is not possible to bring all the surrounding areas under protection because of high human population, so it is critical how surrounding areas are being managed ... clearing in the surrounding areas will make the park more and more isolated."

—Pinki Mondal

the surrounding areas under protection because of high human population," Mondal said. "So, it is critical how surrounding areas are being managed ... clearing in the surrounding areas will make the park more and more isolated."

Changes in government policies and World Bank-funded projects have encouraged planting in the surrounding areas, which is good news for the tiger population.

"So, we can be hopeful that connectivity of this park with other forested tracts, essential to hold a viable tiger population, would be retained and improved over time," Mondal said.

Mondal chose to work with the Pench Tiger Reserve-Maharashtra after a suggestion from Harini Nagendra, a member of her advisory committee. Nagendra is associated with the Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment in India.

Nagendra said, "I suggested (the Pench Tiger Reserve-Maharashtra) as an option to (Mondal) as this is an interesting, biodiversity-rich, endangered forest habitat in central India, and through Ghate (Nagendra's colleague), we (had) an experienced and knowledgeable local collaborator."

Once Mondal had settled on the location for her research, she began to analyze satellite images from 1977, 1989, 2000, and 2007 to generate land change trajectories.

Between 1977 and 1989, the total area of forest cover had decreased by 8 percent within the park. The increasing forest-cover trend began in 1989, after tree felling in the park ceased.

"This is significant, since the national forest policy was revised in 1988 and tree felling became completely banned in any national park (in India)," Mondal said in an E-mail.

In her comparative-observational study, Mondal found that forest cover within the park increased in total area over 30-year span. Between 1977 and 2007, the total area of forest cover increased from 78 percent to 87 percent.

Mondal based her research on Geographic Information Systems data provided by the non-governmental organization SHODH, and field data she collected herself when she visited the Pench Tiger Reserve in 2008 on a UF Tropical Conservation and Development Field Research Grant.

"I must have looked intimidating with my face totally covered with a scarf to fight the heat of central India," Mondal said of her experience. "It used to be 118 degrees out in the field, believe it or not. And I survived it!"

Mondal has already presented her findings in several local and national meetings, including the Association of American Geographers' annual meeting and the U.S. Regional Association of the International Association for Landscape Ecology.

Nagendra said of Mondal's research, "Tigers are flagship



COURTESY: PINKI MONDAL

species for conservation, and their protection is important not just for the people of India or the United States, but indeed for the whole world."

Mondal is quick to point out that she is not a wildlife ecologist, and that her research doesn't necessarily apply to the tiger population at Pench.

"Forest cover and tiger habitat are not synonymous," Mondal said. "Tigers need more than just the forest ... My study is about forest cover, and not about tiger habitat, which is more of a wildlife ecologist's job."

She does, however, welcome the prospect of extending her findings to the tiger population.

"I would love to extend my findings to wildlife ecology and to collaborate with anybody who is interested in mapping tiger habitats in the future," Mondal said.

Mondal sees her research as having an impact on

environmental policy and social awareness.

"My study suggests that with more international financial aid and proper national-level policies, awareness can be raised within the local populace to protect the forest and the tigers. Nobody would care for forests or tigers if their own livelihoods are not sustainable," she said.

But what Mondal really wants from her study is interdisciplinary cooperation to improve the world.

"Since tiger conservation is equally important to India, the U.S., or any other country in the world," Mondal said, "my study sheds a ray of hope that worldwide effort of establishing parks to protect biodiversity is working and all the different scientific communities ... can work together in interdisciplinary settings to make the world a better place."

—Aubrey Siegel



KEVIN LAW



the depths

Many young children grow up with ever-changing answers to the question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” They change from professional athlete to firefighter to astronaut to lawyer. But one UF astronomy professor always had an unwavering answer to this question.

“My mother says that I wanted to be a scientist since the day I found out that there was such a thing as a scientist,” said Stephen Eikenberry, UF professor of astronomy. “I think that astronomy, in particular, became an interest for me based on a lot of space-oriented fiction books and TV shows (both fictional and documentary) – especially Carl Sagan’s ‘Cosmos’ series.”

Eikenberry boasts an impressive resume, from his academic training to leading research to mentoring doctoral students. He received two bachelor’s degrees in physics and literature from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1990.

“In college, I found that (the literature and physics) combination seemed to exercise different parts of my mind in a way that neither one could do alone, and that was very stimulating and refreshing for me,” Eikenberry said. “If you can’t communicate your scientific discoveries to others, they don’t really matter much.”

He did his graduate studies in astronomy under Giovanni Fazio at Harvard University. In 1997, Eikenberry completed his doctoral thesis

on infrared instrumentation and pulsar studies.

Eikenberry then moved to Southern California and completed his postdoctoral studies in physics at California Institute of Technology whereupon he switched coasts again, and took a position as an assistant professor in the Department of Astronomy at Cornell University. In 2003, he moved to Gainesville to become a professor in the Department of Astronomy at UF.

His research interests include studying black holes, neutron stars, and massive stars that create them, with a special interest designing and building imaging systems to locate black holes.

In fact, he recently built a new infrared camera system, called FLAMINGOS-2. It is considered to be one of the most powerful astronomical instruments of its kind ever built. Cameras he has built have already produced more than 100 scientific articles and his recent designs, like the FLAMINGOS-2, are some of the most anticipated and promising astronomical tools in years.

“I hope that this work can excite and inspire the general public with the general awesomeness of the things that happen (in space), like warping spacetime, tearing holes in the fabric of the universe, and blasting out jets of material at the speed of light,” Eikenberry said.

His work has appeared in the *Guinness Book of World Records* 2008 edition for his discovery of LBV 1806-20, a star believed to be the biggest and largest ever found.

“The *Guinness Book of World Records* was definitely a neat and completely unexpected thing,” Eikenberry said. “Of course, my bet is that there may be even bigger beasts out there, waiting to be found.”

Here, at one of the largest astronomy departments in the country, one of his other roles is to mentor Ph.D. candidates. Eikenberry mentors anywhere from three to six students in various projects at a time.

“Since the whole point of the Ph.D. is to signify that a person is now a competent independent researcher in the field, my job is primarily providing advice and guidance,” he said. “I usually play a pretty important role in helping a student select and define



Images: Schematics of FLAMINGOS-2, First light image from FLAMINGOS-2, Gemini South Observatory

IMAGES COURTESY GEMINI OBSERVATORY

S of space

their thesis topic, one that is sufficiently challenging to be of real scientific interest, but not so hard that they will spend decades in graduate school trying to solve it.”

His students are working on a range of projects, mostly related to black holes and using infrared camera systems to study them. One student is working on studying relativistic jets, a question of how black holes produce particle streams moving at nearly the speed of light. Another student is working on how massive black holes form in the centers of galaxies, such as the Milky Way. And, another student of his is studying the use of micro-satellites to study black holes and search for Earth-mass planets around nearby stars.

One of Eikenberry’s past students actually moved with him from Cornell to UF to complete his Cornell Ph.D. studies here at UF in 2004. That student was Joseph Carson. Despite not having a degree from UF, his ties with UF are undeniable.

“I consider myself very fortunate to have worked with Professor Eikenberry in a world-class astronomy research environment,” he said.

Carson was part of an international team that captured a direct image planet-like object orbiting around a sun-like star. This is the first image of such an object with a temperature most similar to our solar system’s warmest planets ever seen around a star much like our sun. The discovery was listed as one of *Time* magazine’s “Top Ten Scientific Discoveries of 2009.”

“Achieving a snapshot of a planet around a star is exceptionally difficult,” Carson said. “One might compare it

with trying to study the light of a firefly circling a distant lighthouse.”

To better understand the commonness of our own solar system and agreeableness to fostering life, scientists need to be able to explore sun-like stars with orbital separations similar to our own solar system planets, he said.

“And, the discovery of GJ 758 B is a significant step in trying to achieve this goal,” Carson said. “My present work in extra-solar planet imaging is essentially a next-generation version of the Ph.D. thesis work that I conducted under the supervision of Professor Eikenberry.”

Eikenberry thinks that Carson’s discovery has implications for astronomy. According to him, it is a big step toward finding “habitable” planets.

“The key issue here is that previous objects detected around sun-like stars have been pretty hot—far too hot for things like liquid water to exist under normal conditions, which means they are unlikely to be hospitable places for life to have evolved,” he explained.

Eikenberry also points out that this discovery shakes up theories about

the planet-formation process. It’s too close to the star to form by “core accretion” and too far to have formed by “gravitational collapse.”

Scientists don’t really understand what is happening in this system, but it is definitely not what is expected based on our current theories.

In addition, other researchers within the UF astronomy department have recently made several discoveries.

In September, a team including several UF astronomers pinned down the unusual orbit of HD 80606b, a Jupiter-sized planet located about 200 light years away. The find came from the Rosemary Hill Observatory—a modest teaching observatory located less than 140 feet above sea level in nearby Levy County.

Also, Professor Jian Ge and his team constructed a computer simulation to show that rocky moon-sized proto-planets could form after about one-million years. The project was started due to questions over the Alpha Centauri dual-star system and its formation through turbulent conditions.

—Aubrey Siegel

grants in brief

NASA/JPL/SPACE SCIENCE INSTITUTE



Warm dense matter appears in the cores of gas giant planets such as Jupiter, Saturn and the newly discovered extrasolar planets.

Department of Energy Awards \$1.275 Million Grant to Quantum Theory Project

University of Florida researchers in physics and the Quantum Theory Project have received a new \$1.275 million research grant from the U.S. Department of Energy to predict the properties of “warm dense matter” by theory, modeling, and computer simulation.

Over the next three years, the researchers will use the award to develop new concepts and practical computational methods to address the exceptional complexities of warm dense matter, a state of matter between solid and plasma that normally occurs in temperatures between 90,000 to 270,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Warm dense matter appears in the cores of gas giant planets such as Jupiter, Saturn, and the newly discovered extrasolar planets. It also appears in the initial stages of controlled nuclear fusion. Better understanding of its processes could lead to fusion as a clean energy source.

The study of warm dense matter poses a challenge because of its inherent lack of equilibrium. Physicists

call it a “messy system” because the matter is composed of a mixture of atoms, ions, and free electrons, in addition to liquid-like and crystal-like regions. This ever-changing landscape makes current methods of observation used for solids and plasmas difficult to adapt.

The project is one of only four grants given to more than 300 applicants for the Theory, Modeling, and Simulation Initiative, offered by the Department of Energy’s Division of Materials Sciences and Engineering.

The University of Florida research team is made up of Sam Trickey, Jim Dufty, Frank Harris, and Keith Runge. They will be working on orbital-free Density Functional Theory, a scheme that makes the complicated quantum mechanics of warm dense matter resemble the equations of ordinary liquids. The group will develop new approximations, program them, and test them on simple examples of warm dense matter. Their computer codes will be made available as open-source software to the scientific community.

Chemistry Joins Forces with UF’s Clinical Translational Science Institute (CTSI)

The Chemistry department has joined a new campus-wide research initiative that has the potential to make major research advancements in a variety of fields, including human health, and to stimulate development of new technologies across UF.

The Clinical and Translational Science Institute (CTSI) Metabolomics Core combines the resources of analytical facilities across campus with the biostatistics core in the health center. The chemistry department has established a collaborative research agreement with the Core to utilize the High Resolution Mass Spectrometry Core. The Core will provide biomarker identification and quantification for biomedical and biochemical research throughout UF. David Powell, Director of Spectroscopic Services in the Department of Chemistry, is the Director of the CTSI Metabolomics Core.

Metabolomics is a relatively recent field which has developed rapidly over the past decade due to the remarkable sensitivity and rich information content of two analytical chemistry technologies: nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy and mass spectrometry. The latter has the ability to detect and quantify the concentration of nearly 3,000 compounds in a third of a drop of blood. By determining the differences in the concentration of these compounds in plasma or other tissue, patterns can be established that delineate the blood plasma of healthy versus unhealthy people. This approach has the potential to not only alter the diagnosis of disease, but also to point the way to biological mechanisms of disease and impact many other areas of research in translational medicine and beyond.

Examples of on-going metabolomics studies in the Chemistry Mass Spectrometry Core include: a collaboration with the Department of Nursing to find biomarkers for autism in children; a study of the effects of a very high fat diet (called the ketogenic diet) on the blood plasma of healthy adults; and a study of the changes in blood plasma constituents during the first week of life. The latter two projects are in collaboration with the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. These studies are supported by a grant to the Chemistry department from the CTSI.

NASA Awards \$870,000 to Study Land Use Cover Change

University of Florida researchers have received a NASA Land Use Land Cover Change Program grant totaling \$870,000.

The grant will fund an interdisciplinary project that will analyze relationships among climate variability, climate change, land use, and land cover change. Using remote sensing applications and socio-economic surveys, the project aims to create models that could enhance planning for sustainable resource use and help the people in these areas adapt to climate change.

“We hope the grant allows us to better understand the social-ecological system’s response to climate variability and to allow us to develop understanding for future climate scenarios,” said principal investigator Jane Southworth, UF professor of geography.

“Ideally, it will allow for better adaptation strategies for local communities under changing environmental conditions,” said Southworth.

The grant will support graduate students and allow the project participants to conduct summer fieldwork in Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia.

To better illustrate the human suffering in this area, six Ph.D. students created a video documentary called “Living With Thirst,” which looked at the Vende people in the Limpopo Province of South Africa and their troubles related to climate variability. The video was funded by an Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship grant, pertaining to adaptive management, water, wetlands, and watersheds.

“We hope this video provides an introduction to the uncertainty and trade-offs faced in a region with high variability in rainfall and how that will affect conservation initiatives balanced with sustainable livelihood decisions towards water allocation and resources,” said Andrea Gaughan, one of the Ph.D. students who worked on the video.

Watch the “Living With Thirst” videos:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5NXokdb78A>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HX0-i1-ulzU>



Want to learn more about CLAS research? View the Annual Research Report: www.clas.ufl.edu/research/pdfs/2009-annual-report.pdf



Fort Sumter

UF to Teach History On Location to Local Educators

Thanks to a new federal grant, Polk County high school teachers will be taught a new perspective on history by Sean Adams, UF professor of history.

Over the next three years, Adams will travel with 108 fifth-grade teachers to historical sites such as Charleston Museum and Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C. The visits will allow the teachers to experience first hand some of the places integral to American history. Following these trips, Adams will instruct the teachers on new ways to approach teaching history, using in part their new insights from visiting these sites. Adams expects that these site visits will enable teachers to better engage their students in historical lessons.

Polk County was awarded a \$998,640 federal grant over the next three years for 5th-, 8th- and 11th-grade teachers. Out of more than 400 districts applying for the grant, Polk county was one of 60 nationwide, and one of five in Florida, to receive the grant.

campus views



SPOHP research team in Indianola, Mississippi

Back to the Delta: Ongoing Documentation of the Civil Rights Movement

In August, the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) at UF returned to the Mississippi Delta to continue research on the civil rights movement with veteran civil rights activists and leading scholars of the Mississippi Freedom Movement. SPOHP's research team of UF undergraduate and graduate students, as well as students from FSU, collaborated with the Sunflower County Civil Rights Organization, focusing on the movement's origins and researching its impact, as well as documenting contemporary legacies in a region that gave birth to one of the most vibrant social movements in American history.

Under the supervision of Mississippi Valley State University Professor Stacy J. White and legendary civil rights activist Charles McLaurin, the SPOHP team expanded the geographic scope of their 2008 research in which they interviewed veterans of the civil rights movement on the formation of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP), the establishment of freedom schools to teach voter literacy to the youth of the time, the leadership of local African Americans in the civil rights movement, and the personal histories from participants in Mississippi's Freedom Summer of 1964.

The 2009 research trip included a public panel on the legacies of the Civil Rights and Black Power eras, held at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. Participants joining SPOHP Director Paul Ortiz included: Professor Hasan Jeffries, author of *Bloody Lowndes: Civil Rights and Black Power in Alabama's Black Belt*; Professor Emilye Crosby, author of *A Little Taste of Freedom: The Black Freedom Struggle in Claiborne County, Mississippi*; and Professor Curtis Austin, author of *Up Against the Wall: Violence in the Making and Unmaking of the Black Panther Party*.

"The history of the black freedom struggle in the Deep South is undergoing a scholarly revolution," Ortiz said, "and UF students will have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to chronicle the history of a movement that changed American history. Our students will gather oral history interviews that will be used by future generations of students and scholars interested in learning the lessons of civic engagement, citizenship and social change taught by courageous activists who risked their lives in the face of tremendous odds."

To highlight the event, SPOHP produced a podcast in early August featuring selected segments from 2008, including interviews of longtime Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) activists and civil rights movement educators Margaret Block and Hollis Watkins on the history of SNCC, the importance of music in the civil rights movement, and the ongoing fight for racial equality. For more information, visit www.history.ufl.edu/oral or www.usm.edu/crdp.

—Danielle Navarette

Institute of Justice Recognizes Sociology and Criminology & Law Professor

Chris Gibson received the prestigious W.E.B. Du Bois Fellowship from the National Institute of Justice. During his fellowship, Gibson will be conducting research on victimization and delinquent involvement among Hispanic children and adolescents residing in various Chicago neighborhoods. Specifically, he and his colleague, Holly Ventura-Miller at the University of Texas San Antonio, will be using data from the Project on Human Development in Chicago Neighborhoods (PHDCN) to understand how assimilation and acculturation processes affect victimization and delinquency, while at the same time attempting to capture the neighborhood context in which these processes occur. This work extends Gibson's current research on how neighborhood influences impact children and adolescents, with a specific focus on one particular ethnic group. Further, this work will extend his empirical research testing various theories of criminal and deviant behavior.

University of Florida Professor Wins International Education Award

The History of Science Society has awarded the 2009 Joseph H. Hazen Education Prize, for excellence in education, to Frederick Gregory, professor of history of science at the University of Florida. Gregory's distinguished accomplishments as an educator in history of science range across a remarkably broad range of media, including not just conventional lectures, seminars, textbooks, and web resources but also film, television, DVD, and theatrical role-play. Through these energetic activities, his rich insights from history of science in all periods have inspired many high school teachers and their students, as well as undergraduates, graduate students, scientists, and the general public. An outstanding educator in the history of science, Gregory has been able to cultivate a high level of expertise in communicating history of science across diverse audiences, and with a consistently enthralling effect. For example, after his pre-collegiate lectures, Florida 7th-graders have surrounded Gregory—apparently unwilling to let him leave the building until all their questions have been answered. And as one of Gregory's graduate students recalled, "I will always consider Gregory to be not only my intellectual mentor but one of my most important role models for teaching."

Frederick Gregory is the author of numerous books and articles, including the textbook *Natural Science in Western History* (2007) with Wadsworth, Cengage Learning and appears in the audio-visual lecture courses *History of Science: 1700-1900* (2005) and *The Darwinian Revolution* (2009) with The Teaching Company. The History of Science Society, established in 1924, is the world's largest society devoted to fostering interest in the history of science.

Reaching Out and Growing Up: New Directors Set the Pace

CLASnotes caught up with Ann Henderson, new director of the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, and Bonnie Effros, new director of the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere, learn more about the direction in which they are leading these cutting-edge centers.

Before she became director of the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, Ann Henderson was executive director of the Florida Humanities Council where she negotiated topics and funding for humanities and its influence on the public sphere. Through this job, she met then-Governor Bob Graham in 1984.

"I was impressed that the governor would spend time talking to me about humanities," Henderson said. "(Graham) loves the world of ideas."

She continued to work with Graham through his years as Governor and Senator for Florida. She became director of the Bob Graham Center in July 2009. When Henderson arrived, there was already a small team running the Bob Graham Center. They created the academic program, which has now evolved into a minor. The Bob Graham Center offers internships and academic programs and brings high-profile speakers to Gainesville.

Henderson continues to work closely with the former Senator to actualize the goals and mission of the Bob Graham Center, to ensure that UF graduates can be effective,

actively participating citizens.

"Effective citizens come from all colleges," Henderson said. "You don't have to be in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to work with the Bob Graham Center."

Henderson's goals are to better support the Bob Graham Center's academic programs, create informed citizenship among UF students, and focus on electronic communications.

Her aim for greater electronic communication was actualized when former Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle (D-SD) spoke in Pugh Hall about the debate over health care reform on January 19, 2010. The speech was streamed live on the Web site.

"A strong Web presence is important, since the public policy center is located in Gainesville, which is such a small town. Our center needs to be an electronic and global community," Henderson said.

Henderson also plans to assist UF in becoming more global—in 2010 the Bob Graham Center will host an Americorps program. The program pairs up students with one of the 1,400 UF employees who are not US citizens. These employees often didn't learn English as their first language or don't have the educational background to pass the citizenship test, so the students assist the employees in studying and preparing.

"The program fits well with both making effective citizens and making our workforce stronger," Henderson said.

Bonnie Effros began as director of the Center for Humanities and the Public Sphere in mid-August 2009. CLAS began exploring the idea for the center in 1999.

The Humanities Center aims to promote research, provide a place for discussion, and reach out to the community. It does this through research funding and lecture series. All programs are free and open to the public.

"Faculty and students should take advantage of our programs," Effros said. "We help them to bring in speakers from all disciplines of the humanities."

For example, the Humanities Center has organized the Caleb and Michele Grimes Conference on Liberal Arts and Public Affairs, called "Tracking Citizens and Subjects: Evolving Technologies of Identity." The Humanities Center is also sponsoring a talk on the state of humanities by J. Hillis Miller and co-sponsoring several events including, FLEXfest, an experimental film festival.

"I plan to generate more activities that address the needs of the general public through promotion of public humanities and enhancement of the university's current commitment to civic engagement," Effros said.

Effros plans to apply for grants and privately raise funds to assist in these goals.

"I thought that contributing to the creation of a humanities center would be both exciting and rewarding," she said of her new position. "I enjoy a challenge and the current economic climate has provided one."

Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur for Carol Murphy

Carol Murphy, director of the France-Florida Research Institute (FFRI) and a professor of French in the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, received the title Chevalier de la Légion d'honneur, or Knight of the Legion, for her work in facilitating academic and research collaboration between France and the U.S. The decoration ceremony took place in November in Washington, D.C.

"I am truly honored and humbled to be recognized by France for my efforts, but no one stands alone in such enterprises," Murphy said. "I have many colleagues in French studies at UF to thank for their collective energy and expertise in making the FFRI a success."

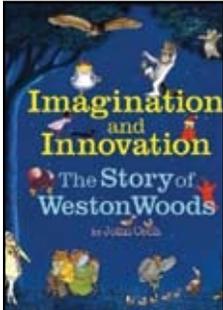
Founded in 2002 through a grant

procured by Murphy, the France Florida Research Institute is one of only 14 centers of excellence in French studies in the U.S. recognized by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The FFRI serves as an umbrella organization to promote partnerships between the University of Florida and French and Francophone research centers and academic institutions, including the Institut d'études politiques and the Ecole pratique des hautes études. The institute has sponsored numerous lectures, two international conferences, 18 visiting professorships, film festivals and concerts related to France and Francophone countries.

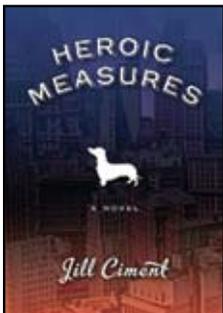
"One of the immense pleasures of directing the FFRI is the opportunity to increase international visibility for the excellence of UF's academic mission," Murphy said.

Established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802, the Legion of Honor recognizes civilians and the military for serving the state or upholding the ideals of France. Other Americans who have been named to the Legion include Generals George S. Patton and Douglas MacArthur, chef Julia Child, inventor Thomas Edison and aviator Charles Lindbergh.

faculty bookshelf

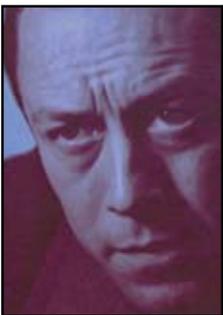


Imagination and Innovation, The Story of Weston Woods. John Cech (Professor of English). A nonfiction work that follows trailblazers in the children's entertainment industry: Weston Woods and Mort Schindel. A rival to Walt Disney and the Disney studios, Woods and Schindel have introduced kids to Maurice Sendak, Rosemary Wells, Mo Willems, and may other notable authors.

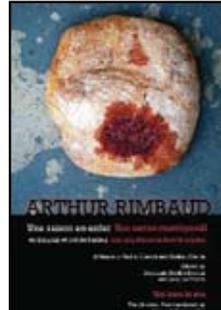


Heroic Measures. Jill Ciment (Professor of English). In this Oprah Winfrey Book Club 2009 summertime reading pick, a gasoline tanker truck is "stuck" in the Midtown Tunnel. Is this the next big attack? Alex, an artist, and Ruth, a former school teacher must get their beloved dachshund, whose back legs have suddenly become paralyzed, to the animal hospital sixty blocks north. But the streets of Manhattan are at a standstill. Their dog is the emotional center of Alex

and Ruth's forty-five-year-long childless marriage. In shifting points of view man, woman, and one small tenacious beast try to make sense of the cacophony of rumors, opinions, and innuendos coming from news anchors, cable TV pundits, pollsters, bomb experts, hostages, witnesses, real estate agents, house hunters, bargain seekers, howling dogs, veterinarians, nurses, and cab drivers.

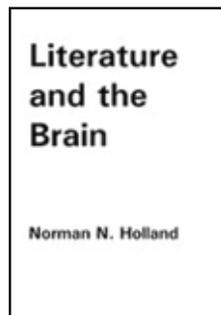


Albert Camus, Oeuvres Complètes. Edited by Raymond Gay-Crosier (Professor Emeritus of French). The publication of volumes III and IV of Camus' complete works constitutes the completion of a twelve-year project of which Gay-Crosier was contributing editor for volumes I-IV and editor-in-chief of volumes III and IV. This edition, including numerous heretofore unpublished writings of the 1957 Nobel Prize in Literature winner, features extensive introductions, footnotes and variants.



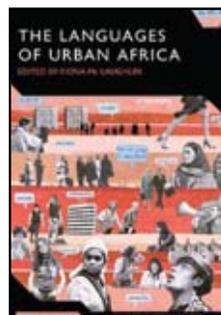
Une saison en enfer / Yon sezon machyavèl by Arthur Rimbaud. Translated by Benjamin Hebblethwaite (UF Assistant Professor of Haitian Creole) and Jacques Pierre. This powerful literary text transposes the creative and violent love affair of the younger Arthur Rimbaud with the older and married Paul Verlaine into whirling poetry that is piercing, hallucinatory and mysterious. The juxtaposition of the French original with the Haitian Creole allows readers to compare

the languages to see how the cultural and idiomatic expressions in the source text were rendered in the Haitian Creole target text. This volume is designed for students, scholars and lovers of French and Haitian Creole, and the bilingual format is designed for accelerated study.

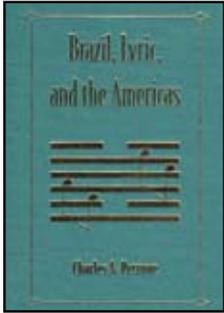


Literature and the Brain. Norman N. Holland (Marston-Milbauer Eminent Scholar Emeritus at UF). *Literature and the Brain* goes straight to the human core of literature when it explains the different ways our brains convert stories, poems, plays, and films into pleasure. When we are deep into a film or book, we find ourselves "absorbed," unaware of our bodies or our surroundings. We don't doubt the existence of Spider-Man or Harry Potter, and we have real feelings about these

purely imaginary beings. Our brains are behaving oddly, because we know we cannot act to change what we are seeing. And this is only one of the special ways our brains behave with literature.

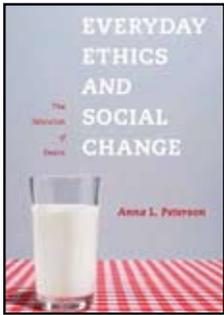


Languages of Urban Africa. Fiona McLaughlin (Associate Professor of African Linguistics). *Languages of Urban Africa* is a series of case studies addressing four main themes: the history of African urban languages; theoretical issues in the study of African urban languages; the relationship between language and identity in the urban setting; and evolution of urban languages in Africa.



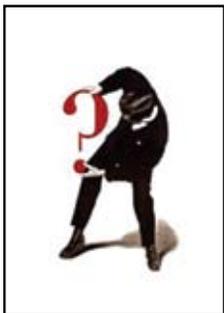
Brazil, Lyric, and the Americas. Charles A. Perrone (Professor of Portuguese and Luso-Brazilian Culture & Literatures). In this highly original volume, Perrone explores how recent Brazilian lyrics engage with counterparts throughout the Western Hemisphere in an increasingly globalized world. This pioneering, tour-de-force study focuses on the years from 1985 to the present and examines poetic output—from song and visual poetry to discursive

verse—across a range of media.

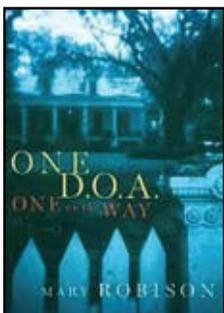


Everyday Ethics and Social Change: The Education of Desire. Anna Peterson (Professor of Religion). Americans increasingly cite moral values as a factor in how they vote, but when we define morality simply in terms of a voter's position on gay marriage and abortion, we lose sight of the ethical decisions that guide our everyday lives. In our encounters with friends, family members, nature, and nonhuman creatures, we practice a non-utilitarian morality that makes sacrifice a

rational and reasonable choice. How can we move past the irreconcilable conflicts of culture and refocus on issues that affect real social change?

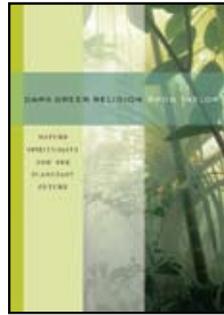


The Interrogative Mood: A Novel? Padgett Powell (Professor of English). Powell is fascinated by what it feels like to walk through everyday life, to hear the swing and snap of American talk, to be both electrified and overwhelmed by the mad cacophony—the “muchness”—of America. A playful and profound bebop solo of a book in which every sentence is a question.

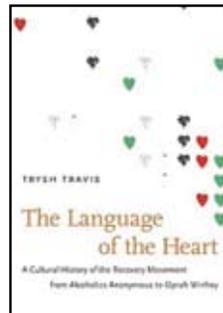


One D.O.A., One on the Way: A Novel. Mary Robison (Professor of English). Oprah Winfrey's Book Club for 2009 summertime reading pick is an effortlessly smart, deliriously off-kilter story of an extended New Orleans family trying to reclaim a shadow of their former selves. The story opens on Jay, a location scout for a movie production company. Standing left of center of this prosperous but mortally wounded

family does not get easier as Jay finds more than the Louisiana heat getting to be oppressive.

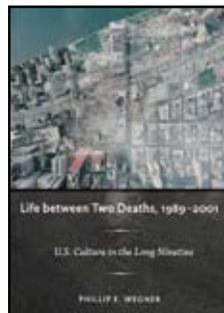


Dark Green Religion: Nature Spirituality and the Planetary Future. Bron Taylor (Professor of Religion). In *Dark Green Religion*, Taylor provides detailed evidence that many of the innovative responses to the Darwinian revolution are forms of religious or religion-resembling expression, in which nature is considered sacred and worthy of reverent care, and non-human organisms are considered kin and as having intrinsic value.



The Language of the Heart: A Cultural History of the Recovery Movement from Alcoholics Anonymous to Oprah Winfrey. Trysh Travis (Assistant Professor of Women's Studies and Gender Research). Travis explores the rich cultural history of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), its offshoots, and the “recovery movement” that has grown out of them. From AA's beginnings in the mid-1930s as a men's fellowship that met in church basements to the commercialized

addiction treatment centers of today, Travis chronicles the development of recovery, examining its relationship to the American tradition of self-help, and highlighting the roles that gender, mysticism, and print culture have played in that development.



Life Between Two Deaths, 1989–2001: U.S. Culture in the Long Nineties. Phillip E. Wegner (Associate Professor of English). Through virtuoso readings of significant works of American film, television, and fiction, Wegner demonstrates that the period between the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 and the bombing of the World Trade Center in September 2001 fostered a unique consciousness and represented a moment of immense historical

possibilities now at risk of being forgotten in the midst of the “war on terror.”

CLASmates

1950s

J. Charles (B.A. Arts & Sciences, 1955) and **Sandra Gray** were honored at Leadership Florida's annual conference when they became the first couple to receive the LeRoy Collins Lifetime Achievement Award. The award recognizes those who have demonstrated exemplary leadership abilities in an effort to improve the quality of life for current and future generations of Floridians. J. Charles Gray is one of the founding partners of GrayRobinson, P.A. and graduated from UF as a Hall of Fame inductee with both a B.A. and a J.D. He has established himself as a leading philanthropic, legal and political figure in Central Florida, with leadership roles in a broad range of organizations from the Florida State Turnpike Authority to the Economic Development Commission of Mid-Florida. His wife, Sandra, is a leader in the agricultural industry in Florida, where she held leadership roles on the Beef Cattle Advisory Committee for Volusia County and the Florida Santa Gertrudis Association. Sandra also makes time for charitable work, especially work for the protection and advancement of disabled or underprivileged children. "This unique couple truly represents the heart and soul of Florida," says Keith Houck, Vice President for Administration of Valencia Community College and a Leadership Florida member. "They represent not only the wonderful heritage of Florida, but its glorious future as well."

1960s

Robert L. Parks (B.A. Political Science, 1960), a veteran trial attorney, was selected by his peers for inclusion in the 2010 edition of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the specialties of Personal Injury Litigation and Product Liability Litigation. Parks is an appointee to the Governor's Commission on Property Rights, he serves as vice chair on the Board of Visitors for The National Judicial College, he is on the Board of the Historical Association of South Florida. He is principal of The Law Offices of Robert L. Parks, P.L. in Coral Gables, Florida and is co-chair of fundraising for Legal Services of Greater Miami. A native of Nassau, The Bahamas, Parks is a long-time South Florida resident, who currently resides with his wife, Lyn, in Coconut Grove.

1970s

Evan Aidman (B.A. Psychology, 1979), principal at the Law Offices of Evan Aidman, he has accepted an adjunct professor position to teach civil litigation at Peirce College.

Mary Wood Bridgman (B.A. English, 1978) read her original essays and short stories on *In Context*, a program of WJCT 89.9 FM, National Public Radio affiliate in Jacksonville. Bridgman's work has appeared in national and local publications and recently received recognition from the Florida Writers Association. She retired in December 2008 as vice president, after twenty-two years with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida, Inc.

1980s

Erik Viker (B.S. Psychology, 1987) was promoted to associate professor of theatre with tenure at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, as of 2009. He teaches courses in theater production, stage management, and dramatic literature and serves as faculty technical director for the Department of Theatre. Viker received an M.F.A. in theater technology from the University of Texas at Austin, and is an elected member of the town council of Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania.

Lucy B. Wayne, (M.A. Anthropology, 1981) will serve a two-year term as president of the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) where she was elected at the annual conference held in September in Providence, RI. Wayne is an archeologist and architectural historian at SouthArc, Inc., a company that she co-owns in Gainesville, FL (www.southarc.com). ACRA is the only trade association for cultural resource management firms; it provides input on cultural resource issues, compiles information, maintains a searchable database of consultants and employs a wide range of specialists.

1990s

Melissa Aubin (B.A. Classics & Religion, 1992), the 2008–2009 Supreme Court Fellow assigned to the Supreme Court of the United States, formerly a staff attorney for Magistrate Judge Thomas M. Coffin on the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon, has been selected to continue her fellowship at the Supreme Court for 2009–2010. As the fellow at the Supreme

Court, Aubin's duties include researching and providing background information for speeches and reports, briefing visiting dignitaries, preparing analytical reports, and overseeing the Judicial Internship Program. Before starting her legal career, Aubin was assistant professor at Florida State University in the Department of Religion from 1998–2001. After law school, Aubin was a law clerk to Judge David Schuman on the Oregon Court of Appeals. In addition to working for Judge Schuman and Judge Coffin, she has been a legal researcher for Professor Laird Kilpatrick of the University of Oregon School of Law. Aubin was also a part of a team that evaluated the District of Oregon Drug Court, a reentry program for drug offenders. In addition, she serves on the Boards of Directors for the Relief Nursery and Oregon's Federal Bar Association.

Caryn Clark (B.A. English, 1994), known as "The Hip Chick Voice" and a professional voice over actress in Fort Myers, Florida, was honored with UF's 2009 Outstanding Young Alumna Award. Clark's work includes network television commercials for the Rooms To Go Disney furniture line, the voice of Hasbro/Milton Bradley's "The Littlest Pet Shop Mall Madness" electronic board game, television commercials on The Disney Channel for Hannah Montana products, and many other credits. Clark is also very active in her community as a member of the Junior League of Fort Myers, in the past serving on their Board of Directors as their Membership Vice President, Treasurer, and Finance Vice President. She is currently active with the Southwest Florida Ga-

alumni bookshelf

tor Club, and the University of Florida Alumni Association as a member of their national Board of Directors and a Regional Vice President.

2000s

Jennifer J. Campbell (B.A. English, 2006) was awarded the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) Leadership Development Award at the 99th Annual NCTE Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on November 21, 2009. The \$500 award to attend the NCTE Annual Convention is given to early career teachers who have demonstrated a capacity for professional leadership. The organization of 50,000 members is dedicated to improving English education at all levels. Campbell is in her fourth year of teaching language arts and journalism at Suwannee Middle School. She serves in several different leadership positions in teaching councils and commissions.

Stephen K. Rice (Ph.D. Sociology, 2006), an Assistant Professor at Seattle University, is lead editor for the NYU Press volume *Race, Ethnicity and Policing: New and Essential Readings* (2010).

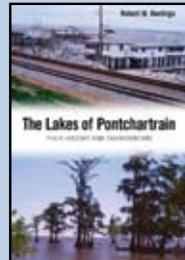
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Let us know what you're up to by completing an update form online at www.clas.ufl.edu/alumni/.

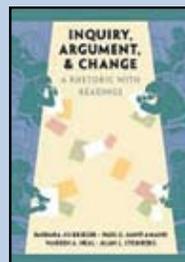
Want to promote your new book? E-mail the cover art and jacket information to editor@clas.ufl.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

The Lakes of Pontchartrain: Their History and Environments.

Robert W. Hastings (B.S. Biology, 1965). Hastings provides a thorough examination of the historical and environmental research on the basin, with emphasis on its environmental degradation and the efforts to restore and protect this estuarine system. He also explores the current biological condition of the lakes. Hastings begins with the geological formation of the lakes and the relationship between Native Americans and the water they referred to as Okwa'ta, the "wide water." From the historical period, he describes the forays of French explorer Pierre Le Moyne D'Iberville in 1699 and traces the environmental history of the basin through the development of the New Orleans metropolitan area. Using the lakes for transportation and then recreation, the surrounding population burgeoned, and this growth resulted in severe water pollution and other environmental problems. In the 1980s the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation led a concerted drive to restore the lakes, an ongoing effort that has proved significant.



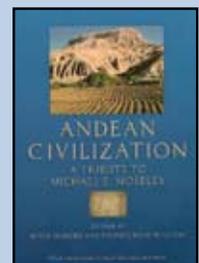
Inquiry, Argument, & Change: A Rhetoric with Readings. Paul G. Saint-Amand (B.A. English, 1972), with Krieger, Neal, and Steinberg. Designed for college composition courses, *Inquiry, Argument, & Change* provides a process-oriented, stasis-based approach to argument, presenting argument first and foremost as a means of inquiry, not simply as a means of winning assent, and making its role in the process of change explicit.



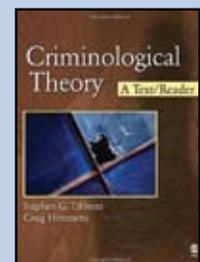
This Brittle Existence. Jeff Trippe (M.A. English, 1984). *This Brittle Existence* is a sharp-edged, satirical look at the odd and insular world of a literary critic-turned-detective who attempts to uncover the intimate life of an obscure 20th-century poet.



Andean Civilization: A Tribute to Michael E. Moseley. Edited by Joyce Marcus and Patrick Ryan William (Ph.D. Anthropology, 1997; M.A. Anthropology, 1995.) These new studies cover the enormous temporal span of Moseley's own work from the Preceramic era to the Tiwanaku and Moche states to the Inca empire. And, like Moseley's own studies—from Maritime Foundations of Andean Civilization to Chan Chan: The Desert City to Cerro Baul's Brewery—these new studies involve settlements from all over the Andes—from the far northern highlands to the far southern coast.



Criminological Theory: A Text/Reader. Stephen G. Tibbetts (B.A. Criminology and Law, 1991). *Criminological Theory* provides the best of both worlds—substantial but brief authored sections on all of the major course topics, followed by carefully edited, policy-oriented, original research articles covering criminological theory from past to present and beyond. The 39 articles reflect both classic studies and state-of-the-art research. Pedagogical tools include the helpful "How to Read a Research Article" before the first reading, article introductions, photographs, and discussion questions that capture student interest and help them develop their critical thinking skills.



FLORIDA TOMORROW

the gift that gives back

What is Florida Tomorrow?

Here at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, we believe it's an opportunity, one filled with promise and hope. It's that belief that informs CLAS's capital campaign to raise \$65 million. The Florida Tomorrow campaign will shape our college, but its ripple effect will also touch the state of Florida, the nation and the entire world. Florida Tomorrow is pioneering research and spirited academic programs. It's a fertile environment for inquiry, teaching, and learning. It's being at the forefront to address the challenges facing all of us, both today and tomorrow.

A unique feature of this campaign is that donors can support the university in non-traditional ways such as gifts of real estate, planned giving, IRA gifts under the pension protection act, and gift-matching opportunities.

Recently, two individuals answered the call of action and contributed to CLAS through a deferred life insurance policy: Dr. Shaun P. Herness and Dr. M. Ivan Rusilko jointly manage this investment trust fund, which will eventually equal a sum much larger than the \$1 million base amount.

The funds are specifically intended for a program in visual communications to teach and research visual politics and political campaigning. The program will

be overseen in conjunction with the Bob Graham Center for Public Service and the College of Journalism and Communications.

Herness, a public relations and political consultant and college professor, graduated from UF in 1996 with a Ph.D. in Political Science. Rusilko, a graduate of Mercyhurst College and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine in Erie, Pennsylvania, is a sports nutritionist and personal trainer. Both wanted to make a positive

impact at UF and, by including CLAS as a beneficiary of their policy, the impact of their generosity will be immense. There is a need to bring the study of visual culture together with the study of politics. The research conducted as a result of this gift will be a trailblazing addition to the study of politics.

"We hope to see UF reach out to a set of younger, professionally based alumni in an effort to cultivate positive donor relationships," said Herness.

As of October 31, CLAS has raised \$50 million of its \$65 million goal.

The university, as a whole, hopes to raise \$1.5 billion by 2012.

Donors can choose to make a gift to 29 different specific areas across the university. The donations go to support faculty, campus enhancement, undergraduates and programs/research.

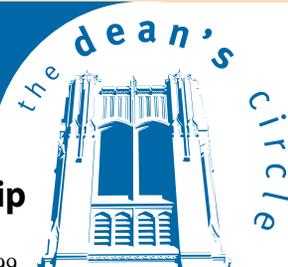
Visit www.floridatoday.ufl.edu to learn more.

ARE YOU IN THE CIRCLE?

The Dean's Circle recognizes the generosity of alumni, friends, faculty, and staff who make annual gifts of \$500 or more to the Dean's Fund for Excellence. As a member of the Dean's Circle, your investment helps meet the educational needs of our students; take advantage of extraordinary opportunities; and meet new challenges in teaching, research, and service. The Dean's Fund for Excellence provides the resources needed to fund scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students; offer students and faculty seed grants for pursuing new research

interests and other academic endeavors; provide scholarships and awards to students for travel abroad experiences and experiential learning; invest in new technologies and equipment; and improve classrooms, labs, and other facilities.

To demonstrate our appreciation, members receive invitations to events hosted by the Dean and on-campus lectures and symposiums. In addition, Dean's Circle members are recognized in CLASnotes magazine, the e-newsletter of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and online on the Dean's Circle honor roll.



Membership Levels

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- Tenured** \$50,000+

Membership is based on a fiscal-year calendar from July 1 to June 30.

To join the Dean's Circle or to make a contribution, please visit www.uff.ufl.edu/OnlineGiving/CLAS.asp or complete the form and mail to: College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, University of Florida Foundation, PO Box 14425, Gainesville FL 32604. For more information, please contact Christy Popwell or Melissa Tyrone in the CLAS Office of Development and Alumni Affairs: 352-392-5471, cpopwell@uff.ufl.edu, mtyrone@uff.ufl.edu. Can't afford to join the Dean's Circle at this time? We still need your help, even if you only have a few dollars to share. Gifts of any size are greatly appreciated and may be eligible for a charitable income tax deduction.

Enclosed is my gift of \$ _____

Name(s) as you wish to be listed: _____

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My company matches gifts; form is enclosed.

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Please enclose a check made payable to the University of Florida Foundation.

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AKAJ



PADANG, Indonesia (October 10, 2009) Commander, Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet, Rear Adm. Richard Landolt teaches the “Gator Chomp” to children outside the Humanitarian Assistance Rapid Response Team (HARRT) medical facility in Padang, Indonesia. Landolt visited the hospital, which provided free medical treatment to Indonesian citizens of west Sumatra following two earthquakes. Amphibious Force Seventh Fleet is directing the U.S. military response from a request by the Indonesian government for assistance and support for humanitarian efforts. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Byron C. Linder)

WE’VE ALL HEARD THE MANTRA: THE GATOR NATION IS EVERYWHERE

But how true is it?

One UF alumnus found this mantra to be extremely true through several first-hand experiences. He even helped spread Gator spirit across the globe.

Rear Admiral Richard B. Landolt is the Commander of Amphibious Force 7th Fleet in Okinawa, Japan, and earned his B.A. in Political Science from UF in 1981. He has command of nine ships in Japan and refers to five of his amphibious ships as “Gator ships.”

Through his job in the navy and his past work with NATO, Landolt has traveled extensively through Europe and Southeast Asia.

“I always bump into the Gator Nation wherever I am overseas,” Landolt said.

For example, in Fukuoka, Japan, Landolt worked with Margot and William Carrington, both UF graduates. Margot Carrington is the Principal Officer of the U.S. Consulate in Fukuoka. They reminisced about teachers they both had.

“We refer to our endeavors together in Japan as ‘Gator diplomacy’ even,” Landolt said.

While working overseas, Landolt interacted with some children in an Indonesian hospital. He explained to them the concept of a college mascot and football games. He even taught them the Gator chomp, after noticing his friend, a University of Georgia graduate, about a hundred yards away.

“We marched down to the other end of the hospital and we all demonstrated our Gator spirit to my Georgia friend,” he said. “It was great and the kids loved doing it.”

Landolt is a big Gator sports fan even through thick and thin.

“The football team went 0-10-1 my senior year,” he said. “It was a tough time.”

In addition to his commitment to Gator athletics, Landolt is committed to

humanitarian assistance too.

Three of Landolt’s ships were en route to the Philippines for an exercise when disaster struck. In a span of three days, September 29 to October 1, a typhoon hit Manila, Philippines; three earthquakes hit Sumatra, Indonesia; and a tsunami hit the Samoan Islands. U.S. ships from Hawaii assisted in Samoa, while two of Landolt’s ships were sent to the Philippines and one ship was sent to Indonesia (and was later joined by two other ships from the 7th Fleet).

Landolt was assigned as the Mission Commander for all U.S. forces in Indonesia. He was constantly surprised at the willingness of people to help out. One day, as part of the relief effort, he boarded a Marine Corps heavy-lift helicopter to help deliver relief supplies. They found a very small landing spot in the forest.

“After we landed, people came out from the forest and a spontaneous ‘conga line’ was started to help move material out of the helicopter to a nearby staging area,” Landolt said. “Very spontaneous and very orderly.”

Although Landolt loves his job and his time spent overseas, there’s still nothing like home.

“I’ve enjoyed every aspect of living overseas but it does make you more appreciative of what we have in the U.S. after you return,” he said.

—Aubrey Siegel

UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

2014 Turlington Hall
PO Box 117300
Gainesville FL 32611-7300
editor@clas.ufl.edu
www.clas.ufl.edu

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